



## BACK TO SCHOOL

Students and family members flood out of the buildings on the first day of school Tuesday, Sept. 2, at Sweet Home Junior High, above, and Oak Heights School right.  
Photos by Scott Swanson

# School Board member added, another resigns

By Scott Swanson  
Of The New Era

Sweet Home School Board members chose a new board member Monday night, Sept. 8, then watched another of their members resign following a clamorous discussion of the board's recent actions regarding alleged illegal meeting activity.

Board members interviewed four candidates to fill the position vacated after the resignation in late July by newly elected member Erin Barstad. They chose former district teacher and administrator Chris Hiaasen to fill the at large position.

After electing new officers to fill vacancies that remained from their Aug. 11 meeting, board members launched into a review of the status of complaints filed with the district regarding alleged serial meetings held by several board members in July that resulted in the scheduling, and then cancellation, of a special meeting to consider the termination of Supt. Terry Martin.

After that status discussion became rancorous, with board members launching accusations of slander and

See School Board, Page 5



Photo by Scott Swanson  
Supt. Terry Martin swears in new School Board member Chris Hiaasen Monday evening, Sept. 8.

# New memorial honors 'Renaissance man' Dr. Alan Blake

By Scott Swanson  
Of The New Era

Dr. Alan Blake was one of Dr. Gary Goby's customers – at Goby's lumberyard, Goby's Walnut Products, located in Aurora.

Both medical doctors practising in Lebanon, they had varied interests, and both were interested in fine woodworking with quality hardwoods. Goby had built a side business harvesting old, oversized, often dead and dying maple and walnut trees, which he processed into slabs for use in woodworking projects.

That's one of the many things Blake did when he wasn't delivering babies and practicing family medicine in Sweet Home and Lebanon.

On Aug. 25 Samaritan Sweet Home Medical Center staffers gathered with Goby



Photo by Miriam Swanson  
Zsuzsa Blake, Dr. Alan Blake's widow, scrutinizes a memorial created to honor her late husband, a longtime physician in Sweet Home.

and family members to dedicate a memorial to Blake, who died two years ago after suffering a series of strokes.

To honor Blake's memory, the Sweet Home Center staff asked Goby, who is now retired as well, to create a cus-

tom shadow box that reflected Blake's medical career and his passion for woodworking.

Blake's widow, Zsuzsa (pronounced "Zu-sha") and her sister Yoli Pinter, reflected on his "Renaissance man" personality and interests in their

living room shortly after the memorial.

### Active From the Start

Alan Blake was born Dec. 10, 1957 in Carrollton, Ky. His family moved around "a lot," Zsuzsa said because Alan's father was a construction engineer.

When Alan was in sixth grade, the family moved to Seattle.

He met Zsuzsa (pronounced "Zu-sha") at the University of Washington, where he was working toward an undergraduate degree in physics; they married in the summer of 1979, after he graduated.

But things didn't work out quite the way Zsuzsa had planned.

"He came over one day and said, 'I've changed my mind.'

See Dr. Blake, Page 8

Hometown  
Newspaper of  
**RITA  
RUSSELL**



**FALL  
SPORTS  
PREVIEW  
INSIDE**

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# OBITUARIES

## Calvin Carver

March 21, 1951 – Aug. 28, 2025

Calvin Clayton Carver, of Sweet Home, passed away peacefully on Aug. 28, 2025, surrounded by his loving family after an unrelenting battle with three different primary cancers.



He was 74 years old.

Born on March 21, 1951, in Roseburg, Calvin graduated from Riverbank High School in California in 1970.

He married Roberta Robbins in 1973 to start their family. Over the years, he worked a variety of jobs that reflected his hardworking spirit and love for the land—from dairies in California and Oregon, to the timber industry in Sweet Home, to gold mining in Cottage Grove, and finally to raising cattle and pigs on a farm in Alsea.

Calvin found joy in the outdoors. He was an avid fisherman and hunter, and his deep love for animals endured throughout his life. His home backed up to an open field where deer visited daily, and he made sure they were always cared for—with mineral blocks and treats to nibble on. Watching them from his living room brought him peace and happiness.

Calvin is survived by his children, Michelle (Skip) Marler of Foster, Clayton (Deshawnda) Carver of Sweet Home, Gary (Heidi) Carver of Gresham; grandchildren Nick (Terra) Marler, Trace Marler, Draeke Carver, Avery Carver, Wyatt Carver, Timmy (Samantha) Miller and Racheal Miller; great-grandchildren Sophie Jean Marler and Harper Jo Miller; brother Clifford (Kathy) Carver of Lebanon; sister-in-laws Barbara Campbell of Lacombe and Tutie Widmark of Lebanon; and brother-in-law Steve Kilgore of Lacombe.

He was preceded in death by his wife, Roberta K. Carver (2024); son Larry C. Carver; parents Clayton Clifford Carver and Anna Gertrude Cunningham; sister Cherry Ann Carver; and brother Clyde

Blaylock.

A celebration of life to honor Calvin will be held at the Sweet Home Funeral Home on Oct. 4 at 1 p.m.

He was so looking forward to one more hunting season so we thought it only fitting to plan his celebration on opening day of rifle deer season.

Sweet Home Funeral Chapel is handling the arrangements.

**Paid Obituary**

## Patricia Collins

April 17, 2014 – Aug. 30, 2025

Patricia "Patsy" Nadine Collins, 11, of Sweet Home, passed away Aug. 30, 2025.

She was born April 17, 2014 in Springfield to Melinda Roberson and Daniel Roloff.



She has lived in Springfield, Roseburg and moved to Sweet Home in 2015. She attended Holley Christian Church and Freedom Hill Church. She was a beloved student at Holley Elementary and, more currently, Hawthorne Elementary.

Patsy loved watching her favorite YouTuber: Midlife Stockman, whom her Memaw nicknamed "Mower Man." She was recently given a merch T-shirt from his site that she only was able to wear one time.

Her YouTuber was her current obsession; previous ones included Train Fanning (watching locomotive videos), navigating her Leapfrog tablet, playing the Stretchy Monkey game, listening to all types of music, playing with cars, writing her name with little help, and admiring her older siblings and younger, very energetic, brother Rusty.

She would usually dance on request or when spontaneously hearing just about any tune.

She also enjoyed watching original Spiderman movie with Kristen Dunst and thinking she was Ayla, her sister very time she had a scene and saying "Eyela" over and over again (which is how she pronounced "Ayla").

"Anyone who met Patsy knows that she would light

every single room with her smiles and laughter. She's always so happy and loves everyone. She's a popular little girl of Sweet Home. All of the school kids love her and see her as a star, because, well, she is our bright shining star." -Liz Roby

Patsy is survived by her parents, Dan of Monroe, and Mindy of Sweet Home; grandparents Patricia (Memaw) of Sweet Home, and Ken (Papa) of Sweet Home; biological grandparents Ken and Jurelyn of Bakersfield, Calif., and Denise of Alabama; great-grandma Nadine (G.G.) of Bakersfield; siblings Chris, JR, Liz of Springfield, Ayla, and Rusty of Sweet Home; her service dog Glory, and her cats Smokey and Daisy.

A viewing will be from 10 a.m. to noon Saturday, Sept. 13, at Sweet Home Funeral Chapel. A graveside service will follow at 2 p.m. at Gilliland Cemetery.

A celebration of life will follow at 4 p.m., at Freedom Hill Church, also on Sept. 13.

To support the family in this time, please donate to the love offering for Patsy's final expenses through Freedom Hill Church or [www.GoFundme.com](http://www.GoFundme.com).

Sweet Home Funeral Chapel is handling the arrangements.

**Paid Obituary**

## Deloris Grabeel

March 24, 1946 – Aug. 31, 2025

Deloris "Gail" Grabeel, 79, of Sweet Home, passed away Aug. 31, 2025.



She was born March 24, 1946, to Annie (Griffin) and Henry Row in Wright City, Okla.

She grew up in Sweet Home and graduated in 1963. Gail married Roy Lee Grabeel on Feb. 26, 1965. They traveled with the military, returning to Sweet Home in 1985. She worked for the U.S. Forest Service for over 20 years, retiring in 2008.

More than anything, Gail loved raising her family and the countless memories they made together. She adored all of her children, grandchildren and her two dogs, Lillie and Trixie. She liked to plant flowers around her yard.

She is survived by her husband, Roy Grabeel of Sweet Home; children Esther Meyer of Albany, Travis (Angelique) Grabeel of Sweet Home, Anna (Scot) McKillop of Sweet Home, and Misty Spiers of Sweet Home; brother Eulice Row of Nevada, nine grandchildren; and five great-grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by three brothers and two sis-

ters.

A viewing was held Sept. 8 and funeral service Sept. 9 at Sweet Home Funeral Chapel, with final burial at Gilliland Cemetery.

Donations can be made to the Lebanon Veterans Home.

Sweet Home Funeral Chapel is handling the arrangements.

## Marland Koker

Sept. 30, 1944 – Aug. 9, 2025

Marland Gene Koker, 80, passed away at his home in Lebanon on Aug. 9, 2025.

Marland was born Sept. 30, 1944, in Lebanon to Della Scheler and Osker Koker.



He grew up primarily in Sweet Home and lived in the Willamette Valley most of his life.

While growing up, he worked with his family tending to the family property at Ames Creek.

Marland worked in various mills in the Willamette Valley, on ranches in central and eastern Oregon, and retired from Burlington Northern Railroad in Albany after 20 years.

Marland had six children: Tracy Koker, Teresa Koker, L. Osker Koker, and Tony Koker with former wife Lynda Valentine, Gary Koker with Linda Troite, and Casey Tessen with Kristine Powell.

Marland loved the outdoors and remained active until his final weeks. He was an avid hunter and fisherman, a pastime he shared with many family members and friends.

He enjoyed walking the beach of the Oregon Coast searching for agates, walking trails and wildlife refuges, and just being outside enjoying scenery and wildlife.

He was known for his daily walks and bike rides.

Marland spent many sunny days working in the yard and helping other family members with theirs.

In his last months he spent time sitting on the porch watching birds, doing word finds, and walking his dog Toby, who was by his side always for the last five years.

Marland enjoyed watching Oregon Ducks sports, old westerns, and turning up the classic rock in the car.

In Marland's younger years he was known for being a guy most wouldn't want to tangle with. To his many grandchildren he was known as "Papa Koker."

He had a huge sense of humor and loved spending time with his children and grandchildren. He was a father figure to anyone who needed one.

Marland is survived by children Teresa Koker, Tony Koker, Gary Koker and Casey Tessen; siblings Donald Koker, Joyce Young and Michael Koker; as well as many grandchildren, great-grandchildren, great-great-grandchildren, nieces and nephews, and his French bulldog Toby.

Marland was preceded in death by his parents, Osker Koker and Della Heseman; stepparents Dorothy Koker and Rey Heseman; children L. Osker Koker and Tracy Koker; siblings Roland Koker, Raymond Koker and Linda Horstman, and long-time companion Kristine Powell.

Donations on Marland's behalf can be made to Samaritan Evergreen Hospice or Safe Haven Humane Society. A Celebration of Life will be held Sept. 27, 2025, at 2 p.m. at Waterloo County Park.

Sweet Home Funeral Chapel is handling the arrangements.

**Paid Obituary**

## Judith Slack

Dec. 10, 1939 – Aug. 19, 2025

Judith Dawn (Haynes) Slack, 85, of Woodburn, died Aug. 19, 2025 in a care home.

She was born Dec. 10, 1939, in Newport to Lawrence (Larry) and Naomi Haynes.



She grew up in Sweet Home and attended Sweet Home schools.

She is survived by her sisters Nadine Jackson of Lebanon and Jacquelyne "Jackie" Peterson of Woodburn, and Melodee (Steve) Bennett of Florida; sons Timothy (Kai) Connett of San Diego, Calif., and Tracy (Angelica) Noble of Des Moines, Wash.; niece Lorie Medlock; nephews Justin and Travis Haynes; four grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her parents; a brother, Monte Haynes; and her son Tony Connett.

A graveside service will be held at noon Friday, Sept. 19, at Lewis Creek Cemetery at Foster Lake.

**Paid Obituary**

## Death Notices

### George Fields

Oct. 17, 1933 – Sept. 8, 2025

George Delton Fields, 91, of Sweet Home, passed away Sept. 8, 2025.

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

**See Obituaries, Page 3**



Foster Lake RV Resort is located in the foothills of the Cascade mountain range. We offer nightly, weekly & monthly RV reservations.

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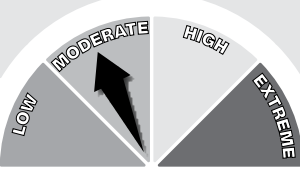


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TEMPERATURES					FORECAST				
DATE		HIGH	LOW	PRECIP	DAY	WEATHER	HIGH	LOW	
September	2	89	52	0.00	Thur	Partly Cloudy	74	53	
September	3	85	65	0.00	Fri	Partly Cloudy	79	52	
September	4	91	58	0.01	Sat	Partly Cloudy	81	56	
September	5	86	61	0.00	Sun	AM Showers	73	53	
September	6	73	60	0.00	Mon	Partly Cloudy	77	52	
September	7	79	59	0.00	Tues	Partly Cloudy	82	54	
September	8	72	57	0.00	Wed	Mostly Cloudy	82	54	
PRECIPITATION					LAKE LEVELS				
Year to date:		19.40			Foster Reservoir: 635.5				
September 10, 2024:		19.72			Green Peter Res.: 916.2				



TODAYS FIRE DANGER IS  
**MODERATE**

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

OBITUARIES

From page 2

**Alice Hanscam**  
*Oct. 15, 1931 - July 16, 2025*  
A Celebration of Life will be held at 11 a.m., Saturday, Sept. 27, 2025, at Sweet Home United Methodist Church for Alice May (Hyland) Hanscam, who died July 16.  
In lieu of flowers donations may be sent to: Linn Benton Community College to the Dr. Robert Hyland Memorial Scholarship Endowment; Sweet Home Alumni Foundation to the Carlson Family Scholarship; or Alzheimer's Association - 225 N. Michigan Ave. Floor 17, Chicago, IL 60601.  
Sweet Home Funeral Chapel is handling the arrangements. For updated information, visit [www.sweethomefuneral.com](http://www.sweethomefuneral.com).

**Jerry Hay**  
*April 8, 1955 - Sept. 5, 2025*  
Jerry D. Hay, 70, of Sweet Home, passed away Sept. 5, 2025.  
Sweet Home Funeral Chapel is handling the arrangements. For updated information, visit [www.sweethomefuneral.com](http://www.sweethomefuneral.com).

**Norma Kaping**  
*Sept. 18, 1935 - Sept. 2, 2025*  
Norma Pauline Kaping, 89, of Sweet Home, passed away Sept. 2, 2025.  
Sweet Home Funeral Chapel is handling the arrangements. For updated information, visit [www.sweethomefuneral.com](http://www.sweethomefuneral.com).

**Valerie McCool**  
*May 26, 1950 - Sept. 4, 2025*  
Valerie Jean McCool, 75, of Sweet Home, passed away Sept. 4, 2025.  
Sweet Home Funeral Chapel is handling the arrangements. For updated information, visit [www.sweethomefuneral.com](http://www.sweethomefuneral.com).

**Cory Taylor**  
*May 24, 1969 - Aug. 24, 2025*  
A graveside service for Cory Taylor, who passed away Aug. 24, 2025, will be held at 11 a.m. Monday, Sept. 22, 2025, at Lewis Cemetery in Sweet Home.  
Sweet Home Funeral Chapel is handling the arrangements. For updated information, visit [www.sweethomefuneral.com](http://www.sweethomefuneral.com).

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).

**Sept. 7**  
12:08 p.m. - Jason A. Scott, 38, cited for driving while suspended, driving uninsured, failure to register vehicle, Main St./40th Ave.  
3:44 p.m. - Steven Young, 49, of Sweet Home, cited on Linn County warrant in criminal mischief case, North River Dr./Foster Dam Rd. Report taken.  
6:43 p.m. - Tara Sue Wilber, 29, arrested for criminal trespass II, 1100 block 1st Ave. Cited and released.  
12:31 p.m. - Dean Wendell Robb, 36, arrested on LCCC warrant for FTA in harassment case and for parole violation, Long St./10th Ave. Lodged at Linn County Jail.  
1:10 p.m. - Caller reported that neighbor's "aggressive" dogs "escape their yard all the time" in 500 block 14th Ave. Officer responded, female warned for dog at large.  
11:21 p.m. - Juvenile, 16, cited for speeding, 57/35, 600 block Main St.  
11:34 p.m. - Christopher Scott, 19, cited for driving uninsured, 12th Ave./Nandi-

na St.  
11:58 p.m. - Landon Frank Gerard arrested at Safeway, 1540 Main St., on SHMC warrant for FTC in trespass case.  
**Sept. 6**  
12:24 a.m. - Caller reported locating gas can in dead grass that was burning, with no one around in 28700 block Liberty Rd. Sweet Home Fire responded and extinguished fire. Investigation ongoing. Report taken.  
8:48 a.m. - Katharine Hazen, 22, of Junction City, cited for speeding, 26800 block Hwy. 99.  
10:06 a.m. - Littering reported in area of North River Dr./Foster Dam Rd. Deputy contacted individuals believed responsible, who were asked to clean up and move along.  
10:26 a.m. - Cody Allen Bowman, 36, arrested at Linn County Jail on SHMC warrant in trespass case. Cited to appear Oct. 22.  
10:31 a.m. - Jhenna Marie Lance, 31, arrested by LCSO on SHMC warrants for FTA in two trespassing cases. Cited to appear Sept. 24.  
10:58 a.m. - Motorcycle crash reported in 36400 block Northern Dr. Operator and passenger, who were not identified in Sheriff's log, transported by medics. Report taken.  
12:57 p.m. - Registered owners of two vehicles found blocking access to Cascade Timber Consulting gate in 28600 block Jones Rd. cited for illegal parking.  
3:25 p.m. - Caller reported neighbor screaming at her in 1200 block 44th Ave. as caller was cleaning ditch on her own property. Officer responded, contacted alleged screamer, who was trespassed from caller's property.  
11:33 p.m. - Kevin Michael Osberg arrested by Corvallis police on SHMC warrant for FTA in theft case. Cited and released.  
**Sept. 5**  
10:33 a.m. - Caller reported dog in 1100 block 1st Ave. attacked his dog, caused his wife to fall and hit her head. Officer responded, advised caller of options but was

unable to contact offending dog's owner.  
11:21 a.m. - Caller from O&M Tire Factory, 4420 Main St., reported male yelling at location, doing burn-outs in parking lot. Asked that male be trespassed. Officer responded, unable to contact male by phone. Will follow up.  
2:58 p.m. - Caller reported daughter was kicked by another juvenile on school bus.

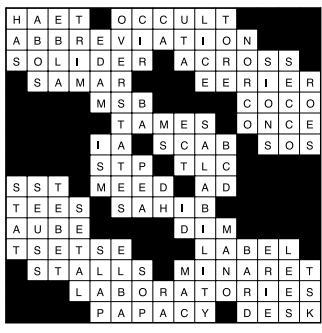
Requested that offender be counseled on actions. Officer to attempt to contact offender.  
3:43 p.m. - Caller from McDonalds, 2000 Main St., reported male causing disturbance, needed to be trespassed. Officer responded, trespassed male.  
3:51 p.m. - Caller reported vehicle pulling trailer from  
**See Public Safety, Page 12**

CIRCUIT COURT

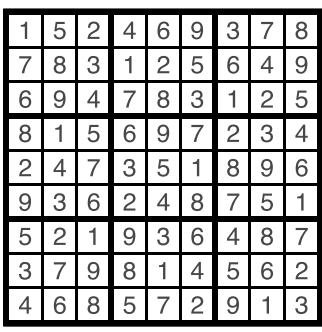
**Warrants are out on the following individuals:** Travis Alexander Ayres, Raymond Paul Binford, Christopher Frances Ciullo, Hope Marie Connors, Ashlee Dee Flanagan, Sean Doyle Gay, Nicholas Gregory Godell, Aaron Thomas Halvorson, Noe Hernandez-Reyes, Michael Trevor Hilton, Faron Walter Kennedy, Tyler Bruce Lanz, Charles James Marvel, Thomas Junior McCarthey, Bryce William McGowan, Eric Wayne McKnight, Carrie Lynne Miller, James Keith Mortensen, Nicholas Alan Nelson, Luis Gerardo Pacheco-Servin, Daniel Austin Phillips, Sean Ever Robinson, Tammy Lavonn Robinson, James Ryan Routon, Joshua Alexander Williams  
**Marcus Wessley Hesson**, 54, sentenced Sept. 5 to 40 days jail after pleading no contest to FTA. A charge of failure to report as sex offender was dismissed.  
**Nicholas Nathan Nivision**, 32, charged Sept. 2 with unauthorized use of a vehicle. Bail set at \$5,000. In a separate case, he was charged with DV assault IV and harassment, with bail set at \$5,000.  
**Andrew Mark Parker**, 38, sentenced Aug. 25 to one year suspension of a driver's license, three days jail, 24 mos. bench probation and \$2,255 in fines and fees after pleading guilty to DUII (liquor) with a .22% BAC. Two FTA charges dismissed.  
**Bradley Marion Pugh**, 41, charged Sept. 2 with aggravated harassment. The charge alleges he spit on a police officer. Bail set at \$15,000.  
**Christian Michael Rogers**,

30, sentenced Aug. 29 to 10 days jail and 18 mos. supervised probation after pleading guilty to theft I.  
**Andy Aaron Sharber**, 21, fined \$1,680 for speeding 115/65, careless driving and operating a vehicle without driving privileges.  
**Wayne James Wilcox**, 27, sentenced Sept. 5 to 20 days jail, 10 days compensatory service and 36 mos. supervised probation after pleading guilty to unlawful use of a weapon. A menacing charge was dismissed.  
**Kristian Dearnitt Winney**, 20, charged Sept. 2 with DV strangulation and DV assault IV.

**Crossword KEY**  
Puzzle on page 13



**SUDOKU KEY**  
Puzzle on page 13





# FROM OUR FILES



Sweet Home Squarenaders and guest dancers from McMinnville spin around the floor during the 1975 season opening square dance at Oak Heights.

## Sept. 14, 1950

After an eight-week strike, employees of Willamette National Lumber Company in Foster went back to work. Terms of the settled upon agreement were not released, but a joint statement indicated they reached a "satisfactory agreement." Jack Hussey's discharge earlier this year precipitated the strike. He has since been reinstated, but the union also demanded three woods supervisors be replaced.

## Sept. 11, 1975

Dave Corbin, member of a local citizens group, asked the East Linn Hospital Board to help secure emergency ambulance equipment or consider including the cost of the equipment to the annual budget or a special bond issue. A \$3,600 fund drive for two-way radios for both ambulances is underway, but Corbin said the need is urgent.

The Greater Sweet Home

Education Association won an election requiring non-members to pay a "fair share" equivalent to GSHEA dues, which help pay for bargaining.

## Sept. 13, 2000

Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife held a public meeting to receive input on a proposal that included banning fishing on Foster Lake from November to May. It would also require all wild fish caught be released, with anglers only taking marked trout. The rule primarily aimed at protecting winter steelhead smolt, a threatened species. ODF&W decided to withdraw the proposal and gather more research.

The school district reported a smooth start to the new school year, but initial attendance reports show enrollment is down from 2,446 last year to 2,360 this year, down by 84 students.

# LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

## Friendly silence not always right answer Editor:

A few days ago a young woman was stabbed to death on a Charlotte, N.C. light rail train. The Charlotte mayor issued the following statement. "I want to thank our media partners and community members who have chosen not to repost or share the footage out of respect for Iryna's family."

While this statement might seem innocent, it is not. The mayor seems to think the media is just another one of her bureaucratic entities. But the media should never be that close to government, at any level!

The media's role is to be an independent watchdog, holding government to account. A friendly, but respectfully adversarial relationship ensures journalists can report objectively, challenge author-

ity, and in doing so, protect the public interest.

During my 19-year tenure as Police Chief, I often participated in this friendly, but professionally skeptical relationship. I held an important position of public trust. But so did the local media and Alex Paul, Sean Morgan and Scott Swanson did it well. Maybe the national media could learn from them?

**Robert (Bob) Burford**  
Sweet Home

# Editorial: Will Rogers demonstrated critical thinking with grace

By Paul F. Petrick

The Aug. 15 Trump-Putin summit in Anchorage would have been perfect for Will Rogers.

The cowboy comedian got miles of material out of the post-World War I peace and disarmament conferences during his heyday, which tragically ended along with his life in an Alaskan plane crash exactly 90 years before the Trump-Putin powwow.

Like today's conferees, Rogers and aviation pioneer Wiley Post were in Alaska seeking ways to bring the United States and Russia closer together.

Well, at least Post was. He was exploring possible mail and passenger airplane routes between Alaska and Siberia. Rogers tagged along to chronicle their adventures in his daily newspaper column.

That column was read by 40 million Americans in 400 newspapers. It was just one of many mass media frontiers that Rogers conquered during his truncated life.

Born in 1879 in what is now Oklahoma, but was then known as Indian Territory, Rogers mastered the lariat at a young age on his father's ranch. Five-sixteenths Cherokee, his first profession was cowboy in the waning days of the great cattle drives across the Great Plains. With the frontier yielding to civilization, Rogers graduated from cowboy to cowboy-entertainer, cashing in on the nostalgia for the Old West in rodeos and Wild West Shows.

Success soon brought him to the vaudeville circuit, where his sardonic wit enabled him to spin humorous yarns while he twirled a rope.

His voice quickly eclipsed his wrist as the most integral part of his act and soon more people flocked to his performances for his comedic stylings than for his rope tricks. Rogers would even go so far as

to mess up a rope trick on purpose so he could quip about it.

Unlike modern comics, Rogers wrote his own jokes, whether they were told on stage, in print, or over the air.

The constant need for fresh material gave rise to his signature bit, bringing the day's newspaper on stage to read in front of the audience while poking fun at the latest headlines. The topical humor naturally gave rise to political humor, the comedic niche for which Rogers became best known.

From vaudeville, Rogers moved on to a starring role on Broadway (The Ziegfeld Follies), movies both silent and sound (he was the top box office star of 1934), best-selling books, a syndicated newspaper column, the most sought-after speaker on the lecture circuit, and the nation's number one weekly radio show.

With each medium mastered, Rogers lassoed himself a larger audience until he had a higher name recognition among his countrymen at the time of his death than anyone save the president.

Speaking of presidents, Rogers knew every one from Roosevelt to Roosevelt. And he made sport of them all. Here is where today's comedians should take note, for the approach Rogers took to political humor is as lost an art today as anything he did with a lariat.

Many today wish the current crop of comics would harken back to the days of Jay Leno or Johnny Carson, where political jokes were meticulously doled out as if a bean counter were employed to make sure each side of the political divide had the same number of punchlines.

Granted, the Leno-Carson approach was better than what we have now, both in the tone and quality of the jokes, but that was not the Rogers approach. Leno and Carson



Will Rogers

had no cogent political philosophy, at least not while on stage. Rogers most certainly did.

Rogers believed in a Jeffersonian populism that sympathized with the average American and sought to advance his interests. He took a dim view of politicians, business tycoons, financiers, moral crusaders, and busybodies. He saw phonies a mile away and feasted on hypocrisy (incongruity being the most common source of humor).

In short, Rogers' politics were the politics of the great mass of the American people, so much so that he was forced to laugh off repeated suggestions that he run for president in 1924, 1928, and 1932.

But that was only half of what made Rogers great. The other half was his genuine humanity.

"I never met a man I didn't like," is his most famous quote. It might not be entirely true, but it is safe to say Rogers never met a man he hated.

He offered a popular political message with ill will towards none, all done with unmatched humor and grace.

Today's late-night comedians should try it. But it would probably be easier for them to master the lariat than win back an audience.

*Paul F. Petrick is an attorney in Cleveland, Ohio.*

# The New Era

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# SCHOOL BOARD

From page 1

poor meeting management, they took a break and former Board Chair Floyd Neuschwander, who represented Cascadia on the board, announced that he was resigning and walked out of the board chambers.

**New Board Member**  
Board Member Amanda Carter was not present for the meeting, but Chairman Mike Adams, and directors Dale Keene, Rachel Maynard, Neuschwander, Dustin Nichol, Jenna Northern and Mary Speck participated in the choice by voting in two rounds of written secret ballots that resulted in Hiaasen's finishing with the most votes. The other candidates for the open seat were Matthew Bechtel, Mindy Cummings and Jason Redick. The board spent 30 minutes hearing from them before voting to fill the empty seat.

Bechtel said he moved to Sweet Home in January of 2021, when he "hit the ground running," quickly joining the city Park and Tree Committee and the city Budget Committee, as well as serving as an officer at the Elks Lodge, director of the food pantry at Hope Church, board member for the Mrs. Claus Workshop, and volunteering with the Beautification Committee. He said he plans to join the Rotary Club as well in the near future.

"I love Sweet Home so much and I'm committed to the future of it," he said. "I want to do my part to help bring up our next generation."

Cummings said she has lived in Sweet Home about 19 years and has raised her children here, including one still in high school. She has been a swimming official and served as president of her HOA - "everybody's favorite," she added, drawing chuckles from the packed chambers. She has worked at the Linn County Assessor's Office for 17 years, adding "again, that makes me very popular with people."

She said that with one student left at home, she has more time on her hands and is looking for ways to serve in the community.

Hiaasen noted that she was born and raised in Sweet Home and graduated from Sweet Home High School, and returned after 30 years away to teach and then serve as an administrator at her alma mater. After four years of retirement, she said, she's "looking for more ways to get involved, outside of traveling." She said she drives for Meals on Wheels and volun-

teers at her church. "I thought this would be a good way to get back into the education field in a different way than I have," she said.

Redick said he has lived in Sweet Home for about 36 years, is a graduate of Sweet Home High School and is married into a family in which multiple generations are products of Sweet Home schools.

"My roots run pretty deep," he said, adding that he has spent the last 20 years on the board, including extensive periods as chair and vice chair.

"I was looking to move on to something else, but with everything that's been going on, I'm just here to offer my service, whatever I can do to help out."

They were all asked the same four questions:

After the four introduced themselves, Speck noted that Bechtel, Cummings and Hiaasen had sat in with board members on a three-hour training session from the Oregon School Boards Association on board governance and ethics, covering Oregon public meetings laws and the proper process for dealing with complaints.

Board members asked the applicants four questions: the primary role of a school board member; how the district should balance student achievement, fiscal responsibility and community expectations in making decisions; how well they would work with other board members, district leadership and community members who don't agree; and what experience and perspectives they would bring to the position that represents the entire community's interests?

In general, all the appli-

cants either said directly or indirectly that student achievement and wellbeing were the highest priority amid possible conflicting tensions, although it would be necessary to have input from staff and the community before making big decisions.

(To see specific responses to the questions on the district's video recording of the meeting, visit [www.youtube.com/watch?v=HIX\\_w6Ewa0c](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HIX_w6Ewa0c) and begin at 19:15.)

Redick noted that board members don't always have the capacity to gather information on their own, so they have to be reliant on staff for information and advice.

Hiaasen said that student achievement, fiscal responsibility and community expectations "actually all work together" and that staff and administrators who can "bring all that together and let Kevin (Strong, the district's business manager) know where they feel the money needs to be used ... you're going to have a very difficult time, because what might be what might be good for your child might not be the best thing for your child and might not be the best thing for your child," she said, pointing around the room.

"And so, it's a huge balancing act of trying to positively impact as many students as you can in the best way that you can, instead of just targeting one group."

She added that when people have conflicting opinions about how money should be spent, "they're not wrong, but they're not all right either. That is the most difficult part about balancing."

In response to the question about working through disagreements, Redick said he was amazed by "how much

## See more School Board coverage in next week's edition.

conflict at the board level filters down into the schools, to kids.

"A board that fights with itself, that doesn't get along, that doesn't agree with things, will eventually filter down into the classroom and affect the kids and their parents."

He noted that board policy requires that once a decision has been made, board members are required to support that decision, even if they disagree with it.

Hiassen said she has always "prided myself on being able to work with anyone, whether we agree or not."

"I think I'm very good at looking at the big picture and saying, 'This is what the board has decided to do, this is what the community wants us to do, this is what the principals have asked us to consider.' I think I am very good at looking at all sides of whatever issue that we're looking at."

After the interviews, Adams said board members would write their choices on pieces of paper, which would be tallied. After the first round, Redick and Hiassen were tied with the most votes, which eliminated Cummins and Bechtel. Hiassen received the majority of the votes on the second ballot, Adams reported.

After Hiassen was sworn in, board members then elected Keene to fill the vice chair position that was vacated when a majority elected Adams in their Aug. 11 meeting to replace then-Chair Floyd Neuschwander.

Board members also elect-

ed Jenna Northern to serve as board secretary, replacing Mary Speck, who was also voted out of that position in the Aug. 11 meeting.

The votes for both positions were 6-2, with Speck and Neuschwander dissenting.

### Controversy

In response to a request from Keene for an update on the status of the alleged ethics violations that had been filed with the district, Adams reported that the five people who had filed grievances with the School Board had received email responses on Aug. 15, which were also sent to the Oregon Government Ethics Committee as required by state law.

Adams said he received a call from the OGE executive director and an investigator on Aug. 18 who informed him that "all five documents were being treated as public meetings violations, not public ethics violations."

Adams said that timeline requirements for submitting documents had been met and that OGE had informed him that "they weren't going to do anything further unless the people who filed the grievances contacted them to state that they were not happy with the district's response and requested them to investigate it."

He added that OGE told him that that could occur any time in the next four years.

Adams told the board that a complaint filed with the district "is kind of what gets you through the door."

He said that on Aug. 26 he received another complaint alleging "bias and conflict of interest" but said that no board members were named.

See School Board, Page 11



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# County plans events to increase suicide awareness

By Alex Paul  
**Linn County Communications**  
September is Suicide Prevention Awareness Month and Linn County's Alcohol and Drug Program is joining communities nationwide to mark the occasion – a time to raise awareness, break stigma and connect individuals with life-saving resources.

In Oregon, 888 lives were lost to suicide in 2023, making it the second leading cause of death among youth ages 10 to 24 years old. These numbers highlight the urgent need for community education, support and prevention efforts.

"Suicide prevention isn't just the work of profession-

als, it's something we can all be part of," said Ian Howarth, program manager at Linn County Alcohol and Drug. "Every conversation, every show of support, and every resource shared can help save a life."

Here are six ways the community can take action this month:

- **Take Part in Community Awareness Events:** Join others in raising awareness and promoting hope. The Lebanon Area Mental Health Alliance Corp will host its Annual Community Walk for Suicide Prevention and Awareness on Saturday, Sept. 27, in Lebanon. Learn more or register at lamha.org.

- **Fight Stigma:** Open, honest conversations about suicide break down myths and create a safe space for people to seek help without fear of judgment.
- **Share Resources:** Suicide Prevention Month serves as a reminder that help is always available. Individuals can call 988 to reach the Suicide and Crisis Lifeline or text TALK to 741741 to connect with the Crisis Text Line—both provide free, confidential support 24/7. The 988 Lifeline is available for those experiencing mental health struggles, emotional distress, concerns related to alcohol or drug use, or anyone who needs someone to talk to.

It also offers guidance for people concerned about someone else. Find more local and national crisis resources at [linntogether.org/resources/crisis](http://linntogether.org/resources/crisis).

- **Learn the Warning Signs:** People considering suicide often show signs that they may be thinking about or planning to harm themselves. Recognizing these warning signs can help you know when to reach out and connect someone with professional help. Read about warning signs at [sprc.org](http://sprc.org).
- **Start a Conversation:** Even small actions can send a powerful message of hope to someone who is struggling. A kind word or

moment of recognition can open the door to lifesaving conversations. More information is available at [samhsa.gov/suicide](http://samhsa.gov/suicide).

- **Attend Local Trainings:** Build your skills to help others by taking a mental health or suicide prevention course. Linn County Health Services offers 90-minute QPR Suicide Prevention Training and full-day Mental Health First Aid classes. Find upcoming sessions at [linntogether.org/community-training](http://linntogether.org/community-training).

Read more about Suicide Prevention Awareness Month at: [samhsa.gov/about/digital-toolkits/suicide-prevention-month](http://samhsa.gov/about/digital-toolkits/suicide-prevention-month).

## 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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## Girls soccer team has rough day at Siuslaw, 6-1

By Ryker Burr  
**For The New Era**  
Sweet Home's girls soccer team fought hard but ultimately fell to the Siuslaw Vikings in their season opener.

Last year, the Green and Gold were defeated 2-5 by Siuslaw, also in their first game of the season. Last Tuesday was not an improvement as the Huskies fell 1-6 to the Vikings, losing not just points but players.

Freshman Morgan Lalonde scored the Huskies' lone goal in the contest, doing so in buzzer-beater fashion, concluding the first half on a high note for Sweet Home.

In addition, Miu Simmons and Shasta Marin had to exit the game early as well. The Green and Gold were already missing Ziarra Duncan due to illness, and the injuries only made things more difficult.

However, Birkett and Morris are expected to be back on the field next week. Head Coach Ramiro Santana said Sweet Home has opportunity to improve: "We need to improve in the midfield but we don't have the players that can play the position. We need more speed. We aren't quick enough when finishing our plays."

Sweet Home entered the second half trailing by one, but was unable to continue the momentum created by Lalonde's score, as the Huskies were outscored 5-0 in the second half.

The second half was a nightmare for Sweet Home, as they were bit hard by the injury bug, losing goalkeeper Lyndie Birkett and forward Anabelle Morris, both captains.

Sweet Home will look to get back up to .500 and capture its first win since 2023 at 6 p.m. Tuesday, Sept. 9, back on the road again at 3A Division Western Christian of Salem, which was 2-1 and on a heater, outscoring its opponents 13-1 in their last two matchups.

The Huskies' first home game for the Green and Gold will be at 6 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 11, hosting Cottage Grove.



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# Gallery quiltmaker's reward is 'beautiful product'

By Satina Tolman  
For The New Era

When Carol Kilfoil talks about quilting, her eyes brighten and her smile widens, as if the fabric itself holds a secret joy only she can unlock.

For the past 25 years, Kilfoil has stitched together more than just fabric. Her quilts preserve memories, honor veterans and wrap loved ones in warmth that feels as personal as a hug.

Eighteen of her colorful and expressive creations are now on display at Sweet Home City Hall, where SHOCASE of Sweet Home is hosting an exhibit through Oct. 15.

The public may view the quilts any time during City Hall's normal operating hours. If anyone wants to meet and visit with Kilfoil, an open house artist reception with light refreshments will be held Monday, Sept. 22, from 4 to 5 p.m. at City Hall, 3225 Main St.

"It's exceptionally rewarding because you get this beautiful product at the end," Kilfoil said. "I like the process, but I also really like the product. They're cuddly, not many art forms are cuddly."



Photo contributed by Satina Tolman  
Carol Kilfoil stands next to the "Quilts of Valor" quilt she made for her husband.

**Lifelong Maker**  
Kilfoil grew up in Huntington Beach, Calif., before earning a degree in home economics from California State University, Long Beach. She has been sewing clothes for herself and her mom since

the sixth grade. After moving to Oregon with her husband in 1986, she spent three decades teaching, first foods and child development, then later business and banking skills, in Salem-area high schools. She retired in 2015, but her hands never stilled.

Her quilting journey began with a nudge from friends in a long-time scrapbooking group.

"When my girlfriend said, 'Hey, why don't we quilt?' I thought that sounded like a good idea," Kilfoil recalled with a laugh.

Since then, her quilting has transformed from a hobby to an art form. Her sunken living room is now a quilting studio, home to the longarm machine her mother gave her when Kilfoil retired. Quilting a king-size quilt can take her two weeks of steady work; a baby quilt might come together in a day.

Kilfoil finds joy in the creative process of choosing the patterns and fabrics.

"Quite often, the colors and tones of the fabric make the design of the quilt," she said. "It's really important how you select the fabrics."

**Quilts with Meaning**  
Kilfoil's most cherished

works aren't the ones she has kept, but the ones she has given away. Her most favorite quilts she has ever made are all ones she has gifted to others.

She has crafted several memory quilts, using clothing from loved ones who have passed away to create precious keepsakes for grieving families she knows and loves.

"The most rewarding ones are the memory quilts," Kilfoil said. "They bring great comfort to those grieving, as they can feel wrapped in the love of their family member they lost."

One project especially stands out: After a former student's husband died in a hunting accident, Kilfoil offered to transform his shirts into quilts. She eventually made five; one for the widow, three for their daughters and one for the mother-in-law.

The families give her shirts and clothing of their dearly departed and Kilfoil takes great care in the process.

"I sit with them and let them speak to me, and then figure out how to put them together into a cohesive cuddly."

See Quilts, Page 12

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Blake family members, left, and Samaritan Sweet Home Medical Center staff right, attend a dedication Aug. 25 for the memorial honoring Dr. Alan Blake, below. Photos by Miriam Swanson

## DR. BLAKE

From page 1

I'm not going to pursue physics. I'm going into medical school.'

"I said 'Wait, wait, what?'" Alan's grandfather had been a physician, but his parents had wanted him to be an engineer, she said.

However, Alan had gotten into a conversation with a friend who was heading to

medical schools, whose father was a doctor, and they'd gotten to talking about rural medicine.

"And Alan said, 'Light bulb! What am I doing in this physics thing?' So that was all she wrote.

He went back to school for a year of pre-med, then was accepted into the University of Washington School of Medicine.

"I had no idea what I was getting into and actually, he

didn't either," Zsuzsa said. They found out when he began his residency in Boise, Idaho, where he had chosen to go because he could get specific training there, she said.

"You have no idea how grueling a residency can be," she noted.

Alan had toyed with the idea of going into surgery, but he decided that was "too confining," Zsuzsa said.

"Back then, family docs



still were doing everything, essentially, and that's what he wanted."

Surgery was "too confining."

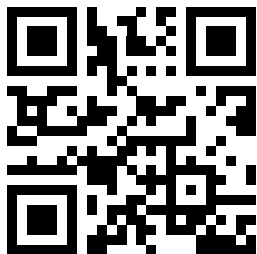
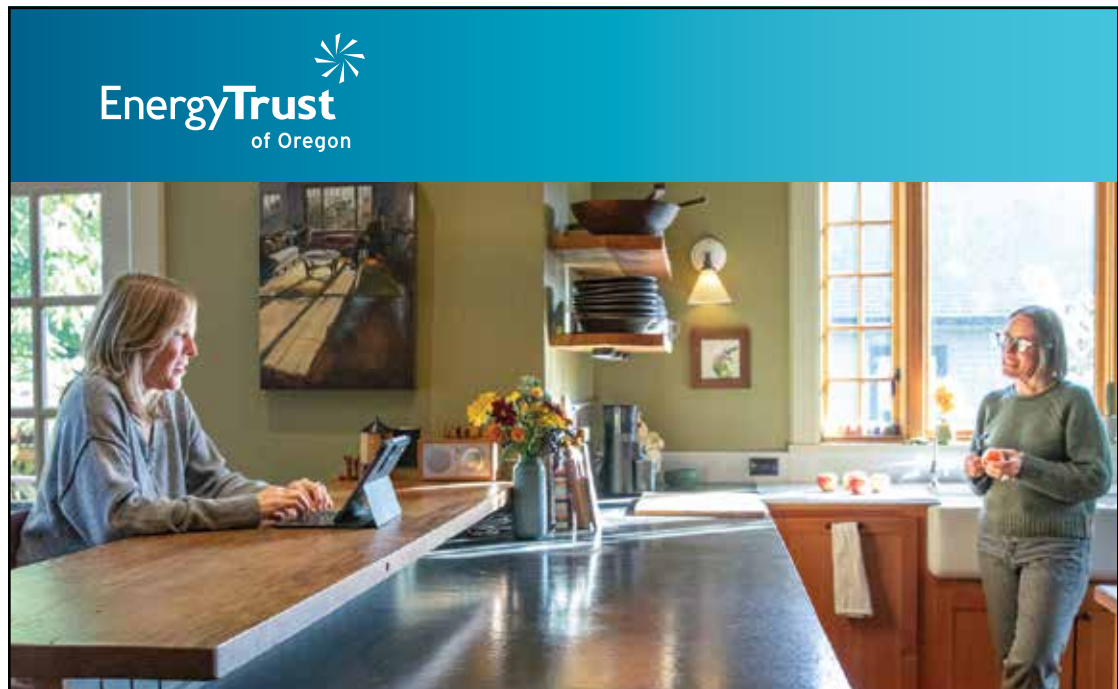
"I want to deliver babies, so that's what he did, and it was extremely demanding," she said.

But, she added, "he was really thriving. It was a perfect fit for him."

### Settling in Sweet Home

When he finished the residency in Boise, they looked

See Dr. Blake, Page 9



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## DR. BLAKE

From page 8

around for a place to settle down. That turned out to be Sweet Home. They arrived in 1988 and Alan set up practice with Dr. Bruce Matthews in what, Zsuzsa says, “was technically a six-person practice.”

The doctors worked out of the old Langmack Hospital building, at the corner of Highways 228 and 20, which then was owned by Sweet Home Fire.

They provided a wide range of medical care in Sweet Home, including serving as medical examiners when need be, she said. “I’m not even sure I can remember everything they did.”

Meanwhile, they raised four boys: Nathanael, Nicholas, Isaiah and Zachary, who has Down’s syndrome.

Dr. Blake was involved in much more than just his practice and parenting during those years, though his efforts were often combined, she said.

“He wasn’t involved in the community, per se, as, you know, councils or things like that. But he was extremely involved. He still did house calls and things.”

He and Zsuzsa led small groups at their church and he served on the board.

and Allan went on medical missions, taking trips to Bolivia, Honduras, Mexico, often taking his wife or older boys along.

“He was always interested in missions,” Zsuzsa said.

In 2007 they spent a year in Hungary, Zsuzsa’s birthplace, where he became conversant in Hungarian – “an extremely difficult language,” his wife said. “He pretty much mastered that.”

He had learned Spanish because he was doing medical stuff down there.

“Alan was a man of many talents. He was a Renaissance man.”

He also was an artist and master woodworker, who produced Northwest Coast Indian art that helped pay their way through medical



Photo by Scott Swanson

Blake family members, from left, sister-in-law Yoli Pinter, widow Zsuzsa Blake and son Zach Blake hold photos from various stages (and aspects) of Dr. Alan Blake’s life – from left, resting while delivering babies, his wedding and a trip overseas. The table in the foreground and the chair are examples of Dr. Blake’s woodworking prowess.

school – “paintings, silver bracelets, a couple of gold bracelets, because we were in Seattle, that worked out perfectly. There was a demand for them.”

“That was a huge part of his life when we first met,” she said. “He had gone up to Alaska when he was 15, where he learned how to do wood carving in an Indian tribe. Then he expanded into silver work.”

It wasn’t big bucks, she said, “but we survived.”

He enjoyed reading widely, gardening, and photography – at all of which he was very proficient.

He also volunteered at the Pregnancy Alternatives Center in Lebanon, now Obria.

“He worked down there with Debbie Tracy (the center’s founder) and did the ultrasounds,” Zsuzsa recalled. “He was really into that.”

Woodworking, though, was his other real passion.

Alan did a lot of the remodeling in the house they bought in Sweet Home and he created most of the furniture in the dining and living room that isn’t upholstered.

“He would joke, ‘Yeah, I’m just going to quit medicine and be a woodworker,’” Zsuzsa recalled, adding, and pointing to the finely crafted dining room set her husband had created in the federal style he preferred: “and he could have. The quality of those chairs, it’s like, ‘Wow.’”

“He was one of those guys that, whatever he set his

mind to exactly to do, he could do it,” Pinter said, adding, “It was very frustrating for us,” as she and Zsuzsa chuckled.

“He was really good at pretty much everything he tried,” Zsuzsa said.

Like treating patients and, particularly, delivering babies.

Pinter noted that he had

delivered more than 1,700 infants during his career, first in private practice and then at Samaritan.

“I think what made him a reliable doctor was that he knew his limits,” Zsuzsa said.

“They were wide and broad, but he knew when he needed to refer and he didn’t get into trouble because, it’s like, ‘OK, this is past me.’”

She and Pinter said they have heard from many people who have told them stories of how Dr. Blake “had affected their lives and the good that he had done for families, people, individuals.”

Blake and Matthews continued “for years, and then this thing started changing,” Zsuzsa said. Administrative burdens were mounting and that’s when they connected with Samaritan.

“Everybody got bought out everywhere, because it just was too hard for a rural physician, very overwhelmed with, just, busyness.”

That was in 1992.

### New Challenges

In 2015, while on a medical missions trip to Ukraine, Alan suffered a severe stroke, which paralyzed the right side of his body, rendering him unable to speak or walk – or even swallow, initially.

See Dr. Blake, Page 14

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File Photo

Dr. Alan Blake, with his wife Zsuzsa and sons Isaiah and Zach, as they prepared to leave for a year in Hungary in 2007.



# Husky harriers have big day at Tillamook XC meet

A summer of diligent training delivered dividends for Sweet Home's cross-country runners Saturday, Sept. 6, at the Ultimook Race in Tillamook.

Although the Huskies did not field full teams in some races, "we had multiple really good races," Coach Dave Martin said.

Two years ago, Martin took a team of freshmen and sophomores and a few junior high runners to the Ultimook meet, which is true cross-country – it features a deep mud pit that runners have to negotiate as well as two river crossings, which means it is not a fast course.

That's why Martin was excited by what he saw from his athletes.

"Besides kids who'd never run a 5K (3.1 miles) before, on the boys side we had four boys who ran faster than they had ever run last year, and we had four other runners, three boys and one girl, who had the second-fastest time of their career.

One of those was senior

McKenzie Miller, who was the girls' top finisher, seventh in 19:52.30 among 206 runners in the varsity girls race. Sophomore Emma Whitton was ninth in 20:13, freshman Cassie Spencer was 43rd in 22:40.70 and senior Annabelle Morris was 170th in 27:45.50.

Philomath's Cassidy Smart won the race in 19:08.10.

Miller ran the Ultimook in 22:05 and last year ran the much faster Northwest Classic course in a PR of 19:43.

Whitton and Spencer both competed in the 3K as junior high runners.

In the boys varsity race, the Huskies fielded seven runners, which gave them the five runners needed to score as a team, finishing ninth out of 29 teams.

They were led by junior Ryker Burr, who was 33rd out of 243 runners in 18:17.50.

Behind him were sophomore Acen Webber (55th, 19:05.40), freshman Elijah Rodriguez (59th, 19:12), junior Conner Spencer (67th, 19:19.20), sophomore Evan



Ryker Burr of Sweet Home (2065), runs in the boys varsity race at Ultimook. Photos by Scott Swanson



Cassie Spencer prepares to enter one of the river crossings during the girls varsity race.

Knight (68th, 19:19.70), sophomore Louis Kistner (125th, 21:04.70) and freshman Hudson Ogden (120th, 21:07.20).

Burr ran 21:38.54 on the same course as a freshman two years ago and Spencer ran 23:37.66.

"The thing that stood out to me most was that our second through fifth boys – Acen, Elijah, Conner and Evan – there were 14 seconds between those guys. That's team running I haven't had at that level, that fast. Our fifth guy Saturday was faster than our third-fastest runner last year, and this is Week 1."

Fountain Valley, from Southern California, was the top boys team with 110 points, with (2) Union of Vancouver, Wash. second in 122. Cottage Grove was fourth (151), Stayton sixth (189) and Sweet Home ninth (249).

Freshman Pyper Hall led the junior varsity girls with a 26th-place finish in a field of 118, running 25:45.10 in her first high school 5K race. Sophomore Madison Ciullo was 36th for Sweet Home in 26:29.10, followed by senior Delainie Pratt, 67th in 29:02.10 (she was 30:05 on the same course as a sophomore), senior McKenzie Ohlheiser (73rd, 29:49.50) and freshman Lexi Lee (94th, 33:37.70).

"I really thought Cassie had

a standout race," Martin said. "She ran really smart, really tough, right where I thought she was capable of running."

"Pyper Hall ran a phenomenal race, almost as fast as some of our varsity girls did in setting PRs last year. And this was her first 5K. I'm so pleased with her progress. She's so improved, so much stronger. She's running with so much confidence."

Sophomore Noah Strawn led the JV boys, finishing 73rd in a field of 249 runners in 21:55.30, followed by Wes Goff (74th, 21:56.40); freshman Ryder Farris (119th,

See XC, Page 11

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# Huskies start '25 football campaign with 35-6 win at Madras

Sweet Home shrugged off some distractions and delays to get down to business and dispatch Madras 35-6 in their football season opener Friday night, Sept. 5.

“The day itself was quite eventful,” Head Coach Ryan Adams said.

The junior varsity bus had some “mechanical issues” on the way to the game and that was followed by a lightning delay at the end of a long road trip, which resulted in a late start for the game.

It took a little while for the Huskies to settle down, as they and the hosts traded possessions for most of the first quarter, punctuated by a couple of fumbles for Sweet Home.

“We shot ourselves in the foot a couple of times,” Adams said, noting that two drives ended with fumbles. Madras, he noted, plays on a “long grass field” that was a change for the Huskies, who practice on artificial turf.

But Sweet Home got rolling midway in the second quarter as sophomore running

back Sam Barringer sliced through the defense on a 34-yard run and senior kicker Keeghan Gittins followed that up with the first of his five straight successful extra point attempts.

Two plays later the Huskies sacked Madras quarterback Bentley Stockton, who lost the ball and Sweet Home recovered on the White Buffaloes’ 18 yard line.

On the next play, with 4:39 on the clock, Zajic hit Bode Nichols with an 18-yard scoring pass for a 14-0 lead after Gittins’ kick.

In the closing seconds of the half Zajic launched three long pass attempts from the 44 yard line, which were aggressively defended by Madras, and the score stayed at 14-0.

“We just talked at halftime about having to take care of mental mistakes, with the fumbles and a lot of penalties in the first half on our end, that really just kind of stymied what we were trying to do,” Adams said. “I thought we started the second half

about as good as you could.”

Just a minute into the third quarter, Zajic delivered a 69-yard pass to Nichols on the second play of their opening drive of the half for a third touchdown.

Madras then launched a 15-play drive that eventually got the White Buffaloes into the end zone.

That came after Barringer picked off an attempted scoring pass by Stockton from the 8 yard line, but it got called back on a roughing the passer penalty, which moved the ball up to the 3, from where Madras got its lone score of the night. Its kick was wide.

“We talked all last week about sudden change and how we respond to things, and I thought our team captains did a phenomenal job pulling guys in and and really just kind of refocusing them on what matters, not the penalties, not what happened the play before, but just how important that next play is,” Adams said. “We responded really well.”

The Huskies went back to

work from their 40 with 3:47 left in the period, and Barringer weaved his way through the line and outsprinted the defense for a 55-yard score.

Sweet Home’s final score came with 10:10 on the clock in the fourth as Zajic scooped a bounced snap off the turf and wove his way through the defense from the 30 yard line to score.

Though Madras actually ran 40 plays to Sweet Home’s 47, the Huskies outgained the hosts 295 yards to 54.

Zajic finished with 110 passing yards on five completions in 11 attempts, and Sweet Home gained 185 yards on the ground.

The defense recorded three sacks and three tackles for loss, and forced two fumbles.

“Our defense played lights-out,” Adams said. “Our offense took a little bit to get going, but once they did, they were able to execute on some pretty big plays for us. I thought our special teams played well.”

He said one thing that he “was most proud of” was that

his players did not make the same mistakes twice.

“When they made a mistake, they were able to recognize it. We were able to coach it, and then they corrected it.”

The Huskies will host Molalla at 7 p.m. Friday, Sept. 12, in their home opener at Husky Field, beginning a two-game home stand with Woodburn coming Sept. 19.

The Tigers will arrive off a 21-1 loss to The Dalles, but Adams said he expects them to be “physical,” with a heavy emphasis on the run.

“I think that we can compete really well and potentially go get (them) if we take care of what we can take care of, but I know Molalla is coming ready to fight – the last two years we’ve split with them and they handled us pretty good the last time they were here (29-6) and we pulled out a close one last year (12-7).

“We’re really excited about the group we have,” Adams said. “They are really dedicated to what we’re trying to build here.”

## SCHOOL BOARD

From page 5

He said he told that person that OGEc investigates those types of complaints, not the school district.

He said that the complaints and the district’s response are public record.

Maynard asked if she could make a statement, then asserted that she “did not participate in a serial meeting, had no hidden agenda, and I am solely here to better our district – there is always room for improvement.”

She said there were “intim-

idation tactics” in the Aug. 11 meeting that were “effective.”

That launched a vigorous 40-minute conversation that at times became rancorous as some board members criticized the proceedings in the Aug. 11 meeting, eventually leading to members interrupting each other, accusations of slander, and disputes about the events of Aug. 11 and prior.

Nichol said the district should conduct an investigation to clear the matter, but Adams responded that it would be costly.

Neuschwander and Speck

both complained that they were unfairly removed from their positions and Speck protested that although she was named in one of the grievances, she did not participate in a serial meeting.

She said that “if the result (of an investigation) shows we are innocent, we should be reinstated.”

“The motions that were made that evening were based on false information and resulted in the removal of two members,” she said. “Had you known the truth, I wouldn’t have lost my position, Floyd wouldn’t have lost his position

and Rachel wouldn’t have had her name slandered.”

Neuschwander said that he was removed when “I didn’t even know what was happening” and said he deserved an apology.

Responding to the complaints about slander and misinformation, Martin interjected: “I also want my name removed from the 30 news stations that said ‘The board was attempting to oust Supt. Terry Martin.’

“You want an apology? Let’s go all the way back to that. The school district doesn’t have the money to pay attor-

neys to do that.”

He said that an investigation could be conducted by someone who is respected from the community or from another school district.

After some more accusations about who contacted the news media, board members agreed to take a break.

At that point, Neuschwander stood up and said, “I don’t need this s-t. I submit my resignation, and walked out.

Board members voted to accept his resignation at the end of the meeting, and agreed that they needed “closure.”

“We need to agree to disagree,” Nichol said. “Otherwise, this is ridiculous.”

Northern said she was concerned about spending money on attorneys that should be going to meet students’ needs in the classroom.

“I don’t want to argue and we’re doing the same thing over and over again. That money that taxpayers paid needs to benefit the classrooms and those teachers and everything around it.”

# USFS hiring fire support personnel for 2026

The USDA Forest Service plans to hire nearly 600 fire support positions in Alaska, Oregon, and Washington.

Jobs include dispatchers, equipment operators, fire engine operators, fire prevention specialists, forestry aids

and technicians, handcrew members, helitack crew members, hotshot crew members, smokejumpers, prescribed fire and fuels specialists, smokejumpers, and more.

Applications are open through Sept. 23 on USAJobs.

gov.

Centralized Fire Hire events utilize a backfill process; if a position currently filled becomes vacant during the hiring event, the position may immediately be backfilled during the event.

To learn more about Pacific Northwest and Alaska Regions’ hiring events, visit [www.fs.usda.gov/r06/working-with-us/careers](http://www.fs.usda.gov/r06/working-with-us/careers)

For more information about the Forest Service, visit [www.fs.usda.gov](http://www.fs.usda.gov).

## XC

From page 10

23:12.70) and sophomore Eli Adams, 195th in 27.34.90.

Sweet Home’s middle school-aged runners, who compete at a club level, also ran well.

The middle school 3000-meter race competition was dominated by running clubs – Whisper Running of Vancouver, Bowerman Run-

ning Club of Portland and Timberhill Harriers of Corvallis.

Finishing first for the Sweet Home boys was Walker Farris, a fifth-grader, who ran 14:04 to finish 60th, just ahead of his brother Wiley Farris, an eighth-grader, who ran 14:10.60. Eighth-grader Xander Davis was 145th in the field of 154 runners, in 18:54.30. It was the first cross-country race for all

three.

In the girls middle school race, eighth-grader Emma Davis finished 80th in 17:28.20 in the field of 119, in her first cross-country race.

Up next for the Huskies is the Oregon City Invitational Saturday, Sept. 11, at Clackamas Community College, where they will see more than 30 teams, including some of the big players at the 5A and 6A division level.



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## QUILTS

From page 7

dle quilt," she said. "It meant a tremendous amount to them."

### Honoring Service

For Kilfoil, quilting is also a way to give back to those who served. In 2019, she became one of the first members of the Salem Star Valor Quilters of Oregon, a chapter of the national Quilts of Valor Foundation.

The national foundation began in 2003 when Catherine Roberts, whose son was deployed to Iraq, envisioned a quilt as a way to bring comfort to a soldier in despair. From that vision grew a national grassroots movement of volunteer quilters who have since awarded nearly 400,000 quilts to veterans and service members across the United States. Each quilt is unique, registered with the foundation and ceremoniously presented as a once-in-a-lifetime award.

The Salem Star chapter was founded in 2019 by Mary and Jeff Williams, owners of Will-N-Bee's Quilt and Coffee Shoppe in Salem. What began with about 10 quilters has grown to about 50 members who have presented almost 1,000 quilts in just six years.

"It's a way of saying, 'Thank you for your service, sacrifice and valor,'" Kilfoil said.

For Kilfoil, one of the most meaningful moments was making a Quilt of Valor for her husband Dennis, a Vietnam veteran. His quilt, a richly patterned piece, is featured in the City Hall exhibit.

"I've always felt strongly about honoring veterans, but being able to present my own husband with one of these quilts was something special," she said.

Kilfoil served as the chapter's secretary, taking care of administrative duties. Every chapter registers every quilt with the national organization, and there is a very specific way to do this. Even though she is no longer secretary, Kilfoil has always been in charge of that important role and will continue to do so.

### An Art and a Joy

Of the hundreds of quilts Kilfoil has made, she said her favorites are the ones she has given away as treasured gifts. One of the quilts she is proudest of that is on display in the exhibit is one she made for her mother in shades of turquoise, blue and purple. The quilt features a decorative "flange binding," which adds a slim accent of color along the edge for a di-

mensional finish.

She also counts among her favorites a labyrinth quilt she created as a duvet cover for her oldest son, as well as an elaborate wedding gift for her younger son and his wife. That quilt, stitched in blues, turquoises and white, featured swirling patterns that reminds her of water and reflected the couple's shared love of swimming and water polo.

When she speaks of her quilts, Kilfoil radiates both humility and joy.

She insists she never thought of herself as an artist until a friend pointed it out. But standing among the rows of vibrant quilts now hanging in Sweet Home City Hall, it's hard to see her as anything else.

"Quilting is a good way to be creative," Kilfoil said. "I've learned so much over the years. And I just love that, in the end, you have something beautiful to share."

The quilt exhibit can be viewed during City Hall's regular hours, Monday through Thursday from 7 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

## PUBLIC SAFETY

From page 3

which trash was blowing onto highway in eastbound 400 block Main St.. Officer responded, located vehicle, warned operator of violation. Operator will tarp load next time.

5:19 p.m. - Deputy warned individual about shooting in cemetery, 35700 block Kirk Ave., during high fire danger and on city/private timber property.

5:36 p.m. - Deputy warned illegal camper on BLM land in 49800 block Quartzville Rd., near Milepost 15.

### Sept. 4

2:03 a.m. - Franklin Luster Cutbirth, 44, arrested by Eugene police on SHMC warrant for FTA in criminal misconduct case. Cited to appear Sept. 24.

6:59 a.m. - Adam Scott Lytle, 40, arrested on two counts of violating a restraining order after caller reported him violating the restraining order by being within 100 yards of her. Lytle also arrested on LCCC warrant for two counts of contempt of court, LMC warrant for probation violation in driving while suspended case, and Florence Municipal Court warrant involving DUII, reckless driving, hit

and run and two counts of reckless endangering, 2400 block Long St. Lodged at Linn County Jail.

8:55 a.m. - Deputy warned campers on U.S. Army Corps of Engineers property in 44700 block Quartzville Rd.

9:01 a.m. - Caller reported males camping in 1200 block 15th Ave. Officer responded, trespassed multiple people from location.

11:08 a.m. - Caller reported someone hit his vehicle while parked in 6300 block Main St. Officer responded, report taken for hit and run. Damage estimated at under \$2,500.

11:12 a.m. - Caller from Sweet Home High School, 1641 Long St., reported backpack containing Chromebook laptop had been stolen. Officer responded, report taken for theft II. Approximate value \$400.

1:07 p.m. - Alicia Kathleen Martinez, 41, arrested for DUI after caller reported vehicle failing to maintain lane in 1500 block Main St. Also cited for failure to maintain, no operator's license. Cited and released.

3:16 p.m. - Jackson Valentine, 27, of Corvallis, cited for open container in vehicle, failure to register vehicle, 42600 block North River

# Tour rolls through Weyerhaeuser mill that is firm's top producer

By Larry Mauter  
LCSWA member

For growers of Douglas-fir in Linn County, sooner or later the Santiam Mill near Waterloo will come into focus.

Built by Weyerhaeuser in 2008, it is an economic powerhouse that spits out finished product at around 400 million bf per year.

Put another way, that's about "1.2 million boards a week," explained Troy Nokes, a Weyerhaeuser manager, during an Aug. 19 morning tour conducted for the Linn County Small Woodlands Association.

Total employment at the mill is about 160 people. It is Weyerhaeuser's most productive mill (Longview, Wash., is next) and contributes about \$43,000 annually to community projects.

Roughly 50% of the mill's incoming logs are harvested from Weyerhaeuser property.

"We own approximately 138,000 acres in Linn County. A portion of that is in our Springfield tree farm (Calapooia) and the majority of this is in our Snow Peak tree farm," said Ted Curtis, Weyerhaeuser raw material manager.

Linn County itself is roughly 1,477,760 acres.

The mill processes Douglas-fir logs ranging from 5 to 22 inches diameter and 16-48 feet long — in a computer and laser-driven process.

"Absolute cannon barrel" logs up to 24 inches can be handled, said Nokes.

A network of huge electrical motors, drive belts and saw blades churn in the 110,000-square-foot Weyerhaeuser facility as visitors follow the procession of planks from catwalks.

Mill ends are reduced to sawdust, another outgoing product from the mill for the South Seattle, Wash.-based company.

Shawn Adams is an operator in the plant's control room. He sits at a console with rows of buttons and levers as well as banks of screens and an open view to the production floor.

This is where incoming logs are evaluated and routed for processing. "You've definitely got to have your head on a swivel to see what's going on," he commented.

Amanda Backman told tour goers the plant operates on two shifts — 5 a.m. and 5 p.m. starts — with workers



Photo courtesy of LCSWA

Linn County Small Woodlands Association members tour the Santiam Mill earlier this summer.

clocking in for four 10-hour shifts a week.

Weekends are reserved for maintenance, she said.

The mill site — previously the Bauman Mill — is about 120 acres along Highway 20. From there 2x4s and 2x6s of various lengths are shipped via rail, truck and van.

Various lumber firms — All-weather Wood, MCL Lumber Products, Turner Lumber

and Home Depot are among the mill's biggest customers.

"Our largest is Home Depot, for sure," Backman said. "We can deliver a store-direct finished product" that benefits both Home Depot and Weyerhaeuser, she said.

Trucks drive north to Longview, Wash. where barges transport lumber south to Long Beach, Calif., for further distribution.

The firm offers tours to the public, but participants must be 16 years old for safety reasons.

All tours begin with a safety video. Hardhats, ear and eye protection along with long pants and closed-toe shoes are also required. The LCSWA group had about 25 people who were escorted in two groups — each with two guides.



Public Notices

NOTICE OF SALE OF PERSONAL PROPERTY UNDER LANDLORDS POSSESSORY LIEN.

Personal property left in the following units have been seized for Non-payment of rent and will be sold at The Storage Depot, 2887 SW Ferry St Albany, OR 97322 on September 25, 2025 at 12:00pm. The following units are available for viewing and live public sale at 12:00pm: Uriah Schubert I 1006 Mandy Lawson J2018, George Girard E0528, Jena Downard A0107, Kristen Tagen F0645, Don Coulter I1065. (Sept 10 - Sept 17)

NOTICE OF SALE OF PERSONAL PROPERTY UNDER LANDLORD’S POSSESSORY LIEN.

Personal property left in the following units have been seized for non-payment of rent and will be sold at The Storage Depot- 36666, Hwy 34, Lebanon OR 97355 on September 26th, 2025 at 10:00 am: Austin, Leslie CC40; Ballinger, Wendy DR28; Johnson, Stevie DC40; Libra, Brandi CL15 and ER4; Medlin, Ann CL22; Ramsdell, Cassandra FC69; Shaputis, Amanda ER39; Strickland, Jennifer BR42; Trengove, Jackie BR30; Walker, Kristina DC9. (Sept 10 - Sept 17)

SALE OF ABANDONED MANUFACTURED HOME:

One (1) 1974 OLPYN manufactured dwelling, Plate number X109979, Home identification number 186777, Manufacturer’s serial number(s) 48X121BRCK15086, with contents (if any) has been abandoned by Janis Moore (aka Janis M. Moore). The home is located at 204 Cascade, Spc 32, Lebanon, OR 97355 (sometimes referred to as 204 Cascade Dr, Spc 32, Lebanon, OR 97355). Sale shall be by private bidding, with sealed bids, and “as is” (there is no warranty relating to title, possession, quiet enjoyment or the like). Bids must be for a specific stated dollar figure and must be delivered to: Meadowbrook Investors dba Santiam Village South at 204 Cascade Dr, Lebanon, OR 97355, no later than the end of the day on the 19th day of September, 2025. The minimum bid shall be \$5640.40. which represents an opening bid by Meadowbrook Investors dba Santiam Village South and which any winning bidder must match or exceed. Upon confirmation of the winning bid, the purchaser must promptly tender full payment in cash, money order, or cashiers’ check and promptly remove the dwelling from the manufactured home park unless a storage agreement can be promptly negotiated between the successful bidder and the Park. Future owner occupancy of the dwelling onsite would require successful application for tenancy, screening, and entry into a written rental agreement, none of which will be considered until after the sale is complete. This auction may be cancelled at any time prior to the start of bidding without notice. Please contact Ron Holcomb, Manager, for more information and/or questions at 541-258-4030. (Sept 10 - Sept 17)

In the Matter of the Estate of LARRY L. SHELINE  
**NOTICE TO INTERESTED PERSONS COUNTY CASE NO. 25PB06761**  
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Circuit Court of County, State of Oregon, has appointed the undersigned as Personal Representative of the Estate of Larry L. Sheline, deceased. All persons having claims against said estate are required to present the same, with proper vouchers, to the personal representative in care of Sarah Castleton, Attorney at Law, Ivers & Miller Law at 317 W. 1st Ave, Suite 302, Albany, OR

Public Notices

97321, within four (4) months after the date of first publication of this notice, or the claims may be barred. All persons whose rights may be affected by the proceedings may obtain additional information from the records of the court, the personal representative or the attorney for the personal representative.  
DATED and first published: September 10, 2025.  
Dawn Hinds  
Personal Representative  
c/o Sarah Castleton  
Ivers & Miller Law  
PO Box 1033  
317 First Ave W., Suite 302  
Albany, OR 97321  
(541) 928-5875  
sarah@ivers.law  
(Sept 10)

In the Matter of the Estate of WILLIAM D. MARSHALL  
**NOTICE TO INTERESTED PERSONS**  
Linn County Case No. 25PB07371  
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Circuit Court of Linn County, State of Oregon, has appointed the undersigned as Personal Representative of the Estate of William D. Marshall, deceased. All persons having claims against said estate are required to present the same, with proper vouchers, to the personal representative in care of Sarah Castleton, Attorney at Law, Ivers & Miller Law at 317 W. 1st Ave, Suite 302, Albany, OR 97321, within four (4) months after the date of first publication of this notice, or the claims may be barred. All persons whose rights may be affected by the proceedings may obtain additional information from the records of the court, the personal representative or the attorney for the personal representative.  
DATED and first published: September 10, 2025.  
Diane Marshall  
Personal Representative  
c/o Sarah Castleton  
Ivers & Miller Law  
PO Box 1033  
317 First Ave W., Suite 302  
Albany, OR 97321  
(541) 928-5875  
sarah@ivers.law  
(Sept 10)

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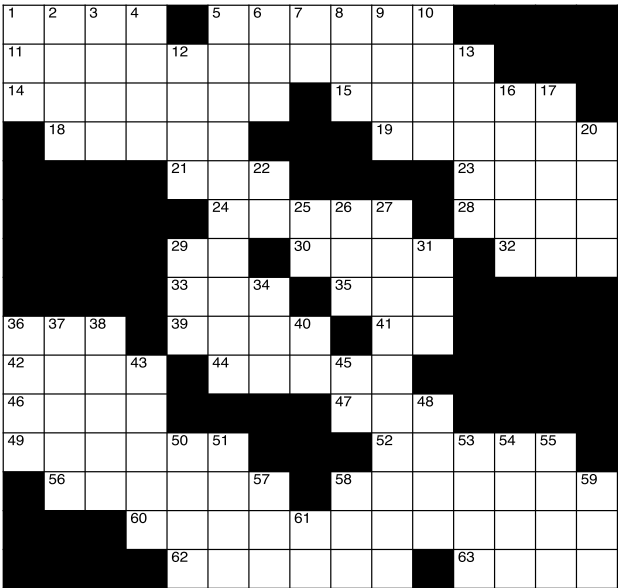
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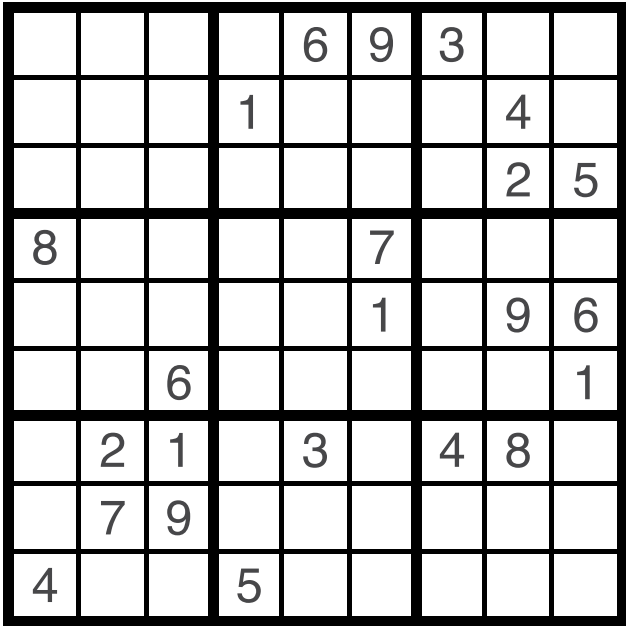
CLUES ACROSS

- 1. A minute amount (Scott)
- 5. Supernatural
- 11. Shortening
- 14. More firm
- 15. Other side
- 18. Philippine island
- 19. More unnatural
- 21. Microsoft Surface Book
- 23. Ice T’s wife
- 24. Domesticates
- 28. Only one time
- 29. In absentia
- 30. Crustlike surface of a healing skin lesion
- 32. Distress signal
- 33. Engine additive
- 35. 1990s female R&B trio
- 36. Very fast airplane
- 39. A reward (archaic)
- 41. Anno Domini
- 42. Golf supplies
- 44. Indian term of respect
- 46. French river
- 47. Turn down the lights
- 49. Blood-sucking African fly
- 52. Provides info
- 56. Procrastinates
- 58. Tower with balconies
- 60. Where researchers work
- 62. Religious office
- 63. Must-have for office workers

CLUES DOWN

- 1. In possession of
- 2. Aborigines
- 3. Early Syrian kingdom
- 4. Clip
- 5. Misleads
- 6. Cosmetic Ingredient Review
- 7. Calcium
- 8. United Talent Agency
- 9. Hair problem
- 10. Took down
- 12. Round Dutch cheese
- 13. Bicycle manufacturer
- 16. Suffix plural
- 17. Painting technique
- 20. Small Eurasian deer (pl.)
- 22. Mr. T’s character “\_\_ Baracus”
- 25. Progressive nerve disease
- 26. Shock therapy
- 27. Able to be sold
- 29. Suffix
- 31. Binary coded decimal
- 34. Goes well with a carrot
- 36. A way to measure performance
- 37. Doctor \_\_, children’s book author
- 38. Jewish calendar month
- 40. Designated hitter
- 43. Polish village
- 45. Part of the mind
- 48. Hand (Spanish)
- 50. Hit with the open hand
- 51. Italian island
- 53. Shakespeare was one
- 54. Lake \_\_, one of the Great
- 55. Oswald and Marvin were two
- 57. Soak up using something absorbent
- 58. Kids’ dish \_\_ and cheese
- 59. Expression of disappointment
- 61. The ancient Egyptian sun god

SUDOKU



Level: Advanced



# Commissioners sign on to request for immigration clarification

By Alex Paul

Linn County Communications

Linn County Commissioners Roger Nyquist, Sherrie Sprenger and Will Tucker agreed at their Tuesday, Sept. 2, meeting to sign onto a joint letter regarding a Complaint for Declaratory Relief filed recently by the Marion County Board of Commissioners in U.S. District Court in Eugene.

The joint letter encourages all the parties in the case to ask the court to issue a detailed opinion that would provide clarity to help all local governments properly follow federal and state laws.

Marion County is seeking clarification concerning federal immigration subpoenas and asks the court to resolve the uncertain interpretation and conflicts within and between federal and state laws

by declaring whether Marion County is required, prohibited, or allowed to provide responsive records requested by the federal subpoenas.

In its Complaint for Declaratory Relief, Marion County has named Gov. Tina Kotek, Director of Homeland Security, Kristi Noem and Immigration and Customs Enforcement Director Todd Lyons in its effort to gain legal clarity.

Linn County Attorney Gene Karandy told the commissioners that 34 of Oregon's 36 county sheriffs have signed onto a similar letter from the Oregon State Sheriff's Association. Linn County Sheriff Michelle Duncan is among the 34. The sheriffs in Multnomah and Washington counties have not signed on.

Karandy said the need for clarification is two-fold: fail-

ure to obey either the federal laws or Oregon's sanctuary laws may potentially subject individuals – such as law enforcement officials – to personal legal liabilities. Furthermore, failure to follow the federal laws may also result in a reduction or suspension of federal funding to local, county, and state governments.

Karandy said the issue is about clarity and liability.

Nyquist said clarity is vital to creating a "better working environment for our employees and the safety of our community."

**In other business, the commissioners:**

- Approved accepting a 2017 Munson landing craft boat from the Oregon State Marine Board for the Parks and Recreation Department. The boat is valued at

\$75,000. The boat has a front deck opening that can be raised or lowered. The deck allows the boat to be moved close to shore or a dock for loading or unloading of materials. Estimated cost to transport the boat to Linn County and prep it for use is about \$3,000. The Marine Board also recently provided the Parks and Recreation Department with a grant for \$12,108 to purchase a trailer for the boat.

- Held a public hearing of a Planning Director's code interpretation to determine whether a 7.13-acre property off Scrael Hill Road has road access. After a 90-minute hearing, the commissioners decided to leave the written record open for 14 days for further comments; seven days for written responses to comments; and

seven days for applicants to submit written rebuttals. The board will review the comments and work toward a decision at the continued hearing at 10 a.m. on Tuesday, Sept. 30.

- Approved an agreement between the Linn County Sheriff's Office and the Oregon Department of Transportation. LCSO will use ODOT's radio building and microwave circuit at the Halls Ridge Communication site near Detroit, Oregon. The cost is \$6,879.723 annually, which is built into the current operating budget.

- Agreed to participate in a national opioid settlement agreement among secondary manufacturers. Allocation of proceeds will be determined once all Oregon subdivisions have submitted participation forms.

## DR. BLAKE

From page 9

Alan worked vigorously to recover, regaining his abilities because he wanted to return to medicine.

"He was always after us to do therapy, whether it was speech or physical therapy, or occupational therapy," Zsuzsa said. "He was just ma-

niacal."

Along the way, he visited a therapist at Samaritan Lebanon Community Hospital who was helping him relearn those basic skills, chauffeured by his son Isaiah.

"That is one of the beautiful parts of that story," Zsuzsa said, relating how, while taking his dad to appointments, Isaiah met a young woman who was interning with Samaritan as a speech therapist and ... one thing led to another and now she is Alexa Blake.

In 2022, Alan took the medical boards exam and passed it.

He went skiing. He wanted to regain his driver's license.

"Fortunately, I won that one," Zsuzsa said, laughing.

Then, in September 2023, he suffered another stroke.

"He'd just been improving so much, and you know, there's always risk for another stroke once you've had a stroke," Zsuzsa said. "Well, really, in my mind, I just didn't think about that very much because he had been improving so well."

Although the second stroke initially seemed less severe, after a few days Alan began to decline and the end came quickly, in an ICU in Portland, on Sept. 31, 2023. He was 65.

"It was our 44th anniversary."

### Memorial Reflections

Goby said Alan Blake would come to him for wood for his projects and after his death, Blake's family and the Samaritan Lebanon Hospital Foundation contacted him

about creating a memorial.

The memorial was originally intended for the garden area outside the clinic, but Goby said that they decided to move it indoors, into the lobby.

"I drew up a plan for the shadow box and ran that by them and I talked with employees about some of the qualities they recognized in him," Goby said.

"He was skilled with his medicine and skilled with his hands. Those are not qualities you always find together."

He said he decided to create the shadow box of fiddleback maple and ebony.

"Ebony's very rare," Goby said. "I wanted to use something rare, beautiful."

The box contains a small tombstone with a stethoscope and some other medical instruments carved into it.

He also added a workbench "to have a place for him to hang his stethoscope up and come home and not worry about his patients."

Goby said he was able to find some small laser-cut letters that he arranged on the work table "as if he were designing names" and which Goby used to represent some


of Blake's qualities and "life skills": "Patient," "Compassionate," "Intelligent," "Creative," "Serving" and more.

"He was interested in Alaskan totem pole art so I included a beaver carving on there that represented his industry as a busy, active life," Goby said, noting after a brief pause for reflection: His personality and mine are somewhat similar."

Brandy O'Bannon, executive director of the Lebanon Community Hospital Foundation, said the memorial was a "staff-led project."

"Medical Director Dr. Juliette Asuncion and her team at the Sweet Home Medical Center really wanted to pay tribute to their longtime mentor, colleague and friend," she said.

"We were glad to connect the team with Dr. Gary Goby, who designed and crafted the memorial, with consultation from the Blake family. We are grateful for donations, which made this project possible, and hope that patients and friends of Dr. Blake will find the memorial meaningful and honoring of a great legacy."



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# Huskies wake up against Siuslaw to make it competitive

At halftime in the Sweet Home boys' home soccer opener against Siuslaw/Mapleton on Sept. 2, it was starting to look like it might be a long soccer season.

That was when the Huskies trailed 7-0 against the Vikings, who qualified for state last year after dropping down to the 3A Division.

H the team made some adjustments at halftime and played a 1-1 tie in the second half. It was an 8-1 loss, but...

"Yeah, tale of two teams," said Coach Eric Stutzer.

"The boys were really struggling to play anything in the first half - a lot of boot ball, not much control."

Plus, he said, his boys were "just ball watching the entire first half, and watching things drop. The ball would bounce three times before

one of our players would even get to it."

In the second half, though, they were a whole different team, fighting and scoring.

"We started doing a lot better, getting some good looks," Stutzer said.

"The problem on offense wasn't just that we weren't getting balls on net, we weren't getting it off our foot fast enough."

"And so first half, I think we had about seven eight shots. In the second half, we were upwards of about 12 to 13."

Their goal came from sophomore Felix Lopez, and Stutzer said some of the others "should have gone in."

The Huskies were to host East Linn Christian on Sept. 9 before traveling to Kennedy on Sept. 18.

- Scott Swanson



Photos by Scott Swanson

Keeghan Gittins, above, takes a shot between Siuslaw defenders. Below left, Levi Ayala reaches to get control of a ball, while, below, Vikings goalie Yair Brito Xilot hugs the ball after stopping a shot by Logan Anderson, center, in the first half.



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Thanks for always stepping up, Scotty!



# Slow start doesn't last long for Sweet Home volleyball

After a season-opening loss at Junction City, Sweet Home's volleyball team clicked off four straight victories going into this week.

The Huskies lost 3-1 to Junction City on Sept. 2, then won their home opener against Molalla on Sept. 4 3-2 in a see-saw match.

On Saturday Sweet Home swept three opponents in the Cascade Tournament, beating Seaside 2-0, then blanking Junction City by the same score before downing Tillamook 2-1.

## Junction City 3, Sweet Home 1

Coach Katie Dargis said her team struggled at the service line against the Tigers in the first match of the season, dropping their first two games 14-25, 19-25, before they came on stronger at the end of the match, winning 25-18 and just losing the last game, 22-25.

"We missed a few too many serves," Dargis said, noting that she's been encouraging her players to be more aggressive as they serve, "but we went a little over there."

Karissa Jewell was 94% in 17 serves and led the team in serve-receive passing with 21, while Trinity Victor was 3 for 3 from the line.

Kaitlyn Kennedy finished with three aces and 18 total serves in the match and also led the Huskies in kills with 13 and 17 passes.

"The fact that they are passing that ball so efficiently helped us out," Dargis said.

"I think we got a lot of first game jitters out, got comfortable a bit more in our rotation that we were just new at, and going through and making

adjustments to that as we could, so it was a good good start to the season even with the loss," she said.

## Sweet Home 3, Molalla 2

In front of the home crowd, the Huskies went to work against Molalla, winning 25-14, 20-25, 25-17, 20-25 and 15-7 against an opponent that wouldn't stay down.

"I was really happy for the girls, getting first home game win under their belt because that first home game they are kind of nervous playing for the first time in the season in front of all their peers," Dargis said, adding that the crowd support helped her players.

The serving was stronger this time, with Natalie Smith finishing with four aces and a total of 14 serves, Kira Johnson with three aces and a total of 21 serves, and Kennedy also had three aces and 16 total serves.

Jewell finished with 22 serves overall.

"We had a lot of girls that were very efficient for us at the serving line, putting balls in play and giving tough balls over the net to help us," Dargis said.

Aubrey Newberry had 11 kills and a total of 23 attempts, Amara Gonzales had nine kills off of 22 swings, Kia Johnson had eight kills off of 23 swings and Aaliyah Brown had nine kills out of 25 swings, while Kennedy finished with 15 kills out of 42 attempts "so Kaitlyn got fed that ball a lot in that game," Dargis noted.

"We also dug the ball well - overall (Jewell) had like 28 digs.

- Keeghan Gittins/Scott Swanson



Kaitlyn Kennedy, above, delivers a hit against Molalla during the Huskies' 3-2 win over the Indians. At right, Keira Johnson unleashes a spike.

Photos courtesy of Kristine Banker

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# HUSKIES FALL SPORTS PREVIEW



Varsity football team members include, in front, from left, Mason Tyler, Bridger Royer, Kyle Porter, Jake Smith, David Anderson, Trenton Templin, Brennen Eldridge, Martin Chelstad, Bode Nichols, Riley Vaughan and Logan Estep. In the second row, from left, are James Hearick, Alex Bachand, Gabriel Meadors, Liam Martin, Gavin Tyler, Bradyn McClure, Dillan Davis, Eli Cruz, Gavin Richey, Keeghan Gittins and Kaeson Walker. In the third row, from left, are Kolton Pollock, Luke Rosa, Coach Rob Younger, Coach Daniel Virtue, Coach Brent Gaskey, Coach Nathan Whitfield, Head Coach Ryan Adams, Coach Ryan Graville, Coach Nate Tyler, Coach Dave Barringer, Sam Barringer and Kyle Zajic. In the rear, from left, are AJ Rodriguez, Gunner Summers, Rafe Hayes, Lynkin Royer, Daniel McCubbins, Kellen Hartsook, Jeremiah Steagall and Dylan Hartsook. Not pictured are Mason Pickle and Gabe Wright.

## Football: Goal to play in November getting sharper with experience

By Scott Swanson  
*Of The New Era*

It's a new year for Sweet Home football and Coach Ryan Adams, starting his fifth year at the helm, is optimistic.

After suffering through a winless season in 2023, the Huskies got off to a good start with three straight wins in 2024 over Madras, Molalla

and Milwaukie, before finishing 4-5 after a 1-4 run in the tough Oregon West Conference.

"Last year was, obviously, a really, really good year in a lot of different ways," Adams said. "You know, we were kind of in a tough situation after that 0-9 season, and kind of revamped our coaching staff a little bit, and were able to

get some kind of key pieces within our community back out to help."

That would be a staff of assistants who brought a wide range of experience to the field: Chad Bach, Dave Barringer, Brent Gaskey, Ryan Graville, Nate Tyler, Daniel Virtue, Nathan Whitfield and Rob Younger, with Tomas Rosa heading the junior var-

sity program.

Younger, who coached the Huskies for 30 years, including during Sweet Home's state championship season in 1987, was head coach from 1988 to 2009, when he retired from teaching. Barringer graduated before the state championship, Younger said, but he played on the 1985 team that "was instrumental

in setting a foundation" for the 1986 Huskies finishing 11-2 and then going undefeated the next year to win the state championship.

The veterans bring experience and stability, Adams said.

"Our whole staff last year was pretty much a bunch of

See Football, Page 3

## Spikers looking to bounce back in competitive OWC

By Keeghan Gittins  
*For The New Era*

After ending the season 4-15 and ranked 24th in the 4A Division last year, Sweet Home's volleyball team is aiming for a bounceback year.

Head Coach Katie Dargis, starting her second year with the Huskies, believes the team will be much stronger than its predecessor.

"We have some strong back-row players and precise front-row hitters who will be holding themselves more accountable this season," she said. "I expect us to come out and win more games this season."

Sweet Home has an upperclassman-exclusive roster with five returning

seniors: Keira Johnson, Aubrey Newberry, Miley Smith, Natalie Smith and Trinity Victor.

Rounding out the rest of the roster are seven juniors, Aaliyah Brown, Kalissa Ellis, Amara Gonzales, Hannah Nicholson, Karissa Jewell, Kaitlyn Kennedy and Lexi Rundell.

The seniors have really taken a leadership role in this year's team, Dargis said.

"They all help to keep the enthusiasm on the court positive as well as on the bench. We are working as a team to make sure we are helping to reset each other after mistakes on the court, and I am counting on all of them to be a positive con-

See Volleyball, Page 2



Varsity volleyball players are, in front, from left, Trinity Victor, Karissa Jewell, Hannah Nicholson, Kalissa Ellis, Miley Smith and Lexi Rundell. In the rear, from left, are Keira Johnson, Amara Gonzales, Aaliyah Brown, Aubrey Newberry, Kaitlyn Kennedy and Natalie Smith.



## VOLLEYBALL

From page 1

tributor to that process.

“They are helpful in the whole program as well - guiding the younger teams through their actions such as preparing the gym for practice, taking care of the locker room, being responsible on the bus rides, etc.”

She said one big focus this year is respecting each other on the court: “Helping to reset each other after mistakes, being willing to face adversity and push yourself to do better, to hold ourselves accountable for our performance.”

She said the team started the season with bonding activities and she hopes to continue that through the season.

In practice, they are emphasizing fundamentals:

“spending some time on passing, hitting, blocking, and a lot of time knowing our rotation.

On the junior varsity roster going into this season are: juniors Kalissa Ellis, who will swing, Tori Victor and Hannah Nicholson, who will swing; sophomores Raelyn Andrews and Taelyn Coleman; and freshmen Aubree Bartlett, Miranda Chelstad, Tessa Cooley, Eveline Harris, Madison Jeppsen, Bristol Paul, Amaya Smith and Braelyn Walker.

Junior varsity II players are sophomores Sydney Dominy, Bailey Newens and Lyla Ventura; and freshmen Abigail Blank, Lily Hurst, Sydney Lamb, Addison Landtroop, Kayla Matthews, Leah Nicholson, Brookelyn Visser, Ellie Wagoner and Kassidy Zajic.

At the varsity level, the



Junior varsity volleyball team members include, in front, from left, Tessa Cooley, Miranda Chelstad, Kalissa Ellis, Eveline Harris and Amaya Smith. In the rear, from left, are Tori Victor, Bristol Paul, Taelyn Coleman, Braelyn Walker, Madison Jeppsen and Aubree Bartlett.



Junior varsity II volleyball team members include, in front, from left, Bailey Newens, Lily Hurst, Addison Landtroop, Kassidy Zajic, Sydney Lamb and Lyla Ventura. In the rear, from left, are Sydney Dominy, Abigail Blank, Ellie Wagoner, Kayla Matthews, Brookelyn Visser and Leah Nicholson.

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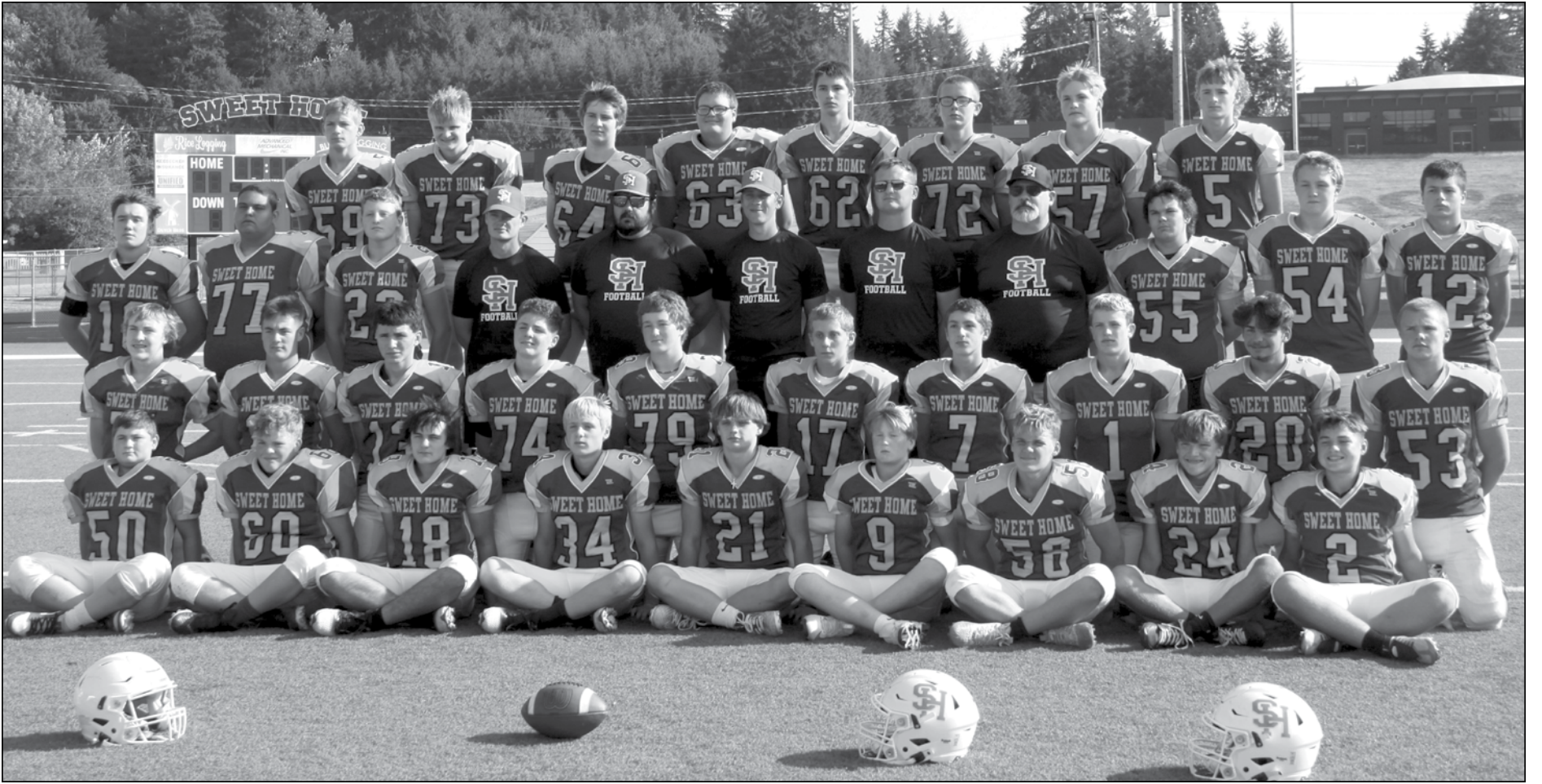


**Sweet Home, OR**

Huskies face one of the toughest schedules in the 4A Division this season with three opponents ranked in the coaches' Top 10 poll from two weeks before the season. They face Cottage Grove in non-league action and then Cascade and Stayton twice in league play. Plus, Philomath can never be counted out in the Oregon West Conference.

“I am looking forward to many league games - these girls do best when they are challenged in games and we have a challenging league. Two teams from our league finished in the top 10 last year, so I'm excited to get to play them again. Games against Cascade, Stayton, Newport, and Philomath will all be a great test and challenge for us.”





Junior varsity team members include, in front, from left, Brodie Starha, Ryder Oakley, Austin Weinman, Landon Phinney, Jaicob Shaw, Boone Cupp, Gavin Baker, Brayden Driver and Macen Rosa. In the second row, from left, are Zach Davis, Landen Pruitt, Mason Flores, Marcus Warthen, Bryson Mumford, Gunnar Stafford, Zeplin Berg, Jake Smith, Lukas Banker and Ean Tackett. In the third row, from left, are Ryder Cummings, AJ Rodriguez, Micheal Eggers, Head Coach Ryan Adams, Coach Nathan Whitfield, Coach Daniel Virtue, Coach Ryan Graville, Coach Brent Gaskey, Murphy Savolt, Braden Eggers and Max Slayter. In the rear, from left, are Brodee Gay, Hunter McClure, Aiden Leopard, Rylan Flansberg, Ernie Hicks, Marshall Van Dijk, Dylan Hartsook and Thomas Bandy.

## FOOTBALL

From page 1

new guys," he said, adding that Barringer and Virtue were the only returnees from 2023.

"Last year was a big growing year for us. We knew we were going to be more athletic, and so we really just focused on kind of creating a foundation from that season on which we could just build.

"The new coaching staff really helped me incorporate that into our team, in terms of how we taught discipline a few different ways."

What's crucial, he said, is that the entire varsity coaching staff is back.

"We're really trying to create some continuity within our program," Adams said. "Over the first four seasons that I was here, it kind of changed, year in and year out, both coaches and scheme.

"And so this is the first year since I've been the head coach, that our varsity staff is the same as last year – the first time that I've had the same guys two years in a row.

"We're really just trying to build on what we established last year, and we've been able to already reap the benefits of that. Our kids are at a way, way better starting spot at this time of the year compared to this time last year. The game is a lot simpler for them, and they can just go play fast. And so that's been a lot of fun."

Although the Huskies have lost some stalwarts in the

trenches – Jackson Barringer, Colton Bennett, Jayden Mancilla and Dylan Sharp, along with running back/middle linebacker Kayo Ebbs, there's a lot of talent returning, the coach noted.

"Really, the biggest reason we were able to kind of right the ship (last year) was their buy-in," Adams said.

But, he added, there's a lot of talent coming back.

"All of our scoring, the big-time scorers for us last year, are back," he said.

Quarterback Kyle Zajic, now a junior, returns along with junior receiver/defensive back Bradyn McClure

and now-senior Dillan Davis, who was "our primary playmaker last year," Adams said.

Also, starting linemen Gavin Tyler, now a junior, and senior Lynkin Royer at left tackle.

"Kyle is another year older, faster, stronger, smarter and he's a really good athlete. We lost some really good seniors last year but the guys that are replacing them have taken the bull by the horns and they are ready to rock."

Those include junior Liam Martin at center, senior Gabriel Meadors at left guard and junior Kellen Hartsook and sophomore Eli Cruz at

right tackle.

"Those guys on top, with Lynkin Royer and Gavin Tyler, are hitting the ground running. Then you add Kyle Zajic and the two running backs we've got behind him, (seniors) Luke Rosa and Trenton Templin, (who are) full-back, H back-type kids, and we have a lot of weapons."

Plus, he added, "what's really cool about this year, too, is we have some of the kids that were freshmen last year that are coming into varsity positions, like Sam Barringer and Mason Tyler.

"A few of those guys have really stepped up for us so far

this fall and will be kind of big pieces of our team."

Rounding out the varsity roster are: seniors Alex Bachand, Keeghan Gittins, James Hearick, Bode Nichols, Kyle Porter, Bridger Royer, and Jeremiah Steagall; juniors David Anderson, Brennen Eldridge, Logan Estep, Rafe Hayes, Daniel McCubbins, Mason Pickle, Kolton Pollock, Gavin Richey, AJ Rodriguez, Gunner Summers, Riley Vaughan, Kaeson Walker, and Gabe Wright; and sophomores Martin Chels-tad, Dylan Hartsook and Jake Smith.

See Football, Page 7

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# Huskies seeking to turn up heat in boys soccer

By Scott Swanson  
Of The New Era

They've been a team of youngsters, both in age and soccer experience, slogging it out against some of the best teams in the state.

The Huskies went 1-12-1 overall and winless in the Oregon West Conference, scoring nine goals and allowing 29 last season. But that was a step up from the 2023 season, in which they were winless.

Now, says Head Coach Eric Stutzer, beginning his 10th year at the helm of the Sweet Home boys soccer program, it's time for his team to get aggressive.

But that may take more than just using speed to get to the ball, because Sweet Home lost some fast players last season to graduation: Conner Stevens, Josh Aker, along with experienced leaders in Ivan Ogden and Gavin Gardner.

"We had a couple of big departures," Stutzer said last week. "Ivan Ogden is going to be a big loss for us. He was a very talented player, especially in the front end and the midfield. We cannot replace that."

Gardner, a four-year starter in goal, will also be missed.

"We're looking at a junior and a sophomore this year to pick up that slack, fill that role, and in the league we're playing in, they are going to be the most shot-on keeper, probably in the state," Stutzer said.

Stutzer said the goal is to increase the Huskies' speed of play.

"I'm excited about our



Varsity boys soccer team members are, in front, from left, Xander Blom, Logan Andersen and Thomas Culbertson. In the second row, from left, are Kace Stevens, Westin Burns, Levi Ayala, Keeghan Gittins, Felix Lopez, Ben Perry and Malakai Walls. In the rear, from left, are Isaiah Scofield, Cannon Klumph, Memphis Gay, Assistant Coach Rowland Lupoli, Head Coach Eric Stutzer, Kyle Petrait, Elisha Scofield and Ben Ramsey.

front end play, where we don't have as much speed as we've had in the past, but I think our technical play is better," he said of senior Keeghan Gittins and sophomores Levi Ayala and Felix Lopez.

"I think our sophomores will be fun to watch this year. Their level of skill on the ball is strong and they're working extremely well together.

"Right now, the big thing that is still a little lost in translation is pace of play and just taking a shot when the shot is open. Sometimes they hold the ball a little bit

too long. But I'm excited to see what they have to offer."

Backing them up in the midfield and back line will be senior Elisha Scofield and junior Logan Andersen, along with senior Cannon Klumph and Memphis, all of whom bring some size that, Stutzer said, was lacking in recent years on defense.

"They're going to be very physical and so we want to get them up in the midfield and in support of our defense," he said. "They may not have the speed to play on the back end that, say, Conner Stevens does, but

they're going to have a lot of physicality in the middle of the field and hopefully that physicality will translate to offense."

Rounding out the roster for the Huskies are senior Ben Perry, juniors Xander Blom, Thomas Culbertson and Isaiah Scofield; sophomores Ben Ramsey, Kace Stevens and Malakai Walls; and freshman Westin Burns.

Stutzer is assisted this year by alums Joseph Hiemenz and Rowland Lupoli.

Stutzer said he wants to see his team turn up the heat on offense this year,

making an effort to get and keep the ball on the opponents' end of the field. In the past, he noted, the Huskies have been prone to "a lot of ball-watching."

"We're going to try to play a little heavier offensive set this year, a little bit different formation than we played in the past," he said.

"We really want to get the ball into the attacking third a lot more and to give ourselves more opportunities so it doesn't put so much pressure on our defensive

See Boys Soccer, Page 7

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Cheer team members include, in front, from left, Hannah Sieminski, Ember Ogden, Evie Hostetter and Aylah Magallanes. In the second row, from left, are Caira Erspamer, Madalyn Murray, Addison Lynn, Emmalin Rosa, Katriona Harris, Velvet Smith and Madi Hearick. In the rear, from left, are Ashlynn Beebe, Elizabeth Hankins, Taylee Rosa, Joseph Jazmin, Natalie Conn, Grace Gardner and Lylah Allison. Not pictured are Emma Lehr and Ava Padua.



# Girls soccer, looking for stride, gets positive start in jamboree

By Ryker Burr

For The New Era

After suffering through a 0-14 season with seven losses by eight or more goals in 2024, Sweet Home's girls soccer team is looking to find their stride once again.

Despite their recent struggles, Head Coach Ramiro Santana is confident his team will be more competitive on the field this year. Santana, beginning his 18th year with the Huskies girls soccer program, stated, "I think once this team learns who they are, they are going to be very strong. We're a very young team. We're set up to have success for a long time."

The Huskies return two seniors and five juniors, complemented by seven sophomores and seven freshmen, some moving up from the newly established program at Sweet Home Junior High.

Santana noted that his team made progress through summer practices.

"We've got a new group of girls," he said. "We lost 11 varsity members from last season. This summer we worked on controlling and moving the ball more."

"We need to communicate more as a team. This group is very young, but they are learning to communicate and trust each other. They're doing very well."

After finishing 2024 winless and dead last in OSAA's 4A state rankings, things can only improve for the Huskies.

"The goal is to never give up, no matter what," Santana said. "We are the underdogs in one of the best leagues in the state. We can't give up."

At the Huskies' pre-season Jamboree Tournament, Sweet Home showed notable progress. Though they were blown out 5-0 by 5A Division Churchill, Sweet Home showed promise during its remaining two matchups, both against 3A competitors. The Green and Gold tied with Coquille in a scoreless contest, then closed out the day with a one-point loss to Rogue River, 0-1.

The Huskies' defense clearly made a statement, looking drastically improved compared to last season, a vitally important sign indicating this season will be full of success for the revamping program.

"I am confident this team will be more competitive in games this season," said Santana, who is also a sprint coach for the Huskies' track



Girls soccer team members include, in the front row, from left, Sadie Dalton, Khloe Wood, Morgan Lalonde, Hope Miser, Shasta Tenbusch and Natasha Marin. In the second row, from left, are Ziarra Duncan, Olivia Sullens, Nakia Merino-Jaurez, Jocelyn Simmons, Lyndie Birkett, Hailee Ramsdell, Tayler Sullivan, Anabelle Morris and Nevada Hankins. In the rear, from left, are Miu Simmons, Rylee Mabe, Khloe Sautel, Head Coach Ramiro Santana, Coach Keith Sautel, Coach Kelsey Walker, Danielle Robertson, Persephone Brookfield and Reece Lindner-Parker.

and field team. We have more competitive girls now. They're winners. They don't like to lose."

The Huskies will be led this year by captains Khloe Sautel, a sophomore, junior Lyndie Birkett, and senior Anabelle Morris.

Sautel will double as a central midfielder and defender, Birkett will return as the team's goalkeeper, and Morris is the team's top forward.

"These girls were named captains because they're the girls that help me out the most," Santana said.

"They're the most knowledgeable in soccer. They're the most competitive. The other girls look up to them."

Rounding out the roster going into the season are: senior Danielle Robertson, juniors Nakia Merino-Jaurez, Hope Miser, Miu Simmons and Khloe Wood; sophomores Ziarra Duncan, Rylee Mabe, Natasha Marin, Reece Parker, Hailee Ramsdell and Olivia Sullens; and freshmen Persephone Brookfield, Sadie Dalton, Nevada Hankins, Morgan Lalonde, Jocelyn Simmons, Tayler Sullivan and Shasta Tenbusch.

The Huskies have been

gifted with opportunities to prove their progress early on in the 2025 campaign.

After road games at Siu-slaw on Sept. 2 and Western

Christian (Salem) on Sept. 9, the Huskies will open at home against Cottage Grove at 6 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 11.



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# FALL SPORTS SCHEDULE

## FOOTBALL

Sept. 12	V	Molalla	7 p.m.
Sept. 15	JV	@ Molalla	5:30 p.m.
Sept. 19	V	Woodburn	7 p.m.
Sept. 22	JV	Woodburn	5:30 p.m.
Sept. 26	V/JV	@ North Bend	V-7 p.m./ JV - 4 p.m.
Oct. 3	V	Marist Catholic	7 p.m.
Oct. 6	JV	@ Marist Catholic	4 p.m.
Oct. 10	V	@ Junction City ( William Peden Field)	7 p.m.
Oct. 13	JV	Junction City	5:30 p.m.
Oct. 17	V	@ Crescent Valley	7 p.m.
Oct. 20	JV	Crestent Valley	5:30 p.m.
Oct. 24	V	Cottage Grove	7 p.m.
Oct. 27	JV	@ Cottage Grove	5:30 p.m.
Oct. 31	V	@ Philomath (Senior Night)	7 p.m.
Nov. 3	JV	Philomath	5 p.m.

## VOLLEYBALL

Sept. 13	JV	Philomath JV Tourn.	TBD
Sept. 16	V/JV/JV2	@ Estacada	V-6 p.m./JV and JV2-4:30 p.m.
Sept. 18	V/JV/JV2	@ Cottage Grove	V-6:30 p.m./JV and JV2-4:30 p.m.
Sept. 20	V	Marist Tournament	TBD
Sept. 23	V/JV/JV2	@ Philmath	V-6 p.m./JV and JV2-4:30 p.m.
Sept. 25	V/JV/JV2	Newport	V-6 p.m./JV and JV2-4:30 p.m.
Sept.30	V/JV	@ North Marion	V-6 p.m./JV -4:30 p.m.
Oct. 2	V/JV/JV2	Stayton	V-6 p.m./JV and JV2-4:30 p.m.
Oct. 7	V/JV/JV2	Cascade	V-6 p.m./JV and JV2-4:30 p.m.
Oct. 9	V/JV/JV2	Philomath	V-6 p.m./JV and JV2-4:30 p.m.
Oct. 14	V/JV/JV2	@ Newport	V-7 p.m./JV- 5:30 pm /JV2-4:30 p.m.
Oct. 16	V/JV	North Marian	V-6 p.m./JV-4:30 p.m.
Oct. 21	V/JV/JV2	@ Stayton	V-6 p.m./JV and JV2-4:30 p.m.
Oct. 23	V/JV/JV2	@ Cascade	V-6 p.m./JV and JV2-4:30 p.m.

## BOYS SOCCER

Sept. 18	V	@ Kennedy	V- 4 p.m.
Sept. 23	V	@ Junction City/ Harrisburg	V - 4:30 pm
Sept. 25	V	Philomath	V-6 p.m.
Sept. 30	V	@ Newport/ Waldport	V-7 p.m.
Oct. 2	V	North Marion	V-6 p.m.
Oct. 7	V	Stayton	V-6 p.m.
Oct. 9	V	@ Cascade	V-5 p.m.
Oct. 14	V	@ Philomath	V-3:30 pm
Oct. 16	V	Newport/ Waldport	V-6 p.m.
Oct. 21	V	@ North Marion	V-6 p.m.
Oct. 23	V	@ Stayton	V-6 p.m.
Oct. 28	V	Cascade	V-6 p.m.

## GIRLS SOCCER

Sept. 11	V	Cottage Grove	V-6 p.m.
Sept. 16	V	Gervais/Kennedy	V-6 p.m.
Sept. 22	V	Junction City	V-6 p.m.
Sept. 25	V	@ Philomath	V-4 p.m.
Sept. 30	V	Newport	V-6 p.m.
Oct. 2	V	@ North Marion/ St. Paul	V-4 p.m.
Oct. 7	V	@ Stayton	V-6 p.m.
Oct. 9	V	Cascade	V-6 p.m.
Oct. 14	V	Philomath	V-6 p.m.
Oct. 16	V	@ Newport	V-7 p.m.
Oct. 21	V	North Marion/ St. Paul	V-6 p.m.
Oct. 23	V	Stayton	V-6 p.m.
Oct. 28	V	@ Cascade	V-5 p.m.

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## CROSS COUNTRY

Sept. 13	V	Oregon City XC Invitational Clackamas Community College Oregon City	10 a.m.
Sept. 20	V	Northwest Classic Lane Community College Eugene	10 a.m.
Sept. 27	V	Sweet Home Chapel Run Community Chapel Sweet Home	10:30 a.m.
Oct. 4	V	The Harrier Classic Bryant Park Albany	8:30 a.m.
Oct. 11	V	Paul Mariman Invitational Philomath High School Philomath	11 a.m.
Oct. 22	V	The Happy Hustle Crystal Lake Sports Park Corvallis	4:00 p.m.
Nov. 1	V	4A-3 Oregon West Conference Championships Philomath	TBD
Nov. 8	V	OSAA State XC Championships Lane Community College	TBD



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## BOYS SOCCER

From page 4  
players."

Thus, Sweet Home may use a 4-3-4 set more often than it has in the past in an attempt to get there, though it could also use three defensive backs "with a little bit heavier midfield and little bit heavier front line" in an attempt to utilize its strength and physicality.

Sweet Home is working on six specific goals: technical skills, communication, pace of play, staying engaged in the game, and movement.

The latter stems from the fact that Sweet Home players often come in without a lot of youth soccer experience, unlike other teams in the league.

"We don't understand movement very well," Stutzer said. "And with move-

ment comes timing."

If the Huskies can hit all six of those factors for a full 60 minutes, "not just doing it for 15 minutes or 30 minutes," Stutzer said, they could "surprise some teams."

"If we can control in the attacking third, get a lot of shots off and utilize some of our strengths, then we're going to do extremely well."

In their season-opening Jamboree on Aug. 29 in Eugene, the Huskies played "really well" in 20-minute matches against "teams within our demographic," he said. They finished with 0-0 ties against Pacific/Bandon and Pleasant Hill an-0 loss to Sutherland.

"They were able to exploit us a little bit on the speed side of things," he said of the Bulldogs.

"I thought our possession was great in the attacking and mid third, but things

were good moving forward. But that was within our demographic.

"When we start going into league play, we will not be in our demographic and that could change dramatically.

The Oregon West Conference is arguably the toughest 4A competition in the state. Last year North Marion lost 3-2 to Henley in the state final, after Stayton lost 2-1 in the state semifinals to the Hornets.

"I'm betting that we'll probably get a state champion out of our league again this year," Stutzer said. "Newport is on the rise, Philomath is on the rise. You may see a little bit of change in North Marion at state because they graduated some seniors, but I don't think you're going to see much.

"It's going to be an extremely competitive and strong league again this year.

## FOOTBALL

From page 3

The Huskies will continue to focus on their running game to open things up in the air, Adams said, noting that although Sweet Home ran the ball about 80% of the time last year, "throwing when we absolutely had to, this year we don't."

"At our level of football, we've got to be able to run it if we want to be able to win games in November," Adams said. "So we'll be a run-first team, but we have plans to sprinkle in more play-action, straight drop-back passing this year because I think we'll be a lot better at it.

"I think the biggest change is we'll be more balanced.

"There shouldn't be a team that is going to force us to do something one way or the other. We should be able to just take advantage of whatever we want to take advantage of."

Plus, this year's team is more experienced, so Adams said he expects to see more big plays.

"They have a way better understanding of how to read the ball in the air, angles, tackling angles, pursuit angles - they have a better understanding of the scheme and exactly what they should be doing."

This year's schedule is almost identical to last year's with a key test being North Bend, which ended Sweet Home's preseason win streak last year, on the road. That will be a good test, Adams said.

"I'm really excited because it's a long road trip," he said. "Then we get into league play. We have our biggest non-league matchup before we

get into our biggest league matchup."

That would be Marist, the defending state champion, at home on Oct. 3, which will be Homecoming for the Huskies.

"That kind of adds an extra incentive - and distraction," Adams said. "

"But what I really like about our schedule is I think it does everything that we need it to

in terms of creating or finding out what kind of team we are and what we have to get better at to make November games.

"So I'm really excited about that. I think there's gonna be a lot of lessons and if we can find ways to win those games, we set ourselves up to be in a good spot by the end of the year."

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# Huskies looking to move up in OWC cross-country

By Scott Swanson  
Of The New Era

Four years ago, Coach Dave Martin returned to Sweet Home High School after a 20-year absence to find a cross-country team numbering eight boys and seven girls, some doubling with other sports and all inexperienced in distance running over hill and dale.

During 2021 – the COVID shutdown, there had been six total who finished the season.

This year Martin has 13 boys (nearly the total of his first year) and 17 girls, most of them young but most not inexperienced in cross-country. They include at least three who, if healthy, should be competitive at the highest levels of state 4A competition – but more on that in a moment.

“Things are going very well right now,” Martin said. “We have a great attitude and team chemistry. The kids are working really well and they are focused on goals and being better every day.”

Three of his boys, he said, are running long workouts of 10 miles at a time, and he has “four or five” girls who can run seven.

Going into this season, his fifth after returning, Martin brings 29 years of high school coaching experience and 14 of college track coaching at Oregon Institute of Technology, to the task of rebuilding the program he guided from 1980 through 2001 at Sweet Home.

During that period, he had “10 or 11” boys teams and six girls teams qualify for state, the girls finishing sixth at one point.

“We didn’t have a huge soccer program in those days,” he told The New Era when he returned in 2022. “We always had full teams.” His boys made regular appearances at state and finished second, third, fourth and fifth during his time at the helm.

Jessie Shra won Sweet Home’s only girls state cross-country title in 1993 under Martin’s tutelage, and although he didn’t have any



Members of the Sweet Home cross-country teams include: in first row, from left, Madison Looney, McKenzie Miller, Acen Webber, Marian Helfrich, Delainie Pratt, Lexi Lee, Pyper Hall, Zoie Allison and Noelle Helfrich. In the second row, from left, are Madison Ciullo, Neveah Wize, Wes Goff, McKenzie Ohlheiser, Miu Simmons, Ryker Burr, Hudson Ogden, Anabelle Morris, Ryder Farris and Cassie Spencer. In the rear, from left, are Elijah Rodriguez, Bentley Uhlry, Eli Adams, Louis Kistner, Assistant Coach Lindsay Janzer, Head Coach Dave Martin, Assistant Coach Scott Swanson, Sam Strawn, Evan Knight, Conner Spencer and Emma Whitton. Not pictured are Kali Vogel and Noah Strawn.

boys champions, he had multiple runners finish in the top 10 – Jesse White, Manuel Robledo, Joe Olsen and others.

So Martin knows what he’s talking about when he evaluates his runners.

“So far, this is the best talented team, the best working team I’ve had in my four years.”

The girls are led by three seniors, McKenzie Miller, Anabelle Morris and Delainie Pratt.

Miller has run the third-fastest personal best ever by a Sweet Home girl, clocking 19:43 last year on the fast course at the Northwest Classic at Lane Community College.

She missed qualifying for state by one place – for the second year in a row, after being out sick for a week leading up to the race. She qualified for state last spring in the 3000, placing 11th in 10:48.91.

“I think McKenzie’s proven that she is capable of running with the best in the state,” Martin said.

Morris is doubling with soccer for the third year in a row, so will run a limited schedule and Pratt is using cross-country to train for track.

But Martin said she contributes experience on a girls team that has seven freshmen

and four sophomores.

“Delainie is a great veteran who has been great for the team,” he said. “She’s knowledgeable about what to do and how to do it.”

The other returnee who has proved herself at the high school level is sophomore Emma Whitton, who was second at districts last year – by a step, and then finished fourth at the state championships in 19:01.9, the second-fastest time ever run by a Sweet Home girl and the fastest since Shra.

La Grande junior Brooke Perry, who won the state title in 18:36, is the only returnee expected back this year who finished ahead of Whitton.

“Obviously, we have two of the 10 best girls in the state in Emma and McKenzie,” Martin said.

We are very very fortunate to have two such studs leading our girls team.

“But all the girls have been working hard. I’m very impressed with (freshman) Cassie Spencer and (junior) Noel Helfrich, how much they’ve improved over last year.”

He noted that a majority of the high school team, as well as junior high runners, ran the entire summer, starting in late June, to prepare for this season.

Behind them are the freshmen, who were part of the second year of an effort to build a program at Sweet Home Junior High.

“This is the third year that we’ve had the junior high program and it has benefitted us each year,” Martin said. “The kids up from the junior high have been on varsity within a year or two, some of them in their first year. Getting the kids started young helps them.

“Other schools have specifically designated junior high coaches. If we had someone at the Junior High who is a designated coach, I think even more kids would come out.

“This year’s freshman class is the biggest we’ve had. We have seven freshmen girls and four freshmen boys this season. That is so great. We have a phenomenal group, with veterans and then this influx of new kids.”

Rounding out the girls roster are: juniors McKenzie Ohlheiser and Miu Simmons, who is doubling with soccer; sophomores Madison Ciullo and Madison Looney; and freshmen Zoie Allison, Pyper Hall, Marian Helfrich, Lexi Lee, Kali Vogel and Neveah Wize.

The boys, who have no seniors, are led by junior Ryker Burr, who “obviously is our No. 1 runner,” Martin said.

Burr, in his first full season of cross-country last year, missed state by one spot, then went on to qualify for state in track in the 800.

“He fully expects himself to get there this year,” Martin said. “He’s so much better than even last year. He’s running workout times that were fast for him in races last year. And the fun part is that other people have decided to go with him.”

Specifically, he said, sophomores Acen Webber and Evan Knight, and junior Conner Spencer are all running similar workouts.

“I will be surprised if all four don’t have lifetime (personal bests) in the first few weeks,” the coach said. “If they run PRs that early in the season, the way our program’s training goes, they will be even faster by the end of the year.

“All of the guys have been

working hard and doing a good job, but those four have definitely stepped up their game.”

Rounding out the boys roster are junior Sam Strawn, sophomores Eli Adams, Louis Kistner and Noah Strawn, and freshmen Ryker Farris, Hudson Ogden, Elijah Rodriguez and Bentley Uhlry.

Martin said the Huskies have “big goals” as a team.

The Oregon West Conference, as in many sports, has some powerful forces – Philomath’s girls won last year’s state team title and Stayton was sixth, while on the boys side Newport was the state champ and Philomath was sixth.

“We are in a very tough league,” he said. “We’re trying to break into those ranks and we will see how well we can do. Our team is young and hungry. We will definitely be a better team this year and we could potentially get both our boys and girls teams to state, but as tough as the league is, we’ll have to see how we do.

“If we get to state, we have a chance to trophy because the teams we’re competing against are winning trophies or just missing.”

Sweet Home’s schedule is “competitive,” with an emphasis on races that match the Huskies up with league teams and others they could see at end-of-the-season competition. Their lone meet in Sweet Home will be the Sweet Home Chapel Run starting at 10:30 a.m. Saturday, Sept. 27, at Community Chapel, 42250 Ames Creek Road.

“They’re hungry,” Martin said of his team. “They’ve been training for a long time. We’ve had a lot of people running over the summer and that’s helped us.”

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