



The New Era

Merry Christmas

December 24, 2025
Vol. 95, No. 51
\$2.00

LETTERS TO SANTA

Editor's note: Following are the annual wish lists produced by local second-graders in Sweet Home schools:

Sweet Home Charter School

Dear Santa,
I want hair clips. Iv'e been good. I will like anything! Also I will like some cool stuff It does not matter but I will like some slime and some pj's and some books. I can't wait I will love anything.
Sincerely, Acelynn C.

Dear Santa,
You are the best santa ever I love you so so so much. I've been prity good this year I will do better but can I have maden20 and 2k26 pleas? I want under armer for foot-ball and a arm slev to for foot-ball do you think I can make it on the NFL?
Sincerely, James C

Hello Santa,
Hello! For Christmas, I would like candy, pokemon cards and lego's! Please and thank you! I've been smiling and smiling! Thanks a lot!
Sincerely, Ezra F.

Dear Santa,
I am eight years old for Christmas. I want a Luigi plushy. I want a Luigi plushy because Mario is my second favoret game just in general.
Sincerely, Solomon G.

Dear Santa,
I have been very good this year. Can you get me 3 presents. One for my grama silvia's house, one for my house, and one for my cousins house. I want a kind of big panda study. I waldo want a lava lamp that is ether blur or purple. The last thing I want is a rock decorating kit I really hope that you can get me 3 gifts.
Sincerely, Harper G.

Dear Santa,
I was having a great year. I thikg that Cristmas is the best holody! I want a toothless mask that has the blue lite and the stuffed animal famly thats toothless. You and the caster bunny are the best. I cant wait for christ.
Sincerely, Briella H.

Dear Santa,
I want a fornit v-bucks card and a xbox that has a michael Jordon Sticilen on it and a pink ps 5 and g lowing gold football and a glowing basket ball and a glowing basketball hoop and some pint ledlitse

See Santa Letters, Page 5

A Night in the Stable at the Inn



Ember Ogden, right, sings "Born is the Light of the World," one of the musical numbers during "The Innkeepers" play, which was staged last weekend at Sweet Home Auditorium by SHOCASE. Behind her, shepherds gather around Mary and Joseph and the baby Jesus., which was theme of the play. See more photos on page 10 and at sweethomenews.com.

Photo by Scott Swanson

SH schools to get \$12.2M grant - if voters OK bond

By Scott Swanson
Of The New Era

If Sweet Home voters agree to continue the current bond levy they pay, Sweet Home School District will get \$12.2 million from the state to upgrade the high school.

That news came Friday, Dec. 19, in response to the district's application for the Oregon School Capital Improvement Matching Grant funds which, Business Manager Kevin Strong told the School Board at its meeting Monday, Dec. 15, was submitted at 8:01 a.m. the morning of the meeting, one minute after the window for applications opened.

In a report to the board, Strong noted that Sweet Home ranks in the top 15% of Oregon school districts on the state's priority list for such funding. The \$12,252,000 grant is the maximum available to any individual district, he said.

Now that the district qualifies for the grant, voters will need to agree to extend the current \$4 million bond levy, which was approved in the May 2016 election, which would enable Sweet Home to receive the matching grant. The 2017 grant was used to upgrade Sweet Home Junior High.

The next step is for the School Board to decide whether to refer a bond mea-



Photo by Scott Swanson

This flag lot is being purchased by the Sweet Home School District, eventually intended to provide a safer entry for buses into the high school. The school woodshop is visible over the fence in the rear.

sure to the ballot. The Board is expected to make that decision at its next meeting, on Jan. 12.

According to Strong, the proposed bond would address the following objectives:

Maintain the current tax rate: The bond would be structured to keep the tax rate flat at the current level.

"By combining the \$12.2 million grant with funds the district has saved and capitalizing on the retirement of existing debt, we can structure the proposed bond to keep the tax

rate flat," Strong said.

During the past decade, he noted, the district's bond tax rate has declined from \$1.64 per \$1,000 of assessed value in 2015 to \$1.45 this year. The proposed measure would maintain this lower rate and is expected to raise approximately \$40 million for facility needs.

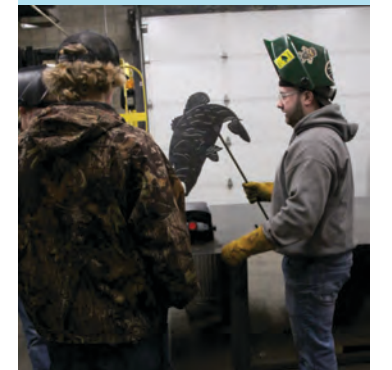
Improve student safety and security: Funds would upgrade security at every school, prior-

See School Board, Page 5

Hometown
Newspaper of
**JEAN
BURGER**

Merry Christmas!

THE NEW ERA OFFICE
WILL CLOSE AT NOON
WEDNESDAY, DEC. 24, AND
WILL REOPEN AT 10 A.M.
MONDAY, DEC. 29.
HAVE A HAPPY HOLIDAY!



**SHHS STUDENTS
MANUFACTURING
SOME FISHY ART
PAGE 8**



**STORMS LEAVE
IMPACT ON
SWEET HOME AREA,
BUT IT'S NOT
MAJOR DAMAGE
PAGE 7**

Serving Sweet Home
since 1929

Find us online at
SWEETHOMENEWS.COM



OBITUARIES

Wayne Crocker
Aug. 22, 1943 - Dec. 13, 2025
"You have suffered for a little while, the God of all grace, who called you to his eternal glory, in Christ, will himself perfect, confirm, strengthen, and establish you."

- 1 Peter 1:10
Wayne "Joe" Crocker, 82, of Sweet Home passed away Saturday, Dec. 13, 2025.



He was born Aug. 22, 1943, to Myrtle (Davis) and John Franklin Crocker. Joe was one of nine children at a farm on Clark Mill Road.

He was a logger for a short time and later worked at a mill in Sweet Home.

He attended Highway 20 Church of Christ and was a faithful Christian. He shared his love for dogs, hunting, fishing, tying flies, woodcutting, smoking turkeys and jerky, and shooting guns with his lifelong friends and family.

He lived his entire life in Sweet Home and took every opportunity to be in the countryside. Joe enjoyed the simpler things in life such as Hershey's chocolate bars, cooking homemade soups on his wood stove, and making a sarcastic but funny comment every now and then.

Joe is survived by his wife of 56 years, Beverly Jo Crocker; daughters Angela and Tina; son-in-law Brian; siblings Perry Crocker and LaVelle Updegrave; and grandchildren Justin, Jaden, Emma, Eva and Joel.

He was preceded in death by his sons: Steven Crocker (1976) and Mathew Crocker (2023); and siblings Velma, Viola, Alvin, Dale, Ray, and Steve.

A viewing will be held from 10 a.m. to noon Thursday,

Jan. 8, 2026, at Sweet Home Funeral Chapel, followed by a 1 p.m. graveside service at Gilliland Cemetery. A memorial service will be announced at a later date.

Sweet Home Funeral Chapel is handling the arrangements.
Paid Obituary

Dan Nowlin
Sept. 9, 1933 - Dec. 14, 2025
Dan Howard Nowlin, 92, of Sweet Home passed away Dec. 14, 2025.

He was born Sept. 9, 1933 in Portland to Alice (Marvin) and John H. Nowlin.

He joined the Army in 1952. He became a stenographer and took dictation in the Army. Dan attended Oregon Western University in Monmouth, where he earned his bachelor's degree and met his sweetheart, Ardonna "Donie" Elligsen. They were married on May 13, 1953.



In 1954, Dan became a sixth-grade teacher at Foster Elementary School in Sweet Home. After a year he left and went back into the Army. The Nowlins returned to Sweet Home in 1957. Dan taught a total of 32 years at Foster.

Dan enjoyed baseball; he was a catcher and played first base on a local team in his 60s. He played chess on chess.com for years with the best of them. He was a fan of the Boston Red Sox and the Portland Trail Blazers. He was an Oregon Beaver fan all the way.

Dan enjoyed hiking and fishing with his good friend Jim Riggs at a place by the river called Park Creek. In his younger years he liked to golf.

He also enjoyed traveling

the United States and Canada with his wife and family. Later in life Dan earned his master's degree at OSU in Corvallis.

He liked World War II and biography movies, and English literature. His favorite music was ABBA, and Herb Alpert and the Tijuana Brass. He loved classical orchestra-style music, especially Mozart, Beethoven and Bach. He also enjoyed swing band music.

Dan is survived by daughter Nancy Louise Nowlin; son Dan Howard Nowlin Jr.; five grandchildren; and special friends and caretakers Janice and Donald Schatz.

He was preceded in death by his wife Ardonna (2017).

There will not be any funeral services, per his wishes. Sweet Home Funeral Chapel is handling the arrangements.

David Spicer
Dec. 11, 1947 - Dec. 4, 2025

David Eugene Spicer was born on Dec. 11, 1947, in Lebanon and died Dec. 4, 2025, also in Lebanon, at the age of 77.

He was born to Edna and Paul Spicer (Sketon). They resided near Lacombe and David attended Lacombe Elementary School until he and his family moved to Central Point.

He graduated from Central Point High School. During this time he became a track star and lettered in that sport.

After graduating, he enlisted in the U.S Army; the year was 1967.

David became a paratrooper in 101st Air-born. Later David was sent to Vietnam, where he fought in over 50 firefights and was highly decorated for his services.

He earned a coveted bronze star with a V for Valor. David was in the Tet Offen-

sive. When his tour was over, he was one of the five original men still left in his company. In 1969 David received an honorable discharge from the Army.

David suffered greatly from P.T.S.
Paid Obituary

Robert Sayers
March 25, 1974 - Dec. 15, 2025
Robert Dean Sayers, 51, of Sweet Home passed away Dec. 15, 2025.

He was born March 25, 1974 to Robert Allen Sayers and Evonne Shirley (Reynolds) Sayers in Spokane, Wash.

The family moved to Sweet Home in 1976, where Robert attended Foster Elementary, Sweet Home Junior High, and Sweet Home High School, where he was a varsity wrestler, graduating in 1992.



After high school, Robert traveled the United States working for Columbia Helicopters before returning to Sweet Home in 2001. He worked for Rice Logging until his retirement in 2019.

Robert enjoyed hunting, fishing, camping, rock hounding, wood cutting and stacking, and taking meticulous care of his yard.

The youngest of 10 siblings, Robert loved to spend time with his family. He married his wife Terra in 2024, and enjoyed many loyal, life-long friendships.

Robert is survived by his wife, Terra (Blank) Sayers of Sweet Home; step-daughter Avery Nelson of Sweet Home; mother Evonne Sayers of Sweet Home; brother Gary Sayers and wife Nancy Glasgow of Stuart, Fla.; brother Danny Sayers and wife Ruth; sister Ruthann (Sayers) Kilian and husband Mark; sister Mary (Sayers) Keenon and husband Lonnie; and brother

Frank Sayers, all of Sweet Home; and 13 nieces and nephews.

Robert was preceded in death by his father Robert Sayers; brother David Sayers; sister Judith (Sayers) Wirth; brother Donald Sayers; and sister Kerri (Sayers) Blachly.

A memorial service will be at 1 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 3, 2026, at the Jim Riggs Community Center. All who knew and loved Robert are welcome to attend.

Sweet Home Funeral Chapel is handling the arrangements.

Death Notices

Lorna Ellefson
Sept. 22, 1931- Dec. 16, 2025

Lorna Ann Ellefson, 94, of Brownsville, passed away Dec. 16, 2025, at Wiley Creek Memory Care. Funeral service will be at 11 a.m. Saturday, Dec. 27, 2025, at Sweet Home Funeral Chapel.

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

Annette Hilburn
July 22, 1944 - Dec. 19, 2025

Annette Hilburn, 81, of Sweet Home, passed away Dec. 19, 2025.

A memorial reception will be held from 4 to 6 p.m. Monday, Dec. 22, in the reception room of Sweet Home Funeral Chapel. Burial will take place at Oak Grove Cemetery in Laton, Calif., later in the spring.

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

Karen Tracy
Oct. 15, 1949 - Dec. 20, 2025

Karen Lynn Tracy, 76, of Adair Village, passed away Dec. 20, 2025.

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

EVENTS

Saturday Market returns Dec. 20

Third Saturday Markets are returning this year, starting Saturday, Dec. 20, at the Church of the Nazarene, 415

Holley Road. Hours are 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. The monthly event will run through April, featuring local vendors and all sorts of goodies.

As many of you know, our family was involved in the accident at Berlin and McDowell Creek roads on December 5th.

We would like to express our deepest gratitude for the love, prayers and assistance that we have received during this difficult time. From all of the amazing cards, drawings and words of encouragement from the Sweet Home schools; to the food, gifts, and logistical help from family and friends.



We would especially like to thank Moore's Family Vineyard and the patrons of Cheffry's for their outpouring of support and understanding. We would also like to acknowledge the grace of the patients of Dr. Reff and her work-family at Samaritan Sweet Home Clinic who made an overwhelming situation so much less stressful.

We also are in awe of the amazing assistance we received from the EMS crews with Sweet Home Fire and Lebanon Fire, without whom there would have been even more tragedy.

We are so lucky and truly blessed to be a part of this community.

- The Gainer/Reff family



Christmas Masses

St. Helen Catholic Church
Christmas Eve:
Caroling at 8:30 pm
Mass at 9:30 pm
Christmas Day:
Mass at 9:00 am
600 Sixth Ave. Sweet Home
541-367-2530

Holy Trinity Catholic Church
Christmas Eve:
Mass: 5:30 pm
104 Blakely Ave. Brownsville

"Wishing all of you a year of peace and growth in your daily walk with Christ"



Candlelight Service

Christmas Eve 4:30 p.m.



CORNERSTONE FELLOWSHIP
a Foursquare church

1234 Long St.
541-367-6161
shcornerstonefellowship.org



MEMORY MAKING
ADVENTURES
CRAFTING MEMORIES, ONE ADVENTURE AT A TIME

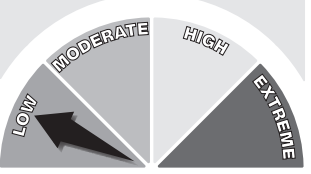


Call Michael:
541-797-5445

WE SUPPORT THE NEW ERA!

TEMPERATURES				
DATE		HIGH	LOW	PRECIP
December 16		59	50	0.24
December 17		60	40	0.41
December 18		57	42	0.09
December 19		51	39	2.76
December 20		47	38	0.13
December 21		47	41	0.13
December 22		51	39	0.09
PRECIPITATION				
Year to date:		29.65		
December 25, 2024:		34.15		

FORECAST			
DAY	WEATHER	HIGH	LOW
Thur	Showers	47	37
Fri	Showers	47	34
Sat	Partly Cloudy	48	32
Sun	Mostly Cloudy	49	34
Mon	Mostly Cloudy	50	37
Tues	Showers	50	39
Wed	Showers	49	39
LAKE LEVELS			
Foster Reservoir:		621.7	
Green Peter Res.:		934.3	



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: L. (Lebanon), SH. (Sweet Home), B. (Brownsville) and H. (Halsey) following addresses; CSO (community services officer); LCSO (Linn County Sheriff's Office); SHPD (Sweet Home Police Department); OSP (Oregon State Police); CTC (Cascade Timber Consulting); 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).

Dec. 19
7:45 a.m. - Caller reported brother, who had been trespassed from location in 2200 block Tamarack St., SH., trying to hook up trailer. Officer responded, contacted both parties, brother trespassed from property.
9:31 a.m. - Caller reported subjects camped out in stairwell at old City Hall, 1140 12th Ave., SH. Officer responded, contacted male, who was told to move along. Officer also located property left behind by others, which was transported to SHPD property.
10:49 a.m. - Anthony Heintzman, of Lebanon, cited for careless driving in area of Rock Hill/Stoltz Hill road, L, regarding traffic hazard for which he was believed responsible. According to LCSO, Heintzman, driving a semi and trailer, allegedly decided to turn onto a road "that clearly was too tight for his vehicle" and became stuck, blocking traffic in all directions.
10:51 a.m. - Caller reported customer had assaulted employee in 32900 block Hwy. 228, H. A deputy responded and collected statements, but no victims of the incident contacted law enforcement. Report taken.
3:30 p.m. - Caller reported hit and run at McDonald's, 2000 Main St., SH. Officer responded, report taken.
9:17 p.m. - Eric Harvey, 53, of Lebanon, arrested for trespass I after allegedly entering and remaining in dwelling in 31000 block Santiam Hwy., L., illegally. According to LCSO, Harvey was riding a mobility chair and was tired, so he stopped at the location. No one was home, so he decide to walk in and take a rest on the recliner in the house he had never been to before. Report taken.
10:11 p.m. - Janetta Reedy, 27, of Brownsville, arrested for DUII, reckless driving, and reckless endangering, and cited for driving uninsured and refusing to submit to a breath test, Airport/5th St., L. Report taken.
11:47 p.m.- Erin Koenig, 45, cited for driving uninsured after traffic stop in 1500 block Main St., SH, during which officer discovered vehicle was stolen. SHPD was unable to contact vehicle owner, so it was towed.

Dec. 18
9:16 a.m. - Deputy located elderly male outside in his underwear in 34000 block Kowitz Rd., L. Deputy was able to identify the man, who has dementia, and was able to return him to his home.
10:10 a.m. - Caller reported they were locked in the trunk of a vehicle after being hit with a frying pan. However, caller disconnected with dispatchers and did not answer phone calls. Deputies arrived at location in 5500 block Santiam Hwy., L., but found nothing after a check of the property. Property owner, who knows caller, and suggested it was likely a false report, according to LCSO.
11:01 a.m. - Caller reported Wells Fargo ATM door open in 500 block Main St., SH. Officer responded, machine was out of service but door was open. Safe untouched. Technician to be dispatched.
1:01 p.m. - Historical sex abuse case reported. Investigation ongoing. 200 block Alder St., L.
3:16 p.m. - Caller reported she was sick and needed care in 5100 block Redwood St., SH. Officer responded, female was transported to hospital.
3:45 p.m. - Aysia Nicholle Bailiff cited for driving while suspended, driving uninsured, 3000 block Main St., SH.
4:15 p.m. - Caller reported littering site on Kirk 105 line off Kirk Dr., B. Investigation conducted, report taken.
4:17 p.m. - Caller reported female refusing to leave Sun Motel, 3026 Main St., SH. Officer responded, contacted female, who was trespassed.
4:17 p.m. - Caller reported neighbor had put down wooden planks along the bottom of common fence, which was creating runoff issues - "lakes" along the fence. City code enforcement officer to respond. 600 block 7th Ave., SH.
4:24 p.m. - Caller reported elderly female with dementia had wandered off from 1100 block Juniper St., SH. Officer responded, located the wanderer, who was returned to caller.
5:20 p.m. - Delores Higgins, 62, of Lebanon, arrested for criminal mischief III and harassment after report of disturbance in 38700 block Lacombe Dr., L. Floyd Dorgan, 63, of Lebanon, arrested for warrant. According to LCSO, this was an "alcohol-infused" physical fight between two people living on the same property. Report taken.
6:19 p.m. - Jacob Willcox, 23, of Scio, cited for driving uninsured, failure to renew vehicle registration and unsignaled lane change, Hwy. 226/Cold Springs Rd., L.
7:02 p.m. - Bryan Watts, 50, of Lebanon, arrested on outstanding warrant, 300 block Russell St., L. Cited and released. Report taken.
7:41 p.m. - Hit and run reported in Lebanon Taco Bell parking lot, 2000 block S. Santiam Hwy.
7:58 p.m. - Downed tree blocking Berlin Road in 32400 block removed by Linn County Road Department.
8:43 p.m. - Ethan Bird, 53, cited for warrants, Lacombe Dr./Cottonwood Lane, L. Report taken.

See Public Safety, Page 11



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

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

LEBANON:
WALMART
LBCC
PARK & OAK

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

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

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



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



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

Crossword KEY
Puzzle on page 12

A	R	O	Y	O	S	H	I	N	T	O			
A	N	D	O	V	E	R	A	I	R	I	E	S	T
D	A	W	I	S	C	O	N	S	I	N	C	R	
A	L	C	E	S	H	A	D	S	E	G	U	E	
G	O	O	N	S	I	T	E	S	R	I	L	L	
E	G	O	B	A	D	D	A	M	D	A	L		
S	E	A	T				C	A	B	T	I		
T	S	A	N	A			R	A	S	E	S		
A	U	D	E	G			B	A	A	L	S		
N	I	B	D	A	T		T	O	T	A	L	I	
A	C	R	E	S	H	T	I	K	A	B	A	S	
G	I	A	N	T	E	A	T	P	E	S	T	S	
E	D	S	O	M	M	E	L	I	E	R	E	U	
R	E	M	O	R	S	E	E	C	L	I	P	S	E
S	T	R	E	S	S		D	E	F	E	A	T	

SUDOKU KEY
Puzzle on page 12

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

FROM OUR FILES



Big Red and the Dogbite Fairies from the high school spread cheer and fun through the school and downtown businesses handing out candy canes in 1975. Here, Big Red hands a candy cane to Dennis Stein, 7 mos., while his brother Bill Stein, 22 mos., looks a bit bewildered.

Dec. 28, 1950

Donn Bonham, former editor of The New Era, is now in Korea with the marines. Encamped near Pusan with a marine replacement unit, Bonham is a member of a four-man rifle team after being with the historic records section of a headquarters unit. He reports the spirits of the men in his outfit were high, despite being short of food, water and simple conveniences.

Santa was the most popular man in town when an estimated 2,500 youngsters and adults were there to greet his arrival in a bright red fire engine. He passed out packages of fruit, nuts and candy in front of the city's big Christmas tree on M Street, and found time for an occasional chat with big-eyed children or to voice his disapproval at youngsters who accepted second and third helpings.

Dec. 24, 1975

An overestimation of beginning cash balances in the general and public works funds will leave the city about \$70,000 short at the end of the fiscal year. The auditors had projected more money for the year than was actually being received, so they told the council the city will have to cut back on expenditures in order to avoid getting into a big hole. The city manager

recommended eliminating the purchase of a police car, laying off a public works employee, cutting extra labor and reducing purchases of materials and supplies.

Dec. 27, 2000

A woman was injured after falling 20 feet inside a Willamette Industries warehouse at the north end of 24th Avenue. Police were investigating several burglaries and searching for a suspect who was said to be living in the warehouse. While searching in the middle of the night, the woman was seen on top of a 20-foot stack of cardboard. Further searching revealed a tent and, later, the woman who had fallen down a crevice between stacks. She was treated at the hospital.

Volunteers planted "Celebration Trees" at the Jim Riggs Community Center in honor of Jim Riggs, Gloria Riggs, Frances Hughes, Winnie and Guy Mansperger, Catherine Skiens and Larry Blem.

The owners of the Mountain House Country Restaurant said goodbye to their customers after 10 years in business. They mentioned finances as a reason, and said they believe if someone could renovate the building into a more tourist-attractive destination, it could really flourish.

Wrestling: SH records triumphs at Thurston; Bailey Chafin returns

By Ryker Burr
For The New Era

After what would've been the first chance to wrestle in front of its home crowd was cancelled due to storms earlier in the week, Sweet Home's wrestlers headed to the LaMont Simmons Thurston Invite on Saturday well-rested and with an urge to continue their strong start to the season.

At the Thurston Duals - featuring mostly 5A level teams from all over Oregon and even a competitor from Washington (Bend, Churchill, Creswell, Thurston, Tillamook and Orting) - Sweet Home's boys finished as runner-ups to Thurston, a team that has placed second in the 5A state classification for back-to-back seasons.

Junior Jesse Landtroop led the day for the Huskies, besting Thurston's defending state-runner up sophomore Tanner Brumble by decision 15-8.

In addition to Landtroop, sophomore Eli Cruz, junior Kyle Zajic, and seniors Tytus Hardee, Lynkin Royer, and Luke Rosa all went undefeated.

Head Coach Steve Thorpe also highlighted one of his freshmen for demonstrating courage: "Macen Rosa

showed a lot of courage. He went up a weight class, unselfishly, for us."

The girls team - which competed in an individual tournament, also placed second to Thurston, gapping Bend, Churchill, Creswell, and Tillamook.

The Huskies finished with 187 points, behind Thurston's 306 and well ahead of Tillamook (117.5).

One highlight for Sweet Home in the tournament was that Bailey Chafin returned for the first time after a serious knee injury she suffered in the state final last year.

Chafin started off her senior campaign by pinning her way through the 135-pound bracket. She didn't allow a single point in her final two matches, pinning Thurston's Mikala Frye in just 15 seconds, then taking the crown with a pin over Tillamook's Kelly Garcia.

"She did a great job. She's not where she's going to be that's for sure, but every day she's getting closer to full health," said Thorpe.

Junior Alizeah Weikel also pinned her way through her 115-pound bracket in brisk fashion, wrestling a total of only 44 seconds on the day.

"She has an aggressive style that paid off," Thorpe

explained.

Sophomore and first-year wrestler Bailey Newens shocked the field by dominating the 190-pound bracket and taking home the victory.

"[That was] a nice surprise for us," Thorpe said.

Second-place winners for Sweet Home were sophomores Sydney Dominy (145), Bella Rico (130), and Lyla Ventura (110).

Third-place winners were: freshman Hailey Ayala (155) and sophomores Natasha Marin (105) and Raelyn Andrews (125).

Fourth-place winners were sophomore Hailey Borromeo (135) and junior Madison Looney (145).

Next week will be one of the biggest of the year for the Huskies, as both the boys and girls head to the Northwest Duals - one of the toughest tournaments in the state - on Monday and Tuesday, Dec. 29-30, at the Linn County Expo Center; and then to the Linn Country Championships at Central Linn High School on Friday, Jan. 2.

"We're looking for bragging rights for the county," Thorpe said.



Wishing you and your families a
Merry Christmas and very
Happy New Year!

The Lebanon Local, New Era and Tell & Sell Staff!

The New Era

A LOCALLY OWNED NEWSPAPER

SWEETHOMENEWS.COM

OFFICE: 1313 Main St., Sweet Home, Oregon

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

WHO WE ARE:

Miriam Swanson, Publisher - miriam@sweethomenews.com

Scott Swanson, Publisher - scott@sweethomenews.com

Jessica Sands, Office Manager - jessica@sweethomenews.com

Sarah Brown, Staff Writer - sarah@sweethomenews.com

Mack Knebel, Advertising Rep - mack@sweethomenews.com

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

NEWS QUESTIONS / TIPS - news@sweethomenews.com

SCHOOL BOARD

From page 1

itizing urgent needs at Sweet Home High School. The high school currently has more than 40 separate entrances with direct public access to student areas and lacks a secure entry vestibule. Bond proceeds would fund a secure campus perimeter. All visitors and students returning during the school day would be required to check in through the front office. Fire alarms, communication systems, and lockdown systems would also be upgraded.

According to Facilities Director Josh Darwood, many of the needed improvements would involve the classrooms and career learning areas at Sweet Home High School.

Located on the south side of the school, most learning areas feature an older "California-style" campus design with flat-roof construction and open breezeways.

"Many of the high school's classroom sections were built when there were very different expectations for school safety and durability," Darwood said. "Updating these spaces allows us to address long-standing security challenges while replacing structures that were never designed to perform well in our local weather conditions. It also provides an excellent opportunity to significantly upgrade career learning facilities for students without increasing the tax rate."

Upgrade classrooms and career learning facilities: Funds would improve classrooms and career learning facilities where students gain hands-on job skills aligned with local workforce needs. Music and physi-

cal education spaces would also be improved, planned in coordination with community partners to maximize community benefit.

Strong said the proposed bondwill build on the district's track record of recent facility improvements. Over the past decade, the school district used grant funds and district savings to complete safety, security, and seismic upgrades at Foster, Hawthorne, Holley, and Oak Heights elementary schools, as well as the high school auditorium.

The District also made substantial facility improvements at Sweet Home Junior High School by combining grants, district savings, and a voter-approved bond that was structured to maintain the tax rate.

"We recognize that Sweet Home has a limited tax base, and fiscal restraint matters," Strong said. "Our goal is to use grants, available savings, and the retirement of existing debt so we can make needed school improvements without burdening the community with a higher tax rate."

Extend the life of school buildings: Funds would replace aging flat-roof classroom sections with durable construction designed for Western Oregon's climate, reducing maintenance costs and extending the useful life of school facilities.

Land Purchase Approval

Sweet Home School Board members agreed unanimously Monday, Dec. 15, at their monthly meeting, to purchase a piece of property adjacent to Sweet Home High School in an effort to improve transportation access to the high school.

After a closed session in which they discussed the po-



December ESPY winners are, in front, from left, Coen Funk of Hawthorne School, Austyn Theford of Hawthorne, Avalee Hoffman of Holley School, Acelynn Clayton of Sweet Home Charter School, Alina McConnell of Oak Heights School and Elijah Thome of the Charter School. In the rear are, from left, Martin Chelstad of Sweet Home High School, Mickey Russell of Foster School, Anistyn Weikel of Sweet Home Junior High, Elsie Leffler of Foster, Lynfel Franzcysse Damag of the Junior High and Chelsea Archer of Oak Heights. Not available for the photo were Elena Briggs of the High School and Irie Smith of Holley.

tential real estate purchase, as well as their evaluation procedure for the district superintendent, board members, with the exception of Mary Speck, who was absent, emerged to vote in favor of the purchase.

Board members agreed to pay \$90,000 for the flag-shaped property, located on 18th Avenue, which does not have a physical address. It is 12,214 square feet in size, per county records, and is vacant except for a storage structure. Its west side faces the existing wood shop on the high school campus.

Business Manager Kevin Strong said after the meeting that the property "creates opportunities to improve safety and expand career training for students."

"One potential use is that it could be used for a much-needed greenhouse for our agriculture program," Strong

said. "We also recognize the existing wood shop next to this site is nearing the end of its useful life, and if it were relocated elsewhere on campus, this area could help create a safer bus circulation route, reducing congestion and improving traffic safety."

The purchase is conditional on the satisfactory results of an environmental site assessment, Strong said.

Board members also approved a two-year grant agreement that will allot the school district nearly \$4.7 million from Student Investment Account funds, which are granted to assist in meeting students' mental or behavioral health needs and boost academic achievement for disadvantaged students. The total grant funds of \$4,695,508.28 will be disbursed over the next two years, through September of 2027.

In other action, the board:

Heard a report from Holley Principal Josh Dargis, who described the school's Character Ambassador Program, in which the school emphasizes various character traits, such as ethics, respect or honesty, monthly throughout the school year – this month's being integrity, with optimism coming in January.

Dargis reported that the program has been in operation at Holley for five years and teachers use it in their classrooms throughout the month, then select two or three students at the end of the month for recognition as Character Ambassadors, which means they get to help out at the student store, help with announcements and get recognized at an assembly, to which parents are invited.

"We should have done that five years ago," he said of the latter.

Plus, Dargis said, students are rewarded with such things as trinkets and pizza parties.

Heard from student Cannon Klumph that the high school's canned food drive in November netted 2,186 pounds of food and raised \$1,903, which were used to feed 60 families.

Agreed unanimously to delay adoption of social sciences curriculum for district schools for two years.

Supt. Terry Martin said it is not unusual for school districts to delay purchasing curriculum and the district doesn't need new curriculum immediately.

"It's not a problem with the materials," he told the board. "We have spent quite a bit on curriculum the last two years. We just want to postpone the adoption."

SANTA LETTERS

From page 1

and a ten x box cher.

Sincerely, Kayson H.

Dear Santa,

I want a nintendo switch for Christmas. I've been good and bad. Maybe a switch 2 and animal crossing for christmas. *Sincerely, Stanley J.*

Dear Santa,

Can I have normal Steve (stuffed animal mine craf.) vr head set for my brother Minecraft pillow xbox game. And an action figure. "Love Kadin" I've been good:) *Sincerely, Kadin M.*

Dear Santa,

I am in second grade. I really like the coler red. I am 7 years old. I have been really good this year. I really want a red hello kitty car thats for kids. Please can you make it cute and shiny with a sparkly bow on the back. And make the seats golden and the steering weal red covered with bows. The buttons can be yellow and the keys can be red, purple, and pink. *Sincerely, Selah M.*

Dear Santa,

Can you give some magic tree house books to me? And



Photo by Sarah Brown

Charter School students perform during the school's Christmas program Dec. 19. See more photos at sweethomenews.com.

some new toys like a craft kit and a new stuffy like a lizard with babies? Can you get some chapter books? More than one like ten but I want all of the magic tree house books. *Sincerely, Georgia N.*

Dear Santa,

I have been as Good as I can be but, There is one thing that is really specil to me. He is my cat Oogy Boogys brother. I want him to come home for christmas or before. I miss him so much, and Santa I want it to snow a lot to were I can make a snow man with my family. *Sincerely, Brynnlee P.*

Dear Santa,

I want a RC Shark that swims. And I want a goldnerf gun and to hav a ground tram-poleen. *Sincerely, Wyatt P.*

Dear Santa,

I want a pet cat. I want 3 kinds of Roblox which is a trampoline game, a pack man game, and the propper. I am bing really good because I am eating fast. I love Santa! *Sincerely, Cohen P.*

Dear Santa,

I've been Nice and Naughty. This year i've been more nice. What I want a Nintendo switch 2 for Christmas. *Sincerely, Joseph P.*

Dear Santa,

Could I have a bb gun, and a basketball, a new soccer ball, 59 books, and a christmas tree, a comander cody lego set, a baby yoda leo set, a pack of lights, a basketball stadium? I've been nice. *Sincerely, Lucas R.*

Dear Santa,

For christmas all I really wont is a baby cat. And also some dog treats for my dog cus I love teaching him tricks. Also I realy want a squishmallow cus they are so cute and squishmallow's are so squishy. And I want a colring book. *Sincerely, Leela S.*

Dear Santa,

I've been good this year. I'd love it if I could have a ps5 Also if I could have a squish-mallow pizza shaped. I would thank you if your helpers made me a control car. *Sincerely, Elijah T.*

Dear Santa,

I have had a good yeer. I wold like some minecraft legos. I had been good this yeer. *Sincerely, Atlas T.*

Dear Santa,

I want a real diamond and a island adventure pleey. I have

ben very good this year. I have ben waiting for Christmas. *Sincerely, Liam W.*

Dear Santa,

I am doing good and my brothers are doing good. Can I get a go cart for chrismas. Can I get a skibty toilet in my stocking? Can I get a ninja kids ball and I get a ninja kid puase. *Sincerely, Otto W.*

Foster Elementary

Dear Santa,

My name is Olivia. I am 8 years old. For christmas I want some paint, a pet trbl and sum panet and a candis and a rane deer. *Olivia C.*

Dear Santa,

My name is Bella. I am 7 years old. This year I have been very nice. I would like my mine baby series 2. Barbie dreamhouse Barbie dream camper and real Axolotl. And Love. *From, Bella A.*

Dear Santa,

My name is Jace. I am 7 years old. I have been nice this year. I would like a tiny robot that

See Santa Letters, Page 6

CHURCH

DIRECTORY

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

-Matthew 18:20



CORNERSTONE
FELLOWSHIP
a foursquare church

SERVICES:
10 AM SUNDAY

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




hope.church
sweet home

GATHERING
TIME
10:45 A.M.

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

Mt. Calvary
Missionary Baptist Church

Sunday Service 11am
Come join us!



Bible Study
10 am Sundays.

1042 Pleasant Valley Rd.
541-818-0022



New Life In Christ
Fellowship
(formerly Sweet Home Mennonite)

1266 44th Ave. PO Box 515
541-367-2848 • shnlic.org

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



St. Helen
Catholic Church
600 6th Ave, Sweet Home
www.sweethomecatholicchurch.com

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

Confessions
Before Masses or 1st, 2nd & 3rd Sat.
4:00 - 5:00 pm
For Sacramental information call
541-367-2530
Father Scott Baier



Sweet Home
Evangelical Church
Join us Sunday 10:30 am
FOLLOW US AT:
FACEBOOK.COM/SWEETHOMECC
1347 Long Street • 541-367-4357



The
COMMUNITY CHAPEL



— at Ames Creek —
SUNDAYS at 10am
www.chapel.cc

42250 AMES CREEK RD
SWEET HOME OR



Sweet Home
United Methodist Church
*Open Hearts,
Open Minds,
Open Doors*
A Reconciling Congregation

11:00 am Worship
Free Meal - Tue, Wed & Fri - 5:00 pm

6th & Ironwood
541-367-3073



Elm Street Baptist Church

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

1150 Elm St. Sweet Home
541-367-5883

SANTA LETTERS

From page 5

talks to me, a cherry fruit stuffy that smells, and a shark truck. Thank you!
From, Jace A.

Dear Santa,
My name is Ryker and I am 8 years old. I want bike, and RC Car, and a baby shark.
From, Ryker B.

Dear Santa,
My name is Caden. I am 7 years old. Have been very good this year. I would like toys, minecraft movie toys, and a big creeper lego toy.
Caden B.

Dear Santa,
I would like a LOL dillhoys, an american girl doll, a four-wheeler, a salish plushie, a chicken jockey toy. I love you, I am very good. I am 7 years old.
From, Taylor B.

Dear Santa,
My name is Hudson. I am 7 years old this year I have been very nice I would Like 3 cats, love, legos, a robot, and a PS5.
From, Hudson B.

Dear Santa,
I am 7 years old this year I have been very nice. I would like a X box, a hother, rely big bear, a bb gun, a airsoft, slim jim box, fox to protect me, clone machine, invisible bed.
From, Adrian B.

Dear Santa,
My name is Audrey. I am 8 years old. This years I have been Naughty. Nice I would like a slime maker and \$100. Hamsters two of them, an hamster cage.
From, Audrey C.

Dear Santa,
My name is Everett. I am 7 years old. This year I have been very nice. I would like slime, flavored water, mini erasers, one hundred dollars, and a toy reindeer.
From, Everett C.

Dear Santa,
I am 8 years old. This year I have been very nice. Would like: controller. Fun games. Cool shoes.
From, Aizen D.

Dear Santa,
My name is Karden. I am 8 years old. This year I have been very nice. I would like a mini side by side, a watch, and a switch 2.
From, Karden D.

Dear Santa,
My name is Rowan I am 7 years old THis year I have been naughty and nice. I would like a silicone baby doll and barbies. A puppy and a barbie camper with furniture with lots of love.
From, Rowan D.

Dear Santa,
My name is Grant. I am 7 years old. This year I have been Naughty nice. I would like a PS5 vr headset and electric bike, game beasts dvd, and a scooter.
From, Grant D.

Dear Santa,



Photo by Scott Swanson

Foster students perform at their annual Christmas program Friday, Dec. 19. To see more photos, visit sweethomenews.com.

My name is Hayden. This year I have been very nice I would a train set an a toy truck toy hailer toy/car. Watched Phones i pade glow in dark train.
From, Hayden E.

Dear Santa,
My name is Ember. I am 7 years old I have been very good this year. I would like Barbies, cat stuffed animals, and more dolls.
From, Ember G.

Dear Santa,
My name is Reece. I am seven years old. I've been very nice. I want a dirt Bike. a Transformer. And a Chicken Jockey punching bag.
From, Reece H.

Dear Santa,
My name is Alice. I am 8 years old this year. I have been naughty nise. I Wou like a Gabeey Doll house and a LOL Doll a toy hamster that eats and sleeps and I want a camper for my Dolls and I want Dolls.
From, Alice M.

Dear Santa,
My name is Elsie. I am 7 years old. This year I have been very nice. I would like a ps4, and ps4 headset and ps4 controller and new tablet and charger. And a puppy.
From, Elsie M.

Dear Santa,
My name is Larue. I am 7 years old. This year I have been nice. I would want a barby slide pool. I would want barbies. I would want a barbie bed. I would want a barb cars. I would a barb pers.
From, Larue M.

Dear Santa,
My name is Payzlee. I am 8 years old. This year I have been very nice I would like: Barbie camper, barbies, robuxs, barbie house, tablit, ipad, and barbie kozs.
From, Payzlee M.

Dear Santa,
I'm Daniel, I would like a toy car and a truck and a PS5 and a new tablet. My name is Daniel I am 8 years old.
From, Daniel N.

Dear Santa,
How many reindeer do you have? Do you like white cookies? I would like a phone!
Love Ava

Dear Santa,
I am 8 years old. This year I have been very nice. I would

like help for my mom, a barbie, and pink barbie camper.
From, Hunter O.

Dear Santa,
My name is Paislee. I am 7 years old this year. I have been naughty and nice. I would like a box of slim, a stuff animal koala, and a fake diamond digging set, a box of fake gold. And fake stars, and perfum.
From, Paislee R.

Dear Santa,
I would really like a real Iphone mini 16 pro max, a PS5, and a BMX Car. It has to be real.
From, Chance S.

Dear Santa,
My name is Zaylee I am 7 years old. This year I have been very nice. I would like a watch, Headphones, Barbie House, and car barbies. A glow in the dark axolotl plushie and \$100.
From, Zaylee

Dear Santa,
I want a dron and a remote control and a race car and a hampster a rell hampster and a dirt bike and a Iphone 6 and 12 and a night lit and a narito hat and bed and a bedtime tales book.
From, Cyrus S.

Dear Santa,
My name is Axe. I am 7 years old. I have been good this year. I would like a speaker and computer and clock.
From, Axle W.

Hawthorne

Dear Santa,
Could I have some slime for Christmas. Also could I have the Slime to be a bee slime?
Love, Mason A.

Dear Santa,
I would like a Raichu plushy and Charizard card.
Love, Ario A.

Dear Santa,
Can I have a labyb and back pack please?
Love, Kian B

Dear Santa,
I want a tablet and a game.
Love, Jackson B.

Dear Santa,
I wish I could have a smart tablet and a smart watch.
Love, Louis B.

Dear Santa,
Can I have a skate board and

See Santa Letters, Page 11

Storms impacts area with multiple closures, minor flooding

Last week's storms left downed trees and some power outages, but otherwise, Sweet Home largely escaped the flooding and other issues experienced by communities to the north.

According to city Public Works Director Greg Springman, the winds early in the morning of Wednesday, Dec. 17, knocked down a tree in the 1300 block of Clark Mill Road and overturned trash cans throughout the area, scattering heavy debris on roads all over town, particularly Rowell Hill and Pleasant Valley roads. Several trees fell along the South Hills trail on the south side of town.

Also, on Friday morning, Linn County Sheriff's Office mountain deputies and Search and Rescue team members responded to multiple landslides on Quartzville Road, which trapped multiple people in the area.

Linn County Road Department reported Friday afternoon that Quartzville Road was closed through the weekend due to a landslide near Milepost 19.

The Linn County Road Department's engineering team will assess the damage and determine when to open the road to traffic, according to the county.

LCSO units searched past the slide on Friday and located people, all for whom were "safe," the Sheriff's Office reported.

On Wednesday city Public Works staffers were out clearing gutters and drainage ditches in anticipation of the heavy rains that followed those winds, produced by the tropical atmospheric river that swept into the Northwest from Hawaii.

Nearly 4 inches of rain fell in the Sweet Home area be-



Photos by Scott Swanson
A swollen Ames Creek pours into the South Santiam River next to the Pleasant Valley Boat Ramp Friday afternoon.

tween Wednesday and Friday, according to the National Weather Service.

The South Santiam River was measured at slightly over 9½ feet at Waterloo on Friday, Dec. 19, according to NOAA, short of minor flood stage, which is 12 feet.

As of Saturday morning, Dec. 20, water levels in the Calapooia River above Albany were record at 14.71 feet; beginning flood stage is 25 feet.

Highway 20 was closed Wednesday at Shea Point between milepost 31 and 71, due to downed trees and high winds, ODOT reported, adding that the closure would be "extended" and that motorists should use alternative routes. The highway was open Saturday morning, according to ODOT's Trip Check site.

The Linn County Sheriff's Office reported that a deputy pulled a downed tree to the side of the road near the intersection of Berlin Road and Marks Ridge Drive Wednesday morning, and downed power lines and

trees were blocking the road in the area of North River Drive and Sunnyside Road.

Schools across the Sweet Home area were closed Wednesday due to power outages caused by the winds.

Outages were reported for both Consumer Power and Pacific Power customers on Wednesday.

Highway 20 was closed briefly one mile west of the intersection with Spicer Drive on Wednesday at milepost 8 due to downed trees. Crews worked several hours clearing and repairing utility lines.

Highway 20 was reduced to one lane in the same area Friday due to high water. Crews were flagging traffic through the area.

The flooding, combined with saturated ground conditions, resulted in the City of Sweet Home overflowing diluted raw sewage into Ames Creek, which flows into the South Santiam River.

The influent pump station structure overflowed plant



A warning sign posted by the city cautions of sewage overflow into Ames Creek and the river due to the heavy rainfall.



A fallen tree lies alongside Clark Mill Road Wednesday following a wind storm that blew trees down and knocked out power in the area.

capacity at approximately 6:13 p.m. on Thursday, Dec. 18, and as of 8 a.m. Friday, the situation was ongoing.

When the ground becomes saturated, groundwater enters the sanitary sewer system through cracks and holes in the pipes, in addition to footing drains, and other sources of extraneous water from private property. When this occurs, the ability of the sewer system to transport sewage to the wastewater treatment plant is exceeded and the system

becomes surcharged. When these conditions become severe enough, the level within the WWTP's influent pump station surcharges, then overflows into Ames Creek.

Signs were posted warning people to avoid contact with the water in Ames Creek and South Santiam River due to potentially higher levels of bacteria. The signs will be removed when the overflow concludes and bacteria levels are determined to be normal.

FOOD

=and=

Fun

BITES AROUND THE BLOCK:

DISCOVER LOCAL YUM!

WE INVITE YOU TO EMBARK

ON A CULINARY ADVENTURE.

REDISCOVER YOUR TOWN

ONE PLATE AT A TIME.

DINE WITH PRIDE, KNOWING

THAT WITH EVERY BITE,

YOU'RE CELEBRATING OUR

LOCAL HERITAGE, TRADITIONS,

AND COMMUNITY SPIRIT.

BACON

& SWISS

DOUBLE

BURGER

with

Garlic Aioli

Then You Got a Burger

Worth Talking About.

NEW!

DILL

PICKLE

RANCH

Cheese Curds

PROUDLY

CHEESE

WISCONSIN

Prices and participation may vary. Limited time only. Tax extra. 2017 A&W Restaurants, Inc.

1010 MAIN STREET • 541-367-4893

FREE POOL ALL DAY EVERY DAY!

CHEWY'S

PUB & GRUB

OPEN 7 DAYS A WEEK 11A.M. - 2:30A.M.

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

FREE Medium Fries and Medium Soft Drink

with purchase of a premium sandwich valued at \$3 or more

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

EXPIRES 12/31/2025

Students create fish art project for Main Street median

By Scott Swanson
Of The New Era

In the metals shop on a recent morning at Sweet Home High School, Bode Nichols and Cohen Gutierrez were bending rebar into L-shaped stakes, using a gas-powered torch.

In the next room, Cadin Matthews and Memphis Gay were welding fish to stakes such as the ones Nichols and Gutierrez were creating.

In yet another room stood a plasma table on which students and teacher Austin Hart used a computer-controlled torch to direct a superheated, ionized gas (plasma) at high velocity to cut out the fish from a sheet of eighth-inch metal.

This is all part of the high school manufacturing class that Hart teaches, in which juniors and seniors at the high school have produced a wide range of projects for the school and the community.

It's also one of the bigger projects the class has attempted, as students have recovered from the COVID lockdown, which severely impacted the metals program, according to Hart.

"We actually do a lot of projects for the school in here, in the welding shop," said Matthews, a junior. "We've built a flagpole for the



Students, from left, Memphis Gay, Elijah Sierra and Cadin Matthews inspect fish prior to welding them onto supports, foreground. See more photos at sweethomenews.com.

assistant principal, and we built little stalls for the empty gas canisters, cylinders. It's really whatever the school needs.

"I know we have a plan to build, like, a mobile welding cart."

The fish art project, which will include 60 fish representing a variety of different trout, steelhead and salmon, in various poses, will be placed in the flowerbeds

along the median on Main Street, Hart said.

The project was originally suggested by Jim and Lisa Gourley, Hart said, but Jim Gourley said a lot of other people have been involved in bringing it to fruition.

He said he and his wife were discussing ideas for public art in town and he said that in a later conversation with County Commissioner Will Tucker they came up with the idea of having salmon swimming down the median strips.

"Those ideas were promoted to our mayor and (school district Supt.) Terry Martin and it moved from there to reality," he said.

Mayor Susan Coleman said the city was able to provide some funding for the project, which cost just over \$1,000 – "minimal, compared to the long-term benefits," – and was able to get necessary ODOT approvals.

Hart said the project will be able to display to the community some of what is happening in the high school's career technical education programs, which, he said, with which community members are not always very familiar.

"There is so much good going on, it's hard to get that out there," he said. "Hopefully, this will be one little insight, a little peep into the caliber of our kids, their skills."

Hart said the project has been in the works for a couple of years, and this year he had the students he needed who were interested in pursuing it.

The manufacturing class is the highest-level class taught by Hart, who arrived in Sweet Home in nine years ago to take over a program that was, he said, in decline.

Hart is a product of Philomath High School, where he replaced his own shop teacher for a year after earning his CTE certification at Linn-Benton Community College.

Before that, he said, he'd "bounced around," managing an equipment rental yard in Philomath since he was a freshman in the welding program at LBCC.

He described the high school metals program as "pretty run-down and tired" when he arrived in the fall of 2017.

Longtime shop teacher Al Grove had retired and interim teacher had led the program for two years before Hart arrived.

"The building was full of, just, clutter and there was a lot of cleanup I needed to do," he said. "And then I wanted to take the program from a welding program, where all they did was just weld stuff, to more of a manufacturing (program)."

Things were going "really, really good, amazing," until the COVID pandemic hit in the spring of 2020.

"That set me back five years," Hart recalled. "I'm almost to the point now where I was then. We're finally to the point now to where everybody that I have in the top



Completed fish await welding onto the supports, left.

ing his CTE certification at Linn-Benton Community College.

Before that, he said, he'd "bounced around," managing an equipment rental yard in Philomath since he was a freshman in the welding program at LBCC.

He described the high school metals program as "pretty run-down and tired" when he arrived in the fall of 2017.

Longtime shop teacher Al Grove had retired and interim teacher had led the program for two years before Hart arrived.

"The building was full of, just, clutter and there was a lot of cleanup I needed to do," he said. "And then I wanted to take the program from a welding program, where all they did was just weld stuff, to more of a manufacturing (program)."

Things were going "really, really good, amazing," until the COVID pandemic hit in the spring of 2020.

"That set me back five years," Hart recalled. "I'm almost to the point now where I was then. We're finally to the point now to where everybody that I have in the top

See Fish Art, Page 11



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

There is onsite laundry, seasonal pool, off street parking. Within close proximity to Sweet Home and Lebanon, Oregon. Beautiful Foster Lake is directly across the highway and offers fabulous views. We are within 1 hr travel time to Salem, Eugene, or Corvallis. Super location!

541.367.5629
6191 Hwy 20 E.
Foster, OR 97345
fosterlakervresort.com

Please call to schedule your vacation or long term stay.

The Wendi Melcher Team

Merry Christmas



Wendi Melcher
541-409-4813

Brittani Albrecht
541-971-9281

1575 Main St Sweet Home

MERRY CHRISTMAS

FROM:

RICE



LOGGING, INC

541-367-4896

AMVETS dinner fundraiser aims to support Vets Club

By Sarah Brown
Of The New Era

When members of Sons of AMVETS heard their local VFW Post #3437 might be at risk of shutting down, they bought some brisket and said "Let's host a fundraiser."

While the Sons of AMVETS hosts a public dinner service at the post once a month and puts the proceeds in their own till, this time around they opted to give the proceeds to the VFW because, essentially, it's their home.

The fundraiser dinner, held Friday, Dec. 19, offered guests cowboy beans, baked potato, and a choice of pulled pork or brisket at \$20 a plate.

The crux of the problem at the VFW boils down to inflation. Tim Geil, commander of the Sons of AMVETS, said the cost of food and everything else is getting harder to balance.

While the public at large is welcome to enjoy breakfast on Sundays and dinner two Fridays a month, the VFW is otherwise technically not available to them unless they are a member's guest.

As such, not just anyone can stop in and buy the VFW's affordable meals. And even if the VFW did make the business open to the public in order to draw more revenue, costs would increase due to tax liabilities.

So the VFW must rely on club member patronage to keep the business afloat. That, too, may pose a problem as time goes on because "there's just no new members, no younger members," Geil said.

Different military organizations pay a membership fee to use the VFW, or to use the kitchen for an event. They also use the building to provide free holiday meals, host school supply drives, and give out Thanksgiving



Photos by Sarah Brown

Guests visit the VFW on Friday night to take advantage of a brisket and shredded pork dinner.

and Christmas food boxes, said VFW Quartermaster Ryan Matteson.

Regardless of what they have done to trim costs, though, VFW's bills seem to double every year and salaries go up, he said. If a bill was \$500 a couple years ago, it's now \$800. "Everything's expensive; it's outrageous," Matteson said. "Most of our customers here are fixed-income people, so if you raise the price, you just drive the customers out the door."

According to Matteson, it costs approximately \$22,000 a month to operate the business. On busier months in the winter, revenue tends to keep up with expenses. But it's the warmer months that "go upside-down" while their customers opt to spend more time outdoors.

Beside the obvious bills such as water, electricity, garbage, Internet and cable, and bar and kitchen commodities, other bills include county health department

fees, required hood and grease trap cleaning, insurance, and membership dues and fees.

And even though the VFW is a nonprofit, they're still required to financially operate as though they're a commercial business. That means they have to pay commercial prices for insurance, Internet, cable and the like.

So if they have a football game on the TV or play music, they are, in theory, making money off it, which means they must pay licensing fees for access.

"And it's like, we're private members, it's like our own living room," Matteson said.

The VFW is not just a hang out spot for military families. In addition to providing for the community's needs during the holidays, the member organizations serve in other ways, such as setting flags along Main Street 13 times a year (it used to be 22 times a year), host essay contests and scholarships for stu-



Tim Geil, right, serves plates of food to guests at the VFW as part of a fundraiser held on behalf of the club.

dents, and feed the homeless.

If anyone in the community wants to help, they could pitch in with volunteer services, donate items that need replacing (such as chairs), provide cleaning services (chairs, grease traps), or patronize the place as a guest.

If revenue continues to decline and costs continue to go up, Matteson doesn't think the VFW would shut

down "per se," but he again emphasized how "outrageously expensive" it is to operate the bar.

"Right now, the official standpoint for this post is 'try to ride out the storm,' and hopefully inflation comes down, hopefully people's income increases and prices settle," he said.

And although that storm comes in waves, every year "the waves get bigger, the boat gets smaller."

Feet Don't Fail Me Now Foot Care, LLC.

MEDICAL FOOT CARE SERVICES



Walk-in Wednesday 12-5pm

CLINIC LOCATION
834 Goldfish Farm Rd. Albany, OR
GIFT CERTIFICATES AVAILABLE



Deena Hickey, RN, CFCS

Registered Nurse & Certified Foot Care Specialist

541.286.0671

Merry Christmas

STEELHEAD FITNESS

1295 MAIN ST
541-262-1560

MERRY CHRISTMAS

D&S LOGGING

CLEAN - EFFICIENT - QUALITY

Marshall Arndt 541-409-6156
Larsen Arndt 541-409-6154
Don Arndt 541-409-6150
Donny Arndt 541-409-6153

'Innkeepers' musical focuses on birth of Jesus Christ



Above, left, the Innkeeper's wife (Karla Boren) greets Mary (Peta Corbett) and Joseph (Brian Corbett) in the stable during the Saturday night performance of "The Innkeepers," a musical play focusing on the birth of Jesus Christ. The production, put on by SHOCASE, was written and directed by Satina Tolman. Above, Greg and Carolyn Owen narrate the play. At right, David Dominy sings "Star of Bethlehem," one of the musical numbers, while, left, Aaron Huff sings the final number, "Do You Have Room?" as shepherds, the innkeepers and guests, view the baby Jesus. See more photos at sweet-homenews.com.




Photos by Scott Swanson

BUSINESS DIRECTORY

LOVE WHERE YOU LIVE, SHOP WHERE YOU LIVE.

AUTO REPAIR



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

EQUIPMENT




CASCADE
OUTDOOR POWER EQUIPMENT
"Powerful Equipment, Local Service"
HOURS: M-F 8AM-5PM
SAT 8AM-NOON
**1215 W AIRWAY ROAD
LEBANON OR 97355**
CASCADEPOWERLEBANON.COM
541-451-5213

INSURANCE



FARMERS
INSURANCE
Aaron Hegge, AGENT
3037 Main St., Sweet Home
Ahegge@farmersagent.com
AUTO • HOME • LIFE • COMMERCIAL
(541) 367-5121

INSURANCE



KEESECKER
INSURANCE
Joel Keesecker
1195 MAIN STREET
541-367-2141

LOANS



JOLENE MULLENIX
Loan Consultant
NMLS#853502
(541) 570-2322
www.loanDepot.com/jmullenix
Equal Housing Opportunity | 56 E. Airport Rd.,
Lebanon, OR 97355. loanDepot.com, LLC NMLS ID
174457. Licensed by the OR Division of Finance and
Corporate Securities, Mortgage Lending ML-4972.
(091923 120284-1723)

PLUMBING
CCB #238181



OWNER - MITCH CARTER
Office Hrs: Mon-Thu 8am - 4pm
New Construction • Remodels
Repairs • Service • Water Heaters
(541) 367-5655

REAL ESTATE



OREGON
Real Estate
PROFESSIONALS
LLC
2345 S. Santiam Hwy., Lebanon
oregonrealestateprofessionals.com
(541) 258-6100

RV SALES & SUPPLIES



SWEET HOME
RV CENTER LLC
RV Sales, Service, Repair, Parts,
Appliances, Awnings, Propane, Solar and Batteries!
RV Waste Dump Open 24/7 Stop in Today!
**MOBILE RV REPAIR SVC
AVAILABLE NOW**
Established in 1974
Open 7 days a week
4691 HWY 20
sweethomervcenter.com
(541) 367-4293

THRIFT STORE



SUGAR CITY
CLEANERS
NEW & USED MERCHANDISE
3031 SOUTH MAIN
OPEN: TUES. - SAT 10AM - 4PM
SUGARCITYCLEANERS@GMAIL.COM
NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION
541-367-3190

TIRE / AUTO REPAIR



point S
TIRE & AUTO SERVICE
4420 Hwy 20
Family Owned
541-367-4579 (Alignment)
pointstire.com/sweethome
TIRES - WHEELS - SUSPENSION
ALIGNMENT - BRAKES - OIL CHANGE
(541) 367-2462

PUBLIC SAFETY

From page 3

and released. Report taken.

12:00 p.m. - Caller reported vehicle ran stop sign on school bus in 300 block Central Ave., L. Deputies later identified driver, who was "educated" in a phone call.

2:10 p.m. - Caller reported sister with dementia had wandered from their residence, 1100 block Juniper St., SH. Second caller reported confused female at location. Officer responded, sisters were reunited. Sister caller advised of options.

2:56 p.m. - Caller responded male hitting another in 1900 block 18th Ave., SH. Alleged attacker then left in vehicle. Officer responded, report taken for assault IV. Case referred to City Attorney's Office.

4:40 p.m. - Caller reported fraudulent charge on debit card for Taco Bell DoorDash order. 33400 block Santiam Hwy., L. Report taken.

6:33 p.m. - Stephanie Irene

Starkweather, 38, arrested on SHMC warrants for FTA in theft and trespassing cases, AMC warrant for FTA in trespassing case, and LMC warrant for FTA in a criminal citation case. Arrests followed report that female was refusing to leave location in 700 block 23rd Ave., SH. Starkweather cited and released, trespassed from location.

7:45 p.m. - Crash reported in area of Santiam Hwy./Airport Rd., L. One vehicle rear-ended another at red light. Non-injury.

10:36 p.m. - Female trespassed from Brownsville Saloon, 400 N. Main St., B.

Dec. 16

12:31 a.m. - Jacob Severns, 20, of Sweet Home, cited for driving without insurance, 3200 block S. Santiam Hwy., L.

11:36 a.m. - Caller reported male, who appeared to be confused, in her backyard in 1800 block Cedar St., SH, saying he was looking for his cat. Officer responded

to find male had located his cat. He was counseled about going into back yards.

12:13 p.m. - Rebecca Kay Seibert, 59, arrested on LCSO warrant for probation violation, 1400 block 13th Ave., SH. Lodged at Linn County Jail.

12:26 p.m. - Caller reported door-to-door salesperson in area of 18th Ave./Yucca St. Officer responded, contacted males who were advised peddler's permit requirement. They left area.

12:53 p.m. - Deputy took report of damage to CTC Hufford Haul gate in area of Quartzville Rd./Old Hufford Dr., SH. Lock and pin were damaged, estimated cost \$100. Report taken for criminal mischief.

12:53 p.m. - Caller reported female who had been trespassed was at location. Officer responded, report taken. 1800 block Kalmia St., SH.

1:27 p.m. - Deputies recov-

See Public Safety, Page 13

out in two halves and welded together due to the size of the plasma table the school had at the time.

"That was kind of wild because it's an 8-foot circle, and the table was 4 feet, so I had to make the drawing and cut it in half," Hart said.

The plasma table is part of moving the program past simply welding. The table that existed when he arrived was an older model "that was really dilapidated," he said.

"You had to, like, try to cheat it and trick it every time you wanted to use it."

He was able to purchase the modern 5- by 10-foot model for the program in 2021.

Hart himself was introduced to plasma tables by his high school shop teacher, who taught him how to operate it. He uses a computerized template to set up projects to be produced on the table.

For the fish project, Hart arranged the different patterns strategically to get the most fish possible on each 4-by 8-foot sheet of metal.

"I pulled the ones I wanted, edited them, made them the right size we were looking for, and put them all together, packed them on a plate and we cut them on the plasma table."

It took most of a school day to cut the fish out, said

Matthews and classmate Rylie Hollingsworth.

"We started it third period," Hollingsworth said. "I set up everything on the table and I was transferring (the pattern from the computer) and I actually deleted it, so then I had to redo it."

It's really boring when you're cutting because you have to stand and watch everything cut, especially when you're cutting 30 fish. It was really fun but it took a really, really long time.

"I love running the table," Hollingsworth added. "We're really lucky to have something like this. It's really nice."

Matthews said he enjoys working on assignments like making the fish.

"I really like welding," he said. "I've gotten pretty good at it and I enjoy doing projects. It's cool to start from scratch and build something cool."

Gourley said he expects the project to have a lasting impact.

"It's going to be a great project," he said. "Kids are doing it and they will forever be able to drive down Main Street and see their fish that they made in the middle of that median strip, and they can say 'I made that,' and they can take a little pride in their community."

"This helps rebuild community pride."



Photo by Scott Swanson

Hawthorne students perform during the school's Christmas program Dec. 12. See more photos at sweethomenews.com.

SANTA LETTERS

From page 6

a labubu Please?

Love, Paisley B.

Dear Santa,

I wish to see my Dad and to have a fun on Christmas.

Love, Kimber

Dear Santa,

I wish that my friends could come over and I want Pokemon.

Love, Madison C.

Dear Santa,

May I have a Skatebaord and gree Nikes?

Love, Zayden D.

Dear Santa,

I want a penguin plushy blanket also I would like to see you.

Love, Hudsun D.

Dear Santa,

I love Santa. I hope he give me a Milo and Chip Stuffy.

Love, Wyatt E.

Dear Santa,

I wish that I and my brother matching Jammies and a soccer ball.

Love, Ryker G.

Dear Santa,

I want amercan girl doll and a mini fridge.

Love, June, H.

Dear Santa,

I wish I could have lots of snow. I wish I could have a phone.

Love, Daxon

Dear Santa,

I want a giant nerf gun Please.

Love, Kaiden K.

Dear Santa,

This year for Christmas, I want a Labubu and a new tablet.

Love, Koby K.

Dear Santa,

I want some cute Labubu clothes. A pet kitten and pet

puppy.

Love, Beatrice L.

Dear Santa,

Great Chistmas to have my dad at christmas.

Love, Hadley L.

Dear Santa,

I would like to see my Dad and A Nintendo 2.

Love, Jayden L.

Dear Santa,

Can you please make it snow? I want my sister to have her own bike?

Love, Alivia M.

Dear Santa,

I wish for my family to be together and see my Dad.

Love, Paisley N.

Dear Santa,

I want a scooter and a Labubu.

Love, Dominic S.

Dear Santa,

May I have \$100000000 Robux?

Love, Keni T.

Dear Santa,

I want my grandma and grandpa to be safe.

Love, Brynlee T.

Dear Santa,

I wish you can give me a watch please.

Love, Zariana V.

Dear Santa,

I wish my sister can come home. \$1,000,000 Rolax. I want to come to see you.

Love, Vince V.

Dear Santa,

I want for Christmas is my own secret room & Jesus has a good birthday.

Love, Kycen V.

Dear Santa,

I want Italian brainrots and \$1,000,000,000 Roblox.

Love, Ryker W.

Dear Santa,

See Santa Letters, Page 12

FISH ART

From page 8

levels have actually taken all of my classes, and for the most part, they're all truly into it. So it's gotten a lot better over the last couple of years."

Pre-COVID, he said, he had a lot of girls involved in the metals program.

"I was at 25 percent," he said. "I've lost a lot since then."

The interest level from students has lowered, he said, noting that he sees it as a school-wide issue.

"Kids just are not as interested and dedicated to school as they were," he added, noting that even dedication among his "die-hards" isn't what it was pre-COVID.

"I feel like the determination and dedication level has gone down," he said. "(Pre-COVID,) I had guys that would literally hang upside down in the booth or, like, crawl on the ground. All they wanted to do was be better."

The current students working on the fish project have stepped up to make it happen, though, he said.

"They are always willing to do whatever I need, and so that's why I've got them in here doing this," he said. "A couple of them are really pretty good."

In addition to the projects Matthews cited, Hart said he and students "do all sorts of stuff. There's some other neat things that we have done."

They include the metal signs for the staff in the front office at the high school - "they wanted to make the office prettier," the parking signs on the fence along the back driveway into the high school off 18th Avenue, and the Husky head at the baseball field, which had to be cut

WE SUPPORT THE NEW ERA!

Electrical
SServices
Dan and
Cindy Rice

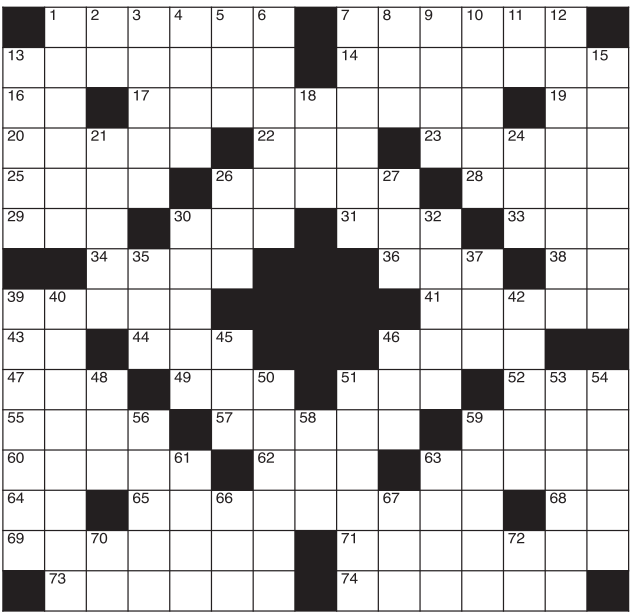


Sweet Home
Pregnancy Care Center

Free parenting classes to help
with practical resources & information.

Open Mon. & Wed. 12-5pm
1344 Main St. • SHPregnancy.org • 541-367-2447

CROSSWORD



CLUES ACROSS

1. S.W. gully

7. Japanese polytheism

13. N.H. Academy and town

14. Most aired

16. Prosecuting officer

17. Badger State

19. Atomic #24

20. Moose genus

22. Possessed

23. Make a smooth transition

25. Silly person

26. Locations or places

28. Rivulet

29. The self

30. Not good

31. Obstruct

33. Decalitre

34. Space for sitting

36. Taxi

38. 7th tone

39. Ethiopian lake
41. Tears down

43. Gold

44. Angle (abbr.)

46. Semitic fertility god

47. Beak

49. Digital audiotape

51. Small child

52. 4th caliph of Islam

55. 4840 square yards

57. Devious trick (Yiddish)

59. Overgarments

60. Large creature

62. Ingest

63. Nuisances

64. ___, denotes past

65. Wine waiter

68. I, Portuguese

69. Compunction

71. Overshadow

73. Emphasize

74. An unsuccessful ending

CLUES DOWN

1. Something comparable

2. Rural delivery

3. "Laugh-In" co-host Dan

4. Sheep genus

5. Affirmative

6. Vanilla's flower family

7. Made more smooth

8. Belong to he

9. Greek rainbow goddess

10. S.F. football team player

11. Atomic #52

12. Kiss

13. Proverb

15. Lattice support

18. Cereal grass

21. Rome, GA river

24. Disease of cattle

26. Seated

27. A baglike structure in a plant or animal

30. Blatted

32. Murdered in his bathtub
35. Finish

37. Sheep sound

39. Scarlett songbird

40. Eugenides novel "The Virgin ___"

42. Broad, flat pieces of stone

45. Auto fuel

46. ___ choy

48. Woman's undergarment

50. Topics of discourse

51. Belonging to the peerage

53. Most recent

54. Point of debate

56. Ostend artist James Sydney

58. Phonograph inventor's initials

59. Eagle's nest

61. Ripped a fabric

63. Lucre

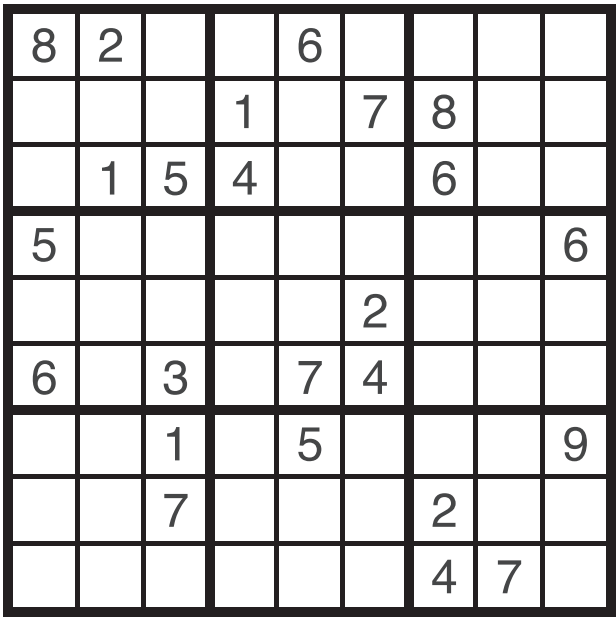
66. Manuscripts (abbr.)

67. Frozen water

70. 41st state

72. Keystone state

SUDOKU



Level: Advanced

SANTA LETTERS

From page 11

I wish I could have a Nerf gun and a B.B gun.
Love, Beau W.

Holley Elementary

Dear Santa,
Do yo wont hot cocoa. I wunta cade cane for the hom-lis. I wunta feld trip for the clas.
Your frend, Silas A.

Dear Santa,
Do your elves work all summer? What do you think about the cold weather? How are your reindeer? Can you please get two packs of Poke-mon cards? I hope that your reindeer dont get a fever before Christmas.
Sincerely, Logan B.

Dear Santa,
How are you doing today? How are your elves? And your reindeer? I would like a piano for Christmas. What kind of cookie do you like? I would alos like a new chicken. Why do you send elves and gnomes?
Sincerely, Brooklyn B.

Dear Santa,
How have you been doing? How are the reindeer? Are you happy for Christmas? What kind of cookies would you like this year? I would like a rc log truck this year please and thank you.
Sincerely, Boone D.

Dear Santa,
How are you Santa I have ben nice. Dear Santa I want a bar-bee doll and I os so wanta toy hose and I want a brat doll and I want a tete ber and I want a baby doll and I want a pack a markr.
Your frend, Raylee D.

Dear Santa,
Can I have a doreh for christmas and can I have a nin-tendo switch.
Your friend, Maverick E.

Dear Santa,
Santa cant I have a elf on the shelf, I want a christmas hat.
Your Friend, Beau J.

Dear Santa,
How are you doing am I on the noty list? What are you gitting me for christmas. Why are you so snecey? I hope you have a grate day
Your Friend, Walker J.

Dear Santa,
Hi Santa I rele wont a huvabord and I was wondering do you like a chooklit



Photo courtesy of Cera Hartness
Holley students perform during the school's Christmas program Dec. 12. See more photos at sweethomenews.com.

cookie if you do bering a leter back.
Your friend, Avah J.

Dear Santa,
How are you santa can I get a PS5 and ca I get a Iphone 17 pro and can I get a eye pad and can we get one elf on the shelf back?
Sincerely, Kai K.

Dear Santa,
Are you doing fine Santa? Is your elfs doing a grate job? Is there any prodrems? The elfs louk face because they are not face. I hope you have a grate day. I want a pool for crismes.
Your Fafret, Whitley M.

Dear Santa,
Whut is your famle doing? Wheel if you asc mi flamle is doing wheel. I wont for christmas is siens Project.
Your Friend, Kimber P.

Dear Santa,
Is Rudolph doing ok? What Kind of cookies do you want? Pleas code I have thees toys a competer and a elichrick scooter black and red check-erd blakit code I have a fluffy stuf animal elichrick ball and bigerdose.
Your Frind, June S.

Dear Santa,
How are you doing? Santa are you sik? Santa how is rudo doing is rudo sik? I have four borus Santa how mene redes do you have Santa? Can I have nome please Santa.
Your Friend, Emery S.

Dear Santa,
How are you Santa, and I want sonic superstars bekas my bruther has a sonic game but I dont have one but you are the best.

Love, Fenix S.
Dear Santa,
How are your reindeer doing? Because I wanted to no. because I want to no if you are coming Santa. And I wanted you to bring presents! I want a gocart.
Your Frend, Blane V.

Oak Heights

Dear Santa,
How many raindear do you have for the sled? Best santa can I please have a barbey and makeup please.
Sylvia A..

Dear Santa,
Can I have a electric scooter
Love, Stella B.

Dear Santa,
I want an infinity robux. Merry Christmas.
Robert B.

Dear Santa,
Have you thought of whot you want for christmas. Can I please have a meemeau. And Ameriica girl doll stuff.
Love, Aspen E.

Dear Santa,
Can I please have a hovuboad in blak.
From, Leia H.

Dear Santa,
Merry Christmas. I would like to get a dirt bike for Christmas. Merry Christmas.
From, Braxton H.

Dear Santa,
Wot a nute and robux and a jrascic word game and jrascici word toi and a Stranger things tois.
From, Andy L.

Dear Santa,
How many reindeer do you have? Can I please have a quad. I want a rc car tank. I want a xbox games.
Love, Xavier L.

Dear Santa,
How mane rdders do you have and I whot a bike thank you.
Love, Jaimie M.

Dear Santa,
How do you travel in one night? I would like sum robux and a barbe doll house. Sum girl barbes with kids, Ken and animals.

See Santa Letters, Page 14

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

Public Notices

TRUSTEE'S NOTICE OF SALE
The Trust Deed to be foreclosed pursuant to Oregon law is referred to as follows (the "Trust Deed"):
Grantors: Scott Heinz
Trustee: First American Title of Oregon
Beneficiary: Oregon Community Credit Union
Date: March 28, 2023
Recording Date: March 28, 2023
Recording Reference: 2023-03213 County of Recording: Linn County The Successor Trustee is Patrick L. Stevens and the mailing address of the Successor Trustee is: Patrick L. Stevens, Successor Trustee, Hutchinson Cox, PO Box 10886, Eugene, OR 97440.
The Trust Deed covers the following described real property in the County of Linn and State of Oregon, ("the Property"):
THE LAND REFERRED TO HEREIN BELOW IS SITUATED IN THE COUNTY OF Linn, STATE OF OR, AND IS DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS:
Beginning at a 1 inch rod, being the intersection of the North line of the Southwest quarter of the Northwest quarter of Section 1, Township 14 South, Range 1 West, of the Willamette Meridian, in Linn County, Oregon, and the Southeasterly right-of-way line of State Hwy. 228, said point being South 89°21' West 1304 feet from the Northeast corner of the Southwest quarter of the Northwest quarter of said Section 1; thence Southwesterly, along the Southeasterly right-of-way line of said State Hwy. 228, 100 feet to the Northwest corner of Parcel 1, PARTITION PLAT NO. 1995-90, Linn County, Oregon; thence North 89°20'53" East (North 89°21' East by prior record) 436 feet to a 5/8 inch rod; thence North 34°19'00" East 107.37 feet (100 feet by prior record) to a 5/8 inch rod; being on the North line of the Southwest quarter of the Northwest quarter of said Section 1; thence South 89°20'20" West (South 89°21' West by prior record) 449.88 feet to the Point of Beginning. Commonly known as: 40972 Highway 228, Sweet Home, OR 97386.
Both the beneficiary and the trustee have elected to sell the said real property to satisfy the obligations secured by said trust deed and a notice of default has been recorded pursuant to Oregon Revised Statutes 86.735(3); the default for which the foreclosure is made is grantor's failure to pay when due the following sums:
The monthly installment payments beginning December 25, 2024 and continuing through the installment due June 12, 2025; plus interest and late charges; real property taxes, plus interest and penalties; and other liens and penalties. Total default as of June 12, 2025 is \$2,763.34.
By reason of said default, the beneficiary has declared all sums owing on the obligation secured by the trust deed immediately due and payable, those sums being the following to wit: \$49,999.64 principal balance, plus unpaid interest through and including June 12, 2025 in the amount of \$3,235.85, together with the sum of \$131.59 which represents late charges, together with interest on the principal sum of \$49,999.64 with interest at the rate of 10.50% per annum from June 13, 2025 until paid, together with insurance paid by the Beneficiary on the property, late charges and penalties, trustee fees, attorney fees, foreclosure costs and any sums advanced by the Beneficiary

Public Notices

pursuant to the trust deed. The date, time and place of the sale is:
Date: Wednesday, February 18, 2026
Time: 11:00 o'clock a.m.
Place: Front Entrance, Linn County Courthouse, 300 SW 4th Ave., Albany, OR 97321
RIGHT TO CURE
The right exists under ORS 86.753 to have this foreclosure proceeding dismissed and the Trust Deed reinstated by doing all of the following at any time that is not later than five days before the date last set for the sale:
(1) Paying to the Beneficiary the entire amount then due (other than such portion as would not then be due, had no default occurred);
(2) Curing any other default complained of herein that is capable of being cured by tendering the performance required under the Trust Deed; and
(3) Paying all costs and expenses actually incurred in enforcing the Obligation and Trust Deed, together with Trustee's and attorney's fees not exceeding the amounts provided by ORS 86.753.
We are a debt collector attempting to collect a debt and any information we obtain will be used to collect the debt.
Cashier's checks for the foreclosure sale must be payable to Oregon Community Credit Union.
Dated: November 21, 2025
/s/ Patrick L. Stevens
Patrick L. Stevens, Successor Trustee
Hutchinson Cox
Attorneys at Law
PO Box 10886
Eugene, OR 97440
Phone: (541) 686-9160
Fax: (541) 343-8693
(12/3, 12/10, 12/17, 12/24)____
CITY OF HALSEY
PUBLIC NOTICE - Vacation of West A & B Street
The following matter shall be reviewed by the Halsey City Council at a public hearing on January 13th, 2026, 7:00 p.m. at Halsey City Hall, 100 Halsey St., 97348. The purpose of this hearing is to obtain public comments pertaining to the vacation of West "N" Street. Oregon law requires that testimony and evidence must be directed toward the decision criteria. Interested parties may appear in person to comment or give written testimony to City Hall prior to 4:00 pm on Monday, September 8th.
APPLICANT'S NAME: Central Valley Church
TOPIC OF HEARING: Street Vacation of West A & B Streets, between West 6th & 7th Streets
LOCATION OF PROPERTY: Approximate location, lot south of 657 American Dr., Halsey, OR
PRESENT PLAN DESIGNATION: Residential
PRESENT ZONING: Residential
SUMMARY OF REQUEST: To vacate right of way from location with existing structure and to access all potential existing lots.
Briana Parra, City Administrator
Published in The Times on December 24th & December 31st (12/24 - 12/31)____
Notice of Public Hearing before the Halsey Planning Commission
Wednesday, January 7th, 2025, at 6:00 p.m. City Hall, 100 W. Halsey Street, Halsey, Oregon
The City of Halsey has received a land use application from Leland and Jayson East, requesting approval of a site plan to construct a coffee and food cart business at 1015 W 2nd Street in Halsey. Capitol Coffee will include on-site bathrooms, electri-

Public Notices

cal and plumbing for each cart, and a customer seating area.
The City of Halsey will hold a public hearing before the Planning Commission on Tuesday, January 7th, to consider the land use application. The hearing will be held at 6:00 pm in the upstairs Council Chambers of the Halsey City Hall on the date listed above.
APPLICANT: Jayson East
PROJECT LOCATION: 1015 W 2nd Street, Halsey, OR
HALSEY ZONING: Commercial
Assessor's Map: 14S-O4W-0iDA; tax lots 2000 and 2100
The application, decision criteria and staff report will be available at City Hall for a minimum of seven days prior to the hearing, no later than 4:00 p.m. on January 2nd, 2025. A copy of the staff report may be obtained at City Hall or may be viewed on the City of Halsey website.
At the public hearing, the Planning Commission will consider the proposal and receive public testimony. At the conclusion of the hearing, the Planning Commission may deny or approve the application as is or with conditions or modifications. The Planning Commission will make its decision based on criteria found in the Halsey Development Code, Chapter 4.3, Section 4.3.150 "Site Design Review Approval Criteria". The Halsey Development Code can be viewed under "Government" and then "Municipal Code" at the City of Halsey website: <http://www.cityofhalsey.com/>
Any person wishing to provide testimony must address the decision criteria. Failure to raise an issue precludes appeal and failure to specify to which criterion the comment is directed precludes appeal based on that criterion. City Hall is accessible to people with disabilities. Please call City Hall (541-369-2522) by noon the day before the meeting if you need an interpreter for the hearing impaired or any other special accommodation or if you have any questions related to the application.
Written comments may be submitted by mail to the City of Halsey, Attention: City Administrator, P.O. Box 10, Halsey, OR 97348 or faxed to (541) 369-2521, by 4:00 p.m. December 19, 2023. Copies of all materials relied upon by the applicant are available for review and may be obtained for the actual cost of photocopies and postage (if needed). Please contact City Hall with any questions at (541) 369-2522.
(12/24 - 12/31)____
IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE STATE OF OREGON FOR THE COUNTY OF LINN IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF MARLENE SELMA LANDERS, deceased, Case No. 25PB10397
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 December 24, 2025.

Public Notices

Amber R. Landers, Personal Representative. Jessica K. Meyer, OSB #053242 Jessica K. Meyer Law LLC, 80 E. Maple St., Lebanon OR 97355. (12/24)____
IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE STATE OF OREGON FOR THE COUNTY OF LINN IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF JOHN WILLIAMS LANDERS, deceased, Case No. 25PB10391
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 December 24, 2025.
Amber R. Landers, Personal Representative. Jessica K. Meyer, OSB #053242 Jessica K. Meyer Law LLC, 80 E. Maple St., Lebanon OR 97355. (12/24)____
IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR THE STATE OF OREGON FOR THE COUNTY OF LINN IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF FRANCIS BRIAN LULAY, DECEASED
CASE NUMBER: 25PB10543
NOTICE TO INTERESTED PERSONS
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Dylan A. Lulay has been appointed Personal Representative. All persons having claims against the estate are required to present them to the Personal Representative, c/o Freeman Green, Freeman Green Law, 525 Glen Creek Rd NW, Suite 200, Salem, OR 97304, within four months after the date of publication of this notice, or the claims may be barred. All persons whose rights may be affected by

Public Notices

the proceedings may obtain additional information from the records of the Court, the Personal Representative, or the attorney for the Personal Representative. (12/24)____
NOTICE OF ONLINE AUCTION
A SQUARED STORAGE 1294 44th Ave. Sweet Home, OR 97386 Online bidding at: www.storageauctions.com, auction ends 01/02/26 at 11:00 a.m. Jessie Friend, Unit 102 - Adam Lytle, Unit 203 - Stephanie Mitchell, Unit 529. (12/17 - 12/24)____
1611 King James Bible
Interested in the 1611 King James Holy Bible?
Take a look at kjbm.org. Authentic 1611 facsimile, Gothic font, softcover Questions or local showing: text/call Lebanon 541-401-5654 / Phoenix: 661-373-5378.
Fall Cleanup
Fall Cleanup: Moss treatment, gutter cleaning, yard cleanups, trimming, pruning, blackberry removal. Jesse's Yards 503-871-7869 (10/23 - 2/9)____
Statewide Notices
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!
block Quartzville Rd., Foster. Deputy determined activity reported was permitted contractor harvesting bear grass.
5:05 p.m. - Jimmy Rodger Varner, 59, arrested after he turned himself in at SHPD, 1950 Main St., on SHMC warrant for FTC in theft case. Cited and released.
5:11 p.m. - Joni Jean Finch, 45, arrested on AMC warrant for FTA in harassment case after caller from Dollar Tree, 2414 Main St., SH, reported female outside asking people for money after staff asked her to leave several times. She moved along after citation.
5:30 p.m. - Deputy located vehicle parked in front of CTC IP100 gate in 25700 block Timber Rd., B. Deputy warned people in vicinity about blocking gate with vehicle.
See more and updated Public Safety Reports at sweethomenews.com

SANTA LETTERS
From page 12

Love, Emma N.

Dear Santa,
How wus the pie last yer?
Can I plese hav a bunny for chrstmist?
Love, Dottie N.

Dear Santa,
Can I have a hoover board.
From,
Piper P.

Dear Santa,
Please can I have a real lip-stick robo puppy an santa you are the best you eat cookies you give us presents at nite.
Love, Braylinn P.

Dear Santa,
For christams I would like a PS5 for me and my brothers plus one pc for my brother Harper. I also won 10.000 robux
Love, Mason R.

Dear Santa,
How many efs do you have? I want a soccer ball and soccer shews and paper and crayons and a stuffy please and Thank you!
From, Amara S.

Dear Santa,
Can I have a PS5 and a tablit and a phone and a xbox.
From, Christopher S.

Dear Santa,
How many reindeer do you have? Can I please have a quad and a xbox and a RC car plane and a tank and a mine max RC car
Love, Marshall S.

Dear Santa,
I want and infinity robux. Merry Christmas.
Isaiah T.

Dear Santa,
I want tablet and money plase.
From, Max W.

Dear Santa,
Can I please hath a dert bike. Can I please hath a toy shark.
Love, Wyatt W.

Dear Santa,
I want please a pet ferret.
Love, Sawyer A.

Dear Santa,
I am nice can you get me bunny. Real A special wish.
Love, Mavis B.

Dear Santa,
You do so much I was wondering if you could git me a Lububu.
Love, Kenslee B.

Dear Santa,
Wot is it Look Lake at hte

noethpool? I can wont a Dirt Bike pleas!
Love, Lacey C.

Dear Santa,
67 Plushie PS5 Scooter Big Bunny 500\$ Dron nintendo E-Bike pls.
Love, Carter J.

Dear Santa,
How do you fly can I pleese have a 67 Plushe.
Love, Levon K.

Dear Santa,
I want to see the elf Plese. I want a xbox plese.
Love, Zyander L.

Dear Santa,
You do so much in 1 night! You're amazing can I please get a walkie-talkie.
Love, Kali M.

Dear Santa,
How is the northpole. You're awesome. Can I please have a Broux.
Love, Alina M.

Dear Santa,
I love you pokemon and foot ball ps5 new shoes e-bike drone money
Love, Talon M.

Dear Santa,
Santa how do you fly but kcan you git me a baby kitten.
Love, Chloe M.

Dear Santa,
I watte + you do so much in 1 night! Youre amazing can I please get a lububu.
Love, Hannah N.

Dear Santa,
What is it like at the North Pole. I want a E-Bike please.
Love, Brentlee N.

Dear Santa,
Can I please have a new pair of shoes.
Love, Lane O.

Dear Santa,
Can you get me a elf on the shelf. A switch2. Leopard gecko.
Love, Grayson S.

Dear Santa,
Can I swicd 2 PS5 Iphone 17 fexy skyabox your the best 6-7 plushy
Love, Teddy S.

Dear Santa,
What does it feel like at the North Pole?
Love, Grayson V.

Dear Santa,
Christmas is almost here. I would like gingerbread cookies. And Mr fun computer Santa.
From, Sawyer C.

Sweet Home now 3A school in most sports

It's official: Sweet Home will compete in most of its sports at the 3A level next year and, depending on how things go, beyond that.

The Oregon School Activities Association approved its Classification and Districting committee's proposed changes to the state's classification and districting plan for 2026-30 on Dec. 15 by a 13-1 vote, and the OSAA Delegate Assembly approved the amendments in three-quarters votes.

Under the plan, the association will continue to operate under a six-classification system, which has been the case 2006-07.

Sweet Home will move from the 4A Oregon West Conference to the 3A Mountain Valley Conference, which includes Creswell, La Pine, Pleasant Hill, Sisters and Trinity Lutheran of Bend, which is moving up from the 2A level in team sports.

The OSAA decision concluded a four-month process which began in August with the first meeting of the committee, chaired by Tigard-Tualatin School District Superintendent, Iton Udosenata. The committee received over 300 pieces of written correspondence and saw 171

groups testify in front of either the committee or the Executive Board.

The Executive Board did some last-minute fine-tuning to the committee's final recommendation, adjusting the school Average Daily Membership (ADM) cutoff point between 5A (581) and 4A (580) from the committee's final recommendation. That adjustment returned Cascade and Henley to the 4A-3 Oregon West and 4A-5 Skyline conferences, respectively.

ADM is the metric OSAA uses to classify schools into competitive size divisions (such as 6A, 5A, 4A, etc.). It's calculated based on a school's ninth- through 11th-grade enrollment over several years, adjusted by a socio-economic factor (free/reduced lunch numbers), to create a stable number that reflects a school's overall size and student population, ensuring fair competition.

The Oregon West will now include Cascade, Central, Newport, Philomath, Stayton and Taft. Under the new classification, Elmira will move from the 3A level back to the 4A Sky-Em League, which will include Cottage Grove, Junction City, Marist, Marsh-

field, North Bend and South Umpqua.

The plan also creates a seven-team 6A-5A Southwest Hybrid of Ashland (5A), Crater (5A), Eagle Point (5A), Grants Pass (6A), North Medford (6A), Roseburg (6A) and South Medford (6A) in Southern Oregon. That decision adds an additional hybrid league to the previously created 6A-5A Midwestern Hybrid in the Eugene-Springfield area.

Included in the committee's recommendation is for the Executive Board to reconvene the Computation of ADM Task Force next school year to explore potential changes to how ADM is calculated when classifying schools. The Committee received testimony and written correspondence related to considering the following additional criteria: school participation figures, adjusting/eliminating any socioeconomic factor, moving private schools to higher classifications, going back to counting all 9-12 students, considering the impact of transfers, incorporating a success/lack of success factor, and examining the impact of any such changes specifically as it relates to smaller schools.

Samaritan announces 'temporary pause' for labor and delivery services in Lebanon

Samaritan Health Services announced in a press release that labor and delivery services at Samaritan Lebanon Community Hospital (LCH) will be temporarily paused beginning Jan. 15, 2026, due to a "significant" regional shortage of OB-GYN physicians that has made continuous inpatient coverage unavailable.

They said the decision follows a series of unexpected physician departures across the valley, including the resignation of OB-GYN physicians at LCH and the simultaneous departure of OB-GYN physicians at another regional practice. Together, the events created a regional workforce disruption that significantly limits available OB-GYN coverage.

Despite extensive and ongoing recruitment efforts – including a broad national search, outreach to physician staffing agencies and independent clinicians, and exploration of temporary coverage options – Samaritan said it has not yet been able to secure the continuous inpatient physician call coverage required to safely operate labor and delivery services in Lebanon.

"Patient safety is always our highest priority," said Jennifer Kimberlain, vice president of patient care services at LCH. "Labor and delivery services require con-

sistent, around-the-clock physician coverage. Without that, operating intermittently or repeatedly going on diversion would create confusion and risk for families who would not know when it is safe to present for care. This pause is temporary, and we remain fully committed to restoring labor and delivery services in Lebanon as quickly and safely as possible."

Following review and the recommendation of clinicians, nurses and operational leaders, Samaritan determined that a temporary pause would be the safest course of action until appropriate clinician staffing can be secured.

During this time, Samaritan said it will continue to provide outpatient OB-GYN care at the Lebanon Health Center, located on 5th Street, on a limited basis, expecting that temporary clinician staffing may allow labor and delivery services to resume as early as April 2026.

In the meantime, pregnant patients anticipating delivery after mid-January are encouraged to work with their doctor to select a different delivery location. Labor and delivery services at Samaritan's other hospitals will continue without disruption.

Support for Patients, Families and Employees
To support patients and

staff during the pause, Samaritan implemented several measures including:

- Providing individualized outreach and concierge support to help expectant parents transition care to Albany or Corvallis;
- Implementing safe transfer protocols for urgent and emergent situations;
- Keeping their skilled labor and delivery nurses on-site to assist the Emergency Department with any obstetric emergencies;
- Partnering with the Oregon Nurses Association to explore temporary staffing solutions and redeployment opportunities for Samaritan nurses during this period. Samaritan said no layoffs will occur.

Earlier this year, Samaritan hosted more than 70 community and employee listening sessions and publicly reaffirmed its commitment to maintaining labor and delivery services at all five Samaritan hospitals. They say that commitment remains unchanged, emphasizing this temporary pause is driven solely by patient safety and current workforce realities and is unrelated to the proposed affiliation or earlier service evaluations.

For more information and questions, visit samhealth.org/LebanonOB-GYN.



Boys lose two in hoops, but stay close to state top-ranked team

By Keeghan Gittins
For The New Era

Amid some schedule changes due to turbulent weather, Sweet Home's boys lost both their basketball games last week, at home to Estacada and then, after two postponements, on the road at Molalla.

After multiple delays due to the threat of potential flash floods, the Huskies' game at Mollala was moved to Saturday, Dec. 20, where they fell 63-54 to the Indians.

Molalla entered the contest with a 5-0 record and was ranked as the No. 1 team in the 4A division coming into this week. Earlier in the week, the Huskies lost 57-49 to Estacada.

"It was good to see us compete with both teams, but we could have gotten them both," said head coach Drew Emmert.

Against Estacada, Sweet Home had no trouble getting to the free-throw line, but struggled to convert, shooting just 48 percent. The missed opportunities proved costly late in the game.

"We missed 18 free throws versus Estacada. Between too many turnovers and missed free throws, they got us," Emmert said.

Turnovers were the deciding factor, as 30 percent of Sweet Home's possessions ended in turnovers against the Rangers. The Huskies ended the game with an assist to turnover ratio of 6 to 25.

A bright spot in the loss was junior guard Bradyn McClure, who finished with a game-high 26 points. McClure shot 6-of-11 from two-point range and went 11-of-13 from the free-throw line.



Photo by Scott Swanson

Mason Tyler battles Estacada's Connor Crawford for a rebound last week. See more photos at sweethomenews.com.

Molalla came into the Saturday game with a high-powered offense, averaging approximately 68 points per game, while Sweet Home is averaging around 44 points per contest.

"We competed hard against Molalla. They are a good team that doesn't miss very many open looks," said Emmert.

Emmert pointed to what he described as a "six-point swing," where a missed shot resulted in a loss of two points followed by four points for the opposing team off turnovers and transition opportunities.

"I thought that was a minute stretch that really hurt us in the fourth," Emmert said.

Despite the losses, Emmert believes the Huskies are close.

"With that, we are right there with a top team. We just need to tighten a few things up before league and we will be just fine," Emmert said. "Our defense is playing at a high level; we just need our offense to follow. We need to limit our turnovers and move the ball to get good looks."

Sweet Home will travel to Astoria to compete in the Vince Dulcich Tournament, a three-day event running from Dec. 28-30. The Huskies hope to gain experience and return in the new year looking for redemption on Jan. 2 at Sutherlin, to whom they lost last season.



Photo by Scott Swanson

It's a battle for the ball as Brook Elder, left, and Amara Gonzales battle with Estacada's Grace Sager and Ellianna Zavala, right, for a loose ball. See more photos at sweethomenews.com.

Girls win close defensive hoops battle with Estacada

By Keeghan Gittins
For The New Era

Sweet Home's girls basketball team's schedule was tweaked last week by the storms, but the Huskies still got one game in, a 28-26 win over Estacada at home. Sweet Home led much of the see-saw battle, but never by a large margin.

The Huskies trailed 22-26 with just under four minutes to play in the fourth quarter, but put on some suffocating defense and Brooke Elder hit a three-pointer with 3:06 to restart their offense, then hit three free throws in the final 1:06 to ice the game for the Huskies.

Coach Erika Evans could not be reached for comment

and game statistics were not available.

The Huskies will compete in the Astoria Tournament Dec. 28-30, then will host Sisters on Jan. 6. Aaliya Brown leads the team with 10.2 points per game and Aubrey Newberry has averaged 8 rebounds per game over the first six contests.

Elder is shooting 40% from three-point territory and 42% per game from the field. Addy Vannice has contributed 3.6 assists and 4.8 steals per game. Sixty-three percent of the team's baskets come from steals.

The Molalla game, originally scheduled for Dec. 18, has been rescheduled to Feb. 17.

Merry Christmas

1010 MAIN STREET • 541-367-4893

MERRY CHRISTMAS

WOLTHUIS

FAMILY DENTISTRY

1524 LONG STREET • 541-367-2931

WWW.SWEETHOMEDENTAL.COM

Swimmers deliver individual, relay wins in home meet

Sweet Home's girls and boys faced some of the top swimming teams in their divisions in a home meet Friday, Dec. 19, the girls finishing second to Marist, 92-81, and the boys third with 73 points behind Philomath (92) and Marist (87). Also competing in the meet was Junction City.

Sophomore Khloe Sautel was a double winner for the girls, in the 200 (2:03.04) and

the 50 (25.30) freestyles.

Sophomore Grayson Savri won the 50 (25.80) and the 500 (5:51.96) freestyles for the boys.

Andrew Tolman also finished first for the boys in the 100 Backstroke (1:02.79).

The girls 200 Freestyle Relay team of Sautel, Lexi Rundell, Kylie Melkvik and Emma Whitton also finished first in 2:00.2, while the boys team of



Photos by Scott Swanson

Above, Khloe Sautel, foreground, and Emma Whitton dive in for the 200 Freestyle, which Sautel won, with Whitton second for the Huskies. At left, Andrew Tolman swims the backstroke leg in the 200 Medley Relay. He later went on to win the 100 Backstroke. See more photos and results at sweethomenews.com.

Henry Jones, Austyn Hogan, Tolman and Savri won the 4x100 Freestyle Relay in 3:45.61.

The Sweet Home Alumni

Green and Gold Meet will be held at 3 p.m. Friday, Dec. 26. The Huskies will host more big names in swimming – Marshfield, Molalla, La Grande, Hid-

den Valley, Henley, Cove, Cascade Christian, North Bend and Newport on Saturday, Jan. 3, in the Peargin Plunge invitational, beginning at 11:30 a.m.



Brownsville Bridge lights up for first Christmas parade

By Sarah Brown
Of The New Era

CONNECT Linn County gave Brownsville its first lighted Christmas parade on Friday, Dec. 12, after convincing the county's roadmaster to allow lights on the bridge.

City Administrator Scott McDowell said CONNECT Linn County was able to pull the whole thing together in just a matter of weeks, even after he told them the county doesn't allow lights on the bridge.

When Tika Harrison, one of the founders of the non-profit, heard that, she said, "Well, can I at least try?"

It took some hoop-jumping and help from friend Larry

Northern, but CONNECT eventually got what they wanted. Next year, Harrison said, they want to hang wreaths on each side of the bridge and decorations down the center of the trestle.

If CONNECT volunteers were in any way disappointed with how their first parade went, McDowell said, "I don't think you need to look past the monumental effort that you got actual permission from the county to do it. That's a pretty big feat in a short amount of time."

But it was well attended and the parade entries were "impressive," he said.

There were 57 entries who were emceed by "Mr. and

Mrs. Mistletoe" (Ray and Linda McCormick) and "Jingle Bells Princess Deb" (Debbie Larsen), a former business owner who was honored in the event as she closed out her time in Brownsville before moving to Nevada.

According to Harrison, this may well be Brownsville's first Christmas parade, as no one can recall the city ever having one. It's also the first time in some 20 years the bridge had lights on it.


"I thought it was one of the best parades I've ever seen in Brownsville," McDowell said. "And the fact it was night with the fog with the lights, it was pretty awesome."



Photo by Sarah Brown

Lights shine through a misty fog as decked-out vehicles pass through the Brownsville Bridge in the city's first lighted Christmas parade on Dec. 12.


The *Icebox* Performer Of The Week



This week's ICEBOX Performer Of The Week goes to Guy Smith, our HR Director. While we don't typically give this award to any member of our Operating Board, Guy has gone above and beyond lately. From jumping in to help install new shop equipment to taking on the management responsibilities of our maintenance shop, he's been everywhere he's needed — and then some.

He steps in. Whenever there's a project he can help with, Guy doesn't hesitate. He steps in, lifts the weight off the team, and sees the job through to the finish line. Guy is the perfect definition of our Core Values.

Guy, thanks for showing what true leadership looks like. We appreciate everything you do for RSH and our crew!





Merry Christmas



We Are In Business To Serve You!

Welding & Aluminum, Stainless,
Fabrication Mild Steel & Pipe Sales

541-466-3939 | 34777 Hwy. 228, Brownsville