

The New Era

SWEET HOME • LEBANON • AND SURROUNDING COMMUNITIES

SERVING EAST LINN COUNTY SINCE 1929

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 28, 2026

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Lebanon Fire faces leaking station roofs

By Sarah Brown
Of The New Era

Lebanon Fire Chief John Tacy reported they are inspecting two stations that are showing signs of roof leakage.

During the Lebanon Fire District Board meeting on Jan. 13, Tacy provided an update on a known leak at Station 34 on Weirich Drive. A company looked at the leak and reported findings of moisture, mildew and rot due to an improper install.

The company believes that, with some changes to the roof, they can get another two or three years of life, but not the guaranteed life. LFD also recently repaired a leak from siding at that station.

A more recent discovery was reported after the district inadvertently stumbled upon a leak on the roof of the new Station 31 facility on Oak Street. They are looking into what steps to take next on the matter.

FY 2025 audit

Auditors from Accuity, LLC presented their report for FY 2025. In short, CPA Kori Sarratt said there were no findings and "everything was good."

The governmental funds (everything but ambulance) end-of-year report went \$2 million in carryover. About \$1.1 million of that is available, while the rest is restricted for various purposes.

They reported the General Fund had a loss of about \$60,000 for the year. The end fund balance is sitting at about 18% of the prior year's operating expenses. Accord-

See LFD page 18

East Linn Northern Lights

The Aurora Borealis shines above a logging operation early Tuesday morning, Jan. 20, on Swamp Mountain, east of Sweet Home. The spectacular light show was caused by charged particles shot out from the sun that hit the Earth's magnetic field and crash against the upper atmosphere during a powerful geomagnetic solar storm that occurred last week. Local logger Donnie Arndt shot this photo at about 4 a.m. This radiation storm was the most powerful in 23 years, according to NOAA.



SH car show honors teen

By Sarah Brown
Of The New Era

Hundreds of pristine cars passed through Sweet Home in a show of community support during a car meet and memorial cruise on Saturday, Jan. 24.

The car meet was held at the new Mill Drift Track (see our story on page 10) on the north end of 24th Avenue.

The reason for the event is rooted in a car accident that took the life of 16-year-old Paige McClintock, of Albany.

Organizer Rhiannon Allen, a friend of the family, initially envisioned holding a short memorial cruise through Albany, in addition to promoting



These were among the hundreds of cars filling the five-acre lot at The Mill Drift Track during a special car meet in memory of Paige McClintock. — Photo courtesy of Rhiannon Allen

the family's GoFundMe page for the numerous expenses they will encounter.

"I just wanted to be helpful,"

Allen said. "The family experienced a really terrible tragedy."

See Car Meet Up page 11

Drains replaced, hours expanded at Lebanon Pool

By Sarah Brown
Of The New Era

New drains at the Lebanon Community Pool have recently been installed, but a two-drain system would be ideal, if a pool renovation can happen.

Joe Andrews, head coach of the Lebanon High School Swimming Team, told the Lebanon Aquatic District Board during their meeting on Jan. 12 that he and his staff (from a separate business) replaced the drains, per federal law.

The 2007 Virginia Graeme Baker (VGB) Pool & Spa Safety

Act requires certain drain covers with safety features be replaced regularly, and establishes that the drains have a "shelf life," which in Lebanon's case is five years, Andrews said.

The law came after Virginia, 7, drowned after being trapped under water by the suction of a drain. Because of her case, anti-entrapment drain covers are now required. Another key safety feature now required in public pools is two or more drains.

Currently Lebanon's pool has only one drain, given its

age. According to Aquatic Director Jill Smith, it's considered compliant because they have a safety vacuum release system to prevent entrapment issues. The system should switch the pump off if it detects a blockage.

"That main drain is still less than ideal," Andrews said. "With that mechanical device, it's an additional layer of protection on that older system, whereas the modern design would be to use dual, unblockable drains."

It took Andrews' team only 30 minutes to replace the drain

covers, which will be good for five years. His hope is an anticipated pool renovation will take place before those drains need to be replaced again.

"I know part of the renovation project is, hopefully, to abandon that main drain, so hopefully that will be the last time those drains need to go in there," he said.

Expanded hours

Smith reported the pool recently opened Lap Swim on Sundays from 12-3 p.m. and so far they have had a positive response.

See Pool page 18

HOMETOWN
NEWSPAPER OF
TWILA
COAKLEY

This Week's Top Stories



Huskies place fourth at Reser's Tournament

Two local wrestlers make finals in the Reser's Tournament of Champions, and Huskies place fourth as a team.

Page 19

Old mill site gets tune-up for car show, drift events

Old Mill site gets prep work for planned drift events.

Page 10

'Overwhelming' turnout to Lebanon volunteer event

A volunteer recruitment fair held in Lebanon gets a response that surprises even the organizers.

Page 5



Obituaries

Freddie Jane Meyers

May 4, 1929 - Jan. 12, 2026

This is in loving memory of Freddie Jane Meyers, who passed away Jan. 12, 2026.

Freddie was born May 4, 1929, to Guy and Bess Smoot in the small, rural town of Mammoth Spring, Ark. She was the fifth of 11 children; she had six brothers and four sisters.

At age 18, she left home and began her life adventure, traveling by train to San Francisco, where she worked as a waitress and met her husband-to-be, Frank Eli Meyers, who had just returned home from his service in the Navy during World War II.

They were wed on April 22, 1950 and lived in Northern California, where they raised their three children, Thea, Timothy and Venessa.

The Meyers family moved to Portland in 1968. There Frank passed away, in 1978, and Freddie continued to live in Portland, where she worked as a caregiver in a retirement home.

In 1991 Freddie and life partner Raymond Carter moved to Sweet Home, to be near her children and grandchildren. She was preceded in death by Ray in 2009.

Freddie continued to live in Sweet Home, always in loving service to others - her children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren, and all who were blessed to know her.

She was the first to dance, to share, to lend a hand, and her farewell was always, truly and sincerely, "Love you more!"

Freddie passed peacefully at the age of 96, surrounded by family and loved ones.

She is survived by her brother Jim, sister Mary of Arkansas, her three children, nine grandchildren and 13 great-grandchildren.

Freddie was a resident at Wiley Creek Memory Care in Sweet Home.

Any donations can be made to the Alzheimer's Association at www.alz.org.

A celebration of life will be announced.



Legally Speaking... On The Stage

In a high school production, the cast closing out the performance of a well-known movie gives one last hands-up with a musical dance. Lebanon High School Musical Theatre presented its winter play, "Legally Blonde Jr., The Musical," this past weekend, Jan. 22-24. The lead cast included Mixxie Suitsev as Elle Woods, Tristen Klym as Emmett Forrest, Ki Rash as Warner Huntington III, and Dallen Myler as Prof. Callahan. Supporting leads included Dipper O'Farrell as Paulette Buonafante, Anabelle Kisselburgh as Vivienne Kensington, and Callie Steinhebel as Brooke Wyndham.

- Photos by Sarah Brown



Death Notices

Ian Collier Mowry, 89, of Lebanon passed away Jan. 24, 2026.

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

Events

2026 SPORTSMAN'S HOLIDAY JUNIOR COURT APPLICATIONS

Applications are available for Sweet Home first-graders who would like to participate in the 2026 Sportsman's Holiday festivities as a Junior Princess or Junior Escort.

Applications are due by Feb. 1. Ten to 15 students will be drawn from the pool of applicants.

Applicants should reside in the Sweet Home School District to be a member of the Sportsman's Holiday Junior Court (this also includes charter schools and homeschoolers that are homeschooling in Sweet Home area).

Notification will be made by Feb. 15. Cost to participate is \$65. To request an application, email Karla Burcham at karla_burcham@msn.com, or call (541) 401-3339.

BINGO FUNDRAISER FOR RIVER CENTER YOUTH
The River Center Youth Student Ministries will hold a Bingo fundraiser Saturday, Feb. 7, at the church, 3000 S. Santiam Hwy., Lebanon. Proceeds will fund youths going to Winter Camp Feb. 20-22. Bingo event admission is \$20 for four cards. The event, from 5 to 8:30 p.m., will include food concessions, opportunity tickets to win door prizes, gift baskets and every Bingo winner will win a gift card from Sweet Home and

GALENTINE'S MARKET FEB. 7 IN LEBANON
Shop locally owned women's businesses from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 7, at Galentine's Market, held at the Lebanon Boys & Girls Club gym, 305 S. 5th St. in Lebanon. Hosted by Nessie's Bar Co., the event will feature entrepreneurs, makers and bakers offering all manner of unique goods, as well as food and drink.

'DR. JEKYLL AND MR. HYDE' IN ALBANY
Albany Civic Theater will stage "Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde" Jan. 23 through Feb. 7 at 111 W. 1st Ave., Albany. Performances are Jan. 23, 24, 25, 30 and 31 and Feb. 1, 5, 6 and 7. Evening performances are at 7 p.m. Sunday performances are matinees, at 2:30 p.m. For tickets and more information, visit albanycivic.org.

GALENTINE'S MARKET FEB. 8 IN LEBANON
Nessie Bar Co will host a "Galentine's Market" from 11

a.m. to 3 p.m. on Sunday, Feb. 8, at the Lebanon Boys & Girls Club, 305 S 5th St., Lebanon. Open to the public, the event features local women-owned businesses. Shop to find unique goods, enjoy refreshments, connect and support these entrepreneurs, makers and bakers.

SQUARE DANCERS TO CELEBRATE, ADD CLASSES
Lebanon Square Circlers will celebrate 77 years of square dancing Sunday, Feb. 8, from at the Lebanon Senior Center. This very special event will feature caller Shaun McKamey and cuer Sandra Pinion. It will run from 2 to 5 p.m. at the Senior Center, 80 Tangent St. in Lebanon.

Lebanon Square Circlers is the second oldest square dance club in Oregon. The public is invited to attend for free to watch the dancing and to have strawberry shortcake with the dancers.

Additionally, Lebanon Square Circlers is starting Sunday classes starting Feb. 15: a square dance class from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. and a two-step from 4 to 5:15 p.m. Partners are not necessary and the first lesson is free. Cost thereafter is \$6 per lesson or \$15 per family. Kids are welcome. For more information call (541) 401-9780 or visit www.lebanonsquarecirclers.com/

FOSTER ROAD TO BE CLOSED FEB. 9-12

The road over Foster Dam will be closed Feb. 9-12 as the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers maintenance workers perform spillway gate inspections. Vehicles will not be able to pass during that time until completion of the project.

For more information, contact Lisa Maguire at (54) 623-1338.

NONPROFIT SUMMIT FEB. 12 IN ALBANY

The annual Willamette Valley Nonprofit Summit returns Thursday, Feb. 12, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at YMCA, 3201 Pacific Blvd SW, Albany.

The one-day summit includes keynote speakers and breakout sessions to fuel nonprofit success. Speakers this year are Marion Clark Jr. and Coach Mary Stade, both of Willamette Valley Jaguars. Breakout sessions include topics on grant writing, nonprofit law, board engagement and more. Cost is \$32 per person if registered by Jan. 31, after which time the price is \$42. Register online at <https://bit.ly/3YUqPA4>.

VALENTINE'S BRUNCH AT SWEET HOME VFW

Sweet Home VFW will host a Valentine's Brunch fundraiser from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 14, at the Veterans Club,

The New Era

A LOCALLY OWNED NEWSPAPER

SWEETHOMENEWS.COM

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Public Safety

Information herein is sourced from law enforcement and fire agencies. Details, which may not always be available in time for our weekly publication, are updated on our website as information becomes available. Addresses noted generally denote the location of the incident or arrest, occasionally indicating the origin of the call.

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: AMC (Albany Municipal Court); DV (domestic violence); FTA (failure to appear); FTC (failure to comply); LCSO (Linn County Sheriff's Office); LCCC (Linn County Circuit Court); LCJC (Linn County Justice Court); LCSA (Linn County Supervisory Authority); LMC (Lebanon Municipal Court); OSP (Oregon State Police); OSPB (Oregon State Parole Board); SHMC (Sweet Home Municipal Court); SHPD (Sweet Home Police Department).

A roman numeral indicates the degree of a charge: theft I (first-degree theft). B: Brownsville, H: Halsey, L: Lebanon, SH: Sweet Home, SV: Sodaville, WL: Waterloo

JAN. 25

LCSO/OSP LEBANON

1:51 a.m. - Brody Dunmire, 24, of Dallas, arrested for DUII and reckless driving following crash in 36200 block Rock Hill Dr. Also cited for driving while suspended. Report taken.

10:35 a.m. - Fawn Burleson, 41, of Lebanon, arrested on SHMC warrant for FTA in fraudulent use

of credit card case, Grant St./Booth Lane. Cited and released. Report taken.

10:39 a.m. - Travis Pressey, 47, of Lebanon, arrested for attempt to elude law enforcement on vehicle and on foot, possession of meth and possession of fentanyl following report of unauthorized entry into motor vehicle in 39900 block Lacombe Dr. Report taken.

LCSO/OSP SWEET HOME/ SOUTH COUNTY

2:10 a.m. - Brandi Parsons, 51, of Lebanon, cited for driving while suspended, driving uninsured. North River/Northside drives.

4:35 a.m. - Deputy checked on suspicious vehicle in area of Foster Dam Rd./North River Dr. Male was told he could not be parked at that location and advised to move along.

11:05 a.m. - Jennifer Dee Russell, 48, of Sweet Home, cited for failure to carry license, several other unspecified traffic violations, 2300 block Main St. Report taken.

4:30 p.m. - Juvenile cited for unlawful/unsigned turn, Hwy. 20/Quartzville Rd.

SWEET HOME POLICE

12:10 a.m. - Caller reported male broke his windshield and "carved" into paint on his car, 100 block Holley Rd. Officer responded. Caller said situation involved a person who had been living in the garage who had been

asked to leave and caller had returned after being away to find windshield of a 1998 Mitsubishi Eclipse broken in two places and the words "two can play" and a smiley face scratched into the paint. Caller decided to attempt to handle situation civilly but asked that the suspect be trespassed when located.

1:10 a.m. - Caller reported banging sounds coming from neighbor's residence. Officer responded, contacted neighbors, who were "breaking down wood." They agreed to stop for the night. 12:02 p.m. - Kaitlyn Chandra Lagene Lay, 29, cited on LMC warrant for FTA in two driving while suspended cases, 1200 block Clark Mill Rd. Cited and released.

4:32 p.m. - Kyle Austin Hanscam, 33, arrested for theft II and trespass I after caller from BiMart reported that male had walked out with several boxes of ammunition. Cited and released.

4:39 p.m. - Bradley Allen Bowman, 29, arrested for criminal mischief II, theft II, and criminal trespass II, at Safeway, 1540 Main St. According to SHPD, arrest stemmed from incident that occurred over Christmas break at Hawthorne School and was reported Jan. 5. Bowman was also arrested on SHMC warrants for FTA in theft and two criminal mischief cases.

Cited and released.

LEBANON POLICE

9:01 a.m. - Caller reported package stolen from porch, 700 block Glenwood St. Loss: \$37.14. 10:00 a.m. - Caller reported tire was damaged, flattened, believed to be intentional, 2600 block Arlene Ave.

11:12 a.m. - LCSO has one subject at gunpoint, 39900 block Lacombe Dr. See LCSO/OSP Lebanon 10:39 a.m. log entry.

4:15 p.m. - Caller reported juveniles yelling racial slurs at driver, S Main/Milton Sts.

5:22 p.m. - Caller reported driver doing cookies in skate park lot, which threw rocks at neighboring houses and cars.

5:23 p.m. - Caller hears struggling and female yelling for help at Queen Anne apartments. Responding officer knocked, heard no noise except maybe some movement, barking dog. Not enough probable cause for forced entry.

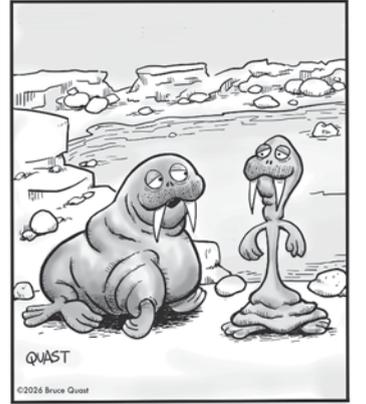
7:45 p.m. - Caller reported theft of clothes from laundromat. Loss: \$100.

8:35 p.m. - Kaven Jason Carroll, 45, cited on Marion County Circuit Court warrants for felon in possession of a restricted weapon and parole violation.

8:51 p.m. - Officer investigated accidental gunshot wound. Male was looking at friend's 9mm

See Public Safety, Page 4

Comfortably Dumb by Bruce Quast



"Ozempic, huh? Well, you look great!"

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Circuit Court

Omar Edgar Arroyo, Travis Alexander Ayres, William Medford Bass, Jonathan Edward Betar, Raymond Paul Binford, Lloyd William Bly, Deanna Marie Brown, Christina Marie Cash, Brien Keith Cockrell, Austin Shane Conner, Matthew Timothy Cook, Steven Michael Cooley, Jacob Scott Fisher, Selina Renee Ford-Blackburn, Scotty Lee Foster, Sean Doyle Gay, Nicholas Gregory Godell, Steven Edward Grimm, Aaron Thomas Halvorson, Noe Hernandez-Reyes, Michael Trevor Hilton, Robert Edwin Hoskinson, Daniel Henry Johnson, Bruce Clifton Kelly, Alan Kenneth Kilmer, Brent Jay Klient, Tyler Bruce Lanz, Andrew Donald LeGore, Richard Dean Leland, Mikel Vincent Lizama, Christopher James Lloyd, Mainor Misael Lucas-Velasquez, Charles James Marvel, Thomas Junior McCarthey, Bryce William McGowan, Eric Wayne McKnight, Heather Dawn Meeke, Carrie Lynne Miller, Thomas Elbridge Miller, James Keith Mortensen, Matthew Kincaid Nelson, Nicholas Alan Nelson, Cesar Javier Ortiz-Lopez, Daniel

Austin Phillips, Sean Ever Robinson, Tammy Lavonn Robinson, James Ryan Routon, Daniel Ryan Salo, Rosemary O. Saviour, Phillip Stanley Shanklin, Donald Shane Simmons, Joshua Webb, Darnell T. Wells, Joshua Alexander Williams, Isabella Rean Wynn, Jessica Ashley Wynne

Alex Jose Amaton, 30, sentenced Jan. 23 to 48 hours jail, 12 mos. bench probation and a \$100 fine after pleading no contest to DV assault IV.

Jeffery Allen Bagley, 63, charged Jan. 26 with failure to report as a sex offender.

Jedediah Trevor Childress, 45, sentenced Jan. 9 to one year suspension of drivers license, 96 hours jail, 24 mos. bench probation and \$1,455 in fines and fees after a jury found him guilty of DUII (alcohol) with a .12% BAC and reckless driving. Dismissed: refusal to take test for intoxicants, failure to yield to emergency vehicle, making a dangerous left turn, and unlawful or unsigned change of lanes.

This case came to Linn County on appeal after a jury at SHMC found him guilty of the charges

initially lodged in 2020.

Colten Austin Collier, 20, placed in diversion program after pleading no contest to DUII (liquor) with a .15% BAC.

Matthew Paul Dalke, 35, charged Jan. 20 with DV strangulation, DV assault IV and DV menacing. He posted 10% of a \$10,000 bail.

Adrianna Davis, 27, charged Jan. 22 with DV assault IV and DV unlawful use of a weapon.

The court affirmed a decision against **Jared William Dawson, 25**, after he was found guilty at Linn County Justice Court on Nov. 10 of speeding 120/55 on May 2 on Hwy. 228.

James S. Jonathan Scott Georgelis, 43, charged Jan. 12 with burglary I, theft I and unlawful possession of meth. Bail set at \$40,000.

Matthew David Graber, 41, charged Jan. 7 with DUII (liquor) and reckless driving.

Steve Dean Harrison, 30, charged Jan. 21 with DV strangulation, DV coercion and DV menacing.

Jett Shae Harry, 25, sentenced Jan. 23 to permanent revocation of a drivers license, 90 days jail, 24 mos. supervised probation

and \$2,255 in fines and fees after pleading guilty to DUII (liquor) with a .11% BAC. Dismissed: criminal driving while suspended or revoked.

Daniel Hernandez-Luttrell, 22, charged Jan. 12 with DUII (liquor).

Charges against **Alfreda Sofia Herring, 82**, of criminally negligent homicide and criminal mistreatment I were dismissed without prejudice Jan. 15 due to the court finding she lacks fitness to proceed and substantial probability she will not have the capacity to stand trial. Charges related to the death of Jack Gerard Herring, accusing Alfreda she withheld adequate food, physical care or medical attention from him.

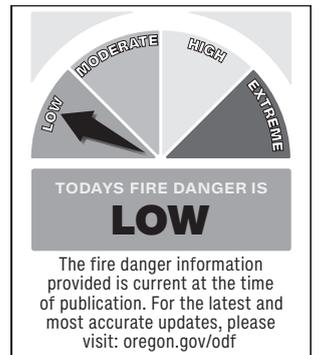
Devin Michael Houseman, 38, sentenced Dec. 29 to one year revocation of drivers license and 18 mos. supervised probation after pleading no contest to unauthorized use of a vehicle. Dismissed: FTA.

Sir Frank Lee James, 53, sentenced Jan. 8 to 10 days compensatory service in lieu of jail, 36 mos. bench probation and

See Circuit Court on page 11

LAKE LEVELS

Foster 617.5
Green Peter 926.6



CROSSWORD KEY

Puzzle on page 18

D	R	A	M	A	S	A	N	T	H	E	M		
T	A	D	P	O	L	E	B	A	R	O	N	E	
A	B	S	A	M	A	R	I	T	A	N	L	I	
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G	E	E	S	S	A	T	E	D	N	A	M	A	
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M	A	T	D	A	H		R	A	D	T	O	T	
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S	P	R	E	E	S		E	G	O	I	S	T	

SUDOKU KEY

Puzzle on page 18

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

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Editorial: Your local newspaper is attracting attention from afar

By Scott Swanson
Publisher

It's not our custom to write a lot about ourselves, but this being your community newspaper, I feel that we need to keep our readers up on what's going on here. So we've spent more time on this subject than usual lately.

First of all, for the most part, our merger of The New Era and Lebanon Local seems to be going well. We're still working on ironing out some of the wrinkles, particularly in our sports coverage, but I'm really happy to finally be able to give Lebanon/East Linn Christian kids some attention that they've deserved for a long time. We'll keep getting better.

Meanwhile, though, we've been getting attention that we haven't sought, but which has been encouraging.

Shortly after we announced that we were merging, I heard from Cody Mann of the Democrat-Herald, who came by for a nice conversation that lasted a long time and resulted in a story about what's happening here in Sweet Home and Lebanon.

Then I got a call from Brier Dudley, who writes a regular column on the media for the Seattle Times. He'd somehow heard about the merger and wanted to talk about it as well.

That, too, resulted in a retelling of the story of your paper, which you can read at www.seattletimes.com/opinion/newspaper-family-saves-oregon-paper. (Note: I actually think that headline should be "Community saves Oregon paper"...)

Shortly thereafter the Brownsville Times stopped by to do a story.

What's happened here in

east Linn County is a happy story, how readers and community members have helped us get these papers – now just The New Era – off the brink of collapse and back into the black.

It's a story that other journalists need to hear, because an already tough job gets harder when, as one journalist recently put it to me, "I wonder every morning whether I'll still have a job at the end of the day."

That's on top of top of writing eight to 10 stories a week (which is pretty much the standard for most journalists I've worked with), all while dealing with the necessity of getting the facts right every time, spelling those names correctly (yes, it's really embarrassing when we're juggling a lot of balls and one falls), trying to connect with news sources who don't want to talk to us, trying to talk to news sources whose bosses don't want them talking to us, meeting strict deadlines, etc. etc.

When we came to Sweet Home, I left a fairly large urban news organization that was steadily reducing reporting positions to maximize profits. I left because I could hear the water circling the drain and I thought it had to be possible to make a living as a journalist and maybe there was something wrong with this process, not the goal.

That's how we ended up at The New Era, and you've supported us.

I'm thankful to be able to tell the story of a community that values local news enough to support us.

But let's move on.

You have, no doubt, noticed that the entire newspa-

per looks a lot different this week than the previous edition did. We'd hoped to have these design tweaks ready to go on Jan. 1 when we started working on the new merged edition, but – as I said earlier, we're juggling a lot of balls and some demand more attention than others.

One big challenge is that our printing options are extremely limited. We currently print in Klamath Falls each week (along with several other local newspapers).

The fact that our page size is what it is stems from the fact that our printer needs it to be that size to be able to print the newspaper. It's not ideal, but not much is these days in the newspaper business.

Our goal in the new design, produced by our staffer Casey Rossio, is to economize space while giving the newspaper a little more visual "pop."

We've opted to use a more "economic" font for the public safety log, the events listings and the Sports Roundup, and the real estate listings to get more in the paper that way. Those are also listed online at sweethome-news.com and lebanonlocal-news.com, where you can make the font any size you want on your computer screen. The goal is to get more into the paper that way.

In the near future we plan to launch a reader survey that will give you a chance to weigh in on what you like to read and what you maybe don't read at all, as well as things you might like to see down the road. We're always interested in what you think because you are the readers and this is your newspaper.

PUBLIC SAFETY

From page 3

pistol. He racked the slide, thought magazine was empty, didn't clear the pistol, then pulled trigger while other hand was in front of muzzle. Bullet went through hand and lodged into couch.

JAN. 24

LCISO/OSP LEBANON

1:11 a.m. - Amy Workman, 48, of Sweet Home, cited for driving while suspended, driving uninsured, 6th/Gross streets.

2:02 a.m. - Stacy Elliot, 44, of Lebanon, cited for driving while suspended, driving uninsured, Sodaville Cutoff/Middle Ridge drives.

3:44 a.m. - Robert Runnfeldt, 42, of Lebanon, cited for driving while suspended, driving uninsured and for warrant, Santiam Hwy./Crowfoot Rd. Report taken.

8:14 a.m. - Crash reported in area of Fairview Rd./Old Santiam Hwy. Non-injury. Owner removed vehicle. No known property damage.

12:52 p.m. - Caller reported theft of battery from riding lawn mower in 39300 block Plagman Dr. Investigation ongoing. Report taken.

8:26 p.m. - Hit and run reported in area of Brewster Rd./Mt. Hope Dr. Terry Brown, 67, of Lebanon, cited for failing to perform duties of a driver after rolling into ditch and hitting stop sign. Report taken.

LCISO/OSP SWEET HOME/ SOUTH COUNTY

2:18 p.m. - Hit and run reported on NW Natural property, 900 block Washburn St. Damage estimated at \$2,000. Report taken.

SWEET HOME POLICE

11:30 a.m. - Michael Dean Brown cited for driving while suspended, driving uninsured, failure to register vehicle, 1900 block Main St. Vehicle impounded.

11:44 a.m. - Crash reported in area of Main St./18th Ave. According to SHPD, operators were Corinda Gail Stubbs, 56, of Sweet Home, who was driving a 2021 GMC Yukon eastbound on Main St. and Leslee Huerta-Fernandez, 39, of Sweet Home,

who was driving a 2019 Toyota Tacoma southbound on 18th and allegedly failed to obey traffic light and collided with the Yukon. Huerta-Fernandez was cited for failure to obey traffic control device. Minor injuries reported. Damage over \$2,500.

12:18 p.m. - Officer responded to report of two males physically fighting in 1100 block 10th Ave. Participants warned for disorderly conduct.

1:34 p.m. - Caller reported female in 1200 block Riggs Hill Rd. whom caller asked to have trespassed. Officer responded, trespassed female from location.

4:07 a.m. - Timothy Loren Ames, 36, arrested by Lebanon police on SHMC warrant for FTC in theft case. Cited to appear Feb. 11.

4:49 p.m. - Caller reported "large" water leak on Weddle Bridge in Sankey Park, 877 14th Ave. Officer responded, located water leak, notified Public Works.

5:08 a.m. - Cardiac arrest reported in 1500 block Tamarack St. Officer responded, medics transported male.

8:12 p.m. - Caller reported she was charged by "pack of dogs" in area of Oak Terrace/9th Ave. Officer responded, located owner who was warned for dog at large.

8:53 p.m. - Ryan Ireland, 19, cited for speeding, 55/45, 3000 block Main St.

LEBANON POLICE

3:53 a.m. - Timothy Loren Ames Jr. 36, cited on LMC warrant for FTA, LCJC warrant for false information, OSPB warrant for parole violation, and SHMC warrant for contempt of court.

12:19 p.m. - Driver passing cars at 90 to 120 mph on north end of town, Santiam Hwy. Police will BOLO.

1:38 p.m. - Caller reported attempted car theft, 100 block E Elm St. Ignition cylinder damaged. Loss: \$50.

6:55 p.m. - Nicholas T. Wells, 34, cited for trespassing. Report taken.

8:42 p.m. - Subjects contacted near old Champion Mill site, setting off fireworks.

8:45 p.m. - Anthony Dwain Olsen, 18, cited for speeding, warned for speed racing.

See Public Safety, Page 8



Sweet Home volunteer firemen and Brownsville Fire Department staffers spray water on a fire that destroyed Guy Wheeler's barn on Courtney Creek Road in 1976.

From our Files

Feb. 1, 1951

The last steam engine to see service in Sweet Home yards left here this weekend for Portland, to be replaced by diesel locomotives, destined for use here from now on. Some have already called to say they miss the sound of the familiar whistle. The old steam engines will be put to use in the Portland yards.

Workers begin moving the Texaco station, parts house and tavern back from the present location on M Street in preparation for the state's M Street widening project. Meanwhile, the county is making plans to straighten the S-curve on East Long Street, as well as a Y-shaped intersection at the top of the hill. The hill and curve have been problematic, and warning signs were reported missing almost as soon as they were erected.

An unknown suspect broke into Harding's Feed and Seed on M Street and took off with two cartons of cigarettes.

Jan. 20, 1976

Tomco Inc.'s new small log veneer plant is in production on a limited basis. The first blocks were put through the lathe. The mill is working at about 30% efficiency, the lathe is peeling at a rate of 325 feet per minute.

A morning fire destroyed a barn owned by Guy Wheeler on Courtney Creek Road. The Sweet Home Volunteer Firemen and Brownsville Fire Department answered the call. It appears to have started from sparks or flames by a wood stove in the barn.

Sweet Home's controversial water rate increase ordinance is on its way to completion. It calls for leaving the rate the same as it is for the minimum (400 cubic feet or less for \$4.50), but for rate increases for anybody using more than the minimum.

The Trailways Depot was broken into for the fourth time in 10 months. Nothing was taken, but the back door was kicked in.

A nearly 100-year-old, 1,100 lb. "Freedom Bell" sits in the

backyard of Carl and Mabel Whitener, who rings the bell and raises a 48-star flag only on holidays.

Jan. 31, 2001

Newly-formed Sweet Home Fire and Ambulance District assured Cascadia residents that efforts were underway to build a new substation in Cascadia, which was one of the promises made if voters approved the new taxing district. Prior to formation, the now-former Sweet Home Rural Fire District extended to The Point and Mc-Kercher Park. Now it includes Marks Ridge, Cascadia, parts of Berlin Road, Mountain Home and Santiam Terrace.

SH High School Principal Pat Stineff is asking for parents' help to improve student attendance, which has caused a low rating for the school last year. Attendance dropped to 85%. The school tried a truant officer and changes in graduate requirements, but Stineff finds difficulty overcoming "senior apathy."

Lebanon volunteer fair draws 'overwhelming' response

By Scott Swanson
Of The New Era

Organizers of the Connect for Lebanon volunteer recruitment event, held Saturday, Jan. 17, at the Boulder Falls Event Center, reported it was an "overwhelming" success.

That was the analysis of Chris Breshears, the hotel's manager and a member of the Lebanon Oregon Legacy Club, which organized the event.

"We had over 120 community members come in and learn ways to give back," he said. "It was kind of organized chaos, people coming in and learning how to get involved in the community."

The idea for the volunteer fair was the brainchild of Lebanon Oregon Legacy Club members. The Legacy Club is the new name for what was the Lebanon Optimist Club, which transitioned to an independent entity last October.

Breshears said club President Dale Hall and members Wyatt King and Adrienne Irwin, along with Sarah Brown, a reporter for The New Era, were major players in pulling the event together.

King said the idea for the fair was born when Legacy Club members got into a discussion about how to help people find opportunities to volunteer.

"We've all had people reach out to us, and say, 'You guys are involved in all kinds of things, how do we do it?'" King said, adding with a chuckle, "We always just showed up and nobody kicked us out."

Still, he said, it was obvious that "there is a hunger for giving back but also a hesitancy, so we wanted to get rid



More than 30 nonprofits fill the Boulder Falls Event Center in an effort to connect with more people who may be interested in volunteering with their organization. —Photo by Sarah Brown

of those obstacles as much as possible and provide some low-hanging fruit to help people get involved.

"We decided if we build it, they will come."

Breshears said he wanted to help people "find ways to give back when it's not from your wallet."

"People think when they give to the community, to a nonprofit, they need to give money," he said. "I wanted to help them find ways to just give time."

Thirty-four nonprofit organizations participated in the inaugural event at the conference center.

Breshears and King said some participants came away with pages of names of people who were interested in volunteering.

He said the Lebanon Soup Kitchen reported being able to fill two vacant positions as well as get a list of other potential volunteers, and the

Strawberry Festival and Dala's Angels also reported recruiting successes.

Shyla Malloy, executive director for CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocates) of Linn County, said the atmosphere at the volunteer fair was much different than most of the "tabling events" her organization is represented at.

Rather than attendees simply sweeping through and grabbing swag, "people actually wanted to volunteer, wanted to get involved," she said.

"At all of these events, we spend hours, and we might have one or two really good conversations," she said. "(At the Connect for Lebanon event) we had 53 interactions at my table, every single one of them intentional and meaningful. Based on return for investment, I would trade all of those for this."

She said that, within a few

days of the event, CASA had already heard from some of the contacts, who took the initiative to call.

"They didn't even wait for us to call them back," she added, noting that the advocacy work done by CASA volunteers, unlike many other volunteer opportunities, often requires a multi-year commitment.

Plus, Breshears said, more was happening during the fair than just people signing up to volunteer.

"We had nonprofits talking with other nonprofits, building connections to work together."

Both he and King said that participating agencies appreciated the fact that attendees actually sat down and talked with their representatives rather than simply picking up brochures and moving on.

"We decided to keep it simple for the first few years," King said. "Get all the non-

profits together in a big room, have some prizes, have some fun, help people figure out how to take the plunge and get involved."

Now they're thinking about how to do it better.

Breshears said he wants to expand the time frame for the event — this year's was four hours — to include time for nonprofits to interact before the potential volunteers arrive.

King said they got feedback from participants who suggested having food "and we need to have bags."

Also, he noted, more nonprofits want in, so they need to figure out how to fit everybody in.

Breshears said mid-January seems to work because "it's right after the first of the year and people have new year's resolutions to 'give back, to help my community.'"

Albany holds a similar event, and he said they may try to coordinate the timing, possibly on successive dates, to make things more efficient for participating nonprofits.

Bottom line, he said, there will be more.

King said he thinks the volunteer fair will help continue connections that used to happen "organically," but as the community exceeds 20,000 residents, "it's getting too big to do that."

"If we can build connections between families and friends and the causes they support, even as we grow beyond 20,000 people, we can continue that."

"It seems like it's working," he said. "It's just the first year and it was a big goal. It will take a few years to build culture change."

County health officer: No new measles cases reported

By Alex Paul

Linn County Communications

There have been no new cases of measles reported in Linn County since two cases were confirmed by the Oregon Health Authority and Linn County Public Health on January 10, Linn County Health Officer Dr. Adam Brady told the Board of Commissioners at their Jan. 20 meeting.

The two cases were not travel-related.

Brady said that health authorities tracing potential contacts, found that 18 people had a high risk of exposure. One person received medication.

The last known case of measles in Linn County was in 1993, based on available records.

Brady said that some 93% of kindergarten students in the county have been immunized, but it takes a rate of

about 95% immunizations to develop what is called "herd immunity," a level of immunization that decreases the potential for a widespread outbreak of a disease.

Measles can be dangerous, especially among infants and children younger than age five, adults older than 20, pregnant people and people with weakened immune systems.

There was only one confirmed case of measles in the entire state of Oregon last year. One case of measles has also been confirmed in Clackamas County.

Brady said that while most people get over a case of measles, the current death rate is one to two per 1,000 cases, which he said is high.

Educational materials have been distributed throughout local school systems.

Measles will last seven to

14 days. Symptoms include: coughing, loss of appetite, sensitivity to light, sleepiness, pink eye, runny nose, spots inside mouth and fever.

According to the Oregon Health Authority, measles is spread through the air after an infected person coughs or sneezes. People are contagious with measles for four days before a rash appears and up to four days afterward. The virus particles also can linger in the air for up to two hours after someone who is infectious has left the area.

Two doses of the Measles, Mumps and Rubella vaccine is 97% effective at preventing measles.

Brady also said that in December, there were 50 births — 27 females and 23 males — and 103 deaths. There was one reported suicide, a 36-year-old male.

In other business, commissioners:

- Approved an Intergovernmental Agreement with Linn-Benton Community College. LBCC will provide emotional intelligence training for Linn County's Developmental Disabilities staff for \$3,000.

- Approved an Intergovernmental Agreement with the Oregon Health Authority to provide financing for community mental health programs including substance treatment, recovery and prevention, from January 1, 2026 to June 30, 2027.

- Accepted the use of eight Triband handheld radios for the Linn County Sheriff's Office from the Oregon Department of Emergency Management's SPIRE (State Preparedness and Incident Response Equipment) grant program.

- Were told that 36 land use

permits were issued by the Planning & Building Department in December compared to 24 in December 2024. There were 265 total building permits issued, including one for a single-family dwelling, one for a manufactured dwelling, 11 for alterations or additions and one for an accessory building. There were 283 permits issued in December 2024. Thirteen code enforcement cases were closed and six opened in December 2025.

- Approved a Code Text amendment application, which adds a new section to Linn County Code. The new section establishes a list of standards for property owners to permit event businesses (such as wedding venues) as a home occupation. A land use review will be required by the Planning & Building Department for the home occupation permit.

SHFAD board approves health screening contract

By Scott Swanson
Of The New Era

Sweet Home Fire and Ambulance District Board members on Wednesday, Jan. 21, approved a contract that will provide screening for work-related illnesses among department staff and volunteers.

Board members unanimously gave provisional approval to a \$61,636 contract with Pennsylvania-based Professional Health Services to provide National Fire Protection Association-compliant physicals and cancer screenings for SHFAD's firefighters for two years.

The project involves screening firefighters to identify potentially life-threatening conditions such as cancer and other illnesses related to exposure to hazardous materials while responding to emergencies.

SHFAD was awarded an Assistance to Firefighters Grant award through FEMA in September. The \$126,857 grant gives the department funding towards a \$133,200 project, with a department match of roughly \$6,000.

Battalion Chief Shannon Pettner, who organized the project, said the department received three responses to a request for proposals, all from out-of-state firms. She said the scope of work proposed by each was comparable. The other bids were from Life Scan Wellness of Tampa, Fla., for \$71,040 and \$67,250 from 1582 Medical Group of Sparks, Nev.

She said both PHS and Life Scan have been used by various departments in Oregon.

Pettner told the board that she wanted to get the contract approved as soon as possible so that the screenings could

be scheduled before fire season starts.

Board Member Rob Younger said that since what the bidders were offering was largely equitable, it made sense to go with the lowest bidder, PHS. He made a motion, contingent on Pettner contacting other Oregon agencies, including Jackson County and Astoria, which have contracted with the firm, to move ahead.

Younger's motion included the contingency that if the response from other departments wasn't good, the district could choose another alternative at a future board meeting.

Wildland Fire Defense Coordinator

Wildland Supervisor Christian Whitfield reported to the board that the district is well along in its search for a coordinator to manage the paperwork aspects of the Linn Wildlife Mitigation Group, a wildland defense effort headed by Sweet Home, that will involve agencies throughout east Linn County. LWMG is funded by an \$8.7 million grant from the U.S. Forest Service.

The full-time coordinator will manage and administer the paperwork and manage the progress reports that will be necessary for the fuels mitigation efforts, as well as helping to organize six community Chipper Days that will be held twice a year at the Cascadia, Crawfordsville and Sweet Home fire stations, and various educational efforts.

Whitfield and Chief Nick Tyler said they had been surprised by the interest the position has generated: 27 people turned in applications.

Whitfield said 15 were interviewed and six finalists will

be interviewed this week, with the top candidate(s) moving on to an interview with Tyler.

"We had some very impressive candidates," he said, noting that he hopes to have a final selection by the end of this week.

Tyler said the applicants included "a lot of fire, law enforcement, hands-on," as well as grant management experience.

He said the new staffer will be responsible for building a map that will be used by LWMG members, "many different people," so he said those skills will be important as well as the ability to seek further grant funding to keep the program operational after its initial five-year run.

Tyler said later that the map will track all of the fuels mitigation work that's being done in the county by SHFAD and other agencies, as well as private landowners and firms.

The goal, he said, is to have a way to identify "potential control lines," should a fire ignite in east Linn County.

"If we have a fire, where can we catch the fire without it becoming a large fire," he said, especially if an incident management team comes in.

The map would give fire managers "a head start" in deciding how to fight a large fire, cutting days or weeks off the effort needed to stop it, he said.

In other action, board members:

- Learned from Joel Keesecker of Keesecker Insurance that the district's insurance costs are increasing by nearly 30% due to the addition of the Wildland Fire Division.

- In a report, Keesecker indicated that this year's cost will

be \$77,501, compared to \$55,972.

"The main driving force for that rate is payroll for wildland," he said, adding that different insurers, such as Oregon Workers' Compensation Insurance and Benefits (SAIF) categorize wildland firefighting differently, and charge different rates. SAIF, he said, charges 3½ times what the district's insurer, Special District Insurance Services, charges for that activity. SDIS categorizes wildland firefighters similar to logging, he said.

- Learned that the seismic upgrade project at Station 23 in Crawfordsville is nearly complete. After Assistant Fire Chief George Virtue noted that earthquake seismic retrofitting has already been completed at the main fire station and Station 22 in Foster, Keesecker said he would check with insurers to make sure the rates SHFAD is paying reflect that work.

- Heard from Pettner that the district's effort to purchase used LifePak 15 defibrillators from Portland Fire had come to naught, because Portland became concerned about legal liability in the deal.

"We don't have that opportunity any more," Pettner said, adding that Portland had offered to give Sweet Home cables, cases and batteries, which SHFAD can use. She said LifePak batteries cost \$600 apiece, and the district has to budget for five to seven of them a year because they age out.

Battery life, she said, "becomes problematic when you're on a call for several hours."

- Pettner told board members she would start looking for grants to finance the pur-

chase of new LifePaks, which can range in cost from about \$20,000 to more than \$50,000 each, depending on the model.

LifePaks are advanced cardiac monitors and defibrillators used by emergency medical personnel to diagnose and treat cardiac emergencies. The devices can record vital signs, monitor cardiac rhythms and deliver defibrillation therapy to restart the heart.

The district has several older Model 12s, which are "obsolete," Pettner said.

"We can't get parts. It's like we're looking on eBay, hoping to find something."

- Learned that negotiations with the employees union will start Feb. 12 and appointed Board Member Jim Yon, who was absent, to represent the board in negotiations. Yon had volunteered for that job at an earlier meeting.

- Learned from Ryan Paul, recruitment and retention officer, that district staffers and volunteers completed 5,437 man-hours of training during 2025.

- Agreed to add a monthly report from district Chaplain Michael Caruso in the board's monthly meeting agenda.

- Learned from Tyler that the district will be looking to add to its water tender fleet after having issues with Tender 21.

"Some of them are getting a little older," Tyler said, noting that one has a manual transmission which, "as we bring in new folks, that can be a little problematic."

Church Directory

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The Lord is the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I be afraid? – Psalm 27:1

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Lebanon swimmers score big wins in pool over South Albany

Lebanon's swimmers came close to pulling off a complete sweep of South Albany Tuesday, Jan. 20, placing first in all but four of 22 events against the Red Hawks.

"The coaching staff is pretty proud of how hard the students raced," Coach Joe Andrews said. "We had a significant number of best times or near best times. Several races came down to the wire, with our students showing their drive to win."

The Warrior boys are 5-1 in MWC competition, while the girls are 4-2.

Grant Basting won two events for the boys, the 200 Freestyle (2:05.09) and the 100 Butterfly (1:02.15, a .79-second PR), while Samuel Bloedel won the 200 Individual Medley (2:42.44, 9.93-sec. PR), Boston Borgmann the 50 Free (24.28), Alex Kolling the 500 Free (6:15.42, 6.36-sec. PR), and Michael Kluttz the 100 Breaststroke (1:16.58).

Double winners for the girls were Molly Basting in the 100 Butterfly (1:20.09, .12-sec. PR) and the 100 Breaststroke (1:26.41), and Orianna Buczko in the 100 Freestyle (1:00.81, .73-sec. PR) and the 200 IM (2:30.67, 3.15-sec. PR), while Allison Bergmann won the 200 Free (2:43.35), Brooklyn Davis the 500 Free (6:47.45, 15.36-sec. PR), Anouk Ricketts the 50 Free (32.16) and Abigail Settle the 100 Back (1:22.78) for the Warriors.

Lebanon won both the boys and girls 200 and 400 freestyle relays, Bergmann, Molly Basting, Ricketts and Buczko combining to swim 2:02.59 in the 200, and Buczko, Davis, Walsh and Bergmann winning the girls 400 in 4:42.14.

For the boys, Kolling, Kluttz, Samuel Williamson and Jack Johnson swam 1:49.72 to win the 200, while Grant Basting, Borgmann, Bloedel and Kolling finished first in the 400 in 4:01.29.

The boys also won the 200 Medley Relay, Johnson, Kluttz, Basting and Borgmann clocking 1:56.02.

Others who PR'd for Lebanon in individual events included Hailey Gutierrez (23.99 seconds), Johnson (2.70) and



Grant Basting swims to a win in the 200 Freestyle. - Photos by Scott Swanson



Anouk Ricketts swims a leg in the girls 200 Medley Relay. See more photos from the meet at lebanonlocalnews.com.

Williamson (8.52) in the 200 Free; Kolling (5.59) in the 200 IM; Walsh (.03), Rylie Noonchester (1.33) and Kluttz (.11) in the 50 Free; Ericka Stevens (3.25), Daniel Tyler (2.19), and Yago Ruano Perez (7.51) in the 100 Free; Paul Bloedel (21.10) in the 500 Free; Noonchester (.56) in the 50 Back; Williamson (.70) and Carson Kolling (12.97) in the 100 Back, and Perez in the 100 Breast (2.38).

"The students' hard work is showing and this momentum will be huge going into the championship season in three weeks," Andrews said. "It has been a bonus to win the last three dual meets as we enter the home stretch."

He noted that relay spots are still up for grabs, with seven girls in contention for four spots and eight boys for the same spots.

"This is a tough spot to be in, but a very good one from a team standpoint," Andrews noted.

Up next for Lebanon are West Albany on Tuesday of this week, with Crescent Valley visiting on Feb. 3.

"Both of those teams will be in contention for the district championships (along with Silverton) next month," Andrews said last week.

"In the dual-meet format, our team will have to perform very well to win the next two meets. The championship meet format will help our team perform better than we may show in a dual meet.

"With only two more opportunities to race before the championships, we will be very deliberate on what we swim to prepare, even if it impedes our scores in the dual meet."

Sports Round-up

Lebanon boys face MWC leaders

Lebanon's boys faced their toughest basketball test of the year last week with games at West Albany on Jan. 20 at home against Central Friday, Jan. 23.

Both teams are undefeated in league and ranked in the top six in state. West won 71-52 and Central won 70-62.

West took control of the game early, leading 22-8 at the end of the first quarter. The Bulldogs, with five players ranging from 6-3 to 6-6, maintained their lead throughout the remainder of the game.

Lebanon made a few moves to cut into the score but West rejected them all. Lebanon was led by Gunner Miller, who had 23 points on 8-16 shooting from the field and 2-5 from the three-point arc. He also made five of seven free throws, pulled down four rebounds and added three assists.

Logan Large added 15 points on six-for-12 shooting from the field and 3-3 from three. He also added four rebounds and two assists.

The Central game was just as challenging. Central is also tall, with all starters 6 feet or taller, including posts standing 6-4 and 6-7.

The Panthers took advantage of their height advantage to establish a 19-4 lead after a quarter. Lebanon appeared somewhat shell-shocked but regrouped in the second quarter. The Warriors stopped the bleeding in the second quarter but still trailed 35-19 at the half.

The third quarter was a great example of tenacious defense and timely offense as Lebanon started to chip away at the Central lead. Slowly but surely, the Warriors started to gain the advantage. The lead was cut to eight, 52-44 at the third-quarter buzzer. Lebanon continued to chip away at the lead and several times had it down to four, but they couldn't quite get over the hump and lost 70-62.

Large had a huge game, scoring 20 points on nearly perfect 12-13 shooting from the field, 1-1 from the three and 5-7 from the charity stripe. He also had seven rebounds, two steals and two assists.

Miller added 14 points, two rebounds and a steal. Finn VandenBos also had a productive game, scoring 11 points.

"We are fighting through some mental blocks," Coach Casey VandenBos said. "We are a couple of possessions away from being 6-1. I still have a lot of belief about this

group and the season isn't over. We have our work cut out for us but we can play with anyone in our league."

The Warriors travel to Crescent Valley on Tuesday and host South Albany Friday, Jan. 30.

- Mike Warner

Warrior girls split with West Albany, Central

Lebanon's girls faced league-leading West Albany on the road Jan. 20 and hosted Central Panthers Friday, Jan. 23.

The task was daunting as West Albany came into the game with an undefeated league record and No. 5 state ranking and delivered true to form in an 82-52 win.

West Albany took charge early in the first quarter leading by eight, 20-12. The Bulldogs increased their lead to 16 at halftime, then stretched their advantage to 19 by the end of the third quarter. The final margin was 30.

Lebanon struggled from the floor, shooting 33.3% (20-60) from the field and 25% (7/28) from the three. One highlight of the game was Hazel Pepperling, who scored 26 points, shooting 50% (10/20) from the field and 50% (3/6) from three. She also collected nine rebounds, two assists and four steals.

Lebanon regained momentum Friday against Central in a 73-26.

The Warriors started with a 2-3 zone with pressure, then alternated defenses regularly to keep Central off balance.

They led 14-7 at the first quarter. The girls' stifling defense held Central scoreless in the second quarter to give Lebanon a 38-7 lead at the half. The trend continued in the second half as the Warriors outscored Central 22-14 in the third quarter and 13-5 in the last stanza.

There were a lot of points to spread among the team as all 10 players scored.

Peyton Vorderstrasse led the team with 27 points, shooting 9-13 from the field and 7-9 from the three. She also had three rebounds, two assists and two steals. Her seven threes were two short of the school record.

The girls, 4-2 in league coming into this week, travel to Crescent Valley on Tuesday and host South Albany Friday, Jan. 30.

- Mike Warner

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PUBLIC SAFETY

From page 4

9:38 p.m. - Juvenile cited for speeding 50/35.

9:48 p.m. - Quintin David Schlim, 34, cited for driving while suspended and LMC warrant for FTA.

10:44 p.m. - Driver observed revving exhaust and speeding through Walmart parking lot. Driver said he was playing with new exhaust and paddle shifters. Anthony Dwain Olsen, 18, cited for careless driving.

JAN. 23

LCSO/OSP LEBANON

12:22 a.m. - Dennis Borden, of Albany, cited for driving while suspended, driving uninsured, and for LMC warrant, 000 block E. Cedar St. Report taken.

9:56 a.m. - Tina Vollmer, of Lacombe, cited for failure to license dog, warned for nuisance barking, 39600 block Baptist Church Dr.

11:14 a.m. - Rara Ezell, 47, of Lebanon, arrested on outstanding warrant, 34500 block Pinewood Lane. Report taken.

12:29 p.m. - Anthony Middleton, 66, of Lebanon, arrested on outstanding warrant, 3200 block S. Santiam Hwy. Cited and released. Report taken.

1:23 p.m. - Jeffrey Bagley, 63, of Lebanon, arrested on outstanding warrant, and for failure to report as sex offender, 31100 block Old Santiam Hwy. Report taken.

1:27 p.m. - Driver, whose name was not included in Sheriff's log, cited for speeding, 85/55, failure to carry proof of insurance, 2600 block Stoltz Hill Rd.

8:34 p.m. - Chase Blisseck, 20,

of Lebanon, cited for unsafe passing on left, Sand Ridge Rd./Rock Hill Dr.

11:38 p.m. - Wren Wright, 46, of Lebanon, cited for failure to yield, driving while suspended and for warrants, 2700 block River Rd. Report taken.

LCSO/OSP SWEET HOME/ SOUTH COUNTY

7:58 a.m. - Kameron Rice, 18, of Lebanon, cited for minor in possession in connection with incident that occurred in area of Courtney Creek Dr./Timber Rd., Brownsville, on Dec. 20. Report taken.

10:12 a.m. - Michael Halsell, 38, of Sweet Home, arrested for criminal trespass II and contempt of court-violation of released agreement, Upper Calapooia/Nichol drives. Report taken.

1:02 p.m. - Deputy located trailer on private property in 24800 block Brush Creek Rd. Female occupant warned for trespassing, told deputy would return next day to make sure she'd vacated location.

6:48 p.m. - Caller reported that male pulled on his front door, then took off running in 300 block Walnut Ave., Brownsville. Deputies located four juvenile males in area who admitted they were out ding dong ditchings. Deputy contacted parents and juveniles were warned.

8:46 p.m. - LCSO conducted death investigation in 29700 block Nicewood Dr., Halsey. Elderly female's passing determined to be natural. Report taken.

8:51 p.m. - LCSO conducted death investigation in 100 block Hausman Ave., Brownsville. Report taken.

10:01 p.m. - Deputy located



Roving dogs blamed for crash

Rescue workers respond to a crash that was reported at 3:44 p.m. Thursday afternoon, Jan. 22, in the 2400 block of Main Street. According to police, Chance Linn, 19, of Sweet Home, was driving a 1996 GMC pickup eastbound on Main Street when two dogs ran onto the highway in front of his vehicle, forcing him to stop. His pickup was struck by a 2005 Mazda van driven by David Horner, 33, of Sweet Home. Injuries were reported and damage was estimated at more than \$2,500 for both vehicles, which were towed.

- Photo by Scott Swanson

vehicle parked in 43700 block North River Dr. Occupant warned that they could not park overnight/camp there.

SWEET HOME POLICE

1:56 a.m. - Caller reported intoxicated female in vehicle, trying to leave location in 1200 block 12th Ave. Officer responded, contacted female, gave her courtesy transport to her residence.

3:12 a.m. - Scott Kevin Heinz arrested by Albany police on SHMC warrants for FTA in criminal driving and trespass

cases, FTC in harassment and two DUII cases. Cited to appear Feb. 11.

9:39 a.m. - Officer located unoccupied vehicle suspected to be connected with crash in area of Oak Terrace/Holley Rd. Report taken for hit and run. Investigation continuing. Vehicle towed.

11:32 a.m. - Caller reported she was hit by car earlier in morning and female driver did not stop, Meadowlark Lane/Strawberry Loop. Officer responded, information noted.

7:43 p.m. - Mitchell Duane Stratman cited for driving uninsured, Main St./43rd Ave.

10:26 p.m. - Jason Alexander Dodge cited for driving while suspended, failure to carry proof of insurance, warned for exhibition of speed, 1000 block Long St. Driver's license seized.

11:52 p.m. - Officer responded to Dam Bar, 6099 Main St., to report of disturbance. Parties separated, investigation continuing. Lebanon Police

2:42 a.m. - Caller reported yelling male at old Santiam Mill property, possibly prowler at nearby house, Elmore St. Subject told mill is private property.

3:43 a.m. - Jasmine Nichoel Magdaleno, 44, cited on LCCC warrant for FTA on original charge of eluding.

7:46 a.m. - Cynthia E. Baughman-Roche, 55, cited for speeding 45/25.

8:04 a.m. - Caller reported subject yelling and screaming to himself at Chevron station.

Subject said he was frustrated. 8:13 a.m. - Cory Allen Van Grinsven, 29, cited for speeding 39/25.

8:32 a.m. - Kalina M. Carrithers, 23, cited for cell phone use.

8:46 a.m. - June E. Morris, 59, cited for speeding 46/25.

9:31 a.m. - James W. Harrison, 24, and Kevin H. Nguyen, 27, cited for failure to obey traffic control device.

9:47 a.m. - Caller reported incident from last month when a male punched her in the back of the head, knocking her out. She woke up on the side of the road with clothes and her phone.

9:48 a.m. - Mark C. Olson, 67, cited for failure to obey traffic control device.

10:48 a.m. - Thomas J. Hermans, 70, cited for speeding 51/20 school zone, 500 block Cascade Dr.

11:21 a.m. - Caller's cat is injured, believes it was done intentionally by someone, 000 block W Ash St. Cat taken to vet.

11:26 a.m. - Sandra Dee Stegemann, 63, cited for speeding 36/20 school zone, 500 block Cascade Dr.

11:39 a.m. - Kalena J. Ash, 29, cited for speeding 38/20 school zone, 500 block Cascade Dr.

1:36 p.m. - Billy Wayne Hatch Jr., 48, cited for driving while suspended, driving uninsured, speeding 44/25, and LCJC warrant for driving while suspended.

2:02 p.m. - Billy Wayne Hatch Jr., 48, cited on Salem Municipal Court warrant for FTA on a traffic offense.

3:21 p.m. - Callers reported fighting, 100 block S Williams St. Both subjects admitted to heated argument over road rage, both were having a bad day. They ultimately hugged and apologized.

5:58 p.m. - Juvenile arrested on LCCC warrant for contempt - material witness.

10:18 p.m. - Caller reported customer at Bobo's asking a lot of personal questions to employees, concerned it might be a sex trafficking situation. Ricky Lynn Wilson, 58,

Hospital, foundation scholarship applications open

East Linn County students currently attending college and majoring in a medical field are invited to apply for this \$1,000 scholarship. Applications must be submitted by Thursday, Feb. 19, and five scholarships will be awarded in March.

Lebanon Community Hospital Foundation Scholarships

Scholarships are available for medical, nursing and nursing education students as well as students enrolled in a Linn-Benton Community College health career program.

The deadline to apply is 5 p.m. Thursday, April 30, unless otherwise noted. Scholarship recipients will be announced in June.

The following scholarships are available:

The Frank Girod, MD, Med-

ical Scholarship for students enrolled in medical school. This scholarship is named for the late primary care physician who was instrumental in the establishment of Samaritan Lebanon Community Hospital.

The Julietta A. Pape Scholarship Fund for East Linn County students pursuing a medical degree at the College of Osteopathic Medicine of the Pacific-Northwest in Lebanon or Oregon Health and Science University in Portland. This scholarship honors Pape's lifetime contribution to education.

The John and Carol Dinges Medical Scholarship for East Linn County students enrolled in an entry-level health care program at Linn-Benton Community College. Examples of entry-level pro-

grams include certified medical assistant, certified nursing assistant, medical office specialist and dental assistant. First preference will be given to seniors and graduates of Lebanon High School, but seniors and graduates at all high schools in East Linn County are invited to apply.

The Nurse Education Scholarship for caregivers and certified nursing assistants who are pursuing continued education in the nursing field. Preference is given to applicants from the Lebanon area and single parents. The deadline to apply for this scholarship is 5 p.m. Friday, May 29.

To access applications and learn more about these scholarship opportunities visit samhealth.org/Scholarships.

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Welcome to this charming single-level 3-bedroom, 2-bath home in Sweet Home, OR. The kitchen comes equipped with a range, fridge, dishwasher, and microwave, while washer and dryer hookups add everyday convenience. New carpet in the bedrooms and stylish laminate flooring throughout create a comfortable, updated feel. Enjoy a fenced backyard and a double car garage for parking and storage. No pets.



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PUBLIC SAFETY

From page 8

trespassed for life.

11:09 p.m. - Bradley Keith Rannebeck, 37, cited for illegal display and failure to carry proof of insurance.

11:34 p.m. - Tammy Reta, 44, taken into custody for driving while suspended, cited on AMC warrant for FTA on original charge of driving while suspended and LCSO warrant for contempt of court. Car towed. Report taken.

JAN. 22

LCSO/OSP LEBANON

4:11 p.m. - Fraud reported in 30700 block Washington St. Person reporting incident was able to stop process by getting banking information changed completely with new issued cards.

7:26 p.m. - Deputy provided courtesy transport to elderly female, with memory issues, to her home address. 36100 block Oak St.

LCSO/OSP SWEET HOME/ SOUTH COUNTY

4:13 p.m. - Victor David Mendez, 20, of Salem, cited for speeding, 57/35, operating vehicle without license, failure to carry proof of both registration and insurance, 100 block Bishop Way, Brownsville.

9:45 p.m. - Julia Bockes, 41, of Lyons, cited on warrant following report of suspicious vehicle in area of Depot Ave./Linn Way, Brownsville. Report taken.

10:35 p.m. - Driver, who was not identified in Sheriff's log, cited for driving without valid license, driving uninsured.

SWEET HOME POLICE

12:37 a.m. - Austyn Mitchell Lee Clark, 31, arrested by Albany police on SHMC warrant for FTC in criminal driving case. Cited to appear Feb. 11.

9:02 a.m. - Brent Anthony Prather, 37, arrested on SHMC warrant for FTC in trespass case, 15th Ave./Nandina St. Cited and released.

See more and updated Public Safety Log entries at sweethomenews.com/lebanonlocalnews.com

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Old mill site gets tune-up for car show, drift track events

By Sarah Brown
Of The New Era

As Sweet Home approaches its first year without the Oregon Jamboree, a different kind of event peers through the curtain as being a potential economic boost for the community.

JD Rettinger and Cole Iliff, both of Albany, are gearing up to bring their annual PNW Showdown Smokeshow & Shine car show to the former Willamette Industries mill site off Tamarack Street.

But their prospects go beyond just a one-day, once-a-year show expected to draw thousands of spectators.

The pair are also planning monthly drift events on the property at the north end of 24th Avenue. In fact, they hope the first one will be held in February.

The car show

Rettinger and his wife, Amy Rettinger, operate N Touch Detailing in Eugene. It's a business he's been involved in for nearly 14 years now.

They also host Eugene Cars & Coffee, a monthly gathering of car enthusiasts, usually held at his shop.

In 2024, the pair promoted their first car show at the Lane County Fairgrounds, drawing in about 350 registered cars and more than 5,000 people, some of whom came from outside the state, JD Rettinger said.

Given the popularity of the initial event and the size of this new location, Iliff expects as many as 10,000 may show up to this year's event in Sweet Home.

"We just have a huge passion for cars and events, and we noticed it's almost a dying breed anymore of bigger car shows," Rettinger said.

According to him, that one-day event generated more than \$100,000 for the city. However, the county didn't in-

vite them back the next year.

"At the end of the day, we had such a big need for it that I needed to find a new place for it. I realized Lane County wasn't it."

Through word of mouth, Rettinger and Iliff were connected to Josh Victor, owner of the old mill property, and they took a look at the spot.

"I knew that it was gonna take some work, but at the end of the day, I'd seen the potential," Rettinger said.

Victor is also excited about the partnership.

"I think it's got a lot of potential," Victor said. "I think especially if they're gonna start doing stuff monthly, it may be a good little draw to get people into town, and just have something to do around here. It's pretty exciting."

The PNW Showdown Smokeshow & Shine will be held July 25 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. on the 12 acre lot at the east end of Tamarack Street, between 18th and 22nd avenues.

Participants coming from far away will be invited to camp on the property and enjoy a private pre-show party the night before the event.

The car show - which Rettinger points out is open to all years and models - will feature trucks, classics, modern muscle and off-road drift cars.

Rettinger plans to bring in several inflatables for kids, food trucks, a beer garden and opportunities for local vendors. There are also plans for a motor blow (drain a junker of its fluids, run the engine and predict how long it will take before it dies), and potentially some live music.

The show's "finale" will be a burnout competition at the north end of 24th Avenue, where the monthly drift events will be held.

Iliff held the burnout pad will be held inside a box of con-



Cole Iliff, center, points out how he envisions a track course on the vacant lot at the north end of 24th Avenue. - Photos by Sarah Brown

crete barriers, for safety.

"We have a very big following, and now that we've done a show (in 2024), people see how we operate," Rettinger said. "They see what we can do, our potential, and now it just motivates me to go bigger and better."

While the big car show is planned to be a once-a-year thing, Iliff said it could possibly go twice a year "if it grabs good traction."

To register a car or be a vendor, follow the PNW Showdown Smokeshow & Shine Facebook page, or wait for more information at EugeneCarShow.com.

"I've brought in people from over five states away," Rettinger said. "It doesn't matter what the hell corner you're in. If you're putting something good on, they will find it and they will drive to it."

Drifting events

While Rettinger is more of the car show guy, it's Iliff who's more of the drift track guy.



A crew of people move plastic barriers across the empty old mill lot to build drift track course layouts.

For the uninformed, drifting is the motorsport skill of causing rear tires to lose traction after a hard steer, and controlling the resulting slide, or skid, sideways around corners.

"You go through (the course) and you slide your car around the track," Iliff said. "It's a big growing sport comin' up, so we're trying to get into it while people are interested."

Iliff, personally, is trying to be a professional drift driver and is close to getting into Formula DRIFT, a televised professional drifting championship show (follow his IG @driftrollas).

"It's like the NASCAR of drifting," he said.

But when talking about the sport, he focused more on the benefits of a hobby that can pull kids away from their phones.

"Taking a kid for a ride at that age where they're gettin' into cars, it just gives them another drive to be able to get out there and do something, help motivate them to just do different stuff," he said. "Too many people are stuck in the house nowadays."

Iliff's day job is through Anderson Brothers' Buck's Sanitary Service, and assists Rettinger with paint protection film applications, but he also owns CCC Racing for his drift-

ing pursuits, and is 10 years into his ownership of Protect Ur Hood Towing out of Eugene. In that business, he's seen "too many kids" getting hurt on the road.

So for him, giving teens and young adults access to a safe location for car play is a good idea. He likened it to a skate park, where kids can engage in an active sport as long as they follow certain rules, such as wearing a helmet.

A place to drift keeps people off the road and is more likely to avoid injuries.

"It's gonna happen, kids are gonna be kids, but if you make a place for 'em to be safe, then they'll wanna follow the rules a little bit more," Iliff said.

Using a forklift, Iliff maneuvered large concrete barriers around the lot that has been termed The Mill Drift Track (find it on Facebook), a five-acre spot on the old mill property at the north end of 24th Avenue.

The barriers help create something of a track that drivers can drift through while also providing safety to those outside the track. They also give Iliff the opportunity to change the track around from time to time.

When public drift events happen there, Rettinger en-

See Tune-up page 11

The ICEBOX Performer Of The Week



This weeks ICEBOX Performer Of The Week goes to our amazing Logistics Specialist! Karee has been a huge asset to the team—a lways willing to step in where there's a need and consistently going above and beyond, like staying at the office well past her scheduled time to help the team on a Friday night.

Thank you for all you do, Karee—we appreciate you!





Cole Iliff uses a forklift to carry large concrete barriers as part of the drift track course.

TUNE-UP
From page 10

courages people – especially kids – to bring a helmet if they want a chance to do a ride-along.

“There’s usually a standing line of vehicles (waiting to drift),” Rettinger said. “If you’re over there and you have a helmet and you’re showing that you have interest that you wanna go for a car ride, there’s always gonna be somebody there that says, ‘hop in and buckle up, let’s go for a ride.’”

A community thing

When Victor let Cut the Gut hold a burnout event on his property a few years ago, he expected it to draw a couple hundred people, but was surprised to see “closer to a thousand.”

It made him realize not only the amount of interest and potential for that type of experience, but also the potential for the city.

Now that Rettinger and Iliff are building the foundation for that same experience, Victor is reaching out to find other similar event organizers who might be interested in bringing their show to the city.

“Luckily it’s not really around any other neighbors,” Victor said about his venue spot. “It’s far enough away from any residential, I think it shouldn’t be that big of a problem. We’re hoping it should turn out good.”

The Victors want the community to have a place to have fun, a place that can grow with the community, Rettinger said.

“This is gonna bring in so much revenue year-round for the community,” Rettinger said.

He estimates about 90% of his show’s attendees will be from outside Sweet Home.

“We’re really hoping that we get a good response back from the town. We really try to run things the right way, not the reckless way, because we want it to last,” he said.

Rettinger said he’s looking forward to connecting with more locals and working more with the city. And they hope the community will work with them.

“We’re not just trying to come in and do our own thing and not listen to anybody. We

want to bring in the town and listen to the feedback and move on that,” he said. “We want to be able to have this for the long term.”

In fact, both Rettinger and Iliff emphasized their passion to support the community and small business.

“We’re all about community, small business, pumping everybody up. That’s how we work,” Rettinger said.

Their way to do that is to share their lifelong passion for cars with others in a safe way that brings a community together and provides a “good vibe,” but also brings an opportunity to help others, Iliff said.

“We’re all about supportin’ the local community and tryin’ to get everyone helping each other like it used to be,” he said.

Gettin’ ready

The whole of Victor’s lot is probably about 150 acres, giving Rettinger and Iliff a lot to work with.

“It’s very, very big,” Iliff said. “We’re hoping to do a lot of different other kinds of motorsports there. We just wanna start off getting a little bit at a time, making sure the community is enjoying what we’re doing and it’s actually gonna work for everyone.”

For now, though, Rettinger and Iliff make regular trips to Sweet Home with a crew of people working hard to prepare the property.

“There’s a lot of cleanup,” Rettinger said. “This place hasn’t been operated in over 50 years, so there was a lot of groundwork that needed to be done, but we know with our time that we can make that happen.”

The crew is filling holes, clearing out a spot for camping, creating a pit crew area, making a water pad, and even sweeping up every bit of rock and sand – which apparently affects the drift action. Even Victor was out on his property breaking up concrete foundations.

“We just needed a place, a private property that sees our vision and that knows that we’re gonna do something the right way,” Rettinger said. “Lucky enough, we found that in Sweet Home, and we think that it’s gonna be a great opportunity for everybody.”



Approximately 300 cars passed through Sweet Home during a memorial car meet and cruise in honor of a young Albany girl who recently died. – Photos by Sarah Brown

CAR MEET UP
From page 10

What she didn’t expect was the response.

People from across the state showed interest in giving support, it looked like hundreds of cars were going to show up, thousands of dollars worth of auction and raffle prizes were offered, and vendors stepped up to volunteer their services.

With just a few days left to plan, JD Rettinger, co-promoter of the Mill Drift Track and car show events, offered the Sweet Home location to accommodate her needs.

“They just needed a big, open lot and they were

struggling to find a place that was gonna be able to hold at least 300 cars,” Rettinger said.

Due to the expected size of the event and short notice, Allen said she was not able to hold a formal car show, something she believes McClintock would have appreciated. But in her memoriam, the event ended with a line of hundreds of cars cruising out of Sweet Home and into McClintock’s hometown.

“Paige loved muscle cars, big cars. She loved trucks and motorcycles, she loved loud, pretty – she loved cars,” Allen said. “We really wanted the community to be able to be a part of that too.”



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Huskies hang with ranked foes

By Keeghan Gittins
For The New Era

Sweet Home's boys opened their league basketball season on Jan. 20 with a road matchup against No. 8 Philomath, falling 52-49.

The Huskies then returned home and lost, 60-54 to No. 7 Stayton.

With the two losses, Sweet Home has now lost five games in a row.

"We gave up multiple (offensive) boards late in the game, which really hurt us versus Philomath," said Coach Drew Emmert.

The Huskies led by eight with four minutes to play, but Philomath was able to swing the game late. The Warriors grabbed three offensive rebounds and got eight free throw attempts, making six. Sweet Home was unable to regain the lead in the closing minutes.

In the home loss to Stayton, Sweet Home stayed within reach down the stretch, despite adversity. Bradyn McClure fouled out with 4:30 remaining, forcing the Huskies to finish the game without their leading scorer.

With two minutes to go, Mason Tyler was fouled and made both free throws to cut the deficit to three. Sweet Home continued to battle late, as a bucket by Kellen Hartsook made it 56-52 with 24 seconds to go, but the Huskies were unable to close the gap before the final horn.

"Yeah, it has been a tough stretch," Emmert said. "We're 0-2 in league but we played two of the top three teams in the league, who are both ranked in the top 10 in state, and had a chance in both of them."

"We need to find another gear late in games. We need to make sure we execute better offensively late games."



Bradyn McClure puts up a shot against Stayton. See more photos at sweethomenews.com. – Photo by Keeghan Gittins

Opponents have focused on limiting Sweet Home's leading scorer.

"Teams are doing a good job of trying to limit Bradyn. He has scored at such a high level all year, teams are really keying in on him. He has got a couple tough charge calls against him the last few games, as teams always have a help defender in the paint when he gets it to try and take his drive away," Emmert said.

Turnovers and free throws have been the story all year long in close games. Sweet Home averages 18 turnovers a game and is shooting 54% from the free throw line as a team.

Despite the recent results, Sweet Home has seen other players step up offensively.

Sophomore Mason Tyler

has stepped up big offensively, averaging 15.4 points per game over the last five games while shooting 41% from three on six attempts a game. Hartsook has also chipped in with nine points per game while shooting almost 60% from the field.

"I am proud of the way we have been competing though and have had a few guys really step up," Emmert said. "Mason has scored 24 and 17 in the two league games and is really stepping up."

"Daniel (McCubbins) has upped his production as well. I'm excited for us to bounce back on Tuesday. Our guys have been playing hard and having really good stretches."

"We just need to finish games out."



Aaliya Brown, right, buries a three-pointer against Stayton. See more photos at sweethomenews.com.

– Photo by Keeghan Gittins

Despite losses to top-ranked teams, SH girls make strides

By Keeghan Gittins
For The New Era

Sweet Home's girls began Oregon West Conference action on the road Jan. 20 against No. 6 Philomath, falling 55-20, before returning home to host No. 2 Stayton on Jan. 23 in a 55-23 loss. While the results didn't swing in Sweet Home's favor, the progress within those games, especially against elite competition, was clear.

"We played some of our best basketball against Stayton Friday night," said Head Coach Erika Evans. "It was simultaneously the most points we have scored, and the least they have scored, in three years with essentially the same group of girls."

After a challenging first half, the Huskies responded with one of their strongest stretches of the season, outscoring Stayton 24-14 in the second half. The effort highlighted Sweet Home's ability to compete when executing together.

Facing three top-10 teams in a four-game span has tested the Huskies offensively, particularly with turnovers and shot efficiency. Over the last four games, Sweet Home has been held under 30 points, leading the coaching staff to

focus on offensive confidence, timing, and ball movement in practice.

"We have been working on helping each player see where their strength is when it comes to scoring and instilling confidence in them to take those shots," Evans said.

Execution remains a key focus as league play continues. Sweet Home has concentrated on improving offensive reads while also challenging shots at all three levels defensively, knowing that shooting percentages can fluctuate.

At 6-7 overall, the Huskies' record reflects the difficulty of their schedule rather than a lack of progress. Defensively, Sweet Home has been solid from the start of the season, and Evans noted growth across the roster, particularly in individual defense and defensive awareness.

As the Huskies prepare for upcoming league matchups, including a contest against Newport, the goal is to string together four complete quarters on both ends of the floor.

"Our league is so tough, it would truly be easy to get discouraged if we didn't believe we have something to prove," Evans said. "Whoever is on the other side of the ball is going to know they were in a battle."

EVENTS

From page 2

580 Main St. Tickets are \$25 for the Brunch Buffet, with an add-on Mimosa Bar for \$10. Also, a VIP ticket including both, plus five raffle tickets, is available for \$30 per person. VIP tickets are limited and must be purchased in advance. Others are available at the door.

In addition to a buffet spread that includes sweet (pastries, waffles and pancake bites, yogurt and fruit), savory (frittata squares, bacon and sausage, quiche and breakfast potatoes) and "grazers" fare (a charcuterie board and bagels), the event

will include raffle basketball and prizes.

Proceeds benefit the Kids Christmas Store. For information, contact the VFW at (541) 972-8556.

SWEETHEART VALENTINE DANCE

Riverview PTC and Explosion Dance Team will host a Sweetheart Valentine Dance from 5-7 p.m. on Saturday, Feb. 14, at Riverview School, 1011 Mountain River Dr., Lebanon.

There will be music, prizes, dancing, pizza, concessions and professional photos. Children must be accompanied by an adult. \$5 per person, \$20 max per household.

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Couple's hobbies lead to many adventures

By Satina Tolman
For The New Era

On any given back road winding through the foothills or mountain passes of Oregon, you might spot a familiar sight: a couple pulling off to the side of the road, camera in hand, pausing not just to capture the landscape, but to savor the moment together.

For Nick and Karla Boren of Lebanon, these quiet pauses – whether in nature, on a stage, or in service to others – have defined nearly five decades of marriage built on faith, curiosity, and mutual support.

Married in May of 1978, Nick jokes they are “almost to the gold” but the easy laughter and shared purpose between them suggest a relationship that continues to grow stronger with time. Together, they have raised four children – three sons and a youngest daughter – and now enjoy the blessings of four grandchildren.

A Blind Date That Changed Everything

Nick and Karla met the way many lasting love stories begin: unexpectedly.

Their first meeting was at a blind-date barbecue arranged by Nick's sister-in-law, who invited Karla along with the hope that the two might hit it off. They did.

Karla had grown up in Rupert, Idaho, where her father was a dentist, and she followed in his footsteps, working for him while still in high school and later becoming an expanded-function dental assistant.

Nick's childhood took him across Montana and Colorado before he graduated from high school in Polson, Mont. After graduation, he moved to Idaho for work, eventually finding employment at a J.R. Simplot potato processing plant.

After marrying, the couple lived in Burley, Idaho, before moving to Oregon in 1988 – a move that would shape the next chapter of their lives.

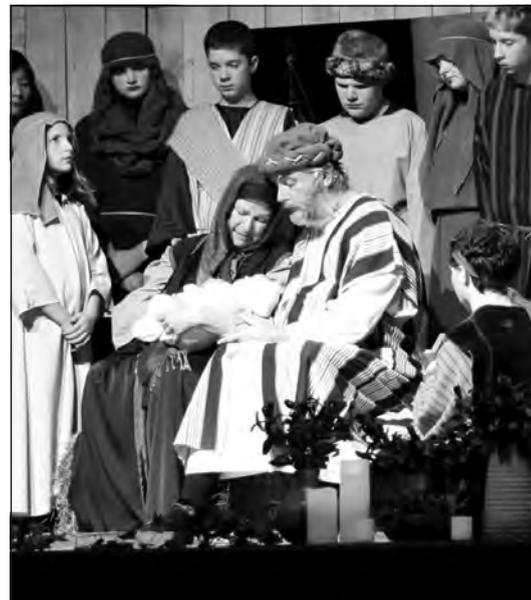
Work, Faith, and a Life Well Lived

Nick's career path was varied and steady. In addition to factory work, he drove a beet truck and served as a school custodian.

Once in Oregon, he began working for The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, first as a custodian and later as a mechanic. For 31 years, he traveled extensively – covering areas from eastern Oregon to the coast – maintaining church buildings and quietly serving behind the scenes.



Our mission is inspired by, led by, dedicated and glorified for God. We will be faithful stewards of all that is entrusted to us and have a positive influence on all who come in contact with the Lebanon Soup Kitchen.



Nick and Karla Boren, from left, at the Lebanon Soup Kitchen, where they volunteer regularly, at their wedding in 1978, and portraying the innkeeper and his wife at the birth of Jesus in this year's performance of "The Innkeepers."

– Left and center photos courtesy of the Borens, right photo by The New Era

Photography, however, was a passion that stayed with him from his teenage years. He began taking photos in high school, even shooting images for his school and town newspapers and learning how to develop film in a darkroom. By the early 1990s, Nick had grown into a professional photographer, capturing weddings, families, seniors, and wildlife. However, his heart belongs to landscape and macro photography.

"I like to be out in nature," Nick said, "and take photos out in the woods, lakes, streams, and waterfalls."

Seeing the World Together

Over time, Karla joined Nick behind the camera.

He is quick to praise her talent: "Karla is a good photographer too. She has a good eye, and we enjoy go-

ing out together."

Their photography outings are often paired with long drives through wildlife refuges, country roads, and mountain passes. For Nick, those outings have taken on deeper meaning.

"It is a stress reliever for me," he said. "Especially getting outdoors. Lately I feel like the Lord has been whispering to me, 'Don't concentrate on the pictures as much—just enjoy the experience.' If you get the pictures, that's great, but it's the experience of being with your spouse, being outdoors, and enjoying God's creation."

That shared experience – more than the image itself – has become central to their time together.

From the Audience to the Stage

While photography be-

came a shared passion, theater began as Karla's world alone. Though she had always wanted to perform, she lacked the confidence to pursue drama in high school. That changed in 2014, when she joined LAFTA in Lebanon in her debut performance in "Seven Brides for Seven Brothers."

From there, her theater journey flourished. She performed in "Mary Poppins" with LAFTA, "Seniors of the Sahara" with Albany Civic Theater. She also performed in a dinner-theater murder mystery called "Murder at the Pie Auction" held at the American Legion that raised funds for air conditioning at a local nursing home.

More recently, Karla appeared in "Fiddler on the Roof" with Serve Inc. Theater in Albany, a role that,

she said, held special meaning for her.

"I loved being Grandma Tzeitel, it was so fun," Karla said. "But one of the best things I've ever done was 'The Innkeepers.' We have met some amazing people, and it has really touched us both deeply."

Nick, however, was not initially enthusiastic.

A quiet introvert, he once told Karla, only half joking, "I'd rather die than be on stage."

Stepping Into Each Other's World

Just as Karla had embraced photography for Nick, Nick eventually stepped into theater for Karla. In 2023, she convinced him to join her as one of the leads in the SHOCASE production of

See Borens page 15

FEBRUARY SWEET HOME SENIOR CENTER WEDNESDAY LUNCH MENU

Feb. 4: Smoked Sausage and Macaroni Bake, Veggies, and Dessert

Feb. 11: Meatloaf, Mashed Potatoes, Veggies and Dessert

Feb. 17: Ham and Beans, Cornbread, Salad and Dessert provided by Wiley Creek Senior Community

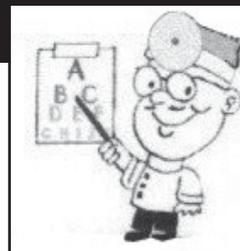
Feb. 24: Baked Chicken, Mashed Potatoes, Veggies and Dessert

\$6 DINE IN | \$6.50 TAKE OUT

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Q: Do I have dry eyes or allergies?

Dr. Michael W. Stoner

A: Although allergy season is in full swing some people who have allergy type symptoms may in fact have dry eyes. There are specific eye drops for allergies and dry eyes. It's important to use the correct drop or you may make your symptoms worse. Education or evaluation can facilitate the right treatment. Dry eye is an inflammation type condition in which there are insufficient tears to lubricate and nourish the eye. Tears are necessary for maintaining the health of the front surface of the eye and for providing clear vision. People with dry eyes either do not produce enough tears or have a poor quality of tears. Dry eye is a common and often chronic problem, particularly in older adults. The primary approaches used to manage and treat dry eyes include adding tears, conserving tears, increasing tear production, and/or treat the inflammation of the eyelids or eye surface that contributes to the dry eyes. Ocular Allergies is the abnormal response of sensitive eyes to contact with allergens and other irritating substances. Pollen in the air is the most common cause of allergy symptoms but other things in the air such as smoke, animal dander or fumes may also trigger an allergic response. The primary approach to manage ocular allergy is avoidance of allergic triggers, cool compresses, eyewash, oral anti-histamines or eye drops specific for allergies. Most eye drops used for dry eyes are mainly used to increase volume of tears. Drops used for ocular allergies have an anti-histamine component, which reduces the effects of histamine but also dry the eye. Using an ocular allergy drop will make a dry eye problem feel worse. If you are unable to find relief you should have your eyes evaluated to determine what condition you have and the best treatment options available to you specifically.

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155 Plus

An Emporium on the Kitchen Table

By Roberta McCern
For The New Era

The East Linn Museum is still closed and our ability to visit three-dimensional objects from the past is a little limited, although we can skulk around the yard and see a variety of farming and logging artifacts displayed on the grounds and in the sheds.

Of interest are a chainsaw-carved sculpture of two loggers under a roof who are cutting a length of Douglas Fir with a crosscut saw while balancing on springboards – the way logging was once done.

Another visible artifact stands in a fenced and roofed enclosure: the Denby truck, an early vehicle also used in logging.

People going into the museum often miss the doorless truck. Doorless, we have been assured, so the driver had a chance to leap to safety should its brakes fail on the downhill grade.

Because we cannot go into the museum, we can look at artifacts in a two-dimensional way using a reproduced 1897 Sears Roebuck catalog put out by Skyhorse Publishing Company, with a forward by Nick Lyons in 2007 and 2018.

This particular catalog came from a modern-day facsimile of Sears Roebuck and Company, the multifaceted mail-order business called Amazon, straight to our front door.

So, what does this old catalog mean to us? Why do we want to look at it?

It is a sealed time capsule. It can show us objects from before 1897, but that date is final. And it acts as a map of history because of the hundreds of objects depicted in

engraved illustrations, making it full of social history and a cornucopia of human ingenuity with a staggering quantity of objects.

Just as the internet has encouraged the growth of Amazon today, the completion of the interstate railroads, particularly those joining the East Coast to the West in 1869, spurred the growth of the catalog stores like Sears Roebuck and Montgomery Ward.

Obviously, old catalogs act to help us understand the past according to what was included.

Sears claimed to offer what was wanted at a cost calculated to be lower than other merchants.

In fact, the company offered to supply local shopkeepers at agreeable rates.

As Sears repeated over and over, its ambition was to sell at an agreeable cost and if an order did not fit requirements, they felt compelled to say so.

Now we tend to be a little snide about the future uses of Sears catalogs as décor and otherwise, in two-holed establishments on hillsides with judicious modesty covers and a view through an open door of the apple orchard where deer sometimes could be spied.

We have even had a lesson on how to properly crumple catalog pages for comfort when substituted for tissue paper (which could be ordered from Sears, 100 rolls at a time for \$2.25).

However, looking through the 1897 book, we can begin to realize how wrong we may have been in writing of the past. Life was more compli-

cated.

By 1897, the U.S. was on an industrial roll and the catalogs show this.

Households from Seattle, Wash., to Orlando, Fla., could share delicacies like dining on northeastern blackberries ordered from the grocery pages and served from pressed glass fruit bowls to those seated at Sears dining room suites.

Thus, for people settled in remote areas, a touch of class could intervene.

The majority of the population still lived rural lives, but urbanization encroached and those from small towns could find a touch of elitism by ordering jeweled ear bobs or pistols or buggy whips from the pages of Sears.

The 1897 book offers 33 departments. We can imagine the children of a family seated near a window on a winter's day leafing through a catalog to improve their reading skills and to scrutinize exotic wares such as nutmeg and nutmeg graters.

The catalog did not aim at children and did not include toys at that time.

Yes, the catalog featured a nutmeg grater.

A pair of museum volunteers once found a strange little mechanical contraption that turned out, unexpectedly, to be a nutmeg grater. We never quite figured out how it worked, and no, it was not like a simple miniature cheese grater.

The 1897 catalog has one but does not really explain it either.

It is a minor lesson, but the catalog reminds us how cooks once had to grate nutmeg, seed raisins, and beat lumps of sugar with hammers to get

a wine glass- or a cupful. With butter coming as pieces as big as a walnut or a small egg, cooking was not precise.

We see a selection of cookbooks in the 1897 catalog, including "The White House Cookbook" and "The Buckeye Cookbook." They are among "Household and Medical Works."

Should dinners not agree, the preparer could turn to "Robb's Family Physician" for a remedy.

To encourage literacy, the book section offered book titles and authors' names that those of us who are older can recall from a Saturday or Wednesday afternoon in a small-town library where books had accumulated for decades.

If we are surprised, it's because of our own tendency to overlook what was available in the 19th century. Authors included Aesop, Mark Twain, James Fenimore Cooper, and Washington Irving.

Girls had Louisa Mae Alcott books to choose from, like "Little Women," and boys could follow Horatio Alger's directions for achieving success.

And there is, too, the offer of Encyclopedia Britannica for \$19. (The museum has a donated set. The reader must be very knowledgeable to approach the tomes, but they can be kept for admiration.)

When we contemplate the innumerable goods available in 1897, we must really admit the industrial revolution was rolling.

In three or less years, a new century would usher in utter changes. Soon, would come the Spanish-American war with the United States em-

broiled for the next 100-plus years in international politics, resulting in two world wars and a worldwide great depression.

The Alaskan Gold Rush would come and go, and the Panama Canal would unite the Atlantic Ocean with the Pacific.

Sears' offers of horse tack and buggies were nearly a last gasp as automobiles began moving into the future.

An 1897-bathroom suite consisted of a large bowl and gallon-sized pitcher, a slop bucket, and a chamber mug, matching or not. In a few years, Sears would feature indoor plumbing. We can see that and maybe Sears did back then, but the inventory went according to popular demand and Saturday night baths still required large metal tubs.

Urbanization would soon bring an emphasis on indoor plumbing, but not yet.

In the chill of winter, perhaps it is too easy to leaf through an older mail order catalog from the nineteenth century and feel akin to many of the objects depicted because we grew up in basically what was rural America, and because we are writing about the East Linn Museum, where many similar articles are collected.

But surely the story of mail order catalogs and the role they played in shaping American culture must be difficult to ignore, especially if we think of the construction of railroads. In Oregon, in 1897, terminals where Sears Roebuck would ship goods from Chicago included Arlington, Baker City, LaGrande, Portland, Roseburg and Salem.

For us, an order reaching Salem could travel south on the Southern Pacific line to Halsey or be sent on the Albany Eastern to Brownsville.

Rural delivery made things easier. At any rate, arrangements would have to be made, but a buyer would feel it was worthwhile. The average freight rate for 100 pounds was \$3.00, and Sears recommended people pool their orders to keep costs down.

Sears even had a discount rate on ordering books, allowing small towns and out-of-the-way places to build libraries at eight cents per volume or seven books for 50 cents.

So solicitous was the company of its customers and their needs, it seemed a shame to turn its offers down.

Still, if prices were low in 1897, when a cheap .22-caliber pistol sold for 68 cents and a buggy for \$28.95, so

See Kitchen Table page 15

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55 Plus



Nick and Karla Boren enjoy a photographic outing at Yellowstone.

– Photo courtesy of the Borens

BORENS

From page 14

“The Innkeepers” in Sweet Home. They have now performed the show for three years, with a total of 10 productions.

“Now that I’ve done it,” Nick said, “I can understand why she loves it. This is way out of my comfort zone, but I do it because of the story. It’s about our Savior and His birth – and there aren’t many speaking parts.”

Karla is proud of him.

“Theater is a lot of work, especially musicals,” she said. “But this one was time well spent. I’m really proud of him for being willing to do it.”

Their willingness to embrace each other’s passions has strengthened not only their marriage, but their individual confidence and growth.

Serving Side by Side

Service has always been a shared value for the Borens. Since 2015, they have volunteered regularly at the Lebanon Soup Kitchen, located at First Christian Church. They first became involved after one of their sons encouraged them to volunteer – and they stayed long after he moved on.

Initially helping with cooking, they now assist with sorting clothing, shoes, blankets, gloves, hats, toiletries and putting together hygiene kits for people. They will take large containers of wet wipes and divide them up into smaller packs to distribute.

They have kits that come in from other churches they have to sort and distribute. The Gideons also donate Bibles that they give away. Recently, they helped unload and distribute more

than a ton of donated dog food from local businesses and fire stations.

The soup kitchen serves more than 100 people three evenings a week – Monday, Wednesday, and Friday – offering hot meals, donated groceries, and a welcoming environment.

“It’s not just for people who are houseless,” Karla emphasized. “It’s for anyone. Some people are just lonely and want to share a meal. All are welcome. Families are encouraged to come.”

Nick and Karla are careful to credit the many businesses, churches, and individuals who donate food and supplies. “There are so many generous people,” Karla said. “I hate to single anyone out because I know we’ll forget someone.”

A Call to Get Involved

Karla encourages others,

especially retirees, to find ways to serve.

“We’re retired, so we have time,” she said. “But even if you can’t volunteer physically, you can donate money or supplies. There is always something that needs to be done. Helping makes you feel better because you know you’re doing something that matters.”

Still Chasing Adventure

Beyond service and the arts, the Borens share a love of adventure. For five years, they crewed hot air balloons with Mark Trujillo before stepping back, due to the physical demands. This was one of their favorite eras due to the adventures had, the friends made, and the photos taken. Even through they are no longer pulling the crown line of a

hot air balloon, they still travel widely – through the United States, Europe, on cruises, or simply along Oregon’s back roads, always ready for the next adventure and the next shared memory.

Nearly 50 Years—and Still Growing

After almost 49 years together, there is still a sparkle between them. Karla credits humor and humility. “We joke around and make each other laugh,” she said. “Being quick to forgive and say you’re sorry is important too.”

For Nick, the foundation is faith. “Honestly, our faith in God has a lot to do with it,” he said. “The covenants we’ve made with each other – and with God – are the key.”



Wolthuis Family Dentistry

Q: What are the worst drinks for my teeth?

A: Ironically, many of the foods and drinks we enjoy the most aren’t good for us at all.

1. Soda: Two of the most harmful things for our teeth are sugar and acid, and carbonated beverages are full of both! The teeth literally start dissolving under the attack of acid, leading to cavities.

2. Sports Drinks: Like soda, they are often full of sugar and are highly acidic. One study showed that lemon-lime Gatorade dissolved more tooth enamel than any other drink, including Coke.

3. Fruit Juice: After reading to this point, you probably know what this is on the list. Juice has lots of sugar and acid too. While it could be considered a healthy option, most fitness experts will advise you not to drink you calories. Eat the entire fruit instead and enjoy the health benefits of the fiber.

Drink lots of water, maintain a healthy diet and lifestyle and see your dentist regularly, to be sure your teeth stay in good shape.

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KITCHEN TABLE

From page 14

were the wages of the hopeful leafing through the catalog.

A logger in a camp might get \$30 per month and found (food and lodging), chewing tobacco included.

Women earned less and children even smaller amounts.

Yet, the 1897 Sears catalog shows a munificence of goods for those who could afford them and were capable of filling out the order forms which created an emporium fitting to the edge of the kitchen table.

Although the Sears Roebuck Company is turning into folklore regarding some of the ties connecting us to the past, we can remain readers of the 1897 book to lead us back in time at the East Linn Museum with curiosity and amusement.



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Public Notices

SUMMONS (CITACION JUDICIAL) CASE NUMBER: 23CV008890 NOTICE TO DEFENDANT: (AVISO AL DEMANDADO): Grady Boyd, Stefani Boyd, and DOES 1 to 50; **YOU ARE BEING SUED BY PLAINTIFF: (LO ESTA DEMANDANDO EL DEMANDANTE):** Shoaib Ahmadi

NOTICE! You have been sued. The court may decide against you without your being heard unless you respond within 30 days. Read the information below. You have 30 CALENDAR DAYS after this summons and legal papers are served on you to file a written response at this court and have a copy served on the plaintiff. A letter or phone call will not protect you. Your written response must be in proper legal form if you want the court to hear your case. There may be a court form that you can use for your response. You can find these court forms and more information at the California Courts Online Self-Help Center (www.courtinfo.ca.gov/selfhelp), your county law library, or the courthouse nearest you. If you cannot pay the filing fee, ask the court clerk for a fee waiver form. If you do not file your response on time, you may lose the case by default, and your wages, money, and property may be taken without further warning from the court. There are other legal requirements. You may want to call an attorney right away. If you do not know an attorney, you may want to call an attorney referral service. If you cannot afford an attorney, you may be eligible for free legal services from a non-profit legal services program. You can locate these nonprofit groups at the California Legal Services Web site (www.lawhelp-california.org), the California Courts Online Self-Help Center (www.courtinfo.ca.gov/selfhelp), or by contacting your local court or county bar association.

NOTE: The court has a statutory lien for waived fees and costs on any settlement or arbitration award of \$10,000 or more in a civil case. The court's lien must be paid before the court will dismiss the case.

¡AVISO! Lo han demandado. Si no responde dentro de 30 días, la corte puede decidir en su contra sin escuchar su versión. Lea la información a continuación. Tiene 30 DÍAS DE CALENDARIO después de que le entreguen esta citación y papeles legales para presentar una respuesta por escrito en esta corte y hacer que se entregue una copia al demandante. Una carta o una llamada telefónica no lo protegen. Su respuesta por escrito tiene que estar en formato legal correcto si desea que procesen su caso en la corte. Es posible que haya un formulario que usted pueda usar para su respuesta. Puede encontrar estos formularios de la corte y más información en el Centro de Ayuda de las Cortes de California (www.sucorte.ca.gov), en la biblioteca de leyes de su condado o en la corte que le quede más cerca. Si no puede pagar la cuota de presentación, pida al secretario de la corte que le dé un formulario de exención de pago de cuotas. Si no presenta su respuesta a tiempo, puede perder el caso por incumplimiento y la corte le podrá quitar su sueldo, dinero y bienes sin más advertencia. Hay otros requisitos legales. Es recomendable que llame a un abogado inmediatamente. Si no conoce a un abogado, puede llamar a un servicio de remisión a abogados. Si no puede pagar a un abogado, es posible que cumpla con los requisitos para obtener servicios legales gratuitos de un programa de servicios legales sin fines de lucro. Puede encontrar estos grupos sin fines de lucro en el sitio web de California Legal Services, (www.lawhelpcalifornia.org), en el Centro de Ayuda de las Cortes de California, (www.sucorte.ca.gov) o poniéndose en contacto con la corte o el colegio de abogados locales. AVISO: Por ley, la corte tiene derecho a reclamar las cuotas y los costos exentos por imponer un gravamen sobre cualquier recuperación de \$10,000 ó más de valor recibida mediante un acuerdo o una concesión de arbitraje en un caso de derecho civil. Tiene que pagar el gravamen de la corte antes de que la corte pueda desechar el caso.

The name and address of the court is: (El nombre y dirección de la corte es): Gordon D Schaber 720 9th Street Sacramento, CA 95814 **The name, address, and telephone number of plaintiff's attorney, or plaintiff without an attorney, is: (El nombre, la dirección y el número de teléfono del abogado del demandante, o del demandante que no tiene abogado, es):** Liam R. Perry; Perry Law, Inc.; 336 Encinitas Blvd. Suite 240, Encinitas, CA 92024; (760) 633-2233

COMPLAINT—Personal Injury, Property Damage, Wrongful Death CASE NUMBER: 23CV008890

MOTOR VEHICLE; OTHER: General Negligence; Property Damage; Personal Injury
Jurisdiction: ACTION IS AN UNLIMITED CIVIL CASE (exceeds \$25,000)

1. Plaintiff: **Shoaib Ahmadi** alleges causes of action against defendant: **Grady Boyd, Stefani Boyd, and DOES 1 TO 50;** **2.** This pleading, including attachments and exhibits, consists of the following number of pages: **6;** **3.** Each plaintiff named; **6.** The true names of defendants sued as Does are unknown to plaintiff. a. Doe defendants: **1-25** were the agents or employees of other named defendants and acted within the scope of that agency or employment. b. Doe defendants: **26-50** are persons whose capacities are unknown to plaintiff; **8.** This court is the proper court because c. injury to person or damage to personal property occurred in its jurisdictional area; **10.** The following causes of action are attached and the statements above apply to each: a. Motor Vehicle b. General Negligence; **11.** Plaintiff has suffered a. wage loss; b. loss of use of property; c. hospital and medical expenses; d. general damage; e. property damage; f. loss of earning capacity; g. other damage; Future Loss of Earnings and Future Medical Expenses. Other damages are unknown at this time which plaintiff will prove at the time of trial; **14.** Plaintiff prays for judgment for costs of suit; for such relief as is fair, just, and equitable; and for a. (1) compensatory damages; The amount of

damages is: (1) according to proof **15.** The paragraphs of this complaint alleged on information and belief are as follows: All. **Dated: September 19, 2023,** /s/ Liam R. Perry, Esq. **STATEMENT OF DAMAGES (Personal Injury or Wrongful Death) To: Grady Boyd and Stefani Boyd,** Plaintiff: Shoaib Ahmadi seeks damages in the aboveentitled action, as follows: **1. General damages;** a. Pain, suffering, and inconvenience: **\$10,000,000.00;** b. Emotional distress: **\$10,000,000.00;** **2. Special damages;** a. Medical expenses (to date): **\$3,000,000.00;** b. Future medical expenses (present value): **\$7,000,000.00;** c. Loss of earnings (to date): **\$1,000,000.00;** d. Loss of future earning capacity (present value): **\$7,000,000.00.** Date: **December 29, 2025,** /s/ Aaron M. Sibley, Esq. (1/14 - 2/4)

Sweet Home Police Department

1950 Main St., Sweet Home, OR 97386

(541) 367-5181

Notice of intent to dispose of property under ORS 98.245

The Sweet Home Police Department has in its physical possession the unclaimed personal property described below. If you have any ownership interest in any of the unclaimed property, you must file a claim with the Sweet Home Police Department within 30 days from the date of publication of this notice or you will lose interest in that property. You may file a claim that presents proof satisfactory that you are the lawful owner or security interest holder of the property. The unclaimed property may be donated to a non-profit organization or another government agency; retained for use by the City of Sweet Home; destroyed; or sold at public auction through govdeals.com, ebay.com or Facebook at any time after the 30-day period expires, Feb. 4-March 6., 2026 (PP 25-11):

Rug, dog toy, bag, clothing, backpacks, bicycles, sandal, suitcase with clothing and toys, tricycle, medication for Allen En-sley, phones, gym bag, bag of personal items, bag of cans, walking stick, vaping devices, ID for Jayden Viars, inhaler, camping gear, basket with clothing, meter cover, debit and credit cards for Brandon Morrissey, wallets, cash, knives, pepper spray, work light, vacuum pump, tent, decorative spoon, tobacco products, beanie, notebooks, keys, magazine with ammunition, scarf. (1/28)

NOTICE TO INTERESTED PERSONS

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that SUSAN HINKLEY GENZLER has been appointed Personal Representative of the ESTATE OF DAVID GRAHAM HINKLEY, Deceased, by the Circuit Court of the State of Oregon for Linn County under Case No. 25PB10817. All persons having claims against the estate are required to present them, with vouchers attached, to the said Personal Representative at Stayton Law, 582 E Washington St, PO Box 248, Stayton, OR 97383, within four months after the date of first publication of

Public Notices

this notice, or the claims may be barred.

All persons whose rights may be affected by the proceedings may obtain additional information from the records of the court, the Personal Representative, or the attorney for the Personal Representative.

Dated and first published January 28, 2026.

Personal Representative:
Susan Hinkley Genzler
116 Bradshaw St
Beaver Falls, PA 15010
Attorney for Personal Representative:
Jennifer L. Tiger, OSB#990890
Stayton Law
582 E Washington St
PO Box 248
Stayton, Oregon 97383
(1/28)

FIRST NOTICE

Persons in possession of TAXABLE BUSINESS PERSONAL PROPERTY located in Linn County as of January 1, 2026, are required by Oregon law to file a CONFIDENTIAL PERSONAL PROPERTY RETURN with the Linn County Assessor's Office by March 17, 2026.

THIS IS A REMINDER TO FILE YOUR BUSINESS PERSONAL PROPERTY INFORMATION. ADDITIONAL PENALTIES ARE INCURRED AFTER MARCH 17, 2026.

EXAMPLES OF PERSONAL PROPERTY TO BE REPORTED BUT NOT LIMITED TO: FURNITURE/FIXTURES/EQUIPMENT/SUPPLIES/HANDTOOLS/ETC, UTILIZED FOR RETAIL/WHOLESALE RESTAURANT/TAVERN PROFESSIONAL SERVICES APARTMENTS/HOTELS/MOTELS FIXED LOAD/MOBILE BARBER/BEAUTY SHOPS PAINT/REPAIR/REMODELING LOGGING/ROAD CONSTRUCTION

It is the responsibility of persons in possession of taxable personal property to file a return, even though they may not have received a personal property return. Failure to file may subject them to penalties mandated by law. The Linn County Assessor's office is available to assist with the proper filing of the return. Phone (541)967-3808 ext 2561 tsthompson@co.linn.or.us (1/28)

NOTICE OF PENDING ADMINISTRATIVE DECISION AND REQUEST FOR COMMENT.

The Sweet Home Community and Economic Development Department received an application for an Adjustment, and the Planning and Building Manager will decide on this request soon. The Department is now seeking your comments and suggestions. REQUEST: The applicant is proposing to partition the subject property into 2 lots and is seeking an adjustment to allow for a 65-foot width on the frontage of the partitioned lots. Per SHMC 17.10.060 the minimum required width required is 70 feet. The proposed change is 5 feet. Per SHMC 17.100.010 an adjustment may be approved for those requests resulting in no more than a 10% change in a quantifiable standard. The reduction of the frontage from 70 feet to 65 feet is a 7% change. Application AD26-02 is being filed simultaneously with application P26-01. Application P26-01 is reliant on the approval of application

Public Notices

AD26-02.
APPLICANT: Andy Snegirev.
PROPERTY OWNER: Uprise Investing LLC. FILE NUMBERS: AD26-02.
PROPERTY LOCATION: Property A: Sweet Home, OR 97386; Identified on the Linn County Assessor's Map as 13S01E33AD Tax Lot 3301.
REVIEW AND DECISION CRITERIA: Sweet Home Municipal Code Section(s) 17.10.060(A), 17.100.010, and 17.124.
STAFF CONTACT: Ray Grundy, Planning & Building Permit Technician.
Phone: (541) 367-8113;
Email: rgrundy@sweethomeor.gov. DATE MAILED: January 26, 2026. Comments must be received no later than: 5:00 PM on February 7, 2026.

Written comments may be submitted to the Planning and Building Department at 3225 Main Street, Sweet Home, Oregon 97386 or to the staff contact listed above. Please include reference to the file number in the subject line of your comments. Notice of the decision on this application will only be mailed to the applicant, property owner, those who provided written comments on the proposal, and those who requested a copy of the decision. The failure of an issue to be raised in writing within the specified time frame, or failure to provide sufficient specificity to afford the decision maker an opportunity to respond to the issue, precludes appeal to the Land Use Board of Appeals based on that issue. A copy of the application and all documents and evidence relied upon by the applicant and applicable criteria are available for inspection at no cost and a copy will be provided at reasonable cost. A copy of the staff report will be available for inspection at no cost when it is complete, and a copy will be provided at reasonable cost. You may contact the Planning and Building Department at 3225 Main Street, Sweet Home, Oregon 97386; Phone: (541) 367-8113 (1/28)

NOTICE OF PENDING ADMINISTRATIVE DECISION AND REQUEST FOR COMMENT.

The Sweet Home Planning and Building Department received an application for a Property Line Adjustment, and the Planning and Building Manager will decide on this request soon. The Department is now seeking your comments and suggestions. REQUEST: The applicant is requesting to partition an approximately 19,166 square foot lot into two parcels per Sweet Home Municipal Code 17.98. Proposed Parcel 1 shall be approximately 9,682 square feet. Proposed Parcel 2 shall be approximately 9,747 square feet. The subject property is located in the Residential Low Density (R-1) zone. Application P26-01 is being filed simultaneously with application AD26-02. Application P26-01 is reliant on the approval of application AD26-02.
APPLICANT: Andy Snegirev.
OWNER (PROPERTY A): Uprise Investing LLC. FILE NUMBER: P26-01.
PROPERTY LOCATION: Property A (Lot 3301): Located at, Sweet Home, Oregon 97386; Identified on the Linn County Assessor's

Public Notices

Map as 13S01E33AD, Tax Lot 03301.

REVIEW AND DECISION CRITERIA: Sweet Home Municipal Code (SHMC) Sections 17.10.030, Chapter 17.58, Chapter 17.98, Chapter 17.124.

STAFF CONTACT: Ray Grundy, Planning & Building Permit Technician.

Phone: (541) 367-8113. Email: Rgrundy@sweethomeor.gov. DATE MAILED: January 26, 2026.

Comments must be received no later than: February 7, 2026 at 5:00 PM. Written comments may be submitted to the Planning and Building Department at 3225 Main Street, Sweet Home, Oregon 97386 or to rgrundy@sweethomeor.gov. Please include reference to the file number in the subject line of your comments. Notice of the decision on this application will only be mailed to the applicant, property owner, those who provided written comments on the proposal, and those who requested a copy of the decision. The failure of an issue to be raised in writing within the specified time frame, or failure to provide sufficient specificity to afford the decision maker an opportunity to respond to the issue, precludes appeal to the Land Use Board of Appeals based on that issue. A copy of the application and all documents and evidence relied upon by the applicant and applicable criteria are available for inspection at no cost and a copy will be provided at reasonable cost. A copy of the staff report will be available for inspection at no cost when it is complete, and a copy will be provided at a reasonable cost. You may contact the Planning and Building Department at 3225 Main Street, Sweet Home, Oregon 97386; Phone: (541) 367-8113. (1/28)

NOTICE OF PENDING ADMINISTRATIVE DECISION AND REQUEST FOR COMMENT. The Sweet Home Planning and Building Department received an application for a Property Line Adjustment, and the Planning and Building Manager will decide on this request soon. The Department is now seeking your comments and suggestions. REQUEST: The applicant is requesting to partition an approximately 105,415 square foot lot into four parcels per Sweet Home Municipal Code 17.98. Proposed Parcel 1 shall be approximately 19,000 square feet. Proposed Parcel 2 shall be approximately 19,000 square feet. Proposed Parcel 3 shall be approximately 34,350 square feet. Proposed Parcel 4 shall be approximately 29,375 square feet. The subject property is located in the Residential Low Density (R-1) zone. Application P26- 02 is being filed simultaneously with application VR26-01. Application P26-02 is reliant on the approval of application VR26-01. APPLICANT: Andy Snegirev. OWNER (PROPERTY A): A Team Services LLC. FILE NUMBER: P26-02. PROPERTY LOCATION: Property A (Lot 3300): Located at 1188 43rd Ave, Sweet. Home, Oregon 97386; Identified on the Linn County Assessor's Map as 13S01E33AC, Tax Lot 3300.

Public Notices

REVIEW AND DECISION CRITERIA: Sweet Home Municipal Code (SHMC) Sections 17.10.030, Chapter 17.58, Chapter 17.98, Chapter 17.24.

STAFF CONTACT: Ray Grundy, Planning & Building Permit Technician.

Phone: (541) 367-8113. Email: Rgrundy@sweethomeor.gov.

DATE MAILED: January 26, 2026.

Comments must be received no later than: February 26th, 2026, at 5:00 PM. Written comments may be submitted to the Planning and Building Department at 3225 Main Street, Sweet Home, Oregon 97386 or to rgrundy@sweethomeor.gov. Please include reference to the file number in the subject line of your comments. Notice of the decision on this application will only be mailed to the applicant, property owner, those who provided written comments on the proposal, and those who requested a copy of the decision. The failure of an issue to be raised in writing within the specified time frame, or failure to provide sufficient specificity to afford the decision maker an opportunity to respond to the issue, precludes appeal to the Land Use Board of Appeals based on that issue. A copy of the application and all documents and evidence relied upon by the applicant and applicable criteria are available for inspection at no cost and a copy will be provided at reasonable cost. A copy of the staff report will be available for inspection at no cost when it is complete, and a copy will be provided at a reasonable cost. You may contact the Planning and Building Department at 3225 Main Street, Sweet Home, Oregon 97386; Phone: (541) 367-8113. (1/28)

NOTICE OF PENDING ADMINISTRATIVE DECISION AND REQUEST FOR COMMENT. NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Sweet Home Planning Commission will hold a public hearing(s) to consider the following request(s). REQUEST: The applicant is seeking a variance to allow a four (4)-lot partition. Due to the limited width of the existing access road, the applicant is unable to meet the required local street standards. The maximum curb-to-curb width of the access road is 28 feet. The required minimum width is approximately 42 feet, which includes two (2) 7-foot travel lanes, two (2) 3-foot planter strips, two (2) 5-foot sidewalks, and two (2) 6-inch curbs. While Cityapproved alternatives may be used in place of curbs, a minimum right-of-way width of 30 feet is still required. The subject property is zoned Residential Low Density (R-1). Application VR26-01 is being filed simultaneously with Application P26-02. Application P26-02 is reliant on the approval of Application VR26-01. APPLICANT: Andy Snegirev. PROPERTY OWNER: A-Team Services LLC. FILE NUMBERS: VR26-01. PROPERTY LOCATION: 1188 43rd Ave, Sweet Home, OR 97386; Identified on the Linn County Assessor's Map as 13S01E33AC Tax Lot 3300. REVIEW AND DECISION CRITERIA:

Public Notices

RIA: Sweet Home Municipal Code Section(s) 17.10, 17.42, 17.58.030, 17.106, and 17.126.

HEARING DATE & TIME: March 5th, 2026, at 6:30PM.

HEARING LOCATION: City Hall Council Chamber at 3225 Main Street, Sweet Home, Oregon 97386.

STAFF CONTACT: Ray Grundy, Planning & Building Permit Technician.

Phone: (541) 367-8113; Email: Rgrundy@sweethomeor.gov.

DATE MAILED: January 26, 2026.

You may submit comments or recommendations prior to or at the public hearing. Written comments submitted by 5:00 PM on February 26th, 2026, will be included in the staff report that is provided to the Planning Commission. Written comments that are submitted after that time, but prior to the hearing will be presented to the Planning Commission at their public hearing. Comments may be emailed to rgrundy@sweethomeor.gov or mailed or submitted to the Community and Economic Development Department office at City Hall, 3225 Main Street, Sweet Home, Oregon 97386. Please include the file number(s) in the subject line of your comment. The failure of an issue to be raised in a hearing, in person or by letter, or failure to provide sufficient specificity to afford the decision maker an opportunity to respond to the issue precludes appeal to the Land Use Board of Appeals based on that issue. A copy of the application, all documents and evidence relied upon by the applicant and applicable criteria are available for inspection at no cost and a copy will be provided at reasonable cost. A copy of the staff report will be available for inspection at no cost at least seven days prior to the hearing and a copy will be provided at reasonable cost. Please contact the Community and Economic Development Department at 3225 Main Street, Sweet Home, Oregon 97386; Phone: (541) 818-8029. Persons interested in commenting on this application should submit testimony in writing to the Community and Economic Development Department Office located in City Hall prior to the hearing or attend the meeting and give testimony verbally. Persons who wish to testify will be given the opportunity to do so by the Chair of the Commission at the Planning Commission meeting. Such testimony should address the criteria in the Sweet Home Municipal Code which are applicable to the request. Notice of the decision on this application will be mailed to the applicant, property owner, those who provided written comments on the proposal, and those who requested a copy of the decision. The location of the meeting is accessible to persons with disabilities. If you have a disability that requires accommodation, please notify the Community and Economic Development Department Office in advance of the meeting by calling (541) 367-8113. (1/28)

Auction
Auction January 31st 1995 Malard camper auction- 29S White starting bid \$600. Contact rental@parcorvandboat.com for photos and to make a bid.541-223-9557 (1/21 - 1/28)

For Sale
70s working Coca-Cola machine very cool \$395.00 & other antiques call 541-401-7289 or 541-401-7554 (1/28 - 2/4)

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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.

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!
SERVICES: YMT Vacations. Over 50 guided tours available. Affordable, social and stress-free travel

Public Notices

NOTICE TO

INTERESTED PERSONS

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that MICHELLE BARNES has been appointed and qualified as the personal representative of the Estate of HARRY WILLIAM BAYN, JR., deceased, Linn County Circuit Court Case No. 25PB11019. All persons having claims against the estate are hereby required to present the claims duly verified within four months after the date of first publication of this notice, as stated below, to the personal representative at P. O. Box 247, 751 N. River Rd., Cottage Grove, OR 97424, or the claims may be barred.

All persons whose rights may be effected by the proceedings in the estate may obtain information from the records of the court, the personal representative, or the attorney for the personal representative, RYAN M. GIFFORD.

Dated and first published this January 30, 2026.

Attorney for Personal Representative:

Ryan M. Gifford, PC OSB #077181
P. O. Box 247
751 N. River Rd.
Cottage Grove, OR 97424
(541) 942-7914
(1/28)

Auction

Auction January 31st 1995 Malard camper auction- 29S White starting bid \$600. Contact rental@parcorvandboat.com for photos and to make a bid.541-223-9557 (1/21 - 1/28)

For Sale

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

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

SERVICES: YMT Vacations. Over 50 guided tours available. Affordable, social and stress-free travel

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designed for mature travelers. Our tours include accommodations, transportation, baggage handling, sightseeing, entrance fees, a professional Tour Director and select meals. For a limited time SAVE \$250 on all tours. Call YMT today. 1-866-335-3689.

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

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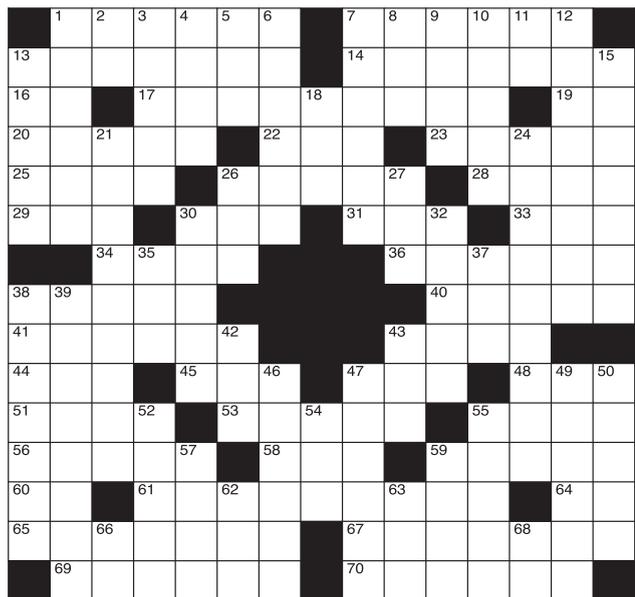
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SERVICES: Get DISH Satellite TV + Internet! Free Install, Free HD-DVR Upgrade, 80,000 On-Demand Movies, Plus Limited Time Up To \$600 In Gift Cards. Call Today! 1-866-373-9175.

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CROSSWORD



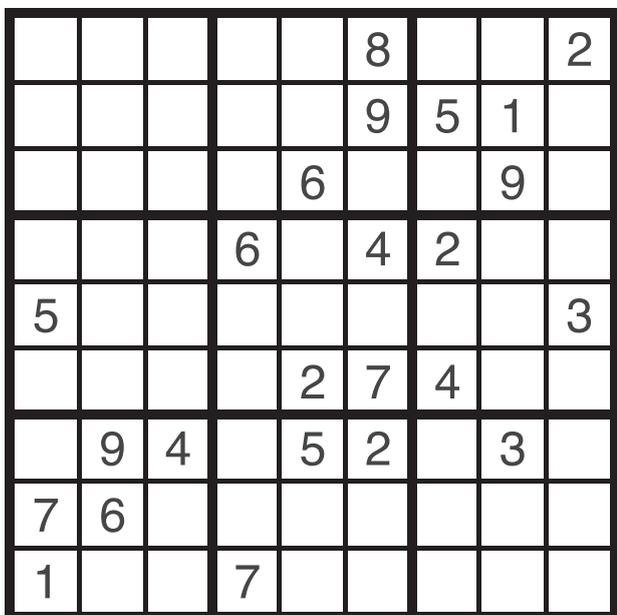
CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Plays
- 7. Hymn
- 13. Larval frog
- 14. A member of the British order
- 16. Stomach muscle
- 17. Helper
- 19. East of NYC
- 20. Influential Norwegian playwright
- 22. School for healing
- 23. Of the cheekbone
- 25. Disco rockers The Bee ____
- 26. Gorged
- 28. Khoikhoi people
- 29. Payroll firm
- 30. A hiding place
- 31. Georgia rockers
- 33. Spanish soldier El ____
- 34. Deerlike water buffalo
- 36. Second epoch of the Tertiary period
- 38. Frocks
- 40. Nostrils
- 41. Spoke
- 43. Information
- 44. Where wrestlers work
- 45. Dash
- 47. Cool!
- 48. Tiny child
- 51. People of northern Assam
- 53. Austrian spa town
- 55. Written reminder
- 56. Italian monetary units
- 58. Tell on
- 59. More abject
- 60. Farm state
- 61. Cleveland's hoopsters
- 64. Famed NY Giant's nickname
- 65. Los __, big city
- 67. Rechristens
- 69. Shopping trips
- 70. Values self-interest

CLUES DOWN

- 1. Pressed against lightly
- 2. Rural delivery
- 3. Semicircular recesses
- 4. Groan
- 5. Donation
- 6. Mariner
- 7. One who accepts
- 8. __ King Cole, musician
- 9. Streetcar
- 10. Silk fabric
- 11. __ route
- 12. Used to make plastics
- 13. Swampy coniferous forest
- 15. Angry speeches
- 18. A way to soak
- 21. One who divides
- 24. Deeply cuts
- 26. A very large body of water
- 27. "Raisin in the Sun" actress Ruby
- 30. Medicated
- 32. Single unit
- 35. Parasitic insect's egg
- 37. House pet
- 38. African nation
- 39. Saddle horses
- 42. Press lightly
- 43. One of 12 sons of Jacob
- 46. Cause to suffer
- 47. Hang 'em up
- 49. Breakfast dish
- 50. Wrongful acts
- 52. NASCAR driver
- 54. Indian dish
- 55. Type of giraffe
- 57. Selling at specially reduced prices
- 59. Czech city
- 62. "Orange is the New Black" character
- 63. Records electric currents
- 66. Country doctor
- 68. Chronic, progressive disease (abbr.)

SUDOKU



Level: Advanced

Sodaville weighs transportation needs

By Sarah Brown
Of The New Era

Cars and roads were a main part of Sodaville City Council's discussion during their Jan. 15 meeting.

City Administrator Molly McGuire presented the council an opportunity to bid on a 2012 Chevrolet with less than 200,000 miles that was up for auction. Councilor Roger Perry and Public Works Director J D Burns said it would be a good buy if they could get it for less than \$3,000.

Perry said the current 2003 work truck's four wheel drive does not work, and Burns said the driver's door had to be welded back on.

While council generally agreed a replacement truck is

needed, they wanted to take more time to consider what the best option would be. They ultimately did not bid on the car.

Burns reported a citizen chained off part of Elm Street and laid gravel on the road, which destroyed water meter monuments and buried valves.

A discussion ensued among councilors about how commercial trucks drive up the steep drive, despite signs prohibiting it. Mayor Brian Lewis said a water pipe crossing that road is at risk of breaking if trucks continue to use that road.

In other business:

- A resident asked for assistance on his "million dollar" water bill. He had a few leaks

fixed, but it took some time to get that situated. Although it was noted he's been responsible with paying down the large charges, the council considered denying his request because they've denied forgiveness on water bills for other residents. They will readdress the matter at a future meeting, given his extenuating circumstances.

- Burns reported Well 3 is still offline and requested water restrictions remain in place until the well is back online.

- Gravel and grading was scheduled for "the village."

- Lewis said he'd like Sodaville's ordinances to be in better alignment with Linn County's ordinances, to reduce confusion.

Plans revealed for fuel pumps at Hilltop

By Sarah Brown
Of The New Era

The Sweet Home Planning Commission approved a permit for a new gas station during its regular meeting on Thursday, Jan. 15.

Following a public hearing, the commission approved a conditional use permit to construct a fuel station containing two gasoline pumps and underground fuel storage tank in the south parking lot of the Hilltop Market.

"For me personally, coming

off the pass in a big motorhome, finding a place to get fuel is sometimes a problem," Commissioner Nancy White said. "It would be really nice to go into an easy access in and out there."

Commissioners Jamie Melcher and Brandy Wysong Frick agreed about the convenience of the location.

"I've always lived on the east side of Sweet Home and I really haven't ever thought about the fact we don't really

have a gas station down there," Wysong-Frick said.

Two additional public hearings at the meeting concerned conditional use permits to construct 800-square foot accessory dwelling units at 599 and 605 6th Ave. The property owner withdrew her application for both permits.

The approved permit will be recommended for approval by the City Council.

LFD

From page 1

ing to Sarrett, they like to see about 15%, "so you're right at that level for general funds."

The Ambulance Fund ended the year with a negative carryover of \$76,000.

Ambulance had over a \$300,000 loss for the year.

"Charges for services that you know what you can charge and collect is just not keeping up with expenses on the ambulance side," she said.

Including capital assets and debt payments, there's an overall decrease of \$851,000 for the entire district. Of that, \$520,000 was from ambulance.

"So when we added the depreciation, it doesn't get any better," Sarrett said.

The auditors said the report was "way better" (smoother, quicker) this year because the district switched to a cash basis accounting system, and because Chief Administrative Officer Desiree Barker pro-

vided a lot of information in advance.

Website updates

Barker reported that Ashley Rodondi, a web developer, has been "working hard" on the district's new website, more recently working to build a payment system online. Once active, it will allow people to subscribe to FireMed online and make payments on an auto renewal service.

But it will also assist the district's upcoming online "shop." Once opened, residents will be able to purchase items from the district, such as mugs, stickers, challenge coins, shirts... whatever the district decides to offer.

Another new change to the district is the live-streaming of the board meetings on YouTube. This meeting was the second one to be aired on the district's YouTube page, which also offers other videos of interest.

In addition to informative videos, the district started rolling out "Fire Cam" videos

last year, which show some of the calls they respond to.

In other business:

- The board scheduled a workshop to go over a number of subjects such as reviewing what each division leader does, finish SWAT training, and discuss the future of LFD.

- Desiree reported they've received 91% of expected tax revenue. Ambulance billing receivables "has not been much," Tactical Business Group (an EMS billing service) have 1,350 unpaid claims totalling \$1.5 million, so they're collecting and it's starting to come in; LFD is now seeing an 8% increase over what they've seen in previous years.

- Tacy reported a new law is now in effect putting the district under temporary rules for balanced billing, essentially ensuring that patients only pay in-network rates and not get overcharged for ground ambulance services.

- The board held an executive session to discuss labor negotiations.

POOL

From page 1

Patrons have been asking for more weekend lessons at the pool and, according to Smith, the YMCA in Albany has been selling out of its openings.

She also reported "the Y" also stopped accepting Silver Sneakers, a free health & fitness program for seniors (65+) with eligible Medicare Advantage plans, "and they're just flowing in the

doors" (here) by up to 10 new people a day asking if the Lebanon pool would take it.

In other business:

- Board Chair Darla Bulmer reported she and Board Director Jereme Guenther have been reviewing an assessment list to tackle smaller repair projects that can be accomplished as they wait to start the bigger, renovation repairs. They will go over project ideas

with the school district.

- Smith reported a remodel of the facility's conference room is almost complete, with fresh paint and a new table. They anticipate returning to the facility for future board meetings.

- The pool is updating its point of sale system. The current one is "horrible" and out of date, Smith said.

Huskies place fourth at Reser's Tournament of Champions

By Ryker Burr
For The New Era

Sweet Home's wrestlers continue their quest for Head Coach Steve Thorpe's eighth state title and after a fourth-place finish at Reser's Tournament of Champions Saturday, Jan. 24, following their win at the Oregon Classic the previous week, they're definitely in the running.

Freshman Cody Sieminski led the Huskies at Sherwood High School, taking home the 106-pound bracket victory in a tournament that is the de facto all-division state championship.

"His work ethic is what makes him special," Thorpe stated. "His mental toughness matches his physical toughness. You're not born with the ability to wrestle. He has been in the program since he was 4 years old. He doesn't let the moment be bigger than what it is."

Sieminski started off with a fall over Redmond's Tate Lawrence, then dominated his way through the rest of the bracket. Sieminski won the quarter- and semifinals with technical falls, then shut out Thurston's Samuel Greenstreet 10-0 in the championship



Raelyn Andrews gets ready to pin Sprague's Isabella Dewey in the 125-pound match during the Sweet Home girls' 65-12 win over the Olympians.
- Photo by Ryker Burr

match.

Greenstreet's runner-up points assisted the Colts' victory with a total of 256.5 points. Newberg took second with 179.5; Crater in third with 178; then Sweet Home with 168.

Sweet Home, with seven placers, was the top 4A finisher at the tournament, which featured the top wrestling teams in the state, most of them in the 5A-6A division. La Grande was second among 4A teams, placing eighth overall with 107 points.

Juniors Jesse Landtroop (126) and Kyle Zajic (165), and senior

Luke Rosa (175) took home third place honors for Sweet Home.

Junior Riley Vaughan (120) placed fifth; seniors Tytus Hardee (132) and Jeremiah Steagall (190) finished sixth.

In the junior varsity tournament, Dylan Hartsook finished first for the Huskies, pinning his way through the 215-pound bracket. Conner Spencer was second at 126 and Liam Martin was third at 285.

The Green and Gold were without senior Dillan Davis, the defending 132-pound



Cody Sieminski gets ready to score on Thurston's Samuel Greenstreet in the 106-pound final at Reser's.
- Photo courtesy of Tiffany Sieminski

state champion. Thorpe decided to rest Davis, who has been "unselfishly wrestling up (weight classes) and sick."

"I need him to get healthy," Thorpe stated.

The Huskies started off the week by hosting and dominating a dual against Sprague. The boys shut out the Olympians 81-0, and the girls cruised to a 65-12 victory.

"Our kids were offensive and aggressive. We wrestled with intent. Hats off to Sprague for coming here and competing against us," said Thorpe.

Both Sweet Home teams will travel to Crater for a dual matchup on Saturday, Jan. 31,

beginning at 4:15 p.m.

Thorpe is certainly looking forward to the dual versus Crater.

"When you've got one of the best 5A teams versus the top 4A team, it's good for the sport. It gives us somebody we're not going to beat by 70."

Senior Night for the Huskies will be Feb. 4, when Sweet Home hosts Tillamook. Wrestling will begin at 5 p.m.

Warriors shine

Lebanon's boys wrestling team placed 17th out of 24 teams at the Reser's Tournament of Champions.

See Reser's page 20

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Eagle boys stay perfect in league

East Linn's boys won league match-ups over Central Linn and Monroe last week but came out on the losing end of a 45-36 score against Lowell at home on Wednesday, Jan. 21.

In VCC play, Eagles scored a convincing 71-46 win over Central Linn at home Tuesday, and then followed that up with a 50-33 win at Monroe on Friday.

Against Central Linn, the Eagles got off to a "slow start," Coach Jonathan Whitehead said.

The Eagles led 13-9 after the first quarter, but started picking it up from there, taking a 29-15 lead into the locker room at the half. In the third period East Linn outscored the visitors 22-18, then added a 20-13 cushion in the final quarter to run away.

Guard Brison Edwards had 25 points for the Eagles on 8-14 shooting, and added six steals, while Gavin Wilson finished with 18 points, 6-14 from the floor, with seven boards. Gracen Christenson had seven points, six assists, four rebounds and four steals for East Linn.

Whitehead said his team played "some tough defense and shared the ball well" in the win.

"Brison scored 23 of his 25 after the first quarter and really sparked our offense by good defense and pushing the ball in transition," he said.

Statistics for the Lowell and Monroe games were not available at press time.

The boys play at Waldport and Crosshill this week.



Brison Edwards puts the ball up in some traffic against Central Linn. See more photos at sweethomenews.com or lebanonlocalnews.com. — Photo courtesy of Cole Harnar

ELCA girls rebound in Monroe win

East Linn Christian's girls came away with a split after a loss to Central Linn last week, which left them in a three-way tie in the Valley Coast Conference with the Cobras and Crosshill Christian at 3-1 coming into this week.

The Eagles rebounded at Monroe Friday, Jan. 23, exiting with a 57-29 win.

"That was a fun game to bounce back from the heartbreaker we experienced Tuesday," Coach Sierra Carrier said. "The girls were fired up after the loss so they came out strong."

East Linn started the game with a press, in which Lexy Kauffman and Maya Van Dyke were "like having two unstoppable missiles in the front line," Carrier said.

"Those two were ready for anything Monroe tried against them."

Participation in the dominating win was pretty much roster-wide, she said.

"Everyone got minutes, everyone hustled, and we put another W in the column. Great team win."

Maci Modderman led the Eagles with 19 points and eight rebounds, while Van Dyke added 16 points, 10 boards and six steals — her first double-double this season, and Kauffman chipped in eight points and 11 rebounds.

Central Linn 46, ELCA 39

Against East Linn on Tuesday, it was a "tough but exciting game," which the Eagles led by five at halftime.

"Coach (Wendi) Farris is a great coach who gets her kids very well prepared for any situation," Carrier said, adding that the visitors "adjusted" at halftime and East Linn "could not adjust fast enough to what they threw at us."

"We all took this game as a learning experi-



Maci Modderman goes for three over Central Linn's Maddie Duringer. See more photos at sweethomenews.com or lebanonlocalnews.com. — Photo courtesy of Cole Harnar

ence and will be ready for Central Linn when we meet again," she said.

Van Dyke led the hosts with 12 points and five rebounds, with Audrey Garber adding nine points and six boards and Modderman six points and 10 rebounds.

East Linn plays back-to-back road games this week at Waldport and Crosshill.



Lebanon's Seth Wynn tries to turn La Grande's Tommy Belding in the 157-pound final at Resers. Wynn lost by a point, 8-7. — Photo courtesy of Tiffany Sieminski

RESER'S

From page 19

The Warriors managed 65.5 points on the day, but it wasn't enough to keep up with Thurston (256.5), Newberg (179.5), and Crater (178).

Seth Wynn led Lebanon with a runner-up performance in the 157-pound bracket. Grady Cox (165) placed fourth and Zach Halsey (175) finished fifth.

Lebanon's girls headed to the Colton Holly Invitational in Wilsonville, where the Warriors took eighth out of 17 total

teams.

Mary Jane Duty and Penelope Haselip were the top finishers for the Warriors. Both Duty and Haselip pinned their way through the respective 110 and 120 pound brackets.

Kentely Mortenson (145) defeated Gresham's Ana Paulina Pedro Francisco for third place, while teammate Zoe Ruonaveara placed fifth in the 235-pound bracket.

On Wednesday, Jan. 28, both Lebanon wrestling teams will host Silverton for a dual starting at 5:30 p.m.

CIRCUIT COURT

From page 3

a \$100 fine after pleading guilty to assault IV. Dismissed: assault III.

Joshua James Koenig, 24, sentenced Jan. 13 to five days compensatory service in lieu of jail, 12 mos. bench probation and a \$100 fine after pleading no contest to attempt to commit Class A misdemeanor - DV assault IV. Dismissed: strangulation.

Charges against **Troy Michael Littlefield, 36**, of DV assault IV, DV strangulation and resisting arrest were dismissed without prejudice Dec. 30 due to no substantial probability the defendant will gain fitness to proceed. Documents indicate he has exhibited psychiatric problems and several diagnoses since childhood.

Jessica Maileen Magee, 33, sentenced Jan. 9 to one year suspension of drivers license, nine days jail, 24 mos. bench probation and \$2,255 in fines and fees after pleading no contest to DUII (liquor) with a .17% BAC. Dismissed: reckless driving.

Jesse Douglas McFarland, 38, charged Jan. 6 with DUII (liquor), reckless driving and recklessly endangering another person.

Cesar Javier Ortiz-Lopez, 21, charged Jan. 8 with DUII (liquor), reckless driving, criminal driving while suspended and failure to install ignition interlock device.

Cary Nathan Pedigo, 36, sentenced Jan. 8 to one year revocation of drivers license, 30 days jail, 18 mos. supervised probation and a \$200 fine after a jury found him guilty of unauthorized use of a vehicle

and FTA.

Janetta Marie Reedy, 27, charged Jan. 16 with DUII (liquor), reckless driving and recklessly endangering another person.

Kyle Alexander Richards, 32, sentenced Jan. 9 to 30 days jail, 18 mos. supervised probation and a \$200 fine after pleading no contest to burglary II. Dismissed: burglary II and criminal mischief II.

Jason Andrew Christopher Daniel Scott, 38, charged Jan. 14 with felon in possession of a firearm and unlawful use of a weapon. Bail set at \$100,000. In a separate case, he was charged with unlawful possession of meth. He posted 10% of a \$10,000 bail for that case.

Jacob David Siefarth, 30, charged Jan. 5 with DUII (liquor), criminal mischief II and refusal to take test for intoxicants.

Mark Anthony Simpson, 55, charged Jan. 26 with three counts of tampering with a witness.

Joshua Arnold Storms, 50, charged Jan. 15 with attempted murder II, assault I and unlawful use of a weapon. Bail set at \$300,000.

Jacob Allen Tagen, 22, sentenced Jan. 8 to 30 days jail, 36 mos. supervised probation and a \$200 fine after pleading guilty to assault III. Dismissed: robbery II.

Horace Nicholas Wilson Taliaferro III, 45, charged Jan. 20 with unlawful use of a weapon, menacing and harassment. Bail set at \$20,000.

Charges against **Harley Dixie Dean Tinker Vader, 20**, of unauthorized use of a vehicle and two counts of FTA dismissed without prejudice.