

Voters asked to OK levy hike for Sheriff's Office

By Scott Swanson
Of The New Era

As ballots arrive for the Nov. 4 Special Election, Linn County Voters are being asked to approve a law enforcement levy for the Linn County Sheriff's Office that will amount to a 10-cent increase over the current levy.

Ballots were mailed to local addresses last week.

The Sheriff's Office is currently in the final year of the four-year levy approved by voters in 2021, which kicked in on July 1, 2022. The current levy, which will end June 30, 2026, is \$2.98 per \$1,000 of assessed property value. If approved, the new four-year levy would replace the existing one and would extend through June of 2030.

According to the Linn County Clerk's Office, which assesses taxes, the proposed 10-cent increase would add \$25 per year from the current rate to a tax bill for a property worth \$250,000. The owner of a home assessed at \$250,000 would pay \$64.17 per month or \$770 per year for Sheriff's Office services.

The levy is expected to raise \$184,595,812 over the next four years.

A levy calculator is available at www.linnsheriff.org/levy to assist property owners in figuring out what their tax would be.

Levy revenues fund 24-hour patrol activities, traffic operations and criminal investigations conducted by the department, emergency management and response, including search and rescue operations, operation and maintenance of the 252-bed County Jail, prosecution by the District Attorney's Office, and Juvenile Department operations.

Sheriff Michelle Duncan said the 10-cent increase would mostly cover the increased costs of maintaining current services.

"We have seen an increase in the cost of equipment and personnel that has exceeded what is being funded by the current levy," she said.

"However, some would be used to increase our capabilities as far as emergency management and response to disasters such as wildfires, flooding, mass power outages, etc.

"We are also seeing a growing need to enhance our Search and Rescue capabilities. With the technology improvements most people know where they are, but call because they are unable to get out of the wilderness on their own due to a medical event, such as broken ankles/legs, heart attacks, etc. We need to increase our medical training and equipment, so we can treat them on scene when we reach them."

According to the Sheriff's Office, in the current fiscal year (2025-26), the law enforcement

See Levy, Page 13



Photo by Satina Tolman

Skwirez Band members, from left, Paige Reynolds, Dayton Thompson and Triston Young, perform during the SHOCASE Showdown talent competition Saturday night.

Winners have big night at talent show

By Satina Tolman
For The New Era

The lights dimmed, the crowd hushed, and the seventh annual SHOCASE Showdown once again brought Sweet Home talent to center stage Saturday night, Oct. 18, at the Sweet Home High School Auditorium.

The event offered performers a chance to share their gifts, compete for cash prizes, and enjoy their moment in the spotlight.

This year's Showdown marked another milestone for SHOCASE (Sweet Home Oregon Coalition for Artistic and Scholastic Enrichment), which has provided a wide variety of opportunities for celebration of local arts and culture in recent years. This year's talent show was sponsored by Gary and Pam Rasmussen, the Wendi Melcher Team and Boul-

der Falls Inn,

Emcees Sean Morgan, representing SHOCASE, and local singer Melody Jordan kept the evening lively with humor and upbeat commentary as each act took the stage.

Performers were scored on six categories: appearance, creativity, polish, stage presence, technical skill, and entertainment value — criteria designed to recognize not only raw ability but also effort and showmanship.

Judges used a digital scoring system designed by Ward Christman of SHOCASE, making tabulation instantaneous.

Showdown organizer Shirley Austin said she loved the variety and mix of talent and all the behind-the-scenes help that made the evening such a success.

Youthful Energy and Heart

The youth competition

opened the night with performances that impressed both audience and judges. Rylee Carbon sang "Set It All Free" by Scarlett Johansson to earn third place and a \$75 prize. Khloe Arce took second place and \$100 with a stirring rendition of "Creep" by Radiohead.

First place went to Take His Crown, a newly formed band featuring Ivan Pelcher on guitar, Ezekiel (Zeke) Center on lead vocals, and Blake Deleon on drums. Their energetic performance of "Crazy Train" by Ozzy Osbourne won them the \$250 top prize and enthusiastic applause from the crowd.

Carbon also claimed the People's Choice Award, adding another \$100 to her winnings. The audience voted by dropping donations into ballot boxes, with

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Hometown
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HANKINS**



**LOCAL LANDMARK
MUSEUM CELEBRATES
40TH ANNIVERSARY
PAGE 14**



**NEW MEMBER SWORN
IN TO COMPLETE
SCHOOL BOARD
PAGE 5**

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Missing Lebanon man found in remote canyon

Following weeks of searching, the body of a missing Lebanon man has been located.

Donald Carroll, 88, was reported missing on Oct. 4 after he left his home early that morning and had not returned. Carroll, who had dementia, was last seen near Walmart in Lebanon, and a GPS tracker on his keychain last pinged at McKercher park near Crawfordsville that same day. The tracker later discontinued pinging.

Multiple searches were conducted by authorities, family and concerned citizens.

On Saturday, Oct. 18, at 12:37 p.m., the Linn County Sheriff's Office received a call from an individual picking mushrooms in the area of Upper Calapooia Drive and Blue River Reservoir Road, approximately 30 miles east of High-

way 228 in Linn County.

The caller informed Linn County dispatchers they found an unoccupied vehicle at this location, and provided its license plate number, which connected to Carroll's missing car.

The LCSO's Search and Rescue team arrived with specialized equipment to try to locate Carroll. Using a drone, he was found deceased in a steep, wooded, rocky canyon approximately 150-200 feet below the roadway where the vehicle was located.

At this time, there is no indication of foul play.

A graduate of Lebanon High School in 1955, Carroll was inducted into the Bud and Dorothy Page LHS Hall of Fame in 2022 for his lifetime achievements.

He served as a teacher, coach and administrator in the Scio



Donald Carroll

School District before taking up a teaching and coaching position at Seven Oak Middle School, where he started a football program. Carroll later began coaching at the high school and also helped build a successful vocational program there.



OBITUARIES

James Prater-Adee, Jr.
Sept. 11, 1973 - Oct. 10, 2025

James Thomas Prater-Adee, Jr. (Jimbo), age 52 of Lebanon, passed away in Corvallis, on Oct. 10, 2025.



He was born in Lebanon, but made his home for a short time in Washington, and then in California before moving home to stay, where he met and married the love of his life, Shelene Pantazin.

Together they had two sons, Landon and Carson, who were the absolute light of his life.

Jim was a long-haul truck driver for many years, until he settled down with his family and recently started working for USPS.

Jim was an avid football fan throughout his life. He and his dad (Jim) rarely missed a Minnesota Vikings game. He passed on his love for football to his sons, who now play for the Spartans football team at their school.

Jim loved being a volunteer coach for his boys. Whether he was coaching their football team or their baseball team he was always there to root them on. He was very proud of his boys' skills and accomplishments on and off the field.

Jim was very family-oriented, joining in family dinners a couple times a month. He touched a lot of lives, and his sense of humor was, well, a little bit crazy. Everyone who knew him would absolutely agree with that.

Jim had five younger sisters, and when no brothers came along he chose his own, Keith Logan.

Jim and Keith met when they were in high school and almost instantly became best friends, and soon brothers of the heart, if not by blood. Keith came to live at Jim's family home as just another sibling, as it remains today.

Together they were 1991 graduates of Sweet Home High School, along with Keith's wife, Carissa Jones.

Jim was a member of the Harvest Baptist church in Albany.

Jim is survived by his wife Shelene and two sons, Landon and Carson, of Lebanon.

He also leaves behind his parents, Jim and Candy Adee of Lebanon; sisters Mandy Cockrell (Jerry), Melissa Adee (John), Samantha Schunk (James), and Creole Adee, all of Lebanon, and Jennifer Adee of Albany.

Also of Albany is brother Keith Logan (Carissa); Shannon Brown (best friend) of Salem; mother-in-law Debbie Pantazin of Salem; and the Prater family of Sun River.

He is also survived by uncles Jim Fifield of Lebanon and Harry Fifield (Sally) of Arizona; and in Minnesota, Jerry Adee (Kathy) and Danny Adee (Rose); Steve Prater of Oregon; Aunt Geneva Mallang (Skip) of Washington; Aunt Sandy (Mike) Piazza of Oregon; Lynn Prater, of Oregon; along with 27 nieces and nephews, five great-nieces and nephews; and numerous cousins.

Jim is preceded in death by his good friend Adam Busalak in 2011.

May Jim's memory bring comfort to all who knew him.

A memorial service and celebration of life will be held from noon to 4 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 1, at First Christian Church, 170 E. Grant St., Lebanon.

Paid Obituary

Dwayne Hodson
May 31, 1965 - Oct. 14, 2025

Dwayne Earl Hodson, 60, of Sweet Home, passed away Oct. 14, 2025.

He was born May 31, 1965, to Ethel Lucille (Rogers) and Earl Hodson in Lebanon.



He had lived in Sweet Home area since 1997. Dwayne loved smiley faces and Star Trek. One of his hobbies was playing games with his mom before she passed.

Dwayne is survived by his brothers, Darrell Hodson, Daniel Hodson and sister Trudy

Baldwin, all of Lebanon; and his caregivers, JR and Sherry Lemont of Sweet Home.

He was preceded in death by his mother, Ethel "Lucy" Hodson (2023), father Earl Hodson (2004), sister Candace Hodson (2020), and brother Dale Hodson (2003).

A graveside service will be at 11 a.m. Friday, Oct. 24, at Ames Cemetery, located off Hwy. 228, in Sweet Home.

Sweet Home Funeral Chapel is handling the arrangements.

Leona Hopper
Aug. 18, 1944 - Oct. 4, 2025

Leona Marie Hopper, 81, of Lebanon, formerly of Sweet Home, passed away Oct. 4, 2025, surrounded by the love of her family.



She was born on Aug. 18, 1944, in Tacoma, Wash., to Leona (Kassuhn) and John Koval.

After graduating from high school, Leona moved to Sweet Home in 1962, where she built a life rooted in family, community, and service.

She had a love for driving and spent many years behind the wheel as a school bus driver, safely transporting countless children to and from school.

Later, she worked at the Sweet Home Senior Center, where she served both in the office and as a city bus driver, continuing her dedication to helping others get where they needed to go.

Beyond her work, Leona found joy in the simple pleasures of life.

She loved tending to her garden, cheering on her favorite sports teams, and most of all, spending time with her family. Her home was often filled with laughter, stories, and the warmth of her presence.

Leona was preceded in death by her parents and her sisters, Betty Johnson and Barbara Secreto.

She is survived by her son, Chuck Hopper of Albany; her

CORRECTIONS

Our report of the Upper Willamette District FFA Soils Judging Contest in the Oct. 15 issue should have listed Halen Salvador of Sweet Home as the fourth-place finisher in the Novice category.

daughter, Joyce Rice and husband Doug of Sweet Home; and her daughter Karie Crawford and husband Jason of Lebanon. She will be lovingly remembered by her six grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren, who will carry forward her legacy of love and devotion.

Leona's family takes comfort in knowing she touched many lives with her kindness and steady spirit. She will be deeply missed by all who knew her.

Memorial contributions in her honor may be made to Samaritan Evergreen Hospice.

Weddle Funeral Services handling the arrangements.

Death Notices

Danny Foote
Danny Foote, 84, of Sweet Home, passed away Sept. 13, 2025.

Donald Getz
May 18, 1959 - Oct. 17, 2025

Donald Eugene Getz, 66, of Sweet Home, passed away Oct. 17, 2025.

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

Anne Mehn
Dec. 17, 1934 - Sept. 18, 2025

A memorial service for Anne Virginia Mehn, who passed away Sept. 18, will be held at 11 a.m., Saturday, Oct. 25, at United Methodist Church, 845 6th Ave.

A graveside service will be at 11 a.m. Monday, Oct. 27, at

Gilliland Cemetery.

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

Jeremy Smith
Aug. 28, 1979 - Oct. 17, 2025

Jeremy Wayne Smith, 46, of Lebanon, passed away Oct. 17, 2025.

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

Michael Starring
Nov. 24, 1950 - Oct. 13, 2025

Michael P. Starring, 74, of Depot Bay, passed away Oct. 13, 2025.

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

Paul Swanson Jr.
Nov. 5, 1932 - Oct. 14, 2025

Paul Benjamin Swanson Jr., 92, of Albany, passed away Oct. 14, 2025.

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

Thomas Woods
Sept. 14, 1947 - Oct. 16, 2025

Thomas Elvin Woods, 78, of Brownsville, passed away Oct. 16, 2025.

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

EVENTS

Sharing Tree forms available

Sweet Home Fire & Ambulance District is now accepting applications for its annual Sharing Tree event.

Forms for each child between 0 and 12 years old can be submitted by visiting the following link: <https://bit.ly/4ozk5vY>. Forms must be submitted by Dec. 5.

Electronics recycling drop-off Saturday

The City of Sweet Home invites residents to dump their unwanted electronics at no charge during a free recycling event from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Saturday, Oct. 25, at City Hall, 3225 Main St.

Green Century Electronics Recycling will be there as part of the Oregon E-Cycles program to accept any of the following items: computers, TVs, printers, monitors, keyboards, mice, phones, gaming consoles, networking devices, AV equipment, cords and chargers, and miscellaneous computer components.

For more information, call (503) 764-9963.

Linn County Baking Competition

Connect Linn County will host its annual Harvest Festival from 7

a.m. to 4 p.m. on Sunday, Oct. 26, at Pioneer Park in Brownsville.

Pancake breakfast runs 7-10 a.m. Cost is \$8/adult, \$4/child. Includes pancakes, egg, sausage and juice.

Craft and food vendors will be on site from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. The Trunk or Treat event and kids games runs from 1-4 p.m. A costume contest will be held at 2:30 p.m. Judging for the chili cook-off and baking competition starts at 3 p.m. There will also be a "spooky" dance hall, pumpkins and food drive.

Enter your best chili (\$10 registration fee) and/or Fall-themed baked goods (\$5 fee). For more information about the competitions, call or text Leise at 541-729-3633.

All proceeds support Connect Linn County, whose mission is to "create opportunities for neighbors to network, and empower community transformation through volunteerism and community events."

To participate as a vendor, trunk or treat giver, and/or chili/dessert competitor, visit ConnectLinnCounty.net/upcoming-events to find the registration forms.

See Events, Page 4



Habitat for Humanity

Albany Habitat for Humanity ReStore is a nonprofit home improvement store and donation center that serves the local community by selling

new and gently used furniture, appliances, building materials, and home goods at affordable prices. Every purchase and donation helps fund Habitat for Humanity's mission of building and repairing homes for families in need right here in the mid-Willamette Valley. By shopping, donating, or volunteering at the Albany ReStore, community members are helping reduce waste, support sustainability, and make safe, affordable housing a reality for their neighbors.



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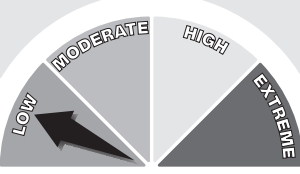
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TEMPERATURES				
DATE		HIGH	LOW	PRECIP
October 14		65	34	0.08
October 15		66	34	0.00
October 16		64	37	0.00
October 17		66	45	0.00
October 18		69	35	0.00
October 19		63	45	0.07
October 20		45	39	0.00

PRECIPITATION	
Year to date:	21.64
October 21, 2024:	20.73

FORECAST			
DAY	WEATHER	HIGH	LOW
Thur	Cloudy	68	50
Fri	Rain	58	47
Sat	Rain	52	42
Sun	Showers	53	42
Mon	Showers	55	40
Tues	Partly Cloudy	60	42
Wed	Showers	63	43

LAKE LEVELS	
Foster Reservoir:	617.5
Green Peter Res.:	878.9



TODAYS FIRE DANGER IS
LOW

The fire danger information provided is current at the time of publication. For the latest and most accurate updates, please visit: 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 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.

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. 19

3:49 a.m. - Multiple mailboxes destroyed along multiple roads in the Crawfordsville area. Investigation ongoing. Property owners were notified. Report taken for criminal mischief.

8:22 a.m. - Caller reported large number of puppies running in street in 500 block Surrey Lane; was concerned that they might be hit. When officer arrived, dogs had been returned to owner. Caller asked that information be noted.

9:03 a.m. - Raymon Littell, 49, of Sweet Home, arrested on SHMC warrant for FTA in criminal driving case, Quartzville Rd./Old Hufford Dr. Cited to appear Nov. 12. Report taken.

8:30 a.m. - Mailbox reported destroyed in 43200 block North River Dr. Investigation ongoing. Report taken.

1:29 p.m. - Caller reported large number of people living in RV on property in 1800 block Vine St. and that their dogs are running loose "all the time." Officer responded, contacted resident, who was advised of complaint.

4:12 p.m. - Caller reported "cat hoarding issue" in 1500 block Tamarack St. Officer contacted caller, who was advised of options. Local cat rescue operatives to be notified.

5:33 p.m. - Caller reported male left dog at residence in 1100 block 43rd Ave. and does not plan to return for animal. Officer responded, advised caller of options. Report taken for animal abandonment.

6:02 p.m. - Caller reported male backed into his trailer at Foster Lake Inn, 6281 Main St. Officer responded, determined that damage was under \$2,500. Driver of 2003 Ford Focus was

Donald Allen Kiesel, 72. No injuries, no airbags. Parties exchanged information. No citations.

8:47 p.m. - Caller reported bicycles stolen from Safeway, 1540 Main St. Described as blue and black, unknown brand, and black BMX bicycle, also unknown brand. Value \$250.

Oct. 18

4:38 a.m. - Callers reported female yelling, threatening to jump fence and fight them in 4400 block Long St. Officer responded, contacted female, who was trespassed from locations.

10:37 a.m. - Caller reported van parked at old City Hall in 1100 block 12th Ave. for more than a week. Officer responded, vehicle posted for removal on Oct. 20.

11:38 a.m. - Caller reported male in middle of street at Main St./22nd Ave., waving his arms. Officer responded, male counselled for actions and advised to only use crosswalk to cross street.

1:16 p.m. - Caller reported male harassing people in McDonald's parking lot, 2000 S. Main St. Officer responded, contacted male's mother who will take him home.

3:49 p.m. - Deputy responded to hunters stuck behind gate, Wiley Creek Dr./Cedar Creek Rd.

4:08 p.m. - William Lee Phillips, 42, arrested on SHMC warrants for FTA in theft cases, LMC for probation violation in trespassing case. Arrest followed report of strange man watching children in 2400 block Long St. and that he mooned them. Cited and released.

4:27 p.m. - Crash reported in 28900 block Brownsville Rd., Brownsville. Report taken

4:34 p.m. - Crash reported in area of Gap Rd./Ranch Dr. No further information available. No report.

4:45 p.m. - Overdose reported in 2200 block Main St. Female transported by medics to Samaritan Lebanon Community Hospital.

6:40 p.m. - Caller from Dollar General reported that vehicle backed into fenced area at store, 1937 Main St. Officer responded, report taken. Damage estimated at \$500.

8:13 p.m. - Caller reported motorcycle was stolen by a male and female, 100 block W. Holley Rd. Officer responded, established that the motorcycle had been loaned to someone who had not returned it. The caller did not wish to report the motorcycle as stolen. Information noted at caller's request.

9:16 p.m. - Caller from 7-Eleven reported that customer tried to used fake military ID and attempted theft. Officer responded, information noted at request of caller, who asked that suspect be counseled, if located.

9:46 p.m. - Caller reported male walked through apartment in 2400 block Long St.,

then second caller reported male ran into roadway, stopping in front of vehicles. Officer responded, located male, who was advised to stay away from apartments.

9:47 p.m. - Caller reported trespassers on property in 42200 block Ames Creek Rd., concerned it might be burglary. LCSO and SHPD responded. Trespassers not located.

9:55 p.m. - Caller reported armed disturbance in 400 block W. Bishop Way. After investigating, deputy determined that a rock had been thrown through a window of a home from the west side of the residence. Investigation ongoing. Report taken for criminal mischief.

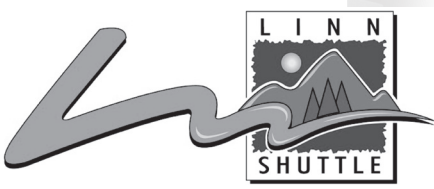
Oct. 17

8:56 a.m. - Caller received telephone call purporting to be from LCSO, stating that caller had warrant. Caller sent money, then realized it was a scam. 39800 Crawfordsville Dr. Investigation ongoing. Report taken.

9:35 a.m. - Caller reported child bit by neighbor's dog, 1300 block Poplar St. Officer contacted caller, who advised that quarantine form had been filled out at hospital and that caller just wanted information noted.

10:25 a.m. - Caller from Sweet Home High School reported that student needed to speak to officer about situation involving another student who

See Public Safety, Page 7



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

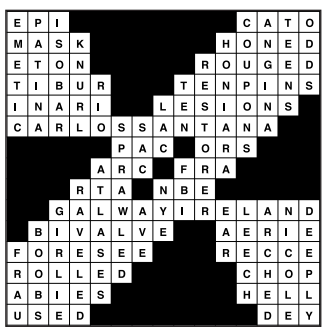
ALBANY:
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Crossword KEY
Puzzle on page 13



SUDOKU KEY
Puzzle on page 13

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

FROM OUR FILES



A pond formed on 15th Avenue after excavation disturbed a water line stub in 1975.

Oct. 26, 1950

KGAL owner Gorden Allen reported construction on the powerful new radio station in Lebanon is progressing “satisfactorily.” He hopes to have the 1,000-watt station’s 250 foot transmitting tower raised this week. The new radio voice will feature programs from the Sweet Home-Lebanon area, but Allen plans to promote all of Linn County with its 60-mile reach.

Plans for installation of a dial telephone system in Sweet Home will be discussed to review availability of supplies and materials needed to undertake the project. The dial system is expected to improve service here by lessening the burden on local company personnel.

Oct. 23, 1975

A special showing of a film depicting the reenactment of emergency treatment received by Vern Olson suffering a heart attack in Lebanon will be shown at Mollie’s Bakery. The event is a fundraiser initiated by Terry Brooks, ambulance technician, to help equip local ambulances with lifesaving equipment. The \$2.50 cost includes lunch and viewing of the film, “Life and Another Chance.” They raised \$145.50.

Excavation on 15th Avenue caused some stir when the stub on a six inch water line broke next to Long Street and flooded the street. Water had to be cut off to make repairs, and high school was closed for the rest of the day. The line was placed under Long in 1961 or 1962 when there was interest in extending 15th Avenue. Excavation and heavy rains disturbed the thrust block holding the stub enough to cause the flood.

Oct. 25, 2000

Gary Hatter, of Illinois, passed through Sweet Home on his riding lawnmower this week. He started his 14,000-mile trek from Portland, Maine, on a Kubota lawnmower. His goal is to visit 48 mainland states, with brief jaunts in Canada and Mexico. So far he’s been through 37 states.

Nearly \$400 in Western Family products were given away during the grand re-opening of Thriftway. Lucky winners Nadine Baker and Maxine Stoltzfus won three-minute shopping sprees.

Amanda DeBrie was crowned the Calapooia Roundup rodeo queen for next year’s event. She began riding horses when she was 6 years old.

Commissioners hear reports on building, code enforcement

By Alex Paul
Linn County Communications

The Linn County Planning & Building Department issued 84 land use permits in September, Director Steve Wills told Linn County Commissioners Will Tucker and Sherrie Sprenger at the Oct. 14 board meeting.

There were 339 total permits issued last month, including 44 for dwellings. Of those, 10 were for single-family homes, four for manufactured homes, 23 for additions or alterations and seven for accessory buildings.

Six commercial permits were issued.

Of the 339 permits issued, 48 required plan reviews.

The Planning & Building Department issued 41 permits for contract cities in September. Of those, one permit was for a new home and nine were for additions or alterations.

There were eight commercial

permits issued.

Seven permits required plan reviews.

Code enforcement opened 13 new cases and closed 13 cases for the month.

In September 2024, there were 50 land use permits, 294 total permits and 18 contract city permits issued.

In other business, the commissioners:

- Approved the purchase of a Ford F550 truck with a utility box by the Road Department. The unit will be leased to the Parks and Recreation Department and repaid over five years. This will be a cooperative purchase for \$93,619.06 from Northside Ford in Portland through the OregonBuys statewide procurement program.

- Approved a refund of \$1,052.43 from the Planning & Building Department to Spaniolis Inc. of Stayton for plumbing

permit fees that had been paid twice.

- Appointed Robert Shepherd to Position No. 6 and Cheryl Hanslován to Position No. 9 on the Linn County Planning Commission. All nine Planning Commission positions are now filled.

- County Planning Commission members are: Kerry Johnson, Position 1; Carol Cromwell, Position 2; Erik Anderson, Position 3; Dave Alderman, Position 4; Robert Bronson, Position 5; Robert Shepherd, Position 6; Stanley Boshart, Position 7; Rayne Legras, Position 8; and Cheryl Hanslován, Position 9.

The Planning Commission is a citizen advisory board that hears and makes recommendations on land use and development applications, such as subdivisions, variances, and conditional uses, based on the county’s comprehensive plan and land development code.

CIRCUIT COURT

Warrants are out on the following individuals: Travis Alexander Ayres, Raymond Paul Binford, Lloyd William Bly, Kristina Larizza Boswell, Hope Marie Connors, Christopher Frances Ciullo, Kelsey Nicole Ciullo, Jacob Scott Fisher, Ashlee Dee Flanagan, Sean Doyle Gay, Nicholas Gregory Godell, Aaron Thomas Halvorson, Scott Kevin Heinz, 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, 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

Ryan Randall Carbon, 42, sentenced Oct. 8 to one year suspension of a driver’s license, 32 days jail, 24 mos. bench probation and \$1,100 in fines after he was found guilty of unlawful possession of a firearm and DUII (cannabis and/or controlled substances). He was acquitted of a charge of unlawful use of a weapon.

David Thomas Forrest, 41, sentenced Oct. 13 to 48 mos. with the Oregon Dept. of Corrections, five

years post-prison supervision and a \$200 fine after pleading no contest to attempt to commit a Class B felony - sexual abuse I.

Kayla Ann Johnson, 33, sentenced Oct. 14 to 66 mos. with the Oregon Dept. of Corrections, three years post-prison supervision and \$600 in fines after pleading no contest to two counts of manufacture or delivery of a controlled substance within 1,000 feet of a school, and delivery of methamphetamine within 1,000 feet of a school. Additional charges of manufacture or delivery of a controlled substance within 1,000 feet of a school, unlawful possession of a controlled substance - Schedule II, and delivery of heroin within 1,000 feet of a school were dismissed. In a separate case, she was sentenced to 24 mos. with the Oregon Dept. of Corrections after pleading no contest to manufacture or delivery of a controlled substance in Schedule II, and identity theft. Charges of unlawful possession of methamphetamine and unlawful possession of a controlled substance - Schedule II were dismissed.

Canran Liang, 38, sentenced Sept. 30 to five days compensatory service in lieu of jail, 18 mos. supervised probation and a \$500 fine after he was found guilty of unlawful possession of a mari-

juana item. A charge of unlawful manufacture of a marijuana item was acquitted.

Ryan Michael Newton, 31, charged Oct. 15 with unlawful use of a weapon, disorderly conduct II, escape III and unlawful possession of methamphetamine.

Nicholas Nathan Nivision, 32, sentenced Oct. 9 to one year revocation of a driver’s license, six months with the Oregon Dept. of Corrections and 12 mos. post-prison supervision after pleading no contest to unauthorized use of a vehicle. In a separate case, he was sentenced to 13 mos. with the Oregon Dept. of Corrections (concurrent with other sentence) and two years post-prison supervision after pleading no contest to DV assault IV. An harassment charge was dismissed.

Charges from three separate cases against **Thomas Ray Pimentel, 28**, of theft I, unlawful possession of methamphetamine, identity theft and probation violations have been deferred while he attends a drug court program.

Kristina Marie Sleutel, 44, sentenced Oct. 10 to 10 days compensatory service in lieu of jail, 24 mos. bench probation after pleading no contest to theft I and identity theft. Additional charges of identity theft and criminal mistreatment I were dismissed.

EVENTS

From page 2

Halloween events in SH, Central Linn

Sweet Home’s Downtown Trick or Treat celebration will take place from 3 to 5 p.m. Friday, Oct. 31. Downtown businesses with orange posters have committed to hosting trick or treaters during that time.

- The Sweet Home Public Library will show the movie “Hocus Pocus” from 3 to 5 p.m. on Wednesday, Oct. 29, at 1101 13th Ave.

- Brownsville’s American Legion will host a haunted house from 4 to 9 p.m. Wednesday

through Friday, Oct. 29 to 31, at 339 N Main St.

- Downtown Brownsville businesses will have trick-or-treating from 3 to 6 p.m. on Friday, Oct. 31.

- Jenna Stutsman’s Hybrid Real Estate will host a costume contest from 3 to 6 p.m. on Friday, Oct. 31 at 128 Spaulding Ave., Brownsville.

- Holley Church will host its 20th annual Trick or Treat Street event from 5 to 6:30 p.m. on Friday, Oct. 31, at the Boys & Girls Club, 890 18th Ave, Sweet Home. There will be trick-or-treating in the parking lot, hot chocolate by the Coffee Hut, and food and carnival games inside the gym. For more information, visit holley-

church.org/trick-or-treat-street.

- Hope Church will host a Trunk or Treat event from 5:30 to 7 p.m. on Friday, Oct. 31, at 890 Mountain View Rd. Put on your favorite costume and join in for a safe, family friendly event. There will be tons of candy, games, cupcake walk and lots of fun for the whole family.

- The Bohemian Club will host an Alice in Wonderland Halloween party for adults at 8 p.m. Friday, Oct. 31, at 1025 Long St. There will be a costume contest.

See Events, Page 9

The New Era

A LOCALLY OWNED NEWSPAPER

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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

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New board member sworn in; board OKs cellphone policy with revisions

By Scott Swanson
Of The New Era

Sweet Home School Board members at their Oct. 13 monthly meeting, unanimously approved the first reading of a revised draft of a policy, mandated by the governor, banning personal electronic device use by students during the school day.

Board members started the meeting, which covered a wide variety of topics and lasted close to three hours, by voting unanimously to appoint Cascadia resident Robert J. Webster, the only applicant for the Cascadia seat vacated when Floyd Neuschwander resigned at the Sept. 8 meeting.

Webster told board members he served in the U.S. Army and in the Oregon National Guard, where, according to his application, he developed “decades of leadership and team building.”

He has a first-grader, a sixth-grader and a high school senior attending schools in the district, he said.

Since there were no other applicants, board members limited their questions and Webster was sworn in quickly by Chair Mike Adams.

PED Policy

Supt. Terry Martin reviewed Gov. Tina Kotek’s July 2 executive order to prohibit student use of personal electronic devices from the beginning to the end of each school day, requiring school districts to adopt policies banning PED use by students by Oct. 31 and to fully implement those policies by Jan. 1, 2026.

Martin said he initially understood that the district would have “some leeway at the local level” and that the plan was to “talk it through, what would make sense for us” but “turns out we don’t – there’s exactly none.”

“The governor stated that from the start of the school day to the end of the school day, student cellphones are to be off, put away.”

He said that district administrators have agreed not to subject violators to “Phone Jail” and not to spend big money on phone pouches, as other districts have done.

“I subscribe to the philosophy from ‘Jurassic Park’: The kids will test the fences. They will figure it out.”

Currently, he said, district staff are not taking phones away from students, but “we don’t want to see them, we don’t want to hear them.”

“If an emergency happens, kids still have them,” he added. “I think that’s what parents want.”

Three exceptions to the policy are:

- Students who need phones per a medical provider’s order for the care and treatment of a medical condition, such as a blood sugar monitor or insulin pump for diabetics;
- Students on Individual Education Plans or 504 (accommodations for students with disabilities) Plans; and
- Written exemptions approved by district principals that do not fall under the two previous exceptions, such as students facing high levels of anxiety, which can be submitted via a Request for Personal Electronic De-

vices Exemption form available from the district.

Also, Martin noted, the policy allows parents and students to make provisions with school officials for “necessary communication” in unusual circumstances, such as a family emergency.

Also, the policy allows for use of cellphones for “academic activities and independent communications” such as apps necessary for completing class assignments.

Adams cited, as an example, math teacher Steve Thorpe’s Personal Finance students’ use of an app to do work in that class.

The policy also bans use of PEDs for “transferring or sharing of obscene, pornographic or otherwise illegal images or photographs” as well as “texting, sexting, emailing” content that “may constitute a crime.”

The draft policy lists sequential discipline, ranging up to possible expulsion, for noncompliance, but Martin said that “almost never” will a student be expelled for violating the cellphone ban.

“We’re not going to do suspensions over phones,” he said.

“This isn’t something that makes, I don’t think, anyone happy,” Martin added. “We know good will come out of it. We know that there’s a tremendous amount of folks not treating their peers very well electronically, so this takes away one more – they don’t have their phones out and available.”

He said schools are reporting increased conversation and, despite concerns that students might exit the high school campus to use their cellphones, numbers for breakfast and lunch are actually up.

Board members discussed whether they should do a first reading of the policy as a step toward meeting the Oct. 30 deadline, noting that there were portions of the draft in front of them that would need to be eliminated – district-provided pouches and state-suggested disciplinary measures such as detention and “Saturday School,” which Martin said should not be part of the district’s policy.

Martin said that because the directive was not passed by the Legislature last spring, the governor issued it as an executive order and the district has been waiting for “guidance” on timelines for implementing it. The state has not provided that guidance, he said.

He said a big concern is “loss of instructional time” for students who don’t comply, adding that the district “is going to be reasonable about it” and will avoid punishments that keep students out of classrooms.

Board Member Dustin Nichol asked whether individual building administrators could determine how to comply with the policy.

“Each building is unique and shouldn’t administrators and their staff come up with something if we give them guidelines – say, ‘Come up with a policy that best suits your building,’” he said. “Couldn’t they and their staff come up with something that fits their needs, instead of us trying to do something?”



September ESPY winners are, in front, from left: Josie Plaep of the Charter School; Jalae Prescott of the Charter School; and William Miller of Oak Heights. In the second row, from left, are Aidan Flores of Foster; Norah Cochran of Hawthorne; Aubrey McDowell of Hawthorne; Sophia Sullens of Sweet Home Junior High; Maddison Martin of Foster; Kira Nicholson of Holley; and AmyLynn Lacy of Oak Heights. In the rear, at left, is Obie Christman of Sweet Home High School, and at right, Olivia Saveskie, also of the High School. Not pictured is Ty Jewell of the Junior High.



Robert Webster, left, takes the oath of office, administered by School Board Chair Mike Adams, right, after board members selected Webster to fill the empty Cascadia seat.

He suggested that campuses could work out their own plan and bring those back to the board at its November meeting.

Board members discussed items they believed should be stricken from the policy, which largely were those mentioned earlier by Martin, then proceeded to a first reading of the policy.

Flag Policy Unchanged

Board members also voted 8-1, with member Mary Speck dissenting, not to revise the district’s flag policy, which had been proposed by Speck, who participated in the Oct. 13 meeting remotely.

Speck had proposed at the board’s Sept. 8 meeting that the policy be changed to require 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 students be given an opportunity daily to recite the “Pledge of Allegiance” and that “appropriate”-sized U.S. flags, “manufactured in

the United States, be properly displayed in each classroom” and that no other flags be displayed in classrooms.

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 of Allegiance over the loud speaker.”

Certified union President Steve Thorpe, during his monthly report to the board, expressed concerns about the proposed flag policy, asking whether there had been any conversation with teachers or administrators to get their input.

“The people that it affects every day usually have really great input,” Thorpe noted, adding that he personally did not care where a flag was manufactured.

He pointed out that some grade school classes in the district recited the “Pledge of Allegiance every day,” adding, “You don’t have to eat apple pie every day to know how much you love it, and after a while it gets old.”

He also stated that every classroom in the district contains a

flag “and every Monday we start it off with a “Pledge of Allegiance,” and either the pledge is recited or the national anthem is played at every school assembly and sporting event.

“You won’t see a single kid sit down or not honor their flag or their country,” he added.

“Man, if we’re going to do policies, I’d sure like to see it have to do with stuff that affects the safety and importance of our students and our teachers – parent policies, social media policies, things such as that.”

Things like staff turnover, he said, have “a little more importance than having a flag policy, adding that district schools honor the flag “very well.”

Martin told board members that Thorpe’s comments were “spot on.”

“What I heard Steve saying was that if it’s not broke, don’t fix it,” he said. “If you have first-graders and above and you ask them to

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SCHOOL BOARD

From page 5

that we're on track with what we're doing, with frequency that we're doing flag salutes.

He also noted that OSBA and the district's lawyers have indicated that there could be legal issues with the proposed changes, citing a case in which a judge ruled that an attempt to ban certain flags from classrooms in the Newberg school district was unconstitutional.

That case resulted in a \$90,000 payout by the school district to a teacher who said the district retaliated against her for advocating for LGBTQ+ students.

"Once you start selecting what you will allow, you're also selecting what you won't allow," Martin told board members. "That's where all of the legal challenges come in."

He added that he also agreed with Thorpe that "when we make changes we need to be talking to and reflecting on who the changes impact."

"This impacts our classroom

teachers, time-wise, and all the other things that go along with it."

Martin said he did not disagree with the "content" of the proposal, but said he was concerned about the position that approving it would put the district in.

Board Member Jenna Northern said she also was concerned about the impact on the schools that approving the policy changes could create, adding that she believed the amount of time currently allotted during a six-hour school day was adequate each week.

Member Rachel Maynard asked if a teacher would be allowed to hold flag salutes more frequently if desired and Martin said that they could and that some do.

Massey attempted to respond, but the audio in the board room did not allow her to speak.

Chair Mike Adams acknowledged Speck's motion to submit the proposed changes for a first reading, but the motion died for lack of a second.

Member Dale Keene then

moved and Northern seconded the motion to not change the policy.

Attendance and Enrollment

Martin reported that attendance in the month of September was "very strong."

The high school reported 86.91% attendance; the junior high was 91.05%; the Charter School was 92.04%; Oak Heights was 92.13%; Holley 93.59%, which made it the winner for September; Hawthorne was close behind at 93.57%; and Foster was 92.11%.

Enrollment on Sept. 30 was 2,203, down from the same date in 2024 (2,264) and previous years.

"This still represents a decline over past years," he said, noting that in 2023 the enrollment was 2,369 and in 2022 was 2,341.

Martin added that kindergarten enrollment is 129, and that those numbers go up, generally, as the grades go up, with 172 seniors in the district and 209 10th-graders.

"The trend is that we are graduating larger classes than what

we are bringing in," he said, which reflects state and national enrollment trends.

"As we do directly receive money for the students that are here, that's something that we'll talk about each time as we start our meeting. We'll keep that out in front of you, because that's where our overall operating budget comes from," he told board members.

Board Member Rachel Maynard noted that the enrollment dropped "significantly" from 2,265 on the first day of school, Sept. 8, to 2,203 at the end of the month.

Martin responded that the Sept. 8 number included students who were enrolled at the end of last year, who the district anticipated would enroll.

"To start up the school year there's a flurry of activity - folks that have moved. We do have a pretty large transiency rate, (people) moving between here and Lebanon, here and Albany, some out of state."

"It's the start of the school year, settling in. Some people wait; once they see the school buses coming by, then it's time to register."

Despite the district's efforts to make school "an enriching and engaging environment," he said, some students simply do not attend and are dropped from enrollment after 10 days of absences and have to re-enroll in Sweet Home or elsewhere.

Strategic Plan Goals

Martin noted that the board had held a work session on the district's Strategic Plan prior to its regular monthly meeting and "there are a few little tweaks that we need to make to this."

Board members unanimously voted to put it on the November agenda for approval.

Martin listed the plan's strategic priorities:

Safe and Engaging Schools - Martin said this priority came out of community surveys and is "something that our community very strongly desires for our schools." Thus, he said, the priority focuses on school safety and belonging, modernized classrooms and learning spaces, reduced "safety incidents and bullying and peer conflict referrals,"

and climate surveys.

"On each of these, as the year goes on, I'll be reporting on these," he said

Thriving Students and Prepared Citizens: Martin said this priority also "came out very high" from community members who want "students who are ready to take that next step, whether that's going on to higher education, going on to trade school, whatever that may be for the individual student."

Academic Success for All: "We have to do that in all that we do," Martin said. "We have to continue to work to eliminate the gaps in student learning. Whatever the percentage is, it may sound OK unless your find your own student on the wrong side of that percentage."

He added that state-mandated goals for reading at the third grade, math at the eighth grade, early elementary attendance and on-track to graduate "are embedded in here."

Connected School Community: "Strengthening connections among schools, families and community partners to foster student growth and shared success."

He said the board will need to approve the goals as part of the district's strategic plan.

Board members also unanimously approved those goals.

New Phone System

Board members unanimously, with the exception of Speck, who had left the meeting, the purchase of a new phone system for the district for \$176,922.50 from iPro.

Strong told the board that the existing system is breaking down - the voice mail function is currently not working.

The new system, he said, would be expected to last "well into the next decade or longer."

"It is not a Band-aid solution, it's a good solution for us."

Strong told board members that parts are no longer available for the district's existing system, which was installed in 2003.

"We're just to the place right now where we can't get new parts for it, we have to get refurbished parts, and we've been buying parts and those haven't been reli-

See School Board, Page 13

CHURCH

DIRECTORY

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

-Matthew 18:20



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10:30 a.m. Children's Church



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PUBLIC SAFETY

From page 3

had been offered money to commit violence. Officer responded, information noted.

1:43 p.m. - Stephanie Rhoades, 47, of Heolley, arrested on outstanding warrant for failing to report as sex offender. 24800 block Springer Rd. Lodged at Linn County Jail.

2:22 p.m. - Fawn Marie Burleson arrested by LCSO on SHMC warrant in fraudulent use of credit card case. Cited to appear Nov. 12.

2:39 p.m. - Jade Amasa Waldon arrested on Jackson County Circuit Court warrant for FTA in driving while suspended and DUI cases. 3100 block Main St. Cited and released.

5:10 p.m. - Caller reported possible theft of money, other items occurring in 4500 block Live Oak St. Officer noted information.

10:33 p.m. - Joshua Kealohanui Ben Leslie, 37, arrested for criminal trespass II, and for LMC warrant for probation violation after caller reported male who had been trespassed walking around naked on property in 2200 block Tamarack St. Cited and released.

Oct. 16

1:08 a.m. - Shawn C. Bland arrested at Lane County Jail on SHMC warrant for FTA in trespass case. Cited to appear Nov. 12.

9:02 a.m. - Caller reported people sleeping on sidewalk in area of 13th Ave./Kalmia St. Officer responded, contacted several individuals who moved along.

10:42 a.m. - Kyle James Elmer arrested on SHMC warrant for FTC in theft case, on LCCC warrant for FTA in felon in possession of weapon and possession of fentanyl case, on LJC warrant for contempt of court, and for AMC warrant for FTA in theft case, 43rd Ave./Nandina St. Cited and released.

10:42 a.m. - Jordan Scott Carter arrested on AMC warrant for FTA in theft case, LMC warrant for probation violation in theft case, and charged

with possession of meth. 43rd Ave./Nandina St. Cited and released.

12:17 p.m. - Caller reported female yelling at people walking in area of 13th Ave./Kalmia St. Officer responded, female was excluded from city property and moved along, officer seized her abandoned property.

1:17 p.m. - Steven Dale Myers arrested at SHPD, 1950 Main St., after he turned himself in, on LMC warrant for probation violation in driving while suspended case. Cited and released.

4:11 p.m. - Donald Wayne Ames arrested at SHPD, 1950 Main St., after he turned himself in, on SHMC warrant for FTC in criminal driving case. Cited and released.

5:29 p.m. - Deputy let hunter out from behind locked gate, 26900 block Dobbin Creek Rd.

6:36 p.m. - Caller reported someone cut fence at O&M Tire Factory, 4420 Main St. Officer responded, information noted for time being. Caller requested extra patrol.

11:43 p.m. - Caller reported males banging on her door, yelling for help in 1200 block Nandina St. Officer responded, male, who was suffering medical issue, transported to hospital by medics.

Oct. 15

5:43 a.m. - Caller from 4200 block Main St. reported finding small welder that appeared to be stolen. Officer responded, item placed in property at SHPD.

7:48 a.m. - Nathan Johnathan Robert Periman arrested by LCSO on SHMC warrant for initiating false report. Cited to appear Nov. 12.

10:48 a.m. - Caller reported neighbor throwing glass at her house in 500 block Surrey Lane. Jason Allen Caso arrested for criminal mischief I, criminal trespass II and resisting arrest. Lodged at Linn County Jail.

11:03 a.m. - Callers reported people living in shed in 1400 block 24th Ave. Officer responded contacted male, who moved along.

12:37 p.m. - Deputy warned

male who was target shooting at Mark Ridge rock pit, 42900 block Marks Ridge Dr.

1:50 p.m. - Caller reported a child at Foster School threatening to bring knife and kill her child and their friends. Officer responded, school had been investigating the incident. Juvenile male did not have weapons and did not have access to any at home. Parent contacted.

5:34 p.m. - Caller reported someone sleeping under covered picnic pavilion at Sankey Park, 877 14th Ave. Officer responded contacted two individuals who packed up and moved along.

6:43 p.m. - Caller reported female threatening to rip down lights caller had put up in 1200 block Nadina St. Officer responded, report taken for criminal mischief II. Approximate value \$30.

7:46 p.m. - Caller reported large dogs barking for hours in 900 block 13th Ave. Officer responded. No one seemed to be home. Officer left card advising of complaint.

Oct. 14

7:31 a.m. - Harold Sherrett, 76, of Lebanon, cited for speeding, 79/55, in 32100 block Linn West Dr.

8:35 a.m. - LCSO conducted death investigation in 28000 block Pine View Rd. after female found her 79-year-old husband, who had colon cancer, deceased.

2:56 p.m. - Kirene Leslie, 22, of Sweet Home, arrested on outstanding warrant, 27300 block Rowell Hill Rd. Report taken.

3:21 p.m. - Caller from Sweet Home High School reported that student stole speaker from location, 1641 Long St. Officer responded, report taken for theft II. Approximate value \$150.

3:23 p.m. - Caller reported four shopping carts in 1900 block 18th Ave. Officer responded, items were placed in property at SHPD.

5:50 p.m. - Caller reported neighbor climbing her wall, screaming at her in 1100 block 18th Ave. Officer responded, determined disturbance was verbal. Parties agreed to stay

separated for the night.

6:03 p.m. - Darrel Gene Mulenix arrested by Albany police on multiple SHMC warrants for FTA in trespassing, criminal mischief and theft cases. Cited to appear Nov. 12.

6:59 p.m. - Crash reported in 1300 block Main St. According to SHPD, Charles Dooney, 65, was was traveling in the far right eastbound lane as a pedestrian, 16, was crossing from the south side of Main Street to the north side, within the crosswalk. Witnesses indicated they believed that Dooney did not see the pedestrian step off the curb. The pedestrian was evaluated at scene by medics but not transported. Dooney cited for failure to stop and remain stopped for pedestrian. His vehicle had very minor fender damage, estimated to be around \$500.

Oct. 13

9:28 a.m. - Officer located vehicle that was in violation of city code in 2800 block Kalmia St. Vehicle tagged with 24-hour tow notice.

9:35 a.m. - Caller reported male tried to hit her and her son on sidewalk with his car in 1100 block Nandina St. Officer responded, caller requested that male be counseled.

11:00 a.m. - Deputy contacted occupant of vehicle parked at Cascade Timber Consulting gate in 44100 block Whiskey Butte Dr. Occupant agreed not to park at gate.

1:03 p.m. - Caller reported that two dogs had entered her yard, killed her chickens, 4100 block Main St. Officer responded, was unable to locate dogs, but took report for dog as

public nuisance.

3:24 p.m. - Males lost rifles from bed of their pickup truck after sighting the guns in on Marks Ridge Dr. One valued at \$1,200; the other \$1,800.

3:47 p.m. - Caller reported loose dog trying to attack caller, 12th Ave./Polar St. Officer responded, searched area but was unable to locate dog.

4:02 p.m. - Jesse Lane Davis arrested by Albany police on SHMC warrant for FTA in DUI case. Cited to appear Nov. 12.

5:05 p.m. - Caller reported that dogs jumped on caller's vehicle, damaging paint at Lewis Creek Park in 44400 block North River Dr. Dog owner then reportedly got into their vehicle and left scene after refusing to exchange information. Investigation ongoing.

5:10 p.m. - Caller reported that neighbor was busting out windows in 500 block Surrey Lane. Officers contacted neighbor, determined he was damaging his own property. Determined he was not candidate for police officer hold.

7:28 p.m. - Caller reported being locked behind private timber gate in area of Hwy. 20/ Doe Mountain Rd. They were warned for trespass and let out by deputy.

9:09 p.m. - Caller reported disturbance involving verbal argument among adults that scared children in 28800 block Sheep Head Road, Brownsville. Parties agreed to separate for night.

As new information becomes available, updated Public Safety reports can be seen at sweethomenews.com.

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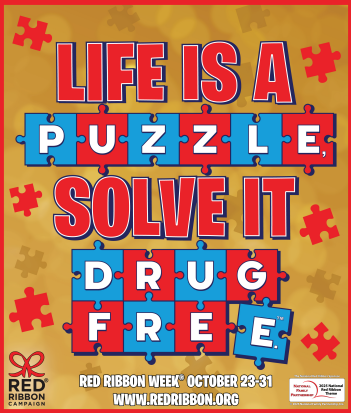
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The Wendi Melcher Team

RED RIBBON WEEK

EVENTS

From page 2

Wendi Melcher
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Brittani Albrecht
541-971-9281

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Volleyball results mixed

Sweet Home's Keira Johnson, above, center, prepares to put the ball over the net against North Marion as Trinity Victor sets the ball for her Thursday, Oct. 16. At right, Miley Smith receives a serve. It was a week of mixed results for the Huskies, as they lost 3-0 to Newport (25-21, 25-16, 25-21), then rebounded against North Marion with a 25-15, 25-9, 25-17 win. With Stayton (5-3) in third place in the Oregon West Conference going into this week, two wins ahead of Sweet Home and Newport (both 3-5), the Huskies faced a must-win situation as they face Stayton and No. 3-ranked Cascade, both on the road this week.

Photos courtesy of Kristine Banker

EVENTS

From page 4

tails, whimsical costumes and just the right amount of spooky fun where nothing makes sense and everything is a little mad.

Livestock Association Fall Meeting Nov. 4

The Linn County Livestock Association will hold its fall meeting at 6 p.m. Tuesday, Nov. 4, at Brownsville Baptist Church, 27910 Seven Mile Lane, Brownsville.

Doors open at 4:30 pm. Dinner, featuring barbecued beef and lamb, will be at 6. Donations will be appreciated.

A wide range of topics will be on the agenda, including reports from local predator control experts, Farm Service Agency updates, a report from Linn County Commissioner Sherrie Sprenger, a report on HB 3991, reports from the Linn County Sheriff's Office, and much more.

RSVPs are requested to Lynden Brown at (lynden12brown@gmail.

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SHOCASE

From page 1

the performance that raised the most money earning the title. Despite being a newly formed band, Take His Crown's chemistry and musicianship stood out. The trio said they each had been practicing individually for years before finally joining forces just three days prior to this performance, and they plan to continue performing together.

Pelcher said he received his first drum kit at just 6 months old, inspired by his father, Tony, who has played music since the 1990s. Center said his musical inspiration comes from Kurt Cobain of Nirvana, while Pelcher recalled attending concerts with his dad, Jonathan, a musician who played in the 1990s band Green Jelly.

Fans won't have to wait long to hear more from Take His Crown. The band plans to perform again at the Sweet Home High School Talent Show in January.

Judge Lori Currey, a member of the Willamette Valley Concert Band, said she especially enjoyed seeing young musicians take the stage.

"Seeing kids up here with their instruments, playing, and really getting the music, and showing their passion, I thought that was really great!" she said.

Currey said she works closely with fellow band member Charlie Eads to support school music programs and said she was delighted to see that same spirit in the SHOCASE Showdown.

Adults Shine on nStage

Fourteen acts competed in the adult category, each delivering memorable performances that showcased the depth of local talent.

Third place and a \$100 prize went to vocalist Cathy Scheele, singing "Control" by Zoe Wees. Second place and \$250 went to singer and guitarist Kourtney Hayes performing "Vice" by Miranda Lambert. The top honor and \$500 grand prize went to vocalist Amanda Wilde and guitarist Buzzy Strings for their rendition of "My Jesus" by Anne Wilson.



Photos by Satina Tolman
Amanda Wilde, center left, and Buzzy Strings celebrate their win in the adult competition at the SHOCASE Showdown.

The pair have been performing together for about five years, most often with the Holley Church worship team. They also perform as the duo Blue Collar Jesus, with original music including their song "My Shelter," which is available on Spotify, Apple Music, and Amazon Music.

Strings encouraged listeners to check out their work: "It's awesome, you gotta listen to it!"

Music has been a lifelong passion for both winners. Strings who grew up in Harrisburg and moved to Sweet Home about six years ago, said music has always been part of his life. Wilde grew up in Texas and moved to Sweet Home 13 years ago with her husband.

"My dad was a country music artist and I wanted to grow up to be just like him. I always loved my daddy, music, and Jesus," Wilde said.

Strings said he didn't expect to be a winner.

"I didn't see it coming, but I'm glad for it for my friend here," he said, motioning toward Wilde and shifting the spotlight back to her. Wilde laughed and said, "Color me surprised! I am over the moon! I'm probably not going to stop smiling for at least a month."

He added: "We spend a lot of time playing together so it's good to have a win. We've spent a lot of hours in a studio and a lot of hours in a church, and it's nice to have this."

Judge Paula Newman said she

loved seeing that kind of passion shine through on stage. "I love the variety of talent! And I love that there were two female drummers! That was fun!" she said, referring to of the Paige Reynolds Skwirez band and Rosemary Johnson of the Scrap Rats band.

Judges Praise the Talent

Throughout the night, judges repeatedly remarked on the level of talent on display.

"I thought the show was great! It was a lot of fun and there are some very talented and energized people," said Judge Milt Moran.

Returning judge Kadee Kall, who has taught ballet for about 20 years, said she was impressed by the performers' dedication.

"Tonight was awesome! You have a lot of people here with a lot of talent and a lot of passion for sure," she said. "You can tell they have put in a lot of work. I'd love to see them, especially the younger kids, come back and keep developing their skills."

Judge Erah McMullen, president and creative director of Mid-Valley Productions, attended with her husband, Ander Sanchez, the company's executive director of operations, who also judged.

"We're huge lovers of the arts of all kinds. We live for this," McMullen said. "We jumped at a chance to be a part of this and witness local talent, people out here doing what they love. This was a great show."



Bruce Bittner performs a guitar solo during the competition. See many more photos at sweethomenews.com.

One dead, two injured in highway collision

A local man was killed and his wife is in serious condition after a car collided into their motorcycle on Highway 20.

Oregon State Police reported they responded to the crash at Liberty Road on Friday, Oct. 17, at about 4:45 p.m.

The preliminary investigation indicated a Subaru Outback, operated by Katherine Elizabeth Spellman, 19, of Longmont, Colo., entered the highway from Liberty Road and was attempting to turn westbound onto Highway 20. The Subaru entered the path of an eastbound Harley Davidson Road King, operated by Jeremy

Wayne Smith, 46, of Lebanon, causing a side impact collision.

Smith was declared deceased at the scene. His passenger on the bike, Delana Ann Marie Smith, 45, of Lebanon, was seriously injured and transported to an area hospital.

The operator of the Subaru, Spellman, was also seriously injured and transported to an area hospital. A passenger of the Subaru, Shasta Faith Levin, 18, of Winston, was reportedly uninjured.

An on-scene investigation and clean-up impacted the area for about five hours.

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The Willamette National Forest has announced that it will conduct prescribed fire operations this fall, pending the necessary approvals as the burn season has begun following the rain earlier this month.

The Oregon Department of Forestry announced Friday, Oct. 17, that all its districts have terminated fire restrictions, marking the end of the 2025 Oregon fire season declaration.

The Linn County Fire Defense Board, in coordination with the Oregon Department of Forestry - South Cascade District, declared the end of fire season effective Oct. 11.

"Through aggressive initial attack and the dedication of our firefighters, we had a season with significantly fewer acres burned compared to last year even with more fire starts," said Kyle Williams, ODF deputy director of Fire Operations.

"This year had the potential to be similar to last year, but ODF firefighters showed up every single day to make sure that did not happen."

Combined, lightning- and human-caused fire brought roughly 100 more fire starts on ODF-protected land compared to 2024 fire season. In response, the department's protection districts and division took on the challenge.

“Due to the agency’s aggressive approach to initial attack

to preserve natural resources, protect communities, and increase firefighter safety, many fire starts that happened this year were never heard about," said Michael Curran, ODF Fire Protection Division Chief. "In 2025, 94 percent of fires on ODF-protected lands were put out at 10 acres or fewer."

ODF Fire Season Statistics

Year to date, there have been 1,135 fires on ODF-protected lands resulting in 24,275 acres burned. ODF Complex Incident Management Teams (CIMT) have been mobilized six times to wildfires this year. The assignments were to the following incidents:

- Rowena Fire
- Elk Fire
- Marks Creek Fire
- Grizzly Complex
- Flat Fire
- Kelsey Peak Fire

Statewide to date, regardless of jurisdiction, there have been 2,569 fires that have burned 288,774 acres.

The start and end of fire season restrictions and regulations are set by each forest protection district based on the conditions in their area including drought, climatic forecasts, and seasonal trends. These restrictions and regulations are on activities prone to start wildfires, such as debris burning and certain equipment use, and are intended as preventative measures during times with elevated wildfire risks.

The arrival of steady soaking rain, coupled with cooler temperatures and shorter days, usually triggers the closure of fire season.

The end of fire season removes ODF imposed fire restrictions on ODF-protected lands. However, many structural fire departments in Oregon still require a permit for debris burning, and slash burning requires a permit year-round, so check with your local fire department or ODF office before starting a burn.

As Oregon transitions to fall and winter, ODF districts across the state are shifting their attention to wildfire prevention, fuels reduction, mitigation and planning efforts.

USFS Burn Plans

The prescribed fires planned by the USFS in Linn County include:

Administrative sites including the Cascadia Day Use Area and North Santiam Sportsman Club;

Various units created from logging activities, Forest Service Roads 2234, 2031417, 2027, and 11;

Various units created from wildfire suppression activities, Forest Service Roads 2212, 2041, 2047, 2041526, 2041528, 1133, 1155, and 1152640; and Meadow restoration along Forest Service Road 2255822.

Underburning of surface fuels such as dead leaves, brush, and small trees, while leaving

forest canopy and larger trees intact, is also planned in Linn County in the following areas:

Various units from logging activities on Forest Service Roads 2027 and 2032417; and Camas Prairie meadow restoration on Forest Service Road 2027.

The prescribed fire activity may cause some areas to be closed to the public for several days, so residents are encouraged to watch for warning signs near prescribed fire areas and during burns.

Residents may experience smoke during the prescribed burns. Go to fire.airnow.gov/ to find more detailed information about air quality. When driving, slow down and turn on your headlights when you encounter smoke on the road.

Officials will evaluate weather conditions in the hours before a burn begins. If conditions warrant, scheduled prescribed fire activities may be canceled.

Information about the prescribed burns can be found at the Willamette National Forest Facebook page at www.facebook.com/willamettenf.

The USFS said it will notify county emergency management officials when burning begins.

Burn Season: Still Rules

With the start of Burn Season in Linn County, residents may resume backyard burning in accordance with local regu-

lations. Conditions can change quickly, so the public is urged to check the Linn County Burn Line at (541) 451-1904 before burning to verify that burning is permitted on any given day.

For daily updates and regional information, visit the Willamette Valley Open Burning Announcement at smkmgmt.com/burn.php.

Backyard debris burning is burning of wood, needle or leaf materials from trees, shrubs, or plants in an outdoor fireplace, burn barrel, or piles of yard debris that is not in support of an agricultural operation.

Campfires or recreational fires are not subject to these rules.

The Oregon Department of Forestry does not require written burn permits for backyard debris burning outside of fire season within its Forest Protection Boundaries.

Typically, burning is allowed in Linn County through Dec. 15 and in the spring from March 1 through June 15. These burn seasons are not guaranteed and may be postponed or shortened by the Linn County Fire Defense Board due to fire danger.

Follow the rules: DEQ open burning violations can result in penalties of up to \$10,000 per day of violation. ODF can impose fines for burning violations and pursue costs for suppression if a burn escapes control.

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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 reaVEYED 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 SOUI 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 CONTHWEST QUARTER OF SECTION 6, TOWN SHIP 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"

Public Notices

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 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 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
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. 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

Public Notices

Albany, OR 97321
(541) 926-5505
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 28TH 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 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. Weibrecht'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 to-

Public Notices

ward 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)_____

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SCHOOL BOARD

From page 6

able," he said.

In other action, the board:

■ Following an executive session involving an appeal of a decision by Martin to trespass a parent from school property following an altercation on the high school campus, board members returned to open session and voted unanimously, with the exception of Speck, to uphold the decision.

■ Unanimously approved, with the exception of Speck, the adoption of a high school health curriculum with an opt-out form that excuses students from learning about topics to which their families may object.

The board last year adopted curriculum from The Great Body Shop for K-6 and seventh- and eighth-grade students, but, Martin and district Director of Teaching and Learning Barbi Riggs told the board, the only option provided by the Oregon Department of Education for high-schoolers is LiveWell health curriculum. She said the district asked for a postponement in adopting a curriculum because "we wanted to be very transparent with you, the board, and with our community and our families."

She said district officials wanted to come up with an opt-out form for families uncomfortable with the curriculum's treatment of "some sensitive curriculum topics" in the sexual and reproductive health unit.

The "very transparent" form provides parents with the opportunity to opt students out of the entire unit or from specific topics outlined in the form. Students who opt out will do alternative study, she said.

■ Approved an out-of-state trip for the high school cheer team to Anaheim from Feb. 18 through 25, 2026.

■ Approved an out-of-state field trip for two student representatives of the high school's TRIO Upward Bound program to attend the Upward Bound Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Mathematics Symposium in Orlando, Fla., Nov. 5-9.

■ Heard a state-required report from Riggs on the district's compliance with nearly 60 state standards pertaining to student learning experience, "aligned and focused educational systems," engagement with the commu-

nity, safe and inclusive schools, and "committed and supportive staff."

She said that the district is in compliance this year with every standard.

■ Heard a report from student Cannon Klumpf on the high school's Homecoming Week, its Your First My Last event in which graduating seniors presented keychains to district kindergartners bearing the number 2037, the year those kindergartners are expected to graduate.

Blood drive (52 units from 63 total donors) and announced the high school's upcoming canned food drive, and an anti-bullying campaign being conducted by the high school's Class Board students.

■ Heard from Business Manager Kevin Strong that, one quarter of the way through the fiscal year, the district has spent \$4,896,291 of General Fund dollars, an increase of \$342,260, which Strong attributed to higher personnel costs and increased insurance expenses.

He added that, as Martin had said earlier, "our revenue is directly tied to enrollment" and so district officials need to pay attention to enrollment numbers.

"Currently, at the elementary level, we probably have some of the most favorable staff-student ratios that we've had in decades," he told the board. "But keep in mind that, for the long term, we need to be careful there just because our revenue from the state is driven by our enrollment."

Self-Reliance Encouraged

The board also heard from Gary Jarvis, a resident, who told members that in his years as a resident in Sweet Home he was "generally very pleased" with the level of respect between board members, administration, and various employee organizations.

He criticized the conduct and order of recent meetings, including the singling out of a member of the public at the last board meeting.

He encouraged board members to familiarize themselves with Robert's Rules of Order, noting that some board actions have veered from those principles of meeting conduct and order, which emphasize fairness, focus and efficient, effective decision-making.

Jarvis, who said he was speaking from long experience in employee union activities, noted that "the notion of everybody

working together for a common goal got off to a kind of rocky start with this newest composition of the School Board."

"I know from long experience that it can be difficult to truly put aside divisions, but I applaud this group for attempting to put this episode of the last couple of months behind you and move forward to important business before you this year," he said.

"It's important to the students, staff and teachers, as well as to the community."

He urged board members to "rely on yourself and your own best judgment" when addressing union negotiations and issues involving students and staff.

"Unity between you is very important."

Jarvis also acknowledged that while organizations such as the Oregon School Boards Association and Oregon Education Association can be good resources, "ultimately, we will all do better when we make our own decisions and use their assistance only when necessary" when formulating policy for staff and students.

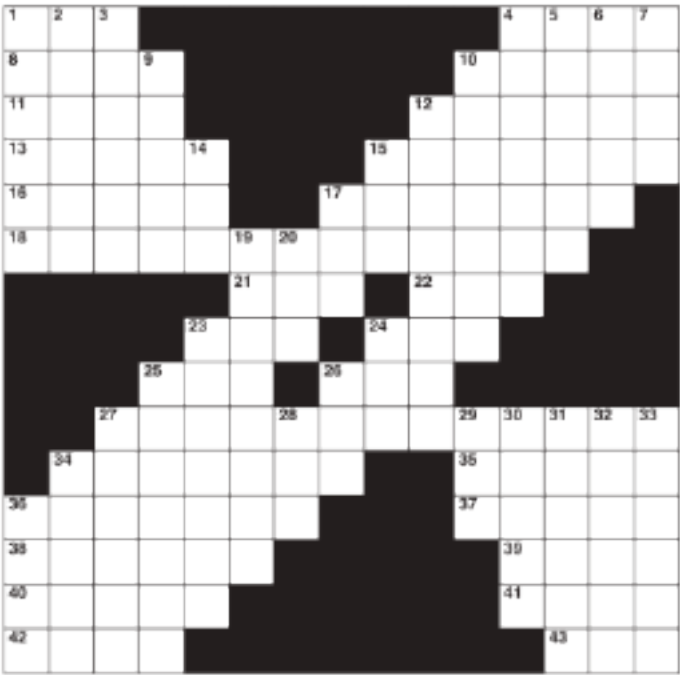
"Both the OEA and the OSBA often may have their own agendas that don't necessarily mesh with or benefit the community or students of Sweet Home," he said.

Jarvis added that, when he had children in school some 30 years ago, the OSBA "appeared to use the local school district in Elmira, in which his family then lived, as a "test case in gutting just-cause protections in teachers' contracts."

"The OSBA encouraged this so that, if successful, it could be used as a template for pattern bargaining in larger districts. The resulting lockout of teachers, in ordering them to turn in their keys and clear out their classrooms over the impasse, split the community and hurt the students, parents and teachers alike, and diminished trust and support of the School Board."

He added that, like the Fern Ridge district, "Sweet Home is a unique community with some unique needs, so it is in all of our best interests to tailor our contracts and policies to our local needs."

He said Sweet Home's School Board and teachers have, in recent years, "done precisely this and I hope it continues."

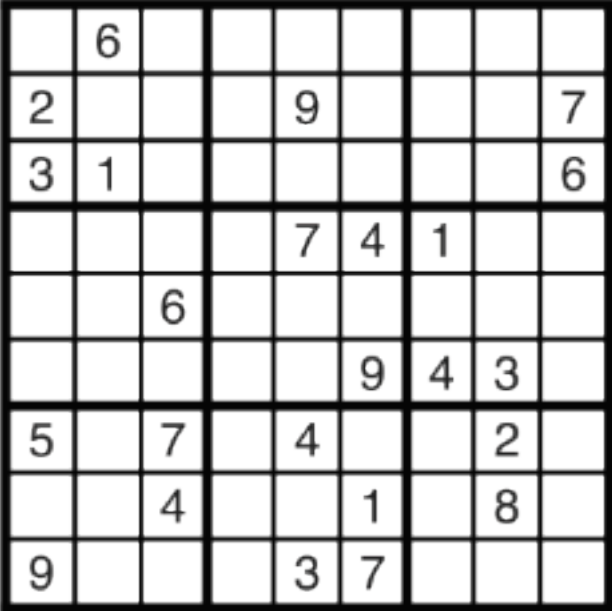


CLUES ACROSS

1. Upon
4. Roman Statesman
8. A protective covering worn over the face
10. Perfected
11. British school
12. Colored with red powder
13. Tivoli
15. What bowlers hope to knock down
16. Finnish lake
17. Damaged regions of tissue
18. World-renowned guitarist
21. Political action committee
22. Oxygen reduction system
23. Part of a circle
24. Italian monk's title
25. Kidney problem (abbr.)
26. One point east (clockwise) of due north
27. Home to a world famous bay
34. Mollusk
35. Large nest of a bird of prey
36. Predict
37. Reconnaissance
38. Move in a particular direction
39. Cut with a tool
40. True firs
41. Heaven's opposite
42. Employed
43. "Partridge Family" actress Susan

CLUES DOWN

1. Induces vomiting
2. Gloss or sheen on wood furniture
3. Meteorological line
4. Help shoppers save money
5. Heart condition
6. What tweens become
7. ___ and ends
9. Small knob
10. Island capital
12. Refinisher
14. Brazilian city
15. Pearl Jam's debut
17. Resinous substance of an insect
19. Stretched out
20. Bag-like structure in a plant or animal
23. Reference works
24. Hoover's office
25. Confused
26. The Science Guy
27. A young woman
28. Used to express good wishes
29. Body part
30. Draw blood
31. Curved
32. ___ Kidman, actress
33. Profoundly
34. Fools
36. Wife (German)



Level: Intermediate

LEVY

From page 1

levy makes up 52.1% of the department's funding, a total of \$28.28 million. The levy funds 145 of the Sheriff's Office's 195 positions - 74%. The remainder of the department's funding comes from the county General Fund and grants.

The Sheriff's Office says that, in addition to maintaining current operations, the 10-cent hike in the levy would "increase resources for Search and Rescue capabilities to respond and provide medical care during rescue missions; and enhance emergency response initiatives county-wide related to wildfires, flooding, severe weather and other catastrophic events through disaster planning, prevention and mitigation efforts,"

as well as continued upgrades to the 9-1-1 center operations.

The existing levy, approved by voters in November 2021, marked a 15-cent increase from the previous levy, approved in 2018. The Sheriff's Office had asked for \$3.08 the previous year, but it was rejected by some 63% of voters.

Due to a technicality that occurred when Measure 50 passed in 1997, limiting the total amount of property tax revenue that can be collected for local governments and schools, both Sweet Home police and the Sheriff's Office have had to ask voters to approve temporary local option levies every four years to fund their law enforcement.

Duncan said that if voters do not approve the levy request, "we would need to make significant cuts to staff."

"The levy funds over half of the

Sheriff's Office," she said, emphasizing that "all the services we provide would be significantly reduced. There would be a significant delay in response times, if we would have the ability to respond at all."

Other impacts would be reduced jail capacity and the department's ability to quickly respond and communicate to the public regarding disasters, evacuations, and search and rescue calls. Reduced staffing would delay all of those functions, she said.

"Again, it is about keeping our communities safe from crime, but also about having those quick responses when lives are in danger. We have to have the staff and equipment to get it all done."

Girls soccer team continues to suffer scoreless drought

By Ryker Burr
For The New Era

The Sweet Home girls soccer team endured its eighth straight loss and sixth winless week of the season as they faced league-rivals Philomath and Newport.

It has been over three weeks since Sweet Home has scored a goal.

The Philomath matchup did contain a bright spot though: It was the first game against the Warriors where the Huskies weren't mercy-ruled since 2021, ending a five-game streak, which turns out to be one of the longest mercy-rule streaks against a single opponent in all of 4A.

"Our team is playing better day by day. We are becoming more competitive," Head Coach Ramiro Santana stated.

But on the road at Newport, Sweet Home wasn't able to keep that momentum going and were mercy-ruled for the fifth time this year, 0-8.

Santana had high praise for midfielder Ziarra Duncan:

"She is the one girl who gives us more energy and is willing to play the game to her best at all times."

It's been five straight games since Sweet Home has scored a goal, but Santana has a plan to fix that: "We need to take more shots at the goal, be motivated to score. We need to tell the girls to have fun playing the game of soccer."

He added on, "More positive discipline is all we need to get all our girls playing to our best no matter what the score is."

The Green and Gold will look to capture their first league (and second overall) victory of the year in Week 8, taking on league-rivals North Marion/St. Paul (6-1, second in league coming into this week), then Stayton (2-5). These will be the final two home contests for the Huskies, on Tuesday, Oct. 21 and Thursday, Oct. 23, both at 6 p.m. They will finish the season Oct. 28 against Cascade, which was also 2-5 coming into this week.



Photos courtesy of Ryker Burr
Reese Parker, left, battles Philomath's Emma Mecham for the ball. Above, Khloe Wood moves in to take the ball from a Philomath player.

Boys fall to Philomath, Newport

Sweet Home's Felix Lopez, left, and Keeghan Gittins move in on the ball against Newport Thursday, Oct. 16. The Huskies fell 4-1 to the Cubs after losing 7-0 on the road Tuesday at Philomath. They play two of the state's top teams, North Marion and Stayton, on the road this week.

Photo courtesy of Cole Hamar



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DRIVE UP PHARMACY

Halsey library seeks recipes to share

The Halsey Parks & Library Committee decided it would be a good idea to create a community cookbook filled with everyone's favorite recipes and the stories that go along with them. "Community engagement is very important to us, and we have a lot of wonderful patrons who love to cook, bake and work with food preservation," Halsey Librarian Kaitlyn Watts said.

A locally-sourced recipe book would be a "perfect" addition to the library's "Library of Things," she said. The Library of Things allows patrons to check out a pressure and steam canner, food dehydrator and vacuum sealer.

Area communities are encouraged to submit their recipes to the collection, which will be laminated and stored in a binder.

"This allows us a way to let

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AIMEE'S ARTICHOKE DIP

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INGREDIENTS:

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- 8 oz. Grated Parmesan Cheese*
- 8 oz. Sour Cream
- 2 (8 oz.) Jars Marinated Artichokes, Drained & Chopped

DIRECTIONS:

- Preheat Oven to 350 Fahrenheit
- Combine all ingredients together and place in 8x8 baking dish.
- Bake for 30 minutes, or until hot and bubbly and slightly browned.

patrons check out their favorite recipes to take home with them while also leaving the rest of the recipes available for other patrons," Watts said.

Part of what makes meals delicious are the stories and traditions behind them. Anyone who submits their favorite recipe is encouraged to include any story

or tradition connected to that dish. Photos of the dish are also encouraged.

Recipes can be emailed to Library@halsey.org, submitted online at <https://www.halsey.org/CommunityCookbookRecipeSubmission.php>, or dropped off at Halsey City Hall, 100 W Halsey St., Halsey.

Huskies play well but come up short at Crescent Valley

Despite playing well and doing almost everything right, Sweet Home's football team suffered its second straight loss Friday night, 24-21, in an "entertaining" visit to Crescent Valley.

"It just didn't go the way we needed it to to win the football game," Coach Ryan Adams said. "Definitely disappointing."

The loss leaves the Huskies 1-2 in Special District 3, behind Philomath, Junction City, Marist and Crescent Valley, which all stand at 2-1. Cottage Grove, Sweet Home's next opponent, is 0-3 after a 35-0 loss to Marist Friday at home.

"We've got to win the last two," Adams said of the Huskies' goal to make the playoffs.

The game was tight from the opening kickoff; both teams played solid football.

Bradyn McClure ended Crescent Valley's first possession by picking off quarterback Ryan Williams, and Sweet Home quarterback Kyle Zajic drove the Huskies to the 19, where he missed Bode Nichols on fourth down and turned the ball over.

But a bad punt gave the Huskies the ball on the Raiders' 39 yard line with 11:13 left to play and Zajic ran it in from the 1 after a short series to put points on the board for Sweet Home, and Keeghan Gittins added the extra point for a 7-0 lead with 7:50 left.

Crescent Valley responded with 30 seconds left in the half as Sterling Holland made an acrobatic one-handed catch of a 12-yard pass from Williams in the far right corner of the end zone and the Raiders converted the extra point to make it 7-7 going into the locker room.

With 5:26 on the clock in the third quarter, Trenton Templin ran a tight sweep from the 10 yard to score the Huskies' second touchdown of the night, to make it 14-7.

Then, with 1:46 on the clock in the third, Williams, on the run from Husky pursuers behind the 20 yard line, got the ball off on the left side to Gabe Pannebaker, who broke free from Bridger Royer and scampered into the end zone to tie the score again.

Sweet Home came back with an answer with 10:44 in the final period as Zajic handed off to Sam Barringer on the 20 yard line, who ran it in. The kick was good and Sweet Home led 21-7 with 10:38 on the clock.

With 7:05 left, Williams hit Holland for another Raiders score, tying things up for the third time, at 21-21.

The Huskies defense held Crescent Valley on its final drive for three straight plays at the 12-yard line, and Raiders kicker Simon Patel gave them a three-point lead with a field goal.

Down 24-21, Zajic started driving the Huskies up the field, but with 1:21 left, Zajic was picked off from his 34 when his receiver, Bode Nichols, slipped and fell on his pass route and Holland, who was defending and had also lost his footing and fallen, got up in time to snag the ball where Nichols was supposed to be and run it back to the 18, where the hosts ran out



Photos courtesy of Cole Hamar

Bode Nichols, left, reaches for a pass ahead of a Crescent Valley defender. At right, Keeghan Gittins delivers an extra point.

the clock. "That play represented the whole game for us," Adams said. "From a football standpoint, it was, obviously for us, super disappointing. It didn't go our way. They answered every time they needed to, which was a testament to them."

"I thought Friday night was a really good example of, you know, sometimes the other team just makes plays and we were able to kind of have a really entertaining, a really fun football game."

The Huskies effectively shut down Crescent Valley's running game in the second half, limiting the hosts to 85 rushing yards, while Sweet Home finished with 172.

But Williams completed 22 of 33 passes for 245 yards and three scores, while giving up two interceptions.

Zajic completed five of 13 passes for 28 yards, with one pick.

Individual rushing and receiving statistics were not available at press time.

"I was really proud of our offense," Adams said. "I was really proud of the guys up front, in the trenches, both offensively and defensively; especially in that second half, I thought we played extremely physical."

"I thought we did a great job shutting down their run game and that left a lot of big plays for them through the air. But even in those plays, a lot of them are 50-50, jump balls. Our kid is there, and their kid just was able to get up and and get the ball before our guy was, and so that's obviously disappointing, but you know, it's a little easier to lose games like that."

He noted that Crescent Valley, a 5A Division school in every other sport, dropped down to 4A this year because the Raiders were winless in their 5A league play last year after going 2-7 in the giant and powerful Mid-Willamette Conference in the 2023-24 season after losing players and bringing in a new coach who took over a young team following the departures.

"Their coaches are doing a great job," Adams said. "I don't know how long they'll be down in 4A, if it will be more than just this year, but for what they've been doing really well. Big credit to that coaching staff."

Up next for Sweet Home, in a must-win situation, will be Cottage Grove (0-3, 1-6) on what will be Senior Night for the Huskies at 7 p.m. Friday, Oct. 24, followed by the regular-season

finale on the road at Philomath on Oct. 31.

"We've got to win both," Adams said. "Our kids aren't afraid of that. They're aware of that, and they're excited to take that challenge."

"But if we want any chance, we've got to, for sure, win the next two and then even on top of that, there might be an element of needing some help, depending on how the rest of the

league shakes out.

"But we understand that. Like I said, we know why we're in this situation, as a cause and effect of the way we've handled the last two weeks."

"And so now it's just kind of getting back to focusing on what we actually can control from this point."

"The kids are really excited for that, and so I'm excited to kind of see how they respond."

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Rock of ages: Distinctive museum celebrates 40 years

By Sarah Brown
Of The New Era

Despite its unique appearance, Living Rock Studios sits unassumingly like a time capsule near the outskirts of Brownsville.

Within its stone walls are testaments of time – Earth's formation of rocks and minerals, historical manmade artifacts, and even stories thousands of years old recounted through the Bible.

David and Marilyn "Penny" Mackey observed the monument's 40th anniversary this month, harkening back to Oct. 13, 1985, when Penny's parents, Howard and Faye Taylor, celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary alongside the structure's grand opening.

Howard constructed the museum over the course of a quarter century. The monument could be seen as something of a tribute to God's works of geology.

Or maybe Howard just wanted to show people samples of his masonry skills.

That is, after all, how it began, according to David Mackey, who provided a tour of the studio.

The story goes that the Taylors moved to Brownsville from Cottage Grove in 1951. Penny was just a toddler at the time.

Prior to this, Howard worked for the Army Corps of Engineers, a job that took him and his family throughout Oregon. The work exposed him to unique rocks, crystals and historical Native American artifacts -- beauties of nature and history that were being destroyed by man's expansion in the state. He was given permission to collect them for preservation.

After settling in Brownsville, Howard took work as a timber cruiser and land surveyor for the Schneider Lumber Company situated just behind their home. Only a few years later, though, Taylor had to quit due to declining health.

He then began a landscaping



Photos by Sarah Brown
David Mackey, above, explains the translucent nature of rocks and agates, as seen in a lighted display. At right, Mackey stands near the Living Rock Pictures, displayed behind the wall of pillars behind him. See more photos at sweethomenews.com.

business, but soon found himself amidst a 14-month job removing and rebuilding the 400 tons of stone of Albany's Presbyterian church to reinforce its footings.

Meanwhile, he converted his garage into a rock shop and, to demonstrate his skills in stone masonry, began building walls of what would later become the Living Rock Studios.

Raw, organic shapes of rocks and crystals are found embedded between layers of flat, rectangular slabs of stone. These make up the first dozen layers a



visitor is initially introduced to when entering the foyer. Some of the rocks have been sliced open to expose nature's hidden design within.

The entire tower, roughly two stories high, is estimated to be made up of 800 tons of rock from donations of a thousand rock hounds. The walls are composed of thunder eggs, quartz,

tuffa, geodes, scoria, obsidian, agate, crystals, jasper, tourmaline.

Winding through the building, David invites his guests to step inside the crystal room, or notice glass jars cemented within the walls – jars that hold specimens of rock minerals. Every once in a while, his mini flashlight clicks on and David

holds it up against an agate embedded in the wall to display its transparent nature.

If the entire structure is not Howard's magnum opus, then perhaps the seven Living Rock Pictures are. Using thin slices of select rocks, Howard shaped and carved each piece to form, like a puzzle, depictions of biblical stories. A light shines from behind each picture, revealing a stained glass-like painting and the natural lines each geologic specimen formed over hundreds of years.

And then there's the homage to the biblical "Tree of Life," floor-to-ceiling pillars made of petrified wood with "trunks" extending above the top floor to meet a 450-square-foot canvas of painted branches and leaves. It was Penny who contributed the canopy to her father's project.

It appears Penny inherited her father's creativity, though she took an interest in fiber arts more than anything. Her woven and felted works hang throughout the museum among her father's other creative pursuits of painting and wood carving.

But Living Rock Studios holds one other attraction for visitors: cultural history.

Artifacts from native tribes and items passed down through the family's generations -- clothing, spectacles, Bibles, photographs, blankets, tools, instruments, dishes – all add an historical element to the geological showpiece.

Howard and Faye Taylor have long since passed, and it is the Mackeys who now invite visitors to appreciate the geologic construction. Once they themselves pass on, David said, it will be up to God what happens to Living Rock Studios.

Living Rock Studios, located at 911 W Bishop Way in Brownsville, is open for tours from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Wednesday through Saturday.

The *Icebox* Performer Of The Week

LEADER FOR COOLING

This week's ICEBOX Performer of the Week goes to Becca and Lisa!

This week's shoutout goes to two of the unsung heroes here at RSH. Becca and Lisa are always willing to go the extra mile for our team, whether they're on the road or here at the office.

When they're not out delivering, they're back at home base making sure the office is nice, tidy, and ready for us to take on the day.

Thank you to both Becca and Lisa — Radiator Supply House wouldn't be the same without you!

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