

Sweet Home Rodeo returns to enthusiastic response

By Satina Tolman
For The New Era

The bleachers reverberated with the sound of cheers from more than 1,500 rodeo fans as the gates at the Sweet Home Events Center slammed open for the first time in 13 years.

The Sweet Home Rodeo, once a summer ritual, had finally returned.

Families lined the fences, children pressed against the rails, and the smell of popcorn mingled with damp Oregon soil. Overhead, a gray sky threatened rain but never delivered, leaving the grounds cool and perfect for rodeo.

Sweet Home welcomed back its beloved rodeo with mutton busting, bucking broncs, barrel racing, and bull riding Saturday as "Sweet Home Rodeo and Events" and the "Hell on Hooves Roughstock Rodeo Tour" teamed up to revive a tradition that was standing room only.

For longtime rodeo-goer Diana Meyers, the event's return was emotional.

"I was so excited when I



Photo by Satina Tolman

A saddle bronc rider hangs on as he waits for the buzzer, in front of a full house at the Sweet Home Rodeo.

heard they were bringing it back, I think I might have even screamed," Meyers said as she waited for the event to begin. "Our whole family is really looking forward to it, it's going to be so great."

A Patriotic Start
The voice that carried the

rodeo into motion belonged to Wayne White of Creswell, a man who knows the sport

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Neuschwander: Motives for targeting supt. upright

Editor's note: Former Sweet Home School Board Chair Floyd Neuschwander was the focus of a number of accusations made at the board's Aug. 11 meeting, at which both he and former Secretary Mary Massey/Speck were voted out of those roles by a majority of the board. Neuschwander contacted The New Era through an intermediary to ask if he could give his side of the story. Here is what he had to say.

By Scott Swanson
Of The New Era

Floyd Neuschwander, recently returned from a trip to Alaska to see his daughter's Coast Guard ship commissioned, says there's a lot more to the story than what was discussed at the School Board's Aug. 11 meeting.

Neuschwander met with The New Era to give his side, which includes the cancellation of an announced July 21 School Board meeting to discuss the termination of Supt. Terry Martin and Neuschwander's removal as chair of the board at the Aug. 11 meeting.

The July 21 board meeting



Floyd Neuschwander

was announced on Friday, July 15, four days after three newly elected board members were sworn in. It was canceled several hours before it was scheduled to occur. Despite the cancellation, a protest held outside the School District headquarters on Long Street drew approximately two dozen people on the evening of July 21.

At the board's regular monthly meeting, on Aug. 11, former Board Chair Jason Redick, who stepped down

in June after 20 years on the board, lambasted the board, which included one returning and three newly elected members after the resignation on July 28, of Erin Barstad, also newly elected. Redick accused members of meeting illegally – through electronic communication and in-person conversations – to negotiate Martin's termination.

He also charged Neuschwander, who was elected board chair on July 14 over Mike Adams, of violating board policy in scheduling a meeting without a 10-day notice, which he said was contractually required. Redick suggested that those actions were taken to "minimize public scrutiny."

Neuschwander told The New Era that was not the case, and that he believes all – or nearly so – that took place was within the rules.

Serial Meeting Accusations

In response to accusations from Redick and four other individuals who have filed complaints to the School District alleging illegal communication among board members, Neuschwander said any serial meeting "was not intended, not planned."

Redick alleged that there were "conversations and text messages between board members that constituted an illegal serial board meeting" and said he believed Neuschwander had contacted "multiple board members to gain support for his termination of the superintendent's contract."

Neuschwander said that wasn't true.

"There was no serial meeting, and some of the complaints that were bandied about that I called this meeting illegally, and I unilaterally called this meeting, well, that's absolutely untrue."

Neuschwander said that serial meeting laws are "confusing," and noted that at the beginning of this month the Oregon Government Ethics Commission "published a clarification about it because so many people were having problems trying to understand this."

He said that if a serial meeting were "planned by some,

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Hometown Newspaper of
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INSIDE



LOCAL KIDS GET ON PITCH AT SH SOCCER CAMP
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OBITUARIES

Connie Rye

March 9, 1954 - June 23, 2025
Connie Rae Rye, 71, of Sweet Home, passed away peacefully in Lebanon Hospital, surrounded by her family on June 23, 2025.

She was born on March 9, 1954 to Dorothy May and Albert "Buster" Lane in North Bend, Ore.

She is survived by her daughter, Candace Rye of Sweet Home; and granddaughter Loren Williams and her husband Tyler Williams of Albany.

She was preceded in death by the love of her life, Thomas O. Rye (2013); and great-granddaughter Kaia Rae Williams (2023).

She will be greatly missed. Sweet Home Funeral Chapel is handling the arrangements.
Paid Obituary

Kathleen Franks

Feb. 10, 1933 - Aug. 4, 2025
Kathleen Franks, 92, died Aug. 4, 2025, following a fall.

She was born Feb. 10, 1933, in Westwood, Calif., the second of three daughters born to Arthur and Chyloe Hunter.



She attended high school in Central Point, Oregon and started dating Ted during her junior year.

They married during Thanksgiving weekend following her graduation. (Her sister, Nancy, was going to be home from college for the holiday and Kathleen said, "It never occurred to me that she'd have come home at a different time just for a wedding.")

Ted and Kathy (as she was known at the time) settled in the Rogue Valley to raise their daughters. Ted loved fishing and hunting so Kathleen learned to fly fish and was able to bag her own deer.

They did day trips, camped on the weekends, and loved the outdoors.

Other "together hobbies" were square dancing, ballroom dancing, pinochle, playing the slots, and bowling. They loved going to state and national bowling tournaments. Family time was a big deal and if three or more people were sitting, there better be a deck of cards or a game being played.

Kathleen worked in printing for about 20 years. She started at the Central Point American, working for her in-laws. Later she set type at the Ashland Daily Tidings for five years and then continued typesetting at the Medford Mail Tribune for 14 years until her retirement in 1980.

She retired when her first grandchild was born. She was so excited to be a grandma and spent a lot of time giving each grandchild a special week (or more) with Papa Ted and her.

She spent all year planning special adventures and scheduling around community events like the Britt Children's Festival.

After Ted retired in 1995, Kathleen and Ted moved to Sweet Home to be closer to family, but a place with good fishing and access to Blazer games. They made a whole new group of friends and enjoyed their retirement.

In 2021, they sold their home in Sweet Home and moved to Keizer. After 18 months at Emerald Pointe, they found their places at Avamere.

Since Ted was in assisted living, it was the first time Kathleen had ever lived on her own. She spent her days reading, watching tennis, doing jigsaw puzzles, and joining her friends for bingo and Bunco. She was able to visit Ted every day and they talked frequently on the phone.

Kathleen is survived by her husband of almost 75 years, Ted Franks; two daughters, three grandchildren, and five great-grandchildren; one sister; and many nieces, nephews, and cousins.

No services will be held per Kathleen's request.

Sandra Smith

Sept. 30, 1960 - Aug. 14, 2025

Sandra Kay Smith, 64, of Sweet Home, passed away on Aug. 14, 2025 in Lebanon. She was born Sept. 30, 1960 to Lonita (Butenschoen) and Leon Weathers in Lebanon.



She lived in Chelan, Washington, Portland, Sweet Home and Lebanon.

She was a non-denominational Seventh-day Adventist. Sandra taught Vacation Bible School and home-schooled her children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren.

Sandra enjoyed making cards, reading and most of all loved spending time with family and friends.

She is survived by her mother, Lonita Weathers; children Steven Epperson of Scio, Reta Holder of Salem, Jay Epperson of Montana, Kimberly Simmons of Junction City, and Carrie Winder of LaPine;

sisters Shirley Manning and Anita Weathers, and brother Steve Weathers all from Lebanon; 18 grandchildren, and 10 great-grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Jerry Smith (2014); and her dad Leon Weathers (2012).

A viewing will be from 3 to 5 p.m., Thursday, Aug. 21, at Sweet Home Funeral Chapel.

A graveside service will be at 11 a.m. Friday, Aug. 22, at Gilliland Cemetery.

Sweet Home Funeral Chapel is handling the arrangements.

Death Notices

Larry Hoffman Sr.

Feb. 8, 1941- Aug. 16, 2025

Larry Neal Hoffman Sr., 84, of Sweet Home, passed away Aug. 16, 2025.

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

Marland Koker

Sept. 30, 1944 - Aug. 9, 2025

Marland Gene Koker, 80, of Lebanon, passed away August 9, 2025.

A celebration of life will be held at 2 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 27, 2025, at Waterloo County

Park. Donations on Marland's behalf can be made to Samaritan Evergreen Hospice or Safe Haven Humane Society.

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

Eugene Monroe

Oct. 19, 1924 - Aug. 11, 2025

Eugene Richard Monroe, 100, of Philomath, passed away Aug. 11, 2025.

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

Robyn Ness

Feb. 22, 1956 - Aug. 13, 2025

Robyn Elizabeth Ness, 69, of Sweet Home, passed away August 13, 2025.

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

Julia Thornton

Oct. 3, 1980 - Aug. 11, 2025

Julia A. Thornton, 44, of Sweet Home, passed away Aug. 11, 2025.

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

CORRECTIONS

Although this didn't appear in the news edition of The New Era, we erroneously reported circumstances in a Facebook post on Tuesday afternoon, Aug. 5, regarding a Linn Shuttle bus that ran off the roadway on North River Drive. It was NOT the Dial-a-Bus. See the real facts at www.sweethomenews.com/linn-shuttle-bus-removed-from-ditch-on-north-river.

The report on the School Board in the Aug. 13 paper edition left off the last line of the story. It should have ended: They agreed that they would fill the other board officer vacancies - the secretary position and Adams' former vice chair position - at their next meeting.



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PUBLIC SAFETY

Crossword KEY

Puzzle on page 13

R	I	A	L		S	A	I	L	E	D		
I	N	R	O		A	U	T	O	N	O	M	I
P	R	A	G		L	D		A	R	E	N	A
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SUDOKU KEY

Puzzle on page 13

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

FROM OUR FILES



A 50-star American flag to be used when and if Alaska and Hawaii become states was exhibited in New York in 1950. Notice the arrangement of 49 stars plus a 50th one superimposed on the center star.

Aug. 24, 1950

A modern, new lookout, which will be manned for the first time next year, was completed this week by Linn County Fire Patrol. Called Big Rock, the structure is 32 miles southeast of Sweet Home. It's designed to give forest fire protection to the Upper Wiley Creek area and the Upper Calapooia basin.

Record enrollments are expected in all district schools this year. The high school is capable of holding its expected enrollment of 600, but the expected 1,240 grade school enrollment has forced the school board to schedule four classes in three churches.

Mr. and Mrs. Jack Farrell and family celebrated the completion of their new swimming pool with a swim party and wiener roast. Friends attended the party, located 12 miles out of Foster on the Quartzville road.

A 50-star American flag to be used when and if Alaska and Hawaii become states was exhibited in New York by artist and designer William Hoffman. The flag has 49 stars in seven rows each, and the 50th star is superimposed on the center star.

Aug. 21, 1975

Ray Rathbone and Joan Seymour are getting some complaints after opening their Enchanted Teen Castle at 1256 Main St. The operation is a combination pool hall and old-time penny arcade. Police said they got a couple of complaints, such as too many bicycles parked on the sidewalk.

Aug. 23, 2000

Sweet Home Economic Development's new president, Jean McKinney, wants to see SHEDG help improve Sweet Home's retail segment. She wants Jamboree profits to somehow help upgrade downtown retail shops with more variety and a unifying visual appeal that makes people want to stop and shop. She knows it will take money and cooperation among the business owners to make vision a reality.

The dry summer is helping construction of the new Sweet Home Police Station. The \$1.9 million build is funded by saved money and a bond. Heavy flooding in 1996 forced the department to move into a modular building.

SHEDG auctioning off Jamboree items

The Sweet Home Economic Development Group launched two live online auctions packed with items from the Oregon Jamboree Music Festival and Sweet Events inventory.

Items available include site and festival equipment such as cargo trailer, Blackstone

grills, smoker, electrical components, signage, chairs, tents, misters, cones and more; and office and festival memorabilia such as office chairs, computers, tablets, speakers, signed guitars and posters, vintage merch and more.

The Site & Festival Equip-

ment auction ends at 2 p.m. on Saturday, Aug. 23. It can be found at <https://bit.ly/4mh-fopH>

The Office & Festival Memorabilia auction ends at 2 p.m. on Sunday, Aug. 24. It can be found at <https://bit.ly/4mMNoKl>

RESPONSE

From page 1

I still don't think five people were ever involved, but if somehow, accidentally, they were, it was inadvertent. It wasn't malicious."

Neuschwander said he did attempt to communicate with Board Member Jenna Northern, but said that was about an entirely different matter – a near-miss between their vehicles on Highway 20 that, he said, sent Northern's vehicle into the ditch.

"She was visibly shaken," he said, "so we talked and I was like, 'Are you OK?'"

He said he made two follow-up calls to check on Northern, who was at the Fair by that time.

"I wanted to make sure she's not going to look at me and have PTSD or some kind of trigger in any way, shape or form," Neuschwander said.

"I kind of felt like, as one of the older members on the board and now the board chair, I kind of felt like I gotta mother hen these people, it's kind of my job to take care of them.

"So there's really nothing I

see in these complaints that is founded and maybe they have more."

July 21 Scheduled Meeting

Neuschwander denies that his main objective as the new board chair was to unseat Martin.

"I need to make it clear I don't hate Terry Martin," he said. "He's a man like anyone else.

"Do I think he's not the best fit as a superintendent in our district? I think I've made that pretty clear in board meetings. Jason Redick said (in his remarks at the Aug. 11 board meeting) that he had to several times stop me from attacking Terry Martin. That's not true. Many times I questioned Terry Martin, and many times I was shut down immediately by Jason Redick and anybody that's ever watched a board meeting can see that; that's pretty obvious."

He said he had been approached during his two years on the board prior to the May election "and before I ever got elected to the board" by people concerned "that there was something rotten in the state of Denmark.

"They didn't think things were going the way they should be."

He said those concerned included "administrators, teachers and staff, classified, everything from bus drivers to administrators."

"They are all fearful to come forward because of the might and power given to the superintendent," he added that the school district "is the biggest employer in town, they pay some of the highest wages in this town and if you have a job with the school district, you don't want to lose it, right?"

"So it's been this culture of go along to get along and the grease keeps flowing and everybody keeps their mouth shut."

Neuschwander said he had checked with the district's attorney, Nancy Hungerford, a veteran in educational law, and spoke to her "at length" about the meeting. He said she sent him a "very detailed" email on the steps that would need to be followed to do things legally.

He also talked with an attorney representing the district's

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The New Era

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REAL ESTATE SOLD

Following are Lebanon, Sweet Home, and Brownsville area real estate transactions recorded with the county during late July and August 2025. These are not properties for sale, and some transactions may represent a change in ownership within a family or corporation. Properties are listed by address, property/residence size and purchase price:

1117 Ash St., Brownsville; 1040 sq.ft., One story, three bedroom, one-bath built in 1980; 0.17 acres; \$300,000.

33919 Brewster Rd., Lebanon; 1329 sq.ft., One story, three bedroom, one-bath built in 1959; 3.59 acres; \$539,900.

25843 Brush Creek Rd., Sweet Home; 1838 sq.ft., One story with attic, three bedroom, 1½ bath built in 1930; 1 acres; \$465,000.

605 14th Ave., Sweet Home; 1558 sq.ft., One story with attic, four bedroom, two-bath built in 1938; 0.26 acres; \$359,000.

3234 Highway 20., Sweet Home; 1244 sq.ft., One story, five bedroom, three bath built in 1946; 0.6 acres; \$320,000.

784 Pebble St., Brownsville; 1755 sq.ft., Two story, three bedroom, 2½ bath built in 2024; 0.11 acres; \$399,000.

2223 Main St., Sweet Home; 644 sq.ft., One story, two bedroom, one-bath built in 1935; 0.34 acres; \$250,000.

40121 Baptist Church Dr., Lebanon; 2080 sq.ft., Two story, three bedroom, 2½ bath built in 2008; 9.7 acres; \$784,000.

44682 River Dr., Foster; 1392 sq.ft., One story, one-bath built in 1974; 3.17 acres; \$275,000.

2987 Harding Ct., Sweet Home; 1390 sq.ft., One story,

three bedroom, two-bath built in 1992; 0.23 acres; \$340,000.

30383 Butte Creek Rd., Lebanon; 1506 sq.ft., One story, three bedroom, two-bath built in 1998; 1 acre; \$637,500.

2469 Kokanee Way., Lebanon; 2200 sq.ft., Two story, five bedroom, 2 ½ bath built in 2007; 0.12 acres; \$489,500.

38697 Weirich Dr., Lebanon; additional details not listed; 2.93 acres; \$235,000.

1860 Kalmia St., Sweet Home; 915 sq.ft., One story, two bedroom, one-bath built in 1950; 0.17 acres; \$268,000.

525 Angelee Ct., Lebanon; 1241 sq.ft., One story, three bedroom, two-bath built in 1993; 0.14 acres; \$367,000.

2340 4th St., Lebanon; 1056 sq.ft., One story, three bedroom, one-bath built in 1970; 0.46 acres; \$379,900.

1883 Kalmia St., Sweet Home; 1398 sq.ft., One story, three bedroom, one-bath built in 1952; 0.26 acres; \$285,000.

4151 Osage St., Sweet Home; 1188 sq.ft., Double wide manufactured home, three bedroom, two-bath built in 1993; 0.14 acres; \$300,000.

46452 Santiam Hwy., Foster; 1653 sq.ft., Two story, two-bath built in 1950; 1 acres; \$290,000.

5326 Poplar St., Sweet Home; 1426 sq.ft., One story with attic, two bedroom, one-bath built in 1950; 0.21 acres; \$212,000.

35586 Northern Dr., Brownsville; 1405 sq.ft., One story, two bedroom, 1 ½ bath built in 1972; 0.78 acres; \$371,000.

44237 North River Dr., Foster; 4550 sq.ft., Two story, eight bedroom, 3 ½ bath built in 2018; 5.18 acres; \$895,000.

1331 Poplar St., Sweet Home; 784 sq.ft., Single wide manufactured home, two bedroom, one-bath built in 1971; 0.16 acres; \$115,000.

958 13th Ave., Sweet Home; 576 sq.ft., One story, two bedroom, one-bath built in 1930; 0.22 acres; \$141,000.

473 Juniper St., Sweet Home; 1180 sq.ft., One story, two bedroom, one-bath built in 1948; 0.23 acres; \$337,500.

33001 Sand Ridge Rd., Lebanon; 1307 sq.ft., One story, three bedroom, two-bath built in 1963; 1.52 acres; \$327,500.

1681 Franklin St., Lebanon; 1544 sq.ft., One story, two bedroom, one-bath built in 1915; 0.22 acres; \$279,500.

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BATH

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RESPONSE

From page 4

insurance company, Pace, which represents most of the school districts in the state.

"They sent me an email that said, 'Yes, you can do this, blah, blah, blah, thanks for letting us know.'"

Also, Neuschwander said, he contacted the Oregon School Boards Association "and the OSBA lawyers chimed in and so everybody said, 'You're doing it right. Go ahead.'"

"So it wasn't unilateral. I didn't just fly off the handle out of some hatred."

He noted that Dale Keene is the only current member who was on the board when Martin was hired, in November 2022, leaving seven – following Barstad's resignation, who had joined the board since Martin's arrival.

"It's an entirely new board,"

Neuschwander said. "We weren't involved in any of that process at all. So we have some two-year-old board members and some brand new board members."

The board's most important role, he said, "the No. 1 job, is to hire and fire our superintendent."

"The board has one employee and that's the superintendent. Everybody else in the district works for the superintendent."

"Any board anywhere in the world, whether it's a board of a private corporation, whether it's a board anywhere, has the right to pick their CEO."

Neuschwander acknowledged that the "timing wasn't good, but if you're going to get rid of a superintendent or even have a discussion about getting rid of a superintendent and you decide to get rid of a superintendent, before the new

school year starts is the best time to do that."

"So time was of the essence, and knowing that I was going to be gone on a two-week trip to Alaska, it sucked. I wish Terry would have been here; it would have been a whole lot better."

He said he believes that the "no-cause termination" wording in the agenda for the planned meeting prompted an "outpouring of sympathy."

Neuschwander said he had to remind the former board – "I said this several times in public meetings, I tried to remind our superintendent that we don't work for him. He works for us."

"The previous board, especially Redick and Mike Adams and Dale and (Jim) Gourley, they thought they worked for him."

He set the tone for the meetings. He set the agenda for the meetings. He ran the board,

not the other way around, and I bided my time for two years, and I sat there with a board that was weak, ineffectual and complacent, apathetic and that's at best, at worst, downright corrupt.

"But I bided my time for two years until Redick decided not to run again, Gourley decided not to run again. I was sorry Jim had health problems, but I wasn't sorry that they didn't run because I thought maybe we have a chance as a board to have some action, do some things and, you know, make a difference in this community."

"I mean, we've had falling scores, our enrollments are down, and we need to look at those things, not just poo poo them, like the previous board has."

He acknowledged that firing the superintendent would have been "a tough sell," particularly after, he said, he learned

from Business Manager Kevin Strong that it would likely cost the district \$250,000 if Martin were dismissed without cause.

"So, 250 grand, that was going to be a jagged pill."

He said that the alternative, firing for cause, "is a pretty slippery slope" that would likely result in a lawsuit, and when he spoke again to Hungerford, she warned him that a clause in Martin's contract providing a 10-day notice if he were to be terminated, though common in such contracts, could be construed to mean that the superintendent must be given 10 days notice "to even discuss firing him, at which point our meeting would have been premature."

Redick, in his comments to the board on Aug. 11, said that clause was in the contract to "to protect the district from the

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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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10:30 a.m. Worship Service
10:30 a.m. Children's Church



St. Helen Catholic Church
600 6th Ave, Sweet Home
www.sweethomecatholicchurch.com

Holy Mass
Sat. at 5:30 pm & Sun. at 9:00 am
Tues 5:30 pm & Wed-Fri 8:30 am

Confessions
Before Masses or 1st, 2nd & 3rd Sat.
4:00 - 5:00 pm

For Sacramental information call
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Father Theodore Lange



Sweet Home Evangelical Church

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11:00 am Worship
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Clowns move in to distract a bull who looks to be in the mood to take it out on the would-be rider he has just thrown. The rider left the arena under his own power.

The ICEBOX Performer Of The Week



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

We're proud to recognize someone known for their precision welds and smooth application. Last week, Rick jumped right in to help complete a few priority jobs before the weekend kicked off. He not only got the work done, but did it with a smile and a great attitude.

Rick, we truly appreciate everything you do and are incredibly glad to have you as part of our ICEBOX Team!



RODEO

From page 7

crowd, "That there is a future cowboy. He's sure tough."

Bareback and Bronc Riding

The evening program opened in front of a capacity crowd with bareback bronc riding. Competitors must last eight seconds on a horse using only a rigging, which is a padded leather handle, while judges split scores evenly between rider and animal performance.

White compared the event to "riding a jackhammer with one hand tied down," calling it one of the most punishing contests in rodeo.

Garret Blackwell of Sandy won the event with 80 points on the horse "Uptown Funk," continuing a strong season on the Northwest Professional Rodeo Association circuit.

Saddle bronc riding, considered the most technical event, followed. Riders must maintain rhythm and form while spurring in time with the horse.

Matt Shannon, of Prineville, won the competition with an overall high score, edging out Seth Hart of St. Helens. Shannon, a five-time Hell on Hooves champion, praised the Sweet Home crowd.

"This rodeo was great," Shannon said. "I'll definitely be back next year."

Pick-up men Cooper De-

Witte, who supplied the bucking horses, and Ricky Shannon, Matt's father, ensured safe dismounts and helped guide broncs back to the pens.

Local Win in Barrel Racing

The arena shifted from brute strength to speed and grace as the barrel racers thundered in. Riders guided their horses around three barrels in cloverleaf patterns before charging back across the line.

Amanda Bane of Powell Butte won the Hell on Hooves Tour barrel racing on her horse, Skittles, with a time of 13.24 seconds. Once an English-style jumper, she turned to barrels more than a decade ago, drawn by adrenaline.

The crowd roared as much for the local girls as for the pros.

The invitational barrel racing brought a hometown victory. Sweet Home's Emry Vannice, the youngest competitor at 16, won her division on her horse, Sage, with a time of 13.79. Beaming after the run, Vannice credited her mother as her coach and mentor.

Energy Builds Toward Bulls

The Canyon Riders Drill Team kept the energy alive during intermission with a performance that combined pageantry and horsemanship.

See Rodeo, Page 9



A bareback rider and his steed match up in a battle of wills.



Photo by Mack Knebel

A capacity crowd enjoys a drill demonstration by the Canyon Rider Drill and Flag Team midway through the rodeo. Below right, William Benedict of Lebanon shows off the belt buckle he scored after staying on top of Ram Jam to win the Mutton Bustin' competition. Below left, Emery Vannice of Sweet Home takes her horse Sage around a barrel to win in 13.78.

RODEO

From page 8

ship. Their horses galloped in tight formations to loud music and cheers, riders waving flags with practiced precision.

The night closed with bull riding, the traditional rodeo finale. Fans watched as bulls weighing one to two tons burst from the chutes, bodies twisting, dirt flying in arcs from their hooves. Cowboys clung to braided bull ropes, trying to last the required

eight seconds against animals bred for strength and aggression. Part of the crowd held their breath as the rest erupted in deafening cheers for the 8 seconds between the gates opening and the sound of the buzzer. White's voice boomed above the noise: "The bulls spin so fast they make the cowboy look like a frog in a blender!" Silverton rider Thane Kuenzi emerged the victor, scoring 83 points and winning his first-ever buckle and a \$3,000 check. Just three

years into his career, he grinned as he held his prize.

Protecting Riders in Ring

Every bull ride ended the same way, with two men stepping between cowboy and beast. Bullfighters Drew Payne of Wellpinit, Wash., and Jimmy Merriott of Reardan, Wash., distracted bulls, pulled riders free, and at times used their own bodies to draw danger away. "I've always liked helping people, plus I'm a bit of an adrenaline junkie," Payne said of his 14-year career. Merriott, who started six years ago, said he joined when his brother began bull riding: "I wanted to be the one to protect him."

Community Celebration

For newcomers Justine, Cameron, and Tyler Figueroa and Terry Whisenhunt, the night was likely the start of a new tradition. "It was a good setup," Justine

See Rodeo, Page 10



Photo by Satina Tolman



Photos by Mac Knebel

Emry Vannice, of Sweet Home, above, round a barrel on her way to victory (13.79) in the invitational barrel racing event. Below, all eyes are on a bull rider as he exits the chute



JAMICATE

STATE REP

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Clowns do their thing as a bull unloads a little excess energy after throwing his rider. Below, announcer Wayne White provides some commentary on the action.

RODEO

From page 9

said. “The food carts are close enough you don’t have to walk forever, but it still feels open with plenty of space.”

Tyler praised the bronc riders as “especially entertaining,” while Cameron said she liked the small-town feel and family-friendly atmosphere. Whisenhunt, already planning to return, had only one complaint: not enough bleachers.

Organizers acknowledged the same in a Facebook post. “After more than a decade without a rodeo in our town, we didn’t just bring it back, we brought it back **STANDING ROOM ONLY!**” the group wrote. “The sup-

port from our community was absolutely overwhelming. We’ve heard the feedback loud and clear — more bleachers for next year? If you know, you know.”

As the dust settled, country singer Trevor Tagle strummed his guitar, filling the cool night air with “I Should’ve Been a Cowboy.” Fans swayed, danced, and sang along under the fading light.

As the sky grew darker, marking the end of this successful return to Sweet Home Rodeo, the future looks brighter than ever.

Organizer Reynolds said this year’s success is just the start.

“Sweet Home Rodeo is back,” she said, “and this is just the beginning.”



Photos by Satina Tolman



Photo by Mack Knebel
Darren Perry serves up some ice cream at the Holley School booth.



Photo by Satina Tolman
Trevor Tagle performs (along with some fans) after the rodeo competition.

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HONOR ROLL

Editor’s Note: OK, we know we’re super late with this. We had a bunch of problems getting it to you, but it’s finally here. Following are the spring Honor Roll students as reported by the various schools listed.

East Linn Christian Academy Seniors 4.00

Kamden Bierly, Claire Devlin, Daisy Lalonde, Blake Presley, Gabe Schlabach, Kate-lyn Williams

Seniors 3.50-3.99

Parker Adams, Ben Baer, Bella Devlin, Olivia Garber, Josie Grunerud, Bekah Hatch, Tanner Henry, Mia Jones, Blake Knurowski, Lily McDowell, Arianna Pirtle, Greysen Sewell, Janessa Stevens, Paige Warren

Juniors 4.00

Brison Edwards, Chase Fertility, Tati Manner

Juniors 3.50-3.99

Isabella Albert, Isaiah Blount, Ally Hatch, Randy Holmes, Lexy Kauffman, Bailey Kramer, Owen Nofziger, Bain Pool, Angus Smith, Audrey Smith, Asher Taylor

Sophomores 4.00

Erin Davey, Audrey Garber, Anna Hendry, Ian Schlabach, Maya Van Dyke

Sophomores 3.50-3.99

Josi Davidson, Abby Garber, Allison Gilliam, Noah Medellin, Allison Presley, Avery Runyon, Tessa Salvage, Piper Sewell, Kai Wallace, Demetrius Wilke

Freshmen 4.00

Madi Coleman, Rachel Hatch, Kaylyn Kauffman, Madison Kauffman, Dailey Kirkpatrick, Grady Knurowski, Liam Medford, Ella Stutzman

Freshmen 3.50-3.99

Madison Adams, Savannah Baker, Charli Burns, Parker Caddick, Marshall Darwood, Anderson Kropf, Casey May, Maci Modderman, Karter Nofziger, Cole Pennington

Eighth Grade 4.00

Ian Miller

Eighth Grade 3.50-3.99

Hadassah Albert, Lily Boschee, Ryder Cummings, Jordan Gilliam, Njoki Githura, Annie Kizer, Morgan Lalonde, Ava Mitchell, Ezekiel Wells, Harry Yanke-Knurowski

Seventh Grade 4.00

Isabelle Brubaker, Jada Kauffman, Levi Puentes, Kylie Schrock, Westin Walesby, Cora Wolgamott

Seventh Grade 3.50-3.99

Boaz Angelford, Ryan Baker, Lucas Davey, Kylie Freeman, Wesley Geib, Tanu Githura, Jonah King, Ava Leverich, Peyton May, Christopher Means, Erika Pape, Logan Pennington, Clyde Ruckert, Cora Teschner, Ean Waid

Sixth Grade 4.00

Serenity Dixon, Eric Miller, Titus Schlabach

Sixth Grade 3.50-3.99

Henry Branham, Roman Howard, Grayson Kropf, Claire Miller, Bryson Modderman, Malachi Nixon, Cash Nofziger, JR Smith.

Sweet Home Junior High

Following are SHJH students reported by the school as having qualified for the second-semester Honor Roll.

Eighth Grade 4.00

Luke J. Adams, Erin D. Aielo, Zoie A. Allison, Gabby N. Breshears, Miranda Chelstad, Tessa N. Cooley, Sadie A. Dalton, Caira N. Erspamer, Leland A. Ferguson, Kaleb M. Fortune, James O. Glassley, Maddy M. Greenwalt, Pyper M. Hall, Elizabeth D. Hankins, Eveline M. Harris, Madison L. Jepps, Alexis P. Lee, Brooklyn A. Logan, Nayeli H. Lund, Matthew B. Meglen, Austin K. Millard, Hudson J. Ogden, Delton R. O’Neal, Macen D. Rosa, Halen T. Salvador, Devon M. Sharp, Lukas R. Shultz, Jocelyn M. Simmons, Shasta S. Tenbusch, Savannah D. Thompson, Marshall J. Van Dijk, Kali M. Vogel, Marcus T. Warthen.

Eighth Grade 3.90-3.50

Kerra A. Darcey, Allison L. Dennull, Adam Hanson, Lily K. Hurst, Sydney T. Lamb, Max L. Lopez, Hannah J. Lovik, Addison M. Lynn, Kayla L. Matthews, Samuel C. McCann, Blake M. Murray, Zoey M. Rust, Cody D. Sieminski, Teagan M. Slimp, Gunnar W. Stafford, Nevaeh S. Stoddard, Hailey I. Ayala, Laycee B. Carter, Jayson K. Dickerman, Gavin M. Duran, Julia I. Landtroop, Cabela L. McCalister, Landen M. Pruitt, Talon G. Temple, Braelyn Walker, Taleah M. Zacarias Flores, Silas J. Baker, Jaxson D. Burke, Riley J. Cauldwell, Mason M. Flores, Bryson A. Mumford, Ryder S. Oakley, Bristol L. Paul, Iris M. Pelcher, Hunter S. Porter, Christian J. Romero, Bentley Uhlry, Kendall A. Funk, Brytin D. Greer, Marely Ortiz Morelos, Amaya M. Smith, Kassidy I. Zajic, Ayden A. Marin, Mack M. Martineau, Ace S. Moore, Leah J. Nicholson, Alexiis M. Patricio, Kevin D. Ross, Ellie L. Wagoner.

Seventh Grade 4.00

Sawyer G. Anderson, Ellie Banks, Izaiah K. Barden, Brooklyn J. Bondesen, Leroy D.

Dargis, Emma M. Davis, Amber A. Dieterich, Aubree R. Hegge, Madison R. Hegge, Jaxon L. Huenergardt, Joseph S. Leonard, Natalie K. McCool, Sayuri H. Miller, Saphyre D. Newell, Breyonna L. Payne, Renae E. Renek, Lauren N. Rice, Lael B. Watkins, Scott N. Westfall.

Seventh Grade 3.90-3.50

Brianna J. Allison, Logan V. Ayala, Addy R. Bonneville, Noah R. Boyd, Lucille C. Corig, Brooke L. Doyle, Elaina M. Hartness, Jodi T. Jorgensen, Emily G. May, Trinity R. McKamey, Ellie G. Rosa, Brooke D. Silacci, Raylene L. Allison, Noah D. Lynn, Addysin Osinga, Xandri G. Eddings, Wiley L. Farris, Luz M. Garcia, Farrah K. Gonzalez, Payton A. Goodfriend, Skylar E. Hanson, Timber L. Jensen, Ty A. Jewell, Abel J. Knight, Colton J. McCubbins, Quinn N. Padua, Ava R. Rivers, Aidian M. Slimp, Kayden M. Truschke, Tempest N. Tweed, Anistyn R. Weikel, Ava A. Gaspard, Gabe C. Hayes, Payton E. Pickle, Natalie N. Godell, Jeremiah B. Hastings, Brysen J. Hurt, Kiley R. Kuzma, Bryce A. Miner, Jaxon B. Slayter, Harrison F. Wolfard.

Sweet Home High School

Following are SHHS students who have been announced by the school as having made the First Semester Honor Roll. Students on Honor Roll must have taken at least four letter graded classes (A-C). Students who receive a D, F, Incomplete or No Grade (G) are not eligible for the Honor Roll.

Seniors 4.00

Joshua P. Aker, Killan D. Boggs, Hunter Dalley, Emma L. Durrett, Crimson A. Emmert, Jocelyn M. Fairchild, Abygail M. Foss, Gavin S. Gardner, Abbigale S. Larsen, Peyton M. Lindsey, Ethan N. Malabago, Arman J. Marble, Peyton A. Markell, Ivan L. Ogden, Easten D. Perry, Akemi Jimenez Ramon, Shiloh N. Robinson, Kirsten R. Sautel, Boden J. Sayer, Shayne E. Schuster, Dylan R. Sharp, Conner E. Stevens, Amelia M. Sullens, Jhordan M. Weltz.

Seniors 3.50-3.99

Tawni L. Banta, Jackson D. Barringer, Kristin M. Epper-son, Riley J. Gibson-Johnson, Emerson Martineau, Stanley

McCann IV, Lola J. McKinnon, Sophia B. Stock.

Juniors 4.00

Alonna L. Baker, Luke E. Rosa, Trinity J. Victor, Elisha I. Scofield, Levi S. Ensley, Ella J. Forum, Trevvor L. Starkey, Loralai O. Mark, Isabella G. Wagner, Natalie E. Conn, Ashley R. Duncan, Lukiss P. Grover, Serenity I. Herrera, Tanner M. Martinez Mendez, Levi C. Millsap, Anabelle G. Morris, Andrew A. Tolman, Bailey L. Chafin, Kaylie A. Cooley, Elizabeth A. Dean, Charm Flowers, Ellie R. Graham, Khaira V. Hall, Quintell L. Hall, Katriona M. Harris, Elizabeth C. Leonard, Ruby G. McKinnon, Delainie R. Pratt, Natalie K. Spencer, Addyson E. Vannice, Selah L. Wright.

Junior 3.50-3.99

Eleanor C. Larsen, Rally J. Graham, Jack R. Ortiz, Madison J. Sailors, Hayden P. Smith, Cannon L. Klumph, Kylie M. Melkvik, Riley J. Alexander, Tytus B. Hardee, Natalie M. Smith, John J. Jr Fink, Danielle Morrelli, Miley J. Smith, Dillan C. Davis, Laura L. Henthorne, Vincent Kennedy, Ava K. Nash, Krista F. Reed, Benjamin A. Perry.

Sophomores 4.00

Xander D. Blom, Mailey A. Brewer, Aaliyah E. Brown, Ryker A. Burr, Obadiah J. Christman, Khrystoffor B. Domingo, Caden J. Foley, Haylee M. Fortune, Ella S. Haggas, Kellen B. Hartsook, Trent G. Harvey, Austyn R. Hogan, Ryan James, Karissa M. Jewell, Mary J. Johnson, Kaitlyn M. Kennedy, Raylynn D. Meyers, Olivia G. Saveskie, Isaiah J. Scofield, Miu A. Simmons, Gavin D. Tyler, Victoria M. Victor.

Sophomores 3.50-3.99

Kandace M. Claunch, Amara S. Gonzales, Bradyn J. Mc-

Clure, Eddie Newell, Courtney A. Newens, McKenzie P. Olheiser, Alexis E. Starkey, Michelle Slayton, Cael G. Stevenson, Khloe R. Wood, Emma M. Hand, Noah J. Valdez, Kyle D. Zajic

Freshman 4.00

Tiffany Jane I. Abarcar, Eli C. Adams, Samuel D. Barringer, Kyler R. Bondesen, Ethan J. Bonneville, Hailey L. Borromeo, Taelyn L. Coleman, Andru J. Collings, Chance K. Corey, Ayka A. Damag, Autumn J. Dieterich, Ellie K. Dominy, Sydney L. Dominy, Ziarra R. Duncan, Dymin Flowers, Henry P. Gainer, Lizzy R. Godell, Emma M. Graber, Rebecca D. Hindman, Breanna N. Jamison, Jesse R. Jernigan, Brooklyn M. Kallai, Evan D. Knight, Damon M. Lawrence, Rylee V. Mabe, Evan W. Malabago, Natasha D. Marin, Joshua D. Meglen, Sakura S. Miller, Adriana G. Morse, Ava E. Padua, Kaianu Ragudo, Wesley G. Raynor, Emmalin J. Rosa, Taylee J. Rosa, Khloe R. Sautel, Russell L. Schroeder, Steven A. Singree, Jake C. Smith, Ameliah R. Spinney, Gaige D. Stanley, Kace E. Stevens, Mariah R. Stevens, Olivia I. Sullens, Fiona C. Thompson, Mason N. Tyler, Jasper J. Victor, Dinah F. Watkins.

Freshman 3.50-3.99

Levi A. Ayala, Gavin W. Baker, Elena M. Briggs, Sage A. Burton, Adalee D. Cimadon, Madison R. Ciullo, Zach Davis, Michael C. Eggers, Oakley L. Freitag, Kianna Furst, Grady J. Garcia, Brandon W. Hernandez, Desmond McCombie, Bailey E. Newens, Owen C. Nicholson, Bella M. Rico, Blayne R. Schuster, Kaylee M. Silacci, Hailey G. Smith, Jillian P. Stafford, Kadence R. Thompson, Lyla J. Ventura, Emma C. Whitton.

Help Wanted - Administrative Assistant

Sweet Home Fire and Ambulance District is seeking a part-time Administrative Assistant. Applicants should be familiar with Microsoft Office Suite (Word, Excel, PowerPoint). Will perform a variety of HR, clerical and administrative duties as well as maintaining compliance with state and federal reporting requirements, including fire and EMS records, public records and OSHA standards. Prepare monthly board packets for the Board of Directors under the direction of the Fire Chief. Up to 28 hours per week, pay DOE. Applications are available at the main station, 1099 Long St. and can be found on our website, sweethomefire-or.gov. Application deadline August 29, 2025, at 4pm.

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PUBLIC SAFETY

From page 3

62, of Albany, cited for speeding, 26800 block Hwy. 99, Halsey.

7:54 p.m. - Callers reported trespasser on property who was stalking people. 000 block W. 1st Ave., Halsey. Report taken.

9:50 p.m. - Caller reported large group of teens using Thriftway parking lot for burnouts, parking in the bark dust. Officer responded, contacted five subjects and “made it very clear that the location is not a hangout spot.”

10:32 p.m. - Garret Vian

cited for no insurance, Hwy. 228/Enos Dr., Brownsville.

11:30 p.m. - LCSO reported overdose in 2400 block Long St. that was believed to be intentional. Officer responded. Female transported by medics to hospital.

Aug. 12

12:05 a.m. - Douglas Allan Lathrop, 58, of Sweet Home, cited for speeding, 54/35, Bishop Way/Hume St., Brownsville.

1:13 a.m. - Stephanie Irene Starkweather arrested on AMC warrant for FTA in theft case, Long St./22nd Ave. Cited and released.

2:30 a.m. - Tony William

Fitzwater cited for driving uninsured, expired registration, 700 block Long St.

4:17 a.m. - Richard Keil Reynolds, 72, of Sweet Home, cited for failure to obey traffic control device, Washburn St./Bishop Way, Brownsville.

7:54 a.m. - Crash reported in 42900 block Marks Ridge Dr. According to LCSO, 2015 Nissan Altima crashed in the area and pulled near a private timber gate. Nobody was with the vehicle. Deputy attempted contacts with the RO and nobody would answer. Under investigation. Report taken.

9:16 a.m. - Caller reported

windows left at garbage disposal bin in SHPD parking lot, 1950 Main St. Report taken for theft of services.

11:18 a.m. - Vehicle burglary reported in 1100 block 55th Ave. Caller reported someone broke into his work vehicle, stole multiple items valued at \$80. Officer responded, report taken for theft III.

11:55 a.m. - Nathaniel Jordan Agee, 24, arrested by Albany police on SHMC warrant in theft case. Cited to appear Sept. 10.

12:36 p.m. - Caller reported motorhome parked next to power grid in 5400 block Spruce St. for past three days.

Officer responded, contacted male and advised him of city ordinances. He was to move along.

2:36 p.m. - Kathleen Lorraine Poe, 32, cited for driving while suspended following report of disturbance in SHPD parking lot, 1950 Main St. involving two individuals yelling at each other from their vehicles. According to police, disturbance involved argument over money.

3:46 p.m. - Vehicle burglary reported in area of North River/Marks Ridge drives. Tools valued at \$500 reported.

See Public Safety, Page 13

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Public Notices

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE STATE OF OREGON FOR THE COUNTY OF LINN PROBATE DEPARTMENT

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF DARRELL LYNN THORNTON, deceased.

Case No.: 25PB06887

NOTICE TO INTERESTED PERSONS Representative of the above estate. All persons having claims against the are required to present them to the undersigned Personal Representative of the undersigned attorney at: 319 Sixth Street SW, Albany, OR 97321 within four months after the date of the publication of this notice, as stated below, or such claims may be barred.

All persons whose rights may be affected by the proceedings in this estate may obtain additional information from the records of the Court, the Personal Representative, or the attorney for the Personal Representative.

DATED and first published August 20, 2025.

Personal Representative STEVEN C. THORNTON
2588 Wheeler Street SE
Albany, OR 97322
Attorney DAVID B. BECKHAM
319 Sixth Avenue SW
Albany, OR 97321
(Aug 20)_____

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE STATE OF OREGON FOR THE COUNTY OF LINN IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF Marguritte Denise Stewart, deceased, Case No. 25PB07112

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 Hannah F. Silverman, 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 August 20, 2025.

Marguritte Lynn Stewart Estes, Personal Representative. Hannah F. Silverman, OSB
#204965 Jessica K. Meyer Law LLC, 80 E. Maple St., Lebanon OR 97355.
(Aug 20)_____

Help Wanted

HELP WANTED- ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

Sweet Home Fire and Ambulance District is seeking a part-time Administrative Assistant. Applicants should be familiar with Microsoft Office Suite (Word, Excel, PowerPoint). Will perform a variety of HR, clerical and administrative duties as well as maintaining compliance with state and federal reporting requirements, including fire and EMS records, public records and OSHA standards. Prepare monthly board packets for the Board of Directors under the direction of the Fire Chief. Up to 28 hours per week, pay DOE. Applications are available at the main station, 1099 Long St. and can be found on our website, sweethomefireor.gov. Application deadline August 29, 2025, at 4pm.

Please call 541-367-5882 Ext. 0 with any questions.
(Aug 20)_____

For Rent

Upstairs unit one bedroom condo, furnished, utilities include water, sewer, garbage, electric. Beautiful lake views, off street parking, laundry on site, seasonal pool. \$1800 per month (month to month tenancy). Call for application and cleaning deposit fees. No pets allowed. For further details 541-367-5629.
(Aug 20)_____

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Aug. 22-31
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(Aug 20 - Aug 27)_____

Statewide Notices

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SERVICES: Get a break on your taxes! Donate your car, truck, or SUV to as-

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Statewide Notices

sist the blind and visually impaired. Arrange a swift, no-cost vehicle pickup and secure a generous tax credit for 2025. Call Heritage for the Blind Today at 1-844-533-9173 today!

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RESPONSE

From page 6

liability of a large expenditure, if necessary.”

“His due process would have been violated, which I don’t want to do. That’s not ethical and also that could have opened the district up for a giant lawsuit.”

So, Neuschwander said, he “unilaterally canceled the meeting.”

“I did that to protect the district, not to protect my own reputation, obviously.”

August 11 Meeting

Redick and board members questioned Neuschawnder’s absence at the board’s Aug. 11 meeting, though Board Member Mary Speck/Massey told them he was in Alaska on a pre-planned trip.

Neuschwander said he had scheduled a two-week trip to Kodiak, Alaska, months before the meeting to witness the commissioning on Aug. 11 of a brand new Coast Guard cutter, the Earl

Cunningham, on which his daughter Madelyn Neuschwander will serve as an officer.

He said he had held a board officers meeting on Aug. 4, with Adams, who was vice chair at the time, and then-Secretary Mary Speck/Massey “and at that meeting I asked Michael if he could take the reins for me, because I wasn’t going to be able to be there.”

He said he explained to Adams that he had a “Coast Guard thing” that prevented him from flying home early.

Neuschwander said Adams asked him “very specifically in that meeting, ‘Well, what are we going to do about this special meeting, and are we going to proceed with what we talked about before and what’s going on?’

“Make no mistake, Michael Adams was in this from the very beginning,” Neuschwander said. “All three board officers were together, wanting to call this special meeting. You can’t, according to board policy, call a meeting without the request of three board people.

“Well, Mary and Mike requested it to me. I was the mouthpiece. I made the call to (district Confidential Secretary) Julie (Emmert), but they were in on it. He asked me in the presence of the superin-

tendent.”

In response to Redick’s questioning of why Barstad’s resignation letter was dated July 27 but was not stamped as received by the district until Aug. 7, Neuschwander said that Barstad had emailed the letter to both him and Emmert simultaneously, “but Erin had entered the wrong email address so Julie didn’t get it.

“I had assumed that everyone had been made aware. It slipped my mind at the board officers meeting on the 4th.”

When reports appeared about Barstad, including the fact that she said she had resigned, “it jogged my memory and I called Julie and forwarded her the email I had received from Erin on the 28th.

“I have an email from Julie that states Erin had the wrong email address, so it had not been received by the district office before that.

“I was on the road to Alaska, so I may not have been 100% on top of things.”

Neuschwander complained that he and Speck were removed from their board officer positions in the Aug. 12 meeting without a full board present, which, he said, violated state law.

He said the district does not have a policy for removing a board officer.

“That’s never happened. There’s no precedent.

“State law says if you’re going to remove a sitting board chair, it takes a full board. We didn’t have a full board. I was gone. Erin had resigned. There’s only seven people in the room, so you can’t just willy-nilly cherry pick the ones you think are going to vote your way and vote on the night that they’re there.

“I wasn’t there to defend myself, and we did not have a full board.”

So there’s, there is no policy removing a board officer, okay? That’s never happened. Okay?

‘Not a Vendetta’

He also complained about Redick’s accusation that Neuschwander had a conflict of interest that put in him violation of district policies and state law regarding employment actions taken against Neuschwander’s wife, who works for the district.

“I’m not an employee in the district, but when he brought my wife into it, that was wrong; that should have been shut off,

and Michael didn’t do that.

“Terry didn’t do anything to my wife. He just didn’t do anything for her. After four months, she was put back in place. I tried to question about OTIS (Office of Training, Investigations and Safety) in an open meeting, Redick shut me down.

“I tried a couple of different times. Redick said, ‘You’ve got to talk to Terry privately in his office. We can’t have that. That could damage the district.’

“I said, ‘Hey man, what’s the deal?’ and he told me, ‘Once OTIS takes over, we have to cease and desist; there’s nothing we can do.

“But for him to bring up the fact that my wife had even been on leave, that’s none of anybody’s business if I can’t talk about it in a board meeting with the superintendent, right? He shouldn’t be able to talk about it as an audience member. That’s ridiculous. But Michael let that happen.”

Neuschwander reiterated that he “didn’t think Terry was doing a good job long before that.”

“So no, it was not a vendetta.”

Silence ‘Deafening’

Neuschwander insists his motives are upright.

“I didn’t do this because I hate one man. I did it because I love my town,” he said.

“I’ve been around here a long time, and I’ve taken some hits. I’ve been pretty vocal about things here and there, but I thought I had enough respect in the community.

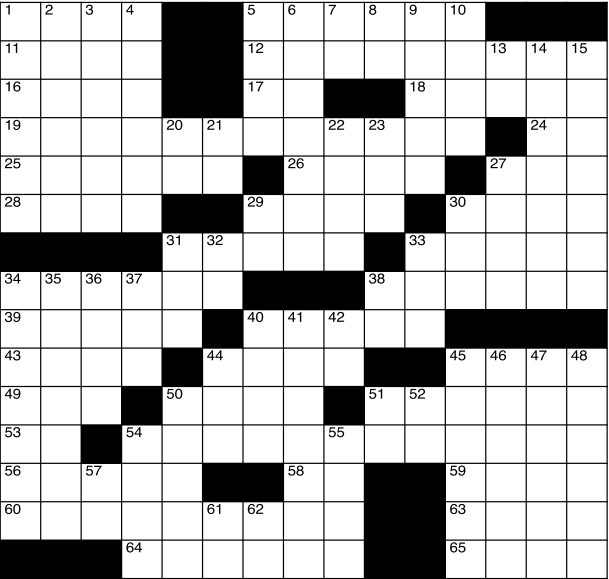
“But I think there’s a silent majority, and so far their silence has been deafening. I think there’s some people need to step forward, and if they don’t, and they want to leave me hanging out in the breeze, I’ll gladly be the scapegoat, you know, but I will say this: that Jason Redick is attacking all these other board members when all he really wants to do is attack me. He should have just left them out of it.

“If they can somehow prove that I crossed some imaginary line by talking to a couple of my board members, I’ll take the hit. I’ll pay the fine. I’m a big boy. If they want to drum me out of town, they want to kick me off the board, they’ve already, I think, illegally taken my board chair seat. They didn’t follow the proper procedure there.”

hit it with metal pole for chasing cats in 1300 block 12th Ave. Officer contacted male, who was counselled. Item was broom handle.

See more Public Safety report listings at [sweethome-news.com](#). Due to space and staffing limitations, we will publish the Aug. 15-17 report next week.

CROSSWORD



CLUES ACROSS

1. Monetary unit of Iran

5. Soared the seas

11. Ornamental box

12. Involuntary

16. German term for Prague

17. Lethal dose

18. Where rockers play

19. Quality of being based on one’s own feelings

24. 12th letter of the Greek alphabet

25. People of Asia

26. Uttered

27. Unhappy

28. British pop duo

29. The Muse of history

30. Greek cheese

31. Semi-aquatic fish-eating mammal

33. Horse racing list
34. Add as an attachment

38. Thinly scattered

39. Northeastern American state

40. Decorative design

43. Sea eagle

44. European river

45. Ancient kingdom near Dead Sea

49. Pick on

50. Easily manageable

51. Ingratiating insincerely

53. Commercial

54. Combining radio waves

56. Political divisions

58. Football’s biggest event (abbr.)

59. Genus of true owls

60. One to whom something is mailed

63. It can sometimes be full

64. Bird of prey

65. Diarist Frank

CLUES DOWN

1. Carpenter’s saw

2. Sudden arrival of something

3. Peninsula between the Red Sea and the Persian Gulf

4. Impasse

5. Pepper’s partner

6. Perceptible by the ear

7. Stephen King’s clown tale

8. ___ and behold

9. Related on the mother’s side

10. A fish worth finding

13. Of I

14. Convicts

15. Having a tail

20. ___ masse

21. Culinary specialist

22. Kind of fur

23. What couples say

27. One with unusual powers of foresight

29. Connecticut

30. Fed’l Housing Administration

31. Smallest whole number
32. Touchdown

33. Sunscreen rating

34. Old Hess Corp.’s name

35. Marched through

36. A sharp high-pitched metallic sound

37. Between northeast and east

38. Sports magazine

40. Female horse

41. A way to supervise

42. Tantalum

44. Was in session

45. Bahrain capital

46. Prayer

47. Membranes

48. Belong to an earlier time

50. Affirmatives

51. South Dakota

52. Sinatra hit “___ Way”

54. Villain’s enemy

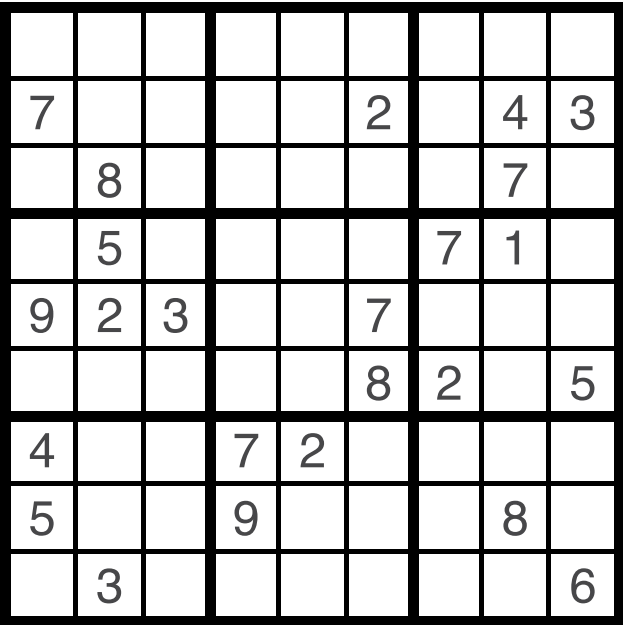
55. A way to conform

57. Doctor of Medicine

61. Starting price

62. Junior’s father

SUDOKU



Level: Intermediate

PUBLIC SAFETY

From page 12

ed stolen. According to LCSO, owner of 2018 Toyota Camry was swimming in the area and returned to his vehicle to find someone had rummaged through it. Craftsman toolbox containing miscellaneous

tools and \$5 in change. Report taken.

7:31 p.m. - Target shooting reported on Cascade Timber Consulting property in 27800 block High Deck Rd., where target shooting is prohibited. Shooting had stopped by time deputy arrived.

8:29 p.m. - Caller reported her dog got out and neighbor



Mandy Cole, center, a staff member at the Linn County Historical Museum, is pictured with Gwen Carr, left, and Mariah Rocker, of the Oregon Black Pioneers. Members of that group will participate in Hands on History in Brownsville on August 23.

Hands on History Saturday

Hands on History returns to Brownsville Saturday, Aug. 23, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. in Library Park, 101 Park Avenue.

It's a fun-filled day in the park experiencing traditional pioneer and Native American skills, activities and crafts.

It's free, fun and for the whole family.

This is the fourth year for Hands on History, which includes activities like beeswax

candle dipping, cornhusk doll making and washing clothes in an old galvanized tub on a washboard, which is especially fun on a hot day.

Individuals can listen to old time fiddlers, watch a mountain man load a flintlock rifle, hear authentic Kalapuyan stories, enjoy wagon rides and pan for gold.

There will also be opportunities to learn how obsidian projectile points are flaked, hear about challenges faced by Black pioneers, try your hand at spinning wool and more.

Everyone is invited to participate in authentic activities by experiencing them firsthand, which makes learning about local history fun.

"Can I try that?" is heard all over the park.

Visiting the Linn County Historical Museum right next door to the park can enhance the history experience.

Hands on History is sponsored by the Linn County Museum Friends, a non-profit organization dedicated to sharing Linn County's history with the public. The Linn County Historical Museum is at 101 Park Ave. in downtown Brownsville.

For details, visit linnparks.com or email: lchm@co.linn.or.us

Dinners fill need, connect community

By Sarah Brown
Of The New Era

When board members of CONNECT Linn County (CLC) learned the Central Linn School District would not be able to offer the Summer Lunch Program this year, they stepped in to fill the plate and ended up feeding anyone who wanted a meal.

"This year the Central Linn School District was hit hard when the community found out the summer enrichment program and the summer lunch program wouldn't be funded, so we came together and came up with a plan for the kids to be able to gather and to make sure the families that relied so much on these programs feel heard, fed and taken care of," said CLC Board Member Tishana "Tika" Harrison.

Every summer, the school district would supply a lunch to students and an additional to-go bag for the kids so they had something else at home, Brownsville parent Jordan Buckland said.

However, CLC, which formed as a nonprofit last November, couldn't figure out how to get a meal to the kids who normally would've taken advantage of the school program. So, Board Member Karmel Curtis said, they decided to turn it into an evening meal for the whole community at no charge.

CLC offered weekly "Dinner at the Brownsville Park" in July and August, with occasional provisions of entertainment such as games, car shows and reptiles. Their largest attendance was when they served pulled pork with mac 'n' cheese, which drew 415 mouths.

"Maybe just having one dinner a night will give them enough of a relief they can save that extra money to do a lunch or dinner at home, and give them a little break," Curtis said. "We've had parents come down and they literally said, 'I didn't know how I was going to feed my kids tonight.' That makes it all worth it."

Buckland expressed appreciation for CLC's efforts, adding that, with the school district and community being



Photo by Sarah Brown
Children get their dinner plates filled with pancakes and eggs at CLC's "Pancakes for Dinner" on Aug. 13.

small and tight-knit, the weekly dinners often meant familiar faces were sure to be seen.

"This is helping a lot for everybody in the community, which is nice," she said.

Buckland also turns it into a teachable moment by having her daughter put a cash donation into the tip jar.

"I think this is awesome that they have taken their time to volunteer to bring it together and get everyone out here," Buckland said. "They do a lot for our community already."

Beside offering food and fellowship once a week, CLC also exists to gather hygiene supplies for schools, stock the local food pantry, organize food and clothing drives for those in need, create volunteer opportunities for people, and bring entertainment during the holidays.

"We are a group of four women who saw a need in our community and jumped up to help the best way we knew how," Harrison said.

In addition to Harrison and Curtis, the other board members are Melissa Dalebout and Leise Rolfe.

"The need" the women saw was a need to provide resources and to "fill in the gaps" between the big events Brownsville has, such as Pioneer Picnic and the Antique Fair, Curtis said. They also wanted to form a group that was family-friendly for volunteers with children, a group where the volunteers could include their children in the work.

That goal was clearly achieved when, at one of the dinners, a group of children were seen nearly fighting for the chance to take a dirty dish and wash it.

A multitude of sponsors made the dinners possible, including many from Sweet Home, and the dinners were held in partnership with Chandra Evans, the early literacy program coordinator. School staff joined in to help make the meals, giving them an opportunity to connect during the summer to the children they serve, Curtis said.

Whether CLC continues its "Dinner at the Brownsville Park" remains to be seen, but Curtis said it's already starting to feel like a tradition.

To make that happen, they will need continued monetary and volunteer support. For more information, or to see what other opportunities CLC has, visit ConnectLinnCounty.net.

The board wanted it to be clear that their dinners were not just for families with children; they were for everyone in Linn County. It was an opportunity for people to connect to others, to their community. As announced on their social media page, "It's all about coming together, sharing food, and building connections."

Buckland probably said it best when she said, "It's just really a good way for all of us to get together for a minute and just enjoy."

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Soccer camp at Husky Field

Soccer kids of all ages converged on Husky Field last week for the Sweet Home High School Girls Soccer Team's annual camp. Above, Otto Von Fumetti puts the ball past Alyna Bates in a scrimmage as high-schooler Nevada Hankins yells instructions. Below, defender Sophia Hollingsworth tries to chase down Drew Wilson as Coach Reese Lidner yells directions. Above left, from left, beginners Aria Vaughan, Jaxon and Ayla Engelhart, and Cleo Cripe work on a drill under the leadership of coaches Miu Simmons, rear, and Hailee Baker, right. Below left, Amos Jorgenson and Drew Wilson battle for the ball as Reagan Lidner closes in during a scrimmage. See more photos at sweethomenews.com.



School district to seek ‘feedback’ on cellphone ban for students

By Scott Swanson
Of The New Era

Sweet Home School Board members got a heads-up about district plans to ban student use of cellphones during school hours, starting Jan. 1, at their Aug. 11 meeting. The board also swore in its last new electee from the May 20 election and approved an out-of-state trip for Sweet Home High School FFA members. In addition to extended debate over an aborted attempt in late July to meet and consider the termination of Supt. Terry Martin, board members also carried on some regular business. Before launching into its other business, then-Vice Chair Mike Adams swore in Amanda Carter, who was not at the board’s July meeting and had not officially been sworn in. Board members later voted to remove Floyd Neuschwander as chair and then elected Adams to the position. Martin reported to the board that the district will begin looking into a total ban on cellphones in response to

an executive order issued July 2 by Gov. Tina Kotek after an effort to pass a law to that effect failed in the legislative session. Kotek’s order requires that all of Oregon’s 197 school districts adopt a policy for banning student cellphone use by Oct. 31, 2025. Those policies must be fully implemented by Jan. 1, 2026, according to the order. House Bill 2251 passed the House 36-21 in mid-April but died in a Senate committee at the end of the legislative session. “We need to get feedback from the community to reach a sensible solution,” Martin said, adding that the Oregon School Boards Association is expected to suggest model language that, Martin said, the district will scrutinize. Board Member Jenna Northern asked if the district can write “our own rules,” to which Martin replied that Sweet Home will be “bound by the language of the executive order.” He told the board that the ban will not apply to staff. Business Manager Kevin Strong told the board that

the district’s year-to-date spending was some \$63,000 higher than for the same period last year. He said higher insurance premiums are driving the increase. “These costs continue to go up substantially,” Strong said. Sweet Home is in a pool with most of the other districts in the state, which means that if there are costly problems on other campuses, Sweet Home helps bear the extra costs. Recently, he noted, glulam beams in the North Medford High School gym collapsed, forcing the reconstruction of that facility. “We’re contributing to that,” Strong said, adding that when other districts get sued, that also can impact Sweet Home’s rates. That, he said, is why Sweet Home requires “a lot of time” for training “so our staff will act professionally around students. “We’re at a point in Oregon where some districts have had a number of claims and are losing coverage or have had to go out on the market.” The board also approved

an out-of-state trip by the Sweet Home High School’s Future Farmers of America officers to the FFA’s national convention Oct. 25 through Nov. 2 in Indianapolis, Ind. The students, who will be accompanied by FFA adviser Scott Jacobson and his wife Alexis, will get a chance to participate in workshops, volunteer activities, a career and college fair, agricultural and natural resource tours, tours of agribusiness and historical sites, and, possibly, tours of college campuses. Also, Martin informed the board that a meeting to discuss the district’s Strategic Plan will be held from 3 to 6 p.m. prior to the board’s next regular meeting, on Sept. 9.

Applicants sought for School Board seat

The Sweet Home School District is seeking applicants for an open School Board position, #8 At Large. Candidates must currently reside within the district for at least one year. Candidates must be a registered voter. The length of this position will go through the next election year, June of 2027. To apply for this position visit www.sweethome.k12.or.us or stop by the Sweet Home District Office for an application. For further information or questions, contact Julie Emmert at (541) 367-7637

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Sweet Home mayor's other passion is local Children's Literacy Project

By Satina Tolman
For The New Era

Sweet Home Mayor Susan Coleman is best known for her leadership at City Hall in her volunteer position as mayor.

However, she has another job she is equally passionate about: working to give children the gift of literacy.

Coleman, who also serves as executive assistant to the executive director of the Children's Literacy Project, says the mission is simple but urgent: helping children learn to read so they can thrive.

"In America today, 40% of children cannot read above the most basic level," Coleman said.

The Children's Literacy Project (CLP), a national nonprofit, raises awareness through media, connects volunteers with schools and community organizations, and provides assessments to measure progress.

One of its most well-known productions, "SENTENCED," a documentary narrated by NBA superstar Stephen Curry, explores the devastating effects of childhood and adult illiteracy. The organization's upcoming projects highlight communities that have made remarkable gains in literacy, such as a Florida district that climbed from

“extremely low” literacy levels to 70% and a Mississippi program that turned one of the lowest-ranked states in literacy into one of the top performers.

Locally, Sweet Home is beginning to see the impact of CLP's work. With help from the Ibis Group, CLP recently secured \$25,000 specifically for Sweet Home. The grant funds a part-time volunteer coordinator, Michelle Knight, and supports new Family Literacy Nights hosted at Hillside Fellowship Church (501 Nandina St.).

The first event is set for 5 to 7 p.m. Monday, Aug. 25, and is free. There will be dinner, a craft based on the book, and a book reading by local author Jim Corley, who is Coleman's father.

"The money will help us organize volunteers and support families," Coleman said. "It will be really nice if our community can come together and help the children because it impacts their future. It helps the whole community if they can just learn to read."

The Sweet Home School District (SHSD) has already partnered with CLP to launch "Sweet HELP" (Sweet Home Early Literacy Program). A small pilot last year placed seven volunteers at Hawthorne Elementary School. By the end of the year, that number had grown to 11.

The need, however, is much greater. According to the 2024-25 SHSD Dis-

trict Continuous Improvement Plan, only 40% of SHSD's third-graders met grade-level expectations in English Language Arts. The district hopes to raise that number to 45% by 2027, but Coleman would like to see those goals surpassed.

"We'd love to see 100 volunteers," Coleman said. "We have a lot of kids who need our help. Teachers have a lot on their plates and can only do so much in a day. Because children are being taught how to read in kindergarten through third grade, those are the grades we focus on. We want to capture them at those grades and help them be successful."

Volunteering is simple. The district provides an hour-long training and requires a background check. Reading mentors then commit 30 to 60 minutes, once a week, either listening to a K-3 student read or reading to them.

"Research shows that having a consistent, caring adult in a child's life on a weekly basis and having the child read to them improves literacy, and it gives the child a lot of confidence," Coleman said. "It goes beyond reading literacy; it improves self-esteem, behavior, and schoolwork. And interestingly enough, it also increases the joy in the mentor. The mentor receives purpose, and it actually affects everyone involved in a positive way."

With grant funding, CLP will also track progress through assessments to ensure Sweet HELP is making measurable gains. Coleman is also looking at ways to support homeschool families and adults who struggle with literacy.

At its core, the Children's Literacy Project believes that literacy is a way to love our neighbors. As the organization's mission statement puts it: "We serve with humility, lead with evidence, and believe in the power of communities to transform children's lives through literacy."

Coleman echoes that conviction. "We raise awareness of the literacy crisis in America, we activate volunteers, and we do assessments. Those are the three main things we do. But none of it works without volunteers," she said.



Learning about Health

Sweet Home held its eighth annual Health Fair Saturday, Aug. 16, in the Activites Gym at Sweet Home High School, because of the rain. Kids learned about how to eat healthily, above, and about exercise, below, in a jump rope competition. In the bottom photo, Karen Bostrom represents at the Pregnancy Care Center booth, one of about 30 organizations that participated in the event. Free back-to-school backpacks and clothing were distributed to those who needed them.

Photos by Jessica Sands



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