

The New Era

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SWEET HOME • LEBANON • AND SURROUNDING COMMUNITIES

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New mascot fruitful addition to school spirit

By Sarah Brown
Of The New Era

After planting the seed year after year, the Lebanon High School student body is now seeing the fruit of their labors.

During a special assembly on Thursday, Jan. 15, ASB Student Body President Cade Weber introduced a sweet treat: the school's new "spirit mascot," in the form of a strawberry.

The mascot, named LW Berry ("L Dub"), sprouted from the efforts of the Associated Student Body, class officers and other students.

Principal Craig Swanson said that, in his seven years at the high school, he's had "many, many" students talk to him about getting a mascot, but it was Weber who harvested the yield.

"This ASB president wanted action and worked tirelessly with a committee – myself as principal, our superintendent, our communications director – to deliver something that you guys are all going to be able to rally behind," he said.

Weber said it was a very student-driven effort seeded by various members of lead-



LW "L Dub" Berry walks through the gym doorway in his first appearance at Lebanon High School during a special "mascot reveal" rally.

ership, administration and other coaches and staff, but the student body was also polled on the locally grown idea.

Lead students on the project researched mascots from the country for inspiration, which ultimately led

them to realize they wanted to pick an idea "that was clearly unique and tied to Lebanon," he said.

As such, there were no other contenders in the basket to choose from.

"The strawberry was always the leading idea be-

cause of the strong connection to Lebanon community identity," Weber said.

Some more quirky or unique high school mascots in the nation include the Boiling Spring Bubblers

See Mascot, Page 19

Photo by Sarah Brown

Sweet Home man arrested after 1st Avenue standoff

By Scott Swanson
Of The New Era

Law enforcement officials from Sweet Home, Linn County and Albany converged on the 900 block of 1st Avenue Tuesday afternoon, Jan. 13, in an attempt to apprehend Jason Scott, who was wanted on multiple charges and had holed up in a house at 925 1st Ave.

The incident began shortly after noon after Sweet Home police received a tip that Scott was at the residence.

SHPD Capt. Ryan Cummings said Scott had told others that he was wanted for warrants. According to county records, he was wanted on five bench warrants for failure to appear.

Scott had been involved in a Nov. 13, 2025, incident in which he was a passenger in a pickup truck that had led officers in a chase before crashing at the corner of 1st Avenue and Hwy. 20, next to Clover Park.

Scott, who had a felony warrant at that time, was arrested but was taken to the hospital with injuries, police said at the time.

On Tuesday, SHPD officers attempted contact and confirmed Scott was in the residence, but he refused to come outside, Cummings said.



Photo by Scott Swanson

Law enforcement officials, including two SWAT teams, converge on the American Legion parking lot Tuesday, Jan. 13, after being summoned to respond to a standoff on 1st Avenue.

"SWAT was contacted as a result of the suspect's criminal history, a current charge involving a firearm, and lack of any known danger to the other people in the residence," Cummings said.

He said other individuals in the residence came out voluntarily.

"We don't believe the suspect officially resides there," Cummings said.

SWAT teams and vehicles

from Albany police and the Linn County Sheriff's Office responded to the American Legion Hall at the corner of 1st and Holley Road, the former Fir Lawn Lutheran Church.

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DRUM**



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IN GALLERY EXHIBIT
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SH WRESTLERS WIN
OREGON CLASSIC
PAGE 20**

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OBITUARIES

Walt Richmond

Walt Richmond, 78, of Eugene, passed away surrounded by family on Jan. 7, 2026.

He served his country and community with honor and virtue. Richmond served over 18 years on Lebanon's Police Force, 11½ of those as Chief of Police.

He is survived by his wife, Donna Richmond; sons Brenton and Andy; five grandchildren, four great-grandchildren; sisters Loreen and Arleta; and four nieces.

A service to honor his life will be held at 1 p.m. on Feb. 28 at East Side Baptist Church, 4045 Commercial Ave. Springfield.

He was a son, brother, husband, dad, uncle, granddad and great-granddad. He was a man, a good man! He was loved.

Lois Schaffer

Sept. 12, 1934 - Dec. 18, 2025

Lois Lorraine (Barrett) Schaffer, 91, formerly of Prineville and Sweet Home, died Dec. 18, 2025, in Spokane, Wash.

Lois, the oldest of three children of Delbert and Elsie Barrett, was born Sept. 12, 1934, in Newport. During her school years, her family moved over 10 times, settling in Prineville, where she graduated from Crook County High School.

After high school, she moved to Springfield to attend beauty school. While there, she met Larry Schaffer on a blind date. They married on Feb. 9, 1954, in Reno, Nev.

Lois believed her main job was to take care of Larry. She did this well. She and Larry enjoyed 64 years of marriage before his passing in 2018.

Lois had many hobbies including sewing, knitting, and reading. While living in Prineville she made wedding dresses for many brides, formals for proms and other events. She was also known for knitting many gifts: tablecloths, baby blankets, scarves, shawls, lace collars, etc., over her many years.

Lois also enjoyed a party and could be seen with a drink in one hand and a cigar in the other. As the wife of Larry, she lived in Lorane, Eugene, Prineville, Albany, Lebanon, Sweet Home and Soldotna, Alaska.

Over her years, she learned all about farm life. The last farm was near Sweet Home, where they lived for 27 years, mainly raising pigs.

Lois and Larry moved to Nine Mile Falls, Wash., nine years ago to be near family.

Lois is survived by her three daughters and their spouses: Diana and Shannon Stebbens, Lynn and Roger Marcoulier and Sheila and Mike Arrasmith; five grandchildren; and eight great-grandchildren.

No services will be held at this time.



THE NEW ERA

on the road...



The New Era went with Ken and Fran Bronson to Pensacola, Fla., for the Change of Command Ceremony of Fran's son, Commander Jonathan J. Lushenko, USN outgoing Commanding Officer of Training Squadron TWO (VT-2 Doerbirds) at Pensacola Naval Base. Pictured, from left, are the Bronsons, Commander Jon Lushenko (holding The New Era), his wife Mallory Lushenko and USN Retired Captain Roger and Mrs. Houk, Mallory's parents.

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TAKING A TRIP?
Make sure we go with you! Pack along a copy of The New Era, get a picture of yourself with the newspaper in front of a landmark, and send us a photo with appropriate explanatory information to miriam@sweethomenews.com or drop it by our office at 1313 Main St. Sweet Home.

Travel photos selected for print will receive a complimentary gift package courtesy of Memory Making Adventures. Gift packages are limited to one per person per year. Photos are selected at the editor's discretion. The New Era on the Road photos must be taken at a place of significance, preferably located outside a three-hour radius of Linn County, and our editorial approval.

Roy grew up in Oakridge, Eugene and Lowell. He graduated from Lowell High School, then joined the U.S. Army and Reserves from November 23, 1962 through Oct. 31, 1968. After an honorable discharge from the Army, Roy worked for Pan Am Airlines in San Francisco. Roy and Irene made a home in Pacifica, Calif., where they raised children and grandchildren.



In 1993, Roy left Pan Am Airlines and they moved to Sweet Home. Roy enjoyed camping, hunting, fishing, archery, cooking, growing and preserving food, reading and music.

Roy is survived by children, Larry Brown (Maggi), Linda (Brown) Vella, Karen Brown and Sheila Steinborn; brothers Carl Long (Joyce) of Sweet Home, Bill Steinborn (Judy) of Coeur d'Alene, Idaho, and Bob Steinborn (Shirley) of Tacoma, Wash.; sister, Kathie Pomrankey (Doug) of Sandpoint, Idaho; many grandchildren, great-grandchildren, nephews and nieces, and great-nephews and nieces.

He was preceded in death by his loving wife, Irene (Beall) Brown Steinborn; his parents; and siblings Gary, John, Mary and David Steinborn.

Celebration of Life with military honors will be at 11 a.m. Saturday, April 4, at Sweet Home Community Center.

Roy and Irene will be interred at Roseburg National Cemetery. In lieu of flowers, Roy preferred donations to Rocky Mountain Elk Founda-

CORRECTIONS

Gavin Tyler was incorrectly identified in a photo of the Sweet Home boys' basketball game against Sisters in the Jan. 14 edition.

Sweet Home Funeral Chapel is handling the arrangements.

Barbara Woody

Sept. 7, 1935 - Jan. 14, 2026

Barbara Alice Woody, 90, of Albany, formerly of Sweet Home, passed away Jan. 14, 2026.



She was born Sept. 7, 1935, in Clatskanie to Hans Harold and Ellen Elizabeth (Edmons) Viuhkola.

Barbara went to school in Portland. After she married Johnny Woody, they moved to Sweet Home in 1960. In 1962, they built a home in Crawfordville, where they resided until Johnny passed in 1995. Barbara then chose to travel between her different homes in Oregon.

Barbara was an excellent pianist and loved to play the piano at church. She was a member of Elm Street Baptist Church at one point. She also loved visiting with family and

friends. Barbara is survived by her children: Jeff Woody of Douglasville, Ga., and Roy Woody and Max Woody, both of Sweet Home; and seven grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her husband Johnny in 1995 her parents; and a sister, Lois.

A graveside service was held Jan. 19 at Gilliland Cemetery.

Sweet Home Funeral Chapel is handling the arrangements.

Death Notices

Freddie Jane Meyers, 96, of Sweet Home passed away Jan. 12, 2026.

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

David Walker Story, 77, of Sweet Home passed away Jan. 15, 2026.

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

Kathryn Heinonen

April 9, 1946 - Nov. 27, 2025

Kathryn JoAnn Heinonen, 79, of Sweet Home, passed away Nov. 27, 2025, at the age of 79.



She was born April 9, 1946, in Duluth, Minn., to Kenneth Erickson and Esther Johansen. She graduated from Clover Valley High School in 1964.

She married Clifford Eugene Heinonen in Duluth, and together raised two children, Ann Staten and Robert Heinonen, and were later blessed with two grandchildren, Gregory Davis and Casey Staten, who brought her immeasurable joy.

Kathryn spent many years working as a skilled seamstress at Caddis Manufacturing and Sterns, where she helped craft lifejackets and other garments. Later in life, she worked as a receptionist.

In 1986, Kathryn and her

family moved from Minnesota to Florida, then settled in Oregon in 1990.

Kathryn had a deep love for crocheting, and she created countless handmade treasures for friends and family - each one stitched with love and care.

Kathryn is survived by her daughter, Ann Staten, and her two grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Clifford Eugene Heinonen; sister Mary Johnson; and her son, Robert Heinonen.

The family asks, in lieu of flowers, to please donate towards funeral costs at:

<https://www.weddle-funeral.com/obituaries/kathryn-heinonen>.

Roy Steinborn

June 13, 1942 - Jan. 7, 2026

Roy Alvin Steinborn, 83, of Sweet Home passed away Wednesday, Jan. 7, 2026. He was born on June 13, 1942 to Thelma Ada (Flock) and Augusta "Butch" Charles Steinborn.

EVENTS

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

See Events, Page 4

FROM OUR FILES



John Spurgeon, of Cascadia, is among the 203 persons who helped Sweet Home set a new blood donation record in 1951. Helping to check him in is Mrs. Lawrence Parker, of Lebanon.

Jan. 25, 1951

A rodent control consultant reported to the Linn County health office that very little rat evidence was found in Sweet Home's business section, but evidence was observed in the city dump. He noted "garbage storage and collection is far from satisfactory," with less than half the city receiving garbage service and "refuse was observed in all sections of the city." He urged the city to improve storage, collection and disposal of refuse here.

A total of 528 arrests resulting in 226 days in jail and \$6,737 in collected fines was reported for 1950. Felonies included eight burglaries, seven larcenies, six auto larcenies, three forgeries, two assault and robbery, one obtaining money by false pretense (check), one rape and one sodomy.

The four-hour City Council meeting was devoted mostly to discussions about sewer projects, one of which is a proposal for sewer installation on both sides of Ames Creek south of Long Street and extending east from the Ames Creek bridge to a point almost behind the Bohemian Club.

Jan. 22, 1976

An auction benefitting the Ambulance Fund netted \$3,325 from the sale of old

hospital equipment and parking meters, which were the most popular lots for sale. The oldest, one-cent meters sold first at \$50 apiece, and sale prices for each meter continued to drop until all 50 were sold. As a result, the city will be able to buy at least one life pack for ambulance use.

A 700-pound dumpster was reported missing from Truax Service (890 Main St.) until it was later found in Ames Creek due to someone having pushed it into the water. It was noted that the dumpster could have floated all the way to Albany if the water was higher.

Jan. 24, 2001

Shawn Severns, of Sweet Home, walked away with \$50,000 from "Powerball: The Game Show" after placing first on the program. Contestants come from the 10 states where the scratch-off version is played. Bored one day, Severns gathered his loser tickets and mailed them in for a chance at the TV game. His wife, Firiell, chewed him out for using the last of their stamps.

The SMART (Start Making A Reader Today) program is taking off in Sweet Home as volunteers sign up to read to students on a weekly basis. The program targets kids who have low self-esteem or difficulty reading.

Lebanon School Board to explore bond measure to repair schools

By Jennifer Moody
For The New Era

Lebanon board members are philosophically in favor of trying for another bond measure to fix aging school buildings, although they haven't yet decided on cost, scope or timing.

They also know that, right now, voters wouldn't approve it.

That was the consensus from a Lebanon Community School District Board of Education work session Thursday, Jan. 8. Next steps will be more work sessions to make the necessary decisions to proceed.

Board members heard a presentation Thursday from Kyle Laier of Assist Education Services LLC, a consulting firm in Wilsonville, who went over the results of a voter phone survey from this past November.

Pollers spoke with 400 people to gauge how they would respond, hypothetically, to a \$169 million bond request in May 2026 to make repairs throughout the district. No such measure is currently in the works.

Results indicated voters are aware of building needs and agree critical repairs should be made. Respondents did not say they disliked proposed projects or felt they weren't necessary, but only 40% said they would vote for a bond measure. Another 45% said they can't afford the tax hike a bond would bring, and the remaining 15% said they didn't know or were undecided.

Board members did not take a formal vote but said depending on what is ultimately decided for scope and price, they support moving forward on a bond measure plan.

Mike Martin said he would be in favor of a bond measure that centers on repairs, such as roofs and dry rot, rather than new structures. Clyde Rood said he would support a measure as long as it went toward

"education" rather than "entertainment" - meaning, he said, no additional funding for the Lebanon Community Pool, which the district owns, or for a new stadium at Lebanon High School.

The other three board members did not list stipulations for their support.

"I am a definite yes. I would vote for it today. But I also agree that the community is not there," Lorlee Engler said. "We have a really uphill battle, I think."

"If we're going to put it on a ballot and it's not going to pass, obviously, we have work to do," Board Chair Nichole Piland said. "Again, my concern is, what do we do in the meantime? Because there definitely are issues."

Multiple site assessments have found leaking roofs and failing heating and air conditioning systems at several school buildings. Most recently, a 2025 assessment by Soderstrom Architects also recommended repairs or renovations to plumbing, lighting, restrooms, fire alarms, parking lots and exterior siding, among other issues.

Voters were last asked to pass a \$20 million bond in May 2022 to replace school roofs, update heating and air conditioning and renovate the community swimming pool, which is owned by the district but operated by the Lebanon Aquatics District. The measure failed.

A \$49.85 million bond measure that passed in 2000 will expire in 2030. Among other projects, that measure built Riverview and Pioneer schools and added a second gym, a new classroom wing and a new student commons area to Lebanon High School.

However, even the lowest total of the recommended site fixes under the 2025 Soderstrom report was close to \$90

million, rising to more than \$98 million if pool repairs and a stadium replacement for Lebanon High School were included.

The top-level recommendation totals \$178.92 million, but district officials expect that to be reduced by \$10 million because of funding from an Oregon School Capital Improvement Matching grant. That's why voters were polled about a \$169 million bond, according to information from William Lewis, the district's chief operations officer.

The recommendation includes eliminating Green Acres and Cascades elementary schools and instead building a new 650-student elementary school. That price point also would cover replacing the high school stadium and provide "a small amount of money" for the pool, according to Lewis, along with major repairs for buildings in the rest of the district.

Problems are not getting better with age, Lewis reminded board members, noting that Lebanon High School's roof leaks every time it rains.

"We've been talking about this for over a decade. We have multiple facilities assessments," he said. "We have a lot of facilities that need significant work, and that is not significant work from a perspective that it's easy and it's cheap. This is trying to just keep our kids safe, warm and dry."

Superintendent Jennifer Meckley said she understands the district doesn't want to pass a bond that would overlap the existing bond, but that action needs to be taken quickly.

"When I hear the number 2030, it seems really far away," Meckley said. "What I don't want is the sense of urgency to go away. I don't want us to think, OK, well, we've got a few years."

"We don't have a few years."

EVENTS

From page 2

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. The lunch menu is tossed green salad w/ assorted dressings, lasagna, green beans, garlic bread, and rice crispy treats for dessert. Register online at www.lebanon-chamber.org or call (541) 258-7164.

2026 Sportsman's Holiday Junior Court Applications

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

are due by Feb. 1. Ten to 15 students will be drawn from the pool of applicants. Applicants should reside in the Sweet Home School District to be a member of the Sportsman's Holiday Junior Court (this also includes charter schools and homeschoolers that are homeschooling in Sweet Home area). Notification will be made by Feb. 15. Cost to participate is \$65. To request an application, email Karla Burcham at karla_burcham@msn.com, or call (541) 401-3339.

Woodland management training offered by OSU

Oregon State University is offering Master Woodland Manager training starting March 5 through its Forestry and Natural Resources Extension. This is a high-level course for private landowners who are interested in an intensive forest management training and sharing the knowledge gained through this training with people in their local communities.

Basic experience or knowledge in entry-level forest ecology and/or management is required. Each session will be held every other week from March through May and will be outdoors at various woodland locations throughout Linn, Benton and Polk counties. Instructors will include forestry service agencies and organizations, OSU faculty, and a number of other local professionals.

Advanced registration is required, as capacity is limited. For additional details and cost, and to register, visit <https://beav.es/x2K>, email Crystal Kelso at crystal.kelso@oregonstate.edu or call (541) 730-3539.

Bingo fundraiser for River Center youth

The River Center Youth Student Ministries will hold a Bingo fundraiser Saturday, Feb. 7, at the church, 3000 S. Santiam Hwy., Lebanon. Proceeds will fund youths going to

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The New Era

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SH School Board approves network upgrades for district

By Scott Swanson
Of The New Era

Sweet Home School Board members took a step Monday, Jan. 12, to modernize the district's IT network capabilities by approving the purchase of nearly \$1 million in new hardware and internet services.

Board members, all of whom but Amanda Carter were present for the meeting, approved a \$201,792 purchase contract with Questivity, 80% of which will be covered by federal E-Rate funding. Thus, it is contingent on receiving that funding, according to a staff report presented to the board.

The E-Rate program helps schools and libraries afford internet access and network infrastructure by providing substantial discounts on such services, according to the staff report. It is financed by fees that telecommunications companies charge on consumers' phone bills - usually listed as the "Universal Service Fee."

The winning bid came from Questivity, based in California, which provides IT infrastructure equipment, training and services to customers such as the school district. Questivity has also worked with the Philomath and North Santiam school districts, according to the report.

District IT chief Sam Nothiger told board members that the district's current online hardware "is aging quite a bit," from seven to 13 years old, which is causing bandwidth and other issues, and requires a continuous subscription for use.

"That's never fun to deal with every single year," he said.

The new equipment would include a router/firewall, 80 switches, 203 access points and several network racks and cabling/connectors, according to the staff report. The "next-generation" firewall will help with security, intrusion detection and prevention, and improved wifi speed and security, Nothiger said.

"It would be a massive upgrade that would set us up for the next five or 10 years," he said.

Questivity's bid for the project was the second-lowest of the four responses received by the district, which included a cheaper price that lacked some of the components the district wanted, according to the report.

Business Manager Kevin Strong told the board that the district has saved for the project, which will cost it about \$40,000.

"Increasingly, technology is a cost of doing business in education, so it's something that we need to keep up with, just so we're serving the

classrooms well," he said.

The board also unanimously approved a \$775,500 contract with FatBeam Fiber to provide internet service to the district's four elementary schools.

Currently, the school district leases a 200-megabit-per-second fiber connection from CenturyLink/Lumen Technologies to supply internet to those schools.

The new contract with FatBeam would increase capacity to 10-gigabits per second, with the ability to scale up to 100 Gbps.

As with the hardware, the project is contingent on receiving federal E-Rate funding and a grant from the Connecting Oregon Schools Fund, which has already been confirmed, according to a staff report from Nofziger and Strong.

According to the report, FatBeam's bid was less than half of what two others proposed. The report noted that funding is already confirmed for that project. FatBeam has provided similar projects for larger school districts - Bend-LaPine, St. Helens and Tigard-Tualatin, according to the report.

Nofziger said he hopes that, once all the funding is approved, the underground installation for the FatBeam services, which would be followed by hardware installation, could start in mid-summer and would likely last about a year. He said he's hoping to complete it by October of 2027.

"It's a major project," he said. "It's going to have to be done on weekends or when people are not in school or not at work because it does require bringing down the system to replace the equipment."

He noted that the FatBeam work may cost the district "zero," due to federal and state grants it has received.

Also at the meeting, the board voted unanimously to give district staff the go-ahead to create language for a bond resolution and ballot title for a proposed bond measure that, if passed by voters in the May election, would qualify the district to receive \$12.25 million in Oregon School Capital Improvement Matching grant funds.

Strong suggested that board members approve five "guiding objectives" for the bond:

1. Maintain the current tax rate being paid by local property owners from the bond approved in 2017.
2. Prioritize student safety and security in spending.
3. Upgrade classrooms and career learning facilities.
4. Create durable, long-lasting schools that, Strong said, should last into the next century.
5. Leverage grants to re-



January ESPY winners for the Sweet Home School District include, in front, from left, Jaya Baskin of Hawthorne, Olivia Alvarez of Hawthorne, Logan Bennett of Holley, Tate Landis of Sweet Home Charter School, and Noelle Castaneda of the Charter School. In the rear, from left, are Hannah Lacy of Oak Heights, Dinah Watkins of Sweet Home High School, and Sawyer Anderson of Sweet Home Junior High. Not present for the photo were Cruz Campbell of Foster, Lincoln Funk of the Junior High, Annabelle Mobley of Foster, AJ Rodriguez of the High School, and Abigail Williams of Oak Heights.

duce local costs.

He told the board that, although "there are a lot of needs," improvements to the high school, which has some 40 unsecured entrances, would be the primary focus of the bond and grant funds.

He said board members would be asked to approve the actual language in their February meeting.

In other action, board members:

- Voted 8-1, with Mary Speck opposing, to appoint former board chair and long-time member Jason Redick to the district's Budget Committee.

- Heard a report from high school Leadership teacher Tomas Rosa on the program, which, he said, includes 40 students, 20 upperclassmen and 20 sophomores and freshmen, the latter taught by Ryan Adams.

Rosa said one of the more recent high points of the program has been visits from local community leaders, including Mayor Susan Coleman, Police Chief/City Manager Jason Ogden, Fire Chief Nick Tyler, CTC President Milt Moran, former USA Wrestling president Steve Thorpe, former UPS regional manager Jim Hagle and others such as college professor Brandon Harvey and Rob Younger, longtime football coach at Sweet Home and current executive director of the Oregon Athletic Coaches Association.

"The overall goal is to get Leadership kids some experi-

ence listening to people who are leaders, so they understand the pathways to becoming a leader," Rosa said, adding that young people often have trouble figuring out how the problem-solving experience they get in Leadership classes translates into the real world.

- Accepted the resignation of Sweet Home High School Vice Principal Luke Augsburger, who is taking a job at Western Governors University, of which he is an alumnus of two master's degree

programs.

His last day will be Feb. 4 after 18 years with the district. Augsburger was a teacher at the high school, then served as principal at Foster School from 2014 to 2023 before moving to the high school.

Board Member Rachel Maynard made a statement regarding his departure: "I accept your resignation with extreme sadness, both for our community and staff members. Your contribu-

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Hazelnuts continue to gain ground in Oregon agriculture

By Khushboo Rathore
Oregon Journalism Project

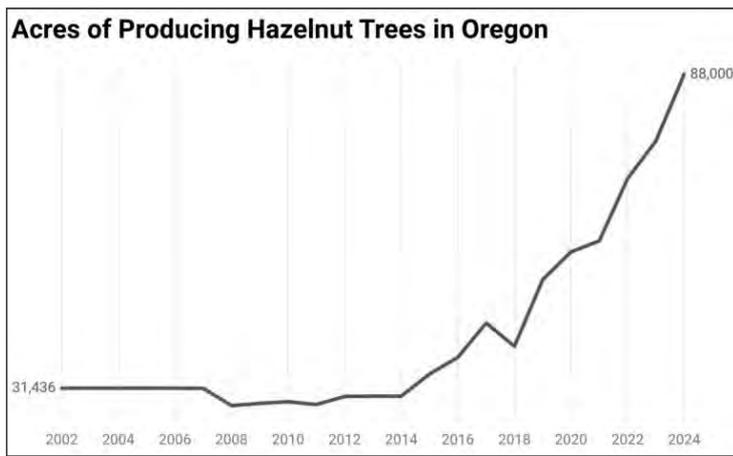
While many Oregon farmers pull back amid tariff worries, low crop prices and a difficult labor market, Jeff Newton plans to invest in new hazelnut trees at Christensen Farms near Amity in Yamhill County.

Newton, along with other Oregon hazelnut growers, is waiting for a final tally of the volume of nuts they sold in 2025. But acreage and preliminary data show that hazelnut farming is booming in the Willamette Valley.

Although hazelnut trees require a relatively large investment up front and take years to produce a crop, they are a rapidly growing slice of Oregon agriculture. Demand for the nuts – and the money that yields – is the reason, according to researchers and members of the Oregon Hazelnut Commission. (Historically, Oregonians called the nuts filberts, a name the commission says reflects French settlers' early influence on the industry, but since 1981, the commission has used the more common name, hazelnuts.)

"The biggest driver is more consistent bad prices on all other crops," said Newton, vice chair of the Oregon Hazelnut Commission. "There just isn't a lot of other profitable crops to grow."

Despite the risks of blight and the multiyear wait for initial production, hazelnut tree acreage across the state has more than doubled in the past seven years while the total number of acres of farmland under cultivation has continued to decline.



The U.S. Department of Agriculture's census data shows a 10% decline— about a million acres—in land used to grow crops in Oregon from 2002 to 2022. Meanwhile, the number of acres of hazelnuts increased 180%, from 31,000 to 88,000.

Other crops, including pears and cherries, saw a decline in acreage similar to the overall trend.

When planting crops that require years to mature, such as fruit or nut trees, farmers are betting on what they think will be successful, said Tim Delbridge, an assistant professor at Oregon State University's College of Agricultural Sciences.

"Maybe the farmer is thinking, 'Well, you know, I think hazelnuts have a bright future, and even though it costs a lot now, you know, I'm going to go ahead and invest in that,'" he says.

Oregon is one of the largest hazelnut producers in the world and grew an estimated 115,000 to 125,000 tons in 2025, according to Christine Roth, executive director of the Oregon Hazelnut Commission.

Roth thinks production in the state will triple in the next six to seven years.

Oregon's climate is well-suited to grow hazelnuts and, according to Roth, the state's generational family farmers are extremely invested in maintaining the nut's quality.

Many farming operations have a uniquely close connection with the companies that process their nuts, she says, an intentional choice to maintain quality and standards.

"There's definitely that sense of, 'we're doing something special here,'" Roth says. "This is part of the fabric of Oregon."

Oregon Journalism Project is a new, nonprofit investigative journalism newsroom for the state of Oregon. OJP produces regular stories on matters of real interest to Oregonians, particularly those who live far away from the metropolis of Portland, while shining a light on those institutions whose proper functioning is central to state residents' quality of life. See more stories under the "OJP" button at sweethomenews.com/lebanon-localnews.com.

Samaritan operates food program for patients in need

Samaritan Lebanon Community Hospital is operating a Food Backpack Program for patients experiencing food insecurity.

Since 2023, more than 150 food backpacks have been distributed in Lebanon, an average of six backpacks per month.

The program is managed by Registered Dietitian Alix Slayter and operated through the hospital's Nutrition Services department. A partnership with Linn Benton Food Share helps the hospital provide emergency food boxes to discharged patients with food insecurity.

While the emergency food boxes work well for many patients, they require access to safe cooking equipment which not all patients may have. The Food Backpack Program fills the gap for patients who are unhoused, living without electricity or who have mobility limitations that prevent them from cooking.

The items are specifically selected for their nutrient density and ability to be consumed with little to no preparation needed. They include ready-to-eat meals, freeze dried meals, peanut butter, trail mix, cereal, shelf-stable milk, tuna salad, chicken salad and oral nutrition supplements.

The backpacks also contain useful items such as reusable silverware, bottled water and information on additional community resources, including details about how to secure long-term food resources.

The primary outcome of the program is immediate, short-term relief of food inse-

curity. Additionally, the nutrients provided in these backpacks support healing and management of chronic diseases. On average, each backpack contains roughly 6,300 calories and 275 grams of protein, which provides adequate nutrition for three days.

The Food Backpack Program originally supported patients in select hospital departments: Inpatient, Emergency, Wound Care and Hematology and Oncology. During the past two years, the program has expanded to include Outpatient Nutrition Services, Samaritan Treatment & Recovery Services and Cardiac and Pulmonary Rehab.

"The Food Backpack Program directly supports health and healing in some of our most vulnerable patients," Slayter said. "We are deeply grateful to the Lebanon Community Hospital Foundation for the funding that makes this much-needed resource possible."

Lebanon's Food Backpack Program, modeled after a program operated at Samaritan Albany General Hospital, was established in May 2023 from an initial grant from the KeyBank Foundation and is now funded through donations to the Lebanon Community Hospital Foundation.

Anyone interested in supporting the Food Backpack Program in Lebanon may contact Foundation Executive Director Brandy O'Bannon at bobannon@samhealth.org or make a donation to the foundation's unrestricted fund online at samhealth.org/GiveLCHF.

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Sweet Home: 2025 police stats good, new officer hired

By Sarah Brown
Of The New Era

Police Chief and City Manager Jason Ogden presented good news on the police department front during the City Council's meeting held Tuesday, Jan. 13.

He praised Capt. Ryan Cummings for completing the FBI National Academy last Fall.

"It is really a prestigious and highly selective professional development program for law enforcement leaders around the world," he said. "Sending him there, not only was it an honor, but it was a strategic investment for the citizens of Sweet Home."

Ogden also presented statistics from last year from the Sweet Home Police Department.

Although person crimes (assaults, child neglect, kidnap, homicide, etc.) were down by 50 reported calls (or nearly 19%) compared to 2024, the number of assault calls were up by 37.

Reported property crimes (arson, criminal mischief, theft, etc.) were also down, by 123 calls. Burglary and criminal mischief each dropped by about 20 calls, fraud by 10 calls and theft by 60 calls.

Crimes against society (alcohol/drugs, animal, DUII, curfew, trespass, etc.) rose in 2025 from the previous year by 17

calls. More notable increases in this category include five more calls for disorderly conduct, five more calls for littering and 21 more calls for trespass.

Total arrests increased 12% and citations issued decreased 16%. Ogden noted, however, that traffic stops and citations are down because they had to pull the traffic officer to utilize him for staff shortages.

Related to that, during the council meeting Ogden swore in Leon Vineyard as the police department's newest officer. Vineyard has been living in Sweet Home since 2009 and has been driving log trucks for 12 years. He will enter the police academy next month.

Tabs on air quality

Resident Gary Jarvis asked the council if the city would consider hosting an air quality monitor for the community.

He explained the Department of Environmental Quality recently removed its air quality monitoring system from the Sweet Home Fire and Ambulance District - a service, he said, that has been provided to the community for "as long as I can remember."

"There are many of us that rely on that, those of us with asthma and other breathing issues that also get out and exercise and need to know what the air quality is like," Jarvis

said.

According to him, Albany is now the "official" monitoring site serving the Sweet Home area, which has a different elevation, air current and air quality than Albany. Springfield is the next closest monitor.

With some digging, he learned that anyone can have a monitor for \$100 a year, and asked if the City of Sweet Home would be able to find funding for the project.

Fire Chief Nick Tyler told The New Era that the air monitoring station was placed at the station more than 20 years ago and he asked if it could be moved elsewhere.

"We have grown significantly in 20 years and the location of it was problematic for us in regards to training and utilizing our grounds," Tyler said.

Ogden confirmed with The New Era that, following the council meeting, Deputy City Manager Cecily Pretty looked into the situation and learned that the monitoring system may be moving to the school district building.

Eli Murphy, of DEQ, told The New Era, they will be mounting a more compact system at the junior high school within the next two weeks, and will report air quality data directly to the DEQ AQI website just as



Photo courtesy of City of Sweet Home
Katie Vineyard pins a badge on the lapel of her husband, newly sworn Officer Leon Vineyard.

the former site did.

Audit finds weakness for late submission

Finance Director Matt Brown reported the audit for 2022-2023 revealed two material weaknesses essentially concerning failure to submit audited financial statements in a timely manner.

More specifically, periodic account reconciliations were not performed in a timely manner, and the audited

statement is being submitted a year late.

According to Brown, the failures are mainly due to the resignation of the city's finance director during that fiscal year, and the previous fiscal year statements had not yet been submitted. As such, the city has been playing catch-up.

The council approved a mandated corrective action plan for the weaknesses.

EVENTS

From page 4

Winter Camp Feb. 20-22. Bingo event admission is \$20 for four cards. The event, from 5 to 8:30 p.m., will include food concessions, opportunity tickets to win door prizes, gift baskets and every Bingo winner will win a gift card from Sweet Home and Lebanon businesses. Everyone is invited and all ages can play. For more details, contact Youth Pastor Brant Rogers at (541) 451-1271 or email brant@therivercenter.net.

Galentine's Market Feb. 8 in Lebanon

Nessie Bar Co will host a "Galentine's Market" from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Sunday, Feb. 8, at the Lebanon Boys & Girls Club, 305 S 5th St., Lebanon. Open to the public, the event features local women-owned businesses. Shop to find unique goods, enjoy refreshments, connect and support these entrepreneurs, makers and bakers.

Square dancers to

celebrate, add classes

Lebanon Square Circlers will celebrate 77 years of square dancing Sunday, Feb. 8, from at the Lebanon Senior Center. This very special event will feature caller Shaun McKamey and cuer Sandra Pinion. It will run from 2 to 5 p.m. at the Senior Center, 80 Tangent St. in Lebanon. Lebanon Square Circlers is the second oldest square dance club in Oregon. The public is invited to attend for free to watch the dancing and to have strawberry shortcake with the dancers. Additionally, Lebanon Square Circlers is starting Sunday classes starting Feb. 15: a square dance class from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. and a two-step from 4 to 5:15 p.m. Partners are not necessary and the first lesson is free. Cost thereafter is \$6 per lesson or \$15 per family. Kids are welcome. For more information call (541) 401-9780 or visit www.lebanonsquarecirclers.com/

Foster Road to be closed Feb. 9-12

The road over Foster Dam will

be closed Feb. 9-12 as the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers maintenance workers perform spillway gate inspections. Vehicles will not be able to pass during that time until completion of the project. For more information, contact Lisa Maguire at (541) 623-1338.

Nonprofit Summit Feb. 12 in Albany

The annual Willamette Valley Nonprofit Summit returns Thursday, Feb. 12, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at YMCA, 3201 Pacific Blvd SW, Albany. The one-day summit includes keynote speakers and breakout sessions to fuel nonprofit success. Speakers this year are Marion Clark Jr. and Coach Mary Stade, both of Willamette Valley Jaguars. Breakout sessions include topics on grant writing, nonprofit law, board engagement and more. Cost is \$32 per person if registered by Jan. 31, after which time the price is \$42. Register online at <https://bit.ly/3YuqPA4>.

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Chamber membership slightly down but finances 'good'

Sweet Home Chamber of Commerce membership dropped slightly in 2025 from the previous year, but the chamber finished the year in the black, chamber members learned at the board's annual Membership Meeting Thursday, Jan. 15.

Executive Director Lagea Mull reported that the chamber has 148 members, down slightly from 157 at the end of 2024.

"That is industry-wide," she told board members. "They're seeing retention being hit. That is fairly common, but I'm still not pleased with it."

The 148 include 31 new members, she noted.

"We still have people coming on. There's so many people that see the value of it, and we'll just continue to add more to the list."

Mull also reported that the chamber ended up nearly \$8,000 in the black, which was 97% of its financial goal for the year.

"That is good movement forward," she said.

"We actually made \$3,316 renting out chairs and tables to community members," she added, noting that she has some regular customers who rent equipment every year.

"It's just a service for our members and the community at large," she said.

Another positive, Mull said, was that the chamber was able to purchase a printer and a large conference table from the Oregon Jamboree headquarters.

"I really appreciated them investing in us as an organization by giving us such a good deal and this increases our ability to advertise and



Photo by Scott Swanson

Chamber members and directors listen as Treasurer Ericka Baham speaks during the membership meeting. Directors are, from left, Lagea Mull, Wendi Melcher, Karla Hogan, Vance Monroe, Baham, President Shelly Larson, and, in front at right, Travis Luttmmer. Behind him are Christy Duncan and Michael Hall. Mayor Susan Coleman, at the end of the table, and Councilman Aaron Hegge, not visible, were also present.

what not," she said. "And then, also, this giant table: Now we can all fit around it and not have to snuggle up so much."

Mull reported on various events sponsored by the chamber during the year and

said the Parade of Lights and Gingerbread House events at Christmas were successes.

"We had 20-some entries and people had fun doing it," she added about the gingerbread contest, noting that the youngest contestant was

3.

She credited city Public Works and Police staffers for helping the chamber make them happen.

"They are really a treat to work with," she said, "just great partners."

Phone and Internet Discounts Available to CenturyLink Customers

The Oregon Public Utility Commission designated CenturyLink as an Eligible Telecommunications Carrier within its service area for universal service purposes. CenturyLink's basic local service rates for residential voice lines are \$27.30 per month, and business services are \$43.50 per month. Specific rates will be provided upon request.

CenturyLink participates in the Lifeline program, which makes residential telephone or qualifying broadband service more affordable to eligible low-income individuals and families. Eligible customers may qualify for Lifeline discounts of \$5.25/month for voice or bundled voice service or \$9.25/month for qualifying broadband or broadband bundles. Residents who live on federally recognized Tribal Lands may qualify for additional Tribal benefits if they participate in certain additional federal eligibility programs. The Lifeline discount is available for only one telephone or qualifying broadband service per household, which can be either wireline or wireless service. Broadband speeds must be at least 25 Mbps download and 3 Mbps upload to qualify.

A household is defined as any individual or group of individuals who live together at the same address and share income and expenses. Services are not transferable, and only eligible consumers may enroll in these programs. Consumers who willfully make false statements to obtain these discounts can be punished by fine or imprisonment and can be barred from these programs.

If you live in a CenturyLink service area, visit <https://www.centurylink.com/aboutus/community/community-development/lifeline.html> for additional information about applying for these programs or call 1-800-201-4099 with questions.



Man arrested after shooting on Upper Berlin

A Lebanon man was arrested for attempted murder and other charges Tuesday afternoon, Jan. 13, after shooting another man in the head, Linn County Sheriff Michelle Duncan reported Wednesday morning.

Duncan said the Linn County Sheriff's Office Dispatch Center received multiple 911 calls from residents located in the 41700 block of Upper Berlin Drive, north of Sweet Home, for a disturbance.

It was reported that there was a physical fight, and one male was shot in the head.

Linn County Sheriff's Office Deputies and the Lebanon Fire Department were dispatched to the location, where they found Jordan Nathaniel Stewart-Bennett, 23, and Joshua Arnold Storms, 50, both residents of the location.

Stewart-Bennett had a gunshot wound to his head, Duncan said. He was transported to the Good Samari-

tan Regional Medical Center and is in critical condition, the Sheriff said.

Storms was taken to the Samaritan Lebanon Community Hospital for a medical evaluation prior to being lodged in the Linn County Jail for attempted murder, first-degree assault and unlawful use of a weapon.

An investigation is ongoing and anyone with information on this incident is asked to contact Detective Dakotah Hinrichs at (541) 967-3950.

Commissioners hear Veterans Services report

Linn County Veterans Services helped local veterans and their families obtain about \$414,661 in government benefits from October through December 2025, Linn County Commissioners Roger Nyquist, Sherrie Sprenger and Will Tucker learned at their Jan. 13 board meeting.

Veterans Services Manager Dee Baley-Hyder said that from January through December 2025, tax-free benefits recovered totaled about \$2,480,553.

Baley-Hyder said the department's medical transportation program has been active, aided by a \$24,000 grant from the Oregon Department of Transportation that was aimed at assisting veterans who live in rural Linn County. The grant period was from October through December 2025.

The department also received a \$35,000 grant from the Oregon Department of Veterans Affairs. The funds

will provide medical transportation from January 2026 through June 2027.

Baley-Hyder said her department applied for a Veterans Medical Transportation Grant from ODOT, but the status of that application hasn't been announced.

Baley-Hyder said she attended a meeting of the Santiam Service Integration group in Gates.

"It was a great way to share with everyone what our office does and how we help Linn County veterans," she noted in her written report. "It was also great to share about the medical transportation that is used by our veterans."

Veterans Service Officer Rob McKibben was a guest speaker at the Lebanon Senior Center Veterans Recognition Day. He talked about services provided by the department and highlighted the medical transportation services.

"We were also in the Veter-

ans Day parade and it is always nice to see all the veterans we have served in our community," Baley-Hyder said.

In other business, the commissioners:

- Announced that they will send a letter of support – with conditions – to the Oregon Health Authority and Samaritan Health Services concerning the proposed affiliation between Samaritan Health Services and MultiCare Health System.

- Approved the purchase of oil rock for the 2026 chip seal program from Knife River Corporation. One purchase is for \$155,800, to be delivered to the county's Lebanon maintenance yard and another purchase is for \$121,450 to be delivered to the Brock Quarry near Scio.

- Appointed Brownsville attorney Danielle Myers to Position 4 on the Law Library Committee. The position was formerly held by Judge Jessica Meyer.

PUBLIC SAFETY

From page 3

Jan. 16

LCSO/OSP Lebanon

12:49 a.m. - Deputies removed bat for homeowner in 33900 block Bond Rd.

2:02 a.m. - Remington Blake Braninburg, 41, of Albany, arrested on warrants, 3300 block Burdell Blvd. Cited and released. Report taken.

8:19 a.m. - Deputy came upon crash in 41300 block Lacombe Dr. Juvenile driver, 16, had been negotiating icy roads for the first time. Non-injury. No property damage.

11:39 a.m. - Caller reported fraud involving intended purchase of puppy. Loss estimated at \$850. 30600 block Santiam Hwy. Report taken.

7:06 p.m. - Horace Taliaferro, 45, of Lebanon, arrested for menacing, unlawful use of weapon and harassment, 41600 block Cut Off Dr. Report taken.

LCSO/OSP Sweet Home/ South County

10:14 a.m. - Deputies conducted welfare check in 44600 block Whiskey Butte Dr. They determined the individual needed help due to mental and physical limitations. Adult children working to rectify situation. Information noted.

7:56 p.m. - Caller reported suspicious vehicle in driveway at residence in 36400 block Hwy. 228, Brownsville. Deputy responded, discovered that Amazon delivery truck had broken down. It was towed from driveway.

7:57 p.m. - Garage door forced open in 300 block Faust St., Brownsville. Nothing reported stolen. Report taken.

8:46 p.m. - Nathan Periman, 27, of Sweet Home, cited for speeding, 80/55, 28900 block Hwy. 20.

Sweet Home Police

8:39 a.m. - Caller from Thriftway, 621 Main St., reported male chasing employees at location. Officer responded, but male had departed. Will be on lookout.

9:47 a.m. - Jackie Anthony Harden, 31, cited for driving while suspended, driving uninsured, Main St./18th Ave.

1:25 p.m. - Crash reported at Main St./13th Ave. According to SHPD, Jesse James, 85, of Sweet Home, heading south on 13th in a 2013 Chev Silverado pickup, stopped at a stop sign and, possibly because his vision

See Public Safety, Page 16

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Photos by Scott Swanson

Law enforcement officials outside a home on upper 1st Avenue order Jason Scott to come out. See more photos and a video at sweethomenews.com and lebanonlocalnews.com.

SWAT team members watch the house in which Jason Scott is holed up from a neighboring roof on 2nd Avenue.

STANDOFF

From page 1

Medics staged at St. Helens Catholic Church on 5th Avenue.

While SWAT team members positioned equipment in front of the residence, patrol officers maintained a perimeter and obtained a search warrant for the residence to go in and retrieve the suspect, Cummings said.

"LCSO drones were used for observation of the scene for most of the operation, and remained on-scene until the completion of the operation," he said. "Once the warrant was obtained, SWAT conducted their progression of process, which first involved calling out the suspect on the PA."

SWAT team members repeatedly urged Scott to exit the premises via loudspeaker over a span of about two hours, but he did not appear. During that time, marksmen provided cover on the home from a nearby rooftop and a SWAT vehicle, while a drone hovered above the premises.

Shortly after 4 p.m., SWAT entered the residence via the garage and located the suspect

hiding among objects in the garage, Cummings said.

He was arrested on warrants including possession of methamphetamine, reckless driving, assault IV, and criminal mischief I. He was also arrested on a probable cause warrant by the Linn County Sheriff's Office on a new charge of unlawful use of a weapon. Police said new charges of PCS meth and resisting arrest were also added after the arrest.

This arrest was made possible through the cooperation of community members with Sweet Home Police Officers, and significant resources and efforts by the Linn County Sheriff's Office and

First Avenue was closed for approximately three hours during the incident.

Cummings emphasized that "there were no injuries to the suspect, officers, or others as a result of this situation."

"Medics were called in because the suspect complained of hypothermic conditions. The suspect was cleared by medics for further law enforcement processing. He was brought to SHPD for questioning by LCSO, and then transported to the Linn County Jail."



SWAT Team members escort Jason Scott, in white T-shirt, from the home after entering and finding him in the garage after an approximately three-hour standoff.

The *Icebox* Performer Of The Week



This week's ICEBOX Performer of the Week goes to Erich Sparks, one of our talented 3D drafters.

Erich is not only a hard worker—he's always willing to stop what he's doing to help someone out, no questions asked, and with a smile on his face. That kind of attitude is a great example of the culture we're proud of here at RSH.

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



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Lebanon's Ruby VandenBos goes up for a shot between Silverton defenders Chloe Kuschnick, left, and Karlee Martirano as teammate Piper Sewell awaits the outcome. See more photos at lebanon-localnews.com.

Photo courtesy of Cole Hamar



Photo courtesy of Cole Hamar

Lebanon girls get split after tough loss at home

By Mike Warner
For The New Era

Lebanon's girls emerged from the second week of Mid-Willamette Conference play within striking distance of the lead after a 60-42 win at Corvallis and a close 45-41 loss to Silverton.

On the road Friday, Jan. 16, at Corvallis, the Warriors were looking to get back on track after falling to the Foxes at home on Tuesday.

They did that and more, thoroughly controlling the hosts in commanding fashion.

The Warriors used their stingy 1-2-2 zone press and 1-2-2 zone half-court trap to control the game, leading 19-4 at the first quarter buzzer and 38-19 at the half.

The third quarter was much the same, as Lebanon extended its lead to 54-25, before putting the reserves on the floor for the final period.

The Warriors shot 35.3% (24/68) from the field and 30.6% (6/20) from three-point land. Their 24 made shots came from 13 assists.

Lebanon's tenacious defense forced 22 Corvallis turnovers, which opened up Lebanon's running game.

All five starters contributed to the win in a balanced attack.

Jayden Hare led all scorers with 14 points, adding three assists, while Piper Sewell had 11 points, three rebounds, two assists and two steals.

Ruby VandenBos had eight points and three assists; Peyton Vorderstrasse had eight points, six boards, and four assists; and Hazel Pepperling finished with 10 points, 12 rebounds, four assists and four steals.

Sewell is new to the team, transferring in from East Linn Christian this year.

"I love the team," she said. "I knew a lot of the girls from my eighth-grade team, so it was a good transition for me."

The girls come into this week 3-1 in league and 9-3 overall, ranked 11th in the state.

Lebanon, West Albany, South Albany and Silverton are bunched at the top of the early MWC standings, with a matchup at West Albany Tuesday and a home game Central Friday on the schedule for this week.

Silverton edges Lebanon

Silverton jumped out to an early 10-5 lead at the end of the first quarter and the Warriors found themselves chasing the visitors the rest of the game.

Lebanon cut the lead to three, 19-16, at the half but couldn't get any closer.

Both teams had control of at least one facet of the game. Silverton won the rebounding battle 43 to 27, while the Warriors caused 29 turnovers, while only recording 17 themselves.

Shooting was the main concern for Lebanon. They shot 24% (15/58) from the field, 21% (6/28 from three) and 44% (7/16) from the free throw line.

"Coach O does such a great

job with those guys," Lebanon Head Coach Andrew Evans said of his counterpart, Alyssa Ogle. "Defensively, we were able to put some pressure on them but offensively we struggled and a lot of that had to do with how fundamental they were defensively.

"It was good for us to see where we need to be, mid-season".

Many Warriors contributed to the team totals: Vorderstrasse led the team in scoring with 15, also recording three rebounds and two steals. Pepperling was held below her scoring average with only eight points, but she pulled down 14 boards, and finished with five steals and two assists. VandenBos scored eight points, collected three rebounds and two steals, while Hare scored seven and created two steals. Sewell had eight steals, four rebounds and four assists, but was slowed offensively, finishing with three points.

Gunner Miller puts the ball up over Silverton defenders on his way to a team-high 23 points during their game on Jan. 13. See more photos at lebanonlocalnews.com.

Warrior boys lose 2 close ones

By Mike Warner
For The New Era

Lebanon's boys lost close games to Silverton and Corvallis last week to drop down in the early Mid-Willamette Conference standings.

The Warriors came into this week 3-2, 6-5 overall after falling 67-60 on the road at Corvallis Friday, Jan. 16, and 43-41 at home against Silverton on Tuesday.

"I sure wish they (the team) could pay themselves with a win because they deserve it," Coach Casey VandenBos said after the Corvallis loss.

Early in the game, Corvallis offense was working to perfection and the hosts had a 21-11 lead at end of the first quarter.

To Lebanon's credit, the boys didn't fold under the

Corvallis onslaught.

The Warriors stuck to their game plan and slowly chipped away at the lead, cutting it to five, 32-27 at the half.

The Spartans extended their lead to nine, 54-45, at the end of the third quarter.

But Lebanon wasn't done yet. The Warriors continued to fight back and eventually tied the game at 58-all with just over two minutes left to play. Then the Spartans started making trips to the free-throw line, which allowed them to pull away at the end of the game.

Lebanon shot very well from the field. 47.5% (19/40) and 27.3% from three (6/22) and 80% (16/20) from the free throw line.

See Warrior Boys, Page 17

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Autism fuels creativity for SHOCASE artist at Sweet Home City Hall

By Satina Tolman
For The New Era

At first glance, Mike Fulton's drawings appear almost impossibly precise: meticulously rendered insects, spiraling geometry and portraits - so realistic, they feel alive.

Look longer, and another story emerges; one of intense focus, pattern and perseverance shaped by a mind that sees the world differently.

Fulton, a 49-year-old artist whose work is featured in the SHOCASE-sponsored exhibit at Sweet Home City Hall through Feb. 28, says his late autism diagnosis helped him finally understand the source of both his struggles and his creative strength.

"I didn't even know I was autistic until I was in my early 40s," Fulton said. "That's super late. I struggled a lot in life - socially, emotionally - and I spent a lot of time alone. But I also spent a lot of time creating."

Fulton moved to Sweet Home five years ago after living in Portland and years spent traveling the country as a working artist. His path has been anything but linear.

Raised in inner-city southeast Los Angeles, he dropped out of high school



Some of Fulton's work on display includes paintings and drawings done in precise detail of plants and animals.

as a teenager to care for his father, also an artist, during his final year of life. After his father's death, Fulton lived with his grandparents and began drawing obsessively.

"Art became a stress relief," he said. "It was how I navigated what I was going through. I just never stopped."

That persistence, Fulton insists, matters more than innate talent.

"I don't know if I have talent," he said. "I just have tenacity. I didn't quit."

Fulton earned a bachelor of fine arts in painting and printmaking from the University of Oregon, completing nearly every hands-on art elective available - from metalsmithing to sculpture,

he said. He later attended graduate school at the Savannah College of Art and Design in Georgia and recently reapplied to continue his formal education.

After losing everything in a fire in 2008, Fulton renovated a school bus and became a traveling artist, collaborating with others at large-scale festivals such as Coachella, Electric Daisy Carnival in Las Vegas and Burning Man. He also spent two decades volunteering on the recycling crew at the Oregon Country Fair, a role he said was as much about service as belonging.

"I did that to try to be part of a community," he said.

Fulton speaks candidly about how autism shaped



Photos courtesy of Satina Tolman

Artist Mike Fulton stands with one of his pieces on display in the City Hall Gallery. The exhibit, which features a wide variety of subjects and techniques, is on display through February.

his life, particularly before he understood it.

"I speak differently. I'm a truth-teller," he said. "I don't navigate socially the same way, and that led to a lot of rejection. I always felt like

the outsider looking in." That isolation, however, also sharpened his observational skills.

"Because I was left to myself, I spent more time

See City Hall Art, Page 20

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Depth counts against Husky swimmers, despite event wins

By Satina Tolman
For The New Era

The Sweet Home Huskies earned a series of first-place finishes Friday, Jan. 17, but roster depth proved decisive at a four-team home swim meet.

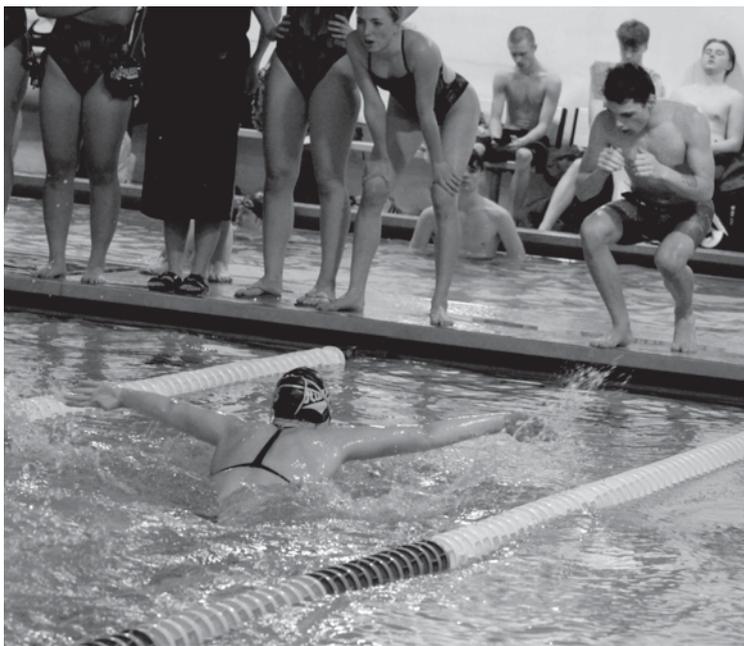
Sweet Home competed against Cascade, Riverside and Kennedy, with Cascade claiming the overall team victory. Both the Huskies' boys and girls teams finished second, as did the combined team score.

Cascade entered the meet with 27 swimmers, allowing it to accumulate points across more heats and events, while Sweet Home competed with just 15 athletes — eight girls and seven boys — underscoring the importance of roster size in swim scoring.

Despite the numbers, Sweet Home turned in strong performances throughout the meet, led by seniors and team captains Kylie Melkvik and Andrew Tolman.

The pair completed the "Husky Mile," a new Sweet Home tradition now in its second year, in which seniors swim every event in the meet.

Tolman swam all 11 boys' events, finishing in 19 minutes, 36.13 seconds, while Melkvik completed all 11



Photos by Satina Tolman

Austyn Hogan, right, urges Kylie Melkvik on as she completes the 100 Butterfly as part of the Husky Mile. See more photos from the meet at sweethomenews.com.

girls' events in 22:26.10.

Only select events counted toward team scoring, but the challenge served as a defining moment of the meet.

Head coach A. Jay Bronson said the Husky Mile is designed to push athletes beyond perceived limits.

"It's a great right of passage and a good testament to what they can accomplish if they put their minds to it. While it is a physical

challenge, more so than that, it's mental," Bronson said. "I did something similar to this in high school, as my coach was trying to get me to realize to push myself a little harder and not hold back."

Bronson introduced the tradition last season as part of a broader effort to build program identity.

"Last year, I wanted to establish new traditions for this storied program, and



Seniors Andrew Tolman, left, and Kylie Melkvik continued the Sweet Home tradition of swimming the "Husky Mile" by completing every event in Friday's swim meet.

the kids seem to like it," he said.

Melkvik said the challenge was less daunting than she expected.

"It was a lot better than I thought it would be," she said. "I thought I'd be a lot more tired, but it was good."

Tolman said the meet grew easier as it progressed.

"The harder events were in the first half of the meet, like the 200 free, the 200 IM and the 100 fly," he said. "Once we got to the easier events, it got more fun."

Tolman also compared the Husky Mile to the team's 24-hour relay held Dec. 27.

"It was way easier than the 24-hour relay," he said. "I swam 24,000 yards in that — 3,000 yards every three hours — compared to just about a mile in this meet."

Sweet Home opened the meet with strong relay performances.

The girls 200-yard medley relay team of junior Kylie Rundell, Melkvik, junior Ella Haggas and sophomore Emma Whitton placed second in 2:24.99. The boys 200 medley relay team of junior Henry Jones, Tolman, junior Grayson Savri and junior Austyn Hogan won first in 2:00.47.

Rundell followed with a win in the girls 200 freestyle in 2:21.72. In the boys 200 freestyle, Savri won in 2:03.72, while freshman Marshall Van Dijk placed third in 2:38.58.

Melkvik earned first place in the girls 200 individual medley in 2:54.68, with freshman Persephone Brookfield taking second in 3:12.60. Tolman was the only swimmer in the boys 200 IM, finishing in 2:28.86.

Hogan won the boys 50 freestyle in 25.18, while sophomore Malakai Walls

posted a personal record by breaking 30 seconds. Jones claimed first in the boys 100 butterfly in 1:08.26, and Hogan added another win in the boys 100 free style in 54.87.

Whitton won the girls 500 freestyle in 6:51.03, and Savri earned a personal-record victory in the boys 500 in 5:39.88.

The Huskies closed the meet with dominant relay swims. The girls 400 freestyle relay of Persephone Brookfield, Rundell, Haggas and Whitton won first in 4:42.36. The boys A relay of Savri, Hogan, junior Ethan Hernandez and Jones followed with a victory in 4:23.15.

In the final race of the day, Melkvik and Tolman split from the boys relay to swim together in an exhibition 400 freestyle relay. Though the swim did not count toward team scoring, the pair placed second in 4:34.96, closing the meet side by side.

Bronson said he hopes the Husky Mile continues to shape the program's culture.

"The hope is that the rest of the team can see what Kylie and Andrew were able to do and be excited," he said. "If not a little scared when it's their turn their senior year."

As the season continues, the meet reflected both the Huskies' competitive potential and the importance of depth — a balance Bronson believes the program is close to mastering.

"I want them to realize that we are really close as a team competing against others, with the idea and belief that we have a shot at districts for a trophy," he said.

First baby of the year finds brother eagerly awaiting sister's arrival

By Sarah Brown
Of The New Era

The first baby of the year arriving at Samaritan Lebanon Community Hospital is, according to her parents, very easy to settle and "has the cutest dimple on one cheek."

Tori and Keith Truett, of Lebanon, welcomed their second child, Nora Jane, on Saturday, Jan. 3, at 5:19 a.m. At 18 inches, she weighed 6 pounds, 2 ounces.

Although she arrived 16 days early, Nora's big brother, Huck, 2½ years old, was ready for her.

It's been exciting for him to see all the new baby things move into the house prior to her arrival, Tori said. And when he'd see a baby, he'd point it out and turn to find mom and her belly.

"Since she's been home, he's become very protective and gets upset if she's upset, and is quick to tell us what we need to do to help her," she said.

It's nothing for Huck to help mom and his new sibling with an eagerness to fetch needed items, like a blanket.

As for the parents, "she's definitely the piece we didn't know we were missing," Tori said.



Photo courtesy of Tori Truett

Tori and Keith Truett welcome their second child, Nora Jane, the east county's first baby, on Jan. 3.

Public Notices

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

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

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

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

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

COMPLAINT—Personal Injury, Property Damage, Wrongful Death CASE NUMBER: 23CV008890 MOTOR VEHICLE; OTHER: General Negligence; Property Damage; Personal Injury **Jurisdiction:** ACTION IS AN UNLIMITED CIVIL CASE (exceeds \$25,000)

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

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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)

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 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)

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

Public Notices

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 2000and 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 criterion. City Hall is accessible to people with disabilities. Please call City Hall (541-369-2522) by noon the day before the meeting if you need an interpreter for the hearing impaired or any other special accommodation or if you have any questions related to the application.

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

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

Public Notices

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 PENDING ADMINISTRATIVE DECISION AND REQUEST FOR COMMENT. The Sweet Home Community and Economic Development Department received an application for an Adjustment, and the Community and Economic Development Director will decide on this request soon. The Department is now seeking your comments and suggestions.

REQUEST: The applicant is requesting an adjustment to allow a 5-foot interior north side yard setback for the proposed residential accessory structure. The structure is approximately 17.75 feet in height. Pursuant to SHMC 17.70.010(B)(2), the required side yard setback is 5 feet, plus 1 additional foot for each foot of building height exceeding 8 feet. Based on the proposed height, the required side yard setback is 15 feet. SHMC 17.100.010 allows adjustments that result in no more than a 10 percent modification to a quantifiable development standard. The proposed reduction of 10 feet represents a 7 percent change to the required setback and therefore qualifies for consideration as an adjustment. The subject property is zoned Residential Low Density (R-1) and is designated Low Density Residential (R-1) under the Comprehensive Plan.

APPLICANT & PROPERTY OWNER: Marilyn Nicholson. **FILE NUMBERS:** AD26-01. **PROPERTY LOCATION:** 1197 43rd Ave, Sweet Home, OR 97386; Identified on the Linn County Assessor's Map as 13S01E33AC Tax Lot 1702. **REVIEW AND DECISION CRITERIA:** Sweet Home Municipal Code Section(s) 17.10.060, 17.70.010(B), 17.100.010, 17.124. **STAFF CONTACT:** Angela Clegg, Planning & Building Manager. Phone: (541) 818-8029; Email: aclegg@sweethomeor.gov.

DATE MAILED: January 13, 2026. Comments must be received no later than: 5:00 PM on January 31, 2026. Written comments may be submitted to the Community and Economic Development Department at 3225 Main Street, Sweet Home, Oregon 97386 or to the staff contact listed above. Please include reference to the file number in the subject line of your comments. Notice of the decision on this application will only be mailed to the applicant, property owner, those who provided written comments on the proposal, and those who requested a copy of the decision. The failure of an issue to be raised in writing within the specified time frame, or failure to provide sufficient specificity to afford the decision maker an opportunity to respond to the issue, precludes appeal to the Land Use Board of Appeals based on that issue. A copy of the application and all documents and evidence relied upon by the applicant and applicable criteria are available for inspection at no cost and a copy will be provided at reasonable cost. A copy of the staff report will be available for inspection at no cost when it is complete, and a copy will be provided at reasonable cost. You may contact the Community and Economic Development Department at 3225 Main Street, Sweet Home, Oregon 97386; Phone: (541) 818-8029. (1/21)

Public Notices

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE STATE OF OREGON FOR THE COUNTY OF LINN Probate Department

In the Matter of the Estate of TAMARA ANN RIDOUT, Deceased.
Case No. 26PB00255
NOTICE TO INTERESTED PERSONS
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that on January 14, 2026, Tonya Adams, was appointed as Personal Representative of the above-referenced estate. All persons having claims against the estate are required to present them, with vouchers attached, to the Personal Representative or to Stacey D. Mealer, Attorney, at the addresses listed below, within four months after the date of first publication of this notice, or the claims may be barred. All persons whose rights may be affected by the proceedings may obtain additional information from the records of the Court, the Personal Representative, or the attorney for the Personal Representative.
Personal Representative Tonya Adams
444 E Vine Street
Lebanon, OR 97355
(541) 451-1885
Attorney for Personal Representative
Stacey D. Mealer, Attorney
OSB#023915
PO Box 81 ~ 1195 Main Street Suite 2
Sweet Home, OR 97386
(541) 270-2406 ~ Mealer@actionnet.net
(1/21)

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE STATE OF OREGON FOR THE COUNTY OF LINN Probate Department

In the Matter of the Estate of BETH L. HARRIMAN, Deceased.
Case No. 26PB00345
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that on January 14, 2026, Michelle M. Morrow, was appointed as Personal Representative of the above-referenced estate. All persons having claims against the estate are required to present them, with vouchers attached, to the Personal Representative or to Stacey D. Mealer, Attorney, at the addresses listed below, within four months after the date of first publication of this notice, or the claims may be barred. All persons whose rights may be affected by the proceedings may obtain additional information from the records of the Court, the Personal Representative, or the attorney for the Personal Representative.
Personal Representative Michelle M. Morrow
PO Box 3257
Salem, OR 97302
(503) 308-4800
Attorney for Personal Representative
Stacey D. Mealer, Attorney
OSB#023915
PO Box 81 ~ 1195 Main Street Suite 2
Sweet Home, OR 97386
(541) 270-2406 ~ Mealer@actionnet.net
(1/21)

Auction

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

For Sale



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

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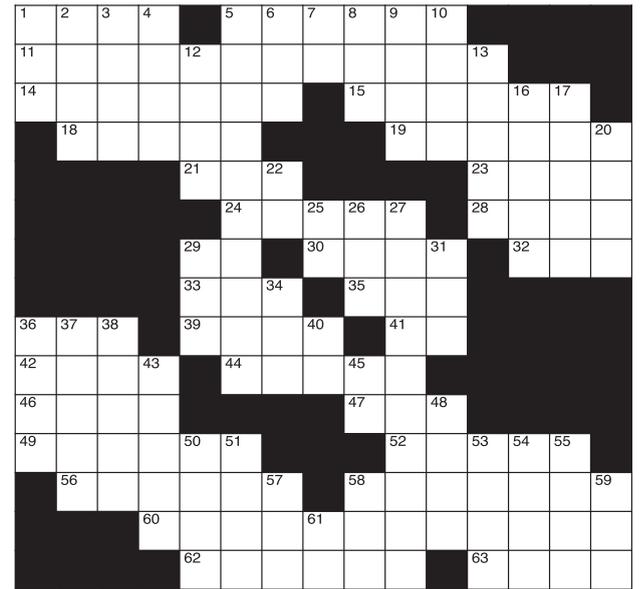
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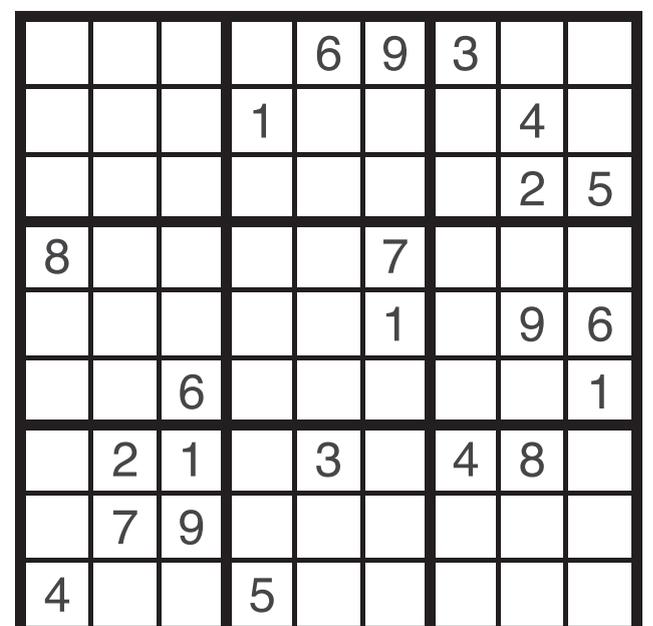
CLUES ACROSS

- 1. A minute amount (Scott)
- 5. Supernatural
- 11. Shortening
- 14. More firm
- 15. Other side
- 18. Philippine island
- 19. More unnatural
- 21. Microsoft Surface Book
- 23. Ice T's wife
- 24. Domesticates
- 28. Only one time
- 29. In absentia
- 30. Crustlike surface of a healing skin lesion
- 32. Distress signal
- 33. Engine additive
- 35. 1990s female R&B trio
- 36. Very fast airplane
- 39. A reward (archaic)
- 41. Anno Domini
- 42. Golf supplies
- 44. Indian term of respect
- 46. French river
- 47. Turn down the lights
- 49. Blood-sucking African fly
- 52. Provides info
- 56. Procrastinates
- 58. Tower with balconies
- 60. Where researchers work
- 62. Religious office
- 63. Must-have for office workers

CLUES DOWN

- 1. In possession of
- 2. Aborigines
- 3. Early Syrian kingdom
- 4. Clip
- 5. Misleads
- 6. Cosmetic Ingredient Review
- 7. Calcium
- 8. United Talent Agency
- 9. Hair problem
- 10. Took down
- 12. Round Dutch cheese
- 13. Bicycle manufacturer
- 16. Suffix plural
- 17. Painting technique
- 20. Small Eurasian deer (pl.)
- 22. Mr. T's character "___ Baracus"
- 25. Progressive nerve disease
- 26. Shock therapy
- 27. Able to be sold
- 29. Suffix
- 31. Binary coded decimal
- 34. Goes well with a carrot
- 36. A way to measure performance
- 37. Doctor ___, children's book author
- 38. Jewish calendar month
- 40. Designated hitter
- 43. Polish village
- 45. Part of the mind
- 48. Hand (Spanish)
- 50. Hit with the open hand
- 51. Italian island
- 53. Shakespeare was one
- 54. Lake ___, one of the Great
- 55. Oswald and Marvin were two
- 57. Soak up using something absorbent
- 58. Kids' dish ___ and cheese
- 59. Expression of disappointment
- 61. The ancient Egyptian sun god

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SH hosts Lebanon in unified hoops

Sweet Home's unified basketball team hosted Lebanon Thursday, Jan. 15, in the Main Gym, with most of the high school student body in attendance. Above, Ren Carlisle takes a shot for Lebanon, which won the game 54-40. Below, Zoe Allison puts up a shot for Sweet Home. In the bottom photo, Greyson Tenbusch, a partner player for Lebanon, puts gets set to shoot as his brother Weston cheers him on. See many more photos at sweethomenews.com and at lebanonlocalnews.com.

Photos by Scott Swanson



Local Woods Fair offers wood crafts, information at Feb. 14 Seedling Sale

By Larry Mauter
LCSWA member

Wood-oriented crafts people and agencies that can help woodland owners are the backbone of the Linn County Local Woods Fair.

It's an adjunct to the very successful Linn County Small Woodlands Association (LCSWA) annual seedling sale – set for 8 a.m. until noon on Saturday Feb. 14 at the Santiam Building at the Linn County Expo Center.

"Fifty to 60 percent of the people who pick up seedlings make it to the other side of the room," said Lee Peterman, a former LCSWA president and long-time woodworker.

Peterman said the event goes back nearly 20 years to former LCSWA board member Mary Brendle. She was looking for "a creative outlet" for local wood workers, said Peterman.

The fair has offered a variety of quality local wood work – jewelry, kitchen utensils, bird boxes, walking sticks and even chess sets in past years.

Sawyers and businesses with forestry equipment for sale have shared floor space



Photo courtesy of LCSWA

Lee Peterman speaks with a visitor during a past Linn County Small Woodlands Association (LCSWA) annual seedling sale.

with the bags of seedlings.

Vendors are not charged for the space at the Santiam Building, but are urged to make a donation to the LCSWA scholarship fund.

Along with vendors, organizations relating to forests and conservation "are always invited," Peterman said.

Past participants have included Oregon Department of Forestry, Oregon Forest Resources Institute and local

watershed districts. They have provided staffed informational booths that can be useful to tree growers.

Peterman said vendors can set up Feb. 14 as early as 7 a.m., with carts and trucks out of the Santiam Hall by 8 a.m.

To register as a vendor, contact Peterman at petey711@hotmail.com or text him at (541) 223-3935.

On-line seedling store open until Jan. 31

By Lena Tucker
LCSWA seedling sale chair

The Linn County Small Woodlands Association seedling online sale store is open and accepting pre-orders through Jan. 31.

Orders can be placed at <https://linncountyswa.com/>. Early orders are recommended for the best selection.

LCSWA has seven conifer and one deciduous tree seedlings to offer this year. Nordmann fir, a popular Christmas tree, is available. Shrub and perennial offerings are focused on native and pollinator beneficial species as well as adding interest to woodland gardens and landscaping. Narrowleaf buck brush, blue elderberry,

oceanspray, birch leaf spirea, red flowering currant, lemonade sumac, meadow checkermallow and narrowleaf mule's ear are a few of the 14 shrubs and perennials we have available.

LCSWA will have a selection of all seedlings available for purchase the day of the sale, in case you missed ordering something. In addition to what is available for pre-ordering, the organization will also offer a limited quantity of Oregon White Oak and Dwarf Oregon Grape for purchase the day of sale.

Help is always needed in setting up and packing the pre-orders for customers! Profits from the sale fund college and 4-H scholarships. The sale schedule is as follows:

Thursday Feb. 12, 8 a.m.

Set-up at the Santiam Building at the Linn County Expo Center in Albany. LCSWA volunteers and 4-H members begin at 8 a.m. setting up tables. In the afternoon the focus will turn to filling pre-orders for Saturday. Wear warm clothing.

Friday Feb. 13: 8 a.m. Volunteers from LCSWA membership and 4-H members fill orders to be picked up Saturday.

Saturday Feb. 14 7:30 a.m. Volunteers help with seedling sale orders pick-up, sales of remaining seedlings and cleanup of Santiam Building.

To volunteer, email seedlingsale@linncountyswa.com.

PUBLIC SAFETY

From page 9

was hindered by bright sunlight, proceeded onto Main Street and struck a 1995 Toyota 4Runner driven westbound on Main Street by Paul Lott, 73, of Sweet Home. Non-injury. No citations. Damage estimated at more than \$2,500.

2:38 p.m. - Caller reported dogs had killed chicken in 5100 block Redwood St. Caller then reported that dog owner had contacted caller and was on the way to pick up dogs and pay for damages.

3:09 p.m. - Cory Harold Lawrence, 58, arrested on LCJC warrant for probation violation in contempt case. Stephanie Irene Starkweather arrested on AMC warrant for FTA in trespassing case, SHMC warrants for FTA in two trespassing

cases. 3100 block Main St. Both cited and released.

4:42 p.m. - Caller from Oak Heights Elementary School reported that child was still at school, which was closed by that time. Officer responded, contacted parent, who said that child was supposed to have ridden bus home, and that parent was on their way.

10:59 p.m. - Caller from Senior Center, 880 18th Ave., reported toolbox found at location. Officer responded, item seized as found property.

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.

Jan. 15
LCSO/OSP Lebanon
1:58 p.m. - Pigs at large in 33700 block Bond Rd. Deputy

responded. Pigs returned home without incident.

7:29 p.m. - Dara Roy, 50, of Philomath, cited for driving uninsured, 2000 block Stoltz Hill Rd.

10:55 p.m. - Susan Diane Schimelfining, 62, of Lebanon, cited for speeding, 50/25, Airport Rd./2nd St.

LCSO/OSP Sweet Home/ South County

11:46 a.m. - Emily Musgrove, of Halsey, cited for dog at large, 500 block W. 4th St., Halsey. Report taken.

3:05 a.m. - Cory Matthew West, 30, of Sweet Home, arrested for three outstanding warrants, 43900 block North River Dr. Cited and released. Report taken.

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

Council denies request to de-annex Berlin Road properties from Lebanon

By Sarah Brown
Of The New Era

Lebanon City Council members denied a request from property owners to de-annex from the city during the regular meeting on Wednesday, Jan. 14.

Three property owners in close proximity to each other along Berlin Road met with the city last month to discuss their request to withdraw their properties from the city limits.

Development Services Director Shana Olson reported at City Council that the property owners – Edward Goering, 32756 Berlin Road, Richard Poland, 32777 Berlin Road, and Gary Cummings, 32783 Berlin Road – said they wanted to de-annex from the city due to limited access to city utilities and infrastructure, and public safety concerns (including homeless encampments, trespassing and thefts), and to reduce their property tax obligations.

Cummings later withdrew his request.

While city water and sewer connections are available more than a mile north of the properties, the owners told the city they were not interested in connecting to them, City Manager Ron Whitlatch said.

Berlin Road falls under the jurisdiction of the Lebanon Police Department. Olson

said they responded to 66 calls there in the last six months, and have been more active in recent months to make contact with encampments and trespassers.

After some research, Olson was able to report that Cummings' and Poland's properties were originally part of two parcels owned by the Nordstrands. In 2001, the Nordstrands annexed those two parcels into the city and then partitioned the larger lot into three parcels. Linn County code would not allow subdivision of those parcels. They then sold those properties.

Goering's property was also the result of annexation and partition by Morse Brothers Construction and Ted Halstengard in the 1980s and 1990s.

"The properties that they're currently living on right now that have been subdivided, they would not be living there without taking advantage of the city code," Whitlatch said.

Although the property owners are not the ones who divided the parcels, essentially what happened was those lots were annexed into city limits to take advantage of city codes, he said. And now they want to de-annex.

After some discussion, no motion was made to approve the request.

Wastewater facility plan

Public Works Director Jason Williams presented an updated Wastewater Treatment Plant Facilities Master Plan, which provides a long-term framework addressing regulatory compliance, aging infrastructure, capacity limitations and anticipated growth.

The plan contains "a long list" of phased projects up to 2045.

"Over the course of this document, 2025 through 2045, the total cost of projects listed here are \$95,550.29," Williams said.

The plant was built in 1954 and upgraded in 1976, with additional improvements made over time.

"Since then we've gone through everything we can to keep it functioning and meeting regulation," Williams said.

Phase one focuses on improvements for solids stream treatment, phase two focuses on liquids stream treatment and phase three considers final liquid stream and supporting infrastructure improvements.

The master plan includes evaluation of existing conditions, anticipation of wastewater burdens into 2045, identification of deficiencies throughout the process that need to be addressed, and consideration of anticipated legal and regulatory changes that may come down the pike.

City Council will review the master plan and vote on whether to adopt it during the March meeting. The master plan is available to view online at bit.ly/4q7Ld5D.

In other business:

- A resident on Berlin Road reported he has asked for help regarding a high volume of transients living on vacant private property on the road. Recently, he said, his barn was broken into and a dirt bike stolen. Whitlatch said the city has been trying to contact the property owners and working on trespassing transients.

- Community Services Officer Dala Johnson and Kay Cortez, speaking on behalf of the school district transportation department, asked the council for limited parking on N 2nd Street between Tangent Street and Mullins Drive. They cited public safety, emergency access and daily livability as reasons for the request, since excess parking along the narrow street creates hazards. The city said they will hold a public hearing on the matter.

- The council approved the vacation of a right-of-way strip on South 3rd Street between Grant and Sherman streets as part of the Santiam Travel Station sale.

- The council approved a non-exclusive franchise agreement with Casco Com-

munications, dba Peak Internet.

- The council approved amendments to Lebanon Municipal Code 3.04 that essentially makes procedural requirements with public contracting more efficient.

- The council adopted a Strategic Plan and City Council Priorities Update. City staff and council met last year to review progress and update goals and priorities, which include: upgrade the wastewater treatment plant, reopen the jail, strategize the redevelopment of the Champion Mill property, consider a city service fee charged to higher education organizations, revitalize downtown, expansion of the library, develop a succession plan, advocate for the city in state legislature, and find funding for a solar project.

- Councilor Dave Workman asked on behalf of a constituent about why it takes so long for a check to clear for utility bills. Finance Director Brandon Neish explained city staff are unable to process the huge amount of checks from more than 60% of the population, so check-processing is outsourced to a processor in Portland. Postal service changes have slowed mail delivery significantly. Any checks dropped off at City Hall are processed same-day.

MUNICIPAL COURT

Jan. 14

Alysia N. Bailiff, 44, guilty by default for driving while suspended or revoked, and driving uninsured – fine \$3,015, license suspended.

Scott F. Blomberg, 57, guilty by default for two counts of driving while suspended or revoked – fine \$4,030, license suspended.

Ryan R. Helms, 38, pleaded no contest to driving while suspended or revoked – fine \$475.

Desirae E. Johnson, 34, guilty by default for driving while suspended or revoked, and driving uninsured – fine \$3,030, license suspended.

Erin L Koenig, 46, pleaded no contest to unlawful or unsignaled turn, and driving uninsured – fine \$340.

Richard D. McCollister, 69, pleaded guilty to giving false info to peace officer, and two counts driving while suspended or revoked – fine \$1,381, 60 mos. probation, 15 days work crew.

Brandon M. Moran, 33 pleaded no contest to driving uninsured – fine \$265.

Darrell G. Mullenix, 51, pleaded no contest to criminal mischief II, criminal trespass II and theft III – fine \$5,610, 60 mos. probation, 20 days work crew, no contact orders. Dismissed: criminal mischief II, five counts criminal trespass II, two counts theft II, offensive littering, harassment.

Nathan J. Periman, 27, pleaded no contest to initiating a false report – fine \$901, 12 mos. probation.

Matthew A. Pitts, 37, pleaded

no contest to menacing and theft III – fine \$9,244, 36 mos. probation, 10 days work crew, no contact orders. Dismissed: criminal trespass II, theft III.

Noah J. Prewitt, 20, pleaded guilty to DUII and driving uninsured – fine \$7,569, 60 mos. probation, 10 days work crew, drug and alcohol evaluation/treatment, victim impact panel, 12 mos. license suspension. Dismissed: criminal driving while suspended or revoked.

Meria L. Rendon, 36, guilty by default for driving while suspended or revoked – fine \$2,015, license suspended.

Dallas A. Samson, 43, pleaded no contest to theft III – fine \$501, 60 mos. probation, 15 days work crew.

Theodore E. Shinall, 48, pleaded no contest to driving uninsured and driving while suspended or revoked – fine \$740.

Micah L. Stewart, 26, guilty by default for unlawful or unsignaled turn – fine \$265, license suspended.

Stacy M. Teixeira, 61, guilty by default for driving while suspended or revoked – fine \$2,015, license suspended.

James A. Wood, 41, guilty by default for driving while suspended or revoked, and driving uninsured – fine \$3,030, license suspended.

Bradley J. Wright, 52, pleaded no contest to failure to perform duties of driver when property is damaged – fine \$2,401, 60 mos. probation, five days work crew, three mos. license suspension, no contact orders.

WARRIOR BOYS

From page 11

The Warriors had 19 field goals resulting from 11 assists, although their five steals were below their average for the season.

Gunner Miller led the scoring with 26 points, six rebounds, and three assists. Logan Large had 15 points, three rebounds and three assists. Ryan Robinson had nine points, two rebounds and three assists. Finn VandenBos added eight points, and six rebounds.

Early on, five teams boast winning records in the early MVC going: West Albany (4-0), Central (4-0), Crescent Valley (3-1) Corvallis, (3-1) and Lebanon (3-2).

The Warriors get a chance this week to see if they can change those numbers with games at West Albany on Tuesday, Jan. 20, and at home against Central on Friday Jan. 23.

Silverton 43, Lebanon 41

The Warriors struggled against Silverton's tenacious man-to-man defense, which generally stifled Lebanon's offense for the entire game on Jan. 13.

The game was close throughout the first half, with neither team establishing a solid lead. Silverton controlled the third quarter leading by six going into the final stanza. Lebanon chipped away at the lead in

the fourth quarter but missed several last-minute shots to let the Foxes escape with the win.

Silverton used its height to control the tempo of the game, forcing many Lebanon errors and limiting the Warriors' shooting to 30% from the field and only 7% from behind the three – both considerably lower than their season averages.

"Hard to win when you go

2-26 from the three," VandenBos said.

Even then, the game was in the balance until the end.

The Warriors had only two players scoring in double figures.

Miller had 23 points on 7-for-18 shooting and contributed eight rebounds and two steals.

Large scored 12 points on 5-for-13 shooting, with six rebounds and four steals



Photo by Scott Swanson

Seth Wynn works to turn an opponent in the Lebanon Wrestling Tournament Friday.

Warriors 3rd at home invite

Lebanon's boys wrestling team placed a solid third at the Lebanon Invite this past week.

Dallas took home the title ahead of Barlow in second.

The tournament featured 22 Oregon teams that were mostly 5-6A schools. The meet was boys-only.

First-place winners for the Warriors were Seth Wynn (157) and Grady Cox (165).

Silver-medalists were Casey Carter (132) and Cade Weber (165), who was defeated by Cox in the championship match.

David Brandt (150) placed third.

"I thought we wrestled very well," stated Head

Coach Michael Cox.

Lebanon began the week at Central on Wednesday for a dual against the Panthers, but only four matches were wrestled because that was all Central had to offer with its roster size of only four wrestlers.

The Warriors went undefeated that night, but Cox wasn't pleased.

"It was kinda a waste of time," he stated.

Lebanon's boys will compete at Reser's Tournament of Champions on Friday and Saturday.

The girls will wrestle in Wilsonville on Friday.

- Ryker Burr

Lebanon's David Brandt named OSAA Athlete of the Week

Lebanon wrestler David Brandt was named an OSAA Athlete of the Week for Jan. 5-11.

Brandt was 26-9 at the time he was named to the honor and had just won the 150-pound division at the Tigard Invitational.

A senior, he is a team captain for the Warriors, is a three-sport athlete (cross-country and track) and maintains a 4.00 GPA.

Wrestling Coach Michael Cox noted that the honor comes during a difficult season for Brandt, whose father died unexpectedly at age 47 last year.

"His dad wrestled at Cascade is kind of their thing," he said of Brandt. "He has three siblings who all play basketball."

Brandt is having an "excellent season," Cox said, noting that his wrestler finished eighth out of 105 competitors at the Sierra Nevada Classic.

Cox said Brandt is very involved in his church and "is the nicest kid you'll ever meet," adding that the team voted him captain "and we have some pretty good kids."

"He's probably one of the hardest-working kids we have," Cox said Monday. "He was begging me to have prac-

tice at 4 o'clock so he could go work at a sheep farm he works on," noting that Brandt has a financial goal of saving money for college.

"He's an awesome kid. He's having a pretty rough go right now."

The OSAA award honors varsity athletes that exhibited an outstanding performance during the previous week. All qualifying students will be in good academic standing, show leadership qualities and serve as role models in their communities.



David Brandt

Eagle girls notch two league basketball wins

East Linn Christian's girls finished the first week of Valley Coast Conference play with a pair of wins over Crosshill Christian (43-26) and Toledo (50-33).

On Saturday, Jan. 17, at home against Crosshill, a game that had been rescheduled due to illness, the Eagles got serious against the visitors' Zoey Baker, a 6-4 senior who is regarded as one of the best players in the division, if not the state.

"She makes her presence known on any court she's on," Coach Sierra Carrier said. "I had a steady rotation, from Maci Modderman to Bailey Kramer, helping make sure she was covered on the inside and for her to get nothing easy."

East Linn's girls delivered, she said.

"We had the inside locked down and any one of my guards were on the outside ready to help pick away any loose balls that came their way."

Maya Van Dyke finished with 15 points, three rebounds and two steals to pace East Linn, while Bailey Kramer added 10 points, five rebounds and three steals. Audrey Garber had five points and three steals.

On the road at Toledo Jan. 15, the Eagles faced their first league opponent of the season.

"We had to quickly switch directions from preparing for Crosshill to Toledo, who are very different teams, dynamically," Carrier said. "Our girls were ready for league games to start so they came out hot."

She said East Linn is "starting to click," adding that "my favorite part about coaching this team is they are never satisfied. They know that more work is to be done if they want to come out on top this year."

Sports Round-up

Kramer racked up her first double double of the season, scoring 11 and pulling down 18 rebounds, along with five steals for East Linn. Abby Arber led the team with 12 points, with Modderman contributing 10, along with six boards, and Maya Van Dyke adding six points, with seven rebounds and six steals.

East Linn hosts Central Linn Tuesday, Jan. 20, and plays at Monroe Friday, Jan. 23.

East Linn boys off to 2-0 start in league

The Eagles battled to a 73-67 home win over Crosshill Christian on Saturday, Jan. 17, after opening their Valley Coast Conference campaign with a 65-54 win over Toledo on Thursday.

Game stats were not available at press time.

East Linn hosts Central Linn on Tuesday, then plays Lowell at home Wednesday before traveling to Monroe Friday, Jan. 23.

'Very good showing' for Lebanon swimmers

Against Central and Dallas at the Dallas Aquatic Center Jan. 13, Lebanon's swimmers came away with multiple individual and relay wins.

Both the girls 200 Medley Relay team of Molly Basting, Orianna Buczko, Anouk Ricketts and Allison Bergmann (2:18.16), and the boys team of Boston Bormann, Michael Kluttz, Grant Basting and Jack Johnson (1:56.43) won their events.

The girls 200 Freestyle Relay team of Brooklyn Davis, Samantha Walsh, Ricketts and Buczko were winners (2:05.36), as was the boys 400 Freestyle Relay team of Johnson, Basting, Daniel Tyler and Chase Herb (4:01.55).

Individual winners for the Warrior girls were: Buczko in the 200 Freestyle (2:16.73) and the 100 Breaststroke (1:19.41, a 1.99-second per-

sonal best); Basting in the 50 Free (29.31, a 2.01-second PR) and 100 Butterfly (1:22.79); Davis in the 200 Individual Medley (2:47.68); and Walsh in the 100 Backstroke (1:22.95, a .94-second PR).

Individual winners for the boys were Kluttz in the 200 Free (2:14.64) and the 100 Breast (1:17.20, a 4.92-second PR); Johnson in the 200 IM (2:25.69, a .11-second PR) and the 100 Back (1:05.23, a 2.51-second PR); and Borgmann in the 50 Free (24:21).

"This was a very good showing for our students," Coach Joe Andrews said. "Several of our swimmers had some significant time drops, which aligns with what we expected coming off the holiday break. The work we do every day is paying off."

He noted that several relay spots are up for grabs as the Warriors head toward the district meet in February.

Lebanon posted a total of 24 personal bests, Andrews said.

Other boys who PR'd were Samuel Williamson, Alex Colling, Paul Bloedel, Herb, Carson Kolling Yago Ruano Perez and Alex Kolling.

Also PRing for the girls were Erika Stephens, Hailey Guiterrez, Ricketts, Erika Stephens and Rylie Noonchester.

The meet was a good road rehearsal for the Warriors, who have competed mostly at home this year.

"This allowed the students to get a repetition on how to travel and prepare to swim fast under different circumstances," Andrews said.

"Several of the team have experience with this through their experience in past years and with the club team, but it is one variable that each experience can help ensure performance when it counts."

Lebanon hosts South Albany on Tuesday, Jan. 20, and West Albany on Jan. 27.

SH SCHOOL BOARD

From page 5

tions, commitment, integrity and grace have meant a great deal to me. You will be truly missed and I am grateful for your 18 years of service to the Sweet Home School District."

Board Member Mary Speck made it a point to get up and shake Augsburg's hand.

Thorpe, who heads the district's certified employees union, also expressed appreciation for Augsburg's service.

"I appreciate what you've done, Luke," he said, looking Augsburg's way.

"It has been absolutely incredible having him at the high school and what he brought to, as (Principal Ralph Brown) calls it, 'the team,' and what he did for students is very commendable."

In remarks to the board, Augsburg expressed "heart-felt thanks to the Sweet Home community, the staff, the families, for 18 years that I was able to serve... in this capacity. I've

really appreciated it and I've appreciated my time spent in Sweet Home and with Sweet Home students."

- Heard a request from Thorpe, representing the certified employees union, to consider making the Monday after Winter Break a prep day for teachers. He noted that many school districts have incorporated that into their calendars. Otherwise, he said, teachers have to come in during the break on their own time to prepare for the resumption of classes - "and many do," he said.

"I'd just like us to look at that," he said. "I do know that a friend of mine who teaches in the Newberg School District said that once they did that, they'll never go back. What it does for the teachers coming in, getting everything ready to go, it's been good."

"It's a two-week break and I'd love to pull the numbers on attendance of students on that Monday when they come back, but it's down. But it's a scramble when you come back."

Board Member Rachel Maynard said her sister is a

teacher and had mentioned how the off day in her district after the Winter Break was "really nice."

Board members discussed the issue as they discussed the proposed 2026-27 academic calendar.

Supt. Terry Martin told the board that the state has mandated a certain number of instructional days for students and adding an extra prep day for teachers would require "tweaks" to the calendar.

He noted that the calendar is subject to a 30-day review period by district employee unions before it will be submitted to the board for approval.

Board Member Jenna Northern asked whether there were extra days built into the schedule for weather closures, to which Martin replied that there were none. He said decisions to close or delay schools are always made on the morning of those school days.

"You have to have transportation and meals available for it to count as a school day."

MASCOT

From page 1

(Pennsylvania), Cobden Appleknockers (Illinois), Freepport Pretzels (Illinois), Harrison Golden Goblins (Arkansas), Hatboro-Horsham Hatters (Pennsylvania), Hoopeston Cornjerkers (Illinois), Jordan Beetdiggers (Utah), Key West Conchs (Florida), Monroe Cheesemakers (Wisconsin), Poca High Dots (West Virginia), Ridgefield Spudders (Washington), and the Yuma Criminals (Arizona).

The use of Native American imagery from Lebanon's high school was removed about a decade ago.

"Since then, our mascot, what we get to rally behind, is right here on the court - interlocking initials (LW)," Swanson told the students.

During his tenure at LHS, student groups always approached him with the same thought: "We want to be able to rally behind something besides initials."

"I want everybody to be clear, we are still Warriors. Always will be Warriors. But we have a spirit mascot that's about to be unveiled that will, honestly, just be a lot of fun for our school," Swanson said.

The student body also ap-



Photo by Sarah Brown

LW Berry, sandwiched between a jammed backdrop of students, makes his first appearance at Lebanon High School.

proached the Lebanon Strawberry Festival board for their blessing. Weber noted some of the bullet points the student body made about using "L Dub" as their spirit mascot: it provides a unique identity that is inherently Lebanon, the strawberry has deep local roots that create a community connection, and it's versatile.

"It provides a fun identity for students to rally behind for spirit-related activities, since the LW logo took the place of indigenous imagery, while still complementing the Warrior identity and spirit," Weber said.

Sophomore Brooke White said it's "not what I was expecting," although she heard rumors already circulating

about the berry reveal. Tahlea Coy, senior, said the new mascot is "a little interesting," but perhaps they should've done a horse or something, instead.

Another senior said the strawberry is "pretty goofy looking" and suggested a Roman centurion or knight might be more in-line with the school's previous mascot.

"I think they did a good job tying something in that all the community is familiar with," said Dance Coach Megan Lofton.

"We just want to have fun," Swanson said. "That's the biggest thing Mr. Weber wanted to do, is deliver something that we can have fun with, and I think he has delivered a home run."

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Sweet Home boys win Oregon Classic for third consecutive year

By Ryker Burr
For The New Era

Sweet Home Wrestling keeps on rolling, winning its third-consecutive Oregon Classic crown this past weekend at Deschutes Fairgrounds.

Sweet Home dominated La Grande 54-23 in the championship match to take home the title.

Pendleton downed Cascade for third place, 42-32.

In the championship bracket, Sweet Home's total

score throughout three duals was 187-39. That was a meaningful score, said Head Coach Steve Thorpe.

"This is the unofficial dual-meet state championship," he said. "I wrestled in the very first one back in 1984, and this is the first time I've three-peaked as a coach."

In six duals (84 matches), the Huskies lost only 12 matches en-route to an undefeated campaign. Sweet Home had more falls than any other team at the tournament.

The defending state champion at 132 pounds, senior Tytus Hardee, did return this weekend. He picked up right where he left off, going undefeated at the meet.

"Hardee's leadership was huge. He wasn't 100 percent, but you wouldn't know it," said Thorpe.

Sweet Home had five other wrestlers go undefeated: Cody Sieminski (106), Riley Vaughan (120), Jesse Landtroop (126), who remains undefeated on the season; Ma-

cen Rosa (144), and Jeremiah Steagall (190).

"We had a few kids that weren't 100 percent. But you just put that stuff behind you and go compete," Thorpe stated.

The girls, who made the championship bracket, placed eighth out of 24 teams from 4A-6A division levels.

Crook County rode off with the title, while Redmond and Thurston placed second and third.

Lyla Ventura (110), Bella

Rico (125), Bailey Chafin (130), Hailey Borromeo (135), Madison Looney (140), and Eternity Allison (170) - who saw her first action since returning from injury - all won two of three matches at the tournament.

Both Sweet Home wrestling teams will host Sprague for a dual on Wednesday, Jan. 21. Wrestling will begin at 5 p.m.

The boys will then compete at the Reser's Tournament of Champions the following Friday and Saturday.

CITY HALL ART

From page 12

watching the world," Fulton said. "That gave me a huge capacity for creating."

He describes his autism as a source of heightened pattern recognition and spatial reasoning - abilities that inform everything from his drawings to large-scale sculpture and tattoo work. Fulton has more than three decades of experience as a tattoo artist, specializing in realism, black-and-gray, fine line and Japanese styles.

"Tattooing is a problem to be solved," he said. "Skin moves, stretches and ages. I can see the whole thing in my mind, rotate it, tear it apart and put it back together before I ever put pencil to paper."

That same internal visualization guided a rotating, illuminated metal sculpture Fulton helped design in 2012 - a work based on sacred geometry, Fibonacci sequences and a continuous spiral line inspired by the Mayan calendar. He is currently developing another large-scale piece and hopes to secure grant funding to complete it.

Much of Fulton's current body of work focuses on insects and invertebrates, rendered through hundreds of hours of sustained observation.

"In an era dominated by images designed for rapid

consumption, my drawings and paintings insist on slowness, intimacy, and sustained looking," he said.

"By depicting insects - organisms frequently dismissed as insignificant or threatening, I draw parallels between nonhuman life and marginalized modes of human experience."

For Fulton, the act of making art is both discipline and regulation.

"Repetition, extended focus and sensory immersion are integral to my process," he said. "Autism shapes not only how I see, but how I work."

Now living and working in Sweet Home, Fulton hopes his openness will encourage others who are neurodivergent to see possibilities rather than limitations.

"Once I realized I'm autistic, I could look back and understand my life differently," he said. "I'm not broken. I just see the world differently - and that difference has value."

Community members will have an opportunity to meet Fulton and learn more about his work during a SHOCASE-sponsored artist reception from 4 to 5 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 22, at Sweet Home City Hall, 3225 Main St. Light refreshments will be served, and Fulton will be available to answer questions about his art and creative process.



Top cheer teams perform in Sweet Home

Teams from all over Western Oregon and beyond converged Saturday, Jan. 17, on Sweet Home High School's Main Gymnasium for the Sweet Home Cheer Classic competition. Above, Sweet Home's varsity cheerleaders perform a Game Day Exhibition routine. They could not compete because they were the hosts. Below left, Sweet Home's junior team performs. Below right are Lebanon's varsity and JV teams, which also competed in the event.

Photos courtesy of Ali Gardner

