



HONORING VETERANS

Sweet Home Charter School students Liam Potter, left, and Serinity Boyer prepare to hoist the American flat at Sweet Home Charter School as other students and local veterans, in rear stand at attention. The Charter School hosted veterans for a special program Friday, Nov. 14. For more, see page 9.

Samaritan CEO highlights merger pluses at town hall

By Scott Swanson
The New Era

Samaritan Health CEO Marty Cahill kicked off a series of town halls, focusing on Samaritan's planned merger with Tacoma, Wash.-based MultiCare health system, on Wednesday evening, Nov. 12, at Samaritan Lebanon Community Hospital.

Speaking to about 100 people in the hospital conference room, Cahill explained reasons behind the merger and provided an overview of MultiCare and its interest in joining with Samaritan.

Samaritan reported Thursday, Nov. 13, that town halls scheduled in Albany and Corvallis have been filled, so it is scheduling another from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. Tuesday, Nov. 25, at Boulder Falls Inn Event Center, 605

See Samaritan, Page 5



Photo by Scott Swanson
Police officers assist an occupant of a pickup truck that crashed at the corner of 1st and Main following a pursuit.

Crash at Main and 1st Ave. results in two arrests

Two Sweet Home men were arrested Thursday, Nov. 13, after a pursuit that ended in a crash at the corner of 1st Avenue and Main St.

According to Police Chief Jason Ogden, officers responded shortly after noon to a disturbance on West Holley Road that involved weapons. According to the Sweet Home police log, a caller reported that a male attempted to pull a female out of vehicle and was threatening to hit the caller with a hammer.

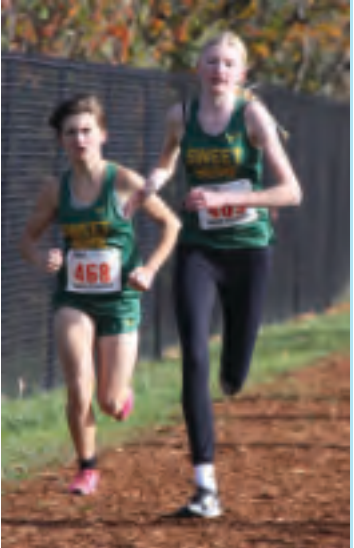
Ogden said those involved in the disturbance were gone by the time officers arrived, some of them in a silver Ram 1500 pickup.

About half an hour later, officers spotted that truck near Main Street and Holley Road and recognized the driver as 34-year-old Acea Lee Clark Anderson, who had an active felony warrant out of the Oregon State Parole Board.

When officers tried to stop Anderson in marked units with lights and siren, he immediately took off westbound on Main Street. According to Ogden, during the attempt to get

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Hometown
Newspaper of
**WANDA
MCKILLOP**



**CROSS-COUNTRY
TEAM CELEBRATES
ACCOMPLISHMENTS
PAGE 7**



**AMERICAN LEGION
UNVEILS ITS
NEW HEADQUARTERS
PAGE 10**

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OBITUARIES

Roselene ‘Pete’ Loree
July 7, 1936 - Nov. 11, 2025
Roselene “Pete” Marie Loree, 89, of Sweet Home, passed away Tuesday, Nov. 11, 2025, in Albany.



Pete was born on July 7, 1936, to parents Dode Deen and Lily Rose Herndon in Huttig, Arkansas. Her grandfather nicknamed her Pete, which stuck and was what she was known as all of her life.

She was a proud member of the Choctaw tribe, where many of her maternal relatives lived in the Five County area of the Choctaw in Oklahoma. She moved to northern Arizona in her early teen years and she and her mother settled in Sweet Home a couple of years later.

There she met Paul Loree and they married in 1955.

Paul served in the military, so they moved around quite a bit as they were assigned to new duty stations.

They had two boys, Keith and Ken Loree within two years of marriage, so Pete was busy taking care of her home and family. A decade later, they added a daughter, Paula Loree (Bottoroff) to the family.

Pete loved dancing and having fun with her friends. She was also extremely shy, until you got to know her. Pete was a very sweet person, but feisty and stubborn. She loved her family fiercely and was always there for friends and family when they asked for help.

Paul retired from the military after 23 years of service, and the family moved back to Sweet Home, which was an area that both Pete and

Paul loved. Most of Paul’s big family lived in the area, and Pete hosted big extended family gatherings all the time. Pete also worked in the local jewelry store for years, and knew many people in town.

Pete had a huge sweet tooth, which she passed along to her children. She was also generous, always making food for family events or her pinochle club, helping friends and family when needed, however they needed.

For example, Pete drove her friend Emmy everywhere when Emmy couldn’t drive any more and she would go out of her way to show her appreciation for even the smallest of help people gave to her.

Pete and Paul visited Arizona every year, once her daughter and her husband married and moved to the Phoenix area. They took advantage of the weather to pursue their love of golf and played often. She loved animals and was very happy around them. Pete would even bring their cat Rocky with them when they visited Arizona.

Pete is survived by her three children, seven grandchildren, four great-grandchildren, many grand dogs and cats, friends of her children she adopted as family over the years and by her friends.

Pete was predeceased by Paul after 57 years of marriage.

She spent her last few years in Brookdale Assisted Care Home in Albany, when her health took an unfortunate turn. She is now with her beloved Paul. May she rest in peace. Know that you are loved and missed.

A graveside service will be at 2 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 20,

at Lewis Cemetery in Sweet Home.

Sweet Home Funeral Chapel is handling the arrangements.

Paid Obituary

Reginald Pace
April 15, 1948 - Nov. 9, 2025
Reginald “Reggie” Pace, lovingly known as “Tinker”, 77, of Sweet Home, passed away on Sunday, Nov. 9, surrounded by family.

Reggie was born on April 15, 1948, in Loudon, Tenn., to Lush and Tina Pace. Their family moved to Sweet Home in 1965.



He married the love of his life, Dena, on Nov. 14, 1970, and continued building a life in Sweet Home by having a son in 1971 and a daughter in 1976. Reggie worked for Willamette Industries in Sweet Home for 25 years and ended his career at Entek Manufacturing in Lebanon, retiring in 2010.

Reggie lived life to the fullest – a man of laughter, love, and adventure. He loved fishing, golf, dirt bikes, and cruising in his Mustang with Dena by his side. Known for his humor, quick wit, and storytelling, he found his greatest joy in his family, especially his grandkids and great grandkids.

Some of his favorite moments were simple ones – breakfast or dinner with Dena, and maybe a little gambling in between. Reggie cherished watching his grandkids compete in sports and was a well-known spectator.

Reggie is survived by his devoted wife, Dena; siblings Benda Helton, Jerry Pace, Donald Pace, and Diane Bell;

children Corey Pace and wife Jamie, and Jennifer Miner and husband Chris; beloved grandchildren Casey Horner, Jessica Pace, Courtney Sanders, Aliya Thorpe and husband Travis, Emily Pace, Conner Pace, and Bryce Miner; and cherished great-grandchildren, Maylee, Blakely, and Emmett.

Reggie was preceded in death by his parents, Lush and Tina Pace; eight brothers and one infant sister.

Reggie “Tinker” Pace will be remembered for his warmth, laughter, and the love he shared so freely. His spirit will live on in all who were lucky enough to know him. Sweet Home Funeral Chapel is handling the arrangements.

Paid Obituary

Brian Severns
July 15, 1966 - Nov. 11, 2025

Brian James Severns, affectionately known to friends and family as “Bri” or “Fuzz”, passed away peacefully on Nov. 11, 2025, in Albany at the age of 59.



He was born on July 15, 1966, in Lebanon. A proud graduate of Sweet Home High School, class of 1984, Brian’s love for sports was evident through his contributions to the school newspaper, where he honed his writing skills covering various athletic events.

Brian lived fully and loved many things. He enjoyed tennis, basketball, and golf, and he felt most at peace when fishing or camping in Oregon’s great outdoors. He never missed a chance to watch football—especially when the Miami Dolphins or Oregon Ducks were playing. He also had a deep appreciation for music and could always be counted on to share a story that left everyone smiling.

Those who knew Brian will fondly remember him as a selfless individual, always placing the needs of others before his own. His smile and sense of humor were infectious, leaving a lasting mark on all who had the pleasure of his company.

Brian’s legacy is carried on

by his loving family. He leaves behind a daughter and son-in-law, Kayla and Kris Norris, and grandsons, Kingston and Kendrick Norris, who will miss their grandfather’s guidance.

His parents, Gerry and Alice Severns, cherish the memory of their son, as does his brother, Shawn Severns, and his wife, Firiell. Brian’s spirit will also live on through his nephews, Jered and his wife Ashley, Brady and his wife Shay, and his great-nephew, Camden.

He was a beloved member of an extended family and a friend to many.

Brian was preceded in death by his grandparents and his Uncle Brian Severns, after whom he was lovingly named. Their reunion is a comforting thought to those he left behind.

Paid Obituary

Death Notices

Delbert Goss
Sept. 13, 1935 - Nov. 15, 2025
Delbert Frances Goss, 90, of Sweet Home, passed away Nov. 15, 2025. Sweet Home Funeral Chapel is handling the arrangements. For updated information, visit www.sweet-homefuneral.com.

Richard McCarthy
July 18, 1948 - Nov. 8, 2025
Dr. Richard Edward McCarthy, 77, of Cottage Grove, formerly of Sweet Home, passed away Nov. 8, 2025. Arrangements are in the care of Smith-Lund-Mills Funeral Chapel and Crematorium.

James Shuell Sr.
Nov. 16, 1947 - Nov. 11, 2025
James Michael Shuell Sr., 77, of Sweet Home, passed away Nov. 11, 2025. Sweet Home Funeral Chapel is handling the arrangements. For updated information, visit www.sweet-homefuneral.com.

Delbert Tunnell Sr.
Jan. 24, 1939 - Nov. 13, 2025
Delbert Joe Tunnell Sr., 86, of Sweet Home, passed away Nov. 13, 2025, in Sutherlin. Sweet Home Funeral Chapel is handling the arrangements. For updated information, visit www.sweet-homefuneral.com.



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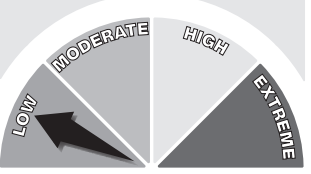
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TEMPERATURES				
DATE		HIGH	LOW	PRECIP
November 13		57	51	0.02
November 14		63	44	0.15
November 15		64	42	0.00
November 16		53	46	0.00
November 17		52	34	0.00
November 18		51	33	0.00
November 19		54	43	0.09

PRECIPITATION	
Year to date:	23.56
November 20, 2024:	27.03

FORECAST			
DAY	WEATHER	HIGH	LOW
Thur	Showers	50	40
Fri	Showers	50	40
Sat	Showers	50	38
Sun	Showers	50	39
Mon	Showers	50	40
Tues	PM Showers	49	35
Wed	PM Showers	48	35

LAKE LEVELS	
Foster Reservoir:	615.3
Green Peter Res.:	807.2



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).

Nov. 16
3:33 a.m. - Jessica Lea Nofziger, 40, arrested on AMC warrant for FTA in theft case, 4800 block Main St. Cited and released.
1:25 p.m. - Franklin Joe Whitton, 45, arrested for disorderly conduct II after multiple callers reported

male acting erratic, trying to break into vehicles in area of McDonald's 2000 block Main St. Cited and released.
4:45 p.m. - Franklin Joe Whitton, 45, arrested for criminal mischief I after callers reported male causing disturbance, throwing bricks in 1900 block 12th Ave. Lodged at Linn County Jail.
5:19 p.m. - Multiple callers complained about driver in Brownsville. Deputy located vehicle parked in driveway in 35000 block Forry Dr., near Brownsville Rd., but no one answered the door.
5:38 p.m. - Deputy responded to report of domestic disturbance in 25000 block Hwy. 99, Halsey. Located person who was intoxicated and deemed threat to themselves as well as others. Subject was placed in custody and transported to local hospital. Report taken.
10:28 p.m. - Raymond Lyle Tressell, 30, arrested by Lebanon police on SHMC warrant for FTC in unauthorized entry into motor vehicle case. Cited to appear Dec. 10.
Nov. 15
12:06 a.m. - Marick Allen Tyree Best, 25, arrested by Albany police on SHMC warrant for FTC in harassment case. Cited to appear Dec. 10.

9:58 a.m. - Bradley Marion Pugh, 42, arrested by Lebanon police on SHMC warrant for FTC in failure to perform duties of a driver case.
10:21 a.m. - Richard Leland, 58, of Sweet Home, arrested for felon in possession of firearm, resisting arrest, recklessly endangering another person and harassment. 39600 block Hwy. 228. Lodged at Linn County Jail. Report taken.
1:37 p.m. - Operator drove vehicle into side of another vehicle while turning into driveway in 27800 block

Seven Mile Lane, Brownsville. Victim asked that offender not be cited "because his day was bad enough, as is." Report taken.
4:22 p.m. - Leo Elijah Brawn, 18, arrested on LMC warrant for contempt of court in driving uninsured and driving while suspended cases, Sankey Park, 877 14th Ave. Caller reported male and female, who appeared to be teenagers, drinking at location and that they were getting ready to drive away in separate vehicles. Officer spoke to both subjects, de-

tected no signs of impairment.
5:59 p.m. - Conner Hagle cited for driving uninsured, failure to register vehicle, Main St. at Highway 20 Church of Christ.
7:53 p.m. - Male teens, 16 and 17, cited for speed racing on highway after officer stopped them at Thriftway, 621 Main St. Warned for speeding.
9:06 p.m. - Nolan Williams, 39, of Brownsville, arrested for disorderly conduct, aggravated harassment and assault IV. 500 block Haus-

See Public Safety, Page 11

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, Noe Hernandez-Reyes, Michael Trevor Hilton, Daniel Henry Johnson, Tyler Bruce Lanz, Charles James Marvel, Bryce William McGowan, Eric Wayne McKnight, Carrie Lynne Miller, Thomas Elbridge Miller, James Keith Mortensen, Nicholas Alan Nelson, Daniel Austin Phillips, Sean Ever Robinson, Tammy Lavonn

Robinson, James Ryan Routon, Joshua Alexander Williams
Gary Evan Johnson, 31, sentenced Nov. 14 to three years revocation of a driver's license, 111 mos. with the Oregon Dept. of Corrections, three years post-prison supervision and \$300 in fines after pleading no contest to assault II and failure to perform duties of driver to injured persons. Charges dismissed: failure to report as a sex offender, and criminal driving while suspended or revoked.
Larry Allen Langford, 74, sentenced Nov. 13 to 10 days compensatory service in lieu of jail after pleading guilty to

failure to report as sex offender. A charge of criminal driving while suspended or revoked was dismissed.
Richard Dean Leland, 58, charged Nov. 17 with resisting arrest, harassment and felon in possession of a firearm.
Patrick Anthony Douglas Lovato, 33, charged Nov. 14 with resisting arrest and two counts of failure to report as a sex offender. Bail set at \$5,000.
David Lance Schult, 55, sentenced Nov. 10 to one year suspension of a driver's license, 48 hours jail, 24 mos. bench probation and a \$1,000 fine after pleading guilty to DUII (liquor) with a .13% BAC.



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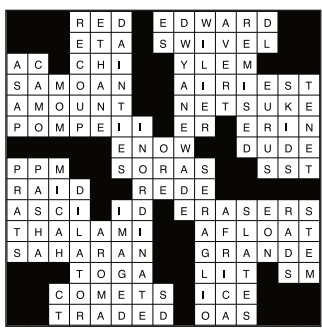
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OFFICE HOURS 8-4

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

Crossword KEY
Puzzle on page 13



SUDOKU KEY
Puzzle on page 13

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

FROM OUR FILES



Ken Reed, left, and Dale Christianson, right, squat within an area at the high school that they, along with about 20 other National Honor Society students, are landscape designing in 1975.

Nov. 23, 1950

Preparations for the coming Christmas season are underway, with installation of five additional mail boxes and hiring of additional help for the rush season.

Postmaster Nealia Haven said the five new mail drops bring the number to 10 which serve this area. To aid other mailmen in this, the first home Christmas delivery in Sweet Home, they hired three part-time employees.

Foster Cafe was victimized by an unknown burglar who made entry into the restaurant by forcing open the back door. The unknown suspect made off with an estimated \$70 in change.

Nov. 20, 1975

A committee dedicated to creating Santiam County out of the eastern portion of Linn County was so far able to secure about 25% of signatures needed to put the issue on the November 1976 ballot.

They need 50% of registered voters within the proposed boundaries of the new county to ensure it goes on the ballot, which is about 3,000 signatures.

Members of the National Honor Society are completing a landscape project at the high school in an open

courtyard between the old portion of the school and new restrooms to the south. Designs include shrubs and flowers, and tables and benches of redwood and steel.

Nov. 22, 2000

The Willamette Industries board rejected a buy-out offer from Weyerhaeuser, which offered a \$48 per share and \$1.7 billion payoff of debt.

Willamette's CEO responded by saying the board unanimously determined the proposal is not in the best interest of Willamette, its shareholders and other constituencies.

In their response letter, they stated, "In short, the board views your proposal as an opportunistic attempt to acquire one of the industry's leading franchises at a time when stock prices in the industry are depressed."

City Council adopted an ordinance banning the flying of model airplanes within city limits after residents living at the east end of Long Street next to Langmack Airport complained about several model aircraft enthusiasts flying their toys.

The council is allowing the flying of aircraft attached by a line to the controller.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Referendum for residents who don't like tax, fee hikes

Editor:

There has been a public uproar over the passage of HB-3991 during a recent Special Session of the Legislature. The bill increases gas and payroll taxes, adds a new vehicle tax, and dramatically increases registration fees. Imposing unjustified cost increases will hit Oregonians at a very difficult time. The massive increases do not address the mismanagement and lack of accountability at the Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT).

Oregon is the birthplace of initiative and recall petitions. Many are unaware of a third petition that's known as a referendum. By law, bills become effective 90 days after the Legislature adjourns from the capitol. During that time frame a petition to require a public vote can be circulated. If enough signatures are gathered a vote will occur.

A referendum petition has been filed to allow a public vote. The petitioners are Sen. Bruce Starr, Rep. Ed Diehl, and Oregon Taxpayer Association Director Jason Williams. Their goal is simple: Provide us with an opportunity to vote on an issue that affects us all, even those who don't drive.

Diehl stated "It's going to be a mad dash, but I'm taking it as a challenge. I want to show the Oregon way is still alive."

A website has been established to make signing and

sharing the petition easy. Watch for upcoming announcements on the page. Go to <https://notaxor.com/>

Regardless of party affiliation or background, I encourage all registered voters to sign the petition. 78,200 valid signatures are required to make the ballot. Over 3,500 volunteers have already signed up to assist with signature gathering. It's a grassroots effort.

History has taught us that government works best when the public is involved. Please join your neighbors in supporting the referendum.

I am a lifelong resident of the Willamette Valley who has family and friends in the area. I'm moving to Sweet Home next month.

**Les Poole
Hubbard**

Community support paying off in music

Editor:

Thank you, Sweet Home! On behalf of the SHHS Band, I would like to extend our heartfelt thanks to the many people who have supported us as we build our program. Your donations and kind words have meant the world to us!

We would like to express our deep appreciation to the Sweet Home Elks Lodge for their continued generosity. For the past three years, their donations have helped to strengthen our program and give our students opportunities they might not otherwise have. Their most recent do-

nation of \$7,500 allowed us to replace old, irreparable timpani, and purchase two trombones and two flutes. Because of this donation, more children will have the opportunity to participate in band.

With the help of donations and the Sweet Home School District, we were able to purchase marching percussion, and we were able to launch a marching band this year! We will see you at the SH Christmas Parade on Dec. 13!

Many others have donated, some preferring to remain anonymous, and many businesses have supported our candy sale, especially the VFW who sold all year long! There are so many people and businesses to thank. We appreciate all you have done for us!

Your support and your kindness reminds us that music is not just about notes on a page – it's about connection, tradition, and community pride. As a 1987 SHHS graduate myself, I take great pride in our music program, and I still love shouting out "Go Huskies!"

If you are interested in making a tax-deductible donation to the band program, please contact Lori Tuter or the main office at SHHS. We invite you to our Christmas concert at 6:30 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 18, in the Sweet Home High School Auditorium.

**Lori Tuter, Director of
Bands
Sweet Home**

Editorial: Oregon citizens waking up?

**By Scott Swanson
Publisher**

Who governs Oregon? Ultimately, it's voters. But, especially if the electorate is uninspired or inattentive, things can go awry, which is what people are talking about increasingly.

Things are not good in Salem and I'm thankful for the slowly increasing robust news coverage of what's taking place in the capital after a long decline in the number of reporters keeping an eye on what is happening beneath the "Gold Man" Oregon pioneer.

We're seeing stories coming from the online news sites such as Oregon Capital Chronicle, Oregon Capital Insider and Oregon Journalism Project, as well as other media that have continued to report facts voters need to know about what's working and what's not in Salem.

From the rural perspective, a lot is not working.

The ODOT debacle is one example, but just about anybody with feet on the ground that's not linoleum or carpet can testify about bureaucratic overreach or, conversely, absentia.

Oregon's public schools, as a

whole, lag far behind states that spend much less money on education.

Oregon's mental health system ranks among the worst in the United States, with high prevalence of mental illness and substance use disorders but limited access to care.

Homelessness is epidemic. Our taxes are among the highest in the nation now.

Despite what state leaders say, the state of law and order, particularly in downtown Portland, is not OK for many Oregonians.

Housing affordability and Oregon's cost of living are both in the bottom 20% of the 50 states, as rated by U.S. News and World Report.

A check of GasBuddy.com shows we're in the bottom eight out of the 50 states in gas prices.

Bottom line: We're on the wrong end of the list in almost every category.

Next week, Democratic leaders in Salem are holding hearings to "defend Oregon from Trump." I'm not a fan of everything the president is doing, but this really appears to be a political dodge from the real problems our state faces.

The transportation bill passed on Sept. 29, in an effort to keep ODOT workers employed and our roads clear this winter, is a glaring example. State leaders are budgeting and spending far more than residents can afford to pay and we're seeing the results: More taxes.

For anyone who hasn't been paying attention, here's what the bill, signed by Gov. Tina Kotek last week (see page 6) will do for us:

- Increase the gas tax, which was already one of the highest in the nation, from 40 to 46 cents per gallon, effective Jan. 1, 2026.
- Increase annual registration fees from \$43 to \$85 for passenger vehicles; \$63 to \$105 for utility vehicles, light trailers, low-speed vehicles and medium-speed electric vehicles; and \$44 to \$86 for mopeds and motorcycles.
- Increase title fees for passenger vehicles from \$77 to \$216.
- Double the payroll tax used to support public transit from 0.1% to 0.2%

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The New Era

A LOCALLY OWNED NEWSPAPER

SWEETHOMENEWS.COM

OFFICE: 1313 Main St., Sweet Home, Oregon

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

WHO WE ARE:

Miriam Swanson, Publisher - miriam@sweethomenews.com

Scott Swanson, Publisher - scott@sweethomenews.com

Jessica Sands, Office Manager - jessica@sweethomenews.com

Sarah Brown, Staff Writer - sarah@sweethomenews.com

Mack Knebel, Advertising Rep - mack@sweethomenews.com

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

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SAMARITAN

From page 6

Mullins Drive, Lebanon. Registration is required, and seating is limited. To register or learn more, visit samhealth.org/Affiliation.

Also, a virtual forum with Cahill is scheduled for noon to 1 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 11. A link will be provided upon registration and a recording will be available at samhealth.org/Affiliation after the event.

At the Nov. 12 town hall, Cahill recounted the deliberative process through which Samaritan and MultiCare came together, saying Samaritan's Board of Directors and administrators hired Juniper Consulting Group to identify potential partners for a possible merger.

He said Juniper received responses from 18 organizations that signed non-disclosure agreements to learn more about the opportunity, which led to seven proposals that were narrowed down to four, then two finalists, and finally, MultiCare.

"This wasn't a fire sale," he said. "We were viewed as a very good strategic partner in this state."

After visiting with board members and leadership of the two finalists, he said Samaritan board members unanimously selected MultiCare.

Introducing MultiCare

MultiCare's history dates back to 1882 with the establishment of Tacoma's first hospital, and it has since grown since 1980 into the largest community-based, locally governed health system in Washington state. The organization operates more than 300 primary, urgent, pediatric and specialty care locations across Washington and Idaho and - with the addition of Samaritan - Oregon, as well as 13 hospitals totaling 2,926 beds, staffed by 25,000-plus employees and more than 2,300 clinicians.

Ten of its hospitals offer acute care and two are behavioral health facilities. MultiCare's services include neurology care, same-day surgery, retail imagery services, and is about to open a new children's hospital in Tacoma, none of which are offered by Samaritan, Cahill said.

Also, according to its tax filings in recent years, MultiCare has been profitable every year during the period of 2011 through 2023, during which Samaritan as a whole has finished in the red, financially, in 2021-2023, 2016 and 2014, and profits have been seven figures or less in five other years during the 2011-23 timespan.

Cahill attributed that to



Photo by Scott Swanson

Samaritan CEO Marty Cahill speaks during a town hall held at Samaritan Lebanon Community Hospital to discuss the planned merger with Tacoma-based MultiCare.

smart planning and investing by MultiCare: "All the things they do are the right fits for MultiCare, their community," he said. "They just have tools and technology and investments through which they've been able to gain great efficiencies in their hospitals, in the partnerships they've done."

He said MultiCare has a "significant treasury because they've been successful."

"They've done a very good job. They're very disciplined with their investment strategy. There are things we can learn from them."

For MultiCare, Samaritan's health plan was of high interest, Cahill said, and it operates a hospice, which MultiCare lacks.

The health plan component was critical to MultiCare's interest, he said.

"If the healthcare plans go away, we're not interested' - that's how valuable they are."

Another positive that Samaritan brings to the table is that it is an "employer of choice" in the region, he said.

"We have people with 10, 15, 20, 30, 40 years of service and they liked that."

Benefits for Samaritan

Paperwork to begin the process of merging was filed earlier this month.

The merger agreement, which is expected to be completed by the middle of

next year, includes a commitment of \$700 million over 10 years from MultiCare, which would assume ownership of Samaritan's assets. When the merger is complete, Samaritan will have one seat on MultiCare's Board of Directors, which will bring the number of board members to 13.

Cahill said Samaritan leaders hope the cash influx will fund a new wing for Good Samaritan Regional Medical Center in Corvallis and possible upgrades to the "very small" emergency room at Albany General Hospital.

Plus, he said, MultiCare has experience in creating medical facilities that Samaritan has not: free-standing emergency rooms, ambulatory services such as same-day surgery and retail imaging centers. He noted that the organization has established Indigo walk-in urgent care clinics throughout Washington and northern Idaho, and could do the same in Samaritan's territory.

County Commissioner Roger Nyquist asked how the merger might affect Samaritan in its abilities to recruit medical practitioners - doctors, nurses, physician's assistants and others.

Cahill noted that those vacancies have largely been created by retirements, though he acknowledged that because many young

doctors now work for large corporations rather than small practices, it's easier to move to perceived greener pastures.

Cahill said medical schools are not producing enough new doctors and nurses to fill the void, which makes recruiting such professionals even more difficult, particularly in a rural region.

MultiCare intends to bring in more primary care and specialty care doctors, Larissa Balzar, Samaritan's

vice president of strategy and planning, interjected. She noted that it had added 60 physicians at Yakima Memorial Hospital, with which it merged in 2023, "which really had been struggling before that."

"We believe they will help in recruiting," Cahill said. "They have a secret sauce in hiring folks."

He also said that Samaritan's name will likely remain on its facilities, though Mul-

See Samaritan, Page 6

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EDITORIAL
From page 4

until Jan. 1, 2028.

- Increase registration surcharges for electric and highly fuel-efficient vehicles, from \$35 to \$65 annually for cars with a 40+ mpg rating and from \$115 to \$145 annually for electric vehicles.
- Phase in a mandatory road usage charge program for electric vehicles by 2031. Electric vehicle drivers have been able to opt into the OReGO program and pay 2 cents per mile in exchange for lower registration fees, and the proposed change would mandate electric vehicle drivers participate in that program or pay a flat \$34.

Oregon is a mess, and the leadership is to blame – pure and simple.

Example: Kotek got busy right after the bill was approved, more than a month ago, telling ODOT to stop laying people off and start hiring for winter. But she stalled on

signing it until the last minute to, as political observers on both sides of the aisle acknowledge, head off Republican efforts to challenge it through a referendum.

And that's where we're going here. Failed leadership has gotten us into this mess and it isn't all President Trump's or ICE's fault, despite the loud outcries. Whether or not you like the president, this one starts closer to home.

And now it's apparent that citizens are taking notice and taking steps. As of this week, some 70 statewide ballot initiatives have been filed with the Oregon Secretary of State's office. Not all of those will make it onto the ballot in the 2026 general election, but that should tell us (and Oregon's leadership) something: People aren't happy.

The Blue Wave that occurred in this past election may have signalled people's impatience and frustration with Trump and the Republicans, but this precursor of ballot measure warfare indicates that Oregonians are waking up to the fact

that we're grossly overtaxed and under-served by our state leadership.

Some of those proposed initiatives are sponsored by big money, namely John von Schlegell of Endeavor Capital, a Portland investment firm, who filed 11 last week. But others are just efforts to change things by average citizens who are sick of what's happening.

The one that's really getting attention is the above-referenced Gas Tax Referendum, backed by Rep. Ed Deitz, a Republican representative out of Stayton, which is an effort to challenge the transportation bill.

ODOT is a vital agency in our state, but it needs to be run responsibly and efficiently, as much as is possible for a government agency. If Oregon is going to climb out of this morass we're in, it may be painful.

The question is going to be whether citizens, particularly the urban progressives, are willing to wake up to the fact that responsibility starts with us.

Gas tax referendum in progress

**By Mia Maldonado
Oregon Capital Chronicle**

Gov. Tina Kotek on Friday, Nov. 7, signed Oregon's long-awaited transportation bill into law, setting the stage for opponents to begin collecting signatures for a referendum effort to overturn it.

After Democrats in the Oregon Legislature secured enough votes to pass the transportation bill in a special session that ended in late September, Kotek had 30 working days, or until Nov. 12, to sign it into law.

By using almost all 30 days

to sign it, Republican opponents have less time to gather the signatures to qualify for a referendum on the November 2026 ballot. If they are successful at gathering enough signatures, a referendum would give Oregon voters the opportunity to reject or approve the new law.

State Rep. Ed Diehl, R-Stayton, Sen. Bruce Starr, R-Dundee and Taxpayer Association of Oregon Director Jason Williams – the chief petitioners behind the “No Tax Oregon” referendum effort – sub-

mitted paperwork to the Oregon Secretary of State's Office Monday morning, Nov. 10, to begin collecting signatures. The secretary must review and approve the referendum forms before they can officially start.

“We feel pretty confident that by the end of this week, we will be good to go,” Diehl told the Capital Chronicle.

Petitioners have 90 calendar days from the Legislature's adjournment to gather 78,116

See Gas Tax, Page 14

SAMARITAN
From page 6

tiCare's could appear as well.

“It's wildly expensive to change signs,” he said.

Also, there will be no changes in 2026 to insurance plans currently accepted at Samaritan facilities, he and Balzar said. More information about health insurance is available at samhealth.org/InsuranceBilling.

‘Cultural Alignment’

Cahill said there is “cultural alignment” between the two – “similar philosophies.”

Like Samaritan, MultiCare is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit. Cahill said the organization operates on four “pillars” which, he said, govern all the decisions its board makes:

- A moral obligation to deliver best health system possible;
- Local governance and decision-making;
- Trust within the community; and
- Cultural transformation to become customer- and

community-centric.

“They say it a little differently, but that's exactly who we are,” Cahill said. “That resonated with us. When you look at what people do, where the money's spent, you can see what's important to them.”

He said MultiCare uses a “win-win-win” philosophy to determine its courses of action: “success for patients, success for both partners, success for MultiCare.”

MultiCare's goal, he said, is to serve one-third of the population of the Northwest, and it is moving into southern Idaho as well as Oregon, which is another reason why it is interested in merging with Samaritan.

Samaritan's location in the Willamette Valley and its assets give MultiCare a chance to make a splash in Oregon, he said.

“That's a position of strength. They chose us for a reason. When you look at the Willamette Valley, we will be a foundation for MultiCare moving forward.

“I think size makes a difference in healthcare today and they have tools that I think can really help us.”

He used a sports analogy to explain why Samaritan decided to make a move, citing the example of the Pac12 conference, which underwent a major membership realignment in 2024 when four members – Oregon, Washington, UCLA and USC – bolted to the Big 12 when the Pac12's media rights deal expired.

“Teams had choices and opportunity, but if you waited too long and the music stopped, that was gone.”

Samaritan's senior leadership viewed a merger with MultiCare as “a win-win-win for us,” he said.

“MultiCare's strongest capabilities match Samaritan's needs.”

For additional information on the merger, visit samhealth.org/Affiliation.

Miller, Whitton, Burr and Rodriguez named XC's leading runners

Senior McKenzie Miller, junior Ryker Burr, sophomore Emma Whitton and freshman Elijah Rodriguez were named Outstanding Runners for the cross-country team at its awards banquet Tuesday, Nov. 11.

Coach Dave Martin opened the awards ceremony by telling the crowd of about 100 people in the high school cafeteria that "I've been coaching since 1980, and this may be the funnest high school team I've ever had."

"It was just such a joy, day in and day out, to be with everybody on this team. The team chemistry was awesome."

The Huskies are also talented – and dedicated, he noted, observing that when his three state qualifiers – Miller, Whitton and Burr – arrived to continue workouts on the Monday following the Nov. 1 district championships, literally half of the 28 team members showed up to run, even though they didn't have to.

Martin told the athletes that he's had other talented teams, but "other kids had talent, but they didn't have your heart, they didn't have your love of running."

"This team is phenomenal," he said to the crowd. "I don't think you guys realize how good you are."

Also, he noted, the Huskies could have 25 of their 28 runners back because they are losing only seniors Miller, Delanie Pratt and Anabelle Morris to graduation.

Sweet Home's girls finished third at districts without their No. 3 runner, Cassie Spencer, and were in consideration for a wildcard berth at state.

Those 25 include seven freshman girls and four freshman boys, two sophomore girls and six sopho-



Photo by Scott Swanson

Cross-country award winners are, in front, from left, McKenzie Miller, Emma Whitton, Madison Ciullo and Lexi Lee. In the rear, from left, are Elijah Rodriguez, Louis Kistner, Noah Strawn, Ryker Burr and Acen Webber.

more boys, and three junior boys and three girls.

Martin reported that three of those boys ran faster than the 17:57 Burr posted last year as the team's No. 1 runner, and eight were faster than last year's No. 4 runner. The average time of the 13 boys on the team this year was 19:32. Last year's No. 3 boy ran 19:31. Ten boys ran faster than the No. 5 runner on last year's varsity, he said.

On the girls side, seven runners were faster this year than last year's No. 3 runner and 12 ran faster than last year's No. 7 runner. The average time of the top seven girls this year was 22:09.

Plus, the depth of the program allowed Sweet Home to field the only girls JV com-

plete (scoring) team at the district championships.

"We are a good team and we are young," Martin said. "We have the best JV team I've had in a long, long time. Any one of our boys would have been on varsity three years ago and the top 10 girls would have been on varsity."

Martin said the team voted on the awards and coaches pretty much went along with their choices.

Of the three state qualifiers, Whitton placed seventh and Miller 14th in the girls championship race, and Burr 34th in the boys. Rodriguez was included among the Outstanding Runners because he finished ninth in the district championships, two spots out of qualifying for

state, in a personal best of 17:32.1, the fourth-fastest time for a freshman in Sweet Home history and among the top 50 fastest times for 5K in school history.

"He's one of the best freshmen I've ever seen," Martin said. "State-caliber running – that's what we're striving to develop. Next year I hope to have seven people that could be outstanding boy or girl."

Most Improved for the girls went to sophomore Madison Ciullo, who improved from 26:29 to a PR of 23:48 at the district meet, and freshman Lexi Lee, who ran 33:37 at the beginning of the season and finished with a PR of 28:12.

For the boys, honorees were sophomores Louis Kistner and Noah Strawn, both of

whom improved by about 4½ minutes over the course of the season.

Most Inspirational went to Burr, who was voted "overwhelmingly" for the honor by teammates for the second straight year.

Martin noted that Burr is aiming for the school record – "that's the mentality of the people on this team. They set high goals."

Toughest Runner went to Miller "without a question" and to sophomore Acen Webber, "who runs tough every time," Martin said in presenting the awards.

He also announced team captains for the 2026 season: Burr and fellow junior Conner Spencer for the boys, and freshman Cassie Spencer for next year's girls team, whom Martin described as "the emotional control of the team" who brings "heart, strength and toughness" to the Huskies. Spencer ran 21:20 this year, the 18th-fastest time in school history, after moving to cross-country from the 400 and 800 in track.

The sole fourth-year letter went to Miller, whom Martin introduced as "one of the toughest runners I've ever had. She's a great runner, a great human being."

Third-year letter winners were the junior boys, Burr and Conner Spencer, whom Martin described as "the backbone of the team."

Second-year letters went to five sophomores who returned from their freshman season: Wes Goff, Kistner, Evan Knight – who, Martin said, battled to break 18 minutes and did so at the district meet, Webber, and Whitton and junior Noelle Helfrich on the girls side. Kistner, he noted, ran 20:59 last year and decided to train through the

See XC Awards, Page 13

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Hands in Soil, Hearts out to Veterans

Staff, parents and students at Sweet Home and Sand Ridge charter schools spent Veterans Day beautifying the flower beds at the Veterans Club on Nov. 11. “I’ve noticed the last year or so that their flower beds needed a little TLC,” SH Charter School Principal Monica Isom said. She reached out to parents to see if they’d be interested in serving veterans by cleaning the beds. With a donation of bark dust, the group was able to weed and mulch the beds. A grateful patron at Dutch Bros. next door bought hot chocolate for all the kids who helped.

Photos by Sarah Brown



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Charter School honors veterans



A visitor surveys the Hero Wall created by Charter School students to honor veterans.



David Brock, above, performs “America the Beautiful” on the bagpipes at Sweet Home Charter School, which hosted local veterans for a special recognition program on Friday, Nov. 14, the second year the school has done this. Below, pre-schoolers sing “This Land is Your Land.”



Pre-schooler Xaidyn Anderson, with staffer Jesse Holman, greets Stan Gray.



Students Harlow Gray and Jonah Cutsforth greet Navy veteran James Wagner, who has taught PE at the Charter School.



Second-graders greet VFW Honor Guard members.

The **Icebox** Performer Of The Week



This week’s **ICEBOX Performer of the Week** goes to Robert Campbell. He’s the definition of dedication—always giving 100%, keeping a positive attitude, and showing up every day ready to work hard and help his team.

Since coming back from his injury a month ago, Robert hasn’t missed a beat. His strong work ethic and upbeat energy set the tone for the whole crew and remind us what RSH culture is all about: showing up, lifting others up, and keeping it cool.

Keep it up, Robert—we see you and appreciate you!



School board directs staff to pursue \$12.2 million matching grant

By Scott Swanson
Of The New Era

Sweet Home School Board members were told that the school district has an opportunity to qualify for \$12.2 million via a state matching grant if residents pass a bond measure next year that won't increase their current taxes.

District Business Manager Kevin Strong said the district has a narrow window of opportunity to apply for an Oregon School Capital Improvement Matching (OSCIM - pronounced "Awesome") grant that would pay for classroom improvements to Sweet Home High School.

Board members unanimously agreed to allow district staff to apply for the grant by the deadline of Dec. 15, which Strong said would be a step toward determining whether the district would be eligible for the funds. Dustin Nichol voted remotely and Mary Speck was absent.

Strong said the measure would replace aging flat-roofed classroom sections of the school, built in the 1970s, with roofing more appropriate for Oregon weather.

"Those buildings were built as economically as possible," he said. "We've



ESPY Award winners for November are, in front, from left, Noah Delong of Foster, Linkin Ayala of Foster, Alayna Bates of Hawthorne, Kira Wortman of Hawthorne, and Elijah Zehner of Sweet Home Charter School. In the rear, from left, are Logan Meyers of Oak Heights, Leyton Burnett of Oak Heights, Austyn Hogan of Sweet Home High School, Trent Harvey of Sweet Home High School, Novaleigh Adams of Sweet Home Junior High and Marilyn Denué of Holley. Not pictured are Brielle Hillsman of the Charter School and Ellie Banks of Sweet Home Junior High.

made a lot of improvements except for the classroom areas at Sweet Home High School."

Also, Strong emphasized, improvements to the school would include security measures.

"We have a very porous

campus," Strong told the board, noting that there are more than 40 entrances to the school. He cited a recent example of a man recently discovered in the high school woodshop one morning.

"It's easy for people to

come on campus," he said. "It's easy for students to skip third period, and come back for fourth period without going to the main office."

Short of fencing the high school campus "like McClaren (Youth Correctional Facility in Woodburn)" he

said later, "that's not really a positive learning environment."

"When the campus was designed and built, it was a different era. At that time the goal was to build a school for a growing town as affordably as possible. They did it and it served us pretty well for over 50 years."

The improvements he's talking about would be intended to last through the end of the century, he said.

In a written report to board members, Strong listed some suggested improvements that include: weather-resistant roofs and classroom construction; eliminating "outdated" modular classrooms, removal of asbestos; improvements to CTE, music and physical education facilities; traffic safety improvements including a dedicated bus loop, and establishing a financial literacy lab for students.

OCSIM grants, along with other state funding, have allowed the district to make significant improvements to the junior high and the elementary schools, while other nearby districts are struggling with buildings that needs significant improvements and voters that

See School Board, Page 14

Open house at new American Legion post

Photos courtesy of Cindi Hamar

Sweet Home's American Legion Post 133 held an open house Saturday, Nov. 15, at its new post headquarters at Holley Road. A continuous stream of visitors moved in and out of the building, the former Fir Lawn Lutheran Church, which the Legion has purchased and is restoring after it was severely damaged by an arsonist. Legion members provided lunch as visitors toured the facility and availed themselves of brochures and other informational materials.



MUNICIPAL COURT

Oct. 22

Warrants are out on the following individuals: Leah Alicata, Susan Ausbun-Miller, Nathaniel Agee, Steven Ballweber, Tiffany Bates, Katherine Berghoffer, Larry Bergstrom, Michael Bly, Bradley Bowman, Cody Bowman, Jordan Brendle, Tommy Burke, Gary Campbell, Jamie Carpenter, Jordan Carter, Jamie Castro-Hernandez, Christopher Ciullo, Kelsey Ciullo, Jack Counts, Dustin Clarneau, Cristy Cromwell, Franklin Cutbirth, Aelisha Devine, Robert Edblom, Allen Ensley, Becky Foster, Brandon Freeman, James Georgelis, Hunter Gomez, Bryanna Harley, Billy Hatch, Marcus Hesson, Robert Hilliard, Austin Jones, Issac Justham, Kelly Kearns, Joshua Leslie,

Cody Lobdell, Cymara Long, Eyan Lynd, Vance Marshall, Justin Matteson, Connor McMullen, Jeremy Ough, Thomas Pimentel, Quentin Quadros, Christian Rogers, Joseph Salley, Demetrius Scott, Alicia Shaddon, Nickolas Shoulders, Stephanie Starkweather, Johnny Stone, Carson Strasser, Raymond Tressel, Jimmy Varner, Dustin Westling, Jessica Wynne, Steven Young.

Nick L. Begrin, 45, guilty by default for driving while suspended or revoked with accident, and driving uninsured with accident - fine \$3,030, suspend license.

Frances Branton, 68, theft III charges dismissed.

Jonathan E.R. Dean, 34, pleaded no contest to failure to pay registration fee - dismissed with \$50 fee.

Adrian M.K. Dietz, 19, pleaded no contest to operating a vehicle while using a mobile electronic device - fine \$390.

Michael D. Ferebee, 41, guilty by default for driving while suspended or revoked - fine \$2,015, suspend license.

Willa M. Hopkins, 59, pleaded no contest to driving while suspended or revoked - fine \$440.

Nicholas A. Meola, 39, pleaded no contest to disorderly conduct II and criminal mischief II - fine \$1,167, 36 mos. probation, 15 days work crew. Resisting arrest charge dismissed.

Daniell M. Miles, 39, guilty by default for driving uninsured, driving while suspended or revoked, speeding 55/45 - fine \$3,295, suspend

license.

Brittany R. Panknin, 33, guilty by default for driving while suspended or revoked, and driving uninsured - fine \$3,030, suspend license.

Cody R. Peterson, 35, pleaded guilty to harassment - fine \$401, 24 mos. probation, 10 days work crew, no contact orders.

Davy A. Phillips, 53, pleaded guilty to theft III and criminal trespass I - fine \$667, 60 mos. probation, no contact orders.

Austin A. Ross, 27, guilty by default for driving uninsured, failure to register vehicle, and operation without required lighting equipment - fine \$1,795, suspend license.

Jerrod S. Schooley, 48, pleaded no contest to criminal mischief II - fine \$835, 60

mos. Probation.

Amy L. Seavey, 38, pleaded guilty to theft II - fine \$401, 24 mos. probation, 10 days work crew, no contact orders.

Elisha N. Sherwood, 39, pleaded guilty to criminal mischief II - fine \$501, 12 mos. probation, 10 days work crew.

Thomas M. Studer, 51, pleaded no contest to failure to perform duties of driver when property is damaged - fine \$1,516, 60 mos. probation, 10 days work crew, license suspended three mos. Charges of driving while suspended or revoked and driving uninsured dismissed.

Lola E. Wolfe, 73, guilty by default for operating a vehicle without driving privileges - fine \$1,015, suspend license.

PUBLIC SAFETY

From page 3

man Ave., Brownsville. Report taken.

10:02 p.m. - Deputy dispatched deer with broken back, 25300 block Gap Rd., Brownsville.

11:03 p.m. - James Vernie Seiber, 62, arrested on Linn County warrant for FTC in giving false information to police officer case. Lodged at

Linn County Jail.

Nov. 14

3:06 a.m. - Tanner David Melson cited for failure to obey traffic control device, 1900 block Main St.

5:01 a.m. - Robert Michael Straw, 40, of Brownsville, cited for speeding, 63/45, 34600 block Hwy. 228, Brownsville.

5:28 a.m. - Jeremiah Earl Allen, 48, of Sweet Home, cited for speeding, 62/45,

Bishop Way/Pearl St.

5:38 a.m. - Callers reported female trying to get into cars and houses in 1200 block 44th Ave. Officer responded, contacted female who was determined to possibly be having medical attack. She was transported by medics.

10:14 a.m. - Caller from Sweet Home High School reported two students' backpacks stolen, 1641 Long St. Officer responded, report taken for theft II.

10:15 a.m. - Caller reported a white truck had dropped a manhole cover in her yard in 1200 block 46th Court. Officer responded, item placed in property.

10:30 a.m. - Lucas Michael Allen Melbye, 28, cited for city code violation - rooster in residence in 1300 block Poplar St. Area resident had reported that rooster had been waking her up for past six months.

10:43 a.m. - Caller from U.S. Forest Service, 4431 Main St., reported her government credit card was hacked. Officer responded, report taken for attempted fraudulent use of credit card.

12:03 p.m. - Erin Elizabeth Tracy cited for driving uninsured, 4500 block Main St.

3:16 p.m. - Caller reported firearm missing from their vehicle during day in 900 block Filbert St. Not clear whether gun was lost or stolen. Report taken.

2:58 p.m. - Ronda Lee Arce, 43, cited for speeding, 37/20, 900 block 22nd Ave.

7:29 p.m. - Caller reported physical disturbance in 43700 block Wiley Creek Rd. Deputy contacted participants, who admitted to "wrestling" each other following misunderstanding. No injuries, situation was determined to be non-criminal.

Nov. 13

1:41 a.m. - Steven Lee Ballweber, 36, arrested on

SHMC warrant for FTC in hit and run case, 3000 block Main St. Cited and released.

3:19 a.m. - Joshua Welch, 36, of Lebanon, arrested on outstanding warrants, 1000 block Red Baron Lane. Report taken.

3:37 a.m. - Katrina Lynn Gray, 42, arrested on SHMC warrant for FTC in theft case, LCJC warrant in trespass case, AMC warrant for FTA in initiating false report case, and LMC warrants for FTA in two criminal citation cases. 4000 block Main St. Cited and released.

7:28 a.m. - Benjamin Logan, 33, of Creswell, cited for speeding, 75/55, Peoria Rd./Nixon Dr.

8:41 a.m. - Officer contacted individual who had tent blocking sidewalk in area of 13th Ave./Kalmia St. Spoke with various individuals who were to pack up and move along.

11:28 a.m. - Dustin Kyle Westling, 39, arrested by Marion County Sheriff's Office on SHMC warrant for FTC in criminal driving case. Cited to appear Jan. 14, 2026.

11:58 a.m. - Caller reported criminal activity at his residence, 1000 block Red Baron Lane. According to LCSO, caller reported someone hanging around in their driveway. Investigation determined a male had created his own lien documents and were trying to unlawfully repossess a vehicle. Investigation ongoing. Report

taken.

8:17 p.m. - Caller reported shop was broken into in 2700 block Foothills Dr. Officer responded, report taken for burglary I, theft II. According to SHPD, burglar appeared to have kicked door in. Power tools and camping gear missing. Loss estimated at \$700.

8:21 p.m. - Caller reported son's backpack stolen, 1000 block 22nd Ave.

8:26 p.m. - Eyan Robert Lynd, 35, arrested at Multnomah County Jail on SHMC warrant for theft III. Cited to appear Dec. 10.

11:09 pm. - Caller from 7-Eleven reported that male at location was acting strange, making employee feel uncomfortable. Officer responded, trespassed male.

11:11 p.m. - Caller reported female left his house in 700 block Oak Terrace, eastbound in white Ford Explorer, and had hit one of his vehicles, shoving it into another vehicle. Caller did not want to pursue charges, but was concerned about female's driving behavior.

11:44 p.m. - Patrick Anthony Douglas Lovato, 33, arrested on two LCCC warrants for probation violation in failure to register as sex offender and warrant for same charge, Oregon State Parole Board warrant for parole violation. Also charged with failing to register as sex offender, resisting arrest

See Public Safety, Page 13



Photo by Scott Swanson

Police and a medic survey the scene of the crash. See more photos at sweethomenews.com.

CRASH

From page 1

away, Anderson crossed into oncoming lanes at one point and "was moving well above the speed limit."

As he came up to 1st Avenue, Anderson tried to turn, lost control on the wet pavement, and went over the curb into the creek channel near Clover Park. Both Anderson and his passenger, 38-year-old Jason Scott, who also had a felony warrant, were injured and were taken to the hospital.

During the chase, Ogden said, "there was also a minor collision involving one of our marked units while officers were responding. The officer had lights and siren activated at the time and nobody was injured."

"The Linn County Sheriff's Office handled that crash in-

vestigation, which is our standard practice whenever one of our vehicles is involved."

LCSO reported that the collision was "minor," involving "paint transfer," but did not identify the other vehicle or driver involved.

Because of his injuries, Scott was cited and released for unlawful possession of methamphetamine, and the Linn County Parole and Probation Department handled his warrant, Ogden said.

Anderson remained in SHPD custody at the hospital, and after he was cleared the next evening, he was booked into the Linn County Jail on charges related to attempting to elude, possession of fentanyl and methamphetamine, reckless driving, reckless endangering and the parole warrant.

East Linn

ROOFING

541-367-2293

CCB# 110950

Public Notices

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE STATE OF OREGON FOR THE COUNTY OF LINN
CITY OF ALBANY, a municipal corporation, Plaintiff, v. SCOTT KEVIN HEINZ, UNKNOWN HEIRS OF MARY J. JENKINS, OLIVIA RENA MAZONE, CSO FINANCIAL, INC., STATE OF OREGON, SHARLA RAE VALENCIA, and JOHN PATRICK FLICK, Defendants.
Case No. 25CV52256
COMPLAINT FOR FORECLOSURE NOT SUBJECT TO MANDATORY ARBITRATION
AMOUNT OF CLAIM: \$570,710.50
FILING FEE: \$594
At all times material herein, Plaintiff the City of Albany ("Plaintiff") was and is a municipal corporation duly organized and existing under the laws of the state of Oregon.
At all times material herein, Defendant, Scott Kevin Heinz was the record owner or reputed owner of the real property and the improvements thereon commonly known as 2205 Front Avenue, NE Albany Linn County, Oregon 97321 ("Property"), more particularly described as follows:
Lot 22, Block 21, BURKHART PARK ADDITION, in the City of Albany, County of Linn and State of Oregon, together with that portion of vacated alley which injured by ordinance, Recorded in Book 193, Page 507, Linn County Records. Also known as 2205 Front Ave NE, Albany, Oregon 97321.
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 for the named Defendants. Upon information and belief Plaintiff alleges that no party named herein is a minor or otherwise incompetent.
Plaintiff filed a municipal lien ("Lien") against the Property in the records of Linn County, Oregon, to secure payment of the abatement of a derelict structure in the sum of \$570,710.50. A copy of the lien is attached hereto as Exhibit "1".
The Lien is subject to foreclosure. Plaintiff declares that the entire balance of principal and interest is now due and payable. Currently, \$570,710.50 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 Plaintiff's 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.
More than 15 days prior to filing this Complaint, Plaintiff mailed a notice to Defendant stating that Plaintiff intended to commence suit to foreclose its lien unless the lien was paid within 15 days of the notice. A copy of the notice is attached hereto as Exhibit "2" and incorporated by reference herein.
WHEREFORE, plaintiff prays for a judgment of this court:
(A) Granting judgment to Plaintiff against Defendant in the amount of \$570,710.50.
(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

Public Notices

County in the manner prescribed by law;
(D) Applying the proceeds received from the sale first toward the costs of sale, then toward satisfaction of Plaintiff's judgment, including costs and attorney fees and any surplus to be 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 junior interest claimants who do not contest this action;
(F) Ordering that Defendant and all persons claiming through Defendant are forever foreclosed of all interest in the property.
(G) Granting such other and further relief as the court deems equitable.
DATED this 5th day of November 2025.
M. Sean Kidd, OSB #091224
Attorney for Plaintiffs
260 Ferry Street SW, Ste 202
Albany, OR 97321
(541) 926-5505
sean@longdel.com
(11/5, 11/12, 11/19, 11/26)
IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE STATE OF OREGON FOR THE COUNTY OF LINN
CITY OF ALBANY, a municipal corporation, Plaintiff, v. SCOTT KEVIN HEINZ, UNKNOWN HEIRS OF MARY J. JENKINS, OLIVIA RENA MAZONE, CSO FINANCIAL, INC., STATE OF OREGON, SHARLA RAE VALENCIA, and JOHN PATRICK FLICK, Defendants.
Case No. 25CV52256
SUMMONS
TO: Unknown Heirs of Mary J. Jenkins
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 November 5, 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: November 5, 2025
M. Sean Kidd, OSB #091224
Attorney for Plaintiffs
260 Ferry Street SW, Ste 202
Albany, OR 97321
(541) 926-5505
sean@longdel.com
(11/5, 11/12, 11/19, 11/26)
IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE STATE OF OREGON FOR THE COUNTY OF LINN
IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF LARRY E. JONES, deceased, Case No. 25PB09578
NOTICE TO INTERESTED PERSONS
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN

Public Notices

that the undersigned has been appointed personal representative of the above estate. All persons having claims against the estate are required to present the same, with proper vouchers, to said personal representative at the office of Jessica K. Meyer, Jessica K. Meyer Law, 80 E. Maple St., Lebanon, Oregon 97355, within four months of the date of first publication of this notice, or such claims may be barred.
All persons whose rights may be affected by the proceedings may obtain additional information from the personal representative or the attorneys for the personal representative at the address stated, or from the records of the Court.
Dated November 19, 2025.
Judith L. Jones, Personal Representative. Jessica K. Meyer, OSB #053242 Jessica K. Meyer Law LLC, 80 E. Maple St., Lebanon OR 97355.(11/19)

In the Matter of the Estate of EVA C. LEESON
NOTICE TO INTERESTED PERSONS
County Case No. 25PB08255
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Circuit Court of County, State of Oregon, has appointed the undersigned as Personal Representative of the Estate of Eva C. Leeson, deceased. All persons having claims against said estate are required to present the same, with proper vouchers, to the personal representative in care of Sarah Castleton, Attorney at Law, Ivers & Miller Law at 317 W. 1st Ave, Suite 302, Albany, OR 97321, within four (4) months after the date of first publication of this notice, or the claims may be barred. All persons whose rights may be affected by the proceedings may obtain additional information from the records of the court, the personal representative or the attorney for the personal representative.
DATED and first published: November 19, 2025.
Terry Leeson
Personal Representative
c/o Sarah Castleton
Ivers & Miller Law
PO Box 1033
317 First Ave W., Suite 302
Albany, OR 97321
(541) 928-5875
sarah@ivers.law
(11/19)

In the circuit court for the state of Oregon for the county of LINN
In the Matter of the Estate of: Dianne Ruth Larsen, Deceased.
Case No.: 25PB08976
LEGAL NOTICE TO INTERESTED PERSONS
Notice: The Circuit Court for the State of Oregon, for the County of Linn, has appointed Dana Larsen Berryman as Personal Representative of the Estate of Dianne Ruth Larsen, deceased. All persons having claims against the estate are required to present them to the undersigned attorney for the Personal Representative at: 1915 NE Stucki Ave, Suite 365 Hillsboro, OR 97006, within four months after the first date of publication of this notice, or the claims may be barred.
All persons whose rights may be affected by the proceedings may obtain additional information from the Court, the Personal Representative, or the attorney for the Personal Representative.
Dated and published on November 19, 2025.
Dana Larsen Berryman, Personal Representative
c/o Michael R. Robb, OSB#

Public Notices

174464
Reuter Corbett LLP
1915 NE Stucki Ave, Suite 365
Hillsboro, OR 97006
Phone: (503) 874-6166
(11/19)
IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE STATE OF OREGON FOR THE COUNTY OF LINN
IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF GERALDINE M. TEGOWSKI, deceased, Case No. 25PB09599
NOTICE TO INTERESTED PERSONS
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the undersigned has been appointed personal representative of the above estate. All persons having claims against the estate are required to present the same, with proper vouchers, to said personal representative at the office of Jessica K. Meyer, Jessica K. Meyer Law, 80 E. Maple St., Lebanon, Oregon 97355, within four months of the date of first publication of this notice, or such claims may be barred.
All persons whose rights may be affected by the proceedings may obtain additional information from the personal representative or the attorneys for the personal representative at the address stated, or from the records of the Court.
Dated November 19, 2025.
Steven M. Tegowski, Personal Representative. Jessica K. Meyer, OSB #053242 Jessica K. Meyer Law LLC, 80 E. Maple St., Lebanon OR 97355.
(11/19)
IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE STATE OF OREGON FOR THE COUNTY OF LINN
Case No. 25PB09757
NOTICE TO INTERESTED PERSONS
In the Matter of the Estate of WENDY SUE WEEDMAN, Deceased.
Brandy Sue Hill has been appointed Personal Representative. Claims must be presented to: 2020 S 12th St. Unit #261 Lebanon, OR 97355
541-286-8016
within 4 months from the first publication date, or they may be barred.
Published: November 19, 2025.
(11/19)

Statewide Notices

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

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

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

SERVICES: Get a break on your taxes! Donate your car, truck, or SUV to assist the blind and visually impaired. Arrange a swift, no-cost vehicle pickup and secure a generous tax credit for 2025. Call Heritage for the Blind Today at 1-844-533-9173 today!

SERVICES: We Buy Houses for Cash AS IS! No repairs. No fuss.

Fall Cleanup

Fall Cleanup: Moss treatment, gutter cleaning, yard cleanups, trimming, pruning, blackberry removal. Jesse's Yards 503-871-7869
(10/23 - 11/26)

Seasoned Firewood

Seasoned Firewood Fir & Pine mixed U-Haul \$200 a cord. Delivered \$220 Call 541-231-2251.
(10/1 - 11/19)

For Rent

Upstairs unit one bedroom condo, furnished, utilities include water, sewer, garbage, electric. Beautiful lake views, off street parking, laundromat on site, seasonal pool. \$1500 per month (month to month tenancy). Call for application and cleaning deposit fees. No pets allowed. (541) 367-5629 www.fosterlakervresort.com
(10/29 - 11/19)

Upstairs unit one bedroom condo, furnished, utilities include water, sewer, garbage, electric. Beautiful lake views, off street parking, laundromat on site, seasonal pool. \$1300 per month (month to month tenancy). Call for application and cleaning deposit fees. No pets allowed. (541) 367-5629 www.fosterlakervresort.com
(10/29 - 11/19)

For Sale

Exceptional 2007 Ford Explorer Trac. 130K Miles. Full Power 4.8 V8 Canopy, has been towed by motorhome. Asking \$8,500 OBO Loren 541-405-5859
(11/19 - 11/26)

Steal frame utility trailer 4 X 8, 38 in sideboards. tailgate is drive in ramp, lights. \$500 obo. Loren 541-405-5859.
(11/19)

Services

Palma's Painting and Misc. offers Interior painting, pressure washing, epoxy floors, etc. CCB# 205493 call 541-220-8068
(10/23 - 12/3)

Statewide Notices

Any condition. Easy three step process: Call, get cash offer and get paid. Get your fair cash offer today by calling Liz Buys Houses: 1-866-249-8679.

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

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

SERVICES: Jacuzzi Bath Remodel can install a new, custom bath or shower in as little as one day. For a limited time, waiving ALL installation costs! Additional terms apply. Subject to change and vary by dealer. (Offer ends 12/31/25.) Call 1-855-341-5268.

PUBLIC SAFETY

From page 11

and assault on public safety officer. 1700 block Main St. Lodged at Linn County Jail. **Nov. 12**

5:38 a.m. - Ian Lipanovich, 28, of Lebanon, cited for speeding, 28200 block Hwy. 99, Halsey.

7:59 a.m. - Deputy provided ride to hospital for female experiencing mental health issues, 47600 block Cascadia Dr.

8:36 a.m. - Multiple callers reported crash in area of Main St./18th Ave. According to SHPD, Sandra Eddings, 79, of Sweet Home, driving a 2012 Subaru Outback, turned west onto Main Street from the Columbia Bank and oversteered while pressing down on the gas, which led to the vehicle jumping the curb and driving into a pole. Eddings was transported to Samaritan Lebanon Community Hospital by medics. Damage estimated at over \$2,500. Report taken.

10:50 a.m. - Female warned for illegal camping, 1900 block 53rd Ave.

11:31 a.m. - Dog bite reported in 1000 block Pleasant Valley Rd. Quarantine order issued for offending dog.

11:40 a.m. - Caller reported cellphone stolen from Hilltop Market, 4824 Main St. Officer responded, report taken for theft II. Investigation continuing.

12:11 p.m. - Caller reported female sleeping on sidewalk at 7-Eleven, 2405 Main St. Officer responded, contacted female, who was fine.

12:15 p.m. - Stolen vehicle located on Canyon Creek Rd. According to LCSO, this was a 2007 Chevy Suburban that had been stolen Nov. 9 in Sweet Home. It had been dumped on private timber property. Report taken.

1:22 p.m. - Caller reported

his identity stolen, someone took out student loans in his name. Officer responded. Investigation continuing. 1600 block Tamarack St.

1:38 p.m. - Caller reported homeless subject in stairwell at old City Hall, 1140 12th Ave. Officer responded, contacted individuals, who were told to clean up trash and move along.

1:59 p.m. - Joshua Leslie arrested for criminal trespass II after caller from Thriftway, 621 Main St., reported that male who had been previously trespassed was outside, harassing customers. Leslie also arrested on five SHMC warrants for FTA in trespassing cases. Lodged at Linn County Jail.

2:12 p.m. - Kelly Duane Kearns arrested at Thriftway, 621 Main St., on SHMC warrants for FTA in theft, carrying concealed weapons cases. Cited and released.

2:18 p.m. - Caller reported dog barking in area of 47th Ave./Live Oak St. Officer called owner, no answer. Left message.

3:19 p.m. - Joshua Welch, 36, of Lebanon, arrested on Linn County and Lebanon police warrants, 1000 block Red Baron Lane. Report taken.

3:52 p.m. - Puppy found in 49600 block Canyon Creek Rd. According to LCSO, the puppy was approximately 10 to 12 weeks old, black and white with black speckled paws and white-tipped tail. Someone found the puppy in the woods near Canyon Creek Road and dropped it off at Sweet Home Police Department. A deputy transported the puppy to Animal Control.

5:47 p.m. - Caller from area of 47th Ave./Live Oak St. (see above) reported dog still barking. Officer was able to contact owner who said daughter would respond and put dog inside.

9:16 p.m. - Michael Anthony Bly arrested on

SHMC warrant for FTC in trespassing case, 1300 block Tamarack St. Cited and released.

9:36 p.m. - Caller reported male sleeping in parking lot in 1300 block Long St., asked police to check on him as caller had not seen him move for a while. Police responded, medics transported male. Further information unavailable.

10:05 p.m. - Ciaran Terry Whatley, 43, arrested on SHMC warrant for FTA in theft of services case, 1100 block 13th Ave. Cited and released.

Nov. 11

2:55 a.m. - Colten Colliers, 20, of Brownsville, arrested for DUII, reckless driving, criminal mischief, minor in possession of alcohol, and theft III after report for theft in 33100 block Hwy. 228, Halsey. According to LCSO, the Halsey store reported that an individual had stolen two cases of beer. The vehicle was located in the area and stopped. The offender was not cooperative when arrested and began kicking the inside of the patrol car while detained, LCSO reported. Report taken.

8:53 a.m. - Wayne Graham, 72, of Brownsville, arrested for criminal trespass II, criminal mischief II, 300 block Spaulding Ave., Brownsville. According to LCSO, this was a neighborhood dispute in which the offender came onto the victim's property and cut the victim's tree. Report taken.

10:32 a.m. - Caller reported neighbors fighting in 3100 block Main St. When SHPD arrived, officers determined that the fight was between two dogs that had been separated. One owner was bitten and was en route to get medical attention.

See more and updated Public Safety reports at sweethomenews.com.

XC AWARDS

From page 7

winter, running the fastest 1500 time on the team in track and then clocking 18:13 this season.

"That's what consistency and hard work does for you," Martin said.

First-year letter winners for the girls were Ciullo, for whom this was her first season of cross-country, and freshmen Cassie Spencer, Pyper Hall and Marian Helfrich.

"These young ladies run together all the time and that helps them get better," Martin said.

For the boys, first-year letters went to Hudson Ogden, Noah Strawn and Rodriguez.

Also recognized were junior varsity runners Zoie Allison, Navaeh Mize, Annabelle Morris, McKenzie Ohlheiser, Delanie Pratt Miu Simmons and Kali Vogel for

the girls, and Eli Adams, Ryder Farris and Bentley Uhlry for the boys. Both Simmons, a junior who doubled with soccer but ran with the team in the mornings, and Uhlry, a freshman, improved their times progressively in every race they ran during the season.

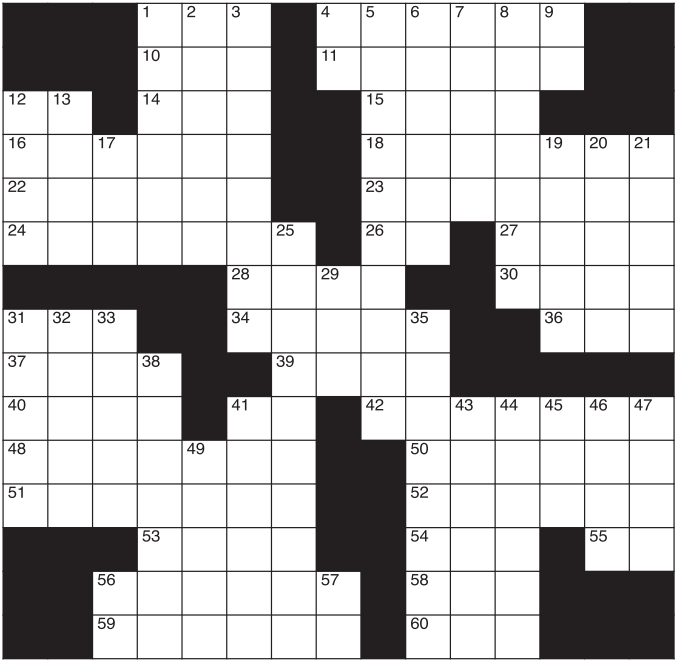
Booster Club President Karyn Hartsook also presented T-shirts to 17 team members who maintained 3.00 or above during the season. Martin noted that seven of the 11 who weren't on the T-shirt list are homeschooled, and that if they had been eligible, many of them would have been on the list as well.

Martin also introduced his junior high/club runners: eighth-grader Zander Davis, fifth-grader Walker Farris, eighth-grader Wiley Farris, sixth-grader Brady Goff, seventh-grader Langston Lane,

and seventh-grader Jackson Sands for the boys, and eighth-grader Emma Daivs and sixth-grader Violet Devlin for the girls.

Martin explained the importance of the junior program, citing the example of Philomath's Cassidy Smart, a sophomore who won this year's high school district title. She has eight years of running experience, he noted. All of last year's junior high runners are freshmen on this year's high school squad but new young runners joined the program, most of them running throughout the summer with the high-schoolers before OSAA rules forced the teams into separate workouts.

"This is a completely new team, and I'm encouraged by where we are at, what we have accomplished," Martin said.



CLUES ACROSS

1. Color

4. English prince

10. When you'll get there

11. Pivot

12. Actinium

14. Greek letter

15. Primordial matter

16. One of a Polynesian island

18. Most spacious

22. What you owe

23. Button-like ornament

24. Ancient city

26. Trauma center

27. CNN anchor Burnett

28. Enough (archaic)

30. Lebowsky's nickname "The ___"

31. Printing speed measurement

34. Waterbirds
36. WWI airship

37. Sudden attack

39. Advice

40. Sacs where fungi develop

41. Where instinctive impulses are manifest

42. Schoolhouse implements

48. Brain parts

50. Borne by or suspended in a liquid

51. Of the desert

52. Starbucks size

53. Ancient Roman garment

54. In a way, set aflame

55. Samarium

56. Heavenly bodies

58. Water in the solid state

59. Exchanged

60. Int'l organization

CLUES DOWN

1. Regain

2. A colorless odorless gas used as fuel

3. Delicacies

4. Spanish be

5. Miami Heat great

6. More slick

7. Turn away

8. Made a second thrust

9. Where injured ballplayers end up

12. As quickly as can be done

13. Military disguise

17. ___ and Dad

19. Mythological wind (Greek)

20. Slides without control

21. Principle or belief
25. Unusually large

29. Naturally occurring solid material

31. Backsides

32. Large orange-brown butterfly

33. Old Testament prophet

35. Women's apartments in a Muslim palace

38. One who waters down

41. Made a visual representation of

43. Continent

44. Flat pieces of rock

45. Very long period of time

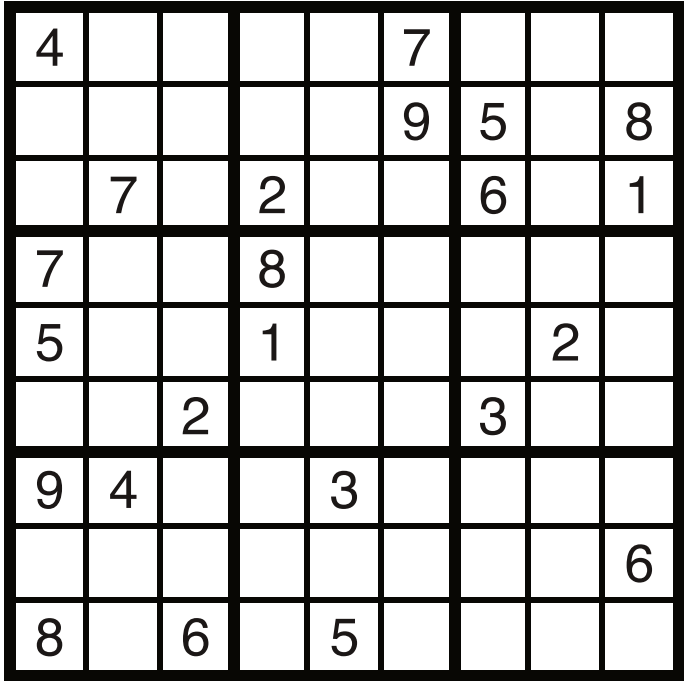
46. Radioactivity units

47. Fields of study

49. Distinctive, pleasant smell

56. The Constitution State (abbr.)

57. South Dakota



Level: Intermediate

GAS TAX

From page 5

signatures, which was 4% of the total ballots cast in the most recent gubernatorial election. This means they have until Dec. 30 to submit all the signatures.

The transportation law is expected to raise about \$4.3 billion over the next 10 years for road maintenance and operations by:

Raising the gas tax by six cents.

Increasing annual registration fees from \$43 to \$85 for passenger vehicles; \$63 to \$105 for utility vehicles, light trailers, low-speed vehicles and medium-speed electric vehicles; and \$44 to \$86 for mopeds and motorcycles, beginning Dec. 31.

Increasing title fees for passenger vehicles from \$77 to \$216, beginning Dec. 31.

Doubling the payroll tax used to fund public transit from 0.1% to 0.2% of a paycheck until January 2028. For



Rep. Ed Diehl

the average Oregonian making \$68,000 a year, that means paying \$136 a year for this tax, or \$11.20 a month.

The referendum effort seeks to reject those four components of the law.

Kotek said she is grateful to the broad coalition of cities, counties, transportation



Oregon Gov. Tina Kotek

workers, truckers and the American Automobile Association for supporting the legislation.

"This bill will help us keep state highways and local roads safe and open to traffic while preserving transit service and halting the pending layoffs of essential transportation staff,"

Kotek said in a statement.

Starr criticized Kotek for taking a month to sign the transportation funding bill, saying she used a delay tactic that undermines public trust.

"At every turn, (Kotek) chose to protect a broken status quo that raises costs on struggling families while failing to fix the structural problems that created this crisis," Starr said in a statement.

"But Oregonians will not be silenced, and their voices will not be ignored. They will have the opportunity to weigh in, hold their leaders accountable and demand a transportation system that works for the people who pay for it."

The chief petitioners formed a political committee for the referendum on Oct. 2, but on Nov. 4 discontinued the committee because it was filed incorrectly and risked facing penalties, Oregon Secretary of State spokesperson Tess Seger said. Diehl said he and the chief petitioners are

reforming the committee.

The Street Trust Executive Director Sarah Iannarone said her organization, an Oregon transportation advocacy non-profit, opposes the referendum effort.

"This referendum is not about protecting Oregon taxpayers," she told the Capital Chronicle.

"It is about defunding safety for kids walking to school, dismantling transit service, and blocking the modernization Oregon urgently needs. Whether or not it succeeds, it underscores the unfinished work of our state leaders. Will Oregon keep relying on temporary, stopgap measures, or will we finally ensure safe, reliable, and equitable transportation access for all who use our streets?"

Visit oregoncapitalchronicle.com to find more in-depth coverage of state politics and other issues.

SCHOOL BOARD

From page 10

have not approved bond requests to make fixes.

Strong said the district's current \$4 million bond levy, approved by voters in May of 2016 and set to be paid off in early 2029, would be extended at exactly the same rate residents pay now.

He told board members that the district would have to submit an application for the grant by the Dec. 15 deadline to find out "whether or not we would be guaranteed an OCSIM grant if the bond passed."

He said that, while Sweet Home's level of poverty makes it a prime candidate for OCSIM funding, "there is ongoing discussion that the funding formula may change in the next biennium to rely on data from a

statewide school facility assessment.

"If that change occurs, it would like prioritize districts that have not placed the same emphasis on keeping their facilities in good condition as Sweet Home has."

That, he said, is why the district needs to act now.

He said that if the guarantee of money is there, the district should move forward on a bond request.

"We would only go out if we're guaranteed funds. That was the case in 2017, when we received a \$4 million OCSIM grant that helped with the junior high renovation project. This time the opportunity is much larger."

Board member Rachel Maynard asked whether all the money would go to the high school.

Strong said that would be up to board members.

"My recommendation would be that we make improvements, especially for safety and security," he said.

"There's more that we can do at all our schools, so I would certainly say that we would look at the needs at all of our schools."

He reminded board members that the district has installed security vestibules and made seismic improvements to all its other schools over the past decade.

At the high school, he said, in addition to classroom safety, "bus, vehicle, pedestrian safety, if we could improve that - the last thing we would ever want is a collision with a person. That's part of safety as well: Doing what we can to make Sweet Home High School a much safer, secure, better learning environment."

In other action, board members:

- Heard a report, including a video from Oak Heights Principal Todd Barrett about changes at the school, including incentives used to encourage attendance and positive behavior.
- Heard a report, includ-

ing a video, from district Counselor Stefani Brown about the Oct. 6 Stand Up to Bullying Day. Various activities and efforts to heighten awareness on the subject include a Buddy Bench at Foster, an assembly at Holley and the Stand Up to Bullying video, she said.

- Heard a warning from Sean McNellis, the district's network analyst, about the dangers of phishing. Ellis said phishing attacks are nearly constant and provided a packet to board members explaining the dangers.

- Heard from Martin that district enrollment dropped by 10 students between Sept. 30 and Oct. 30, to 2,193, which he attributed in part to 10-day drops in which high school students have to re-enroll after missing more than 10 days of school.

- Heard a report from Strong that, a third of the way through the 2025-26 fiscal year, the district has spend \$453,00 more this year than last at this time - a 6½% increase, which Strong attributed to higher PERS rates, higher salaries and wages, and increased

insurance and other costs.

- Heard a report from Maintenance Supervisor Josh Darwood on a truss fracture that has been detected in the Crawfordsville School Gym. The school building in Crawfordsville is occupied by the Linn-Benton-Lincoln Educational Services District, who noticed that "the ceiling tiles didn't look right" in the gym, Strong said.

Darwood said a structural engineer assessed the situation and advised that the gym be closed.

Darwood said it would cost an estimated \$500,000 to \$750,000 to replace the "bowstring truss."

"It's hard, from my viewpoint, to justify throwing a lot of money

Board members briefly discussed potential uses for the building, including whether it could be sold.

Strong said the school property actually consists of a number of tax lots, which would make it tricky to sell. Some include conditions that, he said, date back "a century or longer."

"There would be a lot of research to do about that," he said, adding that the school district "definitely recognize that it's been a central building for the Crawfordsville community for decades, and so we'd want to recognize the community as well in trying to determine what to do with that."

- Agreed unanimously to support Lebanon School Board member Clyde Rood for Oregon School Boards Association Position 10, which represents east Linn County, in OSBA's upcoming election.

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Scott & Miriam Swanson and The New Era Staff



VETERANS DAY PARADE

Veterans from throughout the Willamette Valley and beyond convened Tuesday, Nov. 11, for the 74th annual Linn County Veterans Day Parade in downtown Albany. Participants included Lebanon High School's Junior ROTC Program students, upper right, and Linn County Search and Rescue members, right.

Photos courtesy of Cole Harnar

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DAR offers scholarship for college history majors, grad students

Undergraduate and graduate students studying American history can apply for a \$25,000 scholarship from the National Society Daughters of the American Revolution through Jan. 31, 2026.

The DAR America 250 Scholarship will provide a one-time \$25,000 award to 10 students in 2026 and is offered to mark the 250th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence.

"We see no better way to celebrate America's 250th anniversary than with these transformative and life-changing scholarships investing in the development of the next generation of American historians who will study our past and help us understand new aspects of the great American story," said Ginie Sebastian Storage, DAR president general.

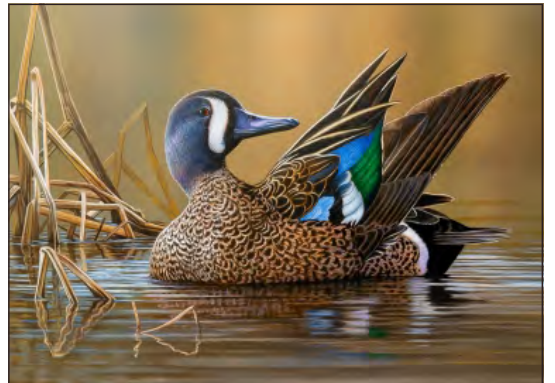
The DAR gives more than 30 scholarships annually awarding close to a total of \$250,000 a year to students across the country, but the organization has never provided a singular scholarship of this size. The significant amount of the America 250! Scholarship, and that it will be awarded to 10 separate students, is a testament of the importance of American history education that DAR places emphasis on and in honor of the special celebrations taking place throughout 2026 in honor of the 250th anniversary of the nation.

Applicants should apply through the DAR online scholarship portal, DAR Academic Works: <https://dar.academicworks.com/>

Students currently majoring in American history in an accredited university or college undergraduate or graduate program in the year 2026 are eligible to apply. Recipients must be United States citizens, prove a minimum 3.50 GPA on a 4.00 scale or equivalent, and prepare a one-page online essay either on the founding of our nation or on the applicant's personal volunteer achievements for community and country.

Students are urged to apply well ahead of the Jan. 31, 2026 deadline, as the scholarship application requires transcripts and letters of recommendation that must be submitted by others. Applicants will find that the scholarship portal will offer other DAR scholarships they may qualify for as well. Questions can be addressed to america250scholarship@nsdar.org.

Applications may be submitted at: <https://dar.academicworks.com/>



Artist winners announced in ODFW annual wildlife stamp competition

The winning artwork has been selected for the 2026 Oregon Waterfowl, Upland Game Bird, and Habitat Conservation Stamp Art Contests.

In the Waterfowl Stamp category, first place went to Richard Clifton of Milford, Del., for his artwork featuring a blue-winged teal. A total of 13 entries were submitted, depicting blue-winged teal, ruddy duck, or lesser scaup birds.

For the Upland Game Bird category, Ryan Kniss of Johnstown, Pa., claimed first place with his portrayal of the ring-necked pheasant. A total of 11 entries were submitted featuring ring-necked pheasants for the Upland Game Bird Stamp Contest.

Kniss also secured first place in the Habitat Conservation category with a depiction of a brown pelican. A total of 23 entries were submitted, highlighting select strategy species, for the Habitat Conservation Stamp Contest.

All of the entries can be seen at https://www.dfw.state.or.us/stamp_contest/index.asp.

Judging took place Nov. 4 at ODFW Headquarters in Salem, where a panel of independent judges reviewed this year's submissions.

The winning artwork will appear on the 2026 collector stamps and related promotional items, with proceeds supporting habitat improvement, research, surveys, and conservation projects.

In addition to their artwork being featured on stamps, each first-place artist will receive a \$2,000 award in recognition of their talent and contribution to wildlife conservation.

Stamps and prints of the winning artwork can be purchased through the ODFW website, where you can also learn more about Oregon's ongoing conservation efforts.



Group Effort for Soil Stabilization

Photo by Sarah Brown

Khaidyn Patterson-Ramsey, center, uses a post pounder to drive a hole into the bank of the Santiam River while his brother, Kandyn, at left, and Dace Phearson watch. This was how some Brownsville residents spent a Saturday morning in Lebanon on Oct. 25. It was part of a volunteer effort spearheaded by the Lebanon Garden Club to halt erosion along the bank at Riverview Park. More than 200 plant cuttings were placed along the bank. The Patterson-Ramsey brothers, both junior high students at Central Linn, joined the group to help Lebanon FFA teacher Mike Wilson, who was also there. They said it was fun and tiring at the same time.



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