

Fireworks over Sweet Home



Photos by Evan Milburn
Local sponsors made it possible for Sweet Home's sky to light up with about 1,500 rounds of fireworks above the pond at Radiator Supply House on July 4th. See Fireworks on page 9 for more photos.

Charter changes to be presented for public input

By Sarah Brown
Of The New Era

After four meetings to review the city's charter, the Charter Review Committee is ready to present its recommendations to the public.

Many changes to the charter include basic housekeeping in the form of how things are worded, but some of the more interesting notes of change center around election of a mayor, habitual absenteeism and quorum rules.

Changes for an elected mayoral system

After citizens voted in May to have an elected mayor, the committee was faced with the question of what should happen if an active councilor wants to run for mayor before their term is up – should they resign their seat in order to run?

Committee member Gary Jarvis believes it's fair enough that a councilor should not have to resign if they run for mayor. Committee member and City Councilor Josh Thorstad pointed out that if three active councilors



wanted to run for mayor, then that would be three seats on the council lost and, ultimately, lack of a quorum. The committee passed a motion 4-0 (committee member Jeff Parker was absent) to change Chapter II, Section 3, such that if a councilor runs for mayor and wins the election, then

their seat becomes available to be filled by the former election's candidate who did not fill a seat yet. They also considered whether the mayor should be allowed to make motions and vote, or just be a tie-breaker. The City of Sweet Home currently operates as a council-manager form of government, City Attorney Blair Larsen told the committee. Here, the city manager is the executive hired by the legislative branch.

In cities where the mayor has more power, they usually follow a "strong mayor" system where the mayor is elected and is the executive who hires a city administrator. Sweet Home can change its system, Larsen said, "but it's a bigger shift."

Committee member Mike Reynolds was okay with the mayor being able to vote, but not make motions. Thorstad said the neighboring cities' mayors are directors of the meetings and only vote in a tie – a system he thinks is right. Jarvis initially indicated he was fine with that set up.

This topic was later addressed, as noted later in this story.

Absenteeism

Addressing the topic of absenteeism, the committee considered how many meet-

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Hometown
Newspaper of
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ULMER**



**SANTIAM GIRLS CAMP
FEATURES NATIONAL-LEVEL
WRESTLING TALENT
PAGE 7**



**FLIPPING OUT
ON THE
FOURTH
PAGE 11**



**RETIRED TEACHER 'NEVER
COULD SEE MYSELF
DOING ANYTHING ELSE'
PAGE 7**

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OBITUARIES

Ralph Harold Anderegg

Oct. 31, 1945 - June 30, 2025

Ralph Harold Anderegg, 79, of Sweet Home, passed away June 30, 2025. He was born on October 31, 1945 in Portland, to Henry and Isabel Anderegg.



Ralph grew up on a dairy farm in Vernonia where he loved taking care of animals as well as hunting and fishing. He was a track and football star in high school and loved to joke about his record in the 200 meter low hurdles which stands to this day, as the race is no longer being run. He graduated from Oregon State University with a bachelor's and master's in Agricultural Education. While at OSU, he met Nancy Lincoln of Corvallis. They married on August 10, 1968.

Ralph taught at Canby High School from 1968 to 1975 and advised the local chapter of the FFA where he coached his teams to several state and national awards. During this time he felt God's call to go into full time ministry and he and his family moved to Dallas, Texas to attend Dallas Theological Seminary, graduating in 1979. Ralph pastored Sunset Bible Church in University Place, Washington from 1979 until 1991.

He enjoyed hiking in national parks such as Mount Rainier and the Olympics. He loved fishing with his children. Ralph spent the

remainder of his life in Sweet Home, where he was pastor at Elm Street Baptist Church until 2013. He continued to serve as an elder and loved to teach the catechism class to the children, which he continued to do until 2020.

Ralph loved reading, hunting, fly fishing, and traveling to historic sites across the country. He particularly enjoyed his trip to Israel with his wife and son, Kirk, in 2000. He also treasured his time exercising with other Parkinson's patients at Rock Steady Boxing, first in Lebanon and then in Albany.

Ralph is survived by his wife, Nancy of Sweet Home; their children: Kirk and Jennie Anderegg of Sunriver, Robert and Elissa Vanlandingham of Medford, and Jonathan and Courtney Anderegg of Worthington, Ohio; brother Ron Anderegg of Los Angeles, California; and sister JeanAnn Borders of Lebanon. He was a proud grandfather of six grandchildren: Ellie Reed, Amelia Vanlandingham, Spencer Anderegg, Jillian Anderegg, Izzy Vanlandingham, and Liam Anderegg.

He found solace in the words of Psalm 121, which begins, "I lift up my eyes to the hills. From where does my help come? My help comes from the LORD, who made heaven and earth." Ralph will be deeply missed by not only his family, but the countless people he ministered to throughout his life. We are comforted knowing that he can now see face to face the One he

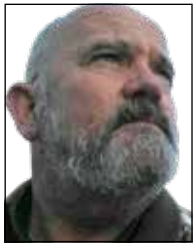
served his whole life without the pain and anxiety of Parkinson's disease that made his last few years a challenge.

A family graveside service was held on Monday, July 7 at Ames Cemetery. A memorial service followed at 2 p.m. at Elm Street Baptist Church followed by a time of fellowship. Sweet Home Funeral Chapel is handling the arrangements. www.sweethomefuneral.com

William Marshall

August 23, 1954 - June 27, 2025

William "Bill" Douglas Marshall, 70, of Sweet Home, passed away Friday, June 27, 2025. He was born on August 23, 1954 to Margaret Eileen (McVicker) and Ned Larson Marshall in Milwaukee, Wisconsin.



He grew up in Hood River and attended OSU in Corvallis. Bill worked at Cascade Timber Consulting from 1978 until retiring in 2020. He has lived in Sweet Home for over 45 years.

Bill enjoyed fly tying, fly fishing, bird hunting and deer hunting. He liked to do woodworking and enjoyed greenhouse geology.

He is survived by his wife Diane Marshall of Sweet Home; son Joe (Carly) Marshall of Albany, daughter Natalie (Sam) Rivera of Scio; mother Margaret Marshall of Hood River; sisters: Mary Sue Benton of Hood River, Peggy Wood-

ruff of Hood River, Joani Howell of Medford; bonus son, Ryan (Jenny) Daniels of Lebanon; 10 grandchildren. He was preceded in death by his father Ned Marshall (2017); Auntie Mair (2010); brother-in-law Steve Benton (2018).

Celebration of life will be at a later date. In lieu of flowers or cards donations can be made to the City of Sweet Home Sankey Park Phase 3 fund by calling 541-367-5128. Sweet Home Funeral Chapel is handling arrangements www.sweethomefuneral.com.

Phyllis Joyce Schmitz

Jan. 17, 1942 - June 11, 2025

Phyllis Joyce Schmitz (Murphy) 83, of Lebanon passed away on June 11th, 2025. In honoring Phyllis's wishes, she asked not to have a service. She will be laid to rest at Evergreen Memorial Cemetery in McMinnville, at a later time. Sweet Home Funeral Chapel is handling arrangements. www.sweethomefuneral.com.

Kathleen D. Walker

Jan. 10, 1948 - June 28, 2025

Kathleen D. Walker, 77, of Creswell, passed away Saturday, June 28, 2025. Sweet Home Funeral Chapel is handling arrangements www.sweethomefuneral.com.

Johnny Ray Coles

Dec. 14, 1961 - June 30, 2025

Johnny Ray Coles, 63, of Sweet Home, passed away Monday, June 30, 2025. Sweet Home Funeral Chapel is handling arrangements www.sweethomefuneral.com.

www.sweethomefuneral.com.

David Eugene Poto

Feb. 4, 1949 - July 2, 2025

David Eugene Poto, 76, of Sweet Home, passed away Wednesday, July 2, 2025. Sweet Home Funeral Chapel is handling arrangements www.sweethomefuneral.com.

Marvin Dee Hayes

March 6, 1946 - June 21, 2025

Marvin Dee Hayes, 79, of Sweet Home, passed away Saturday, June 21, 2025. Sweet Home Funeral Chapel is handling arrangements www.sweethomefuneral.com.

Gina Marie Radley

May 29, 1966 - July 3, 2025

Gina Marie Radley, 59, of Sweet Home, passed away Thursday, July 3, 2025. Sweet Home Funeral Chapel is handling arrangements www.sweethomefuneral.com.

Kenneth Leroy Weber

July 5, 1938 - June 20, 2025

Kenneth Leroy Weber, 86, of Eugene, passed away Friday, June 20, 2025. Private family service will be held at Liberty Cemetery. Sweet Home Funeral Chapel is handling arrangements www.sweethomefuneral.com.

Leo Dadey

A celebration of life for Leo Dadey passed away December 28, 2024 will be held at the VFW July 12th at 2 p.m.

The ICEBOX Performer Of The Week



This week's ICEBOX Performer of the Week goes to Josh Thesus!

Josh's attention to detail and positive attitude stood out this week and caught his coworker's eye. He always looks for ways to improve processes and goes above and beyond for his team and the customer. With impeccable communication, we can always count on Josh.

Josh, thank you for all that you do! We appreciate your hard work, dedication, and the joy you bring to the RSH team!



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TEMPERATURES

DATE		HIGH	LOW	PRECIP
July	1	93	59	0.00
July	2	84	51	0.00
July	3	79	54	0.00
July	4	77	51	0.00
July	5	81	42	0.00
July	6	88	59	0.00
July	7	88	56	0.00

PRECIPITATION

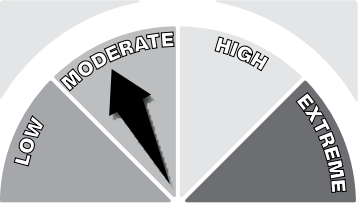
Year to date: 19.24
July 10, 2024: 18.79

FORECAST

DAY	WEATHER	HIGH	LOW
Thur	AM Clouds/PM Sun	85	56
Fri	Sunny	94	59
Sat	Sunny	95	62
Sun	Sunny	97	61
Mon	Sunny	95	59
Tues	Sunny	96	59
Wed	Sunny	96	57

CURRENT LEVELS

Foster Reservoir: 636.2
Green Peter Res.: 955.4



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).

July 6
12:02 a.m. - Assault reported in 1400 block 60th Ave. Investigation continuing. Report taken.
12:09 a.m. - BLM gate found open in 51100 block Quartzville Rd. Lock appeared to have been broken off gate. Estimated damage \$30.
12:36 a.m. - David Jason Skranak, 51, of Brownsville, cited for speeding, 57/35, 900 block N. Main St., Brownsville.
10:04 a.m. - Caller reported female on ground, lying in grass in 1200 block 49th Ave. Officer responded, contacted female, assisted her into clinic, where she was left alone with medical staff.
12:01 p.m. - Alexandra June Richardson arrested on AMC warrant for contempt of court, 900 block 1st Ave. Cited and released.
1:13 p.m. - Michale Todd Rosecrantz, 37, arrested on SHMC warrants for FTA in two theft cases, FTA in escape case, FTA in criminal misconduct case, and FTA in LCCC cases involving unlawful use of weapon, assault and possession of controlled substance, 1400 block 22nd Ave. Lodged at Linn County Jail.
1:40 p.m. - Theft reported in 44700 block Quartzville Rd. Report taken.
2:47 p.m. - Caller from Mobil gas station, 2200 block Main St., reported that customer had been unable to pay for gas two hours previously and had promised to return to pay and had not done so. Report taken for theft III.
7:04 p.m. - Kyle Dawayne Roebuck, 30, arrested on SHMC warrant in trespass case, 600 block Main St. Cited and released.
7:13 p.m. - Theft reported in 32900 block Hwy. 99, Halsey, Tanner Nantz, 43, of Eugene, arrested for theft III, transported to Linn County Jail. Report taken.
8:41 p.m. - Illegal camping reported in 47700 block Cascadia Dr., Cascadia. Vacant trailer found on side of road.

9:52 p.m. - Caller reported driver failing to maintain lane, speeding and nearly hitting pedestrian. Officer located driver, noted no signs of impairment. Driver was warned for failure to maintain lane, speeding. 4600 block Main St.
10:01 p.m. - Caller reported vehicle trying to leave Thriftway parking lot, 621 Main St., dragging items behind it. Officer responded, contacted female who refused to leave vehicle but handed over "white crystal-like substance" for disposal. Report taken.
10:10 p.m. - Caller from Safeway, 1540 Main St., reported female putting items in her purse. Officer responded, contacted female, who was trespassed from store.

July 5
7:35 a.m. - Crash reported in 3200 block Main St. No injuries, parties had already exchanged information, did not need officer. No report.
11:27 a.m. - Luke Murphy, 48, of Brownsville, cited for speeding, 93/55, 32100 block Seven Mile Lane north of Brownsville.
4:44 p.m. - Caller reported neighbor took out two of caller's trees to put up fence in 1200 block Albatross Ct. Officer responded, determined it was civil issue.
5:38 p.m. - Disabled vehicle blocking part of NF11 in 51300 block Quartzville Rd. towed as hazard.
8:16 p.m. - Caller reported that neighbor had checked herself out of hospital and should not be home alone. 1800 block Fir St. Officer responded, assisted. Female refused transport.

8:51 p.m. - Driver, who was not identified in Sheriff's log, cited for speeding, 60/35, 200 block E. Bishop Way, Brownsville.
9:32 p.m. - Malique Michael Foster, 26, of Eugene, cited for speeding, 57/35, 100 block W. Bishop Way, Brownsville.
10:42 p.m. - Deputy warned males who had campfire in 51200 block Quartzville Rd.
10:54 p.m. - Deputy located illegal camp in 51200 block Quartzville Rd. Male occupant warned.
July 4
7:42 a.m. - Donald Kay Flanigan, 36, arrested on LCCC warrants for probation violation in elude/reckless driving/FTA in criminal citation cases, LMC warrant for probation violation in theft case, 1100 block 10th Ave. Lodged at Linn County Jail.
11:32 a.m. - Caller reported someone cut hose at East Linn Museum, 746 Long St. SHPD to increase night patrols of area.
12:11 p.m. - Deputy investigated illegal camp set up on private property in 52600 block Hwy. 20. Report taken.
1:24 p.m. - Mica Deann West, 34, arrested by Wasco County Sheriff's Office on SHMC warrant for FTA in DUII case. Cited to appear

See Public Safety, Page 6


CIRCUIT COURT

Warrants are out on the following individuals: Travis Alexander Ayres, Christopher Frances Ciullo, Kelsey Nicole Ciullo, Hope Marie Connors, Ashlee Dee Flanagan, Sean Doyle Gay, Nicholas Gregory Godell, Aaron Thomas Halvorson, Noe Hernandez-Reyes, Marcus Wesley Hesson, 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

A charge against **Billy Wayne Hatch Jr., 48**, of theft

I was dismissed without prejudice on June 30.

Bronson Garrett Putney, 29, sentenced June 30 to 18 mos. supervised probation and a \$200 fine after pleading no contest to burglary II. Charges of criminal trespass II, criminal mischief II and attempt to commit a Class A felony dismissed.



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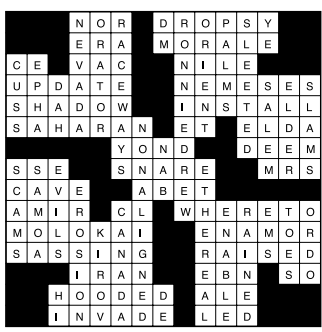
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DRIVE UP PHARMACY

Crossword KEY

Puzzle on page 13



SUDOKU KEY

Puzzle on page 13

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

FROM OUR FILES



Three Rice brothers, shown here in 1975 with their boss Jim Stock (left), have put in 114 combined years in the wood products industry. The brothers are Bud, Lynn and Dick.

July 13, 1950

The subject of a three-week manhunt, Jerry Macomber, 27, was nabbed in Medford after a gun battle with police. He is the accomplice of Ted Nichols, who was arrested for three burglaries in Linn County. It was believed Macomber was hiding out in Linn County forests when he stole a car from the Santiam Cabins, and was spotted in Quartzville, at Sunnyside School and in Bates Park. The pair were wanted for safecracking, horse theft and robbery. Macomber later stole the Sunnyside bus and looted the Lampson farmhouse in the McDowell Creek area.

The new central control radio for the police and fire departments' two-way radio system will be placed in vehicles. The fire department has special need for the radio during summer months when many calls to rural areas are received.

July 10, 1975

Sportsman's Holiday will feature a Beast Contest this year at Foster Lake.

Any five men, or boys, can make a team of "beasts" to compete against another team. The two teams will be placed in the center of a raft where they must throw each other off until the team with remaining beasts is left. The winning team will win \$50. The city received a \$388,000 grant from HUD to be used as local matching funds for a \$1.2 million grant request submitted to the EPA for extension of a sewer trunk line from the Sweet Home sewage treatment plant to the Foster-Midway area.

July 12, 2000

A team of 45 people representing seven churches in Arizona descended upon Camp Attitude to help build two log cabins with a shared bathroom. After meeting Camp Attitude Founder Ron Heagy, Ben Stanton rounded up 20 other people to hike the Grand Canyon in a fundraiser that raised \$76,000. But the hikers went further by using their skills (carpentry, plumbing, electrical) to build the cabins.

EVENTS

Class of 1985 Reunion to be Saturday, July 12

Sweet Home High School Class of 1985 will hold its 40th Class Reunion from 6 to 11 p.m. Saturday, July 12, at the Dam Bar, 6099 Hwy. 20, Sweet Home.

This is an informal gathering: Just show up and mix and mingle with classmates. No charge, food and drinks will be available to order.

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., kokedomma (moss ball) class from 1-2 p.m., koto (a Japanese 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.

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.



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PHONE: 541-367-2135 FAX: 541-367-2137

WHO WE ARE:

Miriam Swanson, Publisher - miriam@sweethomenews.com

Scott Swanson, Publisher - scott@sweethomenews.com

Jessica Sands, Office Manager - jessica@sweethomenews.com

Sarah Brown, Staff Writer - sarah@sweethomenews.com

Mack Knebel, Advertising Rep - mack@sweethomenews.com

SUBSCRIPTIONS: Monthly: \$6.99 Annual: \$79.99

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CHARTER

From page 1

ings councilors are expected to attend every year – an average of two meetings per month, plus work and executive sessions.

Reynolds said he believes 10 unexcused absences is generous and should result in the removal of a councilor from their seat – a policy the State of Oregon follows – adding that if someone's not going to most of the meetings, then it's "obvious" they don't want to do the job.

Thorstad added he likes the notion of holding elected officials accountable. Absences addressed at council meetings, however, have always been excused by vote.

Jarvis was more hesitant to punish habitual absenteeism, stating "If we were to do something like that, I think we are entering dangerous territory because people are elected to office and, once again, elections have consequences."

Jarvis told the committee he'd prefer the rule, if any, to address the matter only when a councilor acquires unexcused absences of a minimum of 50% of the meetings. However, if they do add this to the charter, he said, it should come with precise rules and redress. Or, he said, perhaps put the councilor's actions in the hands of the citizens through some sort of public trial.

The committee ultimately voted 4-0 to add that if a councilor has 10 or more unexcused absences from regular council meetings in a calendar year, then they cannot run for reelection.

Reynolds also addressed a concern about what should happen, if anything, if a councilor "runs their mouth" against the will of council.

"This is, I would say, one of the weaknesses of our charter, is that there's not necessarily a lot of recourse for breaking the council rules," City Attorney Blair Larsen said.

He added that the city has to be careful not to violate anyone's right to free speech. Thorstad added that the discussion was starting to tread

into council rules, not rules related to the city charter.

Quorums

The committee held considerable discussion on Chapter III, Section 18, concerning a quorum's ability to vote on any matter.

Reynolds wanted a quorum to be a specified number rather than a general quorum of the council. He was concerned that if four councilors showed up to a meeting, thus forming a quorum, then it would take only three councilors to have the power to pass business. The idea of three people being able to make big decisions that would affect the city bothered him, and Reynolds suggested that it take a minimum of four councilors to approve a motion.

Jarvis initially agreed with the idea, but reconsidered his stance after giving it further thought. At a prior meeting, his motion to allow the mayor the power to vote only in a tie had passed, but he readdressed the matter when the committee was re-reviewing this section.

Jarvis said he realized that having a four majority for all matters would set the stage requiring a supermajority for anything to pass. With the mayor excluded from being able to vote, only six councilors would be able to vote, making the requirement that it would take at least four to pass anything.

"I'm not sure we want to hamstring our city council to that," he said. "I fear that what we passed (mayor only votes to break a tie) may well be destroying what works as we seek some version of perfection. As we continue to discuss minimum thresholds to pass motions or business, we actually may have created the situation that would hamstring city council from getting work done at all. We sought to keep the mayor above the fray of day to day politics by doing what we did at the last meeting, but may have created a situation where politics could more easily be played and exercised."

Deputy City Manager Cecily Pretty agreed that – with the mayor not being able to

vote and the requirement of at least four to pass anything – it may become impossible to pass any business, particularly if a councilor is absent.

As such, the committee rescinded their decision limiting the mayor's ability to vote. After further discussion, they determined the four-majority vote should only be relevant to specific matters of business such as the hiring or firing of a city manager, judge or attorney; rate hikes; land use decisions; city code changes; the filling of council seat vacancies when it's past the term's half-point; approval of ordinances with emergency clauses; or "anything that happens to the people."

The committee also passed a motion 4-0 on Chapter V, Section 15, that if three seats were to become vacant, then the majority of remaining

seats becomes a quorum for the purposes of filling vacancies.

The committee directed staff to research more about quorum rules for, say, if a councilor "plays games" by not showing up at a meeting in order to deny a quorum when a vote is at hand.

Other items

Other modifications of interest include:

- Chapter IV, Section 13 - If a seat becomes vacant in the first half a councilor's term, then it will be offered to the former candidates who ran for that seat. If the former top two candidates decline, then the City Council will fill the seat. Passed 3-2.

- Chapter V, Section 17 - Change the "outdated and clunky" term of President Pro Tem to Council President; passed 5-0

- Chapter VI, Section

20(e) - A manager pro tem can hold the position for six months with up to two renewals, as decided by council action with a four majority vote; passed 4-0.

- Chapter VII, Section 24 - New ordinances can be read by title only; passed 4-0.

Additionally, Jarvis asked that something be written up along the veins of allowing citizens for petition and redress. He asked that the council allow five minutes per person for public comment. The motion for this recommendation passed 5-0.

Public meetings will be held from 5-7 p.m. on Tuesday, July 15, and 9-11 a.m. on Saturday, July 26, for citizens to comment on the recommendations before anything is brought to the City Council for their review and consideration.

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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Father Theodore Lange



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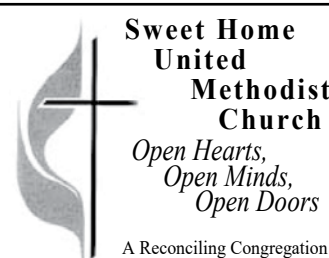


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9:45 am Sunday School
11:00 am Worship
5:00 pm Prayer Meeting

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Santiam girls camp features national-level wrestling talent

By Keeghan Gittins
For The New Era

Some 100 girls from all over the United States converged on Sweet Home High School last week for the fifth annual Santiam Wrestling Camp for girls. The camp, held June 30 to July 2, precedes the boys camp, which was held earlier this week.

Sweet Home Coach Steve Thorpe noted that the camp started in 2021, out of COVID, with 26 girls.

"This year we had 96 girls," Thorpe said.

Linfield Women's Wrestling Coach Frank Johnson was one of the instructors, demonstrating a multitude of moves for the girls. He brought along one of his top wrestlers, Josh Johnson, to assist with coaching.

Wrestlers filled the main gym, which was set up with three full-size mats. Johnson worked with the more advanced group in the wrestling room, where the girls added multiple moves to their arsenal.

"I chose to come to this camp because even the little things make a difference," said Sweet Home's Alizeah Weikle. "Doing the extra, even when others aren't, the work I put in now will pay off in February."



Alizeah Weikle, left, bridges as Olivia Hernandez's attempts a pin

Weikle had the opportunity to wrestle Olivia Hernandez of Philomath, a 15-year-old wrestler with a highly decorated resume. Hernandez is a six-time state champion, five-time national champion, and two-time Pan-American champion. The Pan American wrestling tournament, held in Guatemala, allows only one wrestler per country to represent each of the 30 weight classes.

"I couldn't say no to the challenge and I'm willing to take advantage of every wrestling opportunity I can get, even if I lose, because my losses make me a better wrestler," said Weikle.

"I came to this camp because I felt it has some of the toughest competition, and that is

what I need to improve," said Hernandez.

Many wrestlers from all around the United States made the trip to Sweet Home for the camp.

"I think it's inspiring to see girls of all ages and experience levels join our wrestling community," Weikle said.

"Sweet Home is one of the only places in Oregon that would allow [us] to bring in so many kids into their school," Thorpe said. "This provides so many different kids for our kids to train with and get to know. I am so grateful to have a district and administration that allows this to happen.

"Bringing back college wrestlers and our alumni are incredible examples to the kids



Sweet Home's Averi Temple, right, gets some coaching from former Husky, three-time state champ and former Southern Oregon University wrestler Marissa Kurtz.

at camp. They are walking examples of what is possible with hard work, dedication and opportunity."

Thurston Coach Mike Simons, whose teams have won consecutive 5A/6A girls team state titles over the past two

seasons, also said he appreciated having alums help out with this year's camp.

"The girls that came back to give back to the camp was very special," Simons said. "Quality people and incredible wrestlers."

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FIREWORKS

From page 1





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PUBLIC SAFETY

From page 6

butchered was pig.
12:38 p.m. - Caller reported large amount of blood near river in 1500 block Tamarack St. Investigation, which involved OSP fish and wildlife trooper, determined substance was not blood.
12:59 p.m. - Caller reported being scammed, sending

\$500 in gift cards to scammers. 1814 Fir St. Officer responded, provided caller with case number for her bank.
1:59 p.m. - Crash reported at Sunnyside Park, 44900 block Quartzville Rd. Camper crashed into fee booth at campground, damaging both camper and booth.
2:13 p.m. - Robert Gardner of Sweet Home cited for un-

specified traffic violations, 27800 block Hwy. 228 near Crawfordsville.
3:41 p.m. - Jessie Lane Davis, 29, arrested by Albany Police on SHMC warrant for FTA in DUII case. Cited to appear July 25.
4:39 p.m. - Hunter Gomez, 42, arrested by Corvallis police on SHMC warrant for FTC in theft case. Cited to appear July 25.

See Public Safety, Page 10



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Oregon now in statewide fire season

As of July 1, all Oregon Department of Forestry districts are now in fire season. This means that to reduce the risk of human-caused wildfires, fire restrictions may be in place where you live or at a destination you plan to visit or recreate.

ODF protects over 16 million acres of private, county, state, and federal land in Oregon from wildfire. Fire season is declared at the local level when conditions reach a point where the risk of a fire starting and spreading becomes clear. This year, the Southwest Oregon district was the first to declare on June 1, and the North Cascade District was the last to declare on July 1.

"We have already experienced several large fires in

the state this year and anticipate fire behavior to be progressively more volatile. RIGHT NOW is the time to practice fire prevention and preparedness," said Michael Curran, chief of Oregon Department of Forestry's Fire Protection Division.

"Prevention is our No. 1 tool to reduce property loss, firefighting costs, and risk to the lives of our firefighters. We can't prevent lightning fires, but we can prevent human-caused fires."

Now is the time to brush up on your wildfire prevention knowledge. Tips include:

Know before you go. Campfires may be banned or only allowed in approved campgrounds.

Make sure your campfire is cool to the touch before go-

ing to sleep or leaving your site. Don't forget to Drown, Stir, Repeat.

Backyard debris burning either requires a burn permit during fire season or is prohibited altogether. If you burned earlier this spring, go back and check on your debris burn site to make sure nothing reignites due to the heat.

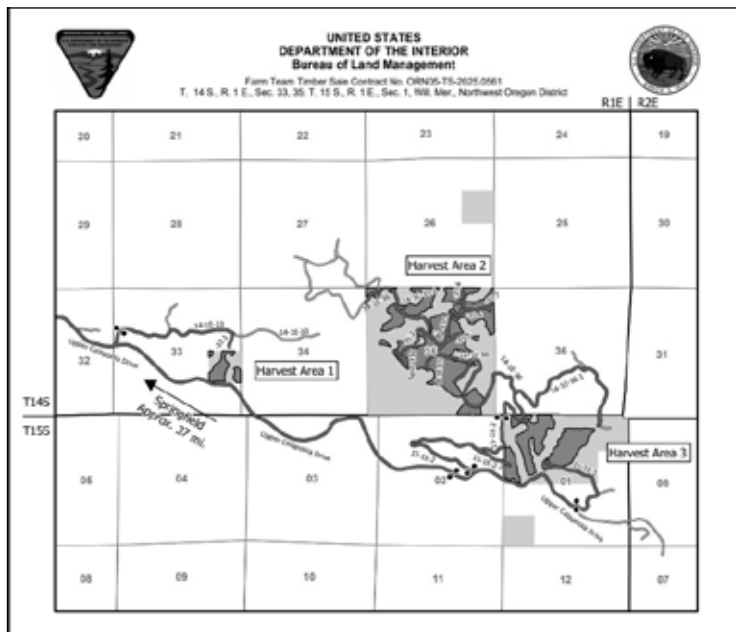
- Don't flick a cigarette onto the ground. It may be just enough to start a fire.

- Don't park or idle over dried grass.

- Do NOT drag tow chains.

Check local restrictions and fire danger levels at www.oregon.gov/odf/fire.

For more information on how you can help prevent wildfires, visit keeporegon-green.org.



BLM Sells \$5.7M Oregon Timber

The Bureau of Land Management sold 19.2 million board feet of timber across 772 public acres for \$5,726,255 between three timber sales in western Oregon.

These sales will produce enough timber to build roughly 1,200 homes, feed local mills, and support jobs in Oregon communities, the BLM said in an announcement.

"America has significant timber resources, with many of those in Western Oregon," said BLM Oregon/Washington State Director Barry Bushue. "We are focused on using forests for timber and jobs that improve life in local communities."

The Northwest Oregon District sold 8.6 million board feet of timber across 345 public acres in the Farm Team timber sale, located on Upper Calapooia Drive, to Feres Lumber Co., Inc., of Lyons for \$2,097,545. The district also sold 8.4 million board feet of timber across 317 acres in the Brushback timber sale to Sierra Pacific Industries of Eugene for \$3,527,206.

The Medford District sold 2.2 million board feet of timber across 110 public acres in the Salt Creek salvage sale to

Swanson Group of Glendale for \$101,504. The project will remove fire-damaged trees along publicly accessible BLM roads.

In western Oregon, the BLM manages 2.4 million acres of some of the most productive forests in the world, and is committed to supplying a reliable, secure, and resilient domestic supply of timber. BLM forestry supports economic security, reduces risks from wildfire, conserves fish and wildlife habitat, and decreases costs of energy production. Local communities rely on jobs that come from BLM forests, and timber from public land feeds local industry.

Each year, the BLM Oregon-Washington forestry program sales support approximately 2,000 local jobs and generate more than \$1 billion for local economies. Revenue from timber sold on O&C lands is shared between the U.S. Treasury and 18 western Oregon counties. This funding provides local communities with the means to construct new county buildings; develop fairgrounds and museums; support libraries, schools, and jails; and build flood-control dams and reservoirs.

PUBLIC SAFETY

From page 9

pear July 25.

7:19 p.m. - Caller reported male claiming to be law enforcement trying to enter Sunnyside Park, 44900 block Quartzville Rd. LCSO unable to locate individual.

8:02 p.m. - Caller reported barbecue was stolen from his residence in 2200 block Main St. two weeks previous.

8:55 p.m. - John Paul Smith, 52, arrested for criminal mistreatment 1 and assault IV - domestic, at SHPD, 1950 Main St. John Ross Smith, 22, arrested for assault IV - domestic. Both lodged at Linn County Jail.

9:28 p.m. - Heather Kelly,

of Sweet Home, arrested on AMC warrant for FTA in unspecified case, 33100 block Hwy. 228, Halsey. Cited and released.

10:01 p.m. - Caller reported gun stolen from vehicle in 1400 block 24th Ave. Officer responded, report taken for theft I. Valued at \$200.

July 2

9:39 a.m. - Gilbert Alonzo Martinez, 49, arrested on LCCC warrant for probation violation, 1500 block Tamarck St. Cited and released.

11:19 a.m. - Caller reported his tires were slashed while swimming, Calapooia/Upper Calapooia drives.

1:57 p.m. - Crash reported

See Public Safety, Page 13

Brownsville City Council addresses solar project concerns

By Chelly Bouferrache
For The New Era

The Brownsville City Council meeting held June 30 tackled a range of issues, from community objections to the proposed Muddy Creek solar project, budget approvals and public safety updates. The meeting drew attention to ongoing tensions over land use and local governance.

Troy Jones and Steve Hood, representing the "Friends of Gap Road," provided an update on their opposition to the proposed 1,600-acre Muddy Creek Solar Park, a photovoltaic solar plant. The group has been vocal about the project's potential impact on farmland. Jones highlighted that the project developers sent a letter to the Oregon Department of Energy on April 6, but have yet to engage with the Department of State Lands or complete a required two-year land study or resource study, a requirement to proceed on the project.

"It's not about power or clean energy; it's about dollars," Jones said, emphasizing the group's stance against using farmland for commercial energy projects.

Mayor Dee Craven expressed support, stating, "We will continue to support you," and echoed concerns about the use of tax dollars.

The group also reported efforts to influence legislation,

including sponsoring a bill to prohibit solar projects on Exclusive Farm Use (EFU) land. The bill reached a hearing before the climate committee, chaired by Rep. John Lively, but was ultimately rejected.

Linn County Commissioner Roger Nyquist is consulting legal experts on the issue of commercial energy usage on EFU land. Councilor Dave Hansen inquired about possible modifications to the solar project's plans, noting the developers' failure to address a wetlands study with the Department of State Lands saying this was "poorly done."

In other business, the council opened the public hearing for the 2025-2026 budget. No public comments or council discussions were recorded, and both the use of state revenue sharing funds and the budget were unanimously approved.

Linn County Sheriff's Sgt. Steve Frambes provided a public safety update, noting a relatively quiet May with one arrest for unlawful use of a weapon in a domestic violence incident that resulted in a deputy employing a taser and a vehicle-versus-pedestrian crash tied to a "relationship issue between a couple gentleman and a female."

No property crimes, Frambes continued, "Love to see that." June, however, was marked by multiple fatal

crashes and hiking incidents in the county, including the deaths of several teenagers, straining resources.

"Just terrible to deal with," said Frambes.

Public Works Director Karl Frink reported a busy period preparing for the Pioneer Picnic, fixing a water main break and maintaining the cemetery.

City Administrator Scott McDowell discussed the weed and nuisance season, noting only two forced mowings this year compared to the usual 12 to 20.

"We had a really good year," McDowell noted.

He also highlighted upcoming events, including Rally on the River (July 16-22) and Stand By Me Day (July 26), and reported vandalism in public restrooms, which he described as a "norm" requiring regular maintenance.

The council addressed citizen concerns, including Michael Humphries' objection to the placement of community comments at the start of meetings.

"My concern is the placement on the agenda," he said, noting he preferred comments at the end to allow residents to respond to agenda items. Craven responded that "part of the function of it, it forces you to do your homework, look at the agenda and then you're at the front of the legislative and all the decision making pro-

cesses."

McDowell noted the second comment period was rarely used in his 19 years with the city, and gave support to keep comments earlier in the meeting.

Another resident, Jack Alsam, raised concerns about public restroom conditions, saying, "It's discouraging. It's a bad light if anyone from out of town uses it."

McDowell agreed city staff regularly check the bathrooms because it's a common complaint.

"If you're going to have public facilities they will be vandalized," he said. "We will continue to monitor it. It's disheartening to a degree, a complete disrespect to the common good."

On the legislative front, the council adopted water and sewer rate adjustments, with a "reasonable increase" for water and a 3% sewer rate hike, as authorized by city code.

"We hate any sort of rate or raise, but we have to do it," Councilor Mike Winklepleck said.

The council also approved the fiscal year budget, budget transfers from the previous year, and a delinquent assessment for one property. A request to close Pebble Street for a July 4 block party in the Rivers Edge development was approved, contingent on receiving an insurance certificate.

The city received a certified letter from the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) requiring the city to do a shade study along the Calapooia River to address water temperature concerns. The city must conduct the study, but faces challenges as there are no specific parameters at this point from the DEQ. The issue was referred to the communications committee for further review and drafting of a letter of response.

Winklepleck reported collaboration with the American Legion to display banners designed to recognize local veterans. The meeting concluded with Craven sharing a personal anecdote about his son's lost helmet being returned from the park to City Hall by a good samaritan.

"It holds testament to Brownsville and the city we live in," he said.

Craven also requested a moment of silence for first responders killed in a mass shooting in Idaho.

The council's next meeting will include a Standard & Poor's rating review, with expectations of maintaining or improving to at least an A to A-minus rating.

"I expect that could go up," McDowell said.

Flipping out on the Fourth

By Sarah Brown
Of The New Era

The Brownsville Rural Fire District kicked off the Fourth of July with its annual pancake breakfast fundraiser at Pioneer Park.

While the line remained long with newly arriving residents and park campers, an efficient flow of volunteer servers moved the hungry guests through with ease.

Fire Captain Roy Houtz flipped pancake after pancake into the air before they landed on plates, and "The Eggettes" served hot eggs and sausages in between a little hip-shaking to upbeat music. Other volunteers prepared

batter, washed dishes, kept the orange juice and coffee flowing, and topped off pancakes with mini American flag picks.

According to firefighter Tika Harrison, the fundraiser earned \$3,171 toward the \$7,700 cost of the fireworks show, which is also organized by Brownsville's fire department.

Connect Linn County kept families entertained throughout the rest of the day at Pioneer Park with games and food, including a visit with Tow-Mater, until nightfall invited the pièce de résistance – an explosion of fireworks over the historic park grounds.



Photo by Sarah Brown

Jason Curtis, at left, keeps his eyes on a flying pancake flipped by Roy Houtz, right, at the Brownsville Fire Department's pancake fundraiser.

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Public Notices



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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 – 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)

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 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)

NOTICE TO INTERESTED PERSONS:
Probate proceedings in the Estate of Jackie Sylvia Bowers, deceased, are now pending in the Circuit Court for Linn County, Oregon, Case No. 25PB04314. Richard Bowers has been appointed as personal representative of Decedent. All persons having claims against the Estate are required to present them, in due form, within four months after the date of first

publication of this Notice. The date of publication of this Notice is July 9, 2025. Claims shall be presented to the personal representative at this address: c/o Alec S. Marlega, Arnold Gallagher P.C., 800 Willamette Street, Suite 800, PO Box 1758, Eugene, OR 97440-1758, or they may be barred. All persons whose rights may be affected by these proceedings may obtain additional information from the records of the court, the personal representative, or their attorney, Alec S. Marlega, whose address is listed above, and whose telephone number is (541) 484-0188.
(Jul.9)

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE STATE OF OREGON FOR THE COUNTY OF LINN IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF MARY JANE SWANSON, deceased, Case No. 25PB05765

NOTICE TO INTERESTED PERSONS
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the undersigned has been appointed personal representative of the above estate. All persons having claims against the estate are required to present the same, with proper vouchers, to said personal representative at the office of Jessica K. Meyer, Jessica K. Meyer Law, 80 E. Maple St., Lebanon, Oregon 97355, within four months of the date of first publication of this notice, or such claims may be barred. All persons whose rights may be affected by the proceedings may obtain additional information from the personal representative or the attorneys for the personal representative at the address stated, or from the records of the Court.
Dated July 9, 2025.
Karen Elaine Nichols, Personal Representative. Jessica K. Meyer, OSB #053242
Jessica K. Meyer Law LLC, 80 E. Maple St., Lebanon OR 97355.
(Jul. 9)

In the Matter of the Intestate Estate of WILLIAM L. FOLLIN
NOTICE TO INTERESTED PERSONS
Linn County Case No. 25PB05229 NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Circuit Court of Linn County, State of Oregon, has appointed the undersigned as Personal Representative of the Estate of William L. Follin, deceased. All persons having claims against said estate are required to present the same, with proper vouchers, to the Personal Representative in care of Sarah Castleton, of Ivers & Miller Law 317 W. 1st Ave, Suite 302, Albany, OR 97321, within four (4) months after the date of first publication of this notice, or

the claims may be barred. All persons whose rights may be affected by the proceedings may obtain additional information from the records of the court, the personal representative or the attorney for the personal representative.
DATED and first published: July 9, 2025.
Sylvia McClain
Personal Representative
c/o Sarah Castleton
Ivers & Miller Law
PO Box 1033
317 First Ave W., Suite 302
Albany, OR 97321
(541) 928-5875
sarah@ivers.law
(Jul. 9)

CENTRAL WILLAMETTE CREDIT UNION v. DESTINY L. WILSON and ISAAC N. HOSKINS
SUMMONS – CASE NO. 25CV23154
IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE STATE OF OREGON FOR THE COUNTY OF LINN
TO: Destiny L. Wilson, the above-named defendant.
You are hereby required to appear and defend the complaint filed against you in the above entitled action within thirty (30) days from the date of the first publication of this summons, and in case of your failure to appear and answer, plaintiff for want thereof will apply to the above entitled court for the relief prayed for in its complaint, to-wit:

1. For the principal sum of \$11,006.00, plus late fees in the amount of \$156.87, plus accrued interest in the amount of \$1735.92 through April 2, 2025, plus interest accruing on the principal balance at the contract rate of 10.74 percent per annum (\$3.238 per diem) from April 3, 2025, until the date judgment is entered;
 2. For Plaintiff's reasonable attorney fees, costs and disbursements incurred herein;
 3. For interest on the sum of paragraphs 1 and 2 above at the contract rate of 10.74 percent per annum, from the date judgment is entered until paid in full; and
 4. For such other relief as the court deems just and proper.
- NOTICE TO DEFENDANT: READ CAREFULLY!! YOU MUST "APPEAR" IN THIS CASE OR THE OTHER SIDE WILL WIN AUTOMATICALLY. TO "APPEAR" YOU MUST FILE WITH THE COURT A LEGAL PAPER CALLED A "MOTION" OR "ANSWER" THE MOTION OR ANSWER (OR "REPLY") MUST BE GIVEN TO THE COURT CLERK OR ADMINISTRA-

Public Notices

TOR WITHIN 30 DAYS OF THE DATE OF FIRST PUBLICATION SPECIFIED HEREIN ALONG WITH THE REQUIRED FILING FEE. IT MUST BE IN PROPER FORM AND HAVE PROOF OF SERVICE ON THE PLAINTIFF'S ATTORNEY OR, IF THE PLAINTIFF DOES NOT HAVE AN ATTORNEY, PROOF OF SERVICE UPON THE PLAINTIFF. IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS, YOU SHOULD SEE AN ATTORNEY IMMEDIATELY. IF YOU NEED HELP IN FINDING AN ATTORNEY, YOU MAY CONTACT THE OREGON STATE BAR'S LAWYER REFERRAL SERVICE ONLINE AT WWW.OREGONSTATEBAR.ORG OR BY CALLING AT (503) 684-3763 (IN THE PORTLAND METROPOLITAN AREA) OR TOLL-FREE ELSEWHERE IN OREGON AT (800) 452-7636.
This summons is published by order of Circuit Court Thomas A. McHill of the above-entitled Court made on the 2nd day of June 2025, directing publication of this summons once each week for four consecutive weeks in a newspaper of general circulation in Linn County, Oregon.
Date of first publication: July 9, 2025
Date of last publication: July 30, 2025
Michelle M. Bertolino, OSB #912130
Of Attorneys for Plaintiff
FARLEIGH WADA WITT
121 SW Morrison, Suite 600
Portland, OR 97204-3136
(503) 228-6044
mbertolino@fwwlaw.com
(Jul. 9 - Jul 30)

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Is the city's electric vehicle charging station getting any use?

By Sarah Brown
Of The New Era

One year ago, the City of Sweet Home installed an electric vehicle charging station – something that may have seemed, to some, out of place in such a rural area where generations of people have lived their lives off the natural resources of timber, fish and homegrown smiles.

The New Era checked in with the city to see if the charging station is getting any use. Here's what we found.

The EV station went live in June 2024. The first use it got was on Aug. 13, 2024. Since then, there have been 418 charging sessions – an average of approximately one car per day – distributing a total of 9,905.485 kilowatts per hour (kwh). It takes an average of 32 minutes to charge a car.

According to Deputy City

Manager Cecily Pretty, the city shares the revenue with Pacific Power. Sweet Home to date has earned \$2,971.06, which is placed into the streets portion of the city's General Fund.

It was former city manager Kelcey Young who secured the EV station, which cost the city nothing because it was funded through a Pacific Power grant.

The city stated on its website, "This is a grant-funded project intended to provide vehicle charging as an amenity in Sweet Home's downtown area in order to increase tourism and support the green energy initiative in Sweet Home and the neighboring areas."

Young envisioned adding one or two additional stations when grants became available. While the city continues to keep an eye out for those grant opportunities, Pretty said it's not a top priority.

"We have other higher priority projects right now and we would want to be thoughtful about the location for any additional charging stations, so we don't have a site identified currently," she said.

Young had said many commuters pass through Sweet Home on their way to Bend from the coast and Portland area, where electric vehicles are more common. Sweet Home's EV station was the only fast-charging station she was aware of along the Highway 20 corridor. It was Young's hope that users would spend money in Sweet Home while they waited for their cars to charge.

"We're pleased to offer the charging station as an option for locals and visitors, particularly because of our location as a typical 'last stop' before heading over the mountains," Pretty told The New Era.

Samaritan, Santiam Hospital cease affiliation pursuit

After a year of due diligence and operational exploration, Samaritan Health Services and Santiam Hospital and Clinics announced their mutual decision to cease pursuit of formal affiliation.

In a press release, the non-profits stated they remain committed to their missions of service within the region and will continue to look for ways to collaborate that might benefit the health and well-being of the community from the mid-Willamette Valley through the central Oregon coast regions. Patient care, they said, should not be impacted by this decision.

Samaritan Health Services and Santiam Hospital and Clinics a year ago signed a definitive agreement and were seeking approval from the Oregon Health Authority to affiliate in early summer of 2025.

The two organizations signed

a nonbinding letter of intent in late May of 2024 "to allow the parties to further evaluate the affiliation with the anticipated outcome of Santiam Hospital and Clinics becoming part of Samaritan Health Services," Samaritan stated in a news release.

The idea was that as nonprofit, community-based health systems with similar missions, visions, values, and cultures, \ joining together through affiliation would strengthen both organizations through increased access to services, improving health equity and enhancing services provided to communities throughout the mid-Willamette Valley and central Oregon coast regions, Samaritan said.

Samaritan Health Services is a nonprofit regional health system that brings together five community hospitals, more than 100 physician clin-

ics and multiple health insurance plans to serve more than 290,000 residents in Oregon's Benton, Lincoln and Linn counties.

Samaritan employs more than 5,000 workers, including 620 clinicians, and is governed by a volunteer board, which includes community members, physicians and hospital leaders.

Santiam Hospital and Clinics is a nonprofit health care organization, governed by a volunteer board of directors.

Santiam Hospital and Clinics is an independent, acute-care hospital in Stayton, operating 12 clinics serving the Santiam Canyon in Marion and Linn counties. Santiam Hospital & Clinics serves more than 40,000 residents and employs more than 600 staff, including 70 medical staff focused on community-based care.

PUBLIC SAFETY

From page 10

43000 block North River Rd. Mallory Murray, 18, of Sweet Home, cited for operating unsafe vehicle. Non-injury.

2:09 p.m. - Scott David Citro, 49, arrested by Corvallis police for resisting arrest, LCCC warrant for FTA in burglary case. 18th Ave./Tamarack St. Lodged at Linn County Jail.

2:46 p.m. - Jared Louis Brennan, 39, cited for no operator's license, driving unin-

sured and failure to register vehicle, 4200 block Main St.

4:04 p.m. - Nicholas Scott Warren, 45, arrested at Linn County Jail for offensive littering. Was lodged on prior charges,

4:18 a.m. - Leopoldo Hernandez-German, 30, of Albany, cited for speeding, 56/35, Bishop Way/Hume St., Brownsville.

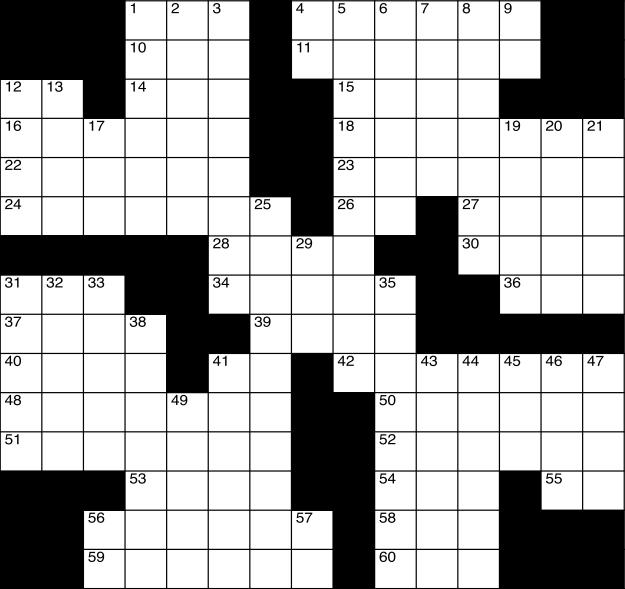
5:42 p.m. - Darrell Gene Mullenix, 51, arrested by LCSO on SHMC warrants for FTA in criminal misconduct, multiple trespassing and

theft cases. Cited to appear July 23.

8:09 p.m. - Kaylie Jasmyn Gaylord, 32, arrested for criminal mischief, resisting arrest and attempted escape, 1717 9th Ave. Lodged at Linn County Jail.

10:30 p.m. - Deputy warned people about trying to secure spots in Pioneer Park when park was not open, 100 Pioneer Park Rd., Brownsville. Advised them that they were technically trespassing. Individuals confirmed they understood.

CROSSWORD



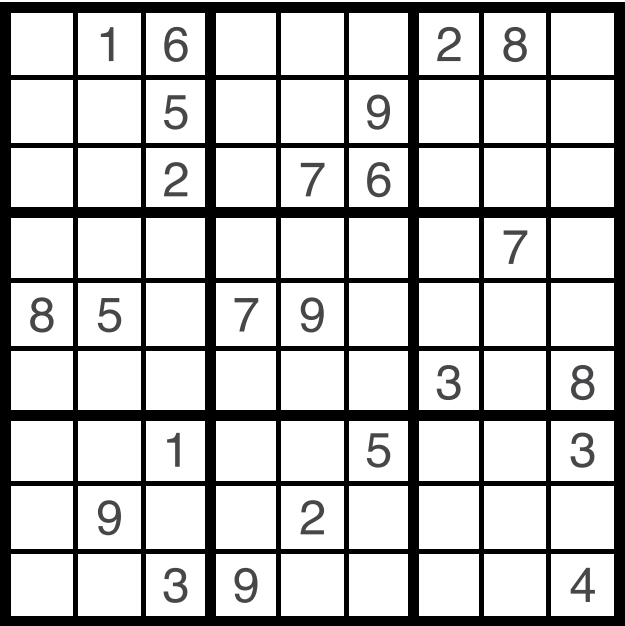
CLUES ACROSS

1. Neither
4. Edema (archaic)
10. Geological time
11. Confidence
12. Cerium
14. Virtual audio cable
15. World's longest river
16. A way to inform
18. Agents of one's downfall
22. Secretly follow
23. Put into a position
24. Of the desert
26. And (Latin)
27. Spanish city
28. Over there (archaic)
30. Regard
31. Midway between south and southeast
34. Entrap
36. Married woman
37. A place to explore
39. Assist, usually in some wrongdoing
40. Arab ruler
41. Centiliter
42. To which
48. "The Friendly Island"
50. Inspire with love
51. Being cheeky to
52. Up
53. Middle Eastern country
54. Compass point that is one point north of due east
55. Thus
56. Covered
58. Brew
59. Enter hostilely
60. Type of bulb

CLUES DOWN

1. American state
2. Speaker
3. Courses for cars
4. Deutschmark
5. Beloved "Dubliner"
6. Countries of Asia
7. Hands have them
8. Came down as ice pellets
9. Thou
12. Utter obscenities
13. Hebrew unit of measurement
17. Morse code term
19. Home to the witch trials
20. One who is older
21. Closes violently
25. Unaffiliated
29. Tag the runner
31. Trickeries
32. Polynesian island group
33. Immoralities
35. Extremely delicate
38. Gradual destruction
41. North American country
43. Provide the means to do
44. Fell down on
45. Emergency medical services
46. _ the line
47. Church booklet
49. Russian ballet
56. Hello
57. Delaware

SUDOKU



Level: Intermediate

Retiring teacher Davis 'never could see myself doing anything else'

By Satina Tolman
For The New Era

After 26 years of shaping young minds at Oak Heights Elementary, Cindy Davis is closing her classroom door one final time.

Davis has taught second, third and fourth grades at the school since 1998, dedicating her entire Sweet Home teaching career to the same campus. Her journey in education, however, began much earlier. She was an early childhood educator in California for 15 years, followed by a year with Head Start in Crawfordsville while gaining Oregon residency to attend Oregon State University.

"When you get to be my age, it's natural to look back and see whether you did do something positive for the world, and I think I can say yes," Davis said. "And that matters to me. That matters a lot."

Davis has always been sure of her path.

"I just could never see myself doing anything else," she said. "I've never held a single job that wasn't working with kids."

But now, a combination of health concerns and a desire to spend more time with her three grandchildren is pulling her in a new direction. A single adoptive mother of a sibling group of three, Davis has two children living locally and one in Montana.

Retirement means more time for travel and family, and a long-awaited Alaska cruise to see a glacier.

Davis said the most fulfilling part of teaching has always been the moments

when students surprise themselves.

"When they are struggling and it's hard but finally they realize that they have figured it out and they can do it. That is fun," she said. "I actually enjoy the kids who struggle the most because the reward is just so much bigger when they have a bigger battle. So whether the kids are from a family that is struggling or if they have learning disabilities, those kids are the ones who are so rewarding."

She vividly remembers one student who came into her third-grade class unable to read.

"The child and I worked very hard at our relationship and bonding and by the end of the year he had grown three grade levels in reading," she said. "He went from being a non-reader to being at grade level."

"It's that connection that means so much. I've had seven principals and I've told them all, 'I will not get you the highest test scores but you can count on the fact that I will connect with the kids. I'm about relationships. The reason I'm here is relationships, it's not about scores.'"

"Fortunately, I've had very supportive principals."

Oak Heights Principal Todd Barrett, who has worked with Davis for six years, said she's had a unique gift for reaching kids who struggle most.

"Cindy just has this big heart," Barrett said. "It's amazing how she can take a kid who is really struggling and find the purpose and value for that child. She

has always had that knack to build a relationship with the kids that other people cannot always get to."

Though she's quick to express her love for the work, Davis doesn't shy away from discussing the challenges.

"The most challenging part of being a teacher is all of the state and federal rules and politics that appear to have been made by people who do not understand children," she said.

"Because they have so many dictates now of what we have to do, it eliminates a lot of that ability to bring in project learning and those kinds of things that are so magical for kids," she said. "You end up spending more time worrying about whether something is relevant for a test, and I hate making decisions based on whether or not it will come up on a state test."

Over time, she's also seen a shift in how parents relate to schools and teachers.

"There feels like there has been more of an understanding that teaching is a difficult job. Covid did a little bit of that for us," she said. "I think the biggest change is, unfortunately, negative, and that is the level of accountability that parents hold for their kids. Kids are allowed to behave differently now than they were allowed to 26 years ago."

What's driving that change?

"I think it is complicated, but part of it is the economy where parents work more hours than they really want to, and then they become more lenient with the time



Photo by Satina Tolman

Cindy Davis

that they have because who wants to fight with your kids when you haven't seen them all day?" Davis speculated.

"It is multi-layered and there are many other factors, and it is frustrating," she added.

Still, she makes sure to acknowledge the many parents who do partner with educators.

"And it is not all parents by any means, we have a lot of parents who work with us as a team, and I am grateful for them."

Through every shift and challenge, one thing remained constant: her commitment to her students.

"For these 25 to 28 children who come into my room, for a year, they are mine," Davis said. "They

matter, and I hope they feel that. That is more important to me than if they remember long division."

As she prepares to step away from the classroom, Davis said it's the people, her students and colleagues, who will be hardest to leave.

"This has been my family," she said, her voice emotional.

"In the time I have been here, I have been through some really horrific things, including the death of an infant granddaughter. They (her co-workers) have been by me, have had my back, and I've been cared about. This place is a family. And that's what I am going to miss more than anything else. These are my people."



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Photo by Scott Swanson
Residents drop off their unwanted items while the dumpster was located at City Hall.

Sweet Home cleaner, leaner

By Sarah Brown
Of The New Era

Sweet Home residents rid themselves of more than 360 cubic yards of garbage last month during a citywide dump collection.

The City of Sweet Home's new "Sweet Home Initiative for Neighborhood Enhancement and Standards" (S.H.I.N.E.) brought out the big dumpsters for an eight-day run at various locations throughout town last month.

Residents were invited to take advantage of the opportunity to get rid of their unwanted items free of charge thanks to Code Enforcement Officer Ray Grundy, who came up with the idea.

"Ray Grundy wanted to give folks an opportunity to clean up their properties and make Sweet Home look more beautiful, especially during these

wonderful summer months," Deputy City Manager Cecily Pretty said.

The cost to rid the community of their garbage was \$5,802.74, paid for out of Gundy's abatement budget, she said, adding a nod to Sweet Home Sanitation for their assistance.

The city reported they collected more than 330 cubic yards of garbage and more than 30 cubic yards of scrap metal from 184 households that brought in 237 loads of trash. Much of it included furniture, clothing and general household trash.

"We've already seen a reduction in open storage code violations city-wide after the event, and now we are hopeful that people will use this 'reset' opportunity to maintain compliance going forward," Pretty said.

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What to expect at Linn County Fair

By Alex Paul
For The New Era

The 2025 Linn County Fair will kick off on Thursday, July 17, with free admission for seniors and active-duty military service members, according to Fair & Expo Center Director Kris Barnes.

Barnes said a military ID is required for free military admission.

General admission is \$10, or \$8 for seniors 60-plus. Children 12 and under get in free with a paid adult.

Barnes said the Fair & Expo Center turns into a small city for fair week, with more than 150 RVs on-site.

The fair will run through Saturday, July 19, and includes daily main stage concerts, free with paid admission. Reserved seats are also available, starting at \$20.

Main stage concerts start at 8:30 p.m. and include Uncle Kracker on Thursday, July 17, Phil Vassar on Friday, July 18, and Hunter Hayes on Saturday, July 19.

From 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. on Thursday, seniors (60-plus) can play BINGO in the Willamette Building lobby, sponsored by KGAL/KSHO radio.

Seniors can also enjoy free ice cream served by Linn



County commissioners at 2 p.m. on Thursday at the Sponsor Pavilion.

As always, there will be all-day fun entertainment in Familyland.

At 6 p.m. on Thursday, the Calapooia Arena will roar to life with the Hell on Hooves Rodeo and at 6 p.m. on Friday, July 18, little cowboys and cowgirls will do their best to hang onto romping sheep at the Wild N' Wooly rodeo. Both events are free with paid fair admission.

Davis Shows Carnival will be back, providing thrilling rides for all ages and the concourse area will be filled with food vendors.

Barnes reminds people that Goldfish Farm Road is closed due to a construction project, so traffic may be heavy at times. He suggested allowing plenty of time and to arrive early for evening concerts. Traditionally, he said, traffic picks up about 4 p.m. as people arrive for the concerts.

In addition to the Linn County Fair, the Linn County 4-H and FFA fair kicks off on Monday, July 14, and will culminate with the annual livestock auction on Saturday, July 19, in the Calapooia Arena. Bidder registration starts at 9 a.m., lunch will be at 11 a.m. and the sale will start at 12 noon.

The Linn County Fair & Expo Center is at 3700 Knox Butte Road East. For complete fair information, visit www.linn-countyfair.com.

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