

## Friday Night Lights



Sweet Home's Kaeson Walker, left, gains some yardage with help from Lynkin Royer (54) and Eli Cruz (58) Friday night, Sept. 12, against Molalla in the Huskies' home opener at Husky Stadium. Although Sweet Home struggled with turnovers on offense, they played lock-down defense in a 20-0 win. They host Woodburn this Friday night at 7 p.m. See our game report on page 8.

Photo by Scott Swanson

Hometown  
Newspaper of  
**JACK  
BARRINGER**



**SCHOOL BOARD  
MEMBERS GET SEMINAR  
IN OPEN MEETINGS  
PAGE 9**



**SWEET HOME  
SPIKERS OFF TO  
GOOD START ON SEASON  
PAGE 15**

## School Board set to address state-mandated cellphone policy

By Scott Swanson  
*Of The New Era*

It was a busy night for Sweet Home School Board members on Sept. 8.

Much of the three-hour meeting was devoted to discussions of allegations of illegal meetings and the removal of board members Floyd Neuschwander and Mary Speck from their board officer positions.

Midway through the meeting, Neuschwander announced he was resigning (see [www.sweethomenews.com/school-board-member-added-another-resigns](http://www.sweethomenews.com/school-board-member-added-another-resigns)).

However, board members also took care of a wide range of other business.

One was where the district is headed on implementing Gov. Tina Kotek's July 2 executive order to

See School Board, Page 5

## Local woman named TOPS weight loser of year

By Scott Swanson  
*Of The New Era*

The day Peggy Blair found out that she was Oregon's TOPS Queen brought mixed emotions.

Blair, a longtime Sweet Home resident, had recently moved to Lebanon, where she met weekly with local Take Off Pounds Sensibly members.

Her journey to losing approximately half her body weight started three years ago, when Blair was told she needed surgery.

But her doctor told Blair she had a bigger problem: her weight.

"I have always been overweight," Blair said. "When I was a child, my mother took me to the doctor about my weight. He told her that I would lose it when I was ready."

"Nobody knew that I would not be ready until I was in my 70s."

Blair had been working and was active at Sweet Home Emergency Ministries when, she said, her doctor told her she needed hernia surgery.



File Photo

Peggy Blair, before her weight loss, at 2012 Sweet Home Chamber of Commerce Awards presentation, and after, this year.

"But she told me she couldn't operate until I'd lost 25 pounds."

Blair had successfully lost weight before, through TOPS, a club that provides support and wellness education to members, who meet weekly in chapter meetings for weigh-ins and instruction in healthy eating, regular exer-



Photo courtesy of TOPS

cise, and wellness information.

Blair had dropped from 325 pounds to 170 while she worked professionally, first in Salem and then at Oregon State University.

"I stopped attending when my weight went from 325

See TOPS, Page 15

*Serving Sweet Home  
since 1929*

FIND US ONLINE AT  
[SWEETHOMENEWS.COM](http://SWEETHOMENEWS.COM)





# OBITUARIES

## George Fields

Oct. 17, 1933 – Sept. 8, 2025  
George D. Fields, 91, of Sweet Home, passed away Sept. 8, 2025, due to complications following a fall in July.



He was born Oct. 17, 1933, in rural Lamar County, Texas, to Claude and Elzie (Linville) Fields.

He lived most of his early years in, or near, Wright City, Okla., before moving to Oregon in 1962.

Mr. Fields married the love of his life, Joyce Sorrell, on August 3, 1956.

He worked for Willamette Industries sawmill in Sweet Home for over 40 years before retiring. He loved starting his mornings each day with breakfast at “The Spring” restaurant (owned by his wife) and never hesitated to share a story with a stranger.

His true enjoyment in life, however, came from his time spent in the woods, or on the river, hunting and fishing with his children and grandchildren. He will be remembered fondly by all who knew and loved him, including the many that called him “Grampa George.”

Mr. Fields is survived by his sons, J.C. James of Sweet Home, Dennis Fields of Albany, and Junior Fields of Rattan, Okla.; his grandson, Eddie Goodwin of Lebanon (whom he raised as a son); two additional grandsons; seven granddaughters, and a host of great-grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Claude and Elzie; his wife, Joyce Fields; his daughter, Kathy Summers; two brothers, Eugene and R.L. Fields; and five sisters, Laura Perkins, Martha McAlester, Mary Box, Patricia Roberts and Linda Jones.

Sweet Home Funeral Chapel is handling the arrangements.

## William Kisselburgh

May 8, 1954 – Sept. 2, 2025

William Desmond Kisselburgh, 71, affectionately known as Bill, passed away peacefully at home on Sept. 2, 2025, in Eugene.



Bill was born on May 8, 1954, in Los Angeles, Calif., to Robert McKirdy Kisselburgh and Elizabeth Terry Ann Desmond.

Bill's early years in Los Angeles laid the foundation for a life characterized by diligence, creativity, and unwavering kindness. He graduated from John F. Kennedy High School and soon after embarked on a long and meaningful career as a union electrician with IBEW Local 280.

His commitment to hard work and camaraderie garnered respect and admiration from his peers throughout his years of service.

Beyond his professional achievements, Bill's life was enriched by his devotion to his family. He found profound joy in his marriage to Sylvia Stock, whom he married on July 6, 2014, in Sweet

Home.

Bill was a devoted father to his children, Christopher Desmond Kisselburgh (Alicia) of Sweet Home, Joseph Alexander Kisselburgh of Vancouver, Wash., and Kate Jocelyn Kisselburgh of Lebanon.

His guidance and wisdom will continue to live on through them.

His sisters, Diana Lee Decker, Helen Louise Coelho, and Roberta Ann McGann, will fondly remember him, and Bill's legacy further extends to his adored 16 grandchildren, with whom he cherished every moment.

Bill's Christian faith was a cornerstone of his life, which guided him in service to his community.

He was an active member of Riverside Christian Church. His deep love for music, combined with his involvement in church activities, often saw him uplifting others with harmonious melodies and a warm smile.

Bill also found pleasure in travel, appreciating the beauty and diversity of the world.

He had a skillful touch at golf, a game he greatly enjoyed, and his creative instincts found many other outlets in various aspects of his life.

Generous with his time, Bill volunteered with numerous organizations, making a lasting impact on the lives of many.

Bill will be deeply missed, but the cherished memories and music he created will be treasured forever.

A memorial service was held Saturday, Sept. 13, at Sweet Home New Life in Christ. Arrangements are in the care of Sunset Hills Funeral Home.

*Paid Obituary*

## Norma Kaping

Sept. 18, 1935 – Sept. 2, 2025

Norma Pauline Kaping, 89, of Sweet Home, passed away Sept. 2, 2025.

She was born Sept. 18, 1935, to Irene Dotson and Richard Sills in Baker.

She had lived in Sweet Home since 2000.

Norma was a nurse and a cook. She adored raising her children. She enjoyed sewing and liked to fix things to make them look nice.

Norma is survived by her children, Vickie C. Howard of Sweet Home, Victor Schlung of Florida, Henry Schlung of Eugene, Peggy Williams of Redmond, Janie Lengel of Christmas Valley, and Opal Denton of Arkan-

sas; 12 grandchildren, 18 great-grandchildren, and three great-great-grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her first husband, Delbert Kaping; and son Dennis Schlung.

Sweet Home Funeral Chapel is handling the arrangements.

## Ernie Volkers

Oct. 6, 1971 – Sept. 7, 2025

Ernie Lawrence Volkers, 53, of Sweet Home, passed away Sept. 7, 2025, in Warrenton with his family and friends by his side.



He was born Oct. 6, 1971, in Lebanon to Edgar B. and Patricia D. (Ebert) Volkers, and was a lifelong resident of Sweet Home.

He graduated in the Sweet Home High School Class of 1991. After graduation, Ernie had a variety of occupations, enlisting in the Oregon National Guard (1990-93), working at Comcast as a lead installer and programmer, and working for his parents at Video Trak as a satellite dish installer/programmer.

He also worked for his parents at the Frontier Restaurant in Sweet Home as a bartender and bouncer and, upon his parents' retirement, became a part owner of the bar and restaurant. He also worked security for an RV resort and Walmart as a greeter and store security.

Ernie had several hobbies, ranging from amateur boxing, boating and water skiing, to shooting rifles, camping and enjoying trips to the coast.

He loved being around his family and friends.

Ernie is survived by daughters: Kim (Brandon) Williams of Crawfordsville, and Ariel (Corey) Dabrowski of Backus, Minn.; brother Ed (Denise) Volkers Jr. of Gig Harbor, Wash.; sisters Debe (Bob) Barnes of Warrenton, and Pam Lewis of Eugene; four grandchildren; and numerous nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Edgar and Patricia Volkers.

A viewing will be at 10 a.m. Wednesday, Sept. 24, at St. Helen Catholic Church in Sweet Home, followed by a recitation of the Rosary at 10:30 a.m. and funeral Mass at 11 a.m., followed by a reception in the fellowship

hall. Final burial will be 1:30 p.m. at Gilliland Cemetery in Sweet Home.

In lieu of flowers, contributions can be made in Ernie's name to St. Helen Catholic Church or the charity of your choice.

Sweet Home Funeral Chapel is handling the arrangements.

## Valerie McCool

May 26, 1950 – Sept. 4, 2025

Valerie Jean McCool, 75, of Sweet Home, passed away Sept. 4, 2025.

She was born May 26, 1950, to Jean (Loppenthine) and Charles Holcomb in San Luis Obispo, Calif.

She worked in the marketing industry for many years. Valerie married Scott McCool in Las Vegas on Jan. 15, 2010.

Valerie liked to cook, go crabbing at the coast, enjoyed horseback riding and competition riding, and loved to garden.

She is survived by her husband, Scott McCool of Sweet Home; daughter Chelsea Elsberry of Reno, Nev.; and brother Dick Holcomb of Yreka, Calif.

She was preceded in death by her parents and her son, Jay Lane.

Sweet Home Funeral Chapel is handling the arrangements.

## Doyle Offutt

Nov. 12, 1944 – Sept. 6, 2025

Doyle Wayne Offutt, 80, of Sweet Home, passed away Sept. 6, 2025.

He was born Nov. 12, 1944, in Claude, Texas.

Doyle served in the Army National Guard and had lived in Sweet Home since 1983.

He liked to work with his hands and enjoyed working in his shop, making things out of wood or metal. He enjoyed fishing and watching old movies.

Doyle loved to eat, especially watermelon and peanuts.

He is survived by his partner of 35 years, Nancy Alverson.

He was preceded in death by his parents; sister Sherry; and brothers James and Clyde.

Sweet Home Funeral Chapel is handling the arrangements.

## Christopher Wilcox

Jan. 30, 1958 – July 30, 2025

Christopher J. Wilcox, 67, of Sweet Home passed away July 30, 2025.

He was born Jan. 30, 1958

See Obituaries, Page 3



# SUNSHINE INDUSTRIES

**Our program provides job training, job opportunities, and community access to individuals with developmental disabilities.**

**We offer grounds keeping and janitorial services for residential and commercial needs as well as facility rentals.**

1333 Clark Mill Rd. • 541-367-2765





**MEMORY MAKING**  
ADVENTURES  
CRAFTING MEMORIES, ONE ADVENTURE AT A TIME

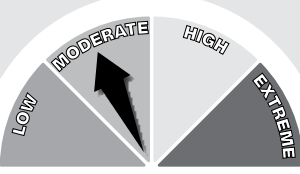


Call Michael:  
**541-797-5445**

WE SUPPORT THE NEW ERA!

TEMPERATURES			
DATE	HIGH	LOW	PRECIP
September 9	71	59	0.03
September 10	74	58	0.09
September 11	74	55	0.00
September 12	73	56	0.00
September 13	80	48	0.00
September 14	74	53	0.37
September 15	75	46	0.02
PRECIPITATION			
Year to date:	19.91		
September 18, 2024:	2022		

FORECAST			
DAY	WEATHER	HIGH	LOW
Thur	Mostly Cloudy	78	48
Fri	Cloudy	77	47
Sat	Cloudy	77	47
Sun	Mostly Cloudy	77	47
Mon	Mostly Cloudy	76	47
Tues	Sunny	76	46
Wed	Mostly Sunny	75	46
LAKE LEVELS			
Foster Reservoir:	635.4		
Green Peter Res.:	909.0		



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

in Lebanon to Walter F. Wilcox and Patricia A. (Tyler) Wilcox.

After graduating from Sweet Home High School in 1976, he served 18 years in the Navy. Touring all over the world, he met his wife Becky, in Hawaii; they married Feb. 2, 1980. Their son Tim was born Jan. 6, 1983, and daughter DeAnna was born on June 26, 1985, while serving there. Their next port was at Waukegan, Ill., where they were blessed with the birth of their daughter Louise Aug. 21, 1991.

While in Mayport, Fla., Cristopher medically retired from the Navy in 1994, then he and his family came back to Sweet Home.

He is survived by his wife of 45 years, Becky Wilcox of Sweet Home; son Tim Wilcox of Salem; daughters DeAnna DeBrie, and Louise Creek of Sweet Home; brothers Mike Wilcox and Jim Wilcox of Sweet Home, and Bill Wilcox of Waterloo; and sister Edith Wilcox of Sweet Home.

He was preceded in death by his parents.  
No services are planned.

Death Notices

**Donald Blankenship**  
June 11, 1952 - Sept. 13, 2025  
Donald Blankenship, 73, of Sweet Home, passed away Sept. 13, 2025.

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

Steven Gephart

Oct. 29, 1954 - Sept. 10, 2025  
Steven Gephart, 70, of Sweet Home, passed away Sept. 10, 2025.

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

Clara Lowe

Nov. 1, 1948 - Sept. 15, 2025  
Clara Kathleen Lowe, 76, of Sweet Home, passed away Sept. 15, 2025.

A graveside service will be at 3 p.m. Friday, Sept. 26, at Gilliland Cemetery.

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

Michael Northern

April 7, 2005 - Sept. 6, 2025  
Michael W. Northern, 20, of Foster passed away Sept. 6, 2025.

A memorial service will be at 1 p.m. Tuesday, Sept. 30, at Sweet Home Funeral Chapel followed by a niche placement at Gilliland Cemetery.

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

Gordon Olson

Nov. 22, 1937 - Sept. 7, 2025  
Gordon Eugene Olson, 87, of Sweet Home, passed away Sept. 7, 2025.

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

Ronald Schrick

Dec. 9, 1950 - Sept. 6, 2025  
Ronald Louis Schrick, 74, of Lebanon, passed away Sept. 6, 2025.

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. 14

3:11 a.m. - Caller reported vehicle without any lights on stopped in road in 3100 block Main St. Officer responded, vehicle towed as hazard.

6:30 a.m. - Ciaran Terry Whatley, 43, arrested at SHPD, 1950 Main St., for theft of services in relation to report of mattress dumped at library on Sept. 11. Cited and released.

12:30 p.m. - Boat that had been reported stolen recovered in 41100 block Port Dr.

12:35 p.m. - Kyle Anthony Carter, 34, arrested after he turned himself in at SHPD, 1950 Main St., on SHMC warrant for FTC in disorderly conduct case. Cited and released.

2:08 p.m. - Jonathan Earl Ray Dean, 34, cited for expired registration after callers reported male hit parked car in area of Main St./47th Ave. Dean then turned himself in at SHPD and was arrested on SHMC warrant for FTC in disorderly conduct case. Cited and released.

4:02 p.m. - Deputy assisted Oregon Department of Forestry personnel with non-compliant land owner who had debris fire. 28500 block Hwy. 20.

4:50 p.m. - Caller reported male on property on which home is under construction, 1300 block 54th Ave. Officer responded, contacted male, who was advised to stay off property.

6:18 p.m. - Caller reported vehicle failing to maintain lane, driving under speed limit in area of Holley Rd./1st Ave. Officer contacted registered owner of vehicle, who said she had had her granddaughter in the vehicle. Officer reported no signs of impairment.

6:46 p.m. - Larry Bergstrom, 61, of Sweet Home, arrested for contempt of court after allegedly violating restraining order, 43700 block Wiley Creek Dr. Report taken.

7:24 p.m. - Gary Alan Campbell, 51, arrested by Corvallis police on Sweet Home warrant for FTA in DUII case. Cited to appear Oct. 22.

7:49 p.m. - Davy Anthony Phillips, 52, arrested on SHMC warrant for FTC in trespassing case. Also warned for camping in area of 24th Ave. at railroad tracks. He packed up and moved along.

11:13 p.m. - Deputies responded to report of fight in bar, 33100 block Hwy. 228, Halsey. Investigation ongoing.

Report taken.  
**Sept. 13**

12:23 a.m. - Caller reported female walking down middle of Long Street, eastbound from Rio Theater. Officer responded. Female did not want to speak with law enforcement, but was advised to stay off school property.

12:26 a.m. - Caller reported female came up to his door in 1200 block 49th Ave., knocked, and began screaming, then left. Officer responded, located female, who appeared to be intoxicated. She stated she was going home.

1:05 a.m. - Steven Lee Ballweber, 36, arrested on SHMC warrant for FTC in hit and run case, LMC warrant for FTA in criminal citation. 3000 block Main St. Cited and released.

8:45 a.m. - Caller reported that female in 600 block 3rd Ave. had two aggressive dogs, one off leash, and when he pointed his firearm at dog for self-defense, female's husband began yelling at caller. Officer contacted caller. Parties resolved issue.

9:12 a.m. - Caller reported that vacant rental had been broken into, 1600 block 56th Ave. Officer responded, report taken for burglary II, theft II.

See Public Safety, Page 6

SHOP AT SOUTH FORK TRADING CO. FIRST AND SAVE MONEY!

**Deal of the WEEK!**



**GHOST CONTROLS SINGLE GATE OPENER**

**SALE \$418.00 EA.**  
**REG. \$567.99**

ALL OTHER GHOST CONTROLS ACCESSORIES 10% DISCOUNT  
subject to stock on hand valid thru 9-17-25 (with this ad)

**SOUTH FORK TRADING CO.**  
Best Price • Best Selection • Best Service  
M-F 7:30-5:00 • Sat 8-4 p.m. • Closed Sunday  
4309 Main Street, Sweet Home, OR • 541-367-6844

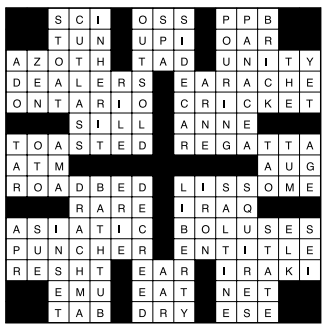


**ECONOMY DRUGS**

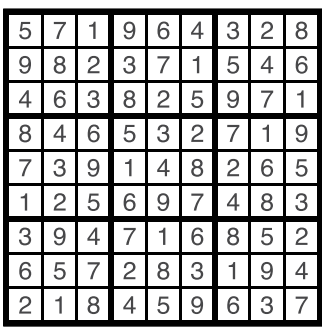
621 Main Street, Suite A  
Located inside Thriftway  
541-367-6777

**DRIVE UP PHARMACY**

**Crossword KEY**  
Puzzle on page 13

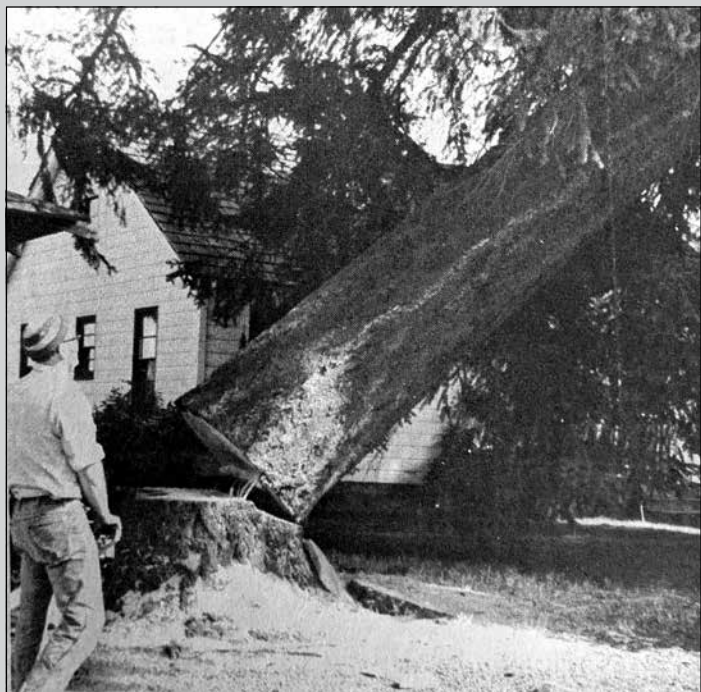


**SUDOKU KEY**  
Puzzle on page 13





## FROM OUR FILES



A large fir tree, about 100 years old, falls at Foster in 1975 as its faller, Melvin Pickens, watches. The tree, described as "more of a hazard than an asset," was right next to Foster Post Office on property owned by the Foster Evangelical Church.

### Sept. 21, 1950

The Crusade for Freedom campaign is now underway. A proclamation was issued outlining the purpose of the crusade: that freedom among nations is in danger by the increasing aggression of the Russian Empire as it practices military conquest and annexation of helpless people; the military tyranny has taken under Communist control 14 free nations in five years; and a nationwide committee seeks opposition to the aggression and supplant the "Big Lie" with truth. Mayor Ed Cardwell inaugurates a "new birth of freedom" campaign and seeks citizens to sign the Freedom Scrolls.

### Sept. 18, 1975

Highway 20 construction work began with the tearing up of the roads between 9th and 18th avenues. Crews will remove existing paving, grade it and repave it. The project is expected to take 14 months.

Construction of the Roy Clover Memorial Fountain is underway, now almost three years after the death of the former Sweet Home

police chief. It will utilize part of a 14-foot diameter plug obtained from the Corps of Engineers. The plug was used in construction of Foster Dam. A rock wall will be built around the fountain, which will send water over the rocks.

### Sept. 20, 2000

A \$10,000 endowment scholarship fund was established in the name of Jim Riggs. Last month's all-school reunion raised \$17,000 for the fund, which was added to an anonymous \$6,000 donation, bringing the Sweet Home Alumni Foundation's total to about \$47,000.

The National Association of Civilian Conservation Corps, Alumni Chapter 4 and the Willamette National Forest recognized those CCC members who devoted themselves to the development of the Longbow Organizational Campground on the Sweet Home Ranger District with new signs at the popular destination spot. Longbow Campground was constructed in the 1930s by CCC Camp 2907.

# Editorial: Charlie Kirk murder prompts unpleasant questions about ourselves

By Scott Swanson  
Publisher

It's probably no surprise that, after recent events, I'm one of many who are questioning where we are as a nation and as individual citizens, and why.

Also, perhaps not surprisingly, readers and others have been emailing me with thoughts concerning the death of Charlie Kirk and the rise of political violence in America. I've heard from both sides of the aisle on this.

The act of cold-blooded murder that took place before our eyes was evil enough – wicked and shocking. What's even more concerning is how some who disagreed with this thinking man, who is now dead at the hands of a coward, could purport to justify the act.

I'd like to think it goes without saying that when not just the perpetrator, but others who apparently share his views, believe that the death of an opponent is the best way to solve a disagreement, that begs some hard questions.

It's not comfortable to ask this, but is what we're witnessing evidence of who we are, where we are, and that we need to make some significant course corrections?

I've heard from people, who I know are not particularly religious, that this is a spiritual problem and I think they are right. There's something wrong inside us. Unfortunately, it's not recent, either.

I recently read a commentary written by a historian who pointed out that political violence has had a presence in America since our beginning, from the tarring and feathering – and executions without trial – of suspected loyalists to the king during Revolutionary times to the very recent killings of a Minnesota state legislator and her husband, attempts on now-President Trump's life, the firebombing of the Pennsylvania governor's mansion, and now this murder.

Yes, we've had a checkered past. The "good old days" were not always so good. There was sin then and there's sin now.

But are we the same people we've been?

Do we hold to the moral, political and legal principles, which are now disparaged (at least in deed) by many of our intelligentsia when they don't conveniently support their agendas? Do we acknowledge and value the "self-evident

truths" set forth in the Declaration of Independence and in our constitutional documents, including the Bill of Rights?

The founders of our nation had a deep recognition and appreciation for the value, the worth, of each individual citizen who, they believed, is endowed with equal natural rights to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness.

Do we still truly believe that each individual has inherent rights and value?

America is not perfect, and it never has been, even though many like to think we're the greatest nation on earth.

But in a lot of ways we've descended into what I recently heard a prominent local citizen describe as a "cesspool" of self-gratifying, pride-inflating social media, which tells us things we want to hear about ourselves and allows us to shut out what we don't want to hear.

We're all about ourselves now. And because we've made ourselves (speaking generally here) into our own little gods who can control (particularly thanks to AI and social media) who we appear to be and are equipped to empower ourselves with declarations of how spectacular we are, I think we've become less tolerant of anyone who doesn't acknowledge who we think we are.

Thus, we see unrest, hostility, apparent inability to graciously accommodate opposing viewpoints, and outright physical violence.

Those are the kinds of issues that Charlie Kirk addressed, head-on, in person. But instead of facing him in honest conversation, his killer shot him from a distant rooftop.

I didn't follow Charlie Kirk. But I found his approach refreshingly honest, even if I may not have agreed with all of his ideas.

I respected Kirk for sitting face to face with those who didn't agree with his views and discussing the issues.

Students were encouraged to ask him questions and talk with him. He was considered approachable in a way that most politicians would not be.

He offered alternative views and solutions to those propounded by intelligentsia who dominate campuses and other seats of power today, and thus, he was labeled as divisive, racist, xenophobic and extreme, accused of hate

speech. They hate his ideas, so they hated him.

Well, what do we call the bile coming from social media, individuals literally calling for the slaying of the rest of Kirk's family?

It demonstrates the depth to which we have plunged. There have always been big issues in America that have divided citizens – allegiance to King George, slavery, women's rights, social upheaval and Vietnam, abortion, new thinking about gender, just to name a few.

America has seen violence associated with some of these issues in the past, but the vile utterances on social media that we're talking about threaten every liberty we know, whether we value them or not.

Do you think we will continue to have freedom of expression if people continue to abuse it in this way – or worse, seemingly without restraint? The very nature of civilization implies some level of cooperation, a foundation for self- and societal responsibility and cooperation. The antithesis, of course, is anarchy.

I could spend pages trying to give my opinion of what I think is going on, but I don't have the ability to do that here. I recently watched a brand new documentary entitled "Truth Rising," which can be found on YouTube.

It offers some very clear explanations for why things are the way they are and there are some very convincing explanations of what is going on, what has led to a bullet striking a young man who was simply trying to argue a point of view that, it appears, differed from that of the shooter.

Yes, there is a bit of Christian "bias" to the video. But as one primary narrator, Os Guinness, and others point out, some of the values I've mentioned above, primarily recognizing and respecting the inherent value, worth and standing of each individual human being, has blessed (for lack of a better word) us Americans and other Western nations.

I wonder if we are losing that.

You may not agree with everything "Truth Rising" has to say, but it will make you think.

Charlie Kirk certainly didn't agree with everything people said to him, but at least he listened.

## The New Era

A LOCALLY OWNED NEWSPAPER

SWEETHOMENEWS.COM

OFFICE: 1313 Main St., Sweet Home, Oregon

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

WHO WE ARE:

Miriam Swanson, Publisher - miriam@sweethomenews.com

Scott Swanson, Publisher - scott@sweethomenews.com

Jessica Sands, Office Manager - jessica@sweethomenews.com

Sarah Brown, Staff Writer - sarah@sweethomenews.com

Mack Knebel, Advertising Rep - mack@sweethomenews.com

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

NEWS QUESTIONS / TIPS - news@sweethomenews.com



## SCHOOL BOARD

From page 1

prohibit student use of cell-phones.

The order requires school districts to adopt policies banning cellphone use by students by Oct. 31 and to fully implement those policies by Jan. 1, 2026.

Board Member Jenna Northern and Steve Thorpe, a high school teacher and president of the district certified employees (teachers) union, both discussed the order and its impact on the Sweet Home district.

Speaking during the portion of the meeting allotted to board concerns, Northern asked if there was an "ETA" on the cellphone policy, and suggested that the board should discuss the matter at its Oct. 13 meeting.

Supt. Terry Martin said that the district is required to create a policy that fits within the governor's order.

He and Board Chair Mike Adams both said they expected a sample policy from the Oregon School Boards Association, but that it had not yet materialized.

"What we're seeing is schools not putting out policies, but putting them into practice," he said of the contents of the governor's order, which came after the Legislature failed to pass a similar, bipartisan bill in its long session last spring.

The order technically bans all "personal electronic devices," which includes "any portable, electrically powered device that is capable of making and receiving calls and text messages," and can access the internet independently from the school's wireless network. It does not include laptops or other devices that support classroom activities.

"Talking to teachers, I know in the buildings, the teachers are kind of modeling this very well," Thorpe told board members, adding that students were not walking down hallways in the high school using their phones.

Both he and Northern asked that there be input taken into consideration before the board decides on a policy.

Thorpe asked if the policy has any "wiggle room."

"Speaking as a coach," he advised, "make it manageable, because one of the things we've done in the last several years is we have a Band app" which allows coaches to send messages "and they all get it - parents, coaches, everyone."

"I would appreciate some

input from staff and administrative input before you lay that policy down and show it to us," he concluded.

Northern also voiced concerns about students being unable to access Band messages.

"I actually have a kid there and I see the impact that it's having," she said. "The Bandapp and those kinds of things, that's a communication line that goes to all the kids at one time, like 'Hey, we're having a lunch meeting for baseball, don't forget.' And they're not supposed to have their phones with them at those times."

Thorpe told the board he hoped the cellphone policy would include "some input on what fills the needs of our kids."

He cited classes he teaches in Financial Algebra and Math for Trades, in which students use cellphone apps to calculate housing prices, how to figure how much gravel would be needed to fill a particular space.

Adams said he was at an OSBA conference the weekend before the board's Aug. 11 meeting and "they had a draft, but they were going to talk to the governor's office and tinker with it."

He said he hadn't heard anything since, but added that he believed it was "doable" to get it on the board's agenda for discussion in October.

Member Dale Keene suggested that they should aim to have a first reading of the policy in October.

Martin agreed that input is necessary: "We really need to hear from parents, the community, our staff," he said.

### Students Getting Involved

High School ASB President Trinity Victor reported that participation in school activities is on the rise declined after COVID.

"We're starting to see an upturn now," she said, noting that 195 students are participating in fall sports and 30 had turned out earlier in the day to audition for the school play.

She also said students' focus this year will be "embracing traditions and creating new ones."

Last year we started the "Their First, Our Last" in which the district kindergartners and the high school senior class members line up on the 40-yard lines at Husky Field and the seniors give the kindergartners keychains with their graduating year on them.

### Good Things Happening

Thorpe followed up on Victor's presentation by adding that this year's

"Their First, Our Last" will take place Wednesday morning, Oct. 1, at 10:20 a.m. during the high school's Home Room period.

Thorpe noted that the district has 10 new hires.

"Some people think that's a lot," he said. "That's incredible that the district has 10 new hires."

Five, he said, replace retirees. Three, including one that will split time between the high school and Holley School, are filling positions occupied last year by emergency licensures.

One will replace former high school science teacher Harrison Neal, who was offered a position on the faculty at Western Oregon University. The vacancy is due to a teacher who had to leave and move away due to family needs.

"I'm gonna tell you, this is a good place to work," Thorpe said. "Our three administrators at the high school are incredible. They do great things. And I see that across our community and our schools."

The vacancies, he said, "were not because people were disgruntled."

Responding to an earlier comment from a board member about the district needing to offer more classes for higher-level students, Thorpe said the high school is currently offering "34" college credits, though he later said he realized there are more: - three in history, three in political science, three in math 105, four in Math 111, 112 and 251, three in biology, three in marine biology, and three each in advanced writing and English 4, "and this is after losing Harrison (who taught classes in advanced chemistry) to Western Oregon."

Also, he said, the school offers seniors opportunities to earn nine to 12 credits at Linn-Benton Community College "on our dime."

"We are offering a very rigid curriculum," Thorpe said. "Sorry if the state test scores don't scream that. You just saw one of the products of what we're doing," he added, gesturing toward the seat Victor had occupied.

"Plus, there are kids that are getting an alternative education and meeting them where they're at and looking at different things."

Board Member Dale Keene interjected that he knows of one student recently graduated with not only a high school diploma but also an associate's de-

See School Board, Page 9

# Samaritan announces it is cutting Medicare Advantage service

Samaritan Health has announced that it will not offer the Samaritan Advantage Medicare Plan in 2026.

Also called Medicare Part C, a Medicare Advantage plan is a private health plan option that provides recipients with additional coverage not included in original Medicare Part A and B benefits, such as prescription drugs, dental, vision and health wellness coverage.

The cost of the plans vary, but average about \$17 per month, on top of the monthly Medicare Part B premium, which costs \$185 this year for most people, according to Medicare.gov.

In letters sent to Samaritan Medicare Advantage subscribers earlier this month, the company said that those losing the Advantage coverage through Samaritan could buy Medigap policies, which cover people who have Medicare Part A and B but not Medicare Advantage.

"Samaritan Health Plans

has not been immune to nationwide challenges in health care," Bruce Butler, CEO of Samaritan Health Plans, said in response to an inquiry from The New Era.

He said that the organization is cutting the Advantage option as part of its evaluation of "multiple options to ensure sustainability for the long term."

The company recommends that anyone shopping for a Medicare plan should visit Medicare.gov or refer to the "Medicare & You" handbook for a list of Medicare health and prescription drug plans in the area. The handbook can be found at [www.medicare.gov/medicare-and-you](http://www.medicare.gov/medicare-and-you).

They can also reach out to Senior Health Insurance Benefit Assistance Program (SHIBA) at 800-722-4134 or TTY 711 or visit [Shiba.oregon.gov](http://Shiba.oregon.gov).

For a list of plans Samaritan health care providers are in network with, visit [samhealth.org/InsuranceBilling](http://samhealth.org/InsuranceBilling).

## LOCAL SERVICE - POWERFUL EQUIPMENT

**CASCADE**  
OUTDOOR POWER EQUIPMENT



541-451-5213 • 1215 W AIRWAY RD-LEBANON  
[WWW.CASCADEPOWERLEBANON.COM](http://WWW.CASCADEPOWERLEBANON.COM)



## PUBLIC SAFETY

From page 3

9:57 a.m. - Caller reported male messing around in house under construction in 1300 block 54th Ave. Officer responded, contacted male who was warned for trespassing and moved along.

10:57 a.m. - Caller reported people on her property in 1700 block 9th Ave. accessing river. She would like them to leave. Officer responded, contacted male, who moved along.

11:39 a.m. - Caller reported someone yelling "Help me!" from inside house in 2200 block Juniper Court. Officer responded, contacted two individuals who were playing video games. They were fine.

12:44 p.m. - Joshua Kealohanui Ben Leslie arrested for criminal trespass after caller reported that male who had been trespassed was at Safe-

way, 1540 Main St. Leslie also arrested on SHMC warrant for FTA in trespass case and LMC warrant for theft III. Cited and released.

2:02 p.m. - Motorcycle crash reported in 24200 block Gap Rd., Brownsville. Further details unavailable. Report taken.

2:14 p.m. - Crash reported involving parked car in 700 block Templeton St., Brownsville. Further details unavailable. Report taken.

2:25 p.m. - Deputy responded to chickens that were roaming on other people's property in 100 block North Ave., Brownsville. City code dictates chickens must be properly penned/restrained. Chickens' owner warned for violation.

4:54 p.m. - Caller reported his wife was on the phone with a male who told her he had kidnapped their daughter, 1500 block Tamarack St. Officer advised caller to contact

local law enforcement to perform welfare check on daughter and warned caller of risks of potential scam.

6:55 p.m. - Two males warned for camping on Cascade Timber Consulting property in 54300 block Hwy. 20.

7:52 p.m. - Caller reported male going behind her residence in 1500 block Tamarack St., messing with cars and threatening people in the area. Officer responded but male was gone. Issue has been ongoing over course of several months. Caller was advised to contact property management.

### Sept. 12

9:38 a.m. - Caller reported theft by juvenile at Dollar General, 1937 Main St. Officer responded, but was unable to locate suspect.

12:24 p.m. - Citizen visited SHPD, 1950 Main St., to report being scammed. Officer

responded, information noted.

12:40 p.m. - Caller reported her son was jumped by other juveniles in Sankey Park, 877 14th Ave. Officer responded, report taken, but neither parent nor son wanted to pursue charges.

1:20 p.m. - Nicholas Ray Aday, 26, arrested on two counts of harassment after brother reported Aday allegedly damaging property, throwing an item at brother and spitting on their mother, 4100 block Osage St. Cited and released.

1:35 p.m. - Aelisha Adrian Devine, 32, arrested by Albany police on SHMC warrant in

disorderly conduct case. Cited to appear Oct. 22.

3:54 p.m. - Caller reported his pit bike was stolen on Sept. 10 from 4900 block Maple Dr. Officer responded, report taken for theft II. Missing bike described as white SSR, 125 cc valued at \$900.

4:59 p.m. - Deputy observed suspicious vehicle in 1000 block W. 1st St., Halsey. Operator stated they were doing door-to-door sales. They were informed they needed a permit to do so in the city.

5:20 p.m. - Crash reported in area of Main St./Clark Mill Rd. Officer responded, no in-

See Public Safety, Page 8

## CIRCUIT COURT

**Warrants are out on the following individuals:** Travis Alexander Ayres, Raymond Paul Binford, 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

**Elijah Lucas James Buckland, 23**, charged Sept. 3 with DUII (liquor).

**Ammarie Taylor Martin, 24**, sentenced Sept. 10 to one year suspension of a driver's license, 30 days jail, 24 mos. bench probation and a \$2,000 fine after pleading guilty to DUII (liquor) with a .15% BAC, recklessly endanger-

ing another person and FTA. Charges of reckless driving and operating a vehicle without driving privileges were dismissed.

**Danner Levi Massey, 22**, sentenced Sept. 12 to 151 mos. (more than 12 years) with the Oregon Dept. of Corrections and three years post-prison supervision after pleading guilty to five counts of encouraging child sexual abuse I. Seven additional counts of the same charge were dismissed.

**Elijah Aaron Winney, 19**, sentenced Sept. 5 to 240 hours jail, 36 mos. supervised probation after pleading no contest to felon in possession of a firearm. Dismissed charge is unlawful possession of a machine gun, short-barreled firearm or firearms silencer.

**Kristian Dearnitt Winney, 20**, sentenced Sept. 11 to 24 hours jail, 10 days compensatory service, 18 mos. supervised probation and \$200 in fines after pleading guilty to strangulation and DV assault IV.

# CHURCH DIRECTORY

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

-Matthew 18:20



CORNERSTONE  
FELLOWSHIP  
a foursquare church

## Services: 10 am Sunday

1234 Long St., Sweet Home  
541-367-6161

[shcornerstonefellowship.org](http://shcornerstonefellowship.org)



HC hope.church  
sweet home


## GATHERING TIME

10:45 A.M.

890 Mountain View Rd.  
541-967-HOPE (4673)  
[www.hope.church/sweethome](http://www.hope.church/sweethome)

## Mt. Calvary Missionary Baptist Church

Sunday Service 11am  
Come join us!



Bible Study  
10 am Sundays.

1042 Pleasant Valley Rd.  
541-818-0022



New Life In Christ  
Fellowship  
(formerly Sweet Home Mennonite)

1266 44th Ave. PO Box 515  
541-367-2848 • [shnlc.org](mailto:shnlc.org)

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



St. Helen  
Catholic Church  
600 6th Ave, Sweet Home  
[www.sweethomecatholicchurch.com](http://www.sweethomecatholicchurch.com)

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

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

For Sacramental information call  
**541-367-2530**  
Father Theodore Lange



Sweet Home  
Evangelical Church

Join us Sunday 10:30 am  
FOLLOW US AT:  
[FACEBOOK.COM/SWEETHOMEEC](https://www.facebook.com/sweethomeec)  
1347 Long Street • 541-367-4357



The  
COMMUNITY CHAPEL



— at Ames Creek —  
SUNDAYS at 10am  
[www.chapel.cc](http://www.chapel.cc)  
42250 AMES CREEK RD  
SWEET HOME OR

## Got a plan?

Bob thoughtfully preplanned his funeral.  
Now he can get on with his life.



SWEET HOME  
FUNERAL CHAPEL

Call us for personal assistance  
with the funeral, memorial or  
cremation arrangements of  
your choice

541-367-2891 | [SWEETHOMEFUNERAL.COM](http://SWEETHOMEFUNERAL.COM)



Sweet Home  
United  
Methodist  
Church

Open Hearts,  
Open Minds,  
Open Doors

A Reconciling Congregation

11:00 am Worship  
Free Meal - Tue, Wed & Fri - 5:00 pm  
6th & Ironwood • 541-367-3073



Elm Street Baptist Church

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

1150 Elm St. Sweet Home  
541-367-5883



PUBLIC SAFETY

From page 3

juries reported. According to SHPD, Harold Watkins, 69, of Honolulu, Hawaii, was driving a 2011 Dodge Ram 1500 pickup east on Main Street in the A lane. Jayden Plaza, 21, of Sweet Home, was stopped at the stop sign on Clark Mill on the south side of Main Street in a 2016 Volkswagen Jetta. Plaza told police that a larger truck was turning onto Clark Mill and she could not see around it, so she proceeded into the intersection when she was struck by the Dodge Ram. Damage estimated to exceed \$2,500.

5:40 p.m. - Justin Miller, 26, of Sweet Home, cited for using cellphone while driving, expired tags, Main St./Kirk Ave., Brownsville.

6:56 p.m. - Joel Tyler Inkenbrandt, 31, arrested by OSP on SHMC warrant in false swearing case. Cited to appear Oct. 22.

7:23 p.m. - Brody Newberry, 19, of Sweet Home, cited for speeding, Hwy. 20/Weatherly Lane.

7:36 p.m. - Serenity Douglas, 26, of Salem, cited for driving while suspended, Hwy. 20/Sun Lane.

9:21 p.m. - Caller reported crash involving vehicle and pedestrian in area of Santiam

Hwy./Santiam Terrace Rd. However, when LCSO arrived, it turned out to be a deer rather than a person. Vehicle had left scene and deer was off the road.

10:31 p.m. - Jacob Scott Fisher, 40, arrested for contempt of court and resisting arrest, 1700 block 9th Ave. Lodged at Linn County Jail.

11:08 p.m. - Caller from Wiley Creek Community, 5050 Mountain Fir St., reported female in building who refused to leave. Officer responded, female was trespassed.

Sept. 11

7:50 a.m. - Caller reported female refusing to stop for high school traffic control, acting aggressive when confronted, requested that she be trespassed.

7:52 a.m. - Caller reported purple Ford Expedition parked in area of 1200 block Evergreen Lane for several months. Officer will post vehicle.

8:40 a.m. - Bradley Allen Bowman, 29, arrested on LMC warrant for FTC in theft case. Stephanie Irene Starkweather, 38, arrested on SHMC warrant for FTA in theft case, LMC warrant for contempt of court in theft case, AMC warrant for FTA in theft case, and LCCC warrant for FTA in possession of controlled substance - meth case and two fentanyl cases, and FTA in three criminal ci-

tation cases. Both cited and released in 4200 block Main St.

8:52 a.m. - Kelly Duane Kearns, 53, arrested on SHMC warrant for FTA in theft case, and FTA in carrying concealed weapon case after caller reported someone camping at Sankey Park, 877 14th Ave. Cited and released.

11:23 a.m. - Female visited SHPD, 1950 Main St., reporting that a male had called her and informed her that she had a warrant. Officer responded, advised her that it was a scam. Information noted.

11:48 a.m. - Kevin Antho-

ny Schrepfer, 37, arrested on Marion County Circuit Court case involving four counts of sexual abuse, 1400 block 53rd Ave. Lodged at Linn County Jail.

2:26 p.m. - Police, fire personnel and Sheriff's deputies responded to report of children in river at Northside Park, 1700 block 11th Ave. SHPD determined that male who reported the incident was experiencing mental health episode and there was no one in distress.

3:31 p.m. - LCSO set surveillance equipment to locate sus-

pected trespassers along Wiley Creek Dr. UTV was spotted operating on Cascade Timber Consulting property. Report taken.

5:46 p.m. - Robert Lee Edbloom, 35, arrested by Oregon State University Public Safety on SHMC warrant for FTC in theft case. Cited to appear Oct. 22.

5:57 p.m. - Male, 16, arrested after he turned himself in at SHPD, 1950 Main St., on Juvenile Justice Court warrant for FTA. Lodged at Linn Benton

See Public Safety, Page 14

Man arrested for allegedly filming with hidden camera in McKercher restroom

Linn County Sheriff's Office last week arrested a Eugene man suspected of installing a hidden camera in the public restroom at McKercher Park.

LCSO received a report of a hidden camera in the public bathroom at McKercher Park near Crawfordsville on Highway 228 on July 23.

Deputies responded to the area and, after an investigation, zeroed in on Timothy Lawrence O'Brien, 66, of Eugene as a suspect.

Deputies served a search warrant at O'Brien's private

residence on Sept. 8, where evidence related to the case was seized.

As a result of the search warrant, O'Brien was arrested and taken to the Linn County Jail where he was lodged. He is being charged with two counts of invasion of personal privacy I and two counts of invasion of personal privacy II.

During this investigation, additional evidence was discovered that led law enforcement to believe O'Brien has secretly filmed others with hidden video

cameras, specifically juveniles, at locations other than McKercher Park.

LCSO said the locations of where these videos occurred and the identities of the juveniles were unknown at the time of O'Brien's arrest.

LCSO is working with the Eugene Police Department to identify any additional victims and locations.


Anyone with information regarding O'Brien or his contact with juveniles should contact Sgt. Steven Frambes at (541) 967-3950.

BUSINESS

DIRECTORY

LOVE WHERE YOU LIVE, SHOP WHERE YOU LIVE.

AUTO REPAIR



SHAWN ANDERSON, OWNER  
LOCATED IN SWEET HOME  
541-367-2992

EQUIPMENT




1215 W AIRWAY ROAD  
LEBANON OR 97355  
541-451-5213

INSURANCE



Aaron Hegge, Agent  
3037 Main St., Sweet Home  
ahegge@farmersagent.com  
541-367-5121

INSURANCE



Joel Keesecker  
1195 MAIN STREET  
541-367-2141

LOANS



www.loanDepot.com/jmullenix

PLUMBING



OWNER - MITCH CARTER  
Office Hrs: Mon-Thu 8am - 4pm  
541-367-5655

REAL ESTATE



2345 S. Santiam Hwy., Lebanon  
oregonrealestateprofessionals.com  
541-258-6100

RV SALES & SUPPLIES



541-367-4293

THRIFT STORE



541-367-3190

TIRE / AUTO REPAIR



541-367-2462



# Huskies come away with 'ugly' football win against Molalla

By Scott Swanson  
Of The New Era

It was an "ugly, ugly win" in the words of Head Coach Ryan Adams as his players left the field with a 20-0 victory over Molalla Friday night in their home football opener.

But it was a win. The Huskies gave the ball away seven times – four fumbles and three interceptions – to the Indians, but played lock-down defense, limiting the visitors to 37 total yards for the game, 36 of those passing yards from Molalla quarterback Cash Mead, who finished 5 for 21 with a long completion of 19.

Sweet Home was dominant on offense as well – when it held onto the ball, marching on its first possession to the Molalla 21 before quarterback Kyle Zajic's pass over the middle was picked off with 5:53 on the clock.

Molalla failed to get a first down and the Huskies took over again, only to fumble the ball away two plays later.

That was the story of the first quarter.

In the second quarter, Sweet Home advanced to the Molalla 36 yard line before, with 10:18 on the clock, the Indians picked off their second pass of the game.

A tackle for loss and two incomplete passes left the visitors on their 11 yard line, and at that point Luke Rosa tackled Mead and the ball appeared to squirt from Mead's hand, recovered by Trenton Templin, Eli Cruz and Kellen Hartsook. But officials ruled that Mead's hand was moving forward and that it was an incomplete pass.

That's when Sweet Home started getting some traction,



Photos by Scott Swanson  
Sweet Home's Luke Rosa tackles Molalla quarterback Cash Mead, appearing to knock the ball from Mead's hand, but officials ruled it an incomplete pass. The Huskies got satisfaction on the next play, right photo, as Dillan Davis returned Molalla's punt for a touchdown. See more game photos with this story at [sweethomenews.com](http://sweethomenews.com).

at least on the scoreboard.

Molalla punted and Dillan Davis took the ball at the Indians' 45 yard line with 8:43 on the clock in the second quarter, reversed field away from the Molalla bench, broke a few tackles and outsprinted the Indians to the end zone for Sweet Home's first score.

"I was just running angry and I was just taking the house call," Davis said afterwards. "We needed the momentum. We needed to bring some energy."

"We were beating ourselves up."

The snap for the extra point went awry and kicker Keeghan Gittins had to scramble to pick up the loose ball and was tackled.

But the Huskies struck again with 3:41 left in the half as Zajic hit Templin with a 27-yard scoring pass to make

it 12-0, and with snap for the point after good this time, Gittins added the extra point.

Sweet Home's third score came at the end of an eight-play, 45-yard drive that ended with 7:44 left in the game as Zajic ran it in from the 1 yard line.

The Huskies finished with 266 total yards in 53 plays to 37 for Molalla, which ran 43 plays.

The Indians switched to an empty backfield in the second half, putting more players on the line, but it didn't change anything for them against a suffocating defense by Sweet Home.

"We played Molalla the last three, four, years, and we have not seen them do that one time," Adams said. "They obviously did not show it last week on film, but I thought our guys responded really well."



"They kept flying to the ball and making plays and keeping us in it."

He said the Huskies will be working on their ball handling.

"You know, anytime you put the ball on the ground, turn it over, eight or nine times – yeah, I kind of lost track – you're doing just about everything you can to give it to the other team."

"And so we've obviously got some things to shore up."

He credited the special teams for keeping things in check and "flipping the field, creating a scoring opportunity for us" with Davis' return.

"And then our defense, obviously, played lights-out."

Sweet Home was six for 10 on third-down conversions, while holding Molalla to zero in that category. The Indians finished with one yard in 18 rushing attempts, thanks in part to five tackles for loss by the Huskies and two sacks.

Sweet Home finished with 176 yards on the ground on 38

attempts, and Zajic was 6 for 12 for 90 yards in the air, with a long pass of 31 yards.

"The (calls) were not in our favor but we got it done," Davis said. "Our mental mistakes need to be fixed immediately. That's our No. 1 thing – fumbles."

The Huskies did snag a turnover of their own late in the fourth quarter when Riley Vaughan intercepted a long desperation pass from Mead.

"We did enough to win, so we're encouraged by that, but got a lot of things to shore up," Adams said.

Up next is Woodburn, which is a 5A school but plays football at the 4A level, is coming off a 30-13 loss to Junction City after falling 27-3 to Crescent Valley and 49-0 to Ridgeview in its opener.

The Huskies will host the Bulldogs at 7 p.m. Friday and Adams predicted that they will see a "physical run game" from the visitors.

See Football, Page 9

**Hoy's hardware has been a part of Sweet home since 1938 and we are celebrating 86 years with an ANNIVERSARY SALE!**

**FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 26  
SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 27**

**Come by between 10 AM and 5 PM for storewide savings on tools, supplies and home essentials. Enjoy special offers, hands-on demonstrations, and more as we thank the community for supporting us for generations.**

**We will also be holding raffles throughout the day with a mix of fun prizes and a little something to show our appreciation**



**HOY'S HARDWARE & HOME IMPROVEMENT CENTER**  
3041 & 3061 MAIN STREET • (541) 367-2221  
[hoyshardware.com](http://hoyshardware.com) • [acehardware.com](http://acehardware.com)



**WE SELL SHEDS**

VARIETY OF SIZES, STYLES AND PRICE RANGES

**BUY OR RENT TO OWN**  
(36 OR 60 MONTH PAYMENTS)

**90 DAY SAME AS CASH**

SOME MODELS DISCOUNTED CALL OR STOP BY FOR DETAILS



**SOUTH FORK TRADING CO.**  
4309 Main Street • 541-367-6844

**OLD HICKORY**  
— BUILDINGS & SHEDS —



# SCHOOL BOARD

From page 5

gree.

"The teachers, you guys, are our first line of defense with those kids – and the classified staff," Thorpe said. "You never know who you're going to connect with."

He pointed out that staff members often help students with more than school subjects, "meeting kids where they're at, families surrounding kids during tragedies."

He told board members that the union is preparing to begin contract negotiations with the district, which takes place every three years.

He cited comments made earlier in the meeting, crediting Business Manager Kevin Strong for his leadership in keeping the district financially stable.

He said the last contract was "the best one you've ever been part of," gesturing toward Strong and Martin. "It was very fair and very well-worked, and I'd like for us to do that again."

## Enrollment Surprise

Martin reported that the district's initial enrollment figures, exceeded what was expected.

"We went through the summer thinking we were only going to have about 85 kindergarteners, and they showed up – 126," he said, adding that the total for the district schools, 2,265, is "still smaller, but more consistent" with last year's at this time, 2,322, and 2023 (2,369). The district total at the end of the 2024-25 school year was 2,148.

"That's really good news for us," Martin said. "Our finances are tied directly with our student enrollment numbers. Hopefully, a month from now we will still see these same numbers because things settle out – students move and such."

Board Member Rachel Maynard asked what factors might be contributing to the decreased enrollment numbers.

Martin responded that nationwide, birth rates are down.

"All across Oregon, schools are down."

Recently, he said, "Corvallis was at its lowest enrollment since 1956, somewhere in there."

"This is something that has impacted not only our district but districts all around the state. Fortunately, we've been better financially prepared for this. If you go back in the last six months of newspapers,

there have been a lot of really traumatic things that have happened with school districts."

Many districts who received extra money from the state during COVID "up-staffed," he said, "and ended up falling off the fiscal cliff" when enrollment declined and they failed to "adjust accordingly, and so a lot of districts found themselves with huge financial gaps."

On another note, responding to the turmoil that has embroiled the School Board over the past two months, including during the Sept. 8 meeting, Martin said he was echoing "what a number of people have said" earlier in the meeting, including Thorpe.

"What lies behind us pales in comparison to what lies before us. We are not functioning as well as we have in the past, and I too look forward to a time when we can work in unity and focus on our students, which is what we're all here for."

He said that if the district needs to bring in "someone from the outside" to hold meetings and get disagreements worked out, it can do that.

"We have to work together, get past the difficulties, and work for what's best for our kids before it does trickle down into the classrooms."

Quoting former Board Chair Jason Redick, who spoke earlier in the meeting, "If it goes long enough, it will get into the classrooms, and I know for a fact that nobody sitting around this table wants that."

## Flag Policy Discussion

Board members also dis-

See School Board, Page 16



Photo by Scott Swanson

School Board members and candidates listen to Oregon School Boards Association trainer Jenn Nelson Sept. 8.

# School Board members get instruction on open meetings

Sweet Home School Board members participated in a three-hour training workshop prior to their Sept. 8 board meeting on board governance, public meetings and ethics.

Also participating were some district administrators and three applicants for an open board seat, Matthew Bechtel, Mindy Cummings and Chris Hiaasen; Hiaasen was later selected to fill the seat vacated by the resignation of Erin Barstad.

The training session was presented by Jenn Nelson, a board development specialist for the Oregon School Boards Association.

Nelson worked in both education and city government

before joining OSBA, according to her LinkedIn page.

The work session was a response by the board to allegations of illegal meetings and other malfeasance included in multiple grievances filed with the district.

It also fulfilled training for new School Board members that is required by state law.

Nelson provided detailed explanations of terminology and intent of state laws governing public meetings and board member conduct.

She detailed what the law says constitutes a public meeting, how it can legally be noticed to the public, what constitutes an executive (closed) session and how it needs to be conducted, and

other topics pertaining to conducting board meetings. Also, the session addressed grievance and complaint procedures related to public meeting violations.

## FOOTBALL

From page 8

"They'll use a lot of different formations to try and establish the run," he said.

Sweet Home will be working on "consistent execution" this week.

"I think Friday night was a great example of if we execute the way we're capable of, the sky is the limit," he said. "So we're looking forward to working all week on that consistent

CCB# 208491

**WALKER**  
HEATING & AC, INC.  
Residential & Commercial

**\$145 SYSTEM TUNE UP  
\$95 DIAGNOSTIC**

**DID YOU KNOW WE...**

- Run Gas Line
- Sell & Install Water Heaters
- Offer Financing
- System Maintenance
- Install Gas Stoves
- Commercial HVAC
- Duct and Dryer Vent Cleaning
- Free Estimates on New Equipment
- New Construction & Remodels
- Are Trane & Mitsubishi Dealers

It's Hard To Stop A Trane!

**541-367-8706**  
**2222 MAIN ST. SWEET HOME**

# The ICEBOX Performer Of The Week

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

Even with the shipping team down a person, Isaac is keeping things moving—making sure orders get packed, shipped, and delivered.

His reliability and hard work keep our customers taken care of, and we couldn't be more grateful!

Thank you for your strength and determination, Isaac!

execution and then applying it to the game Friday."



# Huskies come close in boys soccer loss to East Linn

It may not have been a win, but it was competitive for Sweet Home's boys soccer team as they hosted East Linn Christian Tuesday, Sept. 9, falling 2-1.

After getting off to a slow start in an 8-1 loss to Siuslaw (1-1 in the second half) in their season opener the week before, the Huskies were looking to be more aggressive from the start – and they were.

Coach Eric Stutzer said his team showed "huge improvement from our game against Siuslaw."

"We played better both offensively and defensively, which allowed the game to stay tight right down to the final seconds."

East Linn, which was 4-0 entering this week, capitalized on a defensive error by Sweet Home about 20 minutes into the game, but Keeghan Gittins evened the score 1-1 with a goal after getting an angle behind the Eagles' goalie.

"We maintained compo-

sure and were able to equalize before halftime," Stutzer said.

He said the Huskies "came out strong" in the second half, but were unable to capitalize on the opportunities they had.

Sweet Home put the ball in the net about 10 minutes into the second half, but it was ruled offside.

East Linn scored its second goal with about 15 minutes left in the game off a midfield error.

"We had a number of really good opportunities in the final minutes, but East Linn was able to hold off the attack," Stutzer said. "We had really strong play in the front from Keghan Gittins and our sophomore keeper Ben Ramsey played very well too."

He said midfield errors were the difference in the game, and they need to be corrected. Also, he said, the Huskies need to work on getting shots off quicker, not being tentative on offense.

"We are still struggling



Sweet Home goalkeeper Ben Ramsey saves an East Linn shot in front of defender Kace Stevens.

Photos by Scott Swanson  
Sweet Home's Keeghan Gittins battles for a ball with East Linn goalkeeper Bain Pool. See more game photos at [sweethomenews.com](http://sweethomenews.com).

with midfield play, especially late in games when we are tired," Stutzer said. "We will spend some time on that in practice this week and also work on tightening up our touch."

"It's extremely hard to do what we need to, tactically, if we can't maintain control of the ball."

Sweet Home will be looking for its first win as it visits Kennedy at 4 p.m. Thursday,

Sept. 18, then will host Junction City/Harrisburg Tuesday, Sept. 23 at 4:30 p.m. in a final tuneup before the Oregon West Conference season begins against North Marion on Oct. 2.

**NEW!**  
**CHICKEN & WAFFLE**  
**\$12.99**

Then savory met sweet

**REAL PUMPKIN PIE SHAKE**  
**REGULAR SIZE \$4.49**

**A&W**  
Prices and participation may vary. Limited time only. Tax extra. 2017 A&W Restaurants, Inc.  
**1010 MAIN STREET • 541-367-4893**

**FREE POOL ALL DAY EVERY DAY!**

**CHEWY'S**  
**PUB & GRUB**

**OPEN 7 DAYS A WEEK 11A.M. – 2:30A.M.**

**1200 12TH AVE, SWEET HOME • 541-367-5119**

**FREE Medium Fries and Medium Soft Drink**  
with purchase of a premium sandwich valued at \$3 or more

Valid only at McDonald's in Sweet Home, Lebanon, Salem, Keizer, and Stayton locations. Prices may vary. Not valid with any other offers, discounts or coupons. Cash value 1/20 or 1 cent. Limit one coupon per person per visit. Coupons may not be transferred, auctioned, sold, or duplicated in any way or transmitted via electronic media. Valid when products served. May not be valid for custom orders. Coupons must be presented at time of purchase. Void where prohibited © 2023 McDonalds

**Expires 12/31/2025**

**FOOD and Fun**

**BITES AROUND THE BLOCK: DISCOVER LOCAL YUM!**

**WE INVITE YOU TO EMBARK ON A CULINARY ADVENTURE.**

**REDISCOVER YOUR TOWN ONE PLATE AT A TIME.**

**DINE WITH PRIDE, KNOWING THAT WITH EVERY BITE, YOU'RE CELEBRATING OUR LOCAL HERITAGE, TRADITIONS, AND COMMUNITY SPIRIT.**



# Cross-country runners post PRs at Oregon City

Sweet Home's cross-country runners continued to gain momentum on their young season Saturday with another wave of personal bests at the Oregon City Invitational.

The meet was moved to Clackamas Community College from the high school, where construction prohibited it from occurring this year, but the course was fast, though temperatures were a little high.

Overall, I was really pleased," Coach Dave Martin said. "The kids made some significant improvements across the board."

He said the meet, in which the majority of the 30-plus teams were 5A- and 6A-sized schools from Washington and Oregon, "gave our kids a chance to compete against a really good field."

Fourteen runners posted personal bests and three others got marks for the first time this season, two of them freshmen for whom it was their first 5K race.

Junior Ryker Burr led the Husky boys with a PR of 17:37.70, followed by freshman Elijah Rodriguez, who broke 18 minutes in his second high school race, running nearly a minute and a half faster than he had the

previous week at Tillamook to finish in 17:45.40, eight seconds behind his teammate.

"The big races of the day were Ryker and Elijah," Martin said. "I haven't had a kid under 18 minutes so far in the four years since I returned to Sweet Home."

"Elijah challenged himself. I love it. He's already taken a look at what it's going to take to get to the top of the list."

Rounding out the varsity for the boys were sophomores Evan Knight, also in a personal best of 19:11.50, Acen Webber in 19:50.20 and Louis Kistner in a PR of 19:55.50; junior Conner Spencer in 20:08.10, and freshman Hudson Ogden in 21:04.40, also a PR for him.

Martin noted that both Webber and Spencer were running with some "physical challenges going on that day that made the races tougher."

Kistner, he said, "had never been faster than 20:59 before, so he improved over a minute to set a lifetime best. He ran a good, tough race. He looked really good."

"Louie never been faster than 20:59 before, improved over a minute lifetime best. He looked really good."

The boys were 14th out of

22 teams with 419 points, but only 4A Division Madras finished ahead of them – by five points, while Scappoose (491), Estacada (537) and Gladstone (567) trailed the Huskies.

South Eugene's Yosuke Shibata was the boys winner in a meet-record 14:53.80.

On the girls side, freshman Cassie Spencer was the only runner to post a personal best in a race that, Martin noted, there were fewer PRs across the field than any other that day.

Spencer ran 22:02.9, a 37-second PR over her time at Tillamook the week before.

Senior McKenzie Miller was ninth overall in a fast field of 142 runners led by North Eugene senior Cricket Phillips (18:13.70), ahead of South Eugene freshman Evangeline Johnson-Hess (18:39.90).

Miller finished in 19:53.30, ahead of sophomore Emma Whitton who was 15th in 20:19.70.

Junior Noelle Helfrich, in her first cross-country race this season, ran 25:22.60, followed by sophomore Madison Ciullo (26:56.60) and freshman Pyper Hall (27:34.90).

Like the boys, the varsity

girls finished behind Madras (eighth, 232 points) in the team standings, 10th with 250 points, ahead of Scappoose (281), The Dalles (286) and Estacada (386).

The junior varsity runners were split into different races, with the boys in two different competitions, based on their times coming into the race.

In the boys Gold JV race, sophomore West Goff finished in 21:29.90, followed by sophomore Noah Strawn in a personal best 21:40.60.

In the boys Silver JV race, freshman Ryder Farris ran a PR of approximately a minute and a half to finish in 21:49.10, 35th in a field of 159, followed by senior Sam Strawn (24:34.90) and sophomore Eli Adams (25:26.20).

In the JV girls race, freshman Marian Helfrich, in her first high school cross-country competition, finished in 25:27.50, followed by senior Delanie Pratt (28:55.10), junior McKenzie Olheiser (28:59.70) and freshman Lexi Lee (32:30.60).

In a Novice 3,000-meter race, freshmen Zoie Allison finished in 20:35.80 – a PR for her at that distance, and Neveah Mize in a personal-best of more than four minutes in 25:17.30.

Sweet Home's middle school club runners also competed at the 3000 distance, the boys led by eighth-grader Wiley Farris (13:41.60, a PR), closely followed by his fifth-grade brother Walker Farris (13:49.00, a PR), sixth-grader Brady Goff (15:52.00, a PR) and eighth-grader Zander Davis (19:33.40), who is a lineman on the football team.

Emma Davis, an eighth-grader, was the only girl for Sweet Home in the race, finishing 19th in a field of 57 runners in 15:39.70, a PR of nearly two minutes in her second cross-country race.

"Some of the kids came away a little disappointed that they didn't run well," Martin said. "I'm not disappointed at all. I like the fact that we competed well. Kids who didn't PR have ideas about what they can do next time around."

Next up for Sweet Home is the Northwest Classic this Saturday, Sept. 20, at Lane Community College in Eugene, where the high school state championships will be held. Races start with middle school girls at 10 a.m. and end for Sweet Home with the varsity boys at 1 p.m.

# Husky girls continue soccer struggles with pair of losses

**By Ryker Burr**  
**For The New Era**

Sweet Home's girls soccer program endured another rough week, as the Huskies were blown out in both of their Week 2 contests.

Sweet Home lost 2-10 at 3A Division Western Christian of Salem, then in their home opener, lost 7-1 to guests Cottage Grove.

In both contests, Sweet Home wasn't competitive enough in the first half, then was unable to turn things on for the remainder of the game.

At Western Christian, team captains Anabelle Morris and Khloe Sautel scored. Morris racked up another goal against Cottage Grove, assisted by Sautel.

Despite the underwhelming results, Head Coach Ramiro Santana remains optimistic, seeing improvement.

"We've had a better attitude, especially with not giving up," he said. "Our passing is getting better."

Santana highlighted

where the Huskies need to improve: "We need to improve our communication on the field for better passing and shooting goals. We need to execute like we do in practice.

"We need to want the ball more," he added. "We can't ever give up. We need to be aggressive in every play. Every play we look like we're coming, but slowly. I hope we improve on that in our

next game."

The Green and Gold will look to get back on track in their second home match-up at 6 p.m. Tuesday, Sept. 13, against 2A Division Gervais/Kennedy.

The Huskies will have a good opportunity to secure their first victory in over two years, considering the Trojans' 0-5 record, and that they've been outscored 1-23 this year.



**DIAL-A-BUS**  
CURB TO CURB IN SWEET HOME  
MON-FRI 7 AM - 4 PM  
CALL TO SCHEDULE  
OFFICE HOURS 8-4



**SWEET HOME SHOPPER**  
MON-SAT 9 AM - 4 PM  
SHOP LOCAL- 4 TRIPS A DAY  
THROUGH TOWN

**LINN SHUTTLE**  
MON-FRI 6 AM - 10 PM - 10 ROUTES PER DAY  
SAT 7 AM - 7:30 PM - 6 ROUTES PER DAY  
CALL FOR APPROVED FLAG STOPS

**SWEET HOME:**  
FOSTER  
SH CITY HALL  
HOY'S HARDWARE  
13TH & KALMIA  
SHEA POINT

**LEBANON:**  
WALMART  
LBCC  
PARK & OAK

**ALBANY:**  
LBCC MAIN CAMPUS  
TRAIN STATION  
HERITAGE MALL  
DOWNTOWN  
SAT ONLY: KOHL'S & WINCO

STUDENTS RIDE FREE WITH STUDENT ID | ALL OTHERS \$1 PER TRIP  
ELECTRONIC TICKETS - DOWNLOAD THE TOKEN TRANSIT APP: TOKENTRANSIT.COM  
TICKETS AVAILABLE AT THE OFFICE OR ON THE BUS.  
ONLY CASH ACCEPTED BY DRIVERS (EXACT AMOUNT, NO CHANGE AVAILABLE)

**541-367-4775 | LINNSHUTTLE.COM |**  FIND US ON FACEBOOK





REAL ESTATE SOLD

Following are Sweet Home, Brownsville and Lebanon-area real estate transactions recorded with the county during late August and September 2025. These are not properties for sale, and some transactions may represent a change in ownership within a family or corporation. Properties are listed by address, property/residence size and purchase price. See more sales at [sweethomenews.com](http://sweethomenews.com).

- 40090 Mountain Home Dr., Sweet Home; 1352 sq.ft., two bedroom, two bathroom, built in 1955; 2.89 a
- 1038 Nandina St., Sweet Home; 1728 sq.ft., five bedroom, one bathroom, built in 1947; 0.36 acres; \$280,500.
- 540 17th Ave., Sweet Home; 1389 sq.ft., three bedroom, one bathroom, built in

- 1949; 0.25 acres; \$340,000.
- 1162 1st Ave., Sweet Home; 1684 sq.ft., three bedroom, two bathroom, built in 1989; 0.21 acres; \$355,000.
- 109 Holley Rd., Sweet Home; four bedroom, 1.5 bathroom, built in 1.1 acres; \$400,000.
- 1016 15th Ave., Sweet Home; 648 sq.ft., one bedroom, one bathroom, built in 1940; 0.12 acres; \$150,000.
- 304 Spaulding Ave., Brownsville; 1246 sq.ft., two bedroom, two bathroom, built in 2015; 1.02 acres; \$470,000.
- 1214 Cessna Ct., Sweet Home; 1445 sq.ft., three bedroom, two bathroom, built in 2020; 0.23 acres; \$404,000.
- 28796 Santiam Hwy., Sweet Home; additional details not listed; 1.05 acres; \$7,500.

- 4570 Airport Ln., Sweet Home; 1206 sq.ft., three bedroom, two bathroom, built in 2005; 0.17 acres; \$309,000.
- 101 Cooley Ave., Brownsville; 1770 sq.ft., five bedroom, two bathroom, built in 1976; 0.4 acres; \$446,800.
- 4490 Knotty Pine Ct., Sweet Home; 1424 sq.ft., three bedroom, two bathroom, built in 2024; 0.18 acres; \$403,000.
- 240 North Ave., Brownsville; 2263 sq.ft., four bedroom, 2 1/2 bathroom, built in 2021; 0.25 acres; \$514,000.
- 1217 1st Ave., Sweet Home; 1120 sq.ft., two bedroom, one bathroom, built in 1930; 0.16 acres; \$200,000.
- 402 Kirk Ave., Brownsville; 1035 sq.ft., three bedroom, one bathroom, built in 1973; 0.42 acres; \$368,000.
- 44144 Santiam Hwy., Foster; 2303 sq.ft., two bedroom, two bathroom, built in 1965; 1 acres; \$439,950.
- 404 French St., Brownsville; 1776 sq.ft., four bedroom, two bathroom, built in 1900; 0.1 acres; \$400,000.
- 3492 Juniper St., Sweet Home; additional details not listed; 0.7 acres; \$389,900.
- 28754 Reynolds Ln., Sweet Home; 1300 sq.ft., three bedroom, two bathroom, built in 1997; 2.3 acres; \$458,730.
- 1264 Linden Ct., Sweet Home; 1120 sq.ft., three bedroom, two bathroom, built in 2007; 0.14 acres; \$330,000.
- 1046 26th Ct., Sweet Home; 1560 sq.ft., three bedroom, two bathroom, built in 1998; 0.29 acres; \$360,000.
- 5110 Mountain Fir St., Sweet Home; additional details not listed; 6.87 acres; \$10,918,000.
- 1224 49th Ave., Sweet Home; 1344 sq.ft., three bedroom, two bathroom, built in

- 2021; 0.31 acres; \$360,325.
- 3147 Foothills Dr., Sweet Home; 1495 sq.ft., three bedroom, two bathroom, built in 2000; 0.18 acres; \$370,000.
- 3102 Highway 20., Sweet Home; 776 sq.ft., three bedroom, one bathroom, built in 1942; 0.1 acres; \$149,000.
- 1264 Linden Ct., Sweet Home; 1120 sq.ft., three bedroom, two bathroom, built in 2007; 0.14 acres; \$330,000.
- 1264 Linden Ct., Sweet Home; 1120 sq.ft., three bedroom, two bathroom, built in 2007; 0.14 acres; \$330,000.
- 46437 Santiam Hwy., Foster; additional details not listed; 7.6 acres; \$209,000.
- 236 Holley Rd., Sweet Home; 1310 sq.ft., three bedroom, two bathroom, built in 2022; 0.3 acres; \$365,000.
- 30552 Merry Ln., Lebanon; 1232 sq.ft., three bedroom, two bathroom, built in 1960; 1.74 acres; \$445,000.
- 630 Central Ave., Lebanon; 580 sq.ft., five bedroom, one bathroom, built in 1946; 0.26 acres; \$315,000.
- 33597 Brewster Rd., Lebanon; 1580 sq.ft., three bedroom, 1.5 bathroom, built in 1971; 1.69 acres; \$450,000.
- 420 Dodge St., Lebanon; 2522 sq.ft., five bedroom, 2 1/2 bathroom, built in 2018; 0.14 acres; \$470,000.
- 38970 Griggs Dr., Lebanon; 1040 sq.ft., three bedroom, one bathroom, built in 1950; 28.06 acres; \$300,000.
- 1896 Strawberry Ln., Lebanon; 1456 sq.ft., three bedroom, 1.5 bathroom, built in 1960; 0.93 acres; \$250,000.
- 2368 Kokanee Way., Lebanon; 3744 sq.ft., five bedroom, 3 1/2 bathroom, built in 2006; 0.14 acres; \$599,000.
- 31035 5th St., Lebanon; 2876 sq.ft., three bedroom, three bathroom, built in 1973; 4.54 acres; \$840,000.
- 1027 Turtledove Lp., Lebanon; 1846 sq.ft., three bedroom, 2 1/2 bathroom, built in 2006; 0.16 acres; \$487,000.
- 157 Elmore St., Lebanon; 1330 sq.ft., two bedroom, one bathroom, built in 1910; 0.25 acres; \$334,900.
- 29055 Santiam Terrace Rd., Lebanon; three bedroom, two bathroom, 30.61 acres; \$491,700.
- 3471 Red Arrow Dr., Lebanon; 1396 sq.ft., three bedroom, two bathroom, built in 2007; 0.15 acres; \$395,000.
- 575 Ash St., Lebanon; 1200 sq.ft., three bedroom, one bathroom, built in 1948; 0.17 acres; \$335,000.
- 55 Dewey St., Lebanon; 756 sq.ft., two bedroom, one bathroom, built in 1945; 0.26 acres; \$75,000.
- 337 Lydia Ln., Lebanon; 1442 sq.ft., three bedroom, two bathroom, built in 2013; 0.15 acres; \$439,500.

- bathroom, built in 1946; 0.26 acres; \$315,000.
- 33597 Brewster Rd., Lebanon; 1580 sq.ft., three bedroom, 1.5 bathroom, built in 1971; 1.69 acres; \$450,000.
- 420 Dodge St., Lebanon; 2522 sq.ft., five bedroom, 2 1/2 bathroom, built in 2018; 0.14 acres; \$470,000.
- 38970 Griggs Dr., Lebanon; 1040 sq.ft., three bedroom, one bathroom, built in 1950; 28.06 acres; \$300,000.
- 1896 Strawberry Ln., Lebanon; 1456 sq.ft., three bedroom, 1.5 bathroom, built in 1960; 0.93 acres; \$250,000.
- 2368 Kokanee Way., Lebanon; 3744 sq.ft., five bedroom, 3 1/2 bathroom, built in 2006; 0.14 acres; \$599,000.
- 31035 5th St., Lebanon; 2876 sq.ft., three bedroom, three bathroom, built in 1973; 4.54 acres; \$840,000.
- 1027 Turtledove Lp., Lebanon; 1846 sq.ft., three bedroom, 2 1/2 bathroom, built in 2006; 0.16 acres; \$487,000.
- 157 Elmore St., Lebanon; 1330 sq.ft., two bedroom, one bathroom, built in 1910; 0.25 acres; \$334,900.
- 29055 Santiam Terrace Rd., Lebanon; three bedroom, two bathroom, 30.61 acres; \$491,700.
- 3471 Red Arrow Dr., Lebanon; 1396 sq.ft., three bedroom, two bathroom, built in 2007; 0.15 acres; \$395,000.
- 575 Ash St., Lebanon; 1200 sq.ft., three bedroom, one bathroom, built in 1948; 0.17 acres; \$335,000.
- 55 Dewey St., Lebanon; 756 sq.ft., two bedroom, one bathroom, built in 1945; 0.26 acres; \$75,000.
- 337 Lydia Ln., Lebanon; 1442 sq.ft., three bedroom, two bathroom, built in 2013; 0.15 acres; \$439,500.

OREGON'S LEADING  
REAL ESTATE TEAM

SERVING LEBANON SINCE 1992



GILLOTT  
HOME TEAM

kw

MID-WILLAMETTE

KELLERWILLIAMS. REALTY



541-451-2211

WWW.TEAMGILLOTT.COM

420 NW 2ND ST., CORVALLIS


266 EAST GRANT ST., LEBANON

EACH OFFICE INDEPENDENTLY OWNED AND OPERATED LICENSED OREGON BROKERS  
UNLICENSED ADMIN ERIN HILL, KYLIE MALLOY, JESSICA WOODY, RACHAEL ROBERTS



FOR RENT - 2416 HARDING ST., SWEET HOME

Welcome to this inviting 4-bedroom, 2-bath home in Sweet Home, OR. The spacious living area is complemented by a kitchen with range and fridge for your convenience. Central forced heat keeps you comfortable year-round, while washer/dryer hookups add ease to daily living. Pets are welcome with a \$250 deposit and \$50 monthly rent per pet (limit 2). This charming home blends comfort and practicality, offering the perfect place to settle in.



LARGE  
BACK YARD

\$2300

RENT

4

BED

2


BATH

1320

SQ.FT.

FOR RENT - 1900 S 2ND ST A104 LEBANON

Spacious 3BR/2BA apartment in Lebanon. Features full kitchen with appliances, wall AC, washer dryer hookups, garbage disposal, and covered patio with storage. Pets allowed (1 under 40 lbs, fees apply). \$75 monthly utility fee.



GROUND  
FLOOR  
IN-SUITE  
LAUNDRY

\$1750

RENT

3

BED

2


BATH

1,156

SQ.FT.

FOR RENT - 2424 MAIN ST. #13 SWEET HOME

Welcome to your new home in Sweet Home, OR! This ground-level 2-bedroom, 1-bath apartment offers a modern layout with water and sewer included in rent. Enjoy the convenience of onsite laundry facilities and a comfortable, practical living space.



MOVE  
IN  
READY

\$1250

RENT

2


BED

1

BATH

884

SQ.FT.



(541) 367-7368 | KARYN.ELPM@GMAIL.COM  
WWW.EASTLINNPROPERTYMANAGEMENT.COM



2345 S. Santiam Hwy  
Lebanon, OR 97355

(541) 258-6100

OregonRealEstateProfessionals.com



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 CIRCUIT COURT OF THE STATE OF OREGON FOR THE COUNTY OF LINN IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF IRVINE SCHULER PARKER, deceased, Case No. 25PB07731 **NOTICE TO INTERESTED PERSONS** NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the undersigned has been appointed personal representative of the above estate. All persons having claims against the estate are required to present the same, with proper vouchers, to said personal representative at the office of Jessica K. Meyer, Jessica K. Meyer Law, 80 E. Maple St., Lebanon, Oregon 97355, within four months of the date

Public Notices

of first publication of this notice, or such claims may be barred. All persons whose rights may be affected by the proceedings may obtain additional information from the personal representative or the attorneys for the personal representative at the address stated, or from the records of the Court. Dated September 17, 2025. Luke Parker, Personal Representative. Jessica K. Meyer, OSB #053242 Jessica K. Meyer Law LLC, 80 E. Maple St., Lebanon OR 97355. (Sept 17)

Fundraiser

B-I-N-G-O FUNDRAISER

26 Sept, 5:30 PM Cornerstone Fellowship, 1234 Long St, SH Games-Food-Prizes-Raffle More Info: 541-409-0064 (Sept 17 - Sept 24)

For Rent

Upstairs unit one bedroom condo, furnished, utilities include water, sewer, garbage, electric. Beautiful lake views, off street parking, laundromat on site, seasonal pool. \$1800 per month (month to month tenancy). Call for application and cleaning deposit fees. No pets allowed. For further details 541-367-5629. (Aug 27 - Sept 17)

Help Wanted

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

Peaches

Peaches, Tomatoes, Honey Crisp Apples, Raw Honey, and much more for sale. 40130 McDowell Creek Drive. Canning Quantities Available. (Sept 17)

Free Cat

Free friendly outdoor female cat spayed. Dawn 970-690-1868 (Sept 17 - Oct 1)

Fire Wood

Fire wood for sale Fir, Ash, Oak, Maple, and Pine you cut you haul \$20 per load 541-740-7239 (Sept 17 - Oct 8)

Statewide Notices

WANTED: PAYING TOP DOLLAR For Sports Card Collections: Baseball, Basketball, Football, & Pokemon. Premium Paid for Vintage Pre 1980. Referral Bonuses Available. Call Corey 541-838-0364.

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

SERVICES: Donate your car, truck, boat, RV and more to support our veterans! Schedule a FAST, FREE vehicle pickup and receive a top tax deduction! Call Veteran Car Donations at 1-866-695-9265 today!

SERVICES: Get a break on your taxes! Donate your car, truck, or SUV to assist the blind and visually impaired. Arrange a swift, no-cost vehicle pick-

Statewide Notices

up and secure a generous tax credit for 2025. Call Heritage for the Blind Today at 1-844-533-9173 today!

SERVICES: We Buy Houses for Cash AS IS! No repairs. No fuss. Any condition. Easy three step process: Call, get cash offer and get paid. Get your fair cash offer today by calling Liz Buys Houses: 1-866-249-8679.

SERVICES: We buy 8,000 cars a week. Sell your old, busted or junk car with no hoops, haggles or headaches. Sell your car to Peddle. Easy three step process. Instant offer. Free pickup. Fast payment. Call 1-855-980-4382.

SERVICES: The bathroom of your dreams in as little as 1 day. Limited Time Offer - \$1000 off or No Payments and No Interest for 18 months for customers who qualify. BCI Bath & Shower. Many options available. Quality materials & professional installation. Senior & Military Discounts Available. Call Today! 1-844-847-9778.

SERVICES: Safe Step. North America’s #1 Walk-In Tub. Comprehensive lifetime warranty. Top-of-the-line installation and service. Now featuring our FREE shower package and \$1600 Off for a limited time! Call today! Financing available. Call Safe Step 1-833-395-1433.

SERVICES: Jacuzzi Bath Remodel can install a new, custom bath or shower in as little as one day. For a limited time, waiving ALL installation costs! Additional terms apply. Subject to change and vary by dealer. (Offer ends 9/30/25.) Call 1-855-341-5268.

SERVICES: Prepare for power outages today with a Generac Home Standby Generator. Act now to receive a FREE 5-Year warranty with qualifying purchase. Call 1-877-557-1912 today to schedule a free quote. It’s not just a generator. It’s a power move.

SERVICES: Portable Oxygen Concentrator May Be Covered by Medicare! Reclaim independence and mobility with the compact design and long-lasting battery of Inogen One. Free information kit! Call 855-839-0752.

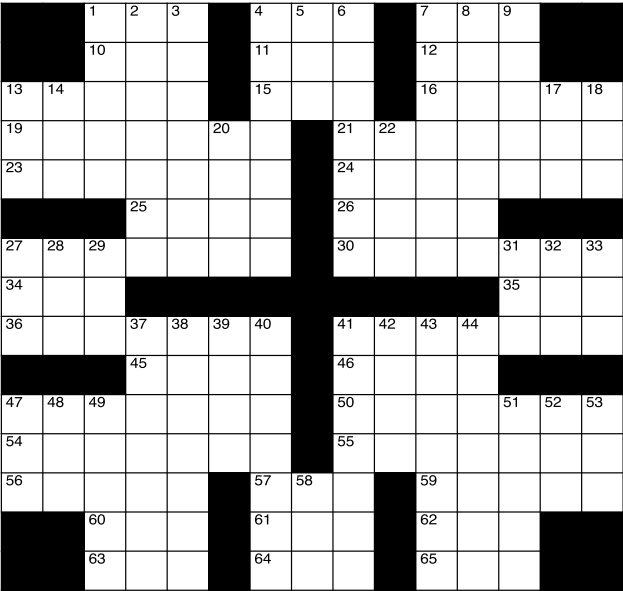
SERVICES: No more cleaning out gutters. Guaranteed! LeafFilter is backed by a no-clog guarantee and lifetime transferrable warranty. Call today 1-855-536-8838 to schedule a FREE inspection and no obligation estimate. Plus get 75% off installation and a bonus \$250 discount! Limited time only. Restrictions apply, see representative for warranty and offer details.

SERVICES: Get DISH Satellite TV + Internet! Free Install, Free HD-DVR Upgrade, 80,000 On-Demand Movies, Plus Limited Time Up To \$600 In Gift Cards. Call Today! 1-866-373-9175.

SERVICES: DIRECTV OVER INTERNET - Get your favorite live TV, sports and local channels. 99% signal reliability! CHOICE Package, \$84.99/mo for 12 months. HBO Max and Premium Channels included for 3 mos (w/CHOICE Package or higher.) No annual contract, no hidden fees! Some restrictions apply. Call IVS 1-855-602-2009.

SERVICES: Get Boost Infinite! Unlimited Talk, Text and Data For Just \$25/mo! The Power Of 3 5G Networks, One Low Price! Call Today and Get The Latest iPhone Every Year On Us! 844-955-3417.

CROSSWORD



CLUES ACROSS

- 1. \_\_ fi (slang)
- 4. Former CIA
- 7. Parts per billion (abbr.)
- 10. Fermenting vat
- 11. News organization
- 12. Paddle
- 13. Agent in alchemy
- 15. Small amount
- 16. Wholeness
- 19. Suppliers
- 21. Type of head pain
- 23. Canadian province
- 24. Jiminy is one
- 25. Shelf
- 26. Diarist Frank
- 27. Honored
- 30. Boat race
- 34. Cash machine
- 35. Linguistic theory (abbr.)

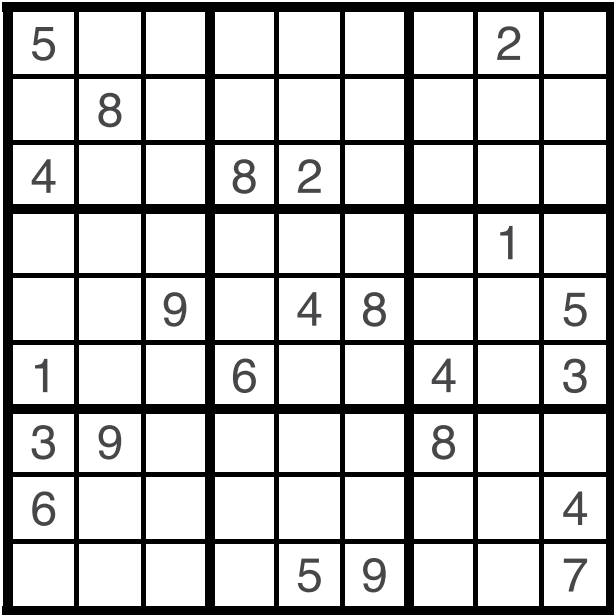
- 36. Highway material
- 41. Gracefully slender
- 45. Not often found
- 46. Baghdad is its capital
- 47. Deriving from Asia
- 50. Large, veterinary pills
- 54. Boxer
- 55. Give the right to
- 56. Iranian city
- 57. Body part
- 59. A citizen of Iraq
- 60. Australian bird
- 61. Consume
- 62. A basketball hoop has one
- 63. Bar bill
- 64. Not wet
- 65. Midway between east and southeast

CLUES DOWN

- 1. Shorttail weasel
- 2. Type of sword
- 3. A way to acquire
- 4. Peddled more
- 5. Relaxing place
- 6. A small carrier attached to the side of a motorcycle
- 7. Decanting
- 8. For all ills or diseases
- 9. Building material
- 13. “Much \_\_ About Nothing”
- 14. Type of Buddhism
- 17. Refers to something unique
- 18. Thus far
- 20. Make angry
- 22. Greek mythological character
- 27. Used on driveways
- 28. Relating to the ears
- 29. Doctors’ group

- 31. Chinese philosophical principle
- 32. Stomach
- 33. A particular period
- 37. Coin of ancient Greece
- 38. Place to clean oneself
- 39. One of the Great Lakes
- 40. Ruled
- 41. State of being free
- 42. Fe
- 43. Soup cracker
- 44. Escorts
- 47. Credit term
- 48. Institute legal proceedings against
- 49. Put within
- 51. New Jersey is one
- 52. Red deer
- 53. Type of whale
- 58. Swiss river

SUDOKU



Level: Advanced



# Commissioners hear report on building projects in county

By Alex Paul

**Linn County Communications**  
Linn County issued 281 total building permits in August, Planning and Building Director Steve Wills told Linn County Commissioners Roger Nyquist, Sherrie Sprenger and Will Tucker at their Sept. 9 meeting.  
Wills said 23 of the permits were for dwellings, including two single-family units and three manufactured homes.  
Five commercial permits were issued.  
Wills said there were 35 permits issued for contracted cities, which included four single-family dwellings.  
There were 16 new code

enforcement cases opened and seven cases closed in August.  
The commissioners approved a conditional use permit for Build Lebanon Trails to construct a multi-use public trail.  
Wills said the Greater Albany Public School District has increased its Construction Excise Tax. The tax on new residential property will increase from \$1.63 per square foot to \$1.67 per square foot and the rate for commercial properties will increase from 82 cents per square foot to 84 cents per square foot.  
The Linn County Plan-

ning & Building Department receives that money from builders and passes it on to the school district, except for a four percent administrative fee.  
GAPS uses the funds for capital improvement projects.  
**In other business, the commissioners:**  
• Approved a two-year services contract with All Star Cab Company not to exceed \$240,000 to provide transportation for Health Department clients when other transportation options are not available. Costs will be reimbursed through the Oregon Department of Hu-

man Services. The Developmental Disabilities program is the primary program that will utilize this service, arranging transportation to work locations and other community activities when public transportation is not available.  
• Approved a transfer of \$490,515 within the Health Fund to cover the cost of repairs and maintenance at the Old Armory Building.  
• Approved increasing the Health Fund by \$2,133,885 within the Health Services Department for mental health, addiction services and developmental disabilities.

• Amended a Construction Manager General Contractor contract, previously approved by the commissioners, between the Linn County Sheriff's Office and Gerding Builders. It is for the construction of the female housing renovation project at the Linn County Jail. Undersheriff Micah Smith said the City of Albany has approved project plans and building permits have been issued.  
• Approved First-Time Youth Wage Grant agreements with Berkey's Blueberries, Boshart Trucking and Malpass Heritage Farms.

## PUBLIC SAFETY

From page 6

Juvenile Detention.

8:47 p.m. - Deputy located couple lost in woods off 25100 block Little Valley Lane, Brownsville. They were given directions on how to get where they were trying to go.  
9:19 p.m. - Cody Michael Lobdell, 29, arrested by Albany police on SHMC for FTC in theft case. Cited to appear Oct. 22.  
9:50 p.m. - Caller reported neighbor was asking him to

call police in 300 block W. Holley Rd. Officer responded, report taken for assault IV. Case to be forwarded to District Attorney's Office for review.

### Sept. 10

12:10 a.m. - Deputy took report of stolen Dodge Caravan from 33800 block Seefeld Dr., Halsey. Suspect identified. Report taken.  
8:41 a.m. - Caller reported RV parked in 1200 block Evergreen Lane area with posted limited RV parking. Officer responded, vehicle posted for removal.  
10:20 a.m. - Caller called expressing concerns about tenant who had stated he was going to kill other tenants, 2200 block Main St. Officer responded, information noted.  
10:37 a.m. - Caller reported her bike stolen from 4300 block Osage St. Officer responded, report taken for theft II. Bike described as gray and yellow Dynacraft, valued at approximately \$279.  
12:44 p.m. - Caller reported two large dogs walking past her fence in 1100 block 2nd Ave., saying they had attacked her dog in past. Officer responded, located unsecured home but did not locate dogs.  
2:02 p.m. - Caller reported female doing drugs in bathroom at Chewy's Pub and Grub, 1200 12th Ave. When officer arrived, female had left premises but will be trespassed when located.  
2:59 p.m. - Wyatt Lynn Alan Vaughan, 22, arrested on AMC

warrant for FTC in contempt of court case, 12th Ave./Juniper St. Cited and released.

3:10 p.m. - Jessica Ashley Wynne, 32, arrested on SHMC warrant in giving false information to law enforcement officer case, LCCC warrant for FTA in dangerous drugs case, LJC warrant in giving false information to law enforcement officer case, LMC warrant for probation violation in endangering the welfare of a minor case. Cited and released.  
5:19 p.m. - Caller reported tent set up in trails at stairs at Sankey Park, 877 14th Ave. Officer responded, contacted individual, who packed up and moved along.  
5:52 p.m. - Jeremy Lonnie Victor, 49, cited for failure to wear seatbelt, driving uninsured, after caller reported her vehicle was struck in 6000 block Main St. Officer responded, report taken for MVC-injury, damage estimated at more than \$2,500. According to SHPD, Victor, driving a Toyota Tundra truck, struck parked unoccupied Ford Bronco and GMC Sierra pickup.

6:49 p.m. - Caller reported suspicious vehicle in 6300 block Hwy. 20. Deputy responded and determined vehicle was stolen. It was towed. Report taken.  
8:24 p.m. - Caller reported female stripped and "jumping around" in parking lot of Sweet Home Inn, 805 Long St. Officer responded, trespassed

female from location. She was to get dressed and leave.

11:00 p.m. - Fawn Marie Burleson arrested by LCSO on SHMC warrant for FTA in fraudulent use of credit card case. Cited to appear Sept. 24.  
**Sept. 9**

1:25 a.m. - Caller reported ex-husband was calling her non-stop. Report taken.  
1:30 a.m. - Multiple callers reported male in roadway in 4000 block Main St., running into traffic, and one reported that he had ripped a flag off her fence and was screaming at cars. Officer responded, contacted male who denied conduct described. Caller in alleged fence incident declined to pursue any charges.  
6:19 a.m. - Caller reported business in 6300 block Main St. broken into. Declined to pursue charges but wanted male suspect trespassed.  
7:31 a.m. - Kyle Hanscam, 32, arrested by LCSO on unspecified LCCC warrant, SHMC warrant for FTC in resisting arrest case, Pleasant Valley Rd./North River Dr. Cited to appear Sept. 24. Report taken.  
8:54 a.m. - Brandon Ryan Freeman, 31, arrested for probation violation at Safeway, 1540 Main St., after police officer spotted him allegedly putting graffiti on the building. Booked, released with time served due to medical conditions and trespassed from location.  
9:50 a.m. - Caller reported

male shooting BB gun towards her house and vehicle in 1800 block Ulex St. and that when she told him to stop shooting, he started shooting towards her. Officer responded, contacted male who claimed he was discharging an airsoft gun in his carport and denied the allegations. He was advised of city code regarding airsoft guns and related matters.

10:24 a.m. - Anna Rochelle House, 41, of Brownsville, arrested on outstanding warrant, 1000 block Pine St., Brownsville. Cited and released. Report taken.

10:27 a.m. - Steven Anthony Young, 30, arrested for disorderly conduct II in relation to Sept. 8 incident in which caller reported someone threw rock through window in 2200 block Main St. Cited and released.

10:32 a.m. - Caller reported female came to pick up her child at Boys & Girls Club while child was still at school, and, according to caller, seemed intoxicated. Female then left location, possibly with another child in vehicle. At 12:07 p.m. Kris Ann Stein, 45, was arrested for child neglect II and hit and run in 4800 block Main St. Vehicle impounded.

10:35 a.m. - Caller reported missing wallet in 800 block Centennial Court, Halsey. Report taken.

See more Public Safety listings and updates at [sweetthomenews.com](http://sweetthomenews.com).

**Pioneer**  
Bookkeeping & Tax Service  
"Full Service for Small Business!"  
-Tax Preparations-  
**Cindy Clark,**  
OBTP#B00696  
202 Main Street, Brownsville  
541-466-3144

  
**Armando's**  
Mexican Restaurant  
**DELICIOUS DAILY SPECIALS!**  
  
122 SPAULDING AVE.  
BROWNSVILLE  
541-466-3636

**East Linn**  
ROOFING  
541-367-2293  
CCB# 110950

We support The New Era!  
**Electrical Systems Services**  
Dan and Cindy Rice



# Volleyball team gains momentum – and milestone – heading into tough week

By Keeghan Gittins  
For The New Era

Sweet Home hit a milestone Tuesday, Sept. 9, in a 3-1 win over Harrisburg at home.

With the victory, the Huskies came into this week 5-1 on the season, already surpassing last year's 4-15 record.

After dropping the first set 25-18 to the Eagles, Sweet Home responded with three straight wins to secure a statement victory.

"We came out and lost the first set to Harrisburg, but then won the next three," said head coach Katie Dargis. "Losing that first set definitely lit a fire in the girls. They came out and played at their level."

Sweet Home rallied in the second set, crushing the Eagles 25-13. The third set was a change of pace with more of a back-and-forth battle.

Tied at 14, Harrisburg pulled ahead 20-16, forcing a timeout by Dargis. From there, the Huskies flipped the momentum.

Kills from Natalie Smith and Keira Johnson, along with unforced errors from the Eagles, brought the game within one. A block from Kaitlyn Kennedy tied it at 22, then a kill from Kennedy gave Sweet Home its first lead at 23-22. Errors from both sides tied the score again at 24. Natalie Smith set

up Kennedy once more for a kill, and Amara Gonzales delivered the final point to seal a 26-24 win in the third set.

"The last set was intense – it went all the way to 30 points," said Dargis. "One of our team goals has been to handle pressure well, and they really showed that on Tuesday night."

"The number of attacks we sent caused enough chaos that they couldn't send much back at us," said Dargis. "Harrisburg was a scrappy team – they got a lot of balls up."

Kennedy led the Huskies with nine kills, followed closely by Aaliyah Brown with eight and Aubrey Newberry with six. Johnson added five of her own in the win. In total, Sweet Home recorded approximately 160 attacks on the night.

"That's a lot of swings," Dargis said. "Smith, our setter, had 12 attacks. That's a lot for her – it was her most aggressive game so far this season."

Natalie Smith organized the offense efficiently, ending the game with 15 assists, Trinity Victor not far behind with 14 assists.

"Our setters did a good job spreading the ball around," Dargis said.

"Overall on the night, we missed just eight serves across four sets. I'm happy with that," the coach said. "We're working on serving



Photo courtesy of Kristine Banker

Miley Smith, left, and Amara Gonzales block a Harrisburg shot in their win over the Eagles.

more aggressively. With that comes a few more misses, but it's worth it."

Natalie Smith led from the service line with five aces, while Johnson followed with four, and Newberry chipped in with three.

Karissa Jewell, Johnson, and Victor were perfect from the line, each serving at 100%.

"Keira Johnson was great at the net. Our bench had her at five blocks," said Dargis.

Defensively in serve receive, the Huskies were efficient and clean.

Miley Smith and libero Karissa Jewell were standouts in the back row, she said.

"They had very few errors

in serve-serve, and that helped us stay effective."

The win against Harrisburg pushed the Huskies winning streak to five after winning the Cascade tournament, beating teams like No. 11 Junction city, and No. 14 Tillamook.

These wins have pushed Sweet Home into the fifth spot in OSAA's 4A ranking, the highest ranking the Lady Huskies have received since the 2021 state championship team, which was ranked No. 7 before the tournament.

In recent years only the 2018 team was ranked higher, starting the season at No. 2.

Sweet Home joins three

other Oregon West Conference teams in Division 4's Top 12 – Cascade at No. 1, No. 8 Philomath and No. 12 Stayton.

"We've been working on staying positive and focused under pressure – and playing the game we know how to play. They put pressure on themselves and handled it really well," Dargis said.

The Huskies will be tested this week with tough road games against No. 7 Estacada Tuesday, Sept. 16, and at Cottage Grove Thursday, Sept. 18.

The Lions look to be Sweet Home's toughest challenge so far this year, bringing a No. 4 ranking into the match.

## TOPS

From page 1

to 170 pounds," she said. "I gained most of it back."

Now retired, Blair decided she would rejoin TOPS to get her weight down.

"I set a goal for myself to never again have to lose weight to have a necessary medical procedure," she said. Also, she didn't want to have to have medical intervention to get herself to a healthy weight.

She said it took "a year or so" to get the weight off so she could have her operation, but then she decided to keep going.

Dr. Vanessa Papalazaros "was my incentive," Blair said. "Every now and then, when I was at the Lebanon hospital for bloodwork, she would come by and give me a pat on my shoulder."

"I give a lot of credit to the doctor. She uses me as an example."

Blair ended up losing 120.5 pounds and that earned her, this year, the 2024 TOPS Oregon Queen, meaning she lost more weight than any other female TOPS members in the

entire state and reached their goal weight.

She said she mainly dieted, but "I did exercise for a while."

"I used one of those little walking machines that you see on TV now that you can adjust the tension on. It made my legs stronger so I could climb stairs. Walking is good exercise."

She said she often uses "periodic fasting," in which she eats twice a day with a six- or seven-hour break, usually some sort of protein.

Blair said she was informed by an area TOPS coordinator that she was the No. 1 loser in the state.

"It was one of those days when it was the best day of my life but also the worst day of my life," she said, adding that she learned that day she was going to lose her driver's license because she had not scored high enough on a memory test.

That was why she needed more specific public transportation than Sweet Home could offer, which was her main reason for moving to Lebanon.

"Lebanon has a lot more

transportation than Sweet Home," Blair said. "I made an adjustment to use public transportation. I ride with friends now and then, but I don't want to take advantage of my friends."

Although she had told friends "I wasn't going to move from Sweet Home, because 79 is too old to start over again, I turned around and did it and I'm glad that I did."

Now that she's got all that weight off, Blair said she has a new challenge.

"As you lose weight, you lose appetite also," she said of her recent achievement. "It's been hard to maintain weight. I've had to work at

gaining weight, which is a real strange feeling for me."

She said weekly TOPS meetings provide "very good support."

"We weigh in and then we tell whether we have lost weight. We are a welcoming, caring group of friends. If someone has gained weight, we encourage them."

And, she said, the encouragement goes beyond that: "Some have family members who have medical problems that take a lot of their time and concern and their worry."

"We're there also to help support them emotionally through their hard times."

She has this advice for people struggling with their

weight: "Don't become a hermit. Be with people. The TOPS group is a very good support group."

Also, she said, she set a long-term goal to lose weight, which she credits for her success, and which she recommends to others.

"I look at the mirror and think, 'You don't look bad for a formerly fat old woman,'" Blair said, chuckling. "I went to the (Department of Motor Vehicles) and asked for a new picture. I was afraid if I was pulled over, they wouldn't recognize me."

"I'm about half the person I used to be. A friend told me, 'No you're the same person. You're just half the size.'"

## School Board seeks Cascadia position applicants

The Sweet Home School Board is seeking applicants for Board Position 4, which represents Cascadia.

Candidates must currently have resided within the district for at least one year and must be registered to vote. The length of this position will extend through the next election year, end-

ing in June of 2027.

To apply, visit [www.sweethome.k12.or.us](http://www.sweethome.k12.or.us) or stop by the Sweet Home District Office for an application. For further information or questions, contact Julie Emmert at (541) 367-7637.

Deadline for applications is Oct. 2.

Anyone who meets the criteria above can apply, but priority will be given to Cascadia applicants. If an eligible zone resident cannot be found, district policy states that board members will appoint one of the eligible residents from the district who have applied.



# SCHOOL BOARD

From page 9

cussed wording changes proposed by member Mary Speck to the district's policy on flag displays and salutes.

Speck's proposals included requiring that a POW/MIA flag be flown "in the same manner" as the U.S. and Oregon flags already mentioned in the existing policy, "when required by state law."

She also proposed that "appropriate"-sized U.S. flags, "manufactured in the United States, be properly displayed in each classroom" and that "no other flags other than those mentioned in the district policy be displayed in classrooms."

Speck's third proposal was that students be provided an opportunity to salute the flag daily by reciting the "Pledge of Allegiance" and be instructed in how to respect the flag.

She also suggested wording stating that the School Board "encourages district schools to give students opportunities to raise and lower the outdoor flags and to recite the Pledge or Allegiance over the loud speaker.

Speck said she was "pretty shocked" to see that the salute was only required once



Sweet Home High School Student Body President Trinity Victor, left, reports on school activities as School Board members, from left, Chris Hiaasen, Rachel Maynard and Floyd Neuschwander listen during their Sept. 8 meeting

a week.

Member Jenna Northern asked why the policy was changed to once a week and when that happened, though she added that because her own children have been students in the district, she was aware of that.

Member Dale Keene said he wasn't sure, but he said he believed it had been changed in response to "lit-

igation."

Speck noted that Oregon law specifies once a week, "but after that, it's option."

"So when I saw that, I thought, 'Wow, we should make it every day.'"

She recalled "getting called to the office and doing the Pledge of Allegiance over the microphone and raising and lowering the flag."

"I would love to see that

come back to our community," she added.

Adams, who chairs the board and has been an attorney for decades representing cities and various service districts, and Keene voiced concerns about the "no other flags" restriction suggested by Speck.

Adams noted that the Newberg School District was sued over a similar ban. In that case, a Yamhill County Circuit Court judge ruled against the school district and four members of the school board after a Newberg teacher and the ACLU sued over a policy the board approved banning employees from displaying "controversial" or "political" signs or symbols.

The teacher had hung a sign depicting a rainbow flag with a heart superimposed and the words "Be Known" in her classroom window at a local elementary school.

Judge Cynthia Easterday ruled that the policy is unconstitutional under Article 1, Section 8 of the Oregon Constitution, which guarantees the freedom of speech and the press.

Speck asked her fellow board members to agree to discuss her proposals, and they voted 6-1 in consensus to have Martin check with counsel to make sure the district would not be exposed to liability and then, there are no legal concerns, advance the proposal to a first reading.

Voting yes were Adams, Keene, Maynard, Northern, and Speck; newly sworn member Kris Hiaasen voted no, to discuss the matter at a future meeting. Amanda Carter was absent and Neuschwander resigned

before the board addressed the flag matter.

## In other action, board members:

- Accepted the resignation of Neal, whose last day was Sept. 12.

- Approved the temporary hire of Serena Compton to teach third grade at Hawthorne for the 2025-26 school year.

- Approved an agreement to allow Central Linn athletes to participate in the Sweet Home High School dance/drill program during the 2025-26 school year, because Central Linn is not offering dance this year. Practices and home competitions will be held at Sweet Home.

- Received a questionnaire from the district's auditing firm, Pauly Rogers and Co. of Tigard, offering board members a chance to ask questions and report any suspected financial malfeasance they might be aware of and asking how often they are made aware of the district's financial affairs.

- Learned that they would hold a meeting to review the district's Strategic Plan at 3 p.m. Monday, Oct. 13, prior to the board's regular meeting at 6 p.m.

- Agreed to move their December meeting from Dec. 8 to Dec. 15, to avoid conflicts with school Christmas programs scheduled during the same time as the board meeting.

- Received a report on the district's Integrated Programs, reported annually by the Oregon Department of Education, which surveys how the district is using Student Investment money from the state Corporate Activities Tax.

## SWEET HOME SWIM CLUB

# POOL PARTY

# FIESTA FUNDRAISER

## SEPTEMBER 27, 2025

Doors open at 5 pm

## SWEET HOME ELKS LODGE

440 Osage, Sweet Home

Dinner Catered by

## SERRANO'S TAQUERIA

## SILENT AUCTION AND RAFFLE

Auction items include:

- Wine Tour and Tasting
- Rounds of Golf
- Auto Detailing
- Coastal Getaway Vacation

Get a table for \$300 includes dinner for 8 guests!

**Individual tickets are also available for \$45**

Drinks and Raffle will be sold separately at the event.

Table for 8

Single Ticket