

## Arrest follows Marks Ridge standoff, gunfire

A Sweet Home man was arrested early Wednesday morning, Jan. 7, following a standoff that involved gunfire and attempted flight by the suspect that resulted in a crash, and an arrest that required non-lethal force, the Linn County Sheriff's Office reported.

Linn County Sheriff Michelle Duncan said deputies responded at 9:20 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 6, to a domestic disturbance in the 29200 block of Berlin Road, near Marks Ridge Drive, outside of Sweet Home.

According to Duncan, a female caller reported to the Linn County 911 Center that her spouse, later identified as James Clair Miller, 41, had assaulted her. As deputies were responding, the caller told the dispatcher she had four children with her, all under the age of 10 years old, in a vehicle, and Miller was last seen coming out of the shop holding a firearm.

Dispatch coached the female to leave the location with the children. During their attempt to leave in a vehicle, Miller shattered a window and fired rounds in an unknown direction, Duncan



This driveway was the scene of a disturbance Jan. 7 that led to the arrest of a Sweet Home man, following what the Sheriff's Office described as gunfire and attempted flight.

Photo by Mack Knebel

said.

The female and children walked down the long driveway where they met responding deputies. As the first arriving deputy secured the family at the end of the driveway, additional shots could be heard from somewhere on the property.

Miller's location was un-

known for several minutes until he began yelling and firing more rounds in unknown directions, causing deputies to evacuate nearby residences, and set up a perimeter.

Miller continued to wander around the property and frequently fired rounds into the air as deputies, Oregon State

Police troopers, and Sweet Home police officers attempted to locate him. Law enforcement from multiple agencies also responded to assist with drones, as the property is in a very rural location, with a very long driveway, where terrain and struc-

See Standoff, Page 5

## Local boy and his dog finish high in national AKC competition

By Scott Swanson  
Of The New Era

Caden Foley is really into dogs, particularly Brittany spaniels.

Now a junior at Sweet Home High School, he's been working with Brittanies since he was in the third grade, focusing on obedience training.

That's why it was a big deal for him to participate Dec. 13-14 in the American Kennel Club's Obedience Classic. And then he came away as a top placer in the event, which brought together 257 of the top dogs in the country and internationally. Caden and his dog Luke were among 107 competing teams in the Preferred Novice and Novice classes.

They won the Preferred Novice class, and because Caden had the highest score in Preferred classes, he won the Junior Showcase High in Trial was third in the Preferred Novice category. More on that shortly.

Caden, 16, said he got Luke as a rescue through his 4-H leader at the time.

"I got my dog my third grade year and then worked him to be able to show him for the

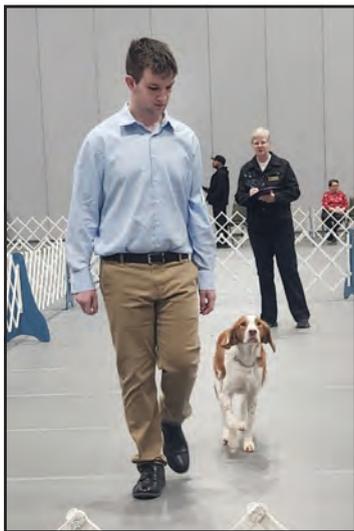


Photo courtesy of Andi Foley  
Caden and Luke perform a heel free (no leash) exercise for judge Karen Schroeder.

first time at the fair in fourth grade," he said, "which was a 4-H show, so we kind of did everything. It was showmanship, rally, obedience."

For the uninitiated, obedience competition is formal, precise and silent, with one command per action and known routines. In rally, handlers can talk and use hand signals as they work their dogs

See Dog Show, Page 9



File Photo

Linda Rowton prepares food for Manna Meals in 2022.

## Manna Meals program goes into hibernation

By Scott Swanson  
Of The New Era

Sweet Home Emergency Ministries announced last week that its Manna Meals program has been discontinued for the foreseeable future.

All other SHEM services remain available to the community.

The emergency food pantry, located at 1115 Long Street, continues to serve clients on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Saturdays from 9 to 11:30 a.m.,

except for the second Saturday of each month.

"Everything with the SHEM pantry is still the same," said Cindy Rice, pantry manager. "We're still having issues getting volunteers, the same as everybody else is, but we are making efforts to connect more closely with other food resources here in town."

The pantry is closed on major holidays, including

See Manna Meals, Page 5

Hometown  
Newspaper of

**KEVIN  
ROBERTS**



**LEBANON SWIMMERS  
TAKE ON POWERFUL  
SILVERTON  
PAGE 8**



**HUSKY WRESTLERS  
DOMINATE  
DISTRICT DUALS  
PAGE 15**



**SH GIRLS AMONG  
DEFENSIVE LEADERS  
PAGE 16**

Find us online at  
[SweetHomeNews.com](http://SweetHomeNews.com)  
[LebanonLocalNews.com](http://LebanonLocalNews.com)



# OBITUARIES

## Robert Hartsock

Aug. 4, 1941 - Dec. 1, 2025

Robert Hartsock, 84, of Sweet Home, passed away Dec. 1, 2025.



He was born Aug. 4, 1941, in Elwood, Ind., to Ruth and Ralph Hartsock, one of seven children.

Robert earned a teaching degree from Ball State University and, later, a juris doctorate from the University of Hawaii.

He was a teacher in the territory of Guam for many years and served as a union organizer. After earning his law degree, he became the first federal defender for Guam.

Following retirement, he moved to Sweet Home, also living in Cascadia. He was involved in the United Methodist Church as a lay leader and helped revive Manna Meals. Robert served on the Bishop's Task Force on Hunger. He also was an administrator at Sweet Home Emergency Ministries (SHEM).

Robert is survived by his wife, Frances Luther of Sweet Home; children, John Hartsock and wife Rebecca of Sumner, Wash.; Ann Hartsock of Sumner; Michael

Hartsock and wife Jennifer of Oahu, Hawaii; and Kimberly Lolmaugh of Farmington, Minn.; 12 grandchildren; and seven great-grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by his parents; a sister; and a beloved grandson.

Services will be at 2 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 24, at the United Methodist Church, 845 6th Ave. His ashes will be buried in Elwood on April 18.

Remembrances may be made to the Methodist Church Memorial Fund or SHEM.

## Tamara Ridout

Nov. 8, 1972 - Dec. 30, 2025

Tamara Ann Ridout, 53, of Lebanon, passed away Dec. 30, 2025.



An open house-style celebration of life will be held between 5 and 7 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 20, 2026, at the Lebanon Mercantile, 661 S. Main St., Lebanon.

Sweet Home Funeral Chapel is handling the arrangements.

## Joseph Start

Oct. 13, 1942 - Dec. 15, 2025

Joseph Eugene Start, 83, a longtime Sweet Home resident, died Dec. 15, 2025.

He was born Oct. 13, 1942,

in Seattle and grew up in Bothell Wash. He attended Everett Community College, then finished his undergraduate work at Western Washington University. He also attended Oregon State University, earning a teaching credential.

Joe led an adventurous life. He loved drum circles, snow skiing and the great outdoors. He was an avid collector of old bottles collecting hundreds of unique antiques.

Joe was also an avid rockhound and collected and discovered hundreds of beautiful mineral specimens from all over the world. He drummed in an American string band, performing many local gigs.

He taught everything from Head Start and preschool to master's-level college courses. While teaching, he was also a 20-year employee of

the U.S. Forest Service, spending those seasons building and maintaining trails while fiercely protecting the forestlands he so loved.

He also was a wildland forest firefighter for the Forest Service, being deployed as far away as Helena, Mont., for a massive "100 Year" fire, to giant fires that he could see on Green Peter Mountain from his living room in Sweet Home.

He arrived by truck or helicopter and fought fire fiercely to save the wilderness.

A teacher by trade, he raised his two children, Kerri and Jason, with his wife of 19 years, Jan, whom he met in college. He was the driving force in starting girls' softball and boys' soccer in Sweet Home because he refused to have his kids denied the opportunity to compete in sports that they cared for.

After his divorce he met Emily Christianson while traveling to see his son Ja-

son's last basketball game his sophomore season.

Joe lived in Silverton for 38 years.

He had seven grandchildren and one great-grandchild.

No services are planned.

## Death Notices

**Michael E. Koker, 77**, of Sweet Home, passed away Jan. 6, 2026. Sweet Home Funeral Chapel is handling the arrangements. For updated information, visit [www.sweethomefuneral.com](http://www.sweethomefuneral.com).

**Joy Anne Morris, 79**, of Lebanon, passed away Jan. 6, 2026. Sweet Home Funeral Chapel is handling the arrangements. For updated information, visit [www.sweet-homefuneral.com](http://www.sweet-homefuneral.com).

**Roy Alvin Steinborn, 83**, of Sweet Home, passed away Jan. 7, 2026. Sweet Home Funeral Chapel is handling the arrangements. For updated information, visit [www.sweethomefuneral.com](http://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](mailto:karla_burcham@msn.com), or call (541) 401-3339.

### Find a nonprofit to volunteer with

Lebanon Legacy Club and Boulder Falls Inn invite the public to "Connect for Lebanon," a volunteer expo designed to connect nonprofit organizations with volunteers, from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Saturday, Jan. 17, at Boulder Falls Event Center, 605 Mullins Dr., Lebanon. More than 30 local nonprofits will be on-hand to share how they serve Lebanon and the surrounding area in a variety of ways. More importantly, they are asking for you to sign on to their vision and volunteer with the group that means the most to you. Drop in, meet new people, see where you can help, and enter for a chance to win a prize. For more information, contact Wyatt King at 541-451-1313 or email [wyatt@rkiinc.com](mailto:w Wyatt@rkiinc.com), or Chris Breshears at 541-405-7023 or email [c.breshears@boulderfallsinn.com](mailto:c.breshears@boulderfallsinn.com).

### Jigsaw puzzle Competition Fundraiser

Hawthorne Elementary will host a jigsaw puzzle competition at 10 a.m. on Saturday, Jan. 31, at the school, 3205 Long Street, Sweet Home. \$20 per team (up to three people). Prizes for fastest three teams. Proceeds benefit Hawthorne's playground fund. Pre-register by Jan. 17 at <http://bit.ly/4pxDIdI>, and pre-pay at Hawthorne office to guarantee your spot.

### Pancake fundraiser for Elks community leaders

The Sweet Home Elks will host a pancake breakfast fundraiser for Carla and Randy Claasen from 8 a.m. to noon Sunday, Jan. 18, at the Elks Lodge, 440 Osage St. Carla Claasen is battling bladder cancer. Randy Claasen, known as "the Pancake Guy" for flipping flapjacks at the Elks' Sunday breakfasts for years, has been unable to work as he cares for his wife during her illness. Both have been longtime leaders in community outreach efforts. Cost for breakfast is \$9. The public is invited. Funds raised will help with medical, treatment and living expenses. In addition to breakfast, there will be a 50/50 drawing, raffles and auction items. Those who cannot attend can donate online at <https://square.link/u/xAAa2zyk>.

### Author to speak at Lebanon Library

Lebanon Public Library will host local author Lana W. Holden from 3 to 4:30 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 20, at 55 Academy St., Lebanon. Holden, a junior high teacher in Sweet Home, will discuss her novel "Catalyntje Trico," which follows the path of a young woman escaping the Spanish

Inquisition in the 1600s to create a new life in the Dutch colony of New Netherland in the New World.

There is no admittance charge and all are welcome.

### '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](http://albanycivic.org). The theater is holding auditions for "Pirates of Penzance" Jan. 26-27. Auditions are open to all. For more information, visit [www.albany-civic.org/get-involved](http://www.albany-civic.org/get-involved).

### Spaghetti sauce cook-off fundraiser

The Sweet Home VFW #3437 will host a spaghetti sauce cook-off on Jan. 24 at the club, 580 Main St., Sweet Home, next to Dutch Bros. This isn't about the noodles. It's about the sauce. It's also about raising funds to support the continued operation of the local VFW. Enter your best sauce for \$10 and bring it in by 2 p.m. Judging starts at 2 p.m. Public tasting begins at 3 p.m., \$10 for 10 tasting tickets. Spaghetti noodles will be provided, but BYON (bring your own noodles) is acceptable.

### Hoodoo owner to speak at Lebanon Forum Lunch

Hoodoo owner Chuck Shepard will speak at the Lebanon Chamber of Commerce's monthly Forum Lunch at 11:30 a.m. Friday, Jan. 30, at the Samaritan Lebanon Community Hospital conference room, 525 N. Santiam Hwy. Shepard will discuss the history of the ski resort and its business operations, as well as its economic impact on east Linn County and the region. Lunch and prizes are also on the agenda. Tickets are \$23 for members, \$30 for future members. Register online at [www.lebanon-chamber.org](http://www.lebanon-chamber.org) or call (541) 258-7164.

**PANCAKE FUNDRAISER**

⇒ BE THE DIFFERENCE! ⇒

**Sunday, January 18**  
8:00 AM - 12:00 PM

**\$9**

**OPEN TO THE PUBLIC**

**Sweet Home Elks Lodge #1972**

The Sweet Home Elks Lodge is hosting a **Pancake Breakfast Fundraiser** in honor of **Carla and Randy Claasen**.

In addition to breakfast, there will be:

- 50/50 raffle
- Raffle baskets
- Items for auction

Randy is widely known as "**The Pancake Guy**" at Sunday breakfasts at the Lodge. He has been flipping pancakes for years, and people from near and far return regularly just to enjoy his pancakes..

Carla, Randy's beloved wife, is currently battling **bladder cancer** and facing immense challenges. Randy and Carla are long time pillars of our community, known for their generosity and charity to others. They also have deep roots in the Benevolent and Protective Order of the Elks (BPOE).

Since Carla's diagnosis, Randy has remained by her side and has been unable to work. They now need our help with medical, treatment, and living expenses.

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!**

If you are unable to attend the breakfast, there are other ways to help:

<https://square.link/u/xAAa2zyk>

## CORRECTIONS

The caption for the photo at the top of page 16 in the Jan. 7 edition should have identified the swimmer on the block as Lexi Rundell.

Lebanon wrestlers Zech Halsey and Grady Cox's names were misspelled in the caption on page 9 in the Jan. 7 edition.

**MEMORY MAKING ADVENTURES**  
CRAFTING MEMORIES, ONE ADVENTURE AT A TIME

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

WE SUPPORT THE NEW ERA!

| TEMPERATURES |    |      |     |        |
|--------------|----|------|-----|--------|
| DATE         |    | HIGH | LOW | PRECIP |
| January 6    | 6  | 48   | 32  | 0.00   |
| January 7    | 7  | 45   | 34  | 0.31   |
| January 8    | 8  | 44   | 33  | 0.70   |
| January 9    | 9  | 47   | 31  | 0.00   |
| January 10   | 10 | 54   | 35  | 0.00   |
| January 11   | 11 | 58   | 36  | 0.00   |
| January 12   | 12 | 53   | 32  | 0.00   |

| PRECIPITATION    |      |
|------------------|------|
| Year to date:    | 1.99 |
| January 8, 2025: | 2.79 |

| FORECAST |               |      |     |
|----------|---------------|------|-----|
| DAY      | WEATHER       | HIGH | LOW |
| Thur     | Partly Cloudy | 54   | 37  |
| Fri      | Sunny         | 57   | 36  |
| Sat      | Sunny         | 57   | 36  |
| Sun      | Sunny         | 54   | 36  |
| Mon      | Mostly Sunny  | 53   | 38  |
| Tues     | Partly Cloudy | 54   | 39  |
| Wed      | Showers       | 50   | 39  |

| LAKE LEVELS       |       |
|-------------------|-------|
| Foster Reservoir: | 617.5 |
| Green Peter Res.: | 926.6 |

TODAYS FIRE DANGER IS  
**LOW**

The fire danger information provided is current at the time of publication. For the latest and most accurate updates, please visit: [oregon.gov/odf](http://oregon.gov/odf)

## 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. 11**  
**LCSO/OSP Lebanon**  
12:35 a.m. - Ervin Smith, 72, of Sweet Home, cited for driving uninsured, Main St./Pleasant Valley Rd.

11:07 a.m. - Deputy responded to report of trespass in 36600 block Hwy. 34. Transient camp located but it was vacant.

5:32 p.m. - Crash reported in 35500 block Richardson Gap Rd. Vehicle missed driveway. Vehicle undamaged, operator uninjured. Vehicle was pulled from ditch and left scene.

9:36 p.m. - Sammy Hughes, 26, of Lebanon, arrested on unspecified warrant following traffic stop in area of Berlin/Brewster roads. Lodged at Linn County Jail. Report taken.

**LCSO/OSP Sweet Home/S. County**

5:23 p.m. - Criminal mischief reported in 900 block Pine St., Brownsville. According to LCSO, someone threw a piece of concrete through the back window of a vehicle that was parked near the street. Approximately \$600 worth of damage. Investigation ongoing. Report taken.

10:33 p.m. - Sex offense reported in 39100 block Hwy. 228. Investigation ongoing. Report taken.

**Sweet Home Police**

1:57 a.m. - Officer attempted to stop vehicle at Long St./13th Ave. Vehicle fled. Officer later located vehicle parked. Investigation ongoing. Report taken.

4:36 a.m. - Death investigation conducted in 900 block Elm St. after report of cardiac incident. Report taken.

7:45 a.m. - Heather Ann Ives, 49, cited for driving while suspended, driving uninsured, 1400 block 24th Ave.

2:22 p.m. - Caller reported that

neighbors have been placing notes on his vehicle in 3500 block Flanigan St. Officer to try to ID other party to trespass.

2:45 p.m. - James Jon Georgelis, 43, arrested by LCSO on SHMC warrant for FTA in failure to perform duties of driver case. Cited to appear Jan. 28.

7:30 p.m. - Paul William Kizer, 40, arrested on LMC warrant for probation violation, 4000 block Main St. Also cited for driving while suspended, driving uninsured and failure to display plates. Cited and released.

9:58 p.m. - Sammy Raymond Hughes, 25, arrested by LCSO on SHMC warrant for FTC in theft case. Cited to appear Feb. 11.

**Lebanon Police**

1:15 a.m. - Jonathan H. Trisdale, 45, taken into custody on Florence Municipal Court warrant for criminal mischief III and LCSO warrant for parole violation.

12:31 p.m. - Shawn Michael Burleson, 32, taken into custody on LCCC warrant for parole violation.

2:00 p.m. - Lucas Andrew Francis Stoneman, 20, cited for failure to obey traffic control device.

4:06 p.m. - Disorderly conduct in Safeway parking lot. Ex-wife told ex-husband she would be five minutes late bringing daughter to him, and he hung up on her. She arrived agitated about that, threw daughter's bags at him. Argument ensued. Her new husband threatened ex-husband. Witness and daughter tried to separate the men. Bystanders concerned for daughter.

10:10 p.m. - Caller is chasing someone who fought him. Caller, apparently intoxicated, said people threw him into a car for no reason. Witnesses said caller and his friend were the aggressors, picking on someone who

pushed him into a car. Trenton Michael Anthony Cole, 25, cited on LMC warrant for probation violation.

**Jan. 10**  
**LCSO/OSP Lebanon**

10:07 a.m. - Christopher Walter, 45, arrested for restraining order violation, 31100 block Kay St. Lodged at Linn County Jail. Report taken.

1:49 p.m. - Fawn Burleson, 41, of Waterloo, arrested for trespassing. Joseph Haines, 53, of Lebanon, arrested for trespassing, littering, 32800 block Brewster Rd. Report taken.

10:57 p.m. - Crash reported at intersection of Stoltz Hill Dr./Rock Hill Rd. Juvenile operator cited for failing to obey traffic control device, which led to their crashing into ditch, according to LCSO. Report taken.

**LCSO/OSP Sweet Home/S. County**

4:37 p.m. - Jerrime Urban, 47, of Albany, arrested for resisting arrest, obstructing governmental or judicial administration and disorderly conduct II following report of disturbance in 1000 block Pine St., Brownsville. Report taken.

7:19 p.m. - LCSO mountain deputies responded to report of vehicle carrying two teenagers, which got stuck in snow on Gordon Road (NF 2032). One teen's parents also responded and were able to get them out before deputies arrived. 51400 block Canyon Creek Rd.

9:17 p.m. - Kayla Gambill, 41, of Sweet Home, cited for warrant, 1000 block Pleasant Valley Rd. Report taken.

**Sweet Home Police**

1:14 p.m. - Kyle Austin Hanscam, 33, arrested for theft II, theft III and criminal trespass, Thriftway, 621 Main St. Theft II charge stemmed a shoplifting incident at BiMart reported Jan. 6 (see below). Cited and released.

10:13 p.m. - Juvenile, 16, cited for no valid operator's license, driving uninsured, 1500 block Main St.

**Lebanon Police**

Lebanon police had not submitted a log for this date in time for publication. When available, log will be updated at [lebanonlocalnews.com](http://lebanonlocalnews.com).

**Jan. 9**  
**LCSO/OSP Lebanon**

2:05 a.m. - Cassidy Sullivan, 33, of Sweet Home, cited for driving uninsured, driving while sus-

pending. Passenger Justin Denherder, 39, of Sweet Home, cited on warrants, 5500 block Santiam Hwy. Vehicle towed. Report taken.

8:02 a.m. - Caller reported tools and miscellaneous items stolen from construction site in 36600 block Hwy. 34. Value approximately \$1,000. Investigation ongoing. Report taken.

1:33 p.m. - Theft reported from a barn in 1800 block Gilbert Dr. Suspects identified. Two large brass caps from old steam engine were stolen. Estimated value \$3,000 to \$4,000. Report taken.

3:48 p.m. - Fraud reported in 500 block Minnesota St. According to LCSO, suspect had been living with the victim, and somehow obtained access to a checking account. Banks have since been contacted to limit access. Loss valued at \$600. Report taken.

**LCSO/OSP Sweet Home/S. County**

4:58 a.m. - Multiple semi truck drivers warned for rolling through stop signs at intersection of Hwy. 99/Hwy. 228, Halsey.

10:20 a.m. - Crash reported in area of American/Creek drives, Halsey. Single-vehicle, non-injury. Report taken.

11:15 a.m. - Deputy located garbage spread out in front of CTC timber gate in 44300 block Wiley Creek Dr.

2:55 p.m. - Jewelry and jewelry box valued at about \$50,000 stolen from 27900 block Fern Ridge Rd. Several people had access to missing items, according to LCSO. Investigation ongoing. Report taken.

6:03 p.m. - Levi Baker, 30, of Eugene, arrested on outstanding warrant following report of trespass in 27700 block Peoria Rd., Halsey. Lodged at Linn County Jail. Report taken.

**Sweet Home Police**

2:58 a.m. - Justin Lee Denherder, 39, arrested by LCSO on SHMC warrant for FTA in criminal driving case. Cited to appear Jan. 28.

2:56 p.m. - Thomas Ray Pimentel arrested at Linn County Jail on SHMC warrant for FTC in hit and run case. Cited to appear Jan. 28.

12:03 p.m. - Caller reported rear-ending someone in 1000 block Main St. Officer responded, determined damage to be under \$2,500. Report taken.

11:12 p.m. - Bryce Taylor Keenon, 29, arrested on SHMC warrants for FTA in hit and run and giving false information cases, LCCC warrants in false information and assault cases, and AMC warrant for FTA in theft case. Officer had been flagged down by employee at Downtown Lounge who requested police check on individual in parking lot. Keenon cited and released.

**Lebanon Police**

2:32 a.m. - Five subjects trespassed for life when officers found four camps on three separate private properties, 32900 block Berlin Rd.

4:03 a.m. - Isabella Reann Wynn, 23, taken into custody on LCJC warrant for unauthorized entry into motor vehicle.

8:55 a.m. - Samuel Martin Anthony Piazza Jr., 59, cited for failure to obey traffic control device.

9:00 a.m. - Thomas John Bobbitt, 25, cited for no insurance.

9:06 a.m. - Michaela M. Martin, 35, cited for failure to carry proof of insurance and improper display.

9:38 a.m. - Tina M. Dodson, 61, cited for failure to carry proof of insurance.

9:49 a.m. - Gregory Mark Robinson Jr., 38, cited for driving while suspended, no insurance and AMC warrant for contempt.

10:11 a.m. - Derrick Rippy, 42, cited for driving while suspended.

10:17 a.m. - Rachell Gandrud, 44, cited on LMC warrant for FTA on original charge of theft III, and lodged at Linn County jail on LCCC warrant for FTA on original charge of unauthorized use of a vehicle.

10:31 a.m. - First responders answer call about unresponsive

See Public Safety, Page 7

**East Linn ROOFING**

541-367-2293

CCB# 110950

WE SUPPORT THE NEW ERA!

**Electrical Systems Services**

Dan and Cindy Rice

**Crossword KEY**  
Puzzle on page 13

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

**SUDOKU KEY**  
Puzzle on page 13

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

## FROM OUR FILES



Jim James and Vince Lowen present a bicentennial memorial flag to the City of Sweet Home by the Jaycees in 1976. When the Jaycees drove the Oregon Log to Florida last summer, they were given three of these flags with 13 superimposed golden stars to be given away. Only 200 of these were made.

### Jan. 18, 1951

The impact of wind and rain buffeting the Pacific Northwest was felt by residents here. A colt owned by E.C. "Bud" Banke on Airport Heights was killed early in the morning when struck by one of 35 large Douglas firs uprooted by a south wind of near-hurricane force. On other properties, a chicken coop door was blown off its hinges and bewildered hens released to blow about the yard, and most homes suffered power outages where harried housewives attempted to cook breakfast over fireplaces and on trash burners.

Col. William Greeley urged Sweet Home to discourage any more sawmills to begin operations in the area so they could concentrate more on "making use of the materials at hand, by diversifying the forest industry and utilizing the wood waste.

### Jan. 15, 1976

Three inches of rainfall caused extensive flooding this week. The worst of it was between Kalmia and Long streets, and 18th Avenue and the railroad tracks. The yards and basements of the homes in that area were flooded, and John Livezey's backyard at 1915 Long St. was flooded with more than a foot of water.

A rash of fires in three

days caused \$40,000 in damages. A fire of undetermined cause at 1260-B Pleasant Valley Rd. started in a bedroom when nobody was home. The family cat was lost in the fire. A fire at 1642 Elm St. was caused by an extension cord shorting and dropping down into a closet below a stairway. The fire later reignited in an overstuffed chair. An electrical short in a junction box at the Evangelical Church started a fire.

### Jan. 17, 2001

Brandin Hugley, 13, is fighting an expensive battle for his life and his family is asking for help to meet those bills that amount to a quarter million dollars in the first two weeks. Brandin is afflicted with Lymphoblastic Lymphoma, a cancer affecting the lymph nodes, which filter blood. It is the fastest spreading and fastest killing cancer known to man. A simple cold can be a fatal prospect. He is undergoing chemotherapy.

The City Council agreed 5-2 to fund half the cost of a new pool should voters approve a \$21.6 million bond measure for the Sweet Home School District this year. The bond proposal includes a new \$2.8 million pool facility which includes the reconstruction of a large portion of the high school.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Local news appreciated

#### Editor:

As a lifelong reader of newspapers, I am so pleased to see the news of a weekly publication that will arrive in my mailbox and include current happenings here in Lebanon.

I know that the printed news media here in America, and probably around the globe, has suffered

greatly due to the explosion of electronic communication.

However, local news, right here in Lebanon, remains of importance to me and a lot of citizens who live here. I like to know what the City Council is doing and the Mayor's Office.

It's nice to see stories about many of the good, happy events that are happening all over our community, staged by great folks who care for and do much to

make living here so worthwhile.

For a few dollars, I can count on Sarah Brown to report on the good, the important, the encouraging and the not-so-happy events like accidents and the passing of fellow residents.

So, thanks to the entire staff at The New Era for including Lebanon in each issue of the paper.

**Tom Peters  
Lebanon**

## Gas Tax Referendum final tally is quarter of a million signatures

Organizers of the referendum effort to overturn the gas tax enacted by the Oregon Legislature last fall have turned in more than 250,000 signatures from Oregon voters, they reported last week.

According to Bruce Starr, one of the chief petitioners behind the effort, organizers turned in a total of 250,900 signatures to the state Elections Office on Monday, Dec. 29, prior to the Dec. 31 deadline.

The signature-gathering effort was visible locally as volunteers spent weeks manning booths in both Lebanon and Sweet Home.

Organizers of the referendum effort said they were turning in additional signatures to State Elections, bringing their total count to 250,900 Oregon voters who have signed the petition.

That is more than triple the 78,116 valid signatures needed to qualify. It is the largest and quickest volunteer referendum drive in Oregon history.

Starr, the referendum's chief petitioner, said: "Oregonians from every corner of the state spent their holiday season

gathering signatures. Because of their hard work, the will of Oregon voters will not be ignored. The credit for this success goes to the tireless volunteers across this great state - they are nothing short of amazing."

State Rep. Ed Diehl, another of the organizers behind the effort, said: "The people of Oregon have spoken loud and clear. They expect ODOT to be accountable for the money it already has, and they expect road safety and maintenance to be the highest priority - not an afterthought."

The Right to Vote on the Gas Tax PAC campaign had previously turned in over 190,000 signatures to the State Elections Office for early verification on December 15th which is allowed for petition drives that cross the legal threshold to qualify. As the State Elections has been reviewing those signatures, the campaign has continued to gather signatures until the final deadline last week.

"The quarter million signatures gathered is a testament that people consider the right to vote on taxes to be critically important to their lives," said

Jason Williams, another chief petitioner. "They were left out of the tax debate this year and this campaign gave them their voice back and gave them their vote back.

"This tax is going to cost many families hundreds of dollars in new taxes every year, and that will hit especially hard the unemployed looking for a job, the seniors on a limited income and disabled among us.

"People cannot afford this tax and this petition has been their lifeline to voice their opposition."

Democratic legislators this week announced they are implementing a new "Outcome Reviews" tool to "assess, review and improve the implementation of previously passed laws. The goal is to enhance outcomes for Oregonians, further community engagement and make sure Oregon laws are working as intended."

State Sen. Dick Anderson, a Republican, said the referendum "is one obvious example of Oregonians' frustration with ever-increasing taxes, but Oregon faces a financial reckoning on multiple levels."

## Linn County Cultural Coalition accepting grant applications

The Linn County Cultural Coalition is accepting proposals for grants to fund projects involving the arts, the humanities, and heritage activities in Linn County.

Deadline for grant applications is 5 p.m. on Feb. 1.

The LCCC is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization affiliated with the Oregon State Cultural Trust, a statewide entity established to promote and strengthen cultural activities in Oregon. Through local coalitions such as Linn County's, the Trust distributes funding to all 36 Oregon counties and nine federally recognized tribes.

Grants typically range between \$250 and \$2,500. Applicants may be awarded less than the full amount requested. Most LCCC past grant awards have not exceeded \$1,000. (Larger grants

are available directly from the Oregon Cultural Trust. For more information, contact the Oregon Cultural Trust at [cultural.trust@oregon.gov](mailto:cultural.trust@oregon.gov) or 503-986-0088, or visit <https://culturaltrust.org/grants>.)

The grants are available to nonprofit organizations with tax-exempt status. An organization or individual sponsored by a qualifying nonprofit may also apply. Full guidelines for applying are available at [linnculture.org](http://linnculture.org).

Applications should address one or more of the Linn County Cultural Coalition's priorities:

- To enhance funding for arts, heritage, and humanities activities
- To increase public awareness of, and encourage participation in, cultural opportunities in Linn County

• To improve access to cultural opportunities for all ages, income levels, abilities, and ethnic groups throughout Linn County

For examples of qualifying projects, see the list of recently awarded grants at [linnculture.org/our-grants](http://linnculture.org/our-grants).

Coalition board members will review the applications and decide on awards within a few weeks of the Feb. 1 deadline.

Grant applications are available online at [linnculture.org](http://linnculture.org). Applications can be submitted online, sent by mail to the Linn County Cultural Coalition, P.O. Box 69, Albany, Oregon 97321, or sent by mail to [linnculture@gmail.com](mailto:linnculture@gmail.com).

For further information, contact Rebecca Bond at (541) 928.0911 or Linda Ziedrich at (503) 707-1539.

# The New Era

A LOCALLY OWNED NEWSPAPER

[SWEETHOMENEWS.COM](http://SWEETHOMENEWS.COM)

OFFICE: 1313 Main St., Sweet Home, Oregon

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

#### WHO WE ARE:

Miriam Swanson, Publisher - [miriam@sweethomenews.com](mailto:miriam@sweethomenews.com)

Scott Swanson, Publisher - [scott@sweethomenews.com](mailto:scott@sweethomenews.com)

Jessica Sands, Office Manager - [jessica@sweethomenews.com](mailto:jessica@sweethomenews.com)

Sarah Brown, Staff Writer - [sarah@sweethomenews.com](mailto:sarah@sweethomenews.com)

Mack Knebel, Advertising Rep - [mack@sweethomenews.com](mailto:mack@sweethomenews.com)

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

NEWS QUESTIONS / TIPS - [news@sweethomenews.com](mailto:news@sweethomenews.com)

## MANNA MEALS

From page 1

Christmas, New Year's Day, and Thanksgiving, as well as during extreme weather conditions such as snow or ice. If the Sweet Home School District closes due to weather, SHEM will also be closed.

SHEM's pantry continues to offer food boxes, limited financial assistance, and Carmen's Closet, which provides household items, hygiene products, and clothing.

For more information, call (541) 367-6504.

### Manna Meals 'Suspension'

The Manna Meals program served the community three nights a week for many years and provided more than 140,000 meals over the past decade, hosted by the United Methodist Church.

The program was closed due to an aging volunteer base and a lack of staffing needed to sustain meal service.

"What I'm calling it right now is a suspension, not a termination," said Linda Rowton, who headed the effort for many years.

The Manna Meals program began at the Methodist Church in 2004 as an outgrowth from the Dinners with Daisy program that began in the 1980s at the Sweet Home Senior Center, headed by Daisy Ashton, Rowton said.

The program has provided free hot meals three times a week for decades. But Rowton said the volunteer base has declined and so has the client population.

"The big thing was finding responsible volunteers, people that would commit," she said, noting that would-be volunteers too often did not return after their initial service.

At a meeting last November called by city leaders to discuss the hunger situation in Sweet Home, Rowton told the crowd of some 40 representatives of local aid



File Photo

Volunteers prepare Manna Meals for distribution in 2022.

groups and others that often there are only two volunteers preparing, serving and cleaning up after meals. The youngest of their volunteer corps, she said, is "60-something."

Another problem, she said last week, is that the clientele has declined. At one point there were at least 20 people showing up for meals, and the Manna staff for a while was preparing 40 meals for residents of the FAC homeless shelter.

Rowton said she was "unsure of the details," but the FAC meal distribution has stopped and demand for on-site meals has also declined. She noted that the process of planning, preparing and serving or packaging meals has demanding, and it was "a little disheartening" when the response was tepid.

"A lot of times we haven't had even 20," she said. "We began to question the need."

She said she recently saw an obituary for one faithful attendee, who used to ride her bike to Manna each week.

"The old group is declining," she said. "That's kind of the story."

Rowton said organizers have always known that Manna has been about more than just food.

"It's a social thing for a lot of people," she said. "A lot of those people don't need the food, but they need someone to eat with. It's about community."

Rowton said she and other Manna workers need to take breaks for personal reasons, but often have not been able to because they lacked backup.

So they've decided to suspend the operation until April.

Then, she said, she would like to restart the meals but limit them, at least initially, to Wednesday nights, which was the original schedule for Dinners with Daisy and early Manna operations.

"We struggled," she said. "It was not an easy decision."

Another key, she said, will be getting enough volunteers to staff separate teams that can handle meals once a month - or more, but only if volunteers want to commit more often.

"That way we'd have separate groups doing the planning, preparing and cleaning up, so no one group is tasked with doing it every week," she said. "Four teams - everybody would do it once a month."

Anyone interested in volunteering should contact SHEM, she said, and they will be contacted when organizers return.

"We've had a couple of new volunteers who were really, really good," she said. "They were people I felt confident would carry on. But we need more than just one person each night to make it happen."

"We'll start slow like that, and see what happens."

gaged with him at that point, but Duncan said Miller was "uncooperative," causing law enforcement personnel to use non-lethal force, including sponge rounds and tasers, before taking Miller into custody on the ground.

He was treated by medics and transported to the Linn County Jail.

Deputies on scene applied for and were granted a search warrant for the property. Thirteen firearms, including handguns, rifles, and shotguns, were seized, as well as live ammunition and spent casings that were scattered across the property.

Miller was lodged on charges of reckless endangering, assault IV-domestic (felony), menacing, unlawful use of a weapon, contempt of court (for violating a re-

straining order) and criminal mischief I. Deputies are continuing to investigate.

"All law enforcement present exercised great restraint and professionalism during this very chaotic event, to take Miller into custody without using lethal force," Duncan said. "The ability to see Miller with drones had a direct impact on law enforcement's ability to assess Miller's behavior and take him into custody with the least amount of force possible."

The Linn County Sheriff's Office was assisted by the Oregon State Police, Corvallis Police Department, Albany Police Department, Sweet Home Police Department, Benton County Sheriff's Office, and the Sweet Home Fire District.



**ECONOMY DRUGS**

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

**DRIVE UP PHARMACY**

**THE ACTION**  
*Stream*  
willamettevalleysports.com

**KGAL**  
**SmartTalk 1580**  
www.kgal.com

**KSHO**  
94.1 FM-920 AM  
**The Best Music**  
www.ksho.net

**LOCAL SERVICE - POWERFUL EQUIPMENT**



**CASCADE**  
OUTDOOR POWER EQUIPMENT



**541-451-5213 • 1215 WAIRWAY RD-LEBANON**  
**WWW.CASCADEPOWERLEBANON.COM**

## STANDOFF

From page 1

tures made maintaining visual of Miller difficult.

The Linn County Regional SWAT Team responded with armored vehicles, in addition to members of Oregon State Police SWAT, to protect the public and law enforcement as they worked to locate Miller and take him into custody safely. Miller continued to walk around the property with several guns, firing more shots in the air, as well as setting off fireworks, which often could only be seen with the use of drones.

Miller attempted to take off from the property into the woods on an ATV, ultimately crashing and returning to the area of the residence. Deputies and troopers en-

# Local Sports Roundup

## CHURCH DIRECTORY

For where two or three are gathered together in My name, I am there in the midst of them.  
-Matthew 18:20

### Lebanon boys down Woodburn on hardwood

The Lebanon Boys continued their winning ways with a hard-fought 61 to 51 victory over Woodburn on Tuesday.

Coach Casey VandenBos has been quick to note that the Mid-Willamette Conference is the toughest in the state. Consequently, there are no easy victories on the Warriors' schedule. Woodburn was a perfect example.

The game was a battle from start to finish.

Lebanon was able to take a small lead at the end of the first quarter and they were able to extend that lead to 10 by half time. The second half was much the same. Woodburn was able to cut into Lebanon's lead but never able to erase it.

Lebanon notched its fifth overall victory and second in league.

Once again, excellent shooting was a key to the victory. The Warriors shot 23 for 54 from the field including four for 15 from the arc. Lebanon recorded 12 assists on the made baskets. They also were 11 of 15 from the free-throw line. Leading contributors were Large with 22 points, nine rebounds and three assists. VandenBos contributed 14 points, Miller had 13 and Robinson had eight.

Lebanon followed that up with a 76-52 win over Dallas on Jan. 9, but statistics were not available at press time.

The Warriors played Silver-ton at home Jan. 13 and will hit the road Friday, Jan. 16, to face Corvallis.

- Mike Warner

### Warrior girls 8-2 entering this week after MWC wins

Lebanon's girls basketball team opened its Mid-Willamette Conference campaign with wins over Woodburn (70-43) and Dallas (69-35) last week.

Statistics were not available at press time.

### SH swimmers tune up at Albany Sprint Meet

Testing themselves against some of the top programs in their district, the Sweet Home swim team competed in a multi-team sprint meet Jan. 10 at the Albany Community Pool.

Head coach A. Jay Bronson said the meet provided a clear picture of where the Huskies stand. "It went great - this meet is more of a gauge as to where we are," he said.

Sweet Home competed against Philomath, Cascade, Stayton, Crosshill Christian, Marist Catholic, Blanchet Catholic, Sisters, Salem Academy, Junction City and Kennedy. In the combined team standings, the Huskies placed fourth overall, finishing behind Philomath, Cascade and Stayton. The Sweet Home girls team earned a second-place finish behind Cascade, while the boys team placed fifth in a competitive field.

Several Husky swimmers recorded top finishes during the meet. Sophomore Khloe Sautel won the girls 200-yard freestyle with a time of 2:02.81 and also captured first place in the 50-yard breaststroke in 34.42. Junior Lexi Rundell added another individual victory for Sweet

Home, winning the girls 50-yard backstroke in 33.58.

Bronson said individual improvement has been a key focus early in the season. "On the girls' side, I'm really proud of Lexi and Kylie dropping time," he said.

That progress was also evident in relay events. Rundell, junior Ella Haggas, senior Kylie Melkvik and Sautel placed third in the girls 200-yard freestyle relay with a time of 1:59.00, narrowly trailing Cascade, which won the race in 1:58.99.

On the boys side, senior Andrew Tolman won the 200-yard freestyle with a time of 2:06.50. Junior Grayson Savri finished third in the 50-yard freestyle and placed second in the 100-yard freestyle, while Austyn Hogan earned third place in the 50-yard backstroke with a time of 32.25.

Bronson also pointed to notable improvements from swimmers throughout the roster. "Malakai did great - huge time drops, same with Marshall," he said. "Sadie coming off an injury and coming back was good luck, too."

The meet concluded with the boys 200-yard freestyle relay and in the very last heat of the day, Tolman, juniors Henry Jones, Hogan and Savri combined to win first place with a time of 1:42:01. "I was really impressed with how all the relays did," Bronson said. "Especially the boys 4x50 relay at the end - it was exciting."

With district competition approaching, Bronson said

See Roundup, Page 9

## Oregonians start new year with 282 new state laws

A total of 282 new state laws took effect Jan. 1, 2026, covering areas from health care to consumer protections and personal safety. Following are some that will likely have particular impacts on local communities.

Note: This list is just the tip of the iceberg and space prohibits us from listing many laws that may impact local residents one way or another. To see a more extensive version of this story, visit [sweet-homenews.com](http://sweet-homenews.com) or [lebanon-localnews.com](http://lebanon-localnews.com). For a much more comprehensive list of these and more new laws, issued by the state Senate and House majority offices, visit [bit.ly/2025-wins](http://bit.ly/2025-wins).

### Jobs, Economy, and Workforce

**HB 2248:** Establishes a new Employer Assistance Division within the Bureau of Labor and Industries (BOLI) to streamline support and compliance services for Oregon businesses. The division will offer a centralized resource to help employers navigate workplace regula-

tions and access assistance.

**HB 2338:** Creates a new entry-level tax preparer certification - Certified Registered Tax Aide (RTA) - to support tax professionals in preparing returns. The program sets requirements for education (including 40 training hours), exams, supervision limits (up to two aides per tax professional), continuing education, fees, and disciplinary oversight by the State Board of Tax Practitioners.

**HB 3024:** Ensures that individuals who lose or quit employment due to a labor dispute, such as strikes, remain eligible for unemployment insurance benefits.

**HB 3167:** Named the Fan Fairness and Transparency Act, this law prohibits the use of bots and deceptive resale methods in ticket sales. It also requires sellers to disclose the full ticket price - including all mandatory fees - upfront, bans the sale of tickets not yet possessed, and blocks misleading domain names or websites that

mimic venues or events. Violators may face civil penalties under Oregon's Unlawful Trade Practices Act.

**HB 3187:** Strengthens Oregon's age discrimination laws by prohibiting employers and recruiters from requesting an applicant's age, date of birth, or graduation dates until after an initial job interview or a conditional offer. The bill also removes outdated age limits for apprenticeships, promoting fair access for older workers.

**HB 3865:** Classifies text messages as telephone solicitations and limits when and how businesses can contact consumers. The bill restricts calls and texts to between 8 a.m. and 8 p.m., with no more than three contacts in 24 hours. It exempts contacts from established business relationships and public agencies. Violations are enforceable under Oregon's Unlawful Trade Practices Act.

**HB 3991 and 3992:** These bills are essentially a bail-out for financially troubled Ore-

See New Laws, Page 10



**CORNERSTONE FELLOWSHIP**  
a foursquare church

**SERVICES:  
10 AM SUNDAY**

1234 Long St., Sweet Home  
541-367-6161  
[shcornerstonefellowship.org](http://shcornerstonefellowship.org)



**hope.church**  
sweet home

**GATHERING TIME  
10:45 A.M.**

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

**Mt. Calvary Missionary Baptist Church**

Sunday Service 11am  
Come join us!

Bible Study  
10 am Sundays.

1042 Pleasant Valley Rd.  
541-818-0022



**New Life In Christ Fellowship**  
(formerly Sweet Home Mennonite)

1266 44th Ave. PO Box 515  
541-367-2848 • [shnlc.org](http://shnlc.org)

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



**St. Helen Catholic Church**  
600 6th Ave, Sweet Home  
[www.sweethomecatholicchurch.com](http://www.sweethomecatholicchurch.com)

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

**Confessions**  
Before Masses or 1st, 2nd & 3rd Sat.  
4:00 - 5:00 pm

For Sacramental information call  
541-367-2530  
Father Scott Baier



**Sweet Home Evangelical Church**

Join us Sunday 10:30 am

FOLLOW US AT:  
[FACEBOOK.COM/SWEETHOMECC](https://facebook.com/sweethomeec)  
1347 Long Street • 541-367-4357



**The COMMUNITY CHAPEL**

— at Ames Creek —  
SUNDAYS at 10am  
[www.chapel.cc](http://www.chapel.cc)  
42250 AMES CREEK RD  
SWEET HOME OR



**Sweet Home United Methodist Church**

Open Hearts,  
Open Minds,  
Open Doors

A Reconciling Congregation

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

6th & Ironwood  
541-367-3073



**Elm Street Baptist Church**

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

1150 Elm St. Sweet Home  
541-367-5883

**PUBLIC SAFETY**

From page 3

subject in car behind BiMart. Subject was sleeping.

10:47 a.m. - Anthony Farley, 29, cited for speeding 37/25 and driving while suspended.

10:51 a.m. - Caller reported theft of decoy duck from in front of residence, 2700 block S Main Rd.

11:07 a.m. - Christina Thomas, 34, cited for cell phone use and speeding 37/25.

11:19 a.m. - Donna Lepa, 24 cited for speeding 39/25.

12:07 p.m. - Colton Wasson, 26, cited for driving while suspended and driving uninsured.

1:21 p.m. - Unidentified subject cited for driving while suspended and no insurance. Car towed.

3:12 p.m. - Complaint about neighbor driving over bricks, 100 block Dodge St.

3:19 p.m. - Chad Kutsch, 43, cited for speeding 37/20 school zone, Cascade Dr.

5:16 p.m. - Caller reported female smells of alcohol, yelled at him, spit in his face and tried to hit him with car.

5:39 p.m. - Caller reported teens fighting in Walmart, one sucker punched the other.

7:22 p.m. - Caller reported his kids walked to 7-11 and were followed home by three teen boys who said they had a gun. Caller told them to get lost and they said he would be dead by morning.

**Jan. 8**

**LCSO/OSP Lebanon**

5:52 a.m. - Mason Schneider, 23, of Lebanon, cited for driving without privileges.

7:35 p.m. - Juvenile, 17, of Lebanon, cited for speeding, 75/55, 36800 block Hwy. 226.

**LCSO/OSP Sweet Home/S. County**

8:11 a.m. - LCSO located crashed vehicle on Giustina Resources property in 24800 block West Brush Creek Rd. According to LCSO, 2005 Kia Sorento had been driven off the road and was left on private timber property. Deputies left messages with the possible owner, who eventually called back and said they were going to let insurance tow the vehicle, but also did not have details on how it ended up there. Investigation ongoing. Report taken.

9:46 a.m. - Jared Christensen, 36, of Wood Village, cited for failure to obey traffic control de-

See Public Safety, Page 9

**FOOD & FUN**  
BITES AROUND THE BLOCK: DISCOVER LOCAL YUM!

**FREE Medium Fries and Medium Soft Drink**  
with purchase of a premium sandwich valued at \$3 or more

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

**EXPIRES 12/31/2025**

**Taqueria Dos Arbolitos**

**LEBANON**

**50 W. Oak St., Lebanon**  
**541-258-5798**

**BACON & SWISS DOUBLE BURGER**  
with **Garlic Aioli**

**&** Then You Got a Burger Worth Talking About.

**NEW!**  
**DILL PICKLE RANCH**  
Cheese Curds

**A&W**  
PROUDLY CHEESE WISCONSIN

Prices and participation may vary. Limited time only. Tax extra. 2017 A&W Restaurants, Inc.  
**1010 MAIN STREET • 541-367-4893**

**the POINT**  
RESTAURANT  
EST. 1970

**DOWNLOAD OUR APP**  
TO SEE OUR DAILY SPECIALS

OUTDOOR HEATED PATIO • OREGON LOTTERY  
6305 US 20, FOSTER • (541) 367-1560

FOR RESERVATIONS AND TAKEOUT  
[POINTSWEETHOME.COM](http://POINTSWEETHOME.COM)

SUN-THUR: 8AM-9PM | FRI: 8AM-10PM | SAT: 6AM-10PM

**OREGON'S**  
INDOOR HIGH CALIBER KITCHEN

**NOW OPEN**

FAMILY-OWNED - ON THE CORNER OF MAIN AND ASH IN LEBANON  
**LOOK FOR OUR GRAND OPENING!**

**SANDWICHES • BURGERS • STEAKS • MAC & CHEESE • SALADS • AND MORE**

EVERYTHING PREPARED FRESH WITH QUALITY INGREDIENTS  
ASK ABOUT OUR NIGHTLY DINNER SPECIALS

**590 S. MAIN STREET - LEBANON | 458-223-7288**

**IxtaPa** Mexican Restaurant

Gift Certificates Available Now!  
**\$2 OFF ANY LUNCH OR DINNER**  
Not valid with any other offer.

**25 N Santiam Hwy • (541) 451-3995**  
[ixtapamexicanrestaurant.com](http://ixtapamexicanrestaurant.com)

Mon. - Thurs. 11 A.M. - 9:30 P.M. | Fri. - Sat. 11 A.M. - 10:30 P.M. | Sunday 11 A.M. - 9 P.M.

# Lebanon swimmers set PRs

Lebanon High School's swimmers returned from winter break on Tuesday, Jan. 6, to face a tough opponent, Silverton.

The Warriors lost on both sides to the largest team in the league by nearly identical scores, the boys 121-47 and the girls 120-48. Lebanon's swimmers were outnumbered 2- to 3-to-1 in some events.

The Warrior girls fell to 2-2 while the boys are 3-1.

"Silverton has a ton of depth and the largest squad in the district," said Coach Joe Andrews.

"There were many relays where they swept us 1-2, which is why the team points were so one-sided. We had several points-scoring athletes out this meet for a variety of reasons, which compounded the end result."

He noted that the meet is simply a stepping stone towards the district championship meet Feb. 11-12.

"Silverton's depth makes them very tough to beat and will have them in contention for the district title," Andrews predicted.

"The championship meet format will help us be more competitive as other teams will chip away at the depth and spread the points out."

The Warriors had four event winners: sophomore Samuel Bloedel and senior Orianna Buczko in the 500 Freestyle and the 50 Freestyle, and freshman Samantha Walsh in the 200 Individual Medley.

Eleven Warriors also posted personal bests. Girls finishing with PR's included: junior Aimee Andrews in the 200 Free ( 7.5 seconds), 100 Free (1.5) and 500 Free (26.1); Walsh in the 200 IM (2.5); junior Molly Basting in the 100



**Photos by Scott Swanson**  
Coach Joe Andrews, above left, urges Orianna Buczko to victory in the 500 Freestyle. At left, Samantha Walsh, left, swims to a win in the in the 200 Individual Medley. See more photos at lebanonlocalnews.com.

"We experimented with a different approach to the Winter Break training schedule and we think that impacted a few swimmers whom we anticipate to make big time drops. The next couple of meets will give a better representation as we approach the end of season."

He said some relay spots are still up for grabs.

"Several newer swimmers have filled gaps and rose to the challenge to compete for the final places at the district meet, then the state meet, if we can again qualify," Andrews said.

"We will be testing a few different relay orders and individual swim packages to try and get the fastest outcome in February when it counts."

The Warriors are back in action, after The New Era went to press, on Tuesday, Jan. 13, against Dallas and Central at the Dallas Aquatic Center.

Butterfly (4.0); and sophomore Hailey Gutierrez in the 100 Freestyle (2.8).

Personal bests for the boys included: freshman Samuel Williamson in the 100 Backstroke (6.0) and the 50 Free (3.7); freshman Paul Bloedel in the 200 Free (3.0); junior Daniel Tyler in the 50 Free (1.7); sophomore John Kluttz in the 50 Free (1.7); senior Michael Kluttz in the 100 Free (0.3); sophomore Jack Johnson in the 100 Butterfly (2.2) and junior Chase Herb in the 100 Free (0.7).

"Even with the one-sided result, we had some pretty significant best times from several swimmers and others were very close," Andrews said.



Photo by Scott Swanson

Maya Van Dyke puts up points against Country Christian. See more photos at lebanonlocalnews.com.

## ELCA girls beat Elmira in tune-up for league

East Linn Christian Academy's girls went 1-2 last week, losing to two of the top-ranked 1A basketball teams in the state, then turning around to beat 3A Elmira 28-22 on the road Saturday, Jan. 10.

At Elmira, the Eagles were were playing their sixth game since the beginning of the new year.

"This was one of the last non-league games of our season, aside from Oakland later in February," Coach Sierra Carrier said. "So the game plan was to have fun."

Maci Modderman led the Eagles with 11 points and 12 rebounds, her second double-double of the year, and Abby Garber added 10 points, with six rebounds and four steals. Bailey Kramer had 10

boards, with three steals along with four points.

"We had some fun," Carrier said. "Our defense was locked solid, we brought the energy, and moved extremely well on offense. We had a very strong team flustered and they put it all together at the right time."

"Great team win before we start up league games this coming week."

She said the Elmira game wrapped up a "very challenging pre-league schedule."

In a 38-32 loss on the road Thursday, Jan. 8, against Southwest Christian, the state's No. 3-ranked 1A team, the Eagles started the game "low-energy, but we dug our way back into it," Carrier said.

"This was game 5 in 8 days, so a lot of basketball had been played. They have some pretty tall and long girls on Southwest Christian and we could not adjust like we wanted to."

"Although it was a tough game, we clawed our way back at the end and made it a close one."

At home Jan. 6 against Country Christian, East Linn kept it close for most of the game until the Cougars pulled away at the end to win 47-39.

Maya Van Dyke had 10 points and nine rebounds to lead East Linn, while Garber added 10 points and three rebounds and Modderman eight points and 11 boards.

"This was a tough matchup for us," Carrier said. "Country Christian is a very solid team and has a high basketball IQ on the floor. We saw them early in the summer, so we knew what we were getting into."

"We had them flustered at the beginning with our press



Photo by Scott Swanson  
Gavin Wilson launches a three-pointer against Country Christian, one of a string of four straight he sank early in the game. See more photos at lebanonlocalnews.com.

See ELCA, Page 9



## Etc Thrift Shop

### Bargains That Benefit All

We Accept Donations

- Clothing for Women, Men, & Children
- Dedicated Children's Room
- Crafts for All Ages
- Check Out our Fabric Selection
- Daily Tag Sales
- Tues. - Senior "bingo" Discounts
- Sat. - Student Discounts
- 2nd Tues. of each month - Silent Auction



836 South Main, Lebanon • 541-258-5614




## DOG SHOW

From page 1

through a course directed by signs. Showmanship focuses on handlers' skills in presenting their dogs as perfectly groomed, posed, and obedient.

Caden showed in Preferred Novice Obedience at both the Junior Showcase and the Obedience Classic, which were part of the overall five-day AKC National Championships, televised nationally, in Orlando, the culmination of the dog show year.

To qualify for nationals, Caden said he had to either place and title three times in at least two qualifying shows or win a preferred high end trial.

"I did both," he noted.

When he and his mom, Andi Foley, a teacher at Sweet Home High School, arrived in Orlando, they realized that he had actually qualified for two competitions, the National Obedience Classic, which is what they thought they were there for, and also for the Junior Showcase. The latter was a special event for young handlers (under 18) to compete in AKC Obedience and Rally, which focuses on the junior's skill in handling their dog, not just the dog's performance.

"Basically, it's just you and the judge in the ring," Caden said. "The judge basically tells you what to do, they walk you through it ahead of time. It's a heeling pattern."

He and the dog will perform a couple of figure-eight patterns, then will demonstrate sitting, standing and staying, and response skills.

His mother said the preferred classes "are kind of a step between each of the regular Obedience classes" which prepare competitors to move up to levels for more experienced competitors.

Caden and his twin sisters, Devyn and Eryn, both eighth-



At left, Judge Patricia Maynard presents the Preferred High award to Caden and Luke after they finished with the top score in that competition. At right, Caden Foley and his dog Luke sit with their awards after competing at the American Kennel Club's Obedience Classic national championship in December.



Photos courtesy of Andi Foley

graders, are second-generation 4-H canine competitors, following in their mom's footsteps.

"She was a leader-slash-judge when I was born, so I got to tag along to all the dog shows," Caden said.

Andi Foley got involved in 4-H canine competition when she was a youngster in Corbett.

"My mom is allergic to dogs, so when I grew up my 4-H dog was a toy poodle," she said. "Then we got a bichon frisé when I was a sophomore in high school, so I showed both of the little puff balls."

Caden and his sisters got involved in 4-H and then, when he entered Sweet Home High School, in the newly established FFA program there.

He is president of the Critters and Clovers 4-H club based at Holley School, and has been a county and state

ambassador in the program, including representing Linn County at the 2025 national 4-H Congress in Atlanta, Ga., discovering in the process of applying to go to the six-day leadership conference that his reputation preceded him - sort of.

His mom related how Caden was being interviewed as a prospect for the Atlanta trip "and he was saying, 'Well, I was kind of born into it. I would go with my mom to judge,' and the woman who was interviewing him was like, 'You're Baby Caden!' She was from Molalla so she would not know him any other way."

Luke, Caden's show dog, is 9 now and he's half blind, but he can still compete, as the pair demonstrated in Orlando. The Foleys have two other Brittanys and Caden plans to stay involved in AKC events, he said.

He and his sisters have been able to show bulldogs for a local breeder, which gives them and the dogs extra opportunities for experience in the ring.

"It tends to be a female-dominated sport, but there's a lot of male judges and so some dogs shy away from male judges," Andi said. "So they like having Caden around because he can judge for them in practice, that kind of stuff."

Caden says he plans to become a judge when he turns

18 "and I can't show juniors any more, because it's not that hard to get your juniors judge's license," adding that juniors judges are in short supply.

He said that "I will happily get my judge's license to go judge."

He said he may eventually get into breeding show dogs, but more immediately he plans to focus on judging performance events.

He's also active in FFA, in which he shows rabbits and competes in food science events, while serving as the high school chapter treasurer.

"I get the fun job of managing all the money."

"Thanks to FFA, I'm currently on the food science track, because I also have connections at the department at OSU."

The Orlando experience was affirming, Caden said.

"I learned a lot at the show," he said, noting that the show sponsors Royal Canin and Eukanuba "do a really good job of also trying to educate people, not only breeders and handlers and owners, but the general public."

"One of the goals of the AKC, as the nonprofit for dogs in America, is to make sure the general public is educated on dogs. And so with the stuff I learned from this show, I definitely am going to bring that back to my club and my community and see what ways we can improve and spread that around."

## ELCA

From page 8

but towards the end they caught us by making us speed our game up."

Modderman finished with 10 points and four rebounds, while Van Dyke added six points and seven boards for the Eagles.

The Eagle girls, 6-8 entering Valley Conference play, started their league season

Tuesday, Jan. 13, hosting Crosshill Christian at home. They play Toledo (6-5 coming into this week) on the road Thursday, Jan. 15, followed by a home game Tuesday, Jan. 20, against Central Linn (6-7 as of last Monday).

### Eagle Boys Basketball

East Linn's boys held off Country Christian on Jan. 6 in a 58-50 win, then fell 66-41 to 3A Division Elmira on Jan. 10. Statistics were not avail-

able from those games at press time.

The Eagles, 7-5 coming into this week, hosted Crosshill Christian Tuesday, Jan. 13, and will open their Valley Coast Conference season Thursday, Jan. 15, at Toledo (6-5 coming into this week). They will host Central Linn (2-11 as of last Monday) at 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 20, followed by now-No. 3 Lowell at home at 7 p.m. on Jan. 21.

## ROUNDUP

From page 6

the sprint meet provided valuable insight into the team's readiness. "We still have a bit of conditioning to work on, as well as stroke work," he said. "But we will get there."

The Huskies' goal for the postseason is already set. "Our goal this year is to try to get a trophy at districts," Bronson said. "And I think we have a good shot at that."

- Satina Tolman

## PUBLIC SAFETY

From page 7

vice, 32900 block Hwy. 228, Halsey.

### Sweet Home Police

12:47 a.m. - William Anderson Jr., 46, cited for driving while suspended, driving uninsured. Main St./Holley Rd.

8:20 a.m. - Caller reported boyfriend slammed her arm in door, 1300 block Clark Mill Rd. Officer responded, report taken for domestic violence-assault IV.

8:28 a.m. - Caller from Hawthorne School reported wallet found. 3205 Long St. Wallet placed in SHPD property.

9:31 a.m. - Caller reported trailer

full of garbage in 1200 block 44th Ave. Code enforcement officer to follow up.

9:33 a.m. - Kern Andrew Smith, 29, arrested on LCJC warrant for probation violation in contempt of court case, SHPD, 1950 Main St. Also arrested for assault IV stemming from earlier case in which he allegedly slammed his girlfriend's arm in the door of an RV. Lodged at Linn County Jail.

2:25 p.m. - Gilbert Alonzo Martinez cited on LCCC warrant for FTA in possession of meth, criminal trespass cases. 1600 block 18th Ave. Cited and released.

2:58 p.m. - Elderly caller reported relative had opened all

See Public Safety, Page 16



# THANK YOU JINGLE BALL SUPPORTERS

The Sweet Home Alumni Foundation extends a sincere **thank you** to our generous sponsors, donors, volunteers, and guests who helped make the Jingle Ball, Trees for Scholarships a tremendous success. Thanks to your support, the event raised over \$45,000 to fund scholarships for Sweet Home High School graduates.

A special thank you to our headline sponsor, **Julegard Christmas Farm**, for their outstanding generosity and continued commitment to our community.

Your support helps invest in local students and their futures.

**Thank you for making a lasting impact.**



**NEW LAWS**

From page 6

gon Department of Transportation, signed by the governor in November (see page 4). Supporters argue that the \$4.3 billion transportation bill will maintain and invest in Oregon's transportation future by repairing roads and bridges, improving safety, and ensuring Oregonians can travel reliably, whether they drive, walk, bike, or use public transportation.

**SB 426:** Holds developers and contractors accountable when construction workers serve on a project but don't get paid. Workers can now sue project owners and direct contractors for unpaid wages, whether the workers are direct employees or subcontractors. It allows civil action to recover wages, benefits, and penalties, while requiring subcontractors to provide payroll and worker information upon request.

**SB 430:** Prohibits hidden fees – "convenience charge," a "service fee," or other extra costs tacked onto online purchases without warning. It requires sellers to disclose all mandatory fees and charges upfront in the advertised price, excluding government-imposed taxes and reasonable shipping fees.

**SB 433:** "Modernizes" self-storage lien sale procedures, raising the value threshold for public sales to \$1,000 before a public notice must be posted, and allowing notices of lien sales to be posted on an approved online auction platform rather than in a newspaper. The bill also permits lien notices to be delivered electronically if the renter has opted in.

**SB 605:** Stops medical debt from going on your credit report. Medical service providers – like hospitals and clinics – are prohibited from notifying consumer reporting agencies that you owe money for your care or how

much. The reporting agencies also are banned from including in your report any amounts they know or should know are medical debts.

**Housing/Homelessness**

**HB 2138:** Allows for denser styles (duplexes, triplexes, and "cottage clusters") in more areas in the state in an attempt to increase available housing. The law requires that "middle housing," as these dwellings are known, be permitted in unincorporated urban areas, and HB 2138 prohibits private restrictions, like homeowner association rules, from barring middle housing or accessory dwelling units, among other provisions.

**HB 3054:** Limits the maximum allowable rent increase on spaces at mobile home parks and floating home marinas to 6% a year beginning in 2026.

The cap does not apply at parks and marinas containing 30 or fewer spaces and has exceptions for rent increased to finance repairing, replacing, and upgrading park infrastructure, though it has provisions for renters to vote to finance such. It also prohibits a landlord from requiring interior inspections or aesthetic or cosmetic improvements of home as a condition for purchase.

**HB 3144:** Requires that new planned communities allow prefabricated or manufactured homes to occupy single-family lots just as traditionally built homes can. State law already required local governments to permit prefabricated and manufactured homes, but homeowner associations had retained the option to ban them.

**HB 3378:** Requires landlords to give tenants options for safely locking and unlocking a rental home's doors without relying solely on an app on the tenant's own mobile phone. Landlords now

have to offer alternatives like an access code, fob, key card, or another physical key.

**HB 3521:** Gives prospective tenants more protections for getting back a deposit they put in before signing a rental agreement. Landlords must return the deposit if the potential tenant finds serious problems that make the home not habitable. Those could be things like a leaky roof or window, inadequate heat, unsafe drinking water, accumulated trash, or non-working locks.

**HB 3522:** Allows property owners and landlords to reclaim premises from squatters by providing a 24-hour written notice to vacate. It ensures that the notice does not grant any legal occupancy rights to the squatter and classifies remaining on the property after the notice period as unlawful holding by force.

**Public Safety and Justice**

**HB 2005:** Updates Oregon's civil commitment laws, refining when and how individuals with mental illness may be committed for treatment. It clarifies key definitions, strengthens court procedures, and allows treatment diversion before hearings. HB 2005 also sets new rules for health facility stays and community restoration.

**HB 2008:** Strengthens privacy protections around this data collected on cellphone users, banning the sale of data on children and prohibiting targeted advertising to minors under 16 based on their personal data or precise geolocation.

**HB 2299:** Expands the definition of Deepfake 'Revenge Porn' to include AI-generated deepfakes. The bill creates first- and second-degree offenses, elevating the crime to a felony for repeated violations and extending protections to all victims of intimate-image abuse.

**SB 243:** Prohibits rapid-

fire devices, also known as "bump stocks," that convert semi-automatic weapons into fully automatic firearms. It also lets local governments decide whether to restrict firearms in highly-sensitive portions of their public buildings.

**SB 548:** Raises the minimum legal marriage age in Oregon to 18, eliminating the previous exception that allowed 17-year-olds to marry with parental consent.

**SB 551:** Eliminates plastic film checkout bags at restaurants, grocery stores, and retail establishments.

Starting in 2027, only paper bags made with at least 40 percent post-consumer recycled content or 40 percent non-wood renewable fiber will be permitted, with a minimum charge of five cents per bag. Proposed restrictions on single-use plastic utensils, condiment packaging, and small plastic toiletry containers were removed during the legislative process.

**SB 1191:** Ensures that individuals cannot be criminally charged for informing others of their civil or constitutional rights.

The bill amends existing statutes to clarify that such acts do not constitute obstruction of governmental or judicial administration, refusal to assist a peace officer, or interference with a peace officer or parole and probation officer. This legislation reinforces the right to share information about legal rights without fear of prosecution.

**Health Care and Human Services**

**HB 2748:** Prohibits nonhuman entities from using specified titles used by licensed professionals in the practice of nursing. Introduced by Rep. Travis Nelson, D-NE Portland, a registered nurse himself, it addresses concerns that artificial intel-

ligence (AI) programs labeled with nursing titles could mislead patients and undermine the integrity of the nursing profession in patient care settings.

**HB 3912:** Regulates the use of "doctor" title in health-care, requiring an individual who uses the title "doctor" in connection with their health care practice to identify the health care profession in which they earned a doctoral degree on all material.

**HB 2005:** Reforms Oregon's civil commitment laws, refining when and how individuals with mental illness may be committed for treatment. It clarifies key definitions, strengthens court procedures, and allows treatment diversion before hearings. The law also sets new rules for health facility stays and community restoration.

**SB 537:** Requires violence-prevention procedures and protections against safety risks in health care settings. Across the country, health care workers make up 10 percent of the workforce but endure 48 percent of nonfatal injuries caused by workplace violence. Among the measure's requirements are annual workplace violence prevention trainings and "flagging" systems in health records or elsewhere for potentially violent individuals.

**SB 699:** Expands requirements for individual and group health insurance plans to cover medically necessary prosthetic and orthotic devices, including their repair and replacement.

**Environment and Wildfire**

**HB 2978:** Strengthens the state's program to create safe road crossings for animals. In 2022 alone, Oregon saw more than 4,800 crashes between vehicles and wildlife. The law requires the Department of Transportation (ODOT) and the Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) to work to-

See New Laws, Page 11

**The ICEBOX Performer Of The Week**



This week's ICEBOX Performer of the Week goes to Chance Hurley, one of our outstanding Fab Techs here at RSH.

Chance stays dialed in and focused, always making the most of his time while ensuring every project is done efficiently and to a high standard. His attention to detail and steady work ethic make a real impact on our shop every day.

Thank you, Chance, for your hard work, precision, and craftsmanship we appreciate all you do!



**FUNDRAISER**

SUB SANDWICH

BENEFITING SHHS 2026 GRADUATING CLASS

6 SUBS = \$30



**PAYMENT OPTIONS:**  
CASH, CHECK OR VENMO

\*PLEASE MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO:  
SWEET HOME HIGH SCHOOL  
GRADUATION PROGRAM OR SHHSGP



SCAN TO ORDER

LAST DAY TO ORDER: SATURDAY, JANUARY 31ST  
PICKUP: SATURDAY 2/7 FROM 10AM - 1PM @ SHHS CAFETERIA

TO ORDER: SCAN QR CODE OR VENMO @SHHSGP  
& CONTACT SARAH SMITH 541-409-4016

# Local player gets shot at big-time football

By Scott Swanson  
Of The New Era

Elijah Pulkownik has played tackle football since second grade, until very recently, in Lebanon.

On Dec. 26 he found himself on a different field – actually SoFi Stadium in Inglewood, Calif., home of the Los Angeles Rams.

Pulkownik was invited to play at the 19th Annual O-D All-American Bowl, which bills itself as “invitation-only” week-long training and all-star games that have produced alumni such as Cam Newton and Dez Bryant.

Pulkownik started the 2025 season as a sophomore at Lebanon High School, but midway through the season his family moved to Albany, so he finished at West Albany.

He’d played for Lebanon until that point, as well as in a developmental summer league through Island Boy Camp in Salem and with Team Oregon.

“He’s always had his Lebanon football helmet logo and everything representing Lebanon,” said his

mother, Angella Pulkownik. Elijah got invited to a prospect camp in North Carolina and made the IBC team, which led to an appearance in a game in Las Vegas in January 2025, she said. That led to the invitation to play in the O-D bowl game, which is organized by the Offense-Defense Football Camps organization.

“They have to get nominated and then they get monitored,” said Angella, who played college softball herself.

Elijah, who stands 5-11 and weighs “probably 270,” said he enjoyed meeting other prospects, who on the West team he played on hailed from multiple western states. He said they had two days of practice before the game, and that after the high school season he worked out by “going to Planet Fitness a little bit” and “I just went on runs every day.”

“It was really fun” playing in the game, in which he received a Best Lineman award after the 30-7 win over the East team.



Photo courtesy of Angella Pulkownik

Elijah Pulkownik enjoys a moment in the Los Angeles Rams lockerroom at SoFi Stadium in front of the locker belonging to Rams star Aaron Donald, one of his heroes.

“I got, like, six or seven pancake blocks,” Elijah said.

“I loved the coaches,” he added.

He said he hopes to play after high school.

“My goal right now is just to get a scholarship right now. That’s my overall goal: college.”

small businesses repair or replace failing systems. The bill prioritizes support for low- and moderate-income households and aims to protect public health, housing stability, and water quality.

**Education and Children**

**HB 2007:** Creates stable funding for a Summer Learning Grant Program, giving students in kindergarten through 12th grade access to affordable summer activities that boost literacy.

**HB 2307:** Exempts school districts from the prohibition on the sale or distribution in or into Oregon of compact fluorescent lamps and linear fluorescent lamps until Jan. 2, 2030. The state is phasing out the sale of new fluorescent light bulbs in an effort to reduce mercury pollution and promote energy-efficient LEDs. The exemption applies to lamps used in school buildings. The measure took effect on passage as an emergency.

**HB 3083:** Requires every K-12 public school to have emergency safeguards to protect the safety and well-being of students and staff at the school. The law outlines policies and procedures relating to school building security to the emergency safeguards schools must develop.

It also requires schools to consider adding a panic alarm system consisting of either a wireless or wearable panic alarm, capable of connecting to emergency services to coordinate between multiple agencies, and integrating with 9-1-1 calls.

**HB 3365:** Requires the State Board of Education to ensure that academic content standards include sufficient

instruction on the causes and effects of climate change and strategies for responding. It applies the new requirement to reviews and revisions of content standards that take place after the measure’s effective date.

**SB 934:** Modifies the requirements for school districts to identify talented and gifted children. It adds requirements that any person who knows a child be permitted to recommend screening, districts provide screening for any child recommended, districts inform parents of the process for recommending a child for screening, and districts provide information about the recommendation process on their websites.

**SB 1098:** Provides that decisions on textbooks and library materials are made by local educators and parents. The bill requires that people filing complaints about a book be connected to the school – parents, guardians, or school employees – not “out-of-state extremists.” The decision on whether a book stays or goes must come from a committee that is local.

Also under the law, a book cannot be banned simply for having content on a certain race, sex, religion, or other group protected by law in Oregon. Challenges and decisions must be in writing, and decisions must include the reasoning.

Parents and guardians still can request removal of materials, and school boards and staff can still make their decisions by considering a reader’s age, book’s vulgarity, and the material’s educational value.

## NEW LAWS

From page 10

gether in choosing high-priority locations.

**HB 2982:** Expands and raises Watercraft Access Permit requirements to now include nearly all boats, including nonmotorized kayaks and paddleboards, regardless of length. Legislators passed the law to raise money to support boat inspections and management aimed at keeping invasive species such as zebra mussels out of Oregon waters.

**HB 3546:** Creates a new electricity rate class for the large energy users like data centers and cryptocurrency processors, and makes them responsible for the full cost of the grid infrastructure needed to serve them. It’s been typical in Oregon for huge industrial users of electricity to be charged a lot less – sometimes even half the rate – per kilowatt hour than regular households.

**SB 83:** Repeals Oregon’s statewide wildfire hazard map and related property maintenance rules, replacing them with flexible, locally adoptable building codes and fire safety standards.

It expands the Wildfire Programs Advisory Council with new members from fire-fighting and insurance sectors and requires comprehensive reporting on wildfire risk reduction, community smoke response, and utility wildfire mitigation efforts.

**SB 830:** Expands and updates Oregon’s septic financial assistance program to include grants, loans, and other tools that help families and



Sweet Home  
Pregnancy Care Center

Free parenting classes to help with practical resources & information.

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



SUNSHINE  
INDUSTRIES

**OUR PROGRAM PROVIDES JOB TRAINING, JOB OPPORTUNITIES, AND COMMUNITY ACCESS TO INDIVIDUALS WITH DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES.**

**WE OFFER GROUNDS KEEPING AND JANITORIAL SERVICES FOR RESIDENTIAL AND COMMERCIAL NEEDS AS WELL AS FACILITY RENTALS.**

1333 CLARK MILL RD. • 541-367-2765

## HELP WANTED: Part-Time Advertising Marketing Representative

The New Era newspaper is growing—and we’re looking for an enthusiastic, people-oriented Part-Time Advertising / Marketing Representative to join our team!

The New Era now covers all of East Linn County and works with a variety of print and digital publications, offering exciting opportunities to connect local businesses with their community.

### What we’re looking for:

- A friendly, motivated “people person”
- Someone comfortable building relationships and maintaining connections
- Self-starter with good communication skills

### The position offers:

- Base pay + commission
- Mileage reimbursement
- Flexible hours
- Many established accounts that simply need periodic contact and updates
- A supportive team / family atmosphere

If you enjoy helping to build up local businesses, value flexibility, and want to be part of a community-focused media team, we’d love to hear from you!

Reach out by email to [miriam@sweethomenews.com](mailto:miriam@sweethomenews.com).

Tell us briefly why you’d like to join our team-- Please attach a resume that includes at least two references.

## 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](http://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](http://www.lawhelp-california.org)), the California Courts Online Self-Help Center ([www.courtinfo.ca.gov/selfhelp](http://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](http://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 bi-

## Public Notices

enes 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](http://www.lawhelpcalifornia.org)), en el Centro de Ayuda de las Cortes de California, ([www.sucorte.ca.gov](http://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

## Public Notices

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)

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE STATE OF OREGON FOR THE COUNTY OF LINN IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF MAROLYN L. BOND, deceased, Case No. 25PB10986  
**NOTICE TO INTERESTED PERSONS**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the undersigned has been appointed personal representative of the above estate. All persons having claims against the estate are required to present the same, with proper vouchers, to said personal representative at the office of Jessica K. Meyer, Jessica K. Meyer Law, 80 E. Maple St., Lebanon, Oregon 97355, within four months of the date of first publication of this notice, or such claims may be barred.

All persons whose rights may be affected by the proceedings may obtain additional information from the personal representative or the attorneys for the personal representative at the address stated, or from the records of the Court.

Dated January 14, 2026.  
Lori J. Halsey and Jeffrey K. Bond, Personal Representatives. Jessica K. Meyer, OSB #053242 Jessica K. Meyer Law LLC, 80 E. Maple St., Lebanon OR 97355. (1/14)

Sale of Abandoned Manufactured Home: One (1) 1973 Champ Equipment Co. Inc. manufactured dwelling, Plate number X136473, Home identification number 207120, Manufacturer's serial number(s) S6512, with contents (if any) has been abandoned by Gabriel Mena Rosales. The home is located at 950 Airport Rd SE, Spc 90, Albany, OR 97322 (also referred to as 950 Airport Rd SE 90, Albany, OR 97322). Sale shall be by private bidding, with sealed bids, and "as is" (there is no warranty relating to title, possession, quiet enjoyment or the like). Bids must be for a specific stated dollar figure and must be delivered to: Sequoia Estates MHP at 950 Airport Rd Se - Office, Albany, OR 97322 no later than the end of the day on the 26th day of January, 2026. The minimum bid shall be \$11,469.61 which represents an opening bid by Sequoia Estates MHP and which any winning bidder must match or exceed. Upon confirmation of the winning bid, the purchaser must promptly tender full payment in secured funds, only; money order, wire transfer, or cashiers' check and promptly remove the dwelling from the manufactured home park unless a storage agreement can be promptly negotiated between the successful

## Public Notices

bidder and the Park. Future owner occupancy of the dwelling onsite would require successful application for tenancy, screening, and entry into a written rental agreement, none of which will be considered until after the sale is complete. This auction may be cancelled at any time prior to the start of bidding without notice. Please contact Dawn Valenzuela for more information and/or questions at 541-926-6360. (1/14 - 1/21)

The City of Sweet Home hereby invites qualified applicants to submit proposals for the City of Sweet Home's former City Hall building, located at 1140 12th Avenue. The sealed proposals are due in the City's online portal by 5:00 PM on April 2, 2026. Interested and qualified proposers are directed to the City of Sweet Home Procurement Portal at [procurement.opengov.com/portal/sweethomeor](http://procurement.opengov.com/portal/sweethomeor) for detailed information and submittal requirements. (1/14)

**IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE STATE OF OREGON FOR THE COUNTY OF LINN PROBATE DEPARTMENT**

In the Matter of the Estate of HARRIET J. BRAMSEN, Deceased. Case No. 25PB11049  
**NOTICE TO INTERESTED PERSONS**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Brandy Skelton has been appointed Personal Representative of the Estate of Harriet J. Bramsen. All persons having claims against the Estate are required to present them, with vouchers attached to the Personal Representative at: PO Box 12814, Salem OR 97309, within four (4) months after the date of the publication of this notice, or the claims may be barred.

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

Dated and first published: January 14, 2026.  
s/ Andrew W. Sprauer  
Andrew W. Sprauer, OSB #081245

**PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE:** Brandy Skelton 33301 Hwy 99E Tangent OR 97382  
**ATTORNEY FOR PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE:** Andrew W. Sprauer, OSB No. 081245

Andrew Sprauer Law PO Box 12814; Salem OR 97309 Telephone: (503) 910-2050 Email: [andrew@awslawyer.com](mailto:andrew@awslawyer.com) (1/14)

**LEGAL NOTICE TO INTERESTED PERSONS**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the undersigned has been appointed Personal Representative of the Estate of Raymond Farrell, deceased, by the Linn County Circuit Court, State of Oregon, #25PB00039. Persons having claims against the Estate are required to present them, with proper vouchers, within 4 months after the date of publication of this notice to the undersigned or the claims may be barred.

All persons whose rights may be affected by the proceedings may obtain additional information from the Court, the undersigned or the attorney for the undersigned.

Dated and first published January 14, 2026  
Robert Pacitti  
c/o Kevin O'Connell  
O'Connell Hval, LLP  
8555 SW Apple Way, Suite 310

## Public Notices

Portland, Oregon 97225  
Phone: (503) 227-2900  
[koconnell@ohmtaxlaw.com](mailto:koconnell@ohmtaxlaw.com)  
(1/14)

In the Circuit Court of the State of Oregon for the County of Linn, notice is hereby given that Jason Lee Blakeley has been appointed personal representative of the Estate of Roberta Blakeley, deceased, Linn County Circuit Court Case No. 26PB00147.

All persons having claims against the Estate are required to present them, with vouchers attached to the undersigned personal representative to Collier Law at 1020 Liberty Street SE, Salem, Oregon 97302, within four months after the date of publication of this notice, or the claims may be barred.

All persons whose rights may be affected by the proceedings may obtain additional information from the records of the court, the personal representative, or the attorneys for the personal representative.

Jason Lee Blakeley  
Personal representative  
Collier Law  
Ryan W. Collier, OSB No. 972385

Attorney for Personal Representative  
1020 Liberty Street SE  
Salem, OR 97302  
Phone: (503) 485-7224  
(1/14)

**Notice of Public Hearing before the Halsey Planning Commission**  
Wednesday, January 28th, 2026, at 6:00 p.m.

City Hall, 100 W. Halsey Street, Halsey, Oregon

The City of Halsey has received a land use application from Jayson East, requesting approval of a site plan to construct a coffee and food cart business at 1015 W 2nd Street in Halsey. Capitol Coffee will include on-site bathrooms, electrical and plumbing for each cart, and a customer seating area.

The City of Halsey will hold a public hearing before the Planning Commission on Wednesday, January 28th, to consider the land use application. The hearing will be held at 6:00 pm in the upstairs Council Chambers of the Halsey City Hall on the date listed above.

APPLICANT: Jayson East  
PROJECT LOCATION: 1015 W 2nd Street, Halsey, OR  
HALSEY ZONING: Commercial Assessor's Map: 14S-04W-0iDA; tax lots 2000 and 2100

The application, decision criteria and staff report will be available at City Hall for a minimum of seven days prior to the hearing, no later than 4:00 p.m. on January 27th, 2026. A copy of the staff report may be obtained at City Hall or may be viewed on the City of Halsey website.

At the public hearing, the Planning Commission will consider the proposal and receive public testimony. At the conclusion of the hearing, the Planning Commission may deny or approve the application as is or with conditions or modifications. The Planning Commission will make its decision based on criteria found in the Halsey Development Code, Chapter 4.3, Section 4.3.150 "Site Design Review Approval Criteria". The Halsey Development Code can be viewed under "Government" and then "Municipal Code" at the City of Halsey website: <http://www.cityofhalsey.com/>

Any person wishing to provide testimony must address the decision criteria. Failure to raise an issue precludes appeal and failure to specify to which criterion the comment is directed precludes appeal based on that cri-

Public Notices

terion. City Hall is accessible to people with disabilities. Please call City Hall (541-369-2522) by noon the day before the meeting if you need an interpreter for the hearing impaired or any other special accommodation or if you have any questions related to the application.

Written comments may be submitted by mail to the City of Halsey, Attention: City Administrator, P.O. Box 10, Halsey, OR 97348 or faxed to (541) 369-2521, by 4:00 p.m. December 19, 2023. Copies of all materials relied upon by the applicant are available for review and may be obtained for the actual cost of photocopies and postage (if needed). Please contact City Hall with any questions at (541) 369-2522.

For Publication in The New Era January 14th and January 21st, 2026.

(1/14- 1/21)

**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, Dec. 31, 2025-Jan. 30, 2026 (PP 25-10):

Eight books, lighters, vaping devices, clothing, bedding with miscellaneous small items, wallet for Jaime Villafana Chavez, bike frame and tire, backpack, bicycles, insurance card for Dick Reynolds, tents, suitcase, wagon, tarps, tools, bike trailer, EBT card for Donald Rodgers. (12/31 - 1/21)

**Notice of sale of personal property under landlord's possessory lien.**

Personal property left in the following units have been seized for non-payment of rent and will be sold at **The Storage Depot-36666, Hwy 34, Lebanon OR 97355 on January 30, 2026 at 10:00 am:** Nicole Harwood AL49, Jimmy Shepherd AR15, Lance Cain CC19, Jeana Collins DL10, Carol Davies EL11, Shawn Harri-man DC25, Kathleen McClure FC71, Jennifer Strickland BR42, Deborah Ward AR47. (1/7 - 1/14)

**Notice of sale of personal property under landlord's possessory lien.**

Personal property left in the following units have been seized for non-payment of rent and will be sold at **The Storage Depot-4199 Main St. Sweet Home, Or 97386 on January 28, 2026.** The following units are available for viewing at 10:00am and will be sold to the highest bidder: Otis Lozinto - A212, Aaron Jefferson A320, Denise Bermudes A341, John LaBar A416, Glenn Gatliff A423, Christina Cas h A531, Jimmy Joe Brown JR A583, Timothy Roebuck B151, Erik Warren Spencer Hutton B306, Crystal Wiggins C178, Scott Dimick C188, Ronda Cliver

Public Notices

D202, Kelly Orban D224, Meagan Piper D312, Amber Steinborn D357, Samantha Mansell D404, Farrin Geise D425, Curtis Hughes RV39. (1/7 - 1/14)

**Notice of sale of personal property under landlord's possessory lien.**

Personal property left in the following units have been seized for non-payment of rent and will be sold at **The Storage Depot-333 Depot Ave Brownsville, OR 97327 on January 28, 2026 at 12:00 pm:** Hannah Nastaniel (Naftaniel) B0204, Leanne Krause D0416, Khristine Montoya D0401. (1/7 - 1/14)

**Notice of sale of personal property under Landlords Possessory Lien.**

Personal property left in the following units have been seized for Non-payment of rent and will be sold at **The Storage Depot, 2887 SW Ferry St Albany, OR 97322 on January 29th 2026 at 12:00 pm.** The following units are available for viewing and live public sale at 12:00pm: Terry Brooks J2096; Denelle Crommett J2064; Robert Hilliard J2078; Natalie Jones B0216; Lisa Miller G0737; Joanna J Schrock I1049; Manuel Baca, Zuzul Landscape, LLC E0559; Rosalyn Battenfield I1057; Jena Downard A0107; Jane Giles F0614, F0602, & F0668; Chloe Haase J2079; Bree Morgan J2015; Marcus Pitzer H0866; Debra Tilley J2019. (1/7 - 1/14)

**Notice of sale of personal property under Landlords Possessory lien.**

Personal property left in the

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 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.

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

Public Notices

following units have been seized for Non-payment of rent and will be sold at **The Storage Depot, 111 Davidson St. NE Albany, OR 97321 January 29, 2026 at 10:00am.** Patrick Wood E32, Alyssa Brazington C101, Rafael Mora C60, Kelly Adam E1, Randy Smith RGS Auto F54; Tiffany Ingram C43, Aimey Jamieson C71, Gail Cockrell F94. (1/7 - 1/14)

For Rent

**New Townhome 3 bed, 2.5 bath - Sweet Home, Pets OK. \$1600/mo \$1600/deposit. (503) 580-1961 (1/07 -1/14)**

For Sale



**Adult tricycle, excellent condition, New tires, new brakes. Price \$250.00 - 541-570-0329**

For Sale

**Late 1800's Teacher's Desk, small wood stove with pipe. Various furniture & building materials 458-266-5245 (1/14)**

Statewide Notices

855-980-4382.

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

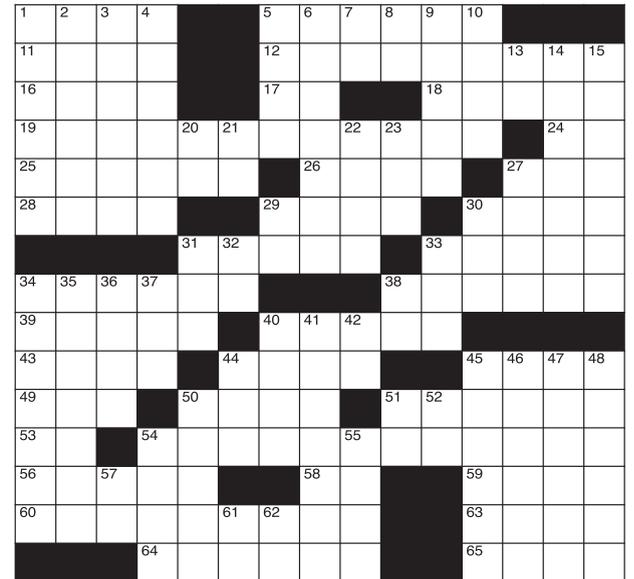
**SERVICES:** Jacuzzi Bath Remodel can install a new, custom bath or shower in as little as one day. For a limited time, waiving ALL installation costs! Additional terms apply. Subject to change and vary by dealer. (Offer ends 12/31/25.) Call 1-855-341-5268.

**SERVICES:** Prepare for power outages today with a Generac Home Standby Generator. Act now to receive a FREE 5-Year warranty with qualifying purchase. Call 1-877-557-1912 today to schedule a free quote. It's not just a generator. It's a power move.

**SERVICES:** Portable Oxygen Concentrator May Be Covered by Medicare! Reclaim independence and mobility with the compact design and long-lasting battery of Inogen One. Free information kit! Call 855-839-0752.

**SERVICES:** No more cleaning out gutters. Guaranteed! Leaf-Filter is backed by a no-clog guarantee and lifetime transferable warranty. Call today 1-855-536-8838 to schedule a FREE inspection and no obligation estimate. Get 15% off your entire order. Plus, Military & Seniors get an additional 10% off. Limited time only. Restrictions apply, see representative for warranty and offer details.

CROSSWORD



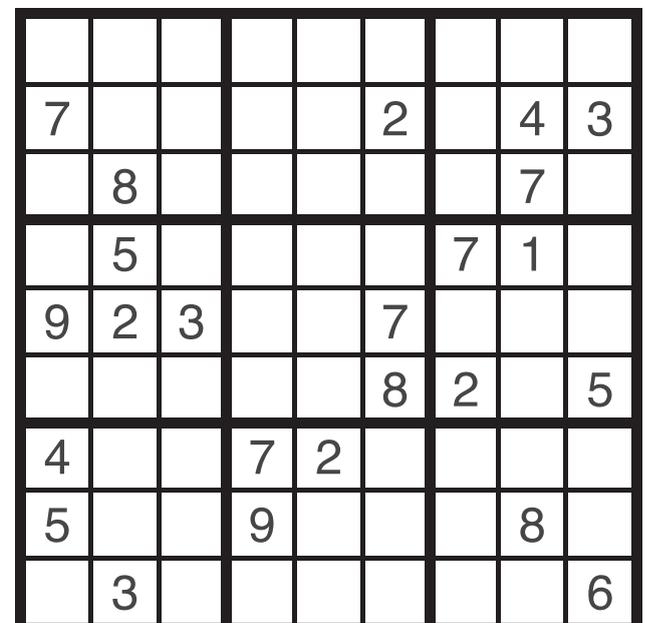
CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Monetary unit of Iran
- 5. Soared the seas
- 11. Ornamental box
- 12. Involuntary
- 16. German term for Prague
- 17. Lethal dose
- 18. Where rockers play
- 19. Quality of being based on one's own feelings
- 24. 12th letter of the Greek alphabet
- 25. People of Asia
- 26. Uttered
- 27. Unhappy
- 28. British pop duo
- 29. The Muse of history
- 30. Greek cheese
- 31. Semi-aquatic fish-eating mammal
- 33. Horse racing list
- 34. Add as an attachment
- 38. Thinly scattered
- 39. Northeastern American state
- 40. Decorative design
- 43. Sea eagle
- 44. European river
- 45. Ancient kingdom near Dead Sea
- 49. Pick on
- 50. Easily manageable
- 51. Ingratiating insincerely
- 53. Commercial
- 54. Combining radio waves
- 56. Political divisions
- 58. Football's biggest event (abbr.)
- 59. Genus of true owls
- 60. One to whom something is mailed
- 63. It can sometimes be full
- 64. Bird of prey
- 65. Diarist Frank

CLUES DOWN

- 1. Carpenter's saw
- 2. Sudden arrival of something
- 3. Peninsula between the Red Sea and the Persian Gulf
- 4. Impasse
- 5. Pepper's partner
- 6. Perceptible by the ear
- 7. Stephen King's clown tale
- 8. \_\_\_ and behold
- 9. Related on the mother's side
- 10. A fish worth finding
- 13. Of I
- 14. Convicts
- 15. Having a tail
- 20. \_\_\_ masse
- 21. Culinary specialist
- 22. Kind of fur
- 23. What couples say
- 27. One with unusual powers of foresight
- 29. Connecticut
- 30. Fed'l Housing Administration
- 31. Smallest whole number
- 32. Touchdown
- 33. Sunscreen rating
- 34. Old Hess Corp.'s name
- 35. Marched through
- 36. A sharp high-pitched metallic sound
- 37. Between northeast and east
- 38. Sports magazine
- 40. Female horse
- 41. A way to supervise
- 42. Tantalum
- 44. Was in session
- 45. Bahrain capital
- 46. Prayer
- 47. Membranes
- 48. Belong to an earlier time
- 50. Affirmatives
- 51. South Dakota
- 52. Sinatra hit "\_\_\_ Way"
- 54. Villain's enemy
- 55. A way to conform
- 57. Doctor of Medicine
- 61. Starting price
- 62. Junior's father

SUDOKU



Level: Intermediate

# Lebanon Fire District faces more calls, less staff

Lebanon Fire District reported it responded to 7,181 emergency incidents in 2025.

The district said it has seen an increase of nearly 7% in calls since 2022, and added that the growing community also involves a growing demand for emergency services. However, certain limitations are straining their ability to respond with adequate staffing.

"Fire protection and emergency medical services are directly tied to the size of the community we serve," Fire Chief John Tacy said. "As Lebanon continues to grow, our firefighters are responding to more calls across a larger and more active city."

In 2025, ambulances and firefighter-paramedics responded to the majority of incidents, providing patient care, transporting patients and remaining at hospitals until transfer of care was complete. While out on those calls, units are unable to respond to new emergencies coming in during that time.

The district said that providing ambulance service has become more challenging in recent years. According to them, rising operational costs, funding limitations, inflation and ongoing staffing shortages have affected EMS systems across Oregon and the nation, including Lebanon.

Exacerbating the situation, the district has faced increasing difficulty recruiting and retaining qualified paramedics.

As such, the LFD said it is forced to reduce ambulance staffing.

In 2024, the district decided it would take one medic ambulance, known as M30, out of service, effective January 2026. Once implemented, the reduction will leave even fewer ambulances available to respond to emergencies, further straining limited resources



File Photo

Calls for service from Lebanon Fire District have increased nearly 7% since 2022.

during periods of high medical call volume.

The reduction in ambulance service may translate into remaining units being used for longer periods of time, and crews will have to carefully coordinate responses and prioritize calls when emergencies happen simultaneously.

When looking at how often incidents occur at the same time, the impact of the workload becomes clearer.

Last year, 2,054 incidents occurred without any other emergency happening concurrently. The remaining 5,127 calls overlapped with one or more active incidents. Many overlapped with two or three others, and on several occasions the district was managing six or more emergencies at once.

Each incident commits firefighters, ambulances and engines for the duration of the call, meaning those same re-

sources are not available for new emergencies until they return to service.

The district understands that for many residents it may appear each emergency has a dedicated crew waiting at the station, but in reality, the same firefighters, engines and ambulances are shared across all calls. As such, when incidents overlap, response distances can increase and fewer options are available until additional resources arrive or neighboring agencies are able to assist.

The reality becomes especially clear during structure fires, they said. National standards for career fire agencies recommend a minimum of four firefighters on each engine or truck company and at least 15 firefighters on the initial alarm for a low-hazard structure fire, with additional staffing required for higher-risk or larger incidents.

These standards exist because many critical tasks must occur at the same time, including search and rescue, hose line advancement, ventilation, water supply, fire suppression and firefighter safety operations.

For a typical single-family house fire, recommended staffing would include approximately 15 firefighters plus a battalion chief, who serves as the incident commander and oversees the entire fireground. One engine company would be assigned to fire attack, with a lieutenant and firefighter advancing a hose line inside the structure while an engineer operated the pump. A second engine company would provide a backup hose line, again staffed with a lieutenant, firefighter and engineer.

A truck company would typically handle rescue and ventilation functions, and would be staffed with a lieutenant, engi-

neer and firefighter. Two medic units would also be assigned. One medic crew would serve as the Rapid Intervention Crew, dedicated to firefighter rescue if needed, while the second medic crew would provide medical support and rotate with interior crews to manage fatigue and safety.

Altogether, this structure provides the recommended 15 firefighters and one battalion chief, meeting the national minimum for a low-hazard residential fire. In Lebanon, initial fire responses often begin with fewer firefighters until additional on-duty crews, volunteers, off-duty personnel or mutual-aid partners arrive. When fires occur during periods of heavy medical activity or multiple simultaneous incidents, available staffing may already be spread across the community.

LFD operates as a special service district, which means it is funded differently than city departments such as police or public works. Rather than drawing from the City of Lebanon's general fund, the fire district relies primarily on a dedicated tax base set at the time of its formation. That funding structure does not automatically increase as population, call volume or service demands grow, making long-term planning closely tied to changes in the community it serves.

Throughout 2025, LFD firefighters responded to every call for help while also balancing training requirements, equipment maintenance and coordination with regional partners. That workload often meant crews were moving directly from one incident to the next, with limited opportunities to return to stations, reset staffing or restore full coverage before another call came in.

The data from the year illustrates how emergency response operates as a shared, finite system - one that becomes increasingly stretched as call volume grows and incidents overlap more frequently.

"As our community grows and calls increase and overlap more frequently, understanding how emergency response works becomes increasingly important," Tacy said.

Residents interested in learning more about call volume, response trends and operational data can explore the district's public data dashboards at [data.lebanonfire-oregon.gov](http://data.lebanonfire-oregon.gov).

The data hub is continually being updated and expanded, with additional dashboards planned in the coming months to provide greater transparency and insight into district operations. Additional information about services, programs and community resources is available at [LebanonFireOregon.gov](http://LebanonFireOregon.gov).



## LINN SHUTTLE

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

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

**LEBANON:**  
WALMART  
LBCC  
PARK & OAK

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

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

541-367-4775 | [LINNSHUTTLE.COM](http://LINNSHUTTLE.COM) | FIND US ON FACEBOOK



### DIAL-A-BUS

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



### SWEET HOME SHOPPER

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

# Sweet Home wrestlers shine in home meets

By Ryker Burr  
For The New Era

Sweet Home's boys were not only the hosts but the winners of the Special District 2 Duals for boys Saturday, Jan. 10.

Actually, the Huskies dominated. Sweet Home won all of its duals with 10 wrestlers going undefeated.

The most-anticipated match was Sweet Home versus Cascade, a team that is expected to also make some noise at state, but the contest didn't live up to the hype. Cascade managed only four victories against the Huskies, who steam-rolled past the Cougars 84-19.

Cascade even avoided taking on defending-state-champion Dillan Davis by forfeiting that match. The move was illegal because a wrestler had already reported, but regardless, it didn't help the Cougars. The plan resulted in a major-decision loss versus James Hearick, who bested Ellis Byers 17-7.

"I wanted that dual because Cascade didn't," Thorpe stated, who proceeded to express his takeaways from the dual: "I learned we are very offensively aggressive. The boys wanted that dual too. Several moved down weight classes to make us a better team."

The Huskies beat Newport

81-0, North Marion 77-3 and Cottage Grove 77-5.

Thorpe highlighted several individual efforts: "Lynkin Royer is wrestling very well. Then it's your usual suspects: Riley Vaughan, Jesse Landtroop, Cody Sieminski, and Jeremiah Steagall; all wrestled very well. Our JV guys did very well too, we got to show off our depth."

Sweet Home also hosted the delayed Sweet Home Duals, rescheduled from Dec. 17, on Thursday, Jan. 8, but scores from those matches with Stayton, Elmira and Central were not available.

Both teams won all their duals. Every Husky boy who wrestled pinned his opponent in under a minute.

"Our girls team was bigger than every team they faced," said Thorpe, who is looking for his 11th straight state trophy.

On Wednesday, Jan. 7, both the boys and girls traveled to North Salem, where the Sweet Home boys were dominant, the varsity boys winning 57-13 and the JV 62-6, North Salem's JV points coming from a forfeit at 113 pounds. The Huskies won all but three of the other weight divisions by falls.

The Husky girls lost 44-34,



Photo courtesy of Ryker Burr  
James Hearick faces off against Cascade's Ellis Byers.

but Natasha Marin (110) and Bella Rico (130) both won by falls and, Bailey Chafin won a major decision over Padience Harris at 135 to pace the Huskies, who also benefited from three forfeits.

Next week Sweet Home will be looking to check off one of its biggest goals of the season: an Oregon Classic crown.

The 4A Division dual tournament will begin on Friday, Jan. 16 at Deschutes Fair grounds, then conclude the following day. Both teams will begin wrestling at 11 a.m on Friday

# Linn-Benton announces Honor Roll

The following students at Linn-Benton Community College earned a grade point average of 3.5 or higher for 12 or more graded credits during fall term, September to December 2025, as reported by the college. These do not include pass/no pass or incomplete credits.

Lebanon: Summer Adams, Tim Anderson, Olivia Andra, Peter Baker, Jackie Baldizan, Benjamin Baley, Jake Begaye, Ashlyne Bjorklund, Caleb Black, Eliana Blount, Matthew Blount, Mariah Bradley, Ashlyn Brinson, Sailor Brubaker, Kaitlyn Broughton, Valerie Castellano, Lily Chandler, Quentin Cline, Porter Mhoon-Coatney, Rachel Costa, Aliyah Cox, Aidyn Diodato, Evan Diviney, Emily Dowswell, Kaz Dunn, Ethan Estrada, Gunner Fenerty, Tanner Ferschweiler, Georgia Francis, Patrick Franco, Lilah Gandy, Nathaniel Gee, Ashton Gilham, Kristina Gomez, Alivia Griffiths, Matthew Halaj, Lori Haley, Becca Hannen, Cole Harnar, Dallas Headley, Cherie Heingartner, Lilly Henderson, Kiera Hollister, Alicia Hunt, Joseph Johnson, Dominique Klahold, Curtis Koenig, Brayden Lambert, Sleeper Ledford, Matthew Livezey, Janet Lopez, James Lovell, Shelby MacLaughlin-Johnson, Amy Marker,

Jaymeson McFarlin, Megan Mclemore, Elsy Prado Mendoza, Samantha Millerbis, Gustavo Morales, Lindsey Ness, Loretta Newton-Mendenhall, Dakota Olivos, Kade Olsen, Dominique Ortega, Olivia Parris, William Parsons, Michael Plagmann, Blake Presley, Jocelyn Ramirez, Luke Rose, Gabe Schlabach, Izabel Scott, Sam Scott, Justin Sears, Connor Smith, Avery Spikerman, Hope Staneart, Ethan Stumbough, Josh Tallman, Noah Taylor, Rebecca Thomas, Iseabel Thomson, Micheal Timmons, Susanna Tuomi, Finley Vandiver, Mady Vandiver, Nyssa Vaughan, Emma Veuleman, Josh Vokes, Paige Warren, Savannah West, Daje White and Colton Whittier.

Sweet Home: Blake Arthur, Christalle Barron, Bre Bittner, Russell Bomandeke, Wes Burkett, PJ Castro, Rebekah Cook, Misty Cunningham, Mia Davis, Phoebe Denbo, Christian Dominy, Kaydence Egner, Judson Emmons, Adrienne Funk, Dylan Gagner, Carter Hay, Huston Holly, Steven Jones, Rebecca Lankford, Clarice Lugo, Stacey Nader, McKenzie Paslay, Laylend Peterson, Rafael Ramos, Nikki Reynolds, Shiloh Robinson, Hunter Ross and Cade Sawyer.

# BUSINESS DIRECTORY LOVE WHERE YOU LIVE, SHOP WHERE YOU LIVE.

**ADVERTISE YOUR BUSINESS HERE**

ONLY \$26 PER WEEK

CALL 541-367-2135

**AUTO REPAIR**

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

**EQUIPMENT**

**CASCADE**  
OUTDOOR POWER EQUIPMENT  
"Powerful Equipment, Local Service"  
HOURS: M-F 8AM-5PM  
SAT 8AM-NOON

1215 W AIRWAY ROAD  
LEBANON OR 97355  
CASCADEPOWERLEBANON.COM  
541-451-5213

**FURNITURE**

2550 S. SANTIAM HWY

(541) 259-3646

**HOME & GARDEN**

**SUMMIT**  
HOME & GARDEN  
541-258-7107  
www.summitacehg.com

ASK ABOUT FREE DELIVERY  
FINANCING OPTIONS AVAILABLE

MON- FRI 7:30AM-6PM  
SATURDAY 8AM-5PM  
1055 TANGENT ST. LEBANON

**INSURANCE**

**Eriksen & Irwin Agency**  
Enriching The Lives In The Communities We Serve

**COUNTRY FINANCIAL**  
Auto • Home • Life  
Business • Retirement  
(541) 223-0404

**INSURANCE**

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

**INSURANCE**

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

**JEWELRY**

**Trem's Jewelry**  
Custom Design  
Diamond Specialist  
722 S. Main Street  
tremsjewelry.com  
(541) 258-2888

**LOANS**

**LOAN DEPOT**  
**JOLENE MULLENIX**  
Loan Consultant  
NMLS#853502  
(541) 570-2322  
www.loanDepot.com/jmulle

Equal Housing Opportunity | 56 E. Airport Rd., Lebanon, OR 97355. loanDepot.com, LLC/NMLSID 174457. Licensed by the OR Division of Finance and Corporate Securities, Mortgage Lending ML-4972. (091923 120284-1723)

**PLUMBING**

CCB #238181

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

**REAL ESTATE**

**OREGON REAL ESTATE PROFESSIONALS LLC**  
2345 S. Santiam Hwy., Lebanon  
oregonrealestateprofessionals.com  
(541) 258-6100

**RV SALES & SUPPLIES**

**SWEET HOME RV CENTER LLC**  
RV Sales, Service, Repair, Parts,  
Appliances, Awnings, Propane, Solar and Batteries!  
RV Waste Dump Open 24/7 Stop in Today!

**MOBILE RV REPAIR SVC AVAILABLE NOW**

Established in 1974  
Open 7 days a week  
4691 HWY 20  
sweethomervcenter.com  
(541) 367-4293

**THRIFT STORE**

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

**TIRE / AUTO REPAIR**

**POINT S TIRE & AUTO SERVICE**  
4420 Hwy 20  
Family Owned  
541-367-4579 (Alignment)  
pointstire.com/sweethome

TIRES - WHEELS - SUSPENSION  
ALIGNMENT - BRAKES - OIL CHANGE  
(541) 367-2462

# SH boys fall to Sisters, face St. Helens to end preseason

By Keeghan Gittins  
For The New Era

Sweet Home's boys played only one game last week due to a cancellation of a game scheduled for Friday, Jan. 9 at third-ranked Madras.

On Jan. 6 the Huskies lost 63-50 to Sisters, who will be in their league next year when Sweet Home drops down to the 3A Division.

The Huskies have lost two straight and were 5-7 coming into this week, sliding to No. 22 in the OSA ranking.

Their last non-league game is on the road at No. 7 St. Helens on Tuesday, Jan. 13. The Lions are stacked with height, having seven players above 6 feet, five of them over 6-2. Five of the

Huskies stand over 6 feet.

Still, they are averaging in the 45 to 50 point area with their high coming at Cottage Grove Dec. 9, where they scored 66 points.

St. Helens is averaging about 57 PPG, with a high of 78 points.

The teams' common opponents are Molalla and Seaside, the Lions beat Seaside 52-36, while Sweet Home beat the Seagulls 51-40. They both lost to Molalla, Sweet Home 63-54, While St. Helens lost 81-70.

Oregon West Conference action will start for the Huskies the following Tuesday, Jan. 20, at 16 Philomath. Their first home league game will be against Stayton Jan. 23.

- Keeghan Gittins



Gavin Kauffman scrambles for a loose ball with Sisters' Tee-gan Schwartz. See more photos at [sweethomenews.com](http://sweethomenews.com).

Photo courtesy of Kristine Banker

## Husky girls enter league as one of top hoops defenses

The Sweet Home girls basketball team is off to its best start in years, heading into league play with a winning record secured regardless of the outcome of Tuesday's game.

Sweet Home lost at home to Sisters, 33-27, last week, but the Huskies currently boast the best defensive unit in the Oregon West Conference and the second-best defense in all of Class 4A - and a 6-4 record coming into this week.

The only team allowing fewer points statewide is their upcoming opponent, No. 9 St. Helens, who were scheduled to visit on Tuesday, Jan. 9, after The New Era went to press.

The Lions, whose record was 6-3 coming into this week - The Lions have two players above six foot, one



Photo courtesy of Kristine Banker

Aubrey Newberry, left, and Brooke Elder battle with Sisters' Althea Crabtree for a rebound. See more photos at [sweethomenews.com](http://sweethomenews.com).

of them 6-2. Sweet Home will have to figure out how to overcome such odds in order to compete.

Despite a canceled home game Friday against Madras, Sweet Home has continued to make a statement on both ends of the floor, allowing fewer points than No. 1-ranked Stayton, while also ranking fourth offensively in the Oregon West Conference.

As league play begins, the Huskies have positioned themselves as a legitimate contender built on disciplined defense and balanced scoring.

Sweet Home will travel open Oregon West Conference play Tuesday, Jan. 20, at No. 4 Philomath Jan 20, and will host No. 1 Stayton Friday, Jan. 23, at 7 p.m.

- Keeghan Gittins

CCB# 208491

**WALKER**  
HEATING & AC, INC.  
Residential & Commercial

**\$145 SYSTEM TUNE UP  
\$95 DIAGNOSTIC**

**DID YOU KNOW WE...**

- Run Gas Line
- Sell & Install Water Heaters
- Offer Financing
- System Maintenance
- Install Gas Stoves
- Commercial HVAC
- Duct and Dryer Vent Cleaning
- Free Estimates on New Equipment
- New Construction & Remodels
- Are Trane & Mitsubishi Dealers

 **TRANE**  
It's Hard To Stop A Trane.

**541-367-8706**  
**2222 MAIN ST. SWEET HOME**

**OREGON DREAM HOME ART PARTY**

Create Your Dream Home Collage  
Imagine your next home one piece at a time!

**Thursday, January 22, 2026**  
6:30 pm to 8:30 pm  
Jim Riggs Community Center  
878 18th St, Sweet Home, OR 97386

Snacks courtesy of Taylor Made Cafe & Bakery  
Free community art event. Children welcome with parent or guardian.

Hosted by Tamara Shinko, Broker  
Keller Williams Realty Mid-Willamette  
503 951-7638  
[tamarashinko.kw.com](http://tamarashinko.kw.com)

RSVP 

 Each office is independently owned and operated

### PUBLIC SAFETY

From page 6

the windows, turned heat off and left residence in 1200 block 40th Ave. Caller unable to shut windows. Officer responded to find family on scene. Ongoing issues at location. Parties advised of options.

5:43 p.m. - Caller reported two

pairs of shoes stolen from porch in 1200 block 38th Ave. Officer responded, report taken for theft III.

7:23 p.m. - Caller reported female lying in crosswalk, Main St./47th Ave. Officer rescinded, contacted female, who was OK. She was given courtesy ride home.

7:32 p.m. - Individual texted help line stating they wanted to jump

in front of semi truck and wanted to go to hospital. Officer responded to 1400 block 24th Ave. Provided individual with courtesy ride to SLCH.

### Jan. 7

**LCSO/OSP Lebanon**  
2:24 p.m. - Edwin Norman, 60, of Lebanon, cited for failing to license three dogs, 29300 block Santiam Hwy. Report taken.

4:53 p.m. - John Cote, 37, of Sweet Home, cited for speeding, 60/40, Santiam Hwy./KGAL Dr.

5:16 p.m. - Kaitlyn Kuzman, 23, of Lebanon, cited for speeding, 63/40, Santiam Hwy./KGAL Dr.

5:32 p.m. - Daniel Culver, 25, of Lebanon, cited for speeding, 63/40, Santiam Hwy./KGAL Dr.

5:35 p.m. - Paola Montenegro, 35, of Lebanon, cited for driving without privileges, 2400 block S. Santiam Hwy.

See more and updated Public Safety reports at [sweethomenews.com](http://sweethomenews.com) and [lebanonlocalnews.com](http://lebanonlocalnews.com).

**SANTIAM PLACE**  
Wedding & Event Hall

**Table & Chair Rentals**  
Indoor Farmers Market  
Thursday, 2pm - 6 pm  
Begins January 15th

139 Main St., Lebanon | 541-259-4255  
[WWW.SANTIAMPLACE.COM](http://WWW.SANTIAMPLACE.COM)

