



## EPIC WIN FOR SH

Sweet Home Head Coach Ryan Adams gets a bear hug from assistant Rob Younger, right, following Sweet Home's football win over Marist Friday night, which leaves the Huskies 5-0 for the first time in decades. The win over the Spartans was also Sweet Home's first in more than 20 years. See our report on page 10.

## CELEBRATING HARVEST



Children paint pumpkins at Sweet Home's Harvest Festival, held Saturday at Sankey Park. The event included many fall-season activities, vendors, live musics and lots of attendees. See more photos on page 15.

Photo by Scott Swanson



Photo by Scott Swanson

Band members march on Husky Field during halftime at a recent footblall game, the first time in decades that a Sweet Home band has done so.

## School bands on rise in numbers, public awareness

By Scott Swanson  
*Of The New Era*

Lori Tuter stands on a podium and taps her music stand in a packed classroom of some 40 energetic students. "Let's warm up," she tells them. The hubbub ceases, as instruments come up and musicians lock in on her. Tuter leads them through a series of scales, then they launch into run-throughs of

pieces they plan to play at the Homecoming football game later in the week. The students have an air of assurance and while the scene might appear chaotic to an outsider, as loud volume ricochets off the walls of the packed room, there's no question that they are serious about what they're doing. Everything is different than it was a few years ago, as the band program emerged from

COVID in tatters. When Tuter took the reins in the fall of 2023, after the departure of her predecessor, Elijah Heide to a job closer to his home in Independence, the wind ensemble – the largest of the groups she leads, numbered 16. This year there are 42. "I'm just so thankful to be back in music," Tuter said. "It's just so much fun, sort of my first love and my last love."

She leads two junior high bands – beginners and advanced, along with a jazz band and a small percussion ensemble that she started this year. Then there is the sixth-grade band she started soon after taking over the program. That numbers nearly 40 students now. Students enter the band room at nearly every class

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Newspaper of  
**ZELMA  
VILLINES**



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STRUGGLE AGAINST  
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# OBITUARIES

## Sarrah Norsworthy

July 13, 1932 - Oct. 3, 2025

Sarrah Lucia Norsworthy, 93, of Sweet Home, beloved mother, grandmother, and great-grandmother, passed away peacefully Friday, Oct. 3, 2025, in Lebanon.

She was born July 13, 1932, in Chester, Okla., to Earl Ray and Cynthia Annabelle (Covington) Shotwell.

Sarrah lived a full and meaningful life dedicated to caring for others. She worked proudly as a nurse — a career that spanned decades — continuing to serve patients with compassion and skill until she was 76 years old.

Her strength, humor, quick wit and her love for her family inspired everyone who knew her.

For the past 13 years, Sarrah made her home in Sweet Home, where she became a cherished member of the community.

One of her favorite places was The Point Restaurant, where owner Michael lovingly delivered her Saturday evening meals for four years — a simple kindness that brought her great happiness.

Sarrah was the proud mother of five children: Rick Deckard, Gary Deckard, Tammy Tyler, Cyndi Taplin and Darlynn Lantzner.

She was grandmother to Brandon Deckard, Cory Deckard, Lance Deckard, Garrit Enoch, Daniel DaSilva, Briana Deckard, Sabrina Deckard, Nick Tyler, Nate Tyler, Tana Tyler, Taran Tyler, Cody Taplin, Brian Lantzner,

Ricky Lantzner and Aaron Lantzner and great-grandmother to 21.

Her greatest joy in life was her family, as she cherished every moment spent with them. Her days were filled with laughter, love, and the warmth of her quick wit and sharp mind.

Sarrah's legacy of love, laughter, and compassion will continue to live on in the hearts of all who were blessed to know her.

A funeral service will be at 11 a.m. Thursday, Oct. 9, 2025, at Sweet Home Funeral Chapel.

Final burial will be at Gilliland Cemetery, with a reception to follow at The Point in Sweet Home, one of her most beloved places.

Sweet Home Funeral Chapel is handling the arrangements.

*Paid Obituary*

## Death Notices

### Edward Swearingen

Sept. 28, 1945 - Sept. 28, 2025

Edward Marcus Swearingen, 80, of Albany, passed away Sept. 28, 2025.

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

### Kris Wright, Sr.

May 9, 1958 - September 28, 2025

Kris Allen Wright, Sr., 67, of Sweet Home, passed away Sept. 28, 2025.

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



**Photos by Scott Swanson**  
Lori Tuter, above and right, directs the high school Wind Ensemble during a recent rehearsal. Tuter, a former Sweet Home band musician herself, returned to the school and took over the direction two years ago, during which time the numbers have swelled.

## BANDS

From page 1

break to hang out, jam or practice.

"We had 19 kids in here at lunch, playing instruments, getting a rock band going, playing," she said. "That's really fun. It's a lot like a club. We have alums coming back all the time. There are probably four or five or six alumni who come back and play with us."

### Husky Experience

The Huskies' program appears to be well on its way to her stated goal of bringing Sweet Home's band back to where it was when she was a Husky, playing the clarinet in the mid-1980s.

Tuter, who started band as a sixth-grader at Foster, said she had three different band directors in high school. Longtime director Lee Jones had just left when she entered as a freshman, but she said he had left a legacy that produced continued success for several years, resulting in awards for jazz and marching band that still hang in the high school auditorium.

"We did it big," she said. "We had, I think we had about 60 people in the band, and we did marching, we did drill, we did the designs and everything, yeah, and we competed at OSU and U of O



each year."

Tuter liked music so much, she said, that she decided to pursue it at the University of Oregon.

"I didn't want to stop playing, right? So what are your options? So I went to college to become a music teacher."

She started at Central Linn High School, then moved to Prineville, where she taught high school and middle school band, before switching to elementary music, which she taught for 10 years.

In 2009, when recession cutbacks forced school districts to eliminate elementary music programs, she got certified to teach English.

"I am a survivor, so I regrouped and I taught English for 14 years."

She returned to the Willamette Valley in 2015, first to Stayton and then returning to Sweet Home.

### Big Challenges

When the opportunity to switch back to band presented itself, she said, she grabbed it, but she knew it was going to be a challenge.

"I would say 95% of the instruments were damaged,

most beyond repair," she said. "I had two bass clarinets repaired that first year and each was \$1,000 just to repair it, so that was \$2,000 right off the top."

Tuter said district Supt. Terry Martin and high school Principal Ralph Brown have been "incredibly supportive, matching donations she's received from the public to get the program back on its feet."

Plus, band members held two car washes during the summer and sold chocolates last year, fundraising efforts that will continue, she said.

The Sweet Home Elks recently donated \$7,500 to the program and Tuter said O'Reilly's has been supportive in allowing the band to use its parking lot and providing water for the car washes.

"I'm just really thankful for both," she said.

### Making Progress

It's paying off.

For the first time in at least a quarter century, the band actually marched last spring during May Week, leading students down Long Street to Husky Field for their May Week Track Meet.

The band also competed at last year's District Festival, where bands can qualify for the state competition if they score high enough with judges.

"With the Wind Ensemble we took fourth place and we were only a couple of points behind third place," Tuter said. "My goal for the Wind Ensemble is top three. My

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DRIVE UP PHARMACY

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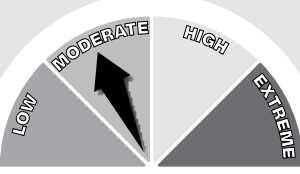


Call Michael:  
**541-797-5445**

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TEMPERATURES				
DATE		HIGH	LOW	PRECIP
September	30	65	47	0.14
October	1	62	54	0.02
October	2	65	48	0.04
October	3	69	44	0.05
October	4	67	50	0.00
October	5	72	47	0.00
October	6	79	42	0.00
PRECIPITATION				
Year to date:		20.42		
October 9, 2024:		20.73		

FORECAST			
DAY	WEATHER	HIGH	LOW
Thur	Mostly Sunny	68	43
Fri	Showers	68	43
Sat	Showers	67	43
Sun	Showers	67	42
Mon	AM Showers	66	42
Tues	Partly Cloudy	66	42
Wed	Mostly Sunny	65	42
LAKE LEVELS			
Foster Reservoir:		617.6	
Green Peter Res.:		894.0	



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)

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).

**Oct. 5**

3:46 a.m. - Brandi Mae West-Parsons, 51, arrested on LMC warrant for FTA in criminal case, Shea Point. Cited and released.

5:27 a.m. - Death investigation conducted by SHPD in 1300 block Tamarack St. Report taken.

9:02 a.m. - Caller reported camp at home in 700 block Steelhead Way. Officer responded, contacted homeowner, who was advised of permitting process for extended RV stay.

11:46 a.m. - Brittany Rae Panknin, 33, arrested on LMC warrant for FTA in traffic offense case, Elm St./6th Ave. Also cited for driving while suspended, driving without insurance. Cited and released.

**Oct. 4**

9:23 a.m. - Dylan Elder, 29, of Sweet Home, cited for driving while suspended, driving uninsured. 900 block Pleasant Valley Rd.

1:23 p.m. - Citizen flagged down officer to report female walking naked down street in area of Long St./22nd Ave. Offi-

cer contacted female, who had gotten dressed and gone home. Female told officer it was effect of medication and she would contact her doctor.

3:23 p.m. - Caller reported someone had cut wire, spray painted in 1400 block Poplar St. Officer responded, report taken for criminal mischief I.

6:24 p.m. - Caller reported motorized bike stolen from 1200 block Long St. on previous day. Officer responded. Report taken. Bike described as green, gas-powered, unknown brand. Value estimated at \$400.

8:26 p.m. - Katherine Marie Berhoffer, 44, arrested by Benton County Sheriff's Office on SHMC warrant for FTA in theft case. Cited to appear Oct. 22.

8:58 p.m. - Multiple callers in area of 43rd Ave. and Osage St./ Airport Rd. reported hearing fireworks or gunshots in area. Officer responded, unable to locate.

9:24 p.m. - Crash reported in area of Hwy. 228/Rowell Hill Rd. Gregory Nohrenberg, 47, of Sweet Home, arrested for failure to perform duties of a driver after allegedly fleeing the scene. Report taken.

10:42 p.m. - Larry Dean Bergstrom, 61, arrested after he turned himself in at SHPD, 1950 Main St., on SHMC warrant for FTC in theft case. Cited and released. Shortly thereafter, Bergstrom reported that his homemade bike trailer, valued at approximately \$100, had been stolen after he left it in the location of the SHPD/BiMart parking lot for several days. Report taken.

11:26 p.m. - Fight reported at Downtown Lounge, 1234 Main St. Police and LCSO responded. Tanya Susanne Sims, 49, arrested for assault IV, disorderly conduct II and menacing. Cited and released.

**Oct. 3**

9:31 a.m. - Caller from Samaritan Health Sweet Home Clinic, 1289 49th Ave., reported that patient stole wheelchair. Officer responded, info noted. Caller declined to pursue charges.

9:48 a.m. - Caller reported that neighbor's female dog and her puppies have been getting loose in 500 block Surrey Lane, being aggressive and knocking people down. Officer responded, advised caller of options.

10:18 a.m. - Caller reported truck parked on street in area of Elm St./18th Ave. for about two weeks. Vehicle posted for removal.

11:49 a.m. - Caller reported dog at large, chasing someone in 500 block Surrey Lane. Officer responded. Person who was chased did not want owner cited.

1:07 p.m. - Domestic violence reported in 1500 block Tamarack St. Report taken for assault IV-domestic.

4:38 p.m. - Crash reported in area of Ames Creek Rd./Ames Creek Lane. Officer responded, report taken for injury crash with damages exceeding \$2,500. Vehicle towed.

8:29 p.m. - Caller reported cougar sighting in area of 4100 block Osage St.

**Oct. 2**

12:50 a.m. - Caller reported ongoing issues with people breaking into location in 1900 block 19th Ave. Officer responded, report taken for burglary I.

8:25 a.m. - Timothy Pepperling, 41, of Lebanon, arrested for trespass II, felon in possession of a firearm. Firearm and several other items reported to

be stolen were located in vehicle. 37700 block Northern Dr., Brownsville.

9:17 a.m. - Caller reported someone broke into bathrooms at Sankey Park, 877 14th Ave., left trash and drug paraphernalia.

9:47 a.m. - Caller from Sweet Home High School, 1641 Long St., reported incident in which student stated he would "handle an incident after school" with firearms. Officer responded, contacted parent and counseled student.

9:47 a.m. - Caller from Sweet Home High School reported that student overheard female who had recently been trespassed from school, 1641 Long St., threaten to get gun. Officer responded, report taken for menacing, investigation ongoing.

11:44 a.m. - Joshua Kealohanui Ben Leslie arrested for disorderly conduct II and criminal mischief II after multiple callers complained that male reached out at cars as they drove by, 2400 block Main St. Cited and released.

3:18 p.m. - Deputy took report of credit card fraud totaling \$20.49 from victim, 27000

block Old Holley Rd. Report taken.

3:41 p.m. - Jeremiah Paul Pifer, 43, arrested for theft III after caller from Bi-mart reported theft and that suspect had been detained, 1980 Main St. Also arrested on Tillamook County warrant for probation violation in theft case. Lodged in Linn County Jail.

3:41 p.m. - While on another call, officer located meth and concealed weapon in 1900 block Main St.

4:03 p.m. - Thomas Michael Studer arrested by Monmouth police on SHMC warrant for FTA in hit and run case. Cited to appear Oct. 22.

6:02 p.m. - Caller reported female stole mail from location in 3000 block Main St. Officer responded, report taken for theft III. Value \$50.

6:53 p.m. - Douglas County Sheriff's Office reported it had located stolen vehicle. According to SHPD, the car had been taken to Roseburg without permission.

7:14 p.m. - Joshua Kealohanui Ben Leslie arrested for criminal trespass II after caller reported male who had been previously trespassed at businesses in 1200 block Long St. Cited and released.

See Public Safety, Page 14

CIRCUIT COURT

**Warrants are out on the following individuals:** Travis Alexander Ayres, Raymond Paul Binford, Lloyd William Bly, Hope Marie Connors, Christopher Frances Ciullo, Kelsey Nicole Ciullo, Jacob Scott Fisher, 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 McCarthy, Bryce William McGowan, Eric Wayne McKnight, Carrie Lynne Miller, Thomas Elbridge 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

A charge against **Calvin Alvin Ames, 59**, of criminal mischief I was dismissed with prejudice on Sept. 25.

**Harold Warren Chalker III, 50**, charged Sept. 30 with failure to perform duties of driver to injured persons.

**Amos Daniel Guerrero, 29**, charged Sept. 30 with unlawful possession of methamphetamine, felon in possession of a firearm, felon in possession of a restricted weapon and reckless driving.

**David Lance Schult, 55**, charged Sept. 30 with DUII (liquor).

**Sean Hunter Steinborn, 29**, sentenced July 18 to 88 mos. with the Oregon Dept. of Corrections, three years post-prison supervision and restitution after pleading guilty to four counts of aggravated theft I. Three counts of aggravated theft I, three counts of theft I, and 10 counts of criminal mistreatment I were dismissed. The state is seeking more than \$80,000 in restitution be paid to the victim.

**Crossword KEY**  
Puzzle on page 13



**SUDOKU KEY**  
Puzzle on page 13

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

# FROM OUR FILES



Freshman garb was out of the ordinary during their initiation at Sweet Home Union High School in 1950. Required by sophomores to attire themselves in a weird variety of costumes, the freshmen came to school dressed as comic strip characters. In the photo, standing from left, are Jim Porter, Marilyn Roth, Bruce Banke, Bob Kneale, Jeanette Warner, Jerry Reller and Claudia Dudley. Kneeling: Phyllis Evans and Phyllis Muncie.

Oct. 12, 1950

Members of the Sweet Home Active Club are talking about a project to construct “waiting booths” for children at school bus stops. They intend to put a sample booth on display on Main Street to show citizens their vision, with hopes the community will support the effort with funds or lumber.

Snow recreationists will have one of their favorite haunts made much more accessible this winter with completion of the road from the Santiam Highway to Hoodoo Bowl.

The City Council voted to place before voters an ordinance calling for construction of a bridge across Ames Creek on 12th Avenue. The city will ask voters to approve a \$4 million levy for one year on all taxable property to finance the measure.

Oct. 9, 1975

Although many considered this year’s Sportsman’s Holiday celebration the best ever, it was reported the event is broke. The president of the board reported they are \$1,500 in the red. The main reason for the deficit is the \$1,400 paid for fireworks, which was intended to be funded by the sale of 1,600 Sportsman’s Holiday buttons. Only 250 were sold.

Mt. Calvary Temple, a new interdenominational church, began services this week. The church is housed in the former Latter Day Saints building at the corner of Hwy. 228 and Oak Terrace. The pastor of the church, Paul Leinenbach, is a former Linn County deputy sheriff.

Oct. 11, 2000

The Calapooia Roundup rodeo committee and Sweet Home Chamber of Commerce parted ways. A committee chairperson reported they asked for the separation so they could make the rodeo financially sound, though she didn’t provide details leading up to the decision. The rodeo needs \$33,000 to be profitable, but currently sits between \$5,000 and \$10,000.

Businesses and churches near the high school met with the school district to discuss a problem with large gatherings of students and littering. Police Chief Bob Burford said off campus gatherings last year created an “intimidation factor,” adding he’s heard reports of middle-age and elderly women preferring to avoid the groups by walking on the other side of the street. As the groups congregate this year, littering is increasing, including disposable cafeteria trays.



## Student-Led Pledge of Allegiance

Hawthorne School students get set to lead the Pledge of Allegiance at the School Board’s Sept. 29 special meeting, with a little direction from Principal Mark Looney. From left, students are Liea Brown, Easton Riggs, Everhett Rosa, Wren Riggs, Ezra Rosa, Wyatt Emmert and Gracie Emmert. The student-led pledge will be part of every regular board meeting this year.

Photo by Scott Swanson

# Local schools’ assessment test scores show slight improvements

The percentage of Sweet Home School District students who meet or exceed state standards in English, math and science has risen over the past three years, according to Oregon Statewide Assessment System scores reported last week.

The Oregon Department of Education released the 2024-25 scores last week, showing some areas of progress statewide in student achievement alongside continued challenges as schools continue to recover from impacts of the pandemic. Participation rates improved across all subjects – most notably at the high school level – and gains were seen in Math, English Language Arts (ELA), and Science across several grades.

In Sweet Home, 35.5% of students in all grades, which include students in grades 3 through 8 and high school juniors, either tested at acceptable grade levels or exceeded them in English Language Arts.

In math, 27.9% of students in all grades, which include students in grades 3 through 8 and high school juniors, tested at or above grade level in math, and 23.6% did so in science, in which tests are administered in the fifth, eighth and 11th grades.

Sweet Home’s district numbers include Sweet Home Charter School.

In Central Linn, 35.7% of students in all grades tested at or above grade level in English, 26.7% in math, and 24.2% did so in science.

Local District Test Results				
Number of Students Tested 2024-25/Percentage testing at or above grade level				
English Language Arts	Sweet Home	Lebanon	Central Linn	State Average
District (All Grades)	420/36.5%	816/40.5%	76/35.7%	43.0%
Grade 3	74/43.5%	138/44.5%	16/48.5%	40.3%
Grade 4	57/37.0%	110/38.9%	10/29.4%	42.1%
Grade 5	64/33.9%	121/40.5%	10/33.3%	46.7%
Grade 6	63/42.0%	106/39.3%	12/37.5%	41.7%
Grade 7	63/38.0%	140/44.3%	7/25.9%	44.2%
Grade 8	44/26.2%	119/44.4%	4/14.3%	41.6%
High School (Grade 11)	55/35.9%	82/30.6%	17/58.6%	44.4%
Mathematics				
District (All Grades)	319/27.9%	600/29.9%	56/26.7%	31.5%
Grade 3	68/40.0%	132/42.6%	10/31.3%	40.1%
Grade 4	54/34.8%	117/41.5%	9/26.5%	36.9%
Grade 5	36/19.1%	85/28.6%	9/30.0%	31.3%
Grade 6	55/36.2%	76/28.0%	9/29.0%	29.3%
Grade 7	43/26.5%	89/28.3%	9/33.3%	31.5%
Grade 8	40/24.0%	58/21.8%	4/14.8%	28.9%
High School (Grade 11)	23/15.4%	43/16.1%	6/20.7%	20.3%
Science				
District (All Grades)	120/23.6%	195/22.8%	22/24.2%	30.0%
Grade 5	38/20.2%	72/24.2%	5/16.1%	30.4%
Grade 8	33/19.3%	58/20.0%	7/23.3%	27.2%
High School (Grade 11)	49/32.7%	65/24.3%	10/33.3%	32.6%

By far, Central Linn’s 11th graders scored the highest in English, with 73.2 testing at a proficiency level. The district-wide numbers for this year represent small increases from 2022-23 and 2023-24, though districtwide math scores increased more than 5% between 2022-23 and 2024-25. Central Linn’s scores have fluctuated as much as 5%-10% over the past three years, but the number of students taking the tests is much smaller than larger districts, so individual students’ performances can have a greater impact on the final numbers.

In Lebanon, 40.5% of students in all grades tested at or above grade level in English, 16.1% in math, and 22.8% did so in science. Lebanon’s districtwide most recent scores represent either small decreases or are rel-

atively unchanged over the past three years.

Overall, 39.1% of students in Lebanon schools tested at a proficiency level in English Language Arts in 2023-24, continuing a steady decline from 2017-18 when English proficiency was 49.5%. Seventh-graders scored the highest in English, at 46.1% proficiency.

Lebanon’s district numbers include Sand Ridge Charter School.

According to ODE, this is the first year that overall scores increased in all three subjects since testing resumed in the 2021-22 school year following the global pandemic. However, overall achievement remains below pre-pandemic levels, and persistent opportunity gaps highlight the need for con-

See Test Scores, Page 5

# The New Era

A LOCALLY OWNED NEWSPAPER

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# Commissioners OK transportation funding for Linn Shuttle, veterans

By Alex Paul  
Linn County Communications

Linn County Commissioners Roger Nyquist, Sherrie Sprenger and Will Tucker approved three transportation agreements during their Sept. 30 meeting.

The agreements were presented by Reagan Maudlin, Linn County Special/Rural Transportation Coordinator. The commissioners approved a Subrecipient Agreement with the Senior Citizens of Sweet Home, Inc. to receive Federal Section 5310 funding, not to exceed \$197,406 for the 2025-2027 biennium, through a con-

tract with the Oregon Department of Transportation. They also approved an amendment to the Rural Veterans Healthcare Transportation Grant, increasing its budget by \$25,000 and extending the project period through the end of the calendar year. The original grant of \$50,000 was secured in April 2024. Funds are used to help Linn County Veterans Services provide rides for veterans. So far, the grant has funded 217 healthcare-related rides for veterans who live in rural Linn County. The agreement allows

the 5310 funds to be used to support the Linn County Special Transportation Program by contracting services with the Senior Citizens of Sweet Home, Inc./Linn Shuttle. The commissioners also approved an Intergovernmental Agreement with the City of Albany/Call-A-Ride. The program will receive up to \$335,026 for the 2025-2027 biennium through a contract with ODOT. The funds are from the 5310 Small Urban category and the City of Albany is the only provider in Linn County that meets the designation.

## TEST SCORES

From page 4

tinued focus and sustained support for Oregon's students and educators.

"Today's results are a sobering reminder that we must stay the course to make sure every student, no matter where they live or learn, has the support to succeed," said Gov. Tina Kotek. "Oregon's students deserve a system that fosters success and delivers the results our students, families, and educators expect."

"Oregon's most recent test results show both progress and persistent challenges. We know recovery from the disruptions of the past few years will take time, but we cannot afford to wait to act. The new accountability system established through SB 141 positions us to accelerate

student learning by focusing on what matters most: early literacy, math readiness, attendance, and meaningful supports for districts. This is about building a system of shared responsibility and continuous improvement so that every student, in every community, has the opportunity to succeed."

ODE has several targeted initiatives already under way, including statewide investments in early literacy best practices (through the Early Literacy Success Initiative) and summer learning programs with a focus on literacy.

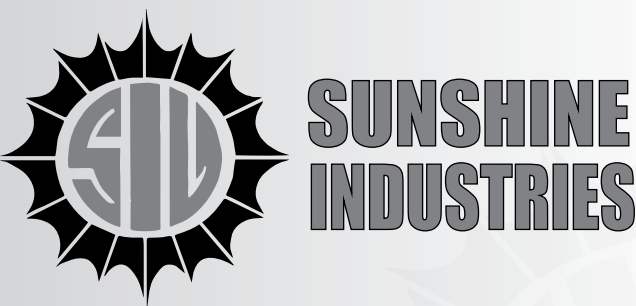
Additional areas of focus include continued and increased investment in birth through grade 12 literacy, expanded access to extended learning opportunities, implementation of high-quality instructional materials,

and the launch of Oregon's new Education Accountability Act. As these intentional supports expand, Oregon expects to see lasting gains for students.

ODE reported that statewide participation rates for each subject area are three to five percentage points higher than 2021-22, but still far below the federal requirement of 95% participation.

Proficiency increased in Math in almost all grade levels and in English Language Arts in

The 2024-25 Oregon Statewide Assessment System results are available on the ODE website at [www.oregon.gov/ode/educator-resources/assessment/Pages/Assessment-Group-Reports.aspx#ELA](http://www.oregon.gov/ode/educator-resources/assessment/Pages/Assessment-Group-Reports.aspx#ELA). English Language Arts, Mathematics, and Science results are on separate tabs.



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# Lebanon High School asks for help to capture \$1 million prize

By Sarah Brown  
Of The New Era

Lebanon High School is driving hard in a \$1 million contest to rebuild its condemned stadium, but they're still just shy of the end zone.

Sitting in second place, the Warriors need fans near and far to step up, cast their votes, and help push the team across the goal line into first.

Lebanon learned on Sept. 25 it is among 25 nationwide semifinalists in the running for a trophy that includes football field upgrades and other prizes, sponsored by T-Mobile's Friday Night 5G Lights Competition. LHS is the only Oregon school to make it to the red zone.

But it needs help to secure the touchdown.

The grand prize winner, to

be announced Oct. 30, will receive \$1 million toward a football field upgrade, consultation with a stadium expert, a weight room upgrade by Gronk Fitness, a tailgate party unveiling, and a trip for 16 school representatives to the SEC Championship game in Atlanta.

At press time the Warriors were trailing a small high school in Arkansas that has gained nationwide support.

If LHS scores the \$1 million prize, that money will be set aside to upgrade Heath Stadium. The grandstand, built in 1957, was closed last spring due to structural concerns and resulting inability to procure adequate insurance for the facility, which, like Husky Field, is used for all manner of high school and community activities.



William Lewis, Lebanon school district chief operations officer, said the district is considering two options for replacement: a 9,800-square-foot covered grandstand seating 1,700 persons at a cost of \$2,550,000, or a 12,600-square-



Photo by Sarah Brown  
Lebanon school district board, staff and students receive a \$25,000 check from T-Mobile representatives after qualifying as a semifinalist in T-Mobile's Friday Night 5G Lights Competition. At left is a QR code that will provide a daily reminder to voters to support the Warriors' efforts.

foot grandstand seating 2,100 persons that would cost \$3,220,000. Either would include a press box, but do not include restrooms or a concession stand.

T-Mobile launched its Friday Night 5G Lights Competition in mid-July and awarded school district applicants with \$5,000 prizes every week until mid-September. LHS did not win a \$5,000 prize, but was named a semifinalist, which comes with a \$25,000 prize.

According to T-Mobile staff, there were more than 2,000 entries in the contest. Of the 30 schools in Oregon that entered the contest, LHS is the only one in the state to make it this far.

T-Mobile presented the \$25,000 check during the Warriors' Oct. 3 football game as they played against the Bend Lava Bears at Heath Stadium.

According to Michelle Steinhel, communications director for Lebanon Community School District, much of the \$25,000 prize money will be set aside for improvements to Heath Stadium.

LHS has held steady in second place since the finals kickoff, but continues to fall further behind Dierks High School, a rural Arkansas school that has been dominating the field. To intercept that ball and gain some offensive traction, area communities are asked to rally behind their neighbor and submit their votes every day through Oct. 24.

To cast a vote for LHS, visit T-Mobile.com/brand/friday-night-5g-lights/h and enter your email address. The community can return every day during the time period to cast another vote – the more daily votes, the higher the chance of winning.

According to a press release, T-Mobile's Friday Night 5G Lights program is aimed toward "celebrating the power of high school football to bring communities together." Part of the contest involved sharing that community Warrior spirit by posting photos on social media.

For more information, visit T-Mobile.com/brand/friday-night-5g-lights.

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# Top teams capitalize on Sweet Home soccer inexperience

Facing two of the state's best 4A Division soccer teams back-to-back, Sweet Home's boys fell 8-0 to No. 5 Newport/Waldport on Sept. 30 and to No. 9 North Marion by the same score Thursday.

The Huskies played aggressively, but they made too many mental errors against a team that didn't make many, Coach Eric Stutzer said.

"I really believe we are playing better, but the difference right now lies in our decision making," he said. "We have to minimize the mental errors that are costing us goals."

Newport jumped out to an early 4-0 lead during the first 20 minutes of play.

"Once we settled in, we competed until late in the second half where we gave up a handful of goals on consecutive errors," he said.

North Marion was a similar story, Stutzer said.

"After giving up some early goals on errors, we played fairly well until we had to



Photo by Scott Swanson  
Husky defender Cannon Klumpf heads the ball over two North Marion opponents. See more game photos at [sweethomenews.com](http://sweethomenews.com).

make some personnel changes late in the second half."

The visitors were able to capitalize on the Huskies' losing some "key players," he said and mental errors and inexperience.

"We played our hearts out, but we gave up some easy goals right at the end that made the score look a whole lot worse than how we actually played," he said, noting that his players faced three top-nine teams in consecutive games.

"Every game we play is essentially like playing in a playoff match. These teams

are talented and, unfortunately, that leaves no margin for mental errors."

Up next is No. 1 Stayton on Tuesday, Oct. 7, followed by a trip to Cascade on Thursday, Oct. 9. That game will start at 5 p.m. The Cougars were 0-3 in Oregon West Conference play, 3-4 overall, coming into this week.

"We will continue to work on our pace of play and capitalizing in the attacking third, but our main focus this week will be minimizing those mental errors," Stutzer said.

## Girls soccer struggles in first week of league play

By Ryker Burr  
For The New Era

Sweet Home began its league-season on a disappointing note, losing all three of the Huskies' opening Oregon West Conference matchups in mercy-rule fashion.

Senior and captain Anabelle Morris managed to score the team's lone goal on the week, doing so in the first half against Newport.

After losses to Philomath, Newport, and North Marion, Sweet Home will be asked to play a game of catch-up if they want a chance to make any noise in the district.

Head Coach Ramiro Santana summarized the challenges that come from playing in such a competitive league-one that contains three top-12 teams in the state: "We are underdogs in one of the best leagues in the state. We need to never give up."

Goalkeeper and captain Lyndie Birkett is currently in concussion protocol after Tuesday's first half against Newport. Sophomore Rylee Mabe has filled in for Birkett since she was forced off the field.

"We don't know when she'll be back. We are waiting for her to be cleared by a doctor," Santana stated.

He added "We will bounce back if we get all our girls back healthy. We have four to five girls hurt right now."

The Green and Gold will look to get back on track this week against league-rivals Stayton and Cascade. Stayton checks in ranked 12th in the state, while Cascade is placed 27th (Sweet Home is 29th). The Huskies' matchup against the Cougars will be at home, 6 p.m. on Thursday, Oct. 4.

## BANDS

From page 2

goal is improving our skills enough that we perform within placing and, similarly for Jazz Band, go to state."

She also wants to see more marching. The band, including some alums, led the football team to the stadium on Sept. 19 and then marched onto the field at halftime to perform, to the delight of the crowd.

The marching goals were slowed a bit during the final weeks of school last spring when Tuter accidentally stepped backward off the

stage in the auditorium as the bands held their dress rehearsal for their final concert of the year, which was scheduled for the next day.

Tuter had to undergo surgery to repair a severely broken ankle, she said, and there was talk of canceling the performance, but high school band members insisted that their show must go on.

After her surgery, Tuter said, "I got home and I'd had a nerve block, so I was able to attend their concert and they just managed it beautifully."

"That was a testament to their love of music and their love of me, that the show

went on and they really wanted to present that. It was super cool. I cried through most of the concert."

She said she doesn't plan to actually attempt drill - marching in the precise choreography, movement, and formation changes that larger programs do.

"It's so much work, so many hours outside, outside of school. I have an 8-year-old, but parades, formation marching, we're good."

"When the band leads the football team across (to the stadium), I'm in my Camry,

See Bands, Page 9

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Each October, Breast Cancer Awareness Month serves as a global call to action — a reminder to prioritize early detection, education, support, and research in the ongoing fight against one of the most prevalent and deadly cancers affecting women today.

In the United States, breast cancer is the most commonly diagnosed cancer among

women, excluding skin cancers. According to the American Cancer Society, in 2025, an estimated 316,950 women will be diagnosed with invasive breast cancer. Tragically, about 42,170 women are expected to lose their lives to the disease this year alone.

Raising awareness goes far beyond wearing pink. It means encouraging people with the knowledge to take

control of their health, getting regular screening, funding research, and breaking down stigmas that can delay diagnosis and treatment.

1. Early Detection Saves Lives

When detected early and localized, the five-year survival rate for breast cancer in the U.S. is approximately 99%. However, survival drops significantly when cancer spreads to other parts of the body. According to the CDC, about 2 in 3 breast cancer cases are found at the localized stage. That leaves nearly one-third of patients diagnosed only after the cancer has spread — often because of lack of access, education, or routine screening.

2. Breast Cancer Doesn't Discriminate

Although breast cancer primarily affects women, it also occurs in men. Around 2,800 men in the U.S. are expected to be diagnosed in 2025. M

3. Incidence is Rising Among Younger Women

Recent trends show a concerning uptick in cases among women under age 50. Between 2012 and 2021, breast cancer incidence in younger women in the U.S. increased by about 1.4% annually. Awareness cam-



paigns help inform younger generations that they're not immune and should know their risks and family history.

4. Research Needs Support  
Awareness month plays a critical role in funding life-saving research. Innovations in genetic testing, targeted therapy, and immunotherapy continue to improve survival rates and quality of life. But research requires robust, ongoing financial support — much of which comes from public donations during October campaigns.

How You Can Make a Difference

Get screened: Women over 40 should talk with their

doctor about annual mammograms. Those with a family history may need earlier screenings.

Know your risk: Talk to your doctor about genetic testing if you have a family history of breast or ovarian cancer.

Spread the word: Share resources, educate others, and encourage loved ones to get checked.

Support organizations: Donate to or volunteer with groups funding research or helping patients access care.

Wear pink with purpose: Make your participation meaningful by combining awareness with action.



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**BANDS**  
From page 7

going ahead, windows down, and watching and making sure everybody's doing what they should."

**Public Attention**  
The halftime appearance on Sept. 19 was a head-turner for some in the stands, but the band has already gotten notice.

"We get invites to play gigs," Tuter said, noting that her kids played at the Senior Center last year and are invited back this year, as well as at Wiley Creek Community and the Oregon Veterans Home in Lebanon.

"We're getting invitations to play some events. It might be cool to perform at like, maybe, the Chamber of Commerce dinner, the seniors' Christmas Party.

"I'm super patriotic, so those kinds of things are really important to me, and I'm hoping to just continue that."

**Challenges Remain**  
There are still plenty of challenges: "We still have quite a few repairs that are needed and I have most of the band instruments that we own checked out to middle school/junior high and high school kids."

The shortage of school instruments forces parents to rent instruments for their kids, she said.


Tuter said donations from the community have helped – both instruments and money.

"We have quite a few kids in the elementary band. We are desperate for trombones."

About significant number of her Wind Ensemble members are brand new to high school band.

See Bands, Page 16

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# Huskies open league with historic win over Marist

By Scott Swanson  
Of The New Era

When Bode Nichols hit Marist ballcarrier Conner Harvey with a savage open-field tackle on the first play of the Spartans' visit to Sweet Home Friday night, Oct. 3, the ball squirted out of Harvey's hands.

That was the initial punch in a night-long slugfest, a mostly clean one, that resulted in a 27-20 triumph for the Huskies, their first victory over Marist in decades and a 1-0 start in Special District 3.

"That was fun," Head Coach Ryan Adams said. "That was exactly the heavyweight fight we kind of expected."

The victory was not secure, literally, until the final two plays.

"That felt amazing," said senior Luke Rosa, who has been a key player in Sweet Home's turnaround from a winless season two years ago.

"We've been waiting to get one on them and this year was the year."

Marist, which came into the game 1-3 after losses to highly-ranked Henley and Tillamook, both on the road, showed early that it intended to leave with a W.

Following that opening fumble, the Spartans forced Sweet Home to punt after stymieing the Huskies' first drive in three plays, and then 68 yards for a touchdown and a 7-0 lead with 5:05 left in the first quarter.

They stopped Sweet Home again after three plays, forcing another punt.

Then things changed for the Huskies as Kyle Zajic picked off a pass from quarterback Brody Gilliam, setting Sweet Home up at its 37 yard line.



Marist's Conner Harvey loses the football as Bode Nichols levels him with an open-field tackle.

ting Sweet Home up at its 37 yard line.

The Huskies launched a 10-play drive of their own, capped by a nine-yard scoring pass early in the second quarter from Zajic to Dillan Davis. With a point-after kick from Keeghan Gittins, the Huskies had the score tied with 8:12 left in the half.

After forcing Marist to punt, they went to work again, moving 40 yards in 10 plays to the 28, where, on fourth-and-four, Zajic hit Nichols for his second touchdown pass of the night and a 14-7 lead with Gittins' kick.

Late in the quarter they forced another punt and marched 68 yards again, Zajic finding Nichols again, this time from the 20, with another touchdown pass. The kick failed, but the Huskies took a 20-7 lead into the locker room.

With less than a minute left in the first half, Gilliam was sacked and had to be helped off the field, not to return for the rest of the evening.

Late in the third quarter Marist took over on its 42 and five plays later Elijah Martin connected on a 22-yard pass to Harvey to close the gap to 20-14.

"Their backup quarterback had a lot of playing time," Adams said. "I think he played the whole game the second game of the year, when he got subbed in."

got subbed in.

"That's why I told our guys, 'Hey, this isn't going to change anything. This is a dang good football team.'"

Then, less than a minute into the fourth quarter, Marist got the ball back on a bad snap to Nichols, who was trying to punt on fourth down at his 27 yards line, and was tackled at the 25.

Six plays later the visitors evened the score with an eight-yard scoring pass from Martin to CJ Giustina, tying things at 29-20 with 9:14 left on the clock.

"Credit to them for battling back," Adams said. "You know, down two scores going to that second half, they kept punching along."

punching along.

"I'm just really proud of the way our guys responded to this."

With 3:36 left in the game, Sweet Home took over on its 29, and two plays later Zajic connected from the 31 with Davis, who outsprinted the Spartan defenders to the end zone and Gittins made it 27-20.

But Marist knows how to win and the Spartans weren't done yet.

They took over on their 35 after Gittins' kickoff rolled out of bounds and Martin immediately threw a bomb to Grady Hazen for a 41-yard completion and Marist powered to the 2. Then Rosa stormed into the backfield and wrapped up Harvey, who was a workhorse for the Spartans all night, and forced a fumble that was recovered by Trenton Templin with 1:12 on the clock.

Two plays later, Zajic connected with Davis from the 5 to give the Huskies a first down, which iced the game for Sweet Home.

"There were some ups and downs," Rosa said. "We were thinking about the next play. Our focus this week was our preparation and the next play."

Zajic said the win was the result of the way the Huskies have practiced.

"It was just, just the process," he said, commenting on those final minutes.

"It's something we practice every single day. These are the moments that they happen and you just have to make it true."

He said the Huskies knew they had to be "very confident."

See Football, Page 11

## The ICEBOX Performer Of The Week



This weeks ICEBOX Performer Of The Week goes to Dustin Jackman.

We're proud to recognize Dustin for his incredible hard work and dedication. Last week, he ranked as our best producing welder thanks to the precision, skill, and pride he puts into every project. What makes Dustin stand out even more is his work ethic.

He's the kind of teammate who's always here before the clock, prepared and ready to get the job done right. That level of consistency and commitment doesn't go unnoticed. It sets the bar high for all of us. Thank you, Dustin, for going above and beyond and showing what it means to be a true professional.

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**Deena Hickey, RN, CFCS**  
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Certified Foot Care Specialist  
**541.286.0671**



FOOTBALL

From page 10

dent” coming into the game. “We haven’t beat these guys in I don’t know how long. We just had to stay confident, be on our heels and just keep firing.” Adams said his team was ready. “Our whole thing this week was just confidence through preparation,” he said. “I thought they prepared really well all week. They approached this game extremely well. We talked in the game, ‘always next play, always next play.’ “We just really focused on not getting them too high or too low, no matter what. And they responded really well.” Assistant Coach Rob Younger, who led the Huskies for 22 years and last year returned to help Adams on the sideline, said he appreciated the atmosphere at Husky Field, which, he said, added to the win. “It reminded me of the past, when the stands were full and there were people standing around the track and the concession stands were busy,” he said – all of which was true

on Friday night. “Getting people back, involved, on Friday night gave me a lot of joy. Someone told me that they opened their window two miles away from the stadium and they could hear the roar.” The win, he said, is a testament to the team’s focus and commitment. “These kids have come a long way in the two years I’ve been privileged to be part of it,” he said, crediting Adams for putting together a team of “good, consistent coaches” and for delegating well. “Eight of the nine guys who are part of varsity staff are all ex-Huskies. They have that pride.” Zajic had his best passing game of the year, finishing with 181 yards on 12/21 with four touchdowns and no interceptions. Sweet Home had 84 yards on the ground, most of it from Barringer. Marist finished with 224 yards through the air, and 107 yards on the ground, with two interceptions by the Huskies. Up next for Sweet Home, now 5-0 overall and 1-0 in Special District 3 and ranked No. 6 by OSAA in the 4A Divi-



Photo by Scott Swanson  
Sam Barringer, left, fights for yardage with some help from blocker Gabe Meadors, 63. See many more photos from the game at [sweethomenews.com](http://sweethomenews.com).

sion, is Junction City, which is also 1-0 after a 28-8 win over Cottage Grove last week. The only common opponent thus far for Sweet Home and the Tigers is Woodburn, whom Junction City defeated 30-13 the week after the Huskies beat the Bulldogs 27-13.



Photo by Sarah Brown  
A police officer speaks with the driver of a car that crashed into a house at the corner of 10th and Alder.

Driver crashes car into Alder Street house, cited for DUI

By Sarah Brown  
Of The New Era

First responders blocked off a portion of Alder Street Tuesday, Sept. 30, after a car collided into a house at about 5:19 p.m. Police spoke to the driver while she remained seated in her 2024 Toyota RAV4, uninjured. Rose Peda, who lives in the rental house, said she was sitting in her living room when she was literally jolted as the SUV struck the corner of the house. Her initial thought was that a tree fell down. It sounded “like a sonic boom,” she said. Landlord Bob Skinner, who lives next door, said he could

feel his home shake. “It was quite the surprise,” he said. Sweet Home Police Department reported Melissa Kay Wise, 68, was driving southbound on 10th Avenue at about 30 mph when she failed to negotiate a westbound turn onto Alder Street. She first struck through a wood fence on the southwest corner of Alder Street and 10th, then crossed Alder in a northerly direction and ran through the wire fence before striking the house. “It was a pretty significant smack,” Skinner said. “There were neighbors down the street that could hear the hit.” The foundation of the

house was broken on each side of the corner, and the wall sustained damage. Skinner said Wise told him she had just had to have her dog put down that day. During the investigation, officers developed probable cause to believe Wise was impaired. A breath test was administered and preliminary results indicated a blood alcohol concentration above the legal limit. She was subsequently arrested for DUII, reckless driving and reckless endangering. “Maybe somebody will see this and have one less drink,” Skinner said.

East Linn  
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CCB# 110950

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Public Notices

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE STATE OF OREGON IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF LINN, Lakeveiw Loan Servicing, LLC, Plaintiff v. LEANNA MARIE BIGGERSTAFF, an individual; TWANIA LYNN HEROD, an individual; RAY KLEIN, INC., a corporation; THE SECRETARY OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT, a government entity; and ALL OTHER PERSONS, PARTIES, OR OCCUPANTS UNKNOWN CLAIMING ANY LEGAL OR EQUITABLE RIGHT, TITLE, ESTATE, LIEN, OR INTEREST IN THE REAL PROPERTY DESCRIBED IN THE COMPLAINT HEREIN, ADVERSE TO PLAINTIFF’S TITLE, OR ANY CLOUD ON PLAINTIFF’S TITLE TO THE PROPERTY, Defendants. Case No. 24CV54074 SUMMONS BY PUBLICATION TO THE DEFENDANT: Leanna Marie Biggerstaff: In the name of the State of Oregon, you are hereby required to appear and defend the complaint filed against you in the above entitled Court within thirty (30) days from the date of the first publication of this summons. The date of first publication in this matter is October 1, 2025. If you fail timely to appear and answer, for want thereof, plaintiff(s) will apply to the court for relief demanded in the complaint. This is a judicial foreclosure of a deed of trust in which the plaintiff requests that the plaintiff be allowed to foreclose your interest in the following described real property: A tract of land being a part of that certain tract of land being described in deed to Fairway Independent Mortgage Corporation, Recorded August 10, 2022 as Instrument No. 2022-14047, Linn County Deed Records. ALL OF THAT TRACT CONVEYED TO MICHAEL J. LEE PER MICROFILM VOLUME 1431, PAGE 823, LINN COUNTY MICROFILM RECORDS, AND A PORTION OF THAT TRACT CONVEYED TO DAVID L. VANDERLIP AND RACHEL L. VANDERLIP PER MICROFILM VOLUME 1391, PAGE 670, SAID RECORDS, LYING BLOCK 111, HACKLEMAN'S ADDITION TO THE CITY OF ALBANY, IN THE SOUTHWEST QUARTER OF SECTION 6, TOWNSHIP 11 SOUTH, RANGE 3 WEST, WILLAMETTE MERIDIAN, IN THE CITY OF ALBANY, COUNTY OF LINN AND STATE OF OREGON, MORE PARTICULARLY DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS: BEGINNING AT A 5/8" IRON ROD AT THE LEE SOUTHWEST CORNER LYING NORTH 81°45'00" EAST 100.00 FEET FROM THE SOUTHWEST CORNER OF SAID BLOCK 111; THENCE ALONG THE LEE WEST LINE NORTH 8°21'45" WEST 113.33 FEET TO A 5/8" IRON ROD AT THE NORTHWEST CORNER THEREOF; THENCE ALONG THE LEE NORTH LINE AND EXTENSION THEREOF, NORTH 81°46'58" EAST 32.92 FEET TO THE NORTHEAST THEREOF, ALSO BEING THE NORTHWEST CORNER OF SAID VANDERLIP TRACT; THENCE CONTINUING ALONG VANDERLIP NORTH LINE, NORTH 81°46'58" EAST 12.64 FEET TO A POINT LYING NORTH 8°49'28" WEST 0.80 FEET FROM A 5/8" IRON ROD; THENCE LEAVING VANDERLIP NORTH LINE, SOUTH 8°49'28" EAST 29.40 FEET TO A 5/8" IRON ROD; THENCE SOUTH 81°46'58" WEST 3.00 FEET TO A 5/8" IRON ROD; THENCE SOUTH 6°31'45" EAST 83.95 FEET TO A 5/8" IRON ROD ON THE VANDERLIP SOUTH LINE BEING ALSO THE SOUTH LINE OF SAID BLOCK 111; THENCE ALONG SAID BLOCK LINE AND THE SOUTHERLY LINES OF SAID LEE AND VANDERLIP TRACTS, SOUTH 81°45'00" WEST 40.11 FEET TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING. Commonly known as: 521 3RD AVE SE, ALBANY, OREGON 97321. NOTICE TO THE DEFENDANT: READ THESE PAPERS CAREFULLY! You must "appear" to protect your rights in this matter. To "appear" you must file

Public Notices

with the court a legal paper called a "motion" or "reply." The "motion" or "reply" must be given to the court clerk or administrator within 30 days along with the required filing fee. It must be in proper form and have proof of service on the defendant's attorney or, if the defendant does not have an attorney, proof of service on the defendant. If you have questions, you should see an attorney immediately. If you need help in finding an attorney, you may call the Oregon State Bar's Lawyer Referral Service at (503) 684-3763 or toll-free in Oregon at (800) 452-7636. The Oregon State Bar's web address is <http://www.osbar.org>. This summons is issued pursuant to ORCP 7. Malcolm Cisneros, A Law Corporation, Nathan F. Smith, OSB #120112, [Nathan@mclaw.org](mailto:Nathan@mclaw.org) Attorneys for Plaintiff 2112 Business Center Drive, Second Floor, Irvine, CA 92612, P: (949) 252-9400, F: (949) 252-1032. (10/1, 10/8, 10/15, 10/22)

**IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE STATE OF OREGON FOR THE COUNTY OF LINN PROBATE DEPARTMENT**  
In the Matter of the Estate of DONALD BOYD BLANKENSHIP, Deceased.  
Case No. 25PB08355  
NOTICE TO INTERESTED PERSONS  
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that on September 29, 2025, Charolette A. Popovic, was appointed as Personal Representative of the above-referenced estate. All persons having claims against the estate are required to present them, with vouchers attached, to the Personal Representative or to Stacey D. Mealer, Attorney, at the addresses listed below, within four months after the date of first publication of this notice, or the claims may be barred. All persons whose rights may be affected by the proceedings may obtain additional information from the records of the Court, the Personal Representative, or the attorney for the Personal Representative.  
Personal Representative:  
Charolette A. Popovic  
5707 E 32nd Street, Lot 1284  
Yuma, AZ 85365  
(541) 852-1587  
Attorney for Personal Representative:  
Stacey D. Mealer, Attorney  
PO Box 81 ~ 1195 Main Street Suite 2  
Sweet Home, OR 97386  
(541) 270-2406 ~ [Mealer@actionnet.net](mailto:Mealer@actionnet.net)  
(10/8)

Notice is given that the 1977 Concord manufactured home located at 2796 South Main Road, Space 28, Lebanon, Oregon 97355, Serial No. 2977334038, Home ID No. 209425, is deemed abandoned. The owner of the manufactured home is believed to be Kay D. Fouts and the occupant of the manufactured home is believed to be: None. The manufactured home will be sold by private bidding on October 17, with sealed bids to be submitted to and accepted by The Law Offices of Brian Cox, 142 West 8th Avenue, Eugene, Oregon 97401, Attn: Brian Cox, through October 15. To inspect the manufactured home, please contact Wade Hanson at (541) 405-4232. (10/8 - 10/15)

Notice of sale of personal property under landlord's possessory lien. Personal property left in the following units have been seized for non-payment of rent and will be sold at The Storage Depot- 4199 Main St. Sweet Home, Or 97386 on October 29, 2025. The following units are available for viewing at 10:00am and will be sold to the highest bidder: Jackie Trenslove – E182, Jimmy Joe Brown Jr –

Public Notices

A583, Nancy L Clifford – A534, Curtis Hughes – RV39, Tony W Jones – B233, Katie King – B146, Travis Lanz – A483, Tamera Lyons – D306, Amber Steinborn – D357, Heather Tressel – A530, Chris Turner – D206  
(10/8 - 10/15)

**IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE STATE OF OREGON FOR THE COUNTY OF LINN**  
JKS HOLDINGS, LLC, Plaintiff, v. UNKNOWN HEIRS OF LAURIE SUSAN WIEBRECHT, Defendants.  
Case No. 25CV52253  
SUMMONS  
TO: Unknown Heirs of Laurie Susan Wiebrecht  
You are hereby required to appear and defend the complaint filed against you in the above entitled action within 30 days of the date of first publication which is October 8, 2025, along with the required filing fee, and in case of your failure to do so, for want thereof, plaintiff will apply to the court for the relief demanded in the Complaint.  
NOTICE TO THE DEFENDANT: READ THESE PAPERS CAREFULLY!  
You must “appear” in this case or the other side will win automatically. To “appear” you must file with the court a legal paper called a “motion” or “answer.” Forms may be available through the court above or online at [www.courts.oregon.gov/gorms](http://www.courts.oregon.gov/gorms). This must be given to the court clerk or administrator within 30 days along with the required filing fee. It must be in proper form and have proof of service on the Plaintiff's attorney or, if the Plaintiff does not have an attorney, proof of service upon the Plaintiff. Service rules are in the Oregon Rules of Civil Procedure (ORCP) Rule 9. If you have questions, you should see an attorney immediately. If you need help finding a lawyer, you may call the Oregon State Bar's Lawyer Referral Service at (503) 684-3763 or toll free in Oregon at (800) 452-7636. Dated: September 24, 2025

M. Sean Kidd, OSB #091224  
Attorney for Plaintiffs  
260 Ferry Street SW, Ste 202  
Albany, OR 97321  
(541) 926-5505  
[sean@longdel.com](mailto:sean@longdel.com)

**IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE STATE OF OREGON FOR THE COUNTY OF LINN**  
JKS HOLDINGS LLC, an Oregon limited liability company, Plaintiff, v. UNKNOWN HEIRS OF LAURIE SUSAN WIEBRECHT. Defendants.  
Case No. 25CV52253  
COMPLAINT FOR FORECLOSURE  
NOT SUBJECT TO MANDATORY ARBITRATION  
AMOUNT OF CLAIM: \$580,500.00  
FILING FEE: \$594

At all times material herein, Plaintiff, JKS HOLDINGS, LLC (Plaintiff) was and is a limited liability company duly organized and existing under the laws of the state of Oregon. Laurie Susan Wiebrecht was and is the record owner of the real property and the improvements thereon commonly known as 3108 28<sup>TH</sup> Avenue, SE, Albany, Linn County, Oregon 97322 ("Property"), more particularly described on the attached Exhibit 1. Ms. Wiebrecht passed away on November 29, 2024. A true copy of the obituary of Laurie Susan Wiebrecht is hereto attached as Exhibit 2. Upon information and belief Plaintiff alleges that no party named herein is engaged in active military duty or naval service of the United States as defined in the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act ("SCRA") as amended. To the best of Plaintiff's ability, Plaintiff

Public Notices

has conducted a search of the named Defendants. Upon information and belief Plaintiff alleges that no party named herein is a minor or otherwise incompetent. The City of Albany, Oregon filed a municipal lien ("Lien") against the Property in the records of Linn County, Oregon, to secure payment of the abatement of derelict structure in the sum of \$580,500.00. copy of the lien is attached hereto as Exhibit 3. Subsequent to Ms. Wiebrecht's death, Plaintiff purchased the interest of the City of Albany. A copy of the Assignment of Lien from the City to Plaintiff is attached hereto as Exhibit 4. The Lien (and Assignment thereof) is subject to foreclosure. Plaintiff declares that the entire balance of principal and interest is now due and payable. Currently, \$580,500.00 is immediately due and payable and is secured by the Lien on the Property. Defendants may claim some interest in the property. Any such claim is junior to Plaintiffs Lien. No other proceedings are pending for the collection of the debt or the foreclosure of the Lien. Plaintiff has no adequate remedy at law. WHEREFORE, Plaintiff prays for judgment of this court:  
(a) Granting judgment to Plaintiff against Defendants in the amount of \$580,500.00;  
(b) Declaring that the Lien be foreclosed as a valid lien against the Property described above, and declaring that the Lien is senior to any interest of named Defendants in the Property;  
(c) Foreclosing Plaintiff's Lien and ordering the sale of the Property by the sheriff of Linn County in the manner prescribed by law;  
(d) Applying the proceeds received from the sale first toward the costs of sale, then toward satisfaction of Plaintiffs judgment, including costs and attorney fees and any surplus to the party or parties who may establish their right thereto;  
(e) Declaring that Plaintiff will not be entitled to monetary damages, attorney fees, costs, or disbursements against any defendant who does not contest this action;  
(f) Declaring Plaintiff is permitted to become a bidder and purchaser of the Property at the sheriff's sale. If the Plaintiff is the purchaser at the sale and the property is not vacated upon sale, the Plaintiff reserves the right to petition the court for a writ of assistance after the sale based upon the judgment entry and sale upon separate motion of the purchaser after sale.  
(g) Ordering that Defendants and all persons claiming through Defendants are forever foreclosed of all interest in the property;  
(h) Granting such other and further relief as the court deems equitable.  
(10/8, 10/15, 10/22, 10/29)

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR THE STATE OF OREGON FOR THE COUNTY OF LINN Probate Department CASE NO. 25PB08418 NOTICE TO INTERESTED PERSONS In the Matter of the ESTATE of HELEN LOUISE THOMPSON, Deceased, NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that on September 25, 2025, Robert Dale Thompson, II was appointed and deemed qualified to act as the personal representative of the above estate. All persons having claims against the estate are hereby required to present these claims, with proper vouchers, within four months after the date of the first publication of this notice, as stated below to the personal representative's attorney, Susan Ezzy Jordan, Jordan & Williams, LLC., 180 West 6th Ave., Junction City, OR

Public Notices

97448 (541) 342-8110, or they may be barred. All persons whose rights may be affected by the proceeding in this estate may obtain additional information from the records of the attorney for the personal representative. DATED AND PUBLISHED: October 8, 2025 (10/8)  
The City of Sweet Home hereby invites firms to submit bids to purchase bulk gravel. The sealed proposals are due in the City's online portal by 5:00 PM on November 5, 2025. Interested bidders are directed to the City of Sweet Home Procurement Portal at [procurement.opengov.com/portal/sweethomeor](http://procurement.opengov.com/portal/sweethomeor) for detailed information and submittal requirements.  
(10/8)

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 October 30, 2025 at 12:00pm. The following units are available for viewing and live public sale at 12:00pm: I1057 (Rosaly Battenfield), H0866 (Marcus Pitzer), K3059 (Kristina Robb), I1050 (Camie Sue Romania), B0202 (James Snapp), J2019 (Debra Tilley).  
(10/8 - 10/15)

Notice of sale of personal property under Landlords Possessory lien. Personal property left in the following units have been seized for Non-payment of rent and will be sold at The Storage Depot, 111 Davidson St. NE Albany, OR 97321 October 30, 2025 at 10:00am. Tagen, Sherman #D14; Cordova, Lupe #F39; Cordova, Lupe #A32; Cordova, Lupe #F65; Ingram, Tiffany #C43; Hoffman-Sanders, Cockrell, Gail #F94  
(10/8 - 10/15)

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 October 31st, 2025 at 10:00 am: DeButts, Carol BL5; Goodenough, Tina AL08; Hughes, Laura BL36; Samson, Carrie EL45 & CC55; Reynolds, Rachel F24.  
(10/8 - 10/15)

**SWEET HOME POLICE DEPARTMENT  
1950 MAIN ST., SWEET HOME, OR 97386  
(541) 367-5181**

**NOTICE OF INTENT TO DISPOSE OF PROPERTY UNDER ORS 98.245**  
*The Sweet Home Police Department has in its physical possession the unclaimed personal property described below. If you have any ownership interest in any of the unclaimed property, you must file a claim with the Sweet Home Police Department within 30 days from the date of publication of this notice or you will lose interest in that property. You may file a claim that presents proof satisfactory that you are the lawful owner or security interest holder of the property. The unclaimed property may be donated to a nonprofit organization or another government agency; retained for use by the City of Sweet Home; destroyed; or sold at public auction through [govdeals.com](http://govdeals.com), [ebay.com](http://ebay.com) or Facebook at any time after the 30-day period expires, Oct. 8-Nov. 7 (PP 25-07):*  
Phones, wallets (for Andrea Letsinger, Frank Cutbirth and Ronald Martin), ID (for Cynthia Gaylord, Riley Gaskey and Destiny Longstin), clothing, lighters, vaping devices, knives, bicycles, handheld radio, ADA parking permit, mailbox, walker, stroller, bedding, wagon, miscellaneous items from



# Husky runners deliver some big PRs at Albany

On a cool day, on a fast course at Albany's Bryant Park, Sweet Home's cross-country runners made the most of it.

"I thought we had an exceptionally good meet," Coach Dave Martin said, noting that eight of his nine high school girls finished with season-best times "and most were lifetime bests."

Seven of 11 boys ran either season or lifetime bests.

"That's a pretty good percentage," Martin said. "That's 75% of the kids, and the kids who didn't get PRs weren't off by much."

The meet is run differently than many during the cross-country season, with standard varsity races for high-schoolers, but with those normally running junior varsity divided into junior/senior and frosh/soph fields on the boys and girls sides. A total of 55 high school teams were present, from all over Western Oregon, including some large-school heavy hitters such as South Eugene and North Eugene, as well as 2A schools such as East Linn Christian and Central Linn.

In the girls varsity race, sophomore Emma Whitton posted her best time of the year - by a minute, running

19:05.37 to finish 10th in a field of 189, with Philomath's Cassidy Smart the only 4A runner ahead of her (18:51.18). Senior McKenzie Miller was right behind, in a 25-second lifetime best of 19:18.62.

Husky junior Ryker Burr finished the boys varsity race in 56th place in a field of 240, in a PR of 17:24.08. Ahead of him were 4A runners Marshfield senior Jaxson Stovall (15:40.63), Philomath senior Leo Pausch (15:49.95), Philomath senior Lukas Hernandez (17:07.89), Cottage Grove sophomore Jennings Albrecht (17:11.20) and Newport sophomore David Albavera (17:19.37).

In the boys frosh/soph race, sophomore Acen Webber led the Huskies with a sixth-place finish in a field of 295 runners, in a personal-best 18:04.22, followed by freshman Elijah Rodriguez in seventh (18:12.32). Sophomore Louis Kistner was 30th in a 50-second PR of 19:05.01, followed by sophomore Evan Knight, 38th in 19:14.34, freshman Hudson Ogden, 83rd in a PR of 20:22.65, sophomore Wes Goff, 84th in 20:23.22, also a PR, sophomore Noah Strawn in a PR of 20:36.73, freshman Bentley Uhlry in a PR of

21:22.98 and sophomore Eli Adams in 24:08.42, his best run of the season thus far.

Sweet Home's Frosh/Soph boys were fourth out of 23 teams, the top 4A school in the field, with 136 points. Newport was 10th (259), Philomath was 12th (307), Estacada was 13th (322) and Cottage Grove was 17th (466). Lincoln won the team title with 82 points, ahead of Sheldon (86) and Corvallis (112).

In the girls frosh/soph race, freshman Cassie Spencer was fifth in a field of 159 in a PR of 21:20.61, followed by freshman Marian Helfrich in a PR of 23:54.80, freshman Pyper Hall in a PR of 24:12.12, sophomore Maddie Ciullo in a PR of 24:29.65, and freshman Lexi Lee in 31:57.38.

The Huskies were eighth out of 14 teams.

"Marian and Pyper both PR'd by about a minute and a half, and Maddie PR'd by two minutes," Martin noted.

In the boys junior/senior race, junior Conner Spencer was the top finisher for Sweet Home, running 20:05.90, ahead of senior Sam Strawn, who ran a personal-best 24:14.11.

In the girls junior/senior race, junior Noelle Helfrich

finished in 23:47.33, ahead of McKenzie Ohlheiser, who posted an approximately two-minute PR of 26:38.

"We ran really well," Martin said, adding that the previous week's workouts gave him a hint of good things to come.

"The kids not only competed well, but I was super impressed with how they got themselves ready to race because I was running around, from race to race. I was super impressed with their level of maturity, knowing what to do, being able to get themselves ready to run."

In the middle school boys competition, Brady Goff finished in 15:40.65, while Zander Davis ran 19:43.05.

For the girls, Emma Davis finished in 16:19.32, followed by Violet Steinborn in 18:53.95.

Up next for Sweet Home is the Paul Mariman Invitational Saturday, Oct. 11, which includes most of the top small-school teams in western Oregon. Middle school races are at 11 and 11:30 a.m., followed by high school junior varsity girls and boys at 1 and 1:30 p.m. and varsity girls and boys at 2 and 2:30 p.m.

## PUBLIC SAFETY

From page 3

9:55 p.m. - LCSO reported crash in 900 block Long St. Officer responded. According to SHPD, 2008 Ford Escape operated by Abigail Ferebee was westbound on Long Street when it struck a bridge guard-rail and landed in the creek. Damage estimated at more than \$2,500. Vehicle towed.

### Oct. 1

7:28 a.m. - Caller reported male, who had been trespassed many times, back on property in 2200 block Tamarack St. Officer responded. Male was not on property at time, but was advised to stay away from all properties owned by caller, who declined to press charges.


7:42 a.m. - Crash reported in area of Main St./44th Ave. According to SHPD, a 2016 Kia Forte operated by Concetta Picozzi was westbound and merged into the inner lane of Main St., where it was struck by a 2010 Acura operated by Michelle Hayes. Hayes told police she saw Picozzi initiate her turn signal, but was unsure whether she was going to turn. Hayes slowed but as Picozzi also slowed, she continued west which led to the collision. No citations.

See more and updated public safety log reports at [sweethomenews.com](http://sweethomenews.com).

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**FARMERS**  
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**Aaron Hegge, Agent**  
3037 Main St., Sweet Home  
ahegge@farmersagent.com  
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# Sweet Home High School Homecoming 2025



Photos by Scott Swanson

Homecoming Court members stand for a photo before entering the coronation assembly Friday. From left, they are Liam Martin, Kyle Zajic, Hannah Sieminski, Caden Foley, Kalissa Ellis, Memphis Gay, Aaliyah Brown, Kaeson Walker, Selah Wright, Keeghan Gittins, Delainie Pratt, Elisha Scofield, Loralai Mark, Ryker Burr, Lexi Rundell and Amara Gonzales.



Photo courtesy of Ryker Burr

Kaeson Walker puts one over the net for the juniors in He Man Volleyball, past senior Dillan Davis.



Homecoming King Memphis Gay and Queen Delainie Pratt sit for a royal photo. See more photos at [sweethomenews.com](http://sweethomenews.com).



Photos courtesy of Kristine Banker

Firefighters stand by as the Homecoming Bonfire burns down Thursday night, after the event was cut short by a disturbance. At right, Loralai Mark gets set to deliver a blow in the car demolition event.



# BANDS

From page 9

“A couple of them played, maybe, a few years ago and are coming back in, but a lot of them have never done music before,” she said. “They’re happy to learn to read it, to play it, but it’s a heavy learning curve.”

“But we have such a strong leadership within the band, section leaders and what-not, they take care of their people and they might take them out of (practice) for 10 or 15 minutes into a practice room.”

A lot of the newbies also show up at lunch and during her prep period for extra practice, she said.

The leadership within the band is evidenced by students who are planning to move on to college and perform there.

Alumni who want to help train less experienced musicians are welcome, Tuter said.

“Alumni who’d like to perform with the band, as mentors for younger players and just having fun playing, we’d love that.”

She can be contacted at [lori.tuter@sweethome.k12.or.us](mailto:lori.tuter@sweethome.k12.or.us) or (541) 367-7142.

Instruments still need to be repaired and she is working on acquiring some new ones



Pep Band members perform at a Homecoming assembly at the high school last week.

Photo by Scott Swanson

that will be more appropriate for use in the stadium and marching.

“One of the exciting things is, two years ago, we were taking concert instruments to the football stadium. We had concert snare drums on

a concert snare stand – very dangerous and just not the right sound or anything.

“And so with the help of the school district, and then some fundraising and some donations, we now have marching equipment – two

Marching bass drums, two marching snares, crash cymbals.

“So we added in that, and this year we started marching.

“The football coaches requested us to march in front

of the team as they march over there and it’s really been fun. We start behind the school, by the gym and we march in and the boys are right behind us. It’s really cool. We just get some energy going right from the start.”

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Now, let’s get sentimental for a moment. Thirty years is a long time—long enough to see your kids grow up, your projects grow bigger, and your DIY skills grow... well, let’s just say “interesting.” We’ve been here through it all: the leaky roofs, the ambitious backyard decks, and even that one time someone tried to build a treehouse that defied the laws of physics. (You know who you are!) We’ve laughed with you, problem-solved with you, and occasionally scratched our heads alongside you. And through it all, your loyalty and support have been the foundation of everything we’ve done. Without you, we’d just be a pile of lumber and screws.

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With gratitude, humor, and maybe a tear or two,  
Nick and Nanci Cross  
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Scott Day

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