

## 'Amazing' response saves structures from fire

**By Scott Swanson**  
*Of The New Era*  
A large vegetation fire burned roughly 25 acres in Holley late Monday afternoon, but firefighters were able to get it under control before it could damage nearby residences and other structures.

Firefighters responded from Sweet Home and Oregon Department of Forestry at 4:12 p.m. to the 25600 block of Rice Road, off Upper Calapooia Drive, to find thick columns of smoke rising from the area behind Holley Store.

The three-alarm fire was located in an area between Rice Road and Highway 228 and Crescent Hill Road.

"No primary structures were lost," said Craig Pettinger, ODF unit forester in Sweet Home, who was at the scene. He said the only loss he was aware of was an RV that burned.

"It was an amazing response," said Sweet Home Fire Chief Nick Tyler. "ODF came with its full force immediately. Sweet Home Fire



An Oregon Department of Forestry firefighter pulls a hose as he battles the fire north of Rice Road Monday afternoon.

had staff and multiple units on the scene immediately.

"It really was the best-case scenario. Everything worked. To have a 25-acre fire in that

area and not lose any structures is really a testament to the crew."

He said early-arriving firefighters immediately con-

centrated on structure protection and then were able to move crews into the western

See Holley Fire, Page 8

## Pens, Pencils and Paint, En Plein Air

**By Sarah Brown**  
*Of The New Era*  
Artists took their passion to the lake when the location became the city's first "en plein air" art event encouraging painters and other creatives to try their handiwork outside.

More than 20 artists attended SHOCASE's first Plein Air event, held Wednesday, Aug. 20, at Foster Lake.

"The turnout was a lot better than I expected for our first-time event," organizer Satina Tolman said.

Creating art "en plein air" is a French term simply meaning one is doing art outdoors, but it's a concept that rose in popularity in the early to mid-1800s when painting supplies became portable. Artists particularly liked being able to observe the changing nature of light as they painted.

Seated on lush grass and overlooking the lake's water glistening under a descending sun, painters dabbed

their medium on paper and canvas to capture the scene before them. Other artists opted to use colored pencils, sketch abstract designs, roll strips of paper into beads, collage with papers torn from books, or face paint.

A handful of children also participated. SHOCASE Board Member Rose Peda provided art supplies for anyone who needed the basics, and refreshments were provided by Into The Brew.

One participant said she took a photo of the lake scene a day prior so she could get a head start on her painting.

"It's just nice to find a way to hang out and meet other people who like this kind of thing," she said about the event.

Madison Ward would agree, saying the best part was "painting with friends and a view."

Watercolor artist Lee Roscoe-Bragg took a solitary



Karly Ketsdever, left, with her friend Gemma Leffler, try their hand at watercolor painting.

See Plein Air, Page 10

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**TELL & SELL DUO  
OPT FOR RETIREMENT  
AFTER DECADES ON JOB  
PAGE 5**



**NATIONAL NIGHT OUT  
DRAWS A CROWD  
FOR FUN AND GAMES  
PAGE 9**



**LOCAL SOFTBALL  
PLAYER GETS TASTE OF  
NATIONAL COMPETITION  
PAGE 16**

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# Musical reunion marks both Wolthuis family, chapel milestone

By Satina Tolman  
For The New Era

The notes of Widor, Brahms, Bédard, Bach and more danced through the air on Saturday evening as a unique trio of musicians brought music, memory and emotion to an audience of more than 50 people at the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Saturday evening, Aug. 23.

Presented in partnership with SHOCASE of Sweet Home, a nonprofit dedicated to the arts and education, and the Timpanogos Music Series, the free concert featured René Johnson and Dr. Carmen Hall, and their father, Dr. Henry Wolthuis.

The event marked not only a musical triumph but a deeply personal anniversary.

Exactly 50 years ago, Henry and his late wife, Bonita, performed in the same chapel during its dedication. Their daughters' return to the same space, decades later, with their father was more than a performance. It was a tribute.

"We felt so close to our mom," Hall said after the concert. Bonita passed away from cancer in 1987, but both daughters recalled her unwavering support. "She was always there, sitting with us during practice," Hall said.

"Our parents were very involved in our music," Johnson added.

Now living in Virginia and Utah, respectively, Johnson and Hall are the oldest of Wolthuis' five children. Their musical roots trace back to their childhood in Sweet Home, where Henry and Bonita raised them and instilled a love for music, faith and service.

Johnson, a Nationally Certified Teacher of Music and a Colleague of the American Guild of Organists, is a respected music educator and past president and current secretary of the Northern Virginia Music Teachers Association. Though she has played piano all her life, she discovered the organ just four years ago and says she's

"passionate" about the instrument. She maintains a thriving piano studio with students of all ages and is a frequent presenter at national music conferences.

Hall is an internationally acclaimed pianist and the founder of the Timpanogos Chamber Music Series in Utah, now entering its fourth season with more than 50 concerts performed.

She also established Young Pianist International, which offers cultural exchanges and global performance opportunities for students. Her group has toured Ghana, Italy, Washington, D.C., Oregon, Utah, and twice each to China and Japan. She teaches at Utah Valley University and serves as president of the Utah Music Teachers Association.

Together, the sisters have recently performed in Rome, Italy, and Groningen, Netherlands. Groningen was especially meaningful to the family, due to their Dutch heritage. But returning to Sweet Home was a real treat for the sisters and audience alike.

Wolthuis, a retired dentist and longtime Sweet Home resident, remains active in both the arts and his community. He is a lifelong organist, tree farmer and a longtime member of the city's Planning Commission.

The evening opened with two vibrant four-hand piano duets, including a jazzy piece by Nikolai Kapustin and a lively Hungarian Dance by Brahms.

Their synchronized playing turned one grand piano into an orchestra of sound, their hands flying with precision and playfulness.

Their father then took the stage with a serene organ solo: "Shepherd's Pipes Pastoral" by Hubbard William Harris.

The music painted pastoral scenes with gentle, lyrical phrases that mimicked the call of a shepherd and the response of sheep.

As the final notes faded and the applause echoed, the au-



Photo by Satina Tolman

Henry Wolthuis reunites with daughters Carmen Hall, left, and René Johnson at Saturday's concert.

dience wasn't just applauding skill; they were celebrating legacy: one of family, music, faith and the enduring power of a community.

Later, Johnson and Hall reunited on organ and piano, performing several pieces with perfection. Jonathan Scott's hauntingly beautiful arrangement of "Ave Maria," based on J.S. Bach's first prelude was the emotional centerpiece of the night, with many audience members visibly moved. The final piece, a five-part organ and piano duet by Denis Bédard, filled

the sanctuary with soaring harmonies and thunderous energy.

"The audience was so friendly and appreciative," Johnson said. "It was really special to be here." Hall agreed, calling the crowd "engaged and enjoyable."

Audience members echoed that sentiment. "I didn't know what to expect, but I was moved to tears," said attendee Shirley Austin. "It was amazing."

At the reception after the concert, one audience member was overheard marvel-

ing, "I've never heard anything like that. I don't know how they stayed so in sync. There wasn't a single mistake in those difficult pieces!"

In addition to performing, the sisters made a special trip while in town to visit their childhood piano teacher, Virginia Buhn, now 97 and living in Eugene. Her husband, Ed Buhn, served as Sweet Home's mayor from 1971 to 1974.

"One individual can affect your life and the direction you go," Wolthuis said. "That's what Virginia Buhn did for the girls."

## EVENTS

### Tomato Day at Lebanon market

The Lebanon Downtown Farmers' Market and the Santiam Food Alliance will hold Tomato Day Thursday, Aug. 28.

Throughout the market hours of 2 to 6 p.m., tastings of dozens of unusual and often beautiful tomato varieties from the market farmers and local gardens will be offered for tastings.

An Oregon State Univer-

sity Extension Master Food Preserver will offer information on drying and canning tomatoes, a Master Gardener will provide advice on growing them, and volunteers will offer free samples of tomato-based foods.

For more information about the Santiam Food Alliance, visit [santiamfood.org](http://santiamfood.org).

### Singers invited to Perform 'Requiem'

Lebanon Community Cho-

rus invites singers to register for rehearsals for John Rutter's "Requiem" at 6:30 p.m. on Sept. 4 at The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Days Saints, 1955 S 5th St., Lebanon.

LCC is an auditioned, mixed-voice chorus of volunteer members.

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

See Events, Page 14

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## OBITUARIES

**Nellie Hanft**  
Jan. 4, 1948 - Aug. 24, 2025  
Nellie June Hanft, 77, of Brownsville, passed away Aug. 24, 2025.  
Sweet Home Funeral Chapel is handling the arrangements. For updated information, visit [www.sweethomefuneral.com](http://www.sweethomefuneral.com).





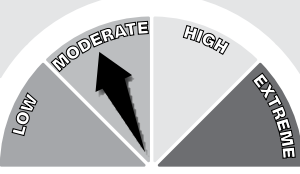
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TEMPERATURES					FORECAST			
DATE		HIGH	LOW	PRECIP	DAY	WEATHER	HIGH	LOW
August 19		79	52	0.00	Thur	Partly Cloudy	89	57
August 20		82	51	0.00	Fri	Partly Cloudy	89	56
August 21		82	51	0.00	Sat	Sunny	83	57
August 22		87	50	0.00	Sun	Partly Cloudy	82	55
August 23		97	62	0.00	Mon	Sunny	84	57
August 24		97	62	0.00	Tues	Sunny	88	60
August 25		92	62	0.00	Wed	Sunny	89	61
PRECIPITATION					LAKE LEVELS			
Year to date:		19.39			Foster Reservoir: 636.65			
August 28, 2024:		19.38			Green Peter Res.: 927.00			



**TODAYS FIRE DANGER IS**

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

PUBLIC SAFETY

Information for the Public Safety report and Courts in The New Era is sourced from local law enforcement and fire agencies. Addresses provided generally denote the location of the incident or arrest, occasionally indicating the origin of the call. Incident details, which may not always be available from agencies in time for publication in our weekly paper edition, are often updated online at [sweethomenews.com](http://sweethomenews.com) as information becomes available. Also, due to space limitations in our paper editions, content may be restricted to the most recent information, and a more extensive version of the Public Safety Report will be available at [sweethomenews.com](http://sweethomenews.com).

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); AMC (Albany 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).

**Aug. 24**

1:03 a.m. - Stephanie Lais, 35, and Joshua Lueth, 37, both of Eugene, arrested for criminal trespass at Brownsville Christian Church, 100 block N. Main St., Brownsville. Lodged at Linn County Jail. Report taken.

2:35 a.m. - Deputy checked on suspicious individual and vehicles at storage unit, 200 block S. Main St., Brownsville. Learned that individual was loading up to go to Burning Man.

3:18 a.m. - Caller reported suspicious male trying to enter Chewy's Pub and Grub in 1200 block 12th Ave. Officer responded, contacted male, who said he thought the business was open. He moved along when he realized it was not.

7:40 a.m. - Deputy assisted family with unruly child, 40000 block Mountain Home Dr.

8:08 a.m. - Deputy contacted individuals in motor home parked in 27700 block Ogle Rd., Halsey, in "ongoing issue." Individuals indicated they would be relocating to Lane County.

11:00 a.m. - Jordan Nicole Swanson, 35, arrested after she turned herself in at SHPD,

1950 Main St., on SHMC warrant for FTC in fraudulent use of credit card case. Cited and released.

12:06 p.m. - Caller reported concerns about "declining mental state" of young man in neighborhood of 40400 block Piper Lane. Wanted information documented.

1:26 p.m. - Individual flagged down officer to report that a juvenile had thrown his phone from Weddle Bridge previous night. Report taken.

2:42 p.m. - Illegal camp located on north shore of Foster Lake, 43700 block North River Dr. Campers moved on.

4:30 p.m. - Individual visited SHPD to report that her windshield had been broken by debris flying out of truck bed in area of milepost 25 on Hwy. 20. Officer responded, information noted.

5:33 p.m. - Kelsey Ciullo, 38, of Sweet Home, arrested on outstanding warrants, 43700 block North River Dr. Report taken.

6:30 p.m. - Cellphone found in water at Lewis Creek Park, 44400 North River Dr. Placed in found property at Sheriff's Office. Report taken.

8:36 p.m. - Caller reported juveniles doing cookies in gravel lot, Oak Terrace/Hol-

ley Rd., damaged her vehicle. Officer responded, juveniles counselled on their actions. Caller declined to pursue charges.

**Aug. 23**

2:03 a.m. - Gavin Lefevre, 30, of Sweet Home, cited for not carrying proof of insurance, 1200 block 10th Ave., following stop due to lack of headlights.

3:03 a.m. - Deputy checked on individual with scooter in area of 1st Ave./Main St. Learned that individual was checking his scooter's range and did not require assistance.

7:12 a.m. - Kharev Reeve, 30, of Brownsville, arrested on outstanding LCCC warrant. Cited to appear. 1100 block Oak St., Brownsville. Report taken.

8:09 a.m. - Caller reported male destroying things in house in 1200 block 44th Ave. Officer responded, contacted male who was determined to not be police officer hold candidate. Report forwarded to Linn County Mental Health.

8:36 a.m. - Civil issue reported between renters and logging company in 42500 block North River Rd. LCSO responded, issues resolved.

9:36 a.m. - Caller reported male breaking into residence in 1000 block Main St., stealing money. Officer responded. Report taken for theft I. Loss valued at \$1,400.

11:29 a.m. - Deputy checked on motor home parked on Ogle Rd. near Hwy. 228, Halsey. Individuals were living in RV.

11:42 a.m. - Deputy located illegal camp on U.S. Forest Service land, 57000 block Hwy. 20, that had overstayed 14-day limit. Trespass warning left at location.

3:18 p.m. - Caller reported her daughter pushed and hit her in 400 block Boulder Ridge Dr. Officer responded, report taken for harassment. Parties to remain separated through night.

4:14 p.m. - Crash reported in area of Main St./43rd Ave. Officer responded, report taken. Damage under \$2,500. Parties exchanged info.

7:37 p.m. - Caller reported people driving too fast in Pioneer Park, 200 W. Park Ave., Brownsville. Deputy contacted "uncooperative" individuals who were trespassed from park.

12:39 p.m. - Illegal camp located on north shore Foster Lake, 43700 block North River Dr. Campers packed up and left.

12:59 p.m. - Deputy issued

citation to vehicle parked illegally at Gedney Creek Boat Ramp, 43600 block North River Dr.

8:58 p.m. - Timothy Peppering, 41, of Lebanon, arrested on outstanding warrants, 43700 block North River Dr. Report taken.

9:53 p.m. - Leslie Iokepa cited for driving while suspended, driving uninsured, after traffic stop due to lack of headlights. Main St./Clark Mill Rd. Driver's license seized.

**Aug. 22**

7:25 a.m. - Nicholas Nathan Nivison, 32, arrested for theft III following report of male stealing items from Thriftway, 621 Main St. Also arrested on multiple LCCC warrants, LMC warrant for FTA in theft case, and SHMC warrant for FTA in trespass case. Cited and released.

10:36 a.m. - Jeremy Wayne Damewood, 47, arrested by OSP on SHMC warrant in reckless driving case. Cited to appear Sept. 10.

12:03 p.m. - Caller reported that vehicle parked in disabled parking spot was blocking another customer from using the spot, Dollar Tree, 2414 Main St. Officer

See Public Safety, Page 14



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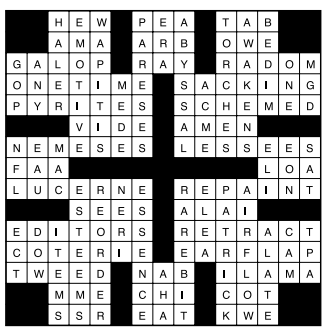


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**Crossword KEY**  
Puzzle on page 13



**SUDOKU KEY**  
Puzzle on page 13

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



## FROM OUR FILES



Collette DeWolfe, one of many entries in the Holley Fair pie eating contest, gobbles her way through a piece of chocolate pie in 1975.

**Aug. 31, 1950**

Police are looking for a capricious clock snatcher who took two electric clocks from the water plant.

The thief – evidently a clock fancier – broke into the 9th Avenue plant and removed one electric clock.

He returned the next night to make off with the remaining time piece. The abducted clocks are worth about \$13 each.

**Aug. 28, 1975**

The remodeled high school was accepted by the school board for occupancy, pending completion of mechanical and electrical work still needing to be completed.

Miss Oregon Teenager Charlotte Alford, of Sweet Home, returned from the National Miss Teen Queen U.S.A with the Miss Congeniality award.

The membership of the Sweet Home Evangelical Church approved the construction of a building as a recreation and classroom center on the corner of

15th and Kalmia.

It will include a 40- by 60-foot gymnasium, five classrooms, an activity area for pool and shuffleboard, kitchen, restrooms and – if funds permit – a sauna.

**Aug. 30, 2000**

Oregon Jamboree announced the resignation of Event Manager Peter LaPonte, who was hired in 1998.

SHEDG stated LaPonte successfully revitalized the Jamboree and built an efficient and responsible volunteer team.



A youngster takes aim in a frisbee contest while another "holds his tongue just right" during the 1975 Holley Fair.

## Editorial: Showdown in Salem may test legislators' desire to raise taxes

By Scott Swanson  
Publisher

Earlier this month, I intended to write about something important to me personally, but which I admit is not too significant in the big picture of things.

News is not always predictable and I didn't get there because bigger stuff started happening locally, which was more important to write about.

My topic then was going to be a petition being circulated that aims to repeal state permit fees that were slapped on paddle-boarders and flat-water kayakers by this year's Oregon legislature.

The move to counteract that fee was reported by an Oregon Journalism Project story we posted on Aug. 1 ([www.sweethomenews.com/ballot-initiative-seeks-to-repeal-new-permit-fees-on-standup-paddleboards-and-kayaks](http://www.sweethomenews.com/ballot-initiative-seeks-to-repeal-new-permit-fees-on-standup-paddleboards-and-kayaks)), where you can read all about it.

I intended to use that as a launching point to discuss the incessant chiseling of money out of Oregonians by our state government, always seeking to provide us more "services" but always demanding more money to get it done. That's moved us steadily up the ranks of Americans who pay the highest taxes. More on that shortly.

But now is not the time to talk about the boat fee deal, because that is just a ripple compared to the much more significant turbulence churning in Salem, namely the issue of funding the Oregon Department of Transportation.

I don't have space here to thoroughly review the ins and outs of the ODOT crisis. OJP has produced a number of really good reports about the situation, including citing what knowledgeable critics of the agency have to say.

Let me also note here that when I talk about ODOT, I'm not pointing to the folks who run the snowplows and fix the roads. They don't make the decisions on how to use the billions of dollars the agency has gotten from us in recent years.

For those with fuzzy memories, ODOT is now facing a \$350 million deficit. Despite a super-majority of Democrats in the legislature's long session, which ended June 27, lawmakers were unable to get a bill passed to take care of that problem, even after they'd scaled the budget proposal down from some \$15.5

billion over 10 years to \$2 billion. It still failed.

The governor, citing a "budget gap" that needs a "funding solution," has called the special session this Friday, Aug. 29, to try to attempt to hike Oregon's gas tax by six cents and increase vehicle fees (by \$42) and title fees (by \$139).

Are we Oregonians ready for that?

Oregon's gas tax is already 40 cents per gallon as of Jan. 1, 2024 – the 10th-highest in the nation.

And that's not all. Though our state is predominantly rural geographically, our cost of living is 41st in the nation (that's the high end), behind California, New York, most of the small northeastern states whose political affiliations are about like ours, Hawaii (No. 1) and Alaska, which are both understandable because of their locations.

Housing, health and transportation are what push us to the top.

Our state and local tax bills are the 18th-highest in the nation (nearly \$7,000 per capita) according to [taxfoundation.org](http://taxfoundation.org). Other indexes, including the U.S. Census Bureau, show comparable numbers. Funny thing is, in 1980 and 2000, Oregon wasn't even in the top 24, according to the Census Bureau.

Even after Democrats won a supermajority in 2004, it wasn't until 2018 that Oregon cracked the top 24 in taxation (23rd). By 2023, seven years later, we were 14th. That's a steep climb.

So back to ODOT and the special session: Now the powers that be in Salem want us to backfill ODOT, which critics accuse of mismanagement, flawed accountability and fiscal irresponsibility. (You can read a lot more about that in the Oregon Journalism Project reports posted under the OJP button at [sweethomenews.com](http://sweethomenews.com).)

Cascade Research Council, an admittedly conservative policy think tank in Portland, has pointed out that funding in Oregon from fuel taxes and fees reached record highs in 2024, continuing a trend of "record revenue" from motor fuels taxes, titling and registration of vehicles, driver's license fees, business license fees, charges for service and other sales income.

The problem, pretty clearly appears to be money management, or lack thereof. But correcting that doesn't appear to be in Democratic

leaders' range of vision.

One of Kotek's strategies has been to threaten to cut staffing for on-the-ground services, the everyday stuff we need, like plowing snow and fixing highways, targeting key maintenance facilities like Sweet Home, Detroit and Sisters.

If that actually happens, and we will certainly report the outcome once things become clearer, transportation in the winter will be affected, as would responses to crashes and road maintenance issues would certainly be curtailed.

The governor has, of course, delayed those cuts until she sees what happens with this special session, whether lawmakers can give her a new funding plan.

Some blame poor leadership for the fact that the transportation bill failed in June. But could it be possible that legislators might be realizing that their constituents can only take so much?

Many Oregon voters have been like the proverbial frogs in the frying pan, going along with the positive patter and smooth sleight-of-hand out of the capitol that keeps us moving up the tax ladder. But will Oregonians at some point realize how hot the water we're in is?

Here's some advice from the ground floor for our legislators as they convene Friday: Wisdom involves listening to opposing opinions, to critics.

With a budget of about \$6 billion for the 2023-25 biennium, ODOT managers have had a lot of money to play with. Politics impacts a lot of their decisions, I'm sure, but there's no excuse for the agency being unable to provide basic services.

Kotek's strategy is nothing more than holding us constituents hostage, trying to pressure lawmakers to make that tax increase happen.

Healthy debate is a check on folly, but minority Republicans say they're basically ignored when they propose alternatives to the plans promoted by leadership, such as using state emergency funds to fill necessary revenue gaps. It's clear that the top brass, anyway, have not been listening to the sensible suggestions coming from informed critics.

It's going to be interesting to watch what happens and how we citizens respond. Our best hope for change may be the ballot box.

# The New Era

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# After decades of service, Tell & Sell duo reach final deadline

By Scott Swanson  
Of The New Era

Gary Brown and Connie Conner stand in the production area of the building they’ve occupied for the last 32 years – actually long before that for Brown.

It’s the Tell & Sell office at 1304 Long St., caddy-corner from the Sweet Home Post Office.

It’s time to say goodbye. Brown turned 75 in July and Conner is nearing 68.

They’re walking away from the business, turning many of their operations over to The New Era, which has provided many of the services Tell & Sell has, though on a more limited scale.

Brown had been a lead man at a mill on Weirich Drive in Lebanon when “my back got busted up back in ’89” and he and his then-wife Leone decided to branch out from a wedding photography business they’d been operating to take on a new project, the Tell & Sell.

The advertising publication had operated out of the Sweet Home lo-



Photo by Scott Swanson  
Tell & Sell staffer Connie Conner and owner Gary Brown stand in their office. They are retiring at the end of this month.

cation, once occupied by a car dealership, before the Browns bought it from Doug McInnis of Albany in 1989.

“You’re standing on 3 feet of nothing but 1½-inch round rock,” he told

an interviewer, adding that the space below the floor was used to vent auto exhaust during repairs.

Brown believes the publication started “in somebody’s kitchen here in Sweet Home” as far back as 1958 –

that’s the earliest copy he’s seen. “That’s the year I was born,” he said. “That’s how I remember that. I’m the third owner.”

Just a side note: An interview with Gary Brown and Connie Conner is pretty much a microcosm of the last 32 years at Tell & Sell. Brown does most of the talking in a fast-paced patter, laced with specific details that are occasionally and assertively corrected by Conner.

“My brain, I have a very active brain,” he said. “My mother was the same way. My mother wouldn’t go to bed at night. She would sit there and her brain would go there and she’d say, ‘Hey son, get in here.’”

“All right, what is it? All right, I guess if that’s what you want, all right, we’ll go do that now.”

Brown said he got a job at Tomco in Cascadia when he was in high school and worked in mills until his injury, though he dabbled in other things as well.

Tell & Sell turned out to be a good

See Retirees, Page 11

September 2025						
Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday		
Exercise 8:30 Crafters 10:00 Meals on Wheels Senior Meals 12:00 Bridge 1:00	Qi Gong 9:00 Jolly Stitchers- Quilters 10:00 Meals on Wheels Senior Meals 12:00	Exercise 8:30 Painters/Paper- crafters 10:00 Lunch 11:30 Ponytail 1:00	Qi Gong 9:00 Jolly Stitchers- Quilters 10:00 Bible Study 10:00 Meals on Wheels 12:00 Pinochle 12:30	Exercise 8:30 Meals On Wheels Senior Meals 12:00	<i>September Happenings! Oktoberfest Trip sign ups start September 7th!! The trip will be September 11th times TBA. Remember lunches have increased to \$6.00 &amp; \$6.50 to go. September 17h 10 AM Members meeting! Come find out what is happening at the center!</i>	
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# Greener grass a big driver in settlement of Sweet Home

By Roberta McKern  
For The New Era

Mankind – pardon, "humankind" – has ever been inclined to go where the grass is greenest, whether it is on the far side of the hill or not. Green grass stands for opportunity. In the histories of trails leading west it also has meant fodder for domesticated stock. Certainly this was true for those traveling on the Oregon-California Trail who set out toward the end of April or in early May when prairies to be crossed supported lush green grass. It got patchy however, once the western mountains were reached. Yet, here we are today looking around the East Linn Museum and celebrating the migrations of those who

headed west about 200 years ago with green grass on their minds. They were part of the great Age of Discovery when men, generally Europeans, sailed off in improved ships to find new lands to claim for their kings and queens. It didn't matter that these claims would come as big surprises to people already in the lands, who had demonstrated ingenuity in developing their environment and were satisfied with what they knew and believed. In 1492 Columbus was one of the first to start the trend – although in this hemisphere we are not universally called Columbians. Another, rather obscure, explorer got the honor of having us named "America" by getting his name, Amerigo Vespucci, on

an early map. So much for that history lesson. What we really are looking at are events that led up to the Oregon Trail, two of them being the Louisiana Purchase and the War of 1812 after the United States had been established. In 1803 Napoleon wanted to continue vying with England as the dominant country in the world. He needed money. At the same time our third president, Thomas Jefferson, wanted to buy New Orleans to keep American trade moving down the Mississippi River. Having just lost an army, likely to yellow fever, in Haiti, Napoleon was ready to dicker. For \$15 million he sold claims to 828,000 square

miles of land to this new United States, doubling its size. And so, Lewis and Clark were sent out to investigate flora, fauna, and native populations in this acreage, which notably did not extend to the Pacific. No extension yet of the United States "from sea to shining sea." That would come in the 1840s with lands ceded by Mexico after we went to war with that country. Also, thanks to travel on the Oregon Trail, the border of land claimed by us was determined, settling where the United States ended and Canada began. Up to then Oregon country had had an uncertain relationship between Great Britain and the United States and an economy based on the beaver and fur trade, sea otters included. Meanwhile, the War of 1812 intervened. The United States got involved because both Britain and France refused to trade with our country unless each had control. This closed American merchants out of many of their markets, aside from smuggling. Plus, the British seized sailors considered English from ships they inspected, impressing them into the always needy British Navy. Also affecting western expansion, the British wanted to protect a profitable fur trade they kept with native Americans, mainly the Cherokee, Choctaw and Chickamauga. These Indians joined with the British to keep the western fringes of the United States ablaze which may be why Kentucky was called

"dark and bloody ground." We know how the War of 1812 went. We got "the rocket's red glare" and Beethoven wrote his 1812 overture celebrating Napoleon's defeat in Russia with actual cannons fired at the end. Thanks to "General Winter" and freezing conditions encountered by poorly prepared armies, out of 500,000 men only around 30,000 of Napoleon's troops survived. Napoleon had a habit of losing armies. European discord sent many people to America for refuge and the growing population fueled movements west, the Oregon immigration being one. Daniel Boone allegedly claimed those men going into the wilderness needed a good gun, a good horse and a good wife. He had to have a good wife because he spent a lot of time away from home. A good wife was first on the list for many taking emigrant trails. Also needed were an ax, a saw, sharp knives and other working tools. Five and a half months of supplies were required on the Oregon-California roads, but too much meant discarding some along the way while an overabundance of optimism about hunting along the way could bring about shortage and dependence on others. Organizations sprang up to advise travelers to Oregon and California. Missionaries like Jason Lee, who had seen the Willamette Valley, added voice, too, to the desirability of the Valley's land.

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# Ladder truck damage puts future at public events in question



**File Photo**  
The Stars and Stripes waves off Sweet Home Fire's ladder truck during a track meet at Husky Stadium in 2019.

**By Scott Swanson  
Of The New Era**

Sweet Home Fire's ladder truck may be a no-show at upcoming events Fire Chief Nick Tyler told Sweet Home Fire and Ambulance District's Board of Directors at their monthly meeting Tuesday, Aug. 19.

The truck's ladder, he said, was damaged as it was being lowered after hoisting the giant American flag at Sweet Home's Fourth of July fireworks show earlier this summer. The Pierce aerial fire engine, equipped with the 105-foot ladder, was acquired by SHFAD in 2007.

"There was no fault of anybody using the ladder or the truck," Tyler said, noting that the damage apparently occurred in the darkness as the truck was being prepared for departure from the event and wasn't actually noticed until later. "It was just something that happened."

Tyler said he was taking the blame, stating that he needs to establish "some policies, procedures, those types of checks and balances" for the operation of the truck.

"At the point where that got

damaged, I was really ignorant to how much damage we could do to the truck, raising and lowering the flag. So a lot of lessons learned on that."

He said initial fears were that the damage would cost as much as \$500,000 to repair, but more recent estimates indicate that the total may be more like \$50,000 – "a huge ouch."

Repair parts are on order and the truck should be back in service in four to six weeks, he said.

Tyler noted that the district is waiting to collect \$400,000 from the state of California for equipment and staffing sent to the Southern California fires earlier this year, which will help cover the repairs.

He said when the truck is back in service the department will have to determine whether it's worth risking damage to hang the existing flag, which is about 20x30 feet in size, or if it should purchase a commercially produced device intended for displaying a flag on a ladder truck.

Tyler and board members chatted about that, agreeing that the presence of the truck with the flag is "good PR."

"The situation we're going to find ourselves in is do we use a ladder truck, not for its intended purposes, against the manufacturer's recommendation?" Tyler said, adding that insurance would not have covered the damage caused by the flag operation for those reasons.

"We will get into the business of ensuring that it doesn't happen (again), now that we're all aware of the potential, and we'll build the correct procedure in place," he said.

The chief reported that the department's involvement in the Oregon Jamboree "went flawlessly," as festival organizers hired Adventure Medics of Bend to staff the event, leaving Sweet Home's personnel free to handle local calls.

"As far as I'm aware, it was the first Jamboree weekend that we handled everything in the community by ourselves," Tyler said. "Lebanon didn't come over for a single time during the entire weekend."

He added that that arrangement provided "a great model moving forward."

Also during the meeting, board members Rob Younger

See Fire Board, Page 9

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## RICE ROAD

From page 1

portion of the burn to stop it from getting too far into the Crescent Hill area.

SHFAD reported Monday evening that the fire's forward motion was stopped at 5:24 p.m., but crews remained on the scene, mopping up through the night.

Tyler, who spent most of Monday night at the fire, said that investigators were able to determine that it was started by a pickup in a grass field.

"The grass fire spread to the trees," he said.

A Level 1 evacuation was posted for the area by the Linn County Sheriff's Office, primarily to alert residents of the potential danger of the situation, Pettinger and Tyler said.

Tyler said a Level 3 evacuation order was posted for the Crescent Hill area "because the fire was heading that way." He said he was unsure



Photos by Scott Swanson

Smoke rises from a charred pasture behind a home off Rice Road.

how long that order stayed in effect.

The entire area was still under a Level 1 caution Tuesday morning as firefighters planned to spend the day mopping up and making sure it stayed contained.

Rice Road was closed short-

ly after firefighters arrived to cut down on congestion, Pettinger said, as there was a high volume of emergency traffic in the area, particularly around Holley Store.

Pettinger said Tuesday he did not know how many firefighters were involved,

but responders included personnel from ODF, Sweet Home, Brownsville, Lebanon, Halsey, the Oregon State Fire Marshal's Office, Linn County Sheriff's Office and Sweet Home Police.

Tyler said he appreciated Matt Jordan of No Drought

in Holley trucking water to firefighters and local loggers "who showed up with their fire rigs."

"Sweet Home Fire thanks everybody for reaching out," he said. "The community support was really outstanding, amazing."



Clouds of heavy smoke rise behind logging trucks north of Rice Road Monday afternoon.



A firefighter sprays water on burning vegetation.

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# SWEET NATIONAL NIGHT OUT



Jennifer Gaspard, left, and her daughter Ava make cotton candy at Sweet Home's National Night Out Tuesday, Aug. 19, on 13th Avenue. Above, the event drew a large crowd. Below, Lexi Vineyard, in pink, directs a game of axe throwing with Ben Keesecker, Katie Keesecker, left, and Brent Vineyard, foreground. Organizer Sean Morgan said the turnout was "smashing." Morgan credited Jennifer Gaspard and city staffer Angela Clegg with planning the event, the first in seven years. Morgan said it was held later than most, which are held on the first Tuesday of August, because of the Oregon Jamboree. See more photos at [sweethomenews.com](http://sweethomenews.com).

Photos by Miriam Swanson

## FIRE BOARD

From page 7

and Dawn Mitchell, re-elected in May, were sworn in, and board members voted to re-elect Mitchell as president, Larry Johnson as vice-president and Charlene Adams as secretary-treasurer.

### PS Trax

Tyler also told board members that the district has signed a contract with PSTRax, an app used by many fire service agencies that allows first responders to stay on top of checklist and inventory management.

He said that the staff has been wanting to use the program and he was able to find funding for it in this year's budget.

"It should really streamline

a lot of things that we do via paper, or we kind of do things several different ways, and it should allow us to use that one app and kind of consolidate all of those type of things internally," he said, adding that the system will keep track of the district's stocks of "office supplies, toilet paper rolls - I mean you can really track just about anything with it."

### Seismic Upgrades

Battalion Chief Josh Bondesen reported that the department has been getting bids from contractors for the seismic retrofitting work planned for Station 23.

He said work is expected to start in mid-September "which is exciting, because it seems like it's been kind of a long, drawn-out process."



## Fire damages three South Fork trailers

A firefighter and police officer Sean Potter douse flames in a burning motor home at South Fork mobile home park Tuesday, Aug. 19. Firefighters responded about 3:23 p.m. to the 3200 block of Main Street, to find heavy smoke and fire consuming roughly 50% of the structure and spreading to the adjacent mobile homes on either side, according to Sweet Home Fire and Ambulance District. A second alarm brought additional manpower and additional fire apparatus from mutual aid partners. Two of the three structures sustained heavy fire damage and the third sustained minimal damage to its interior. A total of 43 firefighters from Lebanon, Brownsville and the Oregon Department of Forestry responded, as well as police and Pacific Power personnel. The cause was not determined.

Photo by Scott Swanson

## The *Icebox* Performer Of The Week



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

This week we want to give a big shoutout to one of our welders, Julian! He has been crushing it on swing shift and is learning at an impressive pace—quickly becoming one of the fastest welders on the team.

Keep up the great work, Julian! Your dedication and progress don't go unnoticed.





# PLEIN AIR

From page 1

seat closer to the lake, getting up often to see what others were creating.

Painting en plein air is not new to Roscoe-Bragg, who's participated in the practice by herself and in classes. She explained that working on a painting can be a day-long process due to the amount of time it takes for the medium to set before another layer can be added.

As such, she takes multiple breaks, which also gives her time to re-perceive the image she's working on and to see others' creations and

how they perceive the scene.

"It's a great experience. It's a perfect time to share with your artist friends, your compatriots," Roscoe-Bragg said.

"You share a magical place that you really enjoy, and everybody paints something different even though you're all in the same place."

Tolman always thought Sweet Home would offer a great setting for a plein air event and has wanted to host one for years, she said.

"Sweet Home has so many talented artists and artisans that came out," Tolman said. "I think we plan to do this again because I think it will just grow."



Lee Roscoe-Bragg chooses a seat closer to the water, where she builds her images with layers of watercolor.



Olive Mondazze Benthimer, above left, chose to celebrate her 10th birthday with her mom, Edie Mondazze Benthimer, by participating in the plein air event at Foster Lake. Below, from left, Dianne Hills and Vanesa Gallup work on their paintings while Gallup's husband, Jeff, works on his phone.



Photos by Sarah Brown

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## RETIREEES

From page 5

fit, though he said he pretty much learned the business from scratch.

"I self-taught myself," he said. "They taught me a little bit.

"The presses were hard. I would stay here till 9 at night, running the presses and washing my hands. I had three different offset presses and I learned how to burn the plates. We had to make PMTs (images or text reproduced on photosensitive paper) in the darkroom.

"A lot of brain cells got burned up on these print jobs," Brown said. "We would go home and think about it overnight: 'You know, if we do this or that, maybe we can get this thing done.'"

He also had to learn to sell. "Because I worked in a mill, that took a while, to really go talk to people," Brown said.

"The No. 1 thing Doug said was to 'Make your presentation and then keep your mouth shut. The next guy that talks will be paying the bill.' I'm going to be lowering the price for the other guy or he's going to give in."

Also, he said, "I had to learn to dress right, instead of wearing a hickory shirt.

"Every Monday I had to make a list of all these people I had to go visit every week. Sometimes I didn't get lunch because I had to visit all these people."

The publication has changed over the years, especially as, Conner noted, Craigslist and Facebook began taking a severe toll on paper-based classified advertising.

"Nobody ever thought, back then, 'What's the repercussions of this?'"

Though the distribution of Tell & Sell shrank over the years – it was distributed as far away as Corvallis when Brown took over, it still has a place in the community, he said.

Plus, "I'm the only print shop around here," he said, noting that competitors in neighboring communities are also retiring or getting close.

Conner arrived at Tell & Sell after she took a computer class at Linn-Benton Community College, which at the time was located next door to Tell & Sell, from Leone Brown.

"Leone was a very intelligent woman," Gary Brown said. "That's why I married her. She knew a lot about photography, a lot about plants. She used to write a little deal for National Geographic.

"We used to take drives up

in the woods and she had a little clipboard. She would name 40 different plants. I look at it and I say, 'What kind of weed is that?' She'd write the name down in her notebook."

Conner took Leone Brown's class in 1993 and Brown offered her a job, working evenings at Tell & Sell as a typesetter.

"It just evolved from there," Conner said. "I knew nothing. So I had to learn everything from scratch. We used to cut and paste, do everything by hand."

Conner eventually ran the day-to-day office operation while Brown did the printing jobs in the back room and oversaw the printing and distribution of Tell & Sell.

"We used to have a graphic designer but she left about two years after we started going digital, and it's been me ever since," she said.

Brown said he's enjoyed the printing business.

"I was already a lumber grader, so I had an eye for stuff," he said, referring to the precise nature of the business.

"It was a challenge," he added, speaking positively.

Conner said the business has been much more than a job for her.

"All of our co-workers, we were more like family, you know," she said. "It wasn't like, oh, 9 to 5, 'OK, goodbye, see ya.'"

"It was like, you know, we laughed together, we cried together. We went through, you know, personal things together, right? And so I'm gonna miss that."

Though there have been others, Brown and Conner mentioned two who popped into mind: Melissa Hewitt (now Elliott), who left to found Honey Bee Stamps, which makes art supplies for the paper-crafting industry, and Kathy Rivas, who became Conner's "best friend" and is now retired.

They are proud of Elliott.

"I showed her how to develop her own 35 millimeter (film) stuff and I gave her everything in the darkroom," Brown said. "She created her own business."

Then there have been the customers.

"A lot of people over the counter, I've gotten to know really well," Conner said. "And I've prayed for them when they needed some, you know, prayer."

It's never gotten old, she said.

"I have never once, in all the years I've been here, in 32 years, woken up in the morning and said, 'I don't want to go to work today,' no matter how things were.

I've just never felt that way. So it's been a real blessing to be here.

"The Lord knew what I needed, and so it's been a real blessing."

One of the only real bumps in the road they could recall during a recent conversation was when they added the maxim, "The person who walks with God need not worry about his future, for he is sure to reach his destination," which has appeared on Tell & Sell's header for some 35 years.

"That was hard, the first couple of years," Brown said. "Yeah, it turned away a lot of people when I put it in there."

Conner stepped in: "It was very few, so few we can't even remember the number. But on the flip side, we've had a lot of positive comments about it."

Now that they're nearing the finish line, Conner said she has plans: "For the first two weeks I'm not going to set my alarm, no computer."

"That's going to drive her crazy," Brown observed.

"Then we'll see what happens," Conner said, noting that she has three daughters and a son in the area, who have "six grandbabies and 1½ great-grandchildren. "I do want to be able to spend more time with my grandbabies."

Tell & Sell has been a large part of her life for those 32 years, as rapidly becomes obvious to any visitor.

"We are so very thankful that The New Era has a vision of keeping the Tell & Sell going for the public," Conner said, insisting that that be included in this story. "We hope that all our customers will continue to support them in this endeavor."

Brown's list of to-do's is, frankly, too long to cover in this space.

"I've got a lot out there to do," he said. He's built a retirement home, which he's looking forward to.

Brown's list of interests also would not fit in this space. He says he knows and has fished just about every high lake in Oregon and has hiked trails in this region that aren't on maps.

"I've been everywhere in the state of Oregon," he said.

"He just needs to try to relax," Conner said.

"I'll be on the porch at 4 in the morning, waiting for the roosters to start crowing," Brown predicted. "TV, I'm still learning how to do TV. I'm not much of a TV watcher.

"I do like to listen to CDs on the front deck. 12 by 24 with chairs on it. The neighbors come over and we sit there and have our lemonade."



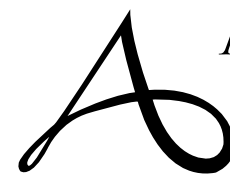
Dr. Michael W. Stoner

### Q: Do I have dry eyes or allergies?

**A:** Although allergy season is in full swing some people who have allergy type symptoms may in fact have dry eyes. There are specific eye drops for allergies and dry eyes. It's important to use the correct drop or you may make your symptoms worse. Education or evaluation can facilitate the right treatment. Dry eye is an inflammation type condition in which there are insufficient tears to lubricate and nourish the eye. Tears are necessary for maintaining the health of the front surface of the eye and for providing clear vision. People with dry eyes either do not produce enough tears or have a poor quality of tears. Dry eye is a common and often chronic problem, particularly in older adults. The primary approaches used to manage and treat dry eyes include adding tears, conserving tears, increasing tear production, and/or treat the inflammation of the eyelids or eye surface that contributes to the dry eyes. Ocular Allergies is the abnormal response of sensitive eyes to contact with allergens and other irritating substances. Pollen in the air is the most common cause of allergy symptoms but other things in the air such as smoke, animal dander or fumes may also trigger an allergic response. The primary approach to manage ocular allergy is avoidance of allergic triggers, cool compresses, eyewash, oral anti-histamines or eye drops specific for allergies. Most eye drops used for dry eyes are mainly used to increase volume of tears. Drops used for ocular allergies have an anti-histamine component, which reduces the effects of histamine but also dry the eye. Using an ocular allergy drop will make a dry eye problem feel worse. If you are unable to find relief you should have your eyes evaluated to determine what condition you have and the best treatment options available to you specifically.

Advanced Family Eyecare | Michael W. Stoner, O.D.

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# TRANSPORTATION

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

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



**Q:** What are the worst drinks for my teeth?

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

1. **SODA.** Two of the most harmful things for our teeth are sugar and acid, and carbonated beverages are full of both! The teeth literally start dissolving under the attack of the acid, leading to cavities.

Wolthuis Family Dentistry

2. **SPORTS DRINKS.** Like soda, they are often full of sugar and are highly acidic. One study showed that lemon-lime Gatorade dissolved more tooth enamel than any other drink, including Coke.

3. **FRUIT JUICE.** After reading to this point, you probably know why this is on the list. Juice has lots of sugar and acid too. While it could be considered a healthy option, most fitness experts will advise you not to drink your calories. Eat the entire fruit instead, and enjoy the health benefits of the fiber.  
Drink lots of water, maintain a healthy diet and lifestyle, and see your dentist regularly, to be sure your teeth stay in good shape!

COMPLIMENTARY ORTHODONTIC CONSULTATIONS (reg. \$85)

**Wolthuis Family Dentistry | Ivan H. Wolthuis, DMD, MAGD**  
1524 Long St. Sweet Home, OR - 541-367-2931 - [www.SweetHomeDental.com](http://www.SweetHomeDental.com)

MEMBER OF: American Dental Association, Oregon Dental Association, Southern Willamette Dental Society, Academy of General Dentistry (Master), International Association of Orthodontics

# MCKERN

From page 6

If we look at the people who contributed history to the East Linn Museum, we see they were not foreigners. They were American citizens moving to the frontier much as their forebears had been.

Andrew Wiley started his travels by leaving Virginia for the Midwest.

Josiah Weddle had first seen the West as a seeker of California gold before returning back east to marry and start a family. He and his family sojourned in Texas during the Civil War before coming west.

Jess Barr, who married Anna from the Brownsville Kirk family, was a farmer who also worked for Richard Finley at his grist mill on the Calapooia.

After the Oregon Country's boundary was clarified, this country's offer of homesteads helped spur settlement in the area.

A factor definitely affecting development of Oregon was the geography through which the trail passed – prairies and mountains. The latter would bring great hardship to the less well prepared traveling west.

Discovery of gold in California and the resulting rush of men headed to gold fields altered settlement on the plains and prairies to the east of us as well as the discovery that cattle on the Great Plains survived there as well as in the Willamette Valley, once buffalo had been hunted out as regrettable disrespect to the earth in general.

For a time, the western plains on the east side of the Rockies were considered desert, which explains why settlement on the edges

of the Pacific Ocean and in our valley, where grass grew tall and green looked better than finding a place near the mountains to farmers.

Andrew Wiley sponsored going from here east by getting lost in the Cascades, climbing a tree on Lost Prairie and spying the Santiam Pass. He subsequently encouraged cattle drives across the pass to bunch grass territory along the Deschutes River.

He was one of the promoters for the Santiam Wagon Road, a toll road across the pass.

Too, he and his wife operated one of the roadhouses alongside the road. General prices were 25 cents each to keep a horse for the night, with an additional 25 cents each time it was fed.

Did a horse get oats for desert? Or an apple in season?

As the museum collection demonstrates, a focus by those headed here was not always on green grass.

A 1905 census indicates nearly every man head of household called himself a farmer, but "green gold" was about to be discovered: the value of the surrounding forests.

A new type of homestead was being offered, one centered on lumber and minerals following the 160-acre pattern used on farm land.

If the green grass of fields was an allure, even bigger were the profits obtainable from 160 acres of prime timber.

But the old days of individual enterprise as it may be we've imagined it were fading because big timber interests, which had chopped and sawed their way through the forests of the upper Midwest, were ready to move this way.

Optimism and the hope for prosperity surged again just as it had for those pioneers loading Conestoga wagons while reading pamphlets (if they could read) about what they'd need to go gallivanting after rumors of greener grass.

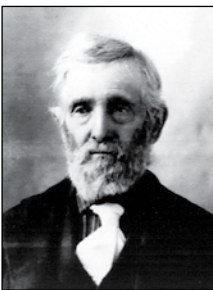
The farming hamlet of Sweet Home was lucky if it counted 300 people in 1910. In the early 1930s, with the timber boom, the population had increased tenfold and housing was catch-as-catch-can.

Like many boom towns – whether oil, gold or an opportune growth in manufacturing as in wartime, chicken coops became shelters for those looking to work in the woods or sawmills of the timber industry.

We tend to look back with a certain amount of idealization of the times that have passed and to find a share of their optimism for finding greener and more opportune pastures.

But a quick look at the Louisiana Purchase and the War of 1812 reveal life can have complexities we don't expect.

So as we pursue our own travels, we might as well carry along the optimism of hope while being open to examples of history.



Andrew Wiley



Jess Barr



## DIAL-A-BUS

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MON-FRI 7 AM - 4 PM  
CALL TO SCHEDULE  
OFFICE HOURS 8-4



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HOY'S HARDWARE  
13TH & KALMIA  
SHEA POINT

### LEBANON:

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LBCC  
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## Sweet Home Community Center

880 18th Ave  
(541) 367-4775

### Senior Activity Center

Hours:

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

### Senior Center Board of Directors

Murya Scherer, President  
Shirley Schumacher, Vice President  
Pam Barbee, Secretary  
Sally Pelham, Treasurer  
Ken Bronson, Parliamentarian  
Linda Anderson, Director  
Danny Bidwell, Director  
Tonni Hutchinson, Director  
Ruben Rivas, Director  
Bob Weidner, Director  
Jean Holcomb, Director  
Dawn Mitchell, Executive Director



Public Notices

CITY OF HALSEY  
PUBLIC NOTICE – VACATION OF  
WEST “N” STREET

The following matter shall be reviewed by the Halsey City Council at a public hearing on September 9th, 2025, 7:00 p.m. at Halsey City Hall, 100 Halsey St., 97348. The purpose of this hearing is to obtain public comments pertaining to the vacation of West “N” Street. Oregon law requires that testimony and evidence must be directed toward the decision criteria. Interested parties may appear in person to comment or give written testimony to City Hall prior to 4:00 pm on Monday, September 8th.

APPLICANT’S NAME: Leland Zehr  
TOPIC OF HEARING: Street vacation of West “N” Street

LOCATION OF PROPERTY: Approximate location 1387 W. 4th Street, Halsey, Oregon

PRESENT PLAN DESIGNATION: Residential  
PRESENT ZONING: Residential  
SUMMARY OF REQUEST: To access all potential lots for future development, the property owner has requested the City vacate the West “N” Street right of way from West 4th to West 5th Streets, Halsey, Oregon. The property owner owns the tax lots on both sides of the “N” Street right of way.  
-- Briana Parra, City Administrator  
(Aug 27 - Sept 3)

**NOTICE TO INTERESTED PERSONS**  
On August 11, 2025 the Linn County, OR. Circuit Ct. appointed Heidi K. Anderson as the Personal Representative (PR) in the Estate of David Warren King Case #25PB07052. Claims against the estate must be presented to the PR, with proper vouchers, within 4 months from the 1st publication date or they may be barred. All persons whose rights may be affected by this proceeding may get add'l info from the court, the PR or the Attorney for the PR. PR and Attorney for PR:

Public Notices

Heidi K. Anderson c/o Dean Gibbons Law, 205 SE Spokane St.  
Ste 300, Portland, OR 97202  
First published: August 27, 2025.  
(Aug 27)

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 27 - Sept 17)

Yard Sale

Aug. 22-31  
41989 N. River Drive Sweet Home  
(Aug 20 - Aug 27)

Help Wanted

Foster Lake RV Resort looking for a part time maintenance person or couple. Light maintenance duties, year round or seasonal, must have their own RV. Call for application, compensation package, and further details 541-367-5629.  
(Aug 27 - Sept 17)

Statewide Notices

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

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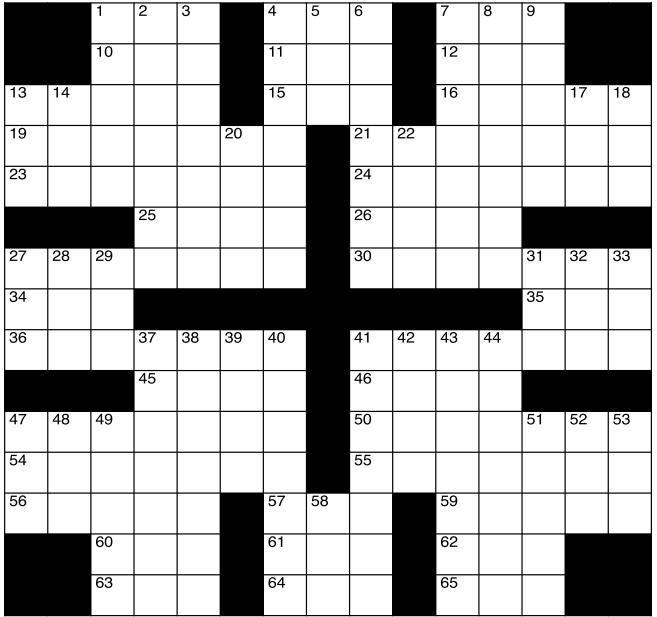
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CROSSWORD



CLUES ACROSS

1. Chop or cut

4. Green veggie

7. Bar bill

10. Doctors’ group

11. One who buys and sells securities (slang)

12. Be in debt

13. Lively ballroom dance

15. Singer Charles

16. Polish city

19. Former

21. Dismissing from employment

23. Minerals

24. Plotted

25. Consult

26. After a prayer

27. Agents of one’s downfall

30. Leaseholders

34. Supervises flying
35. Voodoo god

36. Alfalfa

41. Apply another coat to

45. Witnesses

46. Jai \_\_, sport

47. Ones who proof

50. Recant

54. Small group with shared interests

55. Part of warming headgear

56. Woolen cloth

57. Snag

59. Central American fruit tree

60. Woman (French)

61. The 22nd letter of the Greek alphabet

62. Type of bed

63. Soviet Socialist Republic

64. Consume

65. Japanese freight company (abbr.)

CLUES DOWN

1. Czech monetary unit

2. Able to arouse intense feeling

3. Elk

4. Muscular weaknesses

5. Geological time

6. Depths of the ocean

7. Burns to the ground

8. Becomes cognizant of

9. Cause to shade

13. US political party

14. Refers to some of a thing

17. Single

18. Type of beer

20. Ancient Iranian people

22. Grocery chain

27. Gridiron league

28. English river

29. \_\_ and cheese

31. Peyton’s younger brother
32. Long time

33. High schoolers’ test

37. Respects

38. Organize anew

39. Filippo \_\_, Saint

40. Intrinsic nature of something

41. Cheese dish

42. Ancient Greek City

43. Patron saint of Ireland

44. Produced by moving aircraft or vehicle

47. Shock treatment

48. \_\_ Jones

49. Things

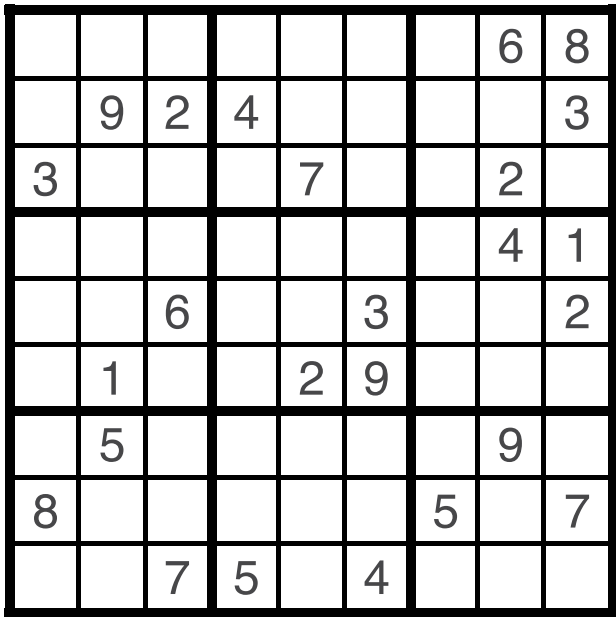
51. Having wings

52. Panthers’ QB Newton

53. Third-party access

58. Satisfaction

SUDOKU



Level: Advanced



# PUBLIC SAFETY

From page 3

responded, located male who was registered owner of vehicle, counselled him.

12:25 p.m. - Caller reported that male juvenile riding electric scooter on sidewalk in 4900 block Mimosa almost knocked him over. Officer responded, contacted juvenile's mother by phone and advised her of complaint.

1:51 p.m. - Bradley Marion Pugh, 41, arrested by Lebanon police on SHMC warrant for FTA in hit and run case. Cited to appear Sept. 10.

2:45 p.m. - Kevin Earl Terwilliger, 62, arrested by Lebanon police on SHMC warrant for FTC in driving while suspended case. Cited to appear Sept. 10.

4:53 p.m. - Multiple callers in area of Safeway reported male running with blood on his face in 1300 block Nandina St. Officer responded, contacted male, who was checked out by medics but declined transport and did not want to pursue charges.

7:44 p.m. - Crash reported near Milepost 18 on Hwy. 228. According to OSP, Jacqueline Kim McKinney, driving a Toyota Coaster, missed a driveway and drove into a ditch. Vehicle towed.

8:25 p.m. Driver warned by LCSO for impeding traffic due to low speed on highway, Hwy. 228/Sunset Dr.

9:42 p.m. - Caller reported finding unattended fire in 49700 block Quartzville Rd. Caller put fire out.

10:19 p.m. - Coby James Emmitt, 30, arrested at Linn County Jail for violation of restraining order.

10:51 p.m. - Deputy warned

females for illegal camping, 50100 block Quartzville Rd.

11:02 p.m. - Deputy left trespass warning at unoccupied camp just off road in 47400 block Quartzville Rd.

11:26 p.m. - Deputy left trespass warning at unoccupied illegal camp in 46600 block Quartzville Rd.

## Aug. 21

7:08 a.m. - Caller reported noise disturbance at new solar site, 34500 block Enos Dr., Brownsville.

7:51 a.m. - Benjamin Todd, 29, of Klamath Falls, arrested for possession of stolen vehicle following traffic stop in 31800 block Oak Plain Dr. According to LCSO, cargo trailer he was pulling was stolen from Klamath Falls. During traffic stop, LCSO located a jet ski reported stolen in Klamath Falls, as well as three ATVs found inside cargo trailer. Todd and passenger David Chapman, 18, of Klamath Falls, both transported to Linn County Jail and charged with possession of stolen vehicle. Investigation ongoing.

8:49 a.m. - Caller reported trailer stolen from 51300 block Quartzville Rd. Investigation ongoing. Report taken.

9:13 a.m. - Shawn Gali, 47, of Sweet Home, arrested on LCSO warrant and cited for SHMC warrant following domestic disturbance in 27300 block Rowell Hill Rd. Report taken.

9:49 a.m. - Neighborhood dispute reported in 38300 block Crawfordsville Dr. According to LCSO, contractors cut down wrong trees.

10:52 a.m. - Deputy responded to civil dispute regarding fence being replaced

in 38200 block Hwy. 228, Brownsville.

12:39 p.m. - Caller reported cougar sighted east of Cascadia in 50100 block Hwy. 20, near park.

1:13 p.m. - Caller reported horse worth more than \$10,000 stolen, 42500 block North River Dr. Report taken.

## Aug. 20

7:42 a.m. - Caller reported disturbance in 1400 block 13th Ave. Officer responded, report taken for kidnapping, assault IV, strangulation and menacing in connection with alleged assault on female. Jacob Scott Fisher, 40, arrested at 3:09 p.m. on Aug. 21 on those charges. Lodged at Linn County Jail.

8:27 a.m. - Natalie Marie DeShazer, 36, arrested for unlawful possession of controlled substance, 3600 block Green River Rd.

10:07 a.m. - Two callers reported they were nearly struck at the intersection of 18th Ave./Main St. by a red pickup headed eastbound on Main St. Officer responded and will be on alert for that vehicle.

11:08 a.m. - Caller reported someone breaking into vehicle on Cascade Timber Consulting land. A deputy was able to determine that an individual had locked themselves out of their car and had broken a window to retrieve their keys. 42900 block Marks Ridge Dr. Report taken.

12:23 p.m. - Caller reported catalytic converter stolen in 1800 block Tamarack St. Officer responded, report taken. Value \$245.

5:07 p.m. - Caller reported hit and run in 2800 block Juniper St. Info noted.

6:14 p.m. - John Emery Eggers, 40, of Springfield, arrested on warrant following traffic stop near milepost 25 on Hwy. 20. Transported to Linn County Jail.

7:45 p.m. - Caller reported transients had set up camp in 1400 block 45th Ave. Officer responded, was unable to locate anyone in area, but seized bicycle as found property.

## Aug. 19

1:04 a.m. - Susan Marie Ausbun Miller, 51, cited on SHMC warrant for FTA in criminal misconduct case,

Weddle Bridge. Cited and released.

3:01 a.m. - Athena Jaques, 49, of Cascadia, arrested for warrant, 45900 block Hwy. 20. Report taken.

8:03 a.m. - Caller reported that a table saw she had borrowed was missing and her ring camera had video footage missing, 1300 block Poplar St. Also, she said, a male had destroyed her floors with a knife over previous several months, 1300 block Poplar St. Officer responded, information noted.

4:30 p.m. - Crash reported in 3000 block Main St., Clark Mill Road intersection. Operators were Trace Lynn Terwilliger, 40, of Sweet Home, driving Chevy S10 pickup, Jerad Allen Olsen, 35, of Sweet Home, driving a 2024 Freightliner dump truck. According to SHPD, Freightliner was traveling westbound on south side of intersection when Chevy pulled out and turned westbound onto Main St., colliding with Freightliner. Terwilliger cited for driving uninsured, failure to obey traffic control device. Randy Dale Ensley, 61, a passenger in Terwilliger's truck, arrested on SHMC warrant for FTC in disorderly conduct case. Cited and released.

5:23 p.m. - Crash reported near milepost 20 on Hwy. 228. According to OSP, Mercedes work van operated by Rick Duane Douglas, 39, of Sweet Home, was eastbound at approximately 40 mph when Douglas lost consciousness "for unknown reason" and van continued until it came to stop on the westbound side of the highway. Vehicle towed.

7:47 p.m. - Caller reports stop sign down in 1900 block Willow St. Reported that it fell over after children were hanging on it. Officer responded, Public Works placed temporary sign. Investigation ongoing.

8:30 p.m. - Paul Lester Herzberg II, 38, cited for driving while suspended, driving uninsured, following traffic stop on motorcycle on 18th Ave. at railroad tracks.

8:43 p.m. - LCSO received call from concerned parent regarding coaches making school athletes run laps as punishment for poor performance. Parent was informed

that this did not break any laws. 32400 block Hwy. 228, Halsey.

9:16 p.m. - Larry John Follitt, 49, arrested after he turned himself in at SHPD, 1950 Main St., on LMC warrant for probation violation in driving while suspended case and Linn County warrant for FTC in felon in possession of firearm, probation violation in criminal citation case. Lodged at Linn County Jail.

11:10 p.m. - Caller reported female screaming at people at bus stop at 13th Ave./Kalmia St. Officer responded, determined female was having mental health issues. She agreed to be quiet.

**Aug. 18**

8:47 a.m. - Deputies responded to report of abandoned boat, 40600 block Dew Rd.

10:56 a.m. - Caller reported someone had cut hole in fence at Freedom Hill Church, 2470 Main St. Officer responded. Caller requested extra patrol.

11:43 a.m. - Corey Alan Smith, 61, arrested on AMC warrant for FTC in unspecified case, LJC warrant for contempt of court, LCCC for FTA in possession of meth case, SHMC warrant for FTC in failure to perform duties of a driver case, SHPD, 1950 Main St. Cited and released.

11:45 a.m. - Multiple callers reported juveniles on ATVs speeding in 3700 block Green River Dr., riding on "No ATVs" trails. One caller reported that a juvenile ran into street sign with ATV, then left location. Officer responded, located two 15-year-old and one 16-year-old males, who were referred to the Juvenile Department for hit and run. Parents advised.

12:58 p.m. - Caller reported male had threatened to shoot her, 1100 block Cedar St. Officer responded, report taken for menacing, unlawful use of weapon.

8:09 p.m. - Caller reported \$2,500 stolen from safe in 40100 block Hwy. 228. Investigation ongoing. Report taken.

10:48 p.m. - Multiple callers reported stop signs down at intersections of Long St. and 12th, 10th avenues. Officer responded, Public Works to put up temporary signs. Report taken for criminal mischief II. Investigation ongoing.

10:55 p.m. - Caller reported male threw objects at window of McDonald's, 2000 block Main St. Officer responded, contacted male,

# EVENTS

From page 3

## Bingo fundraiser for Kids Christmas Store

A Bingo fundraiser for the 11th Annual Sweet Home Kids Free Christmas Store will be held starting from 5 to 8 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 13, at the RezRock, 1621 53rd Ave., Foster.

Cost is \$20 for four cards.

The event includes concessions, door prizes, and every

Bingo winner will receive a gift certificate from a local business.

The Kids Christmas Store, founded and organized by Nancy Patton, is run through the nonprofit Presidents Club/Beautification Committee. The store will be held at Freedom Hill Church on Dec. 6 for kids ages 2 through 17, who can shop for free for the families they live with.

For more information, contact Patton at (541) 409-4276.

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**See more Public Safety listings, as well as updates, at [sweethome-news.com](https://www.sweethome-news.com).**



CENTRAL LINN NEWS



City Picnic in Halsey

Crew members from the Halsey-Shedd Fire District flip burgers and hot dogs over a barbecue flame while residents spread themselves across Halsey Memorial Park during The City of Halsey's annual summer barbecue and movie night Friday, Aug. 22. At right, children fish for aquatic species from a bowl of cold water. See many more photos and more info online at [SweetHomeNews.com/Category/Central-Linn](http://SweetHomeNews.com/Category/Central-Linn).

Photos by Sarah Brown



Brownsville Hands on History provides fun for all



Photos by Cindi Hamar

Embalming Surgeon Oscar B. Hult, above, discusses his line of work at the Hands on History event. At right, participants get a wagon ride around the neighborhood adjoining Library Park in Brownsville. To see more details and photos from the event, visit [sweethomenews.com](http://sweethomenews.com) and click on the "Central Linn" button.

Despite an extreme heat advisory, participants showed up in droves for the fourth annual Hands on History day, celebrated Saturday, Aug. 23, in Library Park in Brownsville. People stood in line, waiting for their turn to pan for gold, straighten wool, grind flour, make a corn husk doll or go on a ride in a carriage pulled by mules through the streets of Brownsville. Compelling presentations covered a variety of interests: Oscar B. Hult the embalming surgeon; Roy Houtz, president of the Mid Valley Prospectors club; and Mariah Rocker, who spoke on challenges faced by Black pioneers in Oregon. Parents split up during the event, going in different directions – one taking the baby to the fiddler playing music while the other taking children on the carriage ride. There was something for everyone.

– Cindi Hamar



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# Local softball player gets taste of national-level competition

By Scott Swanson  
Of The New Era

Natalie McCool tried a couple of sports before she found one she really liked.

"I've tried basketball and wrestling, but they weren't really for me," said McCool, 12.

When she was 8, during COVID, she tried softball.

"I needed something to do and my mom signed me up for softball," she said. "I had fun playing and practicing with my friends so I have just been playing ever since."

She's come a long way in four years.

McCool qualified earlier this year to play in the United States Specialty Sports Association 2025 Girls Fast Pitch All American Games July 28 - Aug. 2 at the USSSA Space Coast Complex in Melbourne, Fla.

She was one of five players in the 12 and under division from the West Coast Region to qualify for the competition, and one of two from Oregon selected to play in games in Florida.

She and a team of fellow-qualifiers from six regions all over the nation played two days of pool play and then competed in a single-elimination tournament on Day 3 and 4. The event also included a skills competition and home run derby.

Her team, which had one practice together before competition with teammates and coaches who had just met, went 2-4 for the event, as McCool went 10 for 14 at the plate and, playing catcher, threw out two runners at second and caught one off first base in those six games.

She also had an unassisted double play at first base when she caught a line drive and then touched first base to get the lead runner out before the runner could tag up.

In the skills competition, McCool won the overhand velocity throw competition for her 12U age group, with an overhand throw clocked at 61 mph - in field temperatures that averaged 95 de-



**Photos courtesy of Colette McCool**  
Natalie McCool stands at the USSSA Space Coast Complex in Melbourne, Fla., after qualifying to compete in the 2025 Girls Fast Pitch All American Games there. At right, she plays catcher during the competition.

grees, with humidity exceeding 70% most days.

McCool started her softball career in Sweet Home, playing with the Huskies travel club team.

"I practiced a lot, initially, with my parents and Papa," she said. My Papa Gerald Nakamura used to coach my mom's Kidsports softball teams. Papa Gerald helped me a lot in the beginning and continues to be a great support. He and my Grandma tell my parents to be quiet and just let me play."

After a year with Sweet Home, she moved to a team in Eugene, then to SOAR, a travel team based in Canby, where she plays with the U14 team weekends from September to early November and in the spring and summer.

"I was looking for a higher level and just more peo-

ple to meet and see and just branching out my opportunities," she said. She specializes in catching and playing third base.

"I like catching because you are involved in every pitch," she said. "I'm leading the infield and letting my teammates know where to throw the ball. I'm working on my back picks to first and third base right now. Playing third is also fun because you get a lot of hard-hit balls at that spot."

She's not the first athlete in the family. Her dad, Mike McCool, was a nationally ranked wrestler at Crook County High School in Prineville and her mom, Colette McCool, played golf at Sheldon in Eugene, then at Pacific University.

Mike McCool is the founder and owner of McCool Millworks in Sweet Home and Colette McCool works at Vestas Wind Systems, supporting the Offshore Procurement for the Empire Wind Project 1.

Natalie, though, is self-driven beyond the family influence.

"I practice every day in my backyard," she said. My dad set up a hitting cage for me with a pitching machine, and tee. I also go to hitting and catching lessons at Bomb



Squad in Salem.

"My travel team SOAR practices twice a week in Canby. I just recently joined Steelhead Fitness so I can do my winter workouts closer to home."

She also is entering the eighth grade at Sweet Home Junior High.

"I want to play for Sweet Home High School varsity softball, and then college," she said. "It's so hard to get noticed and recruited, so right now I just focus on having fun and the process to becoming a better athlete and just see where it takes me."

She said she saw the USSSA opportunity on social media and "I just knew I could compete."

"I practiced every day in my backyard and at the high school fields. Also, my hitting coach Alex Ledgerwood, at Bomb Squad, thought I could compete."

Getting to the USSSA qualifying event earlier this year in West Linn turned out to be, maybe, the biggest challenge.

"My mom and I drove to the tryout after school on a Friday," she said. "We almost didn't make it due to traffic and getting lost in PDX. We found the field and I just jumped out of the car and went for it."

"I wouldn't be able to try out because registration ended, like 15 minutes before, but the lady running the whole trial was nice enough to let me try out."

"I went out there with no warmup, and I thought I was gonna do horrible, since I didn't even get a single, like, arm stretch in or anything. And I did great."

USSSA is a national organization that hosts events all over the country for baseball

and softball, Colette McCool said.

"Every year tryouts across the U.S. are held to identify high level talent for both sports. Kids are measured on speed, agility, throwing velocity, bat speed and position evaluations."

The top performers selected met at the USSSA Space Coast Complex, a baseball stadium and 13-diamond multi-sports facility in Viera, Fla., an unincorporated area outside Melbourne, where, McCool said, a number of pro baseball teams hold their spring camps.

Natalie said the trip was about more than just the opportunity to play softball with girls from all over the U.S..

"I also really enjoyed visiting the Kennedy Space Center," she said. "I have strong interest in engineering and robotics, so getting to see all of the droids and robots that have been designed and used in outer space was pretty cool."

Natalie says she likes "being outside with my friends" playing softball, and hitting is her favorite part of the sport.

"I love the sound and pop of the ball off my bat," she said. "I also love to throw base runners out on the base paths. I also really like traveling to other places and seeing different parts of the state and country with my family."

Her immediate goals, she said, are "to represent my family, teammates, and coaches well by being a great teammate at the games."

"Second, I want to see how I compete with kids from across the country. Being in Sweet Home, Oregon, sometimes you don't realize there is so much more out there."

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