

# The New Era

SWEET HOME • LEBANON • AND SURROUNDING COMMUNITIES

SERVING EAST LINN COUNTY SINCE 1929

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 18, 2026

VOL. 96, NO. 7 | \$2.00



## Fish Art Installation on Main Street

Left, Brian Womack of the Sweet Home Public Works Department digs a hole in the Main Street median in preparation for installing a metal fish, left, one of 60 created by Sweet Home High School metal shop students in December to decorate the median. Right, Craig Still of the Public Works Department adjusts the position of a fish. The display will include 60 fish that students cut out of one-eighth-inch metal and welded onto rebar for installation along Main Street. Half the fish, which represent a variety of species, face one way and the other half, mounted on the other side of the median, face the other, Womack said. City employees used buckets to cast a cement base for each fish. They were installed on Feb. 12.

- Photos by Scott Swanson

## Lebanon to hire consultant for municipal jail option levy

By Sarah Brown  
Of The New Era

The Lebanon City Council unanimously agreed to move forward toward a possible local option levy during its meeting on Wednesday, Feb. 11.

The \$1.7 million levy would fund the reopening of the municipal jail for five years. The first step, though, would be to hire a consultant who could help determine whether placing the measure on the ballot could prove favorable.

"They do random polling of multiple members of the community," City Manager Ron Whitlatch said.

The cost of the consultant could be as much as \$50,000, or less, depending on polling responses and whether the council wants to pursue more polls or town halls.

"You cannot put a price on your safety and security," Councilor Dave McClain said. "When people start talking about 'well, it's gonna take this much or these few dollars to accomplish this goal,' I just come back to my original

See Jail Levy, Page 5

## 'Smitty's Kitties' shares tale of kindness

By Sarah Brown  
Of The New Era

Once upon a time, not long ago, a Lebanon resident was greeted in the Bi-Mart parking lot by a solitary man who helped her with her shopping cart.

He was not an employee, but would give his time to help others in the shopping center. Every time she saw him and two of his cats that were secured to his bike with a harness and leash, he would unveil stories about his life until, one day, she published an art book she titled "The Tale of Smitty's Kitties."

See Smitty's Kitties, Page 11



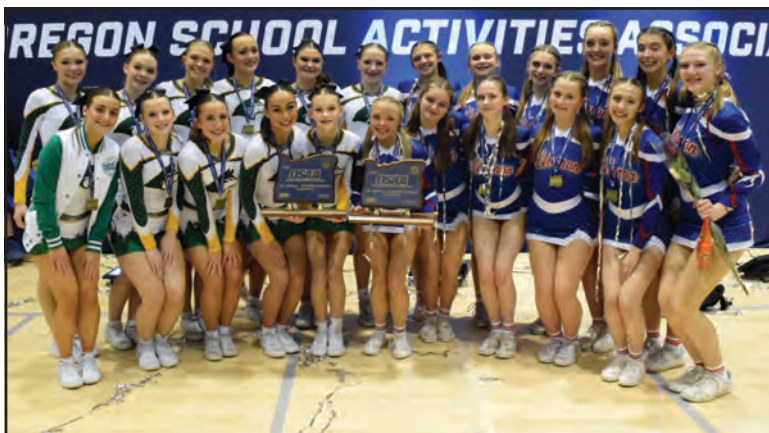
Snickerdo odle, foreground focuses on a mysterious item of interest while Butters (on the chair) and Smitty keep their attention on her.

- Photo by Sarah Brown

## Lebanon, Sweet Home back on top in cheer

State cheer competitors from Sweet Home, left, and Lebanon show off their trophies Saturday, Feb. 14, after winning the 4A and 5A OSAA state championships respectively. See more about Lebanon's achievement on page 16; page 6 for more on Sweet Home's.

- Tiffany Sieminski photo



## HOMETOWN NEWSPAPER OF DUANE WINSLOW

This Week's Top Stories

### Name that library!

Wanna get your name on a Sweet Home's library? City Council members have signed off on a plan that could make that happen.

Page 8



### Huskies score big in district wrestling

Sweet Home not only won its 12th straight district wrestling championship Saturday, Feb. 14, but they scored over 500 points to do it and qualified 20 wrestlers for state.

Page 10

### Councilors work on City Hall plans

Waterloo City Council members devoted their most recent meeting to working out plans for upgrades to their City Hall.

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## Obituaries

### Raynard McCormick Jr.

Oct. 10, 1939 - Feb. 10, 2026

Raynard "Ray" or "Butch" Edward McCormick Jr., 86, of Brownsville, passed away peacefully on Feb. 10, 2026.

He was born in Iola, Kan. to Cecille (Farrell) and Raynard Edward McCormick Sr.

Ray grew up in Mexico, Mo., until his high school years when the family moved to South San Francisco. He went on to college at Santa Clara University and graduate school at Oregon State University (Go Beavers!) as an electrical engineer.

He worked at Lockheed Martin and Sylvania in the San Francisco Bay Area before moving to Southern California to work for McDonnell Douglas in Huntington Beach. While working for McDonnell Douglas he was involved with a solar program in the Mojave Desert. Some of the software he created for the solar project is still used in the industry today.

Ray met his wife, Linda, while playing volleyball at the apartment complex they both lived in. They moved to the Portland area in 1981. He worked for Electro Scientific Industries (ESI) and ended up later at Tektronix, working on color printers.

Just before his retirement Xerox bought the company and he worked for them long enough to get his pension. By that time, the couple had bought a home in Brownsville, where they lived until his death.

Ray loved the outdoors, watching sports and was an avid stock market watcher. He was very supportive of his wife's civic activities even though he kept asking when she was going to retire!

Ray is survived by his wife, Linda (Lewis) McCormick; cousins; and many friends and past co-workers.

His sister, Sharon K. McCormick preceded him in death in 2022.

A celebration of life will be planned in the future.

Sweet Home Funeral Chapel is handling the arrangements.

*Paid Obituary*



### Betty Bagley

Nov. 4, 1934 - Feb. 8, 2026

Betty Elaine (Daniels) Bagley, 91, of Sweet Home, passed away Feb. 8, 2026.

She was born Nov. 4, 1934 in Revillo, S.D., to Fred and Susie (Crowell) Daniels.

In June 1940 she came to Sweet Home with her parents, three siblings, her maternal grandparents and five unmar-

ried aunts and uncles. Betty was the oldest of nine children.

She attended Sweet Home High School, graduating in 1952, and later attended Northwest Nazarene College in Nampa, Idaho.

Betty met Timothy Bagley in Corvallis and they married in August 1957.

Living in Svenson, in Clatsop County, Tim was involved in logging, and their children, Gary, Brenda, Luanne and Sharon were born there.



## Events

### USO dinner show VFW fundraiser

Support local veteran services by attending a USO-style dinner show at 6 p.m. on Saturday, Feb. 28, at the VFW, 580 Main St., Sweet Home.

Dinner starts at 6 p.m. followed by a show. Dinner in-

cludes Salisbury steak, split pea soup or salad, mashed potatoes & gravy, vegetables and Brown Betty bread pudding. Vegetarian and gluten free can be provided if requested prior to the event.

Tickets are \$20, or \$15 for veterans. Purchase at the VFW or call (541) 972-8556.

### SH Chamber to hold Awards Banquet Feb. 28

Sweet Home Chamber of Commerce will hold its annual Awards Banquet from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 28, at the Sweet Home Boys & Girls Club, 890 18th Ave.

The event honors businesses, leaders, and volunteers in the community. This year's theme is "A Legacy of Liberty," in recognition of the United States' 250th year.

Social hour begins at 5:30 p.m.

Tickets are \$75 per person, with a variety of table and corporate sponsorship opportunities available.

For more information, email [lagea@sweethomechamber.com](mailto:lagea@sweethomechamber.com) or call (541) 367-6186.

### Learn about life-affirming advance directives

Want to get your act together on how you want to be medically treated before it's too late?

St. Helen Catholic Church will host a seminar on "Life-Affirming Advanced Direc-

tives" with Dr. Ruth Hayes-Barba at 9:15 a.m. Saturday, Feb. 28, at the church, 600 6th Ave., Sweet Home.

An advance directive is a legal document that outlines your preferences for medical treatment if you become unable to communicate due to illness or injury. It ensures your wishes regarding life-sustaining care are followed and allows you to appoint a healthcare proxy to make decisions on your behalf.

Hayes-Barba is an adjunct professor at Mt. Angel Seminary.

For more information, call (541) 367-2530.

### Annual Author Fair

Friends of the Lebanon Public Library will host its third annual Oregon Author Fair from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Saturday, Feb. 28, at the Lebanon Senior Center, 80 Tangent St.

The fair will feature 42 Oregon authors, 12 featured speakers, 3 Potato More food truck, OHSET bake sale

### JoAnne Haley

Aug. 20, 1930 - Feb. 9, 2026

JoAnne (Walker) Haley, 95, of Lebanon, passed away Feb. 9, 2026, surrounded by her loved ones.

She was born Aug. 20, 1930, in Hollywood, Calif., to parents Jesse and Evelyn (Murphy) Walker. She spent her early years in Southern California, with her dear parents and cherished younger sister Barbara, before her family moved to Brush Creek in 1943.

She attended school in a one-room schoolhouse, where she met the love of her life, Theron (Bud) Haley.

Theron and JoAnne married in 1949. They started a business, Haley Construction

Co., and later started another, Lebanon Logging Co. They started a family, eventually having six children, and moved to Lebanon.

JoAnne was known for her excellent cooking, delicious baking, and blue-ribbon canning. She was an expert seamstress and was well known for her superb hospitality. She enjoyed taking care of her house, vegetable garden, and yard, especially the flowers, with roses being her favorite.

JoAnne was noted for her genuine warmth, humbleness, and quiet strength. Her daily life reflected her unwavering

Christian values everywhere she went. Her family, friends, and neighbors can all attest to the fact that JoAnne never spoke a single negative word in her entire life.

Out of all the roles she had, it was being a wife, mother and grandma that she thoroughly enjoyed the most. She will be greatly missed by all who knew her.

JoAnne is survived by her sister, Barbara Stoeffler of Eugene; by her four children, Cathleen (Dennis) Potter of Prineville, Randy (Joni) Haley of Lebanon, Carol (Tom) Endersby of Junction City, and Christina (Tim) Kleint of Lebanon; 21 grandchildren, 25 great-grandchildren and five great-great-grandchildren.

JoAnne was preceded in death by her parents; her beloved husband Bud; her oldest child Richard; and her youngest child Ronnie.

A memorial service will be held at 1 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 21, at Elm Street Baptist Church in Sweet Home, with a dinner following for all.

*Paid Obituary*



In 1966 they moved to Estacada, then to Sweet Home in 1982.

Betty and Tim were active in their communities and in the churches they attended. Betty used her musical abilities as church pianist and organist, also playing for weddings and memorial services.

Betty is survived by her children, five siblings, many nieces, nephews and friends.

She was preceded in death by her husband Tim (2006); her parents; two brothers and one sister.

A memorial service will be at 1:30 p.m. Saturday, March 28, at First Baptist Church in Brownsville. Graveside service was on Feb. 12 at Gilliland Cemetery.

Sweet Home Funeral Chapel

is handling the arrangements.

### Joe Parkins

March 2, 1978 - Feb. 3, 2026

Joe Scott Parkins, 47, of Sweet Home, passed away Feb. 3, 2026.

He was born March 2, 1978, to Shirley A. Parrish and Joseph Patrick Parkins in Renton, Wash.

He lived in Tacoma, Des Moines and Raymond, Wash., before moving to Sweet Home. Joe worked as a landscaper and enjoyed doing art.

He is survived by his daughter Lily; his mother, Shirley Parrish of Tacoma, Wash.; and siblings Jessica Mercer of Marysville, Wash., and William Parkins of Puyallup, Wash.

He was preceded in death by

his father, Joseph Patrick Parkins; and sister Autumn Marie Mercer (2024).

Sweet Home Funeral Chapel is handling the arrangements.

### Death Notices

**Doris Avonne Bruce (Spears), 90**, passed away Feb. 1, 2026, in Forest Grove.

A private burial was held at Lewis Cemetery in Foster.

Sweet Home Funeral Chapel is handling the arrangements. For updated information, visit [www.sweethomefuneral.com](http://www.sweethomefuneral.com).

**John Thorndyke Davis Jr., 70**, of Sweet Home, passed away Feb. 10, 2026.

Sweet Home Funeral Chapel is handling the arrangements. For updated information, visit [www.sweethomefuneral.com](http://www.sweethomefuneral.com).

# The New Era

A LOCALLY OWNED NEWSPAPER

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

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

fundraiser and a book treasure hunt.

More than 40 authors are expected to participate. See a list under "Events" on our newspaper website.

Learn more at [LebanonLibraryFriends.org/author-fair](http://LebanonLibraryFriends.org/author-fair).

### Funeral pre-planning class offered at library

A free Funeral Pre-planning Class will be offered at 11 a.m. Wednesday, March 4, at Sweet Home Public Library, 1101 13th Ave.

Light refreshments will be served. No pressure. Contact Sweet Home Funeral Chapel for more information, call (541) 367-2891.

### Josai puzzle competition

Sweet Home High School's Josai Club will host a puzzle competition at 10 a.m. on Saturday, March 14, at the high school, 1641 Long St.

Participants should form teams of 2-3 people, \$25 per team. Race to complete a

See Events, Page 4

# Public Safety

Information herein is sourced from law enforcement and fire agencies. Details, which may not always be available in time for our weekly publication, are updated on our website as information becomes available. Addresses noted generally denote the location of the incident or arrest, occasionally indicating the origin of the call. Our reporting of an individual's arrest or citation for a crime does not imply guilt. Determination of guilt can only be established through legal proceedings in court. We commit significant effort to following through as cases move through the judicial process.

A Roman numeral indicates the degree of a charge: theft I (first-degree theft). Following is a list of abbreviations that may appear in our log reports:

- AMC (Albany Municipal Court)
- DU (Driving uninsured/without insurance)
- DUII (Driving while intoxicated)
- DWS (driving while suspended)
- FTA (failure to appear)
- FTC (failure to comply)
- LCJ (Linn County Jail)
- LCSO (Linn County Sheriff's Office)
- LCCC (Linn County Circuit Court)
- LCJC (Linn County Justice Court)
- LMC (Lebanon Municipal Court)
- MIP (Minor in possession)
- OSP (Oregon State Police)
- SHMC (Sweet Home Municipal Court)
- SHPD (Sweet Home Police Department)
- SLCH (Samaritan Lebanon Community Hospital)

## FEB. 16

### LCSO/OSP LEBANON

2:22 a.m. - LCSO, LPD responded to intoxicated juvenile in park, 2700 block River Rd.

### LCSO/OSP SWEET HOME/ S. COUNTY

#### SWEET HOME POLICE

#### LEBANON POLICE

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

## FEB. 15

### LCSO/OSP LEBANON

9:58 a.m. - Deputies contacted male living in his vehicle in area of Santiam Hwy./Crowfoot, with vehicle illegally parked on shoulder of roadway. Male was told he needed to move along.

# Circuit Court

**Shannon Marie Andicochea, 54**, charged Feb. 9 with DUII (liquor).

**Lewis Ralph Brown, 65**, sentenced Feb. 11 to a \$440 fine after pleading no contest to failure to report as sex offender.

**Melissa Ann Dewar, 52**, sentenced Feb. 6 to 18 mos. prison and one year post-prison supervision after pleading guilty to forgery I. Dismissed: identity theft, FTA.

**Amos Daniel Guerrero, 30**, sentenced Feb. 11 from two separate cases to 25 mos. prison, drug treatment program, and three years post-prison supervision after pleading no contest to unlawful possession of meth, felon in possession of firearm and possession of stolen vehicle. Dismissed: felon in possession of restricted weapon, reckless driving, unlawful possession of controlled substance - fentanyl, unlawful possession of meth, giving false info to police.

**Brandin Martin Hugley, 38**, charged Feb. 11 with theft I and three counts of unauthorized use of a vehicle. Bail: \$25,000.

**Christopher Lee Hurt, 36**, sentenced Feb. 13 to 90 days suspension of drivers license, 26 mos. prison and three years post-prison supervision after pleading no contest to burglary I,

1:31 p.m. - Deputy took report of trash dumped in area of Snow Peak Dr./Ede on Weyerhaeuser property.

6:48 p.m. - Colton Rictor, 24, of Albany, cited for DWS, DU, speeding, 30400 block Santiam Hwy.

10:35 p.m. - LPD, LCSO responded to domestic disturbance in 800 block Rose. Parties separated for evening.

### LCSO/OSP SWEET HOME S. COUNTY

4:31 p.m. - LCSO performed death investigation following "medical-related event" in 36100 block Courtney Creek. Investigation ongoing, but no suspicious activity reported. Report taken.

5:25 p.m. - Jeremiah Hunt, 34, of Sweet Home, arrested for assault IV, 29200 block Pleasant Valley. Victim, the suspect's landlord, refused medical treatment and transport. Hunt cited and released. Report taken.

5:56 p.m. - Caller reported juveniles operating riding lawnmowers on roadway, 100 block Halsey. Deputy logged information.

### SWEET HOME POLICE

7:33 a.m. - Caller from 4900 block Airport reported sign ripped down at location. Officer responded, noted information at caller's request.

9:32 a.m. - Multiple callers reported vest and bullets on ground in area of 18th/Cedar. Officer responded, seized items. 1:20 p.m. - Tereza Geneva Martin, 45, cited for DWS, DU, Clark Mill/Flannigans. Vehicle impounded.

1:30 p.m. - Tina Charlene Holt, 57, cited for DWS, DU, 3200 block Main. Also cited on LMC warrant for FTA in theft case, LCJC warrant for contempt of court. Passenger Brandon John Morrissey, 32, arrested on

SHMC warrants for FTA in theft case, FTC in public indecency case. Both cited and released. Vehicle impounded.

2:32 p.m. - Jordan Scott Carter, 35, arrested on SHMC warrant for FTA in vehicle burglary case and theft case, warrant in theft case, LMC warrant for probation violation in theft case, AMC warrant for FTA in theft case, and LCCC warrant for FTA in possession of meth case. Long/29th. Cited and released.

7:18 p.m. - Eyan Robert Lynd arrested by Portland police on SHMC warrant for FTA in theft case. Cited to appear March 11.

9:32 p.m. - William Thomas Christopher arrested for disorderly conduct II after multiple callers reported that a male had stolen an electric bicycle, then returned it and was banging on windows and threatening to throw rocks if police responded to location in 700 block 27th. En route to jail, during a stop at SHPD, 1950 Main, Christopher was charged with disorderly conduct II, criminal mischief III and resisting arrest after allegedly kicking department items and throwing things in lobby. Lodged at LCJ.

11:19 p.m. - Caller reported vehicle stuck on median. Officer responded to find 2016 Buick operated by Galen Gordon Druver, 88, of Sweet Home, on median in 5400 block Main. Report taken for damage over \$2,500.

11:10 p.m. - Scott Kevin Heinz arrested by OSP on SHMC warrants for FTC in DUII case, FTA in trespassing case, FTA in criminal driving case, FTA in harassment case. Cited to appear March 11.

### LEBANON POLICE

6:14 a.m. - Subject showed person what appeared to be a tongue cut out, then returned the "tongue" to the light post at Walmart parking lot where he found it. It turned out to be a soggy strawberry sliced in half.

12:13 p.m. - Pamela Jean Smith, 65, cited for trespassing.

2:35 p.m. - John Wesley Henager, 56, trespassed from Wilco.

7:26 p.m. - Jaime Lian Johnson, 49, cited for DU.

8:18 p.m. - Shawnette Marie, 70, arrested for theft III, Walmart. Report taken.

10:11 p.m. - Keri Dawn Wogomon, 38, cited on AMC warrant for FTC - contempt of court, taken into custody on LCSA warrant for FTC - owes 21 days.

## FEB. 14

### LCSO/OSP LEBANON

1:43 p.m. - Deputy assisted SHPD officer who was seeking motorcycle and suspect involved in elude incident, 30300 block Horseshoe Loop.

2:34 p.m. Juvenile arrested for harassment, contempt of court following domestic disturbance in 39600 block Sodaville Waterloo Dr. Juvenile taken to Linn County Juvenile Detention Center. Report taken.

### LCSO/OSP SWEET HOME S. COUNTY

10:56 a.m. - Burglary reported in 43100 block North River. Stihl chainsaw valued at \$2,400 missing. Report taken.

1:10 p.m. - Caller reported suspicious person in Pioneer Park who, caller reported, looked like he was doing drugs. Deputy investigated, learned that individual was making

See Public Safety, Page 7

# Municipal Court

**Charas L. Blanco, 52**, pleaded no contest to theft III - fine \$501, 60 mos. probation, five days work crew, no contact orders.

**Loa A.L. Branton, 36**, guilty by default for DWS - fine \$2,015, suspend license.

**William E. Brinton, 62**, pleaded no contest to DWS x2, DU - fine \$705.

**David M. Buck, 32**, pleaded no contest to felon in possession of restricted weapon - fine \$1,351, 60 mos. probation, 10 days work crew, forfeit weapon.

**Kevin A. Corrington, 27**, pleaded no contest to theft III, criminal DWS - fine \$1,767, 36 mos. probation, five days work crew, no contact orders.

**Jason A. Dodge, 32**, pleaded no contest for DWS (reduced to operating vehicle without driving privileges) - fine \$265. Dismissed with \$150 fee: failure to carry proof of compliance with financial responsibility requirements.

**James J. Georgelis, 43**, pleaded guilty to failure to perform the duties of driver when property is damaged - fine \$1,651, 36 mos. probation, three mos. license suspension.

**Jackie A. Harden, 32**, guilty by default for DWS, DU - fine \$3,030, suspend license.

**Shauna R. Harden, 33**, guilty by default for DWS, DU - fine \$3,030, suspend license.

**Joshua M. Hughes, 23**, pleaded

guilty to criminal DWS - fine \$2,101, 60 mos. probation, 15 days work crew.

**Quirino Martin-Bacilio, 57**, pleaded no contest to DUII - fine \$2,806, 60 mos. probation, 10 days work crew, drug and alcohol evaluation/treatment, victim impact panel, one year license suspension. Dismissed: reckless driving.

**Colton K. McKay, 30**, pleaded guilty to criminal DWS - fine \$1,201, 60 mos. probation, 10 days work crew. Dismissed: criminal DWS, DWS.

**Oscar J. Phillips, 55**, guilty by default for DWS, DU - fine \$3,030, suspend license.

**Garrett R. Stevens, 47**, pleaded no contest to unlawful possession of a firearm, DWS - fine \$941, 36 mos. probation, 15 days work crew, forfeit weapon. Dismissed: DU, failure to renew registration.

**Jeramie J. Stucky, 20**, pleaded no contest to failure to register vehicle - fine \$115.

**Jessey A. Tenbusch, 32**, pleaded no contest to DWS (reduced to operating vehicle without driving privileges) - fine \$265. Dismissed with \$50 fee: failure of a motorcycle operator to wear motorcycle helmet.

**Baylee R. Young, 28**, pleaded guilty to public indecency - fine \$501, 36 mos. probation, 15 days work crew.



## TEMPERATURES

DATE	HIGH	LOW	RAIN
2/10	46	32	0.00
2/11	53	32	0.00
2/12	57	30	0.00
2/13	50	36	0.00
2/14	47	42	0.02
2/15	45	41	0.32
2/16	44	36	0.05

## RAIN IN INCHES

Year to date: 3.43  
2/19/25: 6.32

## FORECAST

DATE	WEATHER	HIGH/LOW
2/19	Snow	42/31
2/20	Cloudy	46/36
2/21	Cloudy	54/42
2/22	Rain	51/40
2/23	Rain	50/39
2/24	Showers	50/38
2/25	Showers	50/38

## LAKE LEVELS

Foster 615.5  
Green Peter 928.3

TODAYS FIRE DANGER IS **LOW**

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

## CROSSWORD KEY

Puzzle on page 17

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

## SUDOKU KEY

Puzzle on page 17

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

## Letters to the Editor

### What are we willing to give up to lower taxes?

#### Editor:

I read your editorial regarding the level of taxes in Oregon.

I was surprised that you did not mention that Oregon does not have a general sales tax to help offset the need for other taxes.

This allows individuals from Washington to cross the river and shop in the Portland metropolitan area to avoid the 6.5% Washington State sales tax, not to mention the additional taxes added by cities, counties and special districts.

Tourists also are able to

avoid sales tax in Oregon while Oregonians have to pay sales taxes in all surrounding states.

Taxes are necessary to support public safety including police and fire protection in addition to roads and education.

Oregonians have defeated sales tax referendums several times.

What are Oregonians willing to give up to have lower taxes?

Complaining is easy. Solutions are hard.

Maybe you should suggest some alternative solutions to funding services that every Oregonian wants and uses.

Maybe you should run for the state Legislature.

**Richard Wopat**  
Lebanon

## GOT THOUGHTS?

The New Era welcomes written opinions from readers about the newspaper and matters of public interest, which contribute tastefully to our mission of providing a marketplace of ideas for our community. Typed letters are preferred. They can be submitted by e-mail, in person or by fax at The New Era's office. Letters can be emailed to [news@sweethomenews.com](mailto:news@sweethomenews.com). Please include the words "Letter to the Editor" in the subject line. All submissions MUST include the writer's name (no pseudonyms), address and phone number, in case we need to contact you. Your name and city of residence will be published with your letter. Questions? Contact us at the email above or at (541) 367-2135.

## EVENTS

### From page 2

500-piece puzzle. Prizes will be awarded to the top three teams. Snacks and drinks provided.

Proceeds benefit the Josai Club student exchange program.

To sign up, contact Amy Middlemiss at [amy.middlemiss@shsd55or.gov](mailto:amy.middlemiss@shsd55or.gov).

### Veterans Home Cruise-in

The Oregon Veterans Home in Lebanon invites car enthusiasts to share their classic or military vehicles during the annual Spring Fling Cruise In. Space is limited.

The event will be held from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Saturday, April 25, at the OVHL, 600 N 5th St., Lebanon.

To reserve your car spot, or for more information, contact Bess Nichols at [bessnichols@ovhlebanon.org](mailto:bessnichols@ovhlebanon.org), or text (541) 409-6569.

## Opinion: Why FFA matters in Oregon

### By Tricia Mooney

In a state where agriculture remains the cornerstone of our economy and culture, Oregon FFA has been cultivating the next generation of leaders for nearly a century.

But FFA is about more than just cows and plows. The organization once known as "Future Farmers of America" changed its name to "FFA" in 1988, reflecting a shift from strict agricultural education to more broad career development.

Whether a student wants to get involved in farming, run their own business or dive into public service, FFA teaches valuable skills like teamwork, public speaking and parliamentary procedures that will prepare them for life after graduation.

That is why it was so disheartening to see Oregon FFA stands to lose up to \$1.1 million - nearly three-quarters of its 2024 revenue - in state budget cuts. Without this funding, hundreds of students in Hermiston and across the state could lose access to FFA programs while also limiting the ability for FFA advisors to support students and their projects outside of regular school hours.

The data show that FFA and other career and technical education programs have been a major boost to Oregon's high school graduation rates. Statewide, the graduation rate for all students in 2023-24 was 81.3%. For CTE participants, the rate jumped to 90.3%, and for CTE concentrators the rate was an incredible 97.7%.

Outside of a traditional four-year degree, CTE gives students the tools they need

for careers in trades along with general skills that make them attractive candidates for any job they might pursue.

State funding for Oregon FFA was most recently re-established by lawmakers in 2019. That year, House Bill 2444 allocated \$1.43 million to the state Department of Education in part to finance enrollment for low-income students whose families couldn't afford the membership fees. That led to FFA enrollment here in Hermiston nearly tripling, from about 220 kids to 600.

What these kids experience through Oregon FFA is truly remarkable. The organization offers 29 different leadership and career development events each year, most of which are team contests that prioritize communication and cooperation.

We hear from employers in our community who actively seek out FFA participants to hire after graduation because their professionalism, confidence and cordiality sets them apart. As the common refrain goes, "You can always tell an FFA kid by listening to them speak and how they present themselves."

Why, then, would we want to choke off access to an organization that we know is helping students graduate as it prepares them for life beyond the classroom? When you reduce opportunities for students - especially those like FFA that help them to complete their high school education - it creates an uncertain future, particularly in our rural communities.

Along with increasing enrollment, state funding for

FFA ensures that our dedicated advisors and agriculture teachers can work year-round supporting Student Agricultural Experience projects. These can range from research projects to full-fledged student-run businesses.

For example, a student might start their own livestock breeding program, with sales going to support their college education. The level of commitment demonstrated by both students and their advisors is exceptional, and worthy of the state's investment. We need leadership in our schools, our communities, and our state, and FFA helps grow the citizens we want leading us in the future.

The Legislature that created Oregon's current FFA funding model recognized its essential role in sustaining career and technical education and our agricultural workforce.

While we understand the budget pressures lawmakers now face, cutting this funding would be a step backward with lasting consequences for our workforce, our communities, and our food systems. FFA is an investment that works, and one Oregon cannot afford to abandon.

*- Tricia Mooney is superintendent of the Hermiston School District, the largest district in Eastern Oregon with more than 5,300 students. This piece originally appeared in Oregon Capital Chronicle.*

## From our Files

### Feb. 22, 1951

High Mass was conducted at St. Edwards Catholic Church in Lebanon for the five children, ages six months to six years, of Mr. and Mrs. Francisco Gutierrez, who died in the worst fire tragedy to strike Sweet Home. The parents arrived from Langmack Hospital where they were treated for shock, burns and cuts. Heat from the fire was so intense it demolished the interior of the car in the driveway.

A passerby noticed water running under the locked front doors of Washburn's 10-cent and Mode O'Days stores after a water pipe burst in the Milburn building. Only about \$50 in damage was reported from furniture and facial tissues.

### Feb. 19, 1976

The \$5.26 million proposed Sweet Home School District budget will go to voters in May. The budget requires a 9.6% increase in local property taxes. Currently property owners are paying \$9.27 per \$1,000 assessed value. If approved, they would pay \$10.24 per \$1,000.

The Sweet Home Women's Club offered fifth and eighth grade students an opportunity to participate in the "200 Years of American Progress" poster contest. Blaine Lee Dysinger, fifth grade at Foster School, and Michael Ross Fitzgerald, eighth grade at the junior high, both won first place, each receiving a \$25 savings bond.

A potential threat to the economic well-being of Sweet Home's White's Electronics was headed off. The State Parks Department had banned use of metal detectors in Oregon state parks. After seeing an "impressive" presentation by State Senator John Powell, and Gary Morris and Gilbert Thompson, who represented White's Electronics, the rule was changed to allow metal detectors by allowing users to sign a form ensuring no property damage will take place.

### Feb. 21, 2001

A recent poll resulted in a recommendation for the Sweet Home School District to split a \$21.6 million bond in two. The first 30-year, \$15-17 million bond to be proposed

would include demolition and reconstruction of portions of the high school, a remodel at Hawthorne Elementary, heating and ventilation work, hallway tiling, asbestos sampling, blacktop and restroom, and ADA improvements.

Sweet Home leaders approached the site selection committee for the Department of Public Safety and Standards to recommend the rural city as a good location for the new training academy. They proposed the former Willamette Industries sawmill site on 24th Avenue. They cited location, community spirit and quality of life as reasons for siting the academy in Sweet Home.

Safeway prepares for its grand opening of its new building in Sweet Home, with "hometown boy" Ed Spencer named as its store manager. The 42,000 square foot building replaces a 37-year-old 16,000 square foot one. The new building is Safeway's third one in Sweet Home since it began serving the area 46 years ago. Spencer started his Safeway career 33 years ago as a 16-year-old courtesy clerk.



From right, Valerie Gourley, Shelley Weld and Thelma Edwards present Fae Farrier with a \$175 donation check in 1976 from the Girl Scouts for the East Linn Museum Society.

# Lebanon Community Hospital Foundation Scholarships

The Lebanon Community Hospital Foundation and the Samaritan Lebanon Community Hospital Auxiliary are now accepting applications for their scholarship programs. Samaritan employees and residents of East Linn County are encouraged to apply.

## Samaritan Lebanon Community Hospital Auxiliary Scholarships

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

## Lebanon Community Hospital Foundation Scholarships

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

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

The following scholarships are available:

The Frank Girod, MD, Medical Scholarship for students enrolled in medical school. This scholarship is named for the late primary care physician who was instrumental in the establish-

ment of Samaritan Lebanon Community Hospital.

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

The John and Carol Dinges Medical Scholarship for East Linn County students enrolled in an entry-level health care program at Linn-Benton Community College. Examples of entry-level programs include certified medical assistant, certified nursing assistant, medical office specialist and dental assistant. First preference will be given to seniors and graduates of Lebanon High School, but seniors and graduates at all high schools in East Linn County are invited to apply.

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

# Foundation offering grants for SH organizations, projects

The Sweet Home Community Foundation has begun accepting grant applications for the 2026 cycle.

The goal of the foundation is to provide funding and support to worthwhile community organizations and projects in the Sweet Home area, as defined by the SHSD boundaries.

Grant awards will vary depending upon the scope and quality of each project, with priority given to proposals that demonstrate strong and lasting benefits to the Sweet Home community.

Applications can be submitted online at [giveshcf.org/grant2026](http://giveshcf.org/grant2026) through March 31, 2026.

Grants can be awarded to a 501(c) 3 entity, other qualified organizations, such as local

governments, or the proposed project may be implemented by any project in partnership or affiliation with one of the above organizations.

Grant funds are provided through The Sweet Home Community Foundation, the generosity of local businesses and individuals and

SHCF's Tim and JoAnne McQueary - Leave a Local Legacy Endowment.

Grant award recipients will be announced in April.



City Recorder Julie Fisher, at right, swears-in Marcellus Angelford, at left, as councilor for a seat in Ward 1. - Photo by Sarah Brown

## JAIL LEVY From page 1

thinking: you just can't put a price on it."

### Champion Mill Cleanup

Whitlatch informed the council that city staff have begun doing a clean up at the old Champion Mill site. The property owners, he said, provided dumpsters and police have been out there to help.

By the time of the meeting, the city had filled four 30-yard dumpsters, with more to come.

"It is a definite mess and some of the pictures I've seen, it's amazing to me that we've got that going on," he said.

Mayor Ken Jackola clarified it's been a long process to get to this point as they worked prior hand with stakeholders and property owners, and offered services to people living on the property (all of whom refused, he said).

In answer to a question posed by Councilor David McClain, Whitlatch reported the property owners are pay-

ing for the dumpsters, and an agreement is in place that they will also pay for the labor and service, or a lien will be placed on the property.

"It's in such disarray that we gotta do something with it," he said. "The property owners didn't have the mechanism to do that. It's not necessarily the city's responsibility financially to do this. That's why we've set it up the way we have."

According to Whitlatch, the city will continue to keep the property cleaned and mowed down.

"The encampment back there was massive," he said. "We did let them take stuff with them and we tried to work around their stuff so that they could take it, but they've also been given notice and we gave more than ample time of that notice."

### In other business:

Marcellus Angelford was sworn in as councilor for Ward 1.

Council awarded GMP Amendment No. 2 for the Cheadle Lake Park Improvements Project to Knife River

in the amount of \$3,478,138. It includes ADA-accessible parking, a paved parking lot, ADA multi-use paths, an ADA-compliant restroom facility, site lighting, and infrastructure necessary for irrigation and future power needs.

Whitlatch reported the city is preparing to put in a capital funding request to the state for the wastewater plant.

Jereme Guenther, member of a local ham radio group, presented MeshCore, an open-source off-grid emergency communication system that connects bluetooth on a users smart phone to work like a text message app. "If the cell towers go down and you have no other means of communication, you can get on this device and you can text a local ham radio operator who can then get your message out to the world." Guenther wanted to make the public aware that the system is available in the Lebanon and Sweet Home area at an "inexpensive" cost.



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# SH cheer squad ends string of runner-up finishes with title

By Scott Swanson  
Of The New Era

Sweet Home's competition cheer squad won the OSAA 4A state championship Saturday, Feb. 14, in decisive fashion, finishing the competition at Oregon City High School with a nine-point lead over two-time defending champion Newport.

Sweet Home finished with top scores in every category - overall, building and tumbling and jumps, though the Huskies took a two-point reduction for a safety violation.

Nonetheless, they outscored second place Newport 89.80-80.50, with Cascade (66.60), Estacadea (64.20), Stayton (58.30) and Cottage Grove (50.60) rounding out the finishers in the 4A Traditional competition.

It was the Huskies' first state title since 2016, despite finishing second five years in a row.

"Every year," said Coach Amber Rosa, clearly enjoying the end of the streak.

One difference this year, said Rosa, who is in her 16th season with the Huskies, was that her team was healthy.

Last year, she said, they performed in a national competition the week before OSAA state and most of her athletes were sick for the Oregon state championships, some competing with "high fevers," she said.

One year they missed the title by two-tenths of a point.

Another year, Rosa recalled, one of their stunts was ruled illegal at the last minute, which cost them 10 points - after they had competed seven times earlier in the season using that component in their program.

This year's team is benefiting from some athletes who have had gymnastics training.

That has allowed them to "really push hard" to use more difficult tumbling skills and stunts.

"This is the first time ever we've been able to hit higher tumbling range stunts," Rosa said, adding that six of her girls are capable of doing spring tucks - in which a powerful, high-rebound back handspring is immediately followed by a tucked backflip.

"This group is really hard-working," she said. "They're doing whatever it takes and that makes a big difference. We're stunting and jumping in the highest range possible."

The Huskies' roster is young, composed of seniors Katriona Harris and Natalie Conn, juniors Ember Ogden and Hannah Sieminski, with sophomores Grace Gardner, Ava Padua, Emmalin Rosa and Taylee Rosa, and freshmen Aira Erspamer, Elizabeth Hankins and Addison Lynn, rounding out the group. In addition to Amber Rosa, coaches are Taylor (Thorpe) Bach, Dar Hummer and Lindsey Martin.

"The credit has to go to the kids. This group is as good as they are because they have all grown up in our club program and have been putting in the work for years before they ever hit high school. They are an extremely talented and driven group.

It all came to fruition on Saturday.

The Huskies, she said, "hit their routine really well," and despite a "minor" bobble on



Sweet Home cheerleaders, above and below, perform during their state competition, en route to their first state championship since 2016.

one stunt, which cost them a point - their other deduction was for going a second too long, they delivered.

"I think there was a little bit of disbelief for a second," Rosa said, when her team actually realized they had won.

"We were so close to winning, so many times. When we beat our rivals, Newport, it was awesome. They were super excited."

The USA Spirit Nationals is next, this weekend in Anaheim, Calif.

The Huskies, she said, have qualified seven different routines for the competition, which also includes opportunities to connect with college programs.

The competition will include hundreds of high school teams from around the nation, she said.

"We'll have 38 teams in our show cheer division and 26 in our crowd division," she said. Sweet Home has qualified for seven competi-



- Tiffany Sieminski photos

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# Fatal Crash on Park Street in Lebanon

By Sarah Brown  
Of The New Era

A Lebanon man was killed on the afternoon of Wednesday, Feb. 11, when his motorcycle crashed on Park Street.

When police arrived on location just past Elmore Street, first responders were performing CPR, but the driver was pronounced deceased at the scene.

Police Chief Frank Stevenson confirmed the identity of the operator was Hayden Dye, 21.

Based on initial evidence, police determined that Dye's motorcycle appeared to have been going around the curve too fast when the driver lost control, ultimately hitting the concrete barrier or pole between the offices of RKI Insurance and the Lebanon Chamber of Commerce.



Officials work at the scene of the crash in the area of Main and Park Sts. - Photo by Sarah Brown



Sweet Home School District staff, above, survey the back of Route 52's bus after it was rear-ended by the Chevrolet Silverado, pictured below, on Pleasant Valley Road.

- Photo by Sarah Brown



# Summer jobs available through Forest Service

The Willamette National Forest is hiring seasonal employees for the upcoming recreation season and is encouraging local residents to apply.

"Our seasonal employees are the backbone of summer operations keeping our campgrounds, trails, and recreation sites open, safe and welcoming for visitors," said Robert Sanchez, Willamette National Forest supervisor. "These positions offer meaningful work, hands-on experience, and the chance to support public lands close to home."

The Willamette National Forest is recruiting for a variety of roles, including:

- Recreation and visitor services
- Trail and facility maintenance
- Active resource management.

The Forest Service has streamlined its hiring process and shortened hiring timeframes, allowing seasonal employees the opportunity to begin work earlier — opening more opportunities for people in rural communities to compete for jobs close to home.

"This year, we're focusing our recruitment within the communities we serve," said Forest Service Chief Tom Schultz. "Local residents bring invaluable knowledge, pride, and a strong connection to the places we care for. We are excited to offer more opportunities for people who want to work close to home."

These positions are in addition to seasonal fire hiring already under way. If you enjoy being in the outdoors and are interested in seasonal employment with the Forest Service, please check for opportunities and hiring events in your area.

Visitors will be able to enjoy cleaner recreation sites, improved trail access and many other benefits as a result of this seasonal workforce.

"Seasonal jobs can be a first step into a natural resources career, a way to build experience, or simply a chance to spend the summer working outside," added Sanchez. "We encourage anyone interested to apply."

Interested applicants must apply through USAJOBS.gov. Application periods, qualifications, and start dates vary by position. Applicants are encouraged to review job announcements carefully for deadlines and required materials.

## PUBLIC SAFETY

From page 3

arrowheads. 200 block W. Park, Brownsville.

1:41 p.m. - Caller reported mailbox struck in hit and run by vehicle, 1000 block North River. Wanted LCSO to be aware.

8:23 p.m. - Operator warned for speeding to dinner date, Bishop/Templeton, Brownsville.

9:38 p.m. - Crash reported in 42300 block North River. No injuries, but property damage reported. Report taken.

10:38 p.m. - Adrian Anthony Kast, 21, of Sweet Home, cited for speeding, 70/45, Bishop/Pearl, Brownsville.

### SWEET HOME POLICE

10:18 a.m. - Hunter Ariel Ringheimer, 32, arrested for escape III after, according to SHPD, he fled across South Santiam River. Also arrested on LMC warrant for FTA in criminal citation case, LCCC warrant for FTA in fentanyl possession case. Cited and released at SLCH.

11:26 a.m. - Timothy Loren Ames, 36, arrested on SHMC warrant for FTC in theft case, LCSO warrant for FTC in theft case, 1400 block Nandina. Cited

and released.

12:15 p.m. - Caller in 4100 block Osage reported multiple individuals in location who, caller said, were involved in robberies in area. Officer responded, report taken for theft II. Missing items valued at approximately \$500.

2:55 p.m. - Caller reported male walking on railroad tracks, 1900 block Main. Officer contacted male, who was warned for trespassing.

3:32 p.m. - Caller reported dog barking "continually" in 1200 block Main. Officer responded, located barking dog, unable to locate anyone at residence.

4:49 p.m. - Stephanie Irene Starkweather, 38, arrested for theft III after caller from Dollar General, 1937 Main, reported female stole item(s) from store. Arrested for meth possession after arresting officer found drug paraphernalia on her during theft arrest. Starweather also cited on SHMC warrant for FTA in theft case, FTA in trespassing case, LCCC warrant in fentanyl possession case, and five counts of possession of meth. Cited and released.

10:01 p.m. - Daniel Keith Follett

arrested on LMC warrant for probation violation, Dollar General, 1937 Main.

### LEBANON POLICE

1:37 a.m. - Justin Lee Walker, 38, cited on LCCC warrant for FTA - FTA II.

11:45 a.m. - Sandro Hernandez Zamarron, 27, arrested for hit and run, cited for failure to obey traffic control device.

3:27 p.m. - Two-car crash, W Airport/S 2nd. Teodora Daisy Kirk, 33, arrested for hit and run, failure to obey duties of driver, DWS. Report taken.

7:05 p.m. - Two-car crash, 1400 block S Main St. Lori Ann Nordstrand, 65, cited for failure to obey traffic control device.

9:59 p.m. - Johnny Walker Jr., 43, cited on LMC warrant for probation violation.

### FEB. 13

#### LCSO/OSP LEBANON

No citations or arrests, reports taken.

#### LCSO/OSP SWEET HOME S. COUNTY

9:11 a.m. - Deputy assisted cat owner with removal of can from cat's head. 39600 block Crawfordville Dr.

12:47 p.m. - Deputy contacted

See Public Safety, Page 8

# School bus rear-ended at railroad tracks

By Sarah Brown  
Of The New Era

Medics and Sweet Home police responded to a two-vehicle crash on Pleasant Valley Road on Friday, Feb. 13.

The crash, which occurred at approximately 3:30 p.m., involved a truck and a school bus at the railroad tracks just off Highway 20.

According to a police report, a 2001 Chevrolet Silverado pickup driven by Emry Rose Vannice rear-ended the bus, driven by Richard M. Coffin, as it was stopped at the railroad tracks. Ages were not provided in the police report.

A letter from the school district's transportation department to parents reported

that the school bus for Route 52 was stopped at the railroad tracks, which it is required to do, when the driver of the truck ran into the bus. The truck's front end was heavily damaged and the bus had slight damage.

The students were reported to be safe and were transferred to a different bus for transportation home. The truck driver appeared to be OK, although her airbag deployed.

"We are thankful that no students reported any injuries at the scene," said Darel Bidwell, District 55 transportation director, in a letter to parents. "We are truly relieved that everyone is safe."



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# Linn County leads state in permit turnaround, commissioners learn

By Alex Paul  
Linn County Communications

The Linn County Planning and Building Department usually takes fewer than 10 days to issue a building permit if the application was complete when submitted, director Steve Wills told county commissioners Roger Nyquist, Sherrie Sprenger and Will Tucker at their February 10 board meeting.

Wills, who has headed the department for about 3½ years, said that Linn County's quick turnaround time caught the attention of a national database company called "Shovels." According to a graphic produced by Shovels, Linn County is the only county in Oregon that consistently issues permits in 10 or fewer days.

Wills said the permitting clock stops if an application is incomplete and restarts when the necessary information is added.

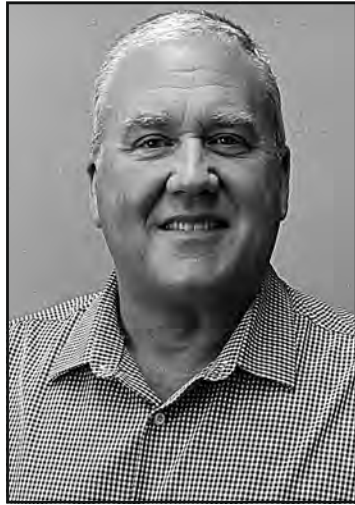
According to Shovels, some counties in Oregon and across the country, routinely take more than 70 days to issue a permit.

Wills said after the meeting that his goal has been to create an efficient department, which includes cross-training all staff members.

"This gives us an opportunity to better serve the public and that is why we are here," Wills said.

All three commissioners indicated they were pleased with the news and the quality service provided to the public.

Nyquist, the board chair, said he believes Linn



Steve Wills  
- Linn County Photo

County residents appreciate streamlined and efficient government services.

"People realize that time is money and the longer it takes to process a permit application, costs go up," Nyquist said.

Wills also reported there were 43 land use permits issued in January, compared to 49 in January 2025. There were 296 total building permits issued compared to 260 a year ago.

There were 25 permits for dwellings, two for single-family units; six for manufactured homes; 14 for additions or alterations and three for accessory buildings.

Of the 296 total permits, 38 required a plan review, compared to 32 a year ago.

There were 27 permits issued within contract cities, compared to 23 a year ago.

Nine code enforcement cases were opened and eight cases were closed in January.

## PUBLIC SAFETY

From page 7

campers on BLM land in 51100 block Quartzville whose camp was "messy" and approaching 14-day limit. Campers assured deputy camp would be cleaned up and vacated by next day.

4:03 p.m. - Caller reported neighbor's dog had returned to caller's property, an "ongoing issue." 39700 block Hwy. 228. Report taken.

### SWEET HOME POLICE

7:00 a.m. - Police assisted LCSO with what is described as a domestic violence incident in 39200 block Crawfordville Dr. Details not clear in log for either agency. Will be updated as they become available.

11:32 a.m. - Terry James McCarthy, 40, cited for DWS, DU, 2300 block Main.

1:08 p.m. - Caller reported male with blanket on his head waving knife towards caller's wife, 900 block Long. Officer responded to male walking eastbound on Long, waving knife and laughing. Male, 38, taken into protective custody, transported to SLCH on police officer hold.

1:31 p.m. - Michael Travis Flanigan, 31, arrested by Department of Corrections in Salem on SHMC warrant for FTA in giving false information case.

2:25 p.m. - Caller reported something that didn't belong to him in the back of his truck, 1000 block Mountain View. Officer responded, determined item was hammock. Seized as found property.

2:49 p.m. - Shannon Gay Hampton, 61, arrested for DUII, 1200 block 49th, following report that

female was yelling at Samaritan Health staff, then drove away

intoxicated. Cited and released. 3:30 p.m. - Crash reported at Main/Pleasant Valley.

8:21 p.m. - Caller from Speedee Mart reported fake \$20 bill passed at store, 1501 Main St. Officer responded, information noted, bill seized for destruction.

10:22 p.m. - Citizen visited SHPD to report theft committed by daughter at Sweet Home High School, 1641 Long. Officer responded, juvenile to return property, victim's parents declined to pursue charges.

### LEBANON POLICE

9:21 a.m. - Robert Alan Church, 54, cited for DWS, DU.

9:43 a.m. - Raul Becerra Cardenas, 54, cited on LCCC warrant for FTA - contempt.

10:13 a.m. - Juvenile trespassed from Safeway for theft of energy drinks.

11:06 a.m. - Suspicious subject wearing mask and carrying machete, 700 block S Main St.

11:32 a.m. - Johnny Ray Mowdy, 61, cited on LCCC warrant for probation violation - sex abuse III.

1:41 p.m. - Katrina Marie Counts, 54, cited on AMC warrant for contempt of court, LMC warrant for probation violation.

1:46 p.m. - Katheryn Ann Crowell, 45, cited for DWS, DU. Car towed. Michael Scott Doyle, 55, cited on AMC warrant for contempt of court.

3:01 p.m. - Pamela Jean Smith, 65, cited for trespass II at Walmart.

3:16 p.m. - Pamela Jean Smith, 65, trespassed from Shaggy's Den, cited on LMC warrant for FTA.

4:30 p.m. - Elizabeth Nichole Inez Johnson, 26, cited on LMC warrant for probation violation.

8:23 p.m. - Cart push-out (theft) reported at Walmart. Loss:

\$438. Nicholas Joseph Norris Jr., 20, trespassed from store, charged with theft II.

9:25 p.m. - Tires slashed on car parked at Chamber of Commerce.

### FEB. 12

#### LCSO/OSP LEBANON

2:26 p.m. - Deputies responded to suspicious vehicle being driven in woods in area of Upper Berlin/Crockett

on Weyerhaeuser property with bed full of trash. Mark Lamb, 48, of Sweet Home, cited on LMC warrant for probation violation, and for DWS, DU and improper display of registration tags. No trash was dumped in woods, according to LCSO. Report taken.

3:30 p.m. - Injury to child reported per Karly's Law after DHS referral. 35300 block Richardson Gap. Report taken by LCSO.

6:30 p.m. - Single-vehicle crash reported in area of Spicer/Spicer School. Report taken.

#### LCSO/OSP SWEET HOME

#### S. COUNTY

8:46 a.m. - Deputy who tried to address nuisance property issue in 600 block E. 1st, Halsey, was met by "hostile male." Information forwarded to city to pursue abatement process. An "upset male" called LCSO shortly after the deputy's visit from the same location.

9:35 a.m. - Zachariah Mackensie, 32, of Foster, cited for DU, 6200 Hwy. 20.

9:53 a.m. - Karissa Williams, 56, of Sweet Home, cited for DWS.

10:05 a.m. - LCSO launched livestock-at-large investigation in 29100 block Lone Pine, Brownsville. Report taken.

11:08 a.m. - Joshua Harden, 46,

See Public Safety, Page 9

# Naming rights opportunities for Sweet Home library offered

By Sarah Brown  
Of The New Era

During its Feb. 10 meeting the Sweet Home City Council unanimously approved a policy for the Sweet Home Public Library outlining guidelines and procedures for naming rights and donor recognition.

As Library Director Megan Dazey anticipates a new library facility or relocation of the library, and as several recent memorial donations have been received, she believed the city needed to establish a donor naming rights policy to ensure all donations are recognized equitably.

In a memo to the council on the matter, she explained that some donations, whether large or small, came with requests for specific forms of recognition or benefits. Other donors made no such requests.

It was Dazey's view that each donation should be recognized fairly and equitably, especially as staff anticipate future fundraising efforts related to a potential new facility.

In 2016, the city created

Resolution 2016-32 pertaining to naming publicly owned properties. The proposed resolution presented by Dazey is more specific to the library, and overrides any conflict it may have with the 2016 resolution.

The proposed policy outlines how requests for naming rights and recognitions may be applied, and by what guidelines the library will approve such requests.

Naming rights may pertain to the building as well as rooms, furnishings, equipment and library collections, and will have a limited life.

Donors requesting recognition/naming rights must submit an application to the Library Advisory Board which, if approved, will be forwarded to City Council for final approval. Requests for recognition of gifts or sponsorships can be met by making the following donations: books, \$5 plus cost of item; furniture, \$50 plus cost of item; shelf range, \$5,000; circulation desk, \$7,000; small study room, \$15,000; librarian's office, \$15,000; medium study room, \$20,000; director's

office, \$25,000; staff area, \$75,000; tween area, \$75,000; teen area, \$100,000; adult area, \$150,000; large meeting room, \$200,000; children's area, \$400,000; building, \$1,000,000.

Other monetary gifts may be requested by donors for nameplate recognition.

#### In other business, the council:

- Held a work session reviewing a city-wide survey for community input on how the community feels the city is progressing;

- Approved the reappointment of Community Health Committee members Bob Dalton, Dr. Larry Horton and Michael Grenz. There were no other applicants for the seats.

- Approved the reappointment of Library Board Members Caryn Wise, Jim Corley and Kelsey Hicks, and agreed to change the term-ending dates to June 30. There were no other applicants for the seats.

- Appointed City Manager Jason Ogden as budget officer.

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**PUBLIC SAFETY**

From page 8

of Brownsville, cited for criminal mischief III in area of Main/Kirk, Brownsville.

1:28 p.m. - Shawn Holliday, 65, of Harrisburg, cited for speeding, 25500 block Hwy. 99, Halsey.

12:35 p.m. - Richard Dean Leland, 58, of Sweet Home, arrested on statewide felony warrant in connection with a weapons case, 39600 block Hwy. 228. Lodged at LCJ. Report taken.

**SWEET HOME POLICE**

8:26 a.m. - Ashley Ruthann McCarthy, 28, arrested by Albany police on SHMC warrant for FTA in trespassing case. Cited to appear March 11.

10:19 a.m. - Justin Lee Walker, 38, arrested on SHMC warrants for FTA in three trespassing cases, and FTA in public indecency case, and two Benton County Circuit Court warrants for trespassing. 18th/Long. Cited and released.

11:39 a.m. - Caller reported male going through trash receptacle in 1400 block 45th Ave. Officer responded, contacted male, who was advised to return all items to the receptacle.

1:29 p.m. - Caller from Dairy Queen, 1364 Main, reported male yelling at customers in drive-thru. Officer responded, advised male to avoid contact with Dairy Queen customers.

2:31 p.m. - Caller from BiMart, 1980 Main, reported female yelling at customers. Officer responded, advised female to keep it down.

2:50 p.m. - Individual visited SHPD, 1950 Main, to reported abuse. Verbal disturbance between male and female resulted in the Police Department lobby. Officer responded and individual left location.

3:10 p.m. - Hudson Parker Forum, 21, cited for driving uninsured, 2200 block 22nd.

4:07 p.m. - Michael Anthony Bly, 53, arrested on SHMC warrant for FTC in trespassing case. Cited and released. 15th/Nandina.

See Public Safety, Page 17

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# Huskies sending 20 wrestlers to state; over 500 points at regionals

By Ryker Burr  
For The New Era

Sweet Home wrestling managed quite the remarkable victory at the 4A Special District 2 Regional Tournament.

The Huskies (507) won by over 180 points. Cascade (325½) was second and Cottage Grove (195) was third.

"I don't think I've ever scored over 500 points before," a very happy Steve Thorpe said after Sweet Home wrapped up the regional tournament.

Twenty Huskies punched their tickets to the 4A state championships Feb. 26-27 at the Veterans Memorial Coliseum in Portland: Cody Sieminski (first at 106), Keegan Jefferson (first at 113), Riley Vaughan (first at 120), Jesse Landtroop (first at 126), Luke Rosa (first at 175), Lynkin Royer (first at 285), Conner Spencer (second at 126), Tytus Hardee (second at 132), Dillan Davis (second at 144), James Hearick (second at 150), Kyle Zajic (second at 165), Jeremiah Steagall (second at 190), Elijah Cruz (second at 215), Cael Stevenson (third at 132), Gavin Baker (third at 157), Martin Chelstad (third at 165), Zeek Gosnell (third at 175), Michael Eggers (third at 190), Liam Martin (third at 285) and Jasper Victor (fourth at 144).

Other 4A leaders and their number of state qualifiers are as follows: Pendleton (18), La Grande (16), Cascade (16) and Tillamook (15).

What stood out to Thorpe most was how many otherwise-JV wrestlers earned a state bid. Spencer, Stevenson, Victor, Baker, Chelstad, Gosnell, Eggers and Martin all aren't atop their respective weight classes for Sweet Home but proved they deserve to compete in Portland.

Spencer was just one of those. The junior pinned his



Sweet Home wrestlers celebrate their district championship after scoring 507 points to take the team title and qualifying 20 wrestlers for state. — Karyn Hartsook photo



Zeke Gosnell makes quick work of Cascade's Riley Coleman in the 175-pound consolation final. See many more photos at [sweethomenews.com](http://sweethomenews.com). — Photo by Scott Swanson

way to his first state berth (he forfeited the final to Landtroop).

Spencer reflected on his wrestling journey which started his freshman year: "I have improved a significant percent. I didn't even get to go to districts my freshman season."

Spencer also had something to say about the Huskies' depth: "We really showed off what we've been doing in the wrestling room. We practice hard. These second guys get to practice with really good guys, state placers. Now they get to go to state too."

Earlier this season, Spencer popped a fluid sac in his right knee that led him to wrestle only 11 matches going into

districts (his record was 9-2). He didn't let that stop him from checking this goal off his list.

Sweet Home had a finalist in 12 of the 14 weight classes. The next closest in that category was Cascade with five, although the Cougars claimed three district titles in the middle weights.

Luke Rosa was one of Sweet Home's six winners, collecting his third regional title. (Rosa and Royer were the only two senior winners for the Green and Gold.) The senior — who has finished in the top 3 at state for back-to-back years — pinned another two-time state placer (Griffin Copple from Cascade) to take home the crown.

Rosa attributed the

their respective finals by fall in under 1:15. Landtroop won by forfeit, as aforementioned.

Thorpe has been very pleased with Royer this season.

"He's so consistent. He's really embraced the go-to-guy role."

"It's great to have good big guys," Thorpe stated with a smile of his two heavyweights: Royer and Martin.

Thorpe once assembled a team with 23 state qualifiers, but he pointed out why this club is different.

"When I sent 23, only 6 to 7 of them scored me points. With this group, I think every single one of them can score points."

The girls team will contest Regionals this weekend on Friday and Saturday in Cottage Grove. Wrestling will begin at 1 p.m. on Friday and 9 a.m. on Saturday.

State will take place at the Veterans Memorial Coliseum in Portland Feb. 27- March 1.

"I'm proud of all the kids, even the ones that didn't place," said Thorpe.

"It was us versus the rest of Special District 2. We knew this was just part of the process." More information, including the soon-to-be revealed brackets, can be found at [OSAA.org](http://OSAA.org).

Huskies' dominance at districts to the quality of their roster: "We wrestle for each other. The dedication this program has had this year has been astonishing."

Rosa also laid out the expectations for state weekend: "The goal is to win — for the team and myself."

Perhaps the most exciting match of the day was when freshman Cody Sieminski won 8-3 over Jack Mulvahill of Cascade.

"We've been wanting that match for a long time," said Thorpe. "I think they're going to meet again in the state final."

Royer also won by 8-3 decision in the final. Juniors Jefferson and Vaughan won



Jasper Victor gets set to turn Cottage Grove's Grimly Owens en route to a fourth-place finish at 144 pounds. Photo by Scott Swanson

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## SMITTY'S KITTIES

From page 1

But that's not the end of the story, because her story underlies a story about how kindness changes people and lives on like ripples of water.

The artist-author, Mary Thorp, published her illustrated story about Robert "Smitty" Smith and his two cats, Butters and Snickerdoodle. In it, she shares how this man showed appreciation for peoples' kindness by being kind to others, himself. And then more kindness was returned to him.

Thorp first met Smitty on a cold winter day. At the time, employees at Bi-Mart would let him sit on the bench inside where it was warm.

"Every time anybody would come, he'd jump up and go take their carts for them or help walk them out to their car, but he always looked so sad," Thorp said.

She described Smitty as a quiet man with a servant's heart. She eventually learned he was sad because he'd lost a loved one, but over time she watched him come out of his shell.

"I could see him change as people were just kind to him," she said.

Smitty's cats, in the book, are referred to as Sergeant Butters because, he said, "he's always on duty," and Princess Snickerdoodle "because she's a princess."

A few years ago, Smitty bicycled to Sweet Home to acquire two black kittens, Butters and his brother, Nutters. He considers Butters, a thick black cat with a dapper triangle of white on his chest, as his service animal because the feline wakes him when he stops breathing from sleep apnea.

"He is the best cat ever, super tolerant," he said.

Snickerdoodle, a copper and black tortoiseshell, came into Smitty's life when she wandered into the loading bay behind Bi-Mart. He describes her as the "super, super social" one.

"She gets all the attention, and he just basically sits in the background because he takes care of me all night long," Smitty said of the pair.

Thorp is working on a second book about "Scarface" Nutters, the street cat who lives feral under Smitty's care.

Smitty, technically an un-housed person, prefers to say he's displaced, not homeless, because "home is where the heart is. If you have no home, you have no heart." And he likes it that way.

"We live fairly well," he said, referring to his family of five cats. "We don't have power or anything like that, but I get to come and do this (volunteer)."

According to him, he's given about 7,000 hours of volunteer work for the community, clocking in 10 to 14 hours a day, every day.

Five days out of the week, he can be found at SafeHaven Thrift Store in Lebanon where he helps with electronics, janitorial service and outdoor maintenance. Then he heads off to Dollar Tree, where he can be seen picking up trash and serving where needed.

"That's where I get the door for people," he said. "I get the carts, and it's pretty hard for the elderly to get into that heavy door, so I hold the door for people, help them take their groceries out, or anything they need from me."

Snickerdoodle and Butters also help in their own way, he said. That's because people - kids included - know the duo and will visit or bring treats. Smitty said people remember the cats' names more than they remember his, but he doesn't mind "because they get great enjoyment out of just petting my cats."

Smitty, who served four years in the Air Force, lists a number of reasons why he serves the community beyond a half-joking, "I do this because this town has put up with me for the last 45 years."

Sharing how someone donated a truck and another donated a camper shell for him to have a dry place to stay, Smitty spoke a phrase often heard across his lips, "This is the most caring and loving and beautiful people."

"It's the first place we've actually had as a home," he said.

He talked about how people tell him they love him, how the owners of Pizza Schmizza call him a blessing, how small children thank him, and how an



Robert "Smitty" Smith shows a copy of Mary Thorp's book while volunteer-working in his office at SafeHaven.

- Photo by Sarah Brown

autistic child started holding doors for people when she saw Smitty doing it.

He talked about how police searched for and found his missing cat Nye Nye.

"This is the most beautiful, caring and loving people. These police officers are top notch guys."

He talked about the time he was struck by a vehicle last September and how seeing a fireman rescue his cat that day "was the most incredible thing I've ever seen."

They're stories that make Smitty choke up in tears.

"These are the most caring and beautiful and loving people," he said again. "I could tell you a hundred stories about all of them," -

kids remembering him, seniors thanking him for holding the door, people coming just to see the cats or bring treats, and an author writing about "Smitty's Kitties."

"All we want to do is give back to the community," he said.

But Smitty, who has five daughters, 18 grandchildren and one great-grandchild, also does this to be an example to his grandkids.

"I want to show them by example that you can fall, but you don't have to stay down."

He tries to teach them by showing rather than telling, because "this is the only way that I could do it."

And now someone has

seen fit to nominate him for the Frankie Gray "Answering the Call" Distinguished Service Award, a community award banquet which will be held March 6.

Though surprised and honored, Smitty admitted he's more excited that "I got to ask the prettiest girl in town to go with me to the banquet and she said yes," referring to Sarah Kalina, whom he considers his best lady friend.

What Thorp saw just a couple years ago, a forlorn man looking to help others, has turned into a cycle of kindness and appreciation. People give, then he gives and others give back.

"I was thinking to myself that would be kind of a fun book to write because it's such a good story about helping other people. He was helping other people, so then everybody wanted to help him," Thorp said.

"The kindness has just spread everywhere because of him."

He might not realize what he's doing, Thorp said, but he likely wouldn't take any credit for himself.

And sure enough, Smitty would say behind a teary composure, "It's not about me. It's about you guys and the greatest town ever."

Thorp has self-published other personal children's books for friends and family.

"The Tale of Smitty's Kitties" can only be purchased through the author or Smitty for \$20. Each fourth book sold helps fund five coloring book versions that are donated to disaster relief packages for kids.

It's like the story of Pollyanna, Thorp concluded.

"Once people start showing other people kindness, then everybody becomes kind, and that's how it should be."

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# Multiple Huskies qualify in seven events for state swimming

By Satina Tolman  
For The New Era

Though Sweet Home's swimmers did not earn a district title this year, they left with something equally telling about the state of the program: 32 personal records set across the meet.

That performance was a reflection of a team that rose to the challenge despite a smaller roster and emotional swings that tested even veteran swimmers.

They also qualified swimmers in three relays and eight individuals in four events for the state meet, this Friday and Saturday, Feb. 20-21, at Tualatin Hills Aquatic Center in Beaverton.

Qualifiers for Sweet Home include the girls 200 medley relay team of Lexi Rundell, Kylie Melkvik, Emma Whitton and Khloe Sautel; the boys 200 medley relay team of Andrew Tolman, Austyn Hogan, Henry Jones and Grayson Savri; and individual entries in key events including the 200 freestyle (Hogan and Tolman), 500 freestyle (Sautel, Hogan and Savri), 100 backstroke (Tolman and Rundell) and 100 breaststroke (Savri). The girls 400 freestyle relay team of Ella Haggas, Melkvik, Rundell and Sautel also advanced.

Head coach A Jay Bronson said his swimmers demonstrated both preparation and grit, especially with a roster of just 16 swimmers competing against programs like Philomath and Marist, who each brought over 30 kids.

"As with every year, we carefully pick which events will score the most points and make sure we give our kids the best potential to do well," Bronson said. "It's hard when we don't have the numbers."

## Individual Standouts

### Lead Charge

From the opening races, the Huskies showed flashes of



Grayson Savri competes in the breaststroke, in which he qualified for state. See many more photos at [sweethomenews.com](http://sweethomenews.com).

dominance.

Sautel, a sophomore, led the charge, touching first in the girls 50-yard freestyle in 25.47 seconds before returning to win the demanding 500 freestyle in 5:18.96.

"It felt so good to win both of them because of all the hard work I put into the season finally paid off," Sautel said. "I was super excited to drop time in both events; overall, I felt so good about them."

Sautel said the season has reshaped her confidence as an athlete.

"I learned to believe in myself and trust myself," she said, adding she's eager for another opportunity at state. "I'm super excited to swim the 500 free again because I know how I can do better and I'm excited to see where I can place this year."

Tolman, a senior, dominated in the boys 100 backstroke, pulling out a win in 1:01.34. The race, he said, was a study in precision.

"During the 100 backstroke I was just focused on not messing up," Tolman said. "There is a lot of technique in swimming, and one slip-up could cost you the race. Specifically, I was focused on my flip turns, trying to get in and out of the

wall as fast as possible."

Tolman said his attention now shifts entirely to the next stage.

"My focus while heading to state is entirely on my backstroke," he said. "Only three days of practice is not a lot of time, but I'm hoping it is enough."

Hogan, a junior, delivered a breakout moment in the boys 200 freestyle, surprising even himself with a winning swim.

"For the 200 free I was not expecting to do so well," Hogan said. "I was just trying to get second, but I surprised myself and beat the kid with a 1:58 by going a 1:55."

Later, Hogan and teammate Grayson Savri provided a highlight-reel finish in the boys 500 freestyle, going one-two for the Huskies - Hogan first in 5:25.77 and Savri second in 5:29.07.

Bronson said those efforts reflected smart strategy and determination despite a smaller roster.

"As with every year, we carefully pick which events will score the most points and make sure we give our kids the best potential to do well," he said. "Marist was able to have four scorers in every event. We had to make sure we were still



Khloe Sautel reacts after seeing her time in winning the 500 Freestyle, which she swam back-to-back after the 50 Freestyle - which she also won.

- Satina Tolman photos

scoring points even though we didn't have the numbers."

## High-Stakes, High-Emotion Relay

On the downside, the Huskies had two relay teams, both likely state qualifiers, get disqualified for early jumps, along with some individual swimmers, which presented some serious setbacks to their state aspirations. DQ's are not uncommon at the district meet, but the number for

Sweet Home this year was well beyond normal.

"It's infuriating when something like that happens because you lose a ton of points, and it's something that shouldn't happen," Bronson said. "That being said, it's part of the sport. Things happen and you have to adapt."

One of the meet's most dramatic moments came in the

See Swimming, Page 13

## Lebanon girls claim first state berths in girls wrestling

By Ryker Burr  
For The New Era

Lebanon's Girls Wrestling team finished 12th out of 15 teams that competed at the 6A-5A Special District 3 Meet, which took place in West Salem this past weekend, but two Warriors qualified for the state championships.

Dallas won with 324½ points; North Salem was second with 266; and McNary took third with 217½. The Warriors scored 37 points.

"Unfortunately, we had the majority of our girls out for injuries," Head Coach Brooklyn McElroy reported. A recent flu outbreak did not make things easier either.

"It really hit us. Even the coaching staff," McElroy said.

Two of the five available girls punched their ticket to the Veterans Memorial Coliseum: Mary Jane Duty (second at 110) and Zoe Ruonavaara (fourth at 235).

McElroy shared the expectations for Ruonavaara's first state dance: "For Zoe, just compete. Go out there and give it all we've got."

Jane will also compete at state for the first time after an injury robbed her of the opportunity her freshman sea-



Mary Jane Duty, left, and Zoe Ruonavaara show off their medals.

- Brooklyn McElroy photo

son. McElroy said nerves got to her in her sophomore season.

But she clearly hasn't failed to show potential.

"We love her. She's great. She's super spunky."

State will take place at the Veterans Memorial Coliseum in Portland Feb. 27-28. More information, including the soon-to-be revealed brackets, can be found on OSAA's website.

## The **ICEBOX** Performer Of The Week



This week's ICEBOX performer of the week goes to Becca, our Lead Delivery Driver, a great example of what our core values look like in action: prepared, humble, hungry, and smart. She's always ready to jump in wherever she's needed, and her work ethic shows every day.

Last week especially, Becca stepped up in a big way, and a lot of people noticed. That kind of attitude makes a real difference around here.

Great job, Becca, we appreciate you and everything you bring to the team!



# LCSWA slates woodland events, activities throughout 2026

By Larry Mauter  
LCSWA member

A full year of activities relating to woodlands management has been scheduled by the Linn County Small Woodlands Association (LCSWA).

Board President Jim Merzenich presented an outline of the calendar events at the Jan. 17 annual membership meeting.

He emphasized the activities are open to all members as well as the general public interested in tree farming.

"Other ideas on tours, workshops, and other topics to cover are welcome," said Merzenich. "We need members to volunteer for our planning committee."

He is also scheduling one-hour presentations ahead of the quarterly board meeting — open for all OSWA members and guests.

In February, the scholarship fundraising 31st annual seedling sale and Local Woods Fair is set for Feb. 14.

Other events for the year outlined by Merzenich are listed below.

**Pulp Thinning tour: Tuesday, Feb. 24, 1 – 5 p.m.**

Jim Cota will demonstrate pulp thinning in a 22-year-old Douglas-fir stand that was planted at a dense spacing. This stand is adjacent to the Fun Forest Barn just off Berlin Ridge Road.

**Woodland Information Night (Peavy Hall OSU): Wednesday, March 4: 6 to 8 p.m.**

This annual event is sponsored by the Linn and Benton County chapters. Benton will take the lead in 2026. Rachel Baschieri, Technology in Natural Resources Specialist with the OSU Extension Service will present "Technology Innovations in Forestry."

**Lorelle Sherman, OSU Extension Forester** will give an overview of digital land-mapping tools. AeroTract Commercial Drone Services will discuss high-tech tools and services for aiding in forestry

decision-making and practices. The location is OSU's Peavy Forest Science Center, 3100 SW Jefferson Way, Corvallis, Starker auditorium/room 117 (next to the Jefferson Street entrance).

**LCSWA board of directors meeting: Monday, March 9**

Location: OSU Extension office, Tangent. Newly elected board members Greg Harty and Dan Lowrie will be welcomed. There will be reports on the 31st annual seedling sale results and other business. All members and guests are welcome to attend.

**Spring Noxious Weed Tour: Saturday, March 21, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.**

Welcome spring by viewing noxious weeds in flower and receiving advice on how to control them. Unwanted spring guests include Italian thistle, tansy ragwort, oxeye daisy, European hawthorne, and shining geranium. Location is Oak Basin Tree Farm, 35200 Northernwood Drive, Brownsville 97327.

**Wildflower Bird Walk: Mid-April Morning Tour**

Arrangements are being made to do this at the Finley Wildlife Refuge south of Corvallis. This will be on relatively easy day trails that allow for some disabled person's access.

**Camas Springs Farm tour: Thursday, May 1, 10 a.m. to noon**

Natural soda springs attract Band-Tailed pigeons to this site. Large Incense cedar are dominant. The tour will occur when pigeons have arrived for the summer and camas is in bloom.

Host Phillip Callaway's wife Karyn, who passed away unexpectedly in 2025, will be honored. Location is 38717 Crawfordville Drive, Sweet Home.

**Dragonfly Ranch tour: Saturday, May 30: 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.**

Landowners Dan and Sandre Nelson will be our hosts.

We will view restored oak



An LCSWA hike to Gordon Meadows is scheduled July 1, to be led by Lorelle Sherman, OSU Extension Service agent.

– Larry Mauter photo

stands abutting managed wetlands on One Horse slough. In these wetlands beaver dams provide habitat for river otters and native waterfowl. Wildflowers will be in bloom and native birds should be active. Lunch will be provided. Location is 33691 Totem Pole Road, northeast of Lebanon.

**LCSWA board of directors meeting: Thursday, June 4.**

All members and potential members are welcome to attend. Location and time to be announced.

**Linn County Tree Farm Of the Year Tour: Saturday, June 20, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.**

Larry and Nancy Mauter will be our hosts. Nancy's pollinator garden will be featured. The couple rehabilitated a 15-acre site they purchased in 1997. Their forest is diverse but is dominated by Douglas-fir and Willamette Valley ponderosa pine. Lunch will be provided. Location is 32181 Bellinger Scale Road, near Mallard Creek Golf Course.

**OSWA annual meeting and State Tree Farmer of the Year tour: June 25 - 27**

Douglas County won the state TFOTY competition in 2024. Their OSWA chapter

will host this event at the Bark Guest Ranch near Elkton.

**Gordon Meadows: Wednesday, July 1, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.**

These meadows are located at 4,000-foot elevation east of Sweet Home in a Forest Service roadless area. The wildflower tour in 2025 was a success. Lorelle Sherman, our OSU Extension agent, has agreed to do a repeat. A work party to help restore these meadows is also possible later in the summer. We will carpool from the Oregon Department of Forestry office in Sweet Home. High clearance vehicles are needed to access the trail-head. Vehicles and clothing must be weed free to visit this site.

**Linn County OSWA Summer picnic and tour: July 18, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.**

Jim Cota and Mike Melcher will host this event at the Fun Forest Barn on Berlin Ridge Road. This will include tours on the Fun Forest Tree Farm. This tree farm, managed by the Cota and Melcher families, was the Western Regional tree farm of the year in 2010.

**Rogers Mountain Tree Farm Tour: August TBD**

We will view a 40-year-old

Douglas stand being commercially thinned using cut-to-length methods, a recently built farm pond, and managed conifer plantations. Land use issues affecting tree farms in Linn County will also be discussed.

**Reforestation Workshop Tour: Aug-Sept.**

This will be an evening classroom event followed by a tour. The target audience are private landowners planning a harvest in the next year, regardless of whether they belong to OSWA or not. We expect to get funds from OFRI for this event and have the support of the executive board.

**LCSWA board of directors meeting: Thursday, Sept. 3.**

All members are encouraged to attend. Time and location will be announced.

**Mill Tour: September-October:** Location and Date TBD

My preference is to have a tour of the Sierra-Pacific mill on Hwy 99 S of Junction City. I have toured the mill with Lane County members and have sold logs to this mill. It's the closest mill to our farm south of Brownsville. We ask our members to make more suggestions.

**Sunnyside Park pine restoration: October TBD**

The Bob Mealey demonstration ponderosa pine stand near Foster Lake needs our help. This would be a "breakfast" event to clear out blackberries and other noxious weeds while pruning the trees, if necessary. We chose October to avoid creating problems with the Ips bark beetle.

**LCSWA board of directors meeting: Thursday, Dec. 3**

All members and guests are invited. Location and time of meeting will be announced later.

For more information, contact Merzenich at jim@oakbasin.com

## SWIMMING

From page 12

when the Sweet Home boys A medley relay team, a "top-five" prospect at state, according to Bronson, was initially disqualified, then re-instated.

"At first, when the relay was DQ'd, I was so disappointed in myself and couldn't believe that I false-started as a senior," said Tolman, who was called for a false start. "My coaches and teammates were also in disbelief because I've never done anything like that before. It was one of the worst feelings I've ever felt."

Then came a sudden reversal.

"When coach A Jay came up to me saying the DQ was voided, my crying went from disappointment and guilt to

joy," Tolman said. "The rest of my relay teammates were also relieved."

Bronson said officials overturned the call after another coach reported swimmers playing with rubber ducks on deck and squeaking them at the moment the movement was judged.

"It was heartbreaking," Bronson said. "It's a top-five relay at state and it crushed us. Luckily, the meet ref said a distraction like that is a reason to overturn the DQ. It was a huge break."

**Team Depth and Final Results**

Despite the emotional roller coaster — and several disqualifications elsewhere, the Huskies remained competitive throughout the meet.

Lexie Rundell placed third in

the girls 100 backstroke in 1:10.91, and Kylie Melkvik added another podium finish with third in the girls 100 butterfly in 1:27.62.

Hogan said the team battled through challenges created by a smaller roster.

"The smaller team numbers did lead to us not doing great in districts," he said. "We were still competitive, but due to the amount of DQs we had on the first day, we just didn't have enough people swimming enough events to score well."

When the final scores were announced, Sweet Home finished third overall with 311 points, behind Marist Catholic and Stayton. The girls placed second with 166 points, while the boys finished fifth in a tightly packed field with 145

points.

**Historic Streak, New Perspective**

For Bronson, the meet represented both an ending and a continuation. While the program's 50-year district title streak came to a close, he framed the result in broader historical terms.

"Fifty straight years of a first-place trophy either on the boys' side, girls' side or both," Bronson said. "So while this is the first year without a first-place trophy, we view it as the 51st year with a trophy. It's an incredible accomplishment."

He said his post-meet message focused on reflection rather than disappointment.

"We discussed how proud of them we are, and how for them to reflect on how their hard work related to their ac-

complishments," Bronson said.

**Looking Ahead to State**

The season now shifts to the state stage. The OSAA state championships will be held Feb. 20-21 at Tualatin Hills Aquatic Center, where Sweet Home will send a strong contingent aiming to extend the program's tradition of post-season success.

Bronson said success at state will be measured by advancement and continued growth, but he stressed that the foundation of the program remains unchanged.

"All of this is possible through the kids' hard work," Bronson said. "Coaches are there to support them, but they are the ones putting in the hard work, and it shows."

# SH School Board OK's bond measure for May 19 election

By Scott Swanson  
Of The New Era

Sweet Home School Board members on Monday, Feb. 9, approved language for a bond measure for the May 19 election that asks voters to essentially continue the current school bond so the district can receive a \$12.252 million grant from the state.

The vote was unanimous, though Board Member Mary Speck was absent.

The \$40 million bond measure would essentially extend the current bond, which voters approved in 2017.

The money would pay for safety upgrades at all the district's schools, including updated emergency communication and lockdown systems, Business Manager Kevin Strong told the board.

Other "guiding checkpoints" board members identified in their January meeting for the proposed bond measure include maintaining the current tax rate, which is \$1.45 per \$1,000 of assessed property value; prioritize classroom and learning facility upgrades at the high school; create schools that are "durable" and "long-lasting," and leveraging grant money to reduce local costs.

Strong said that, with the board's approval, the bond measure will now go to the Linn County Clerk's Office for final tweaks to the ballot title and a final version will then be submitted to voters.

He said, in response to questioning from Chair Mike Adams, that the bond would be "structured to maintain the existing tax rate, very similar to what we did in 2017, when the community passed the bond for the junior high school and, in fact, since then, due to growth in assessed values, the actual tax rate has declined."

"This one would be structured very similar to that, so the intent is for it to maintain (the current tax rate)," he said. "If Sweet Home has a lot of growth - and you see right now the residential areas where they're putting in infrastructure, that would definitely help and if that continued, we could see reductions over time."

The key assumption, he said, "is that you would not see an increase in your tax rate."

Strong noted that the Oregon School Capital Improvement Matching Program (OS-CIM, pronounced "awesome") funding, which was also used to upgrade the junior high, is critical to the project becoming a reality for Sweet Home.

"That's huge in reducing the local cost to be able to get that amount of work done that we're talking about," he said. "A huge part of this is that grant and how it can help us."

He said the district wants to "improve safety and security" at "every school" with communication improvements and lockdown systems.

The high school, he reminded board members, was designed and built in an era when campus security was less of a concern.

Also, he said, "where most of the classroom sections are, the thought at that time was 'we want to build classrooms quickly and affordably.'"

He said the district chose "the quickest, fastest way," appropriating a "California-style open-breezeway, flat-roofed classroom floor plan: 'We're gonna take that and we're gonna put that right here in Western Oregon.'"

"We did, so we have open breezeways and flat-roofed construction for most of our classrooms."

That approach leaves the current population with two issues: building durability and security.

"Right now, if you walk from off campus onto campus, there are over 40 places where you can just open a door and directly access a classroom, a bathroom or other areas where students are," Strong said.

#### Security Concerns

"Security today, the way you design a school, is entirely different than it was when the classroom sections at Sweet Home High School were built."

A big emphasis of the proposed renovation project would be to replace those classrooms with a classroom wing connected to the main high school building that would require anyone entering the campus to enter through the front office, which would also make it more difficult for students and visitors "and you can de-



Sweet Home School District's ESPY students for January, honored at the School Board's Feb. 9 meeting, include, in front from left, Hazel Larsen of Oak Heights, Brynlee Thedford of Hawthorne, Kycen Visser of Hawthorne, Heston Haigh of Holley, Ava McConnell of Oak Heights and Andee Hoffman of Holley. In the rear, from left, are Chloe Lawson of Sweet Home Charter School, Ava Desmond of Sweet Home Junior High, Scott Westfall of the Junior High and Baylee Kimball of Sweet Home High School. Also honored, but not present for the photo, were Owen Barnes of the Charter School, Brandan Neal of Foster, Brody Neal of Foster and Trenton Templin of the High School.

fine 'visitor' in a lot of different ways," Strong observed, to come and go at will.

"Now, if a student wants to leave campus, they can," Strong said. "If you want to leave after first period and come back for third period, as it is now, it's pretty easy to wander into your third-period class."

"Going forward, there's going to be accountability, where you come in through a monitored front entrance with a security vestibule and you check into school. You can't just, on your own, wander back into your third-period class any more."

"You can no longer wander in from 18th Avenue onto campus. You can no longer come in down by the west parking lot (off 15th Avenue) and come around multiple corners and wander in. You can't come across the field south of the high school and come onto campus. If you're going to be in areas where we have students, you come in through the front door, a secured entry."

#### CTE Facility Needs

Another major component of the project is improving and creating new Career and Technical Education facilities.

"We want to prepare our students to be able to go out and get, preferably, local jobs," he said, adding that those include jobs in manufacturing, welding, health occupations and agriculture.

"A really good example there is if you go into Mr.

Scott Jacobson's (agriculture) classroom, you'll see plants and grow lights and student desks all kind of crammed together there," he said, adding that the "makeshift" classroom is located in a former automotive shop facility, of which one wall consists mostly of large "beat-up" roll-up doors that don't function well.

"They're making it do, but it was never meant to be a classroom, much less a greenhouse," Strong said.

"One of the things we want to be able to do for him is build a separate, stand-alone greenhouse, which his students and the FFA program can benefit from."

"What we want to do is provide students with a nice facility for that."

Strong said the woodshop building, in particular, is "at the end of life" and needs to be replaced.

The metal shop needs improvements as well, he said.

Health occupations, he said, "is a growing field, where graduates can go out and get some pretty well-paying jobs."

He said the goal is to design and build a facility that will serve the community "for 75-plus years, beyond that."

"We don't even know what the next big thing is," Strong said. "But we have space that can be set up in such a way that we can adjust and provide those skills for our students, so they can be successful."

#### 'Major Project'

Board Member Jenna Northern asked how soon construction would start, if voters approve the measure.

Strong said the district has already had "preliminary discussions" with the architect, "but we don't want to commit a lot of money until we know the will of the voters."

If approved, he said, most of the construction work at the high school would start in the summer of 2027. The work, he said, would take place in phases, because school would be in session during portions of the construction. It would likely continue through the 2027-28 school year and wrap up during the summer of 2028, although additional work on the existing building would continue to tie it in with what would be a new classroom section and new CTE facilities.

"As much as, I think, we would all like to see it happen quickly, given the nature of construction, this would be a very major project," Strong said.

"What we are trying to do is position Sweet Home High School to serve students well for decades to come, and so this would be a large project. I think, in the end, just like with the junior high, everyone will say it was well done, but it's going to take time."

#### In other action, the board:

- Unanimously approved superintendent's evaluation and a motion by Dale Keene

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## Sports Round Up

### Lebanon girls lose to No. 7 Silverton after win over Dallas

Lebanon's girls battled to the last minute, but came out on the short end of a 60-55 score on the road Friday, Feb. 13, at Silverton.

Even with the loss, the Warriors enter this week in fourth place in the Mid-Willamette Conference basketball standings with a 7-4 record, 13-7 overall, and rated #12 in the state.

The Warriors started out in good shape and held a 15-8 lead at the end of the first quarter.

Their pressure defense caused a number of turnovers and allowed several easy baskets. Silverton, which sits second in the league, started to figure out Lebanon's defense and outscored the Warriors 13-0 in the second quarter, but Lebanon held a 25-21 lead at the half.

The Foxes, though, forced the issue in the third quarter by breaking Lebanon's press and scoring easy baskets of their own. They outscored their visitors 24-14 in the third stanza.

Down by six on the road to the No. 7 team in the state proved to be a significant challenge for the Warriors, but they didn't crumble under the pressure. In fact, they fought back in the fourth quarter and took a slight lead with just two minutes to play.

Unfortunately, a few breaks went against the Warriors and Silverton won a tearjerker.

The Warriors continue to live with their upscale offense and pressure defense.

On this evening, they shot 35.7% (20/56) from the field but only 16.7% (3/18) from three. Free throw shooting was better at 66.7% (2/18). Their defense kept them in the game as they forced 21, with at least five Lebanon

players recording two steals each.

Hazel Pepperling led the Warriors with yet another double-double with 20 points and 10 rebounds, along with four steals and two blocks.

The Warriors have five games remaining in league. Three at home and two on the road. This week they host Corvallis and West Albany, the latter the league leader going into this week.

On Tuesday, Feb. 10, on the road at Dallas, the Warriors dominated the contest and won easily, 57-27.

Lebanon started slowly with a narrow three-point lead, 11-8, at the end of the first quarter.

The Warriors stingy defense took over in the second quarter, holding Dallas to a mere three points, giving them a 30-11 halftime lead.

Dallas came out more efficient offensively in the third quarter, scoring nine points but so did Lebanon. The score was 39-20 going into the fourth quarter. Lebanon reasserted its defense in the fourth quarter, limiting Dallas to just seven points while scoring 18 to solidify the win.

The Warriors shot 37.9% (22/58) from the field including 28.0% (7/25) from three. Lebanon didn't get many free throw attempts but made all six of them.

Rebounding and turnovers were once again keys to the Warriors' victory. Lebanon out-rebounded Dallas by six and created 31 turnovers, which led to many quick and easy baskets.

The Warriors were led by Pepperling, who nearly recorded a triple-double with 18 points, 12 rebounds and eight steals. In addition, Peyton Vorderstrasse had 16 points, eight rebounds, four assists and six steals, and

Piper Sewell added eight points for good measure.

- Mike Warner

### Warrior boys ride six-game win streak into this week

With some serious league implications on the line, Lebanon's boys hit the road to Silverton Friday, Feb. 13, and came away with a rare basketball win, 65-60 in the Foxes' den.

As expected, the game was a real war from start to finish. The Warriors started with a quick eight-point lead but Silverton closed the gap by the end of the quarter, thanks to a hot streak with threes.

For the next two quarters, neither team had more than a three-point lead. Lebanon led 38-35 at half and 45-43 at the end of the third.

The fourth was much the same, but the Warriors were able to outscore their hosts 20-17 to eke out the final victory.

Lebanon shot very well, which helped seal the victory. They shot a very good 54.5% (23/42) from the field and even better 50% (9/18) from three. Free throw shooting was not up to par at 50% (10/20).

Contributors included Ryan Robinson, who had 20 points and four rebounds. Logan Large added 14 points, eight rebounds, three steals and three assists; and Gunner Miller added nine points, seven rebounds and five assists.

The Warriors sat in fourth place at 9-4, one game behind Corvallis in the MWC coming into this week, with West Albany (13-0) and Central (12-1) at the top of the standings. The Warriors host Corvallis Tuesday, and then West Albany on Friday. Both games are at 5:30 p.m.

"The best of our schedule is

here, so we just need to play our best ball of the season and see how it ends," Coach Casey VandenBos said.

Against a pesky Dallas team on Feb. 10, Lebanon pulled out a 64-41 win, but it was not as easy as it looked.

"Dallas is always a tough place to play, VandenBos said. "We did what we were supposed to do and now we're looking ahead."

Both teams started slow and neither had an advantage early on. The hosts led 9-8 at the end of the first quarter before the Warriors got their offense going in the second quarter and outscored Dallas 20-12 to take a 28-21 lead into the locker room.

Coming out of halftime, Lebanon recommitted itself to defense and rebounding and took control of the game, outscoring Dallas 16-9 in the third to take a 44-30 lead going into the final stanza. The last quarter was much the same, as Lebanon outscored Dallas 20-12 for the final score.

The Warriors shot just well enough to secure the win - 34.4% (20/58) from the field, which included 25% (7/28) from three. Again, free throw shooting was exceptional. as Lebanon shot 80.9% (17/21) from the charity stripe. The Warriors recorded 38 rebounds and created 12 steals to help secure the victory.

Three major contributors helped secure the win: Logan Large nearly recorded a triple-double with 13 points, 10 rebounds and seven steals; Gunner Miller recorded a double-double with 21 points and eight rebounds; and Ryan Robinson added 14 points, five rebounds, three steals and two assists.

- Mike Warner

### Sweet Home's boys fall to Philomath, beat Stayton

Sweet Home split a pair of games last week, losing to No. 7 Philomath, 63-49 on Tuesday, Feb. 10, then bouncing back with an overtime thriller on the road over No. 14 Stayton, 53-50 Friday, Feb. 13.

Against Stayton, Ruben Reyes tied the game for the hosts at 48-48 with 12 seconds left in regulation. Sweet Home's Mason Tyler had an open look from three to win it at the buzzer, but missed, sending the game to overtime.

In the extra period, Bradyn McClure gave the Huskies a 50-49 lead with two minutes remaining. Tyler later converted a layup to push the advantage to three with 30 seconds left. A free throw from each side in the closing moments sealed the 53-50 win for the Huskies.

McClure finished with a game-high 22 points, shooting 60% from three on five attempts and going 4-for-8 inside the arc.

Tyler added eight points, while Kellen Hartsok contributed an efficient seven points on just four shots. Sweet Home limited the turnovers, only having 13.

Coach Drew Emmert pointed to the team's composure, in their win.

"The message going into OT was just to regroup and go get it. We knew they wouldn't give it to us. I told them to focus on getting stops and play together on offense," Emmert said.

He also praised individual efforts down the stretch.

"Mason has been resilient offensively all year, so it was fun to see him come up big in OT. Bradyn was solid again

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## SCHOOL BOARD

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to extend Martin's contract to three years. Board members had held an executive session, closed to the public, to discuss the evaluation and emerged to vote on that decision, so details of their discussion are not available.

- Approved the 2026-27 School Calendar, which, Supt. Terry Martin said earlier, is very similar to this year's and had been reviewed by staffers across the district.

- Approved wording for an application for exceptions to the district's new personal electronic devices policy, to accommodate medical needs and other circumstances.

- Learned that the district had received a "clean" audit report from Pauly Rogers and Co. on its 2024-25 fiscal year financial statements and Student Activity Funds.

- Heard an explanation from Strong regarding a substantial increase in the district's employer-paid PERS rates this year. Strong told the board that the district's PERS rate is the largest single reason for a \$932,000 increase in district spending thus far this fiscal year over last year.

Strong provided the board an Oregon Journalism Project report detailing why PERS' investment returns have underperformed in recent years and why that has contributed to school districts and other government employers paying higher rates. (The report can be viewed at [www.sweet-homenews.com/off-target](http://www.sweet-homenews.com/off-target).)

"PERS is the big gorilla in the room when it comes to our budget," Strong said.

He said PERS has invested heavily in private equity, "which has not done well" compared to other investment options.

Strong said Sweet Home pays over 30 cents to PERS for every dollar the district pays in wages. He added that a lot of that goes to retirees - not people who are currently working for the school district.

Thanks to district moves in past years, Sweet Home pays lower rates than many other districts, he noted, and he said that district staff have anticipated the rising costs in developing their budgets.

"Going forward, we are better positioned than many," he said.

- Received a report from Strong on the district's spending for travel and pro-

fessional development, an issue raised by now-former Sweet Home High School Vice Principal Luke Augsburg at the January meeting, during which he also tendered his resignation to take another job.

Augsburger returned to the Feb. 9 meeting and stated that he had submitted a public records request to the district for the expense report that Strong provided the board, as well as "all expenditures and receipts." He complained that it took "around two weeks" to get the records and he did not get all he asked for.

Augsburger said he learned from the reports he received that the district's spending on travel and professional development was over budget in each of the past three years.

He questioned the expenditures when, he said, the money spent on travel and training could be used for "a lot of playground equipment, a lot of textbooks, a lot of coats, a lot of shoes" and he noted that the board was about to ask the community for a \$40 million bond.

He encouraged the board to "dive into" the issue.

Strong told board members later, in presenting the report, that the annual totals, particularly in 2023-24, included expenses from the previous fiscal year.

He acknowledged that administrative and professional development is "the big ticket item" each year.

Board Member Rachel Maynard asked about the Coalition of School Administrators conferences, which are the largest expenditures each year.

Strong explained that COSA hosts various events during the year, including one large end-of-the-school-year conference, held annually in Seaside in recent years. The district pays for transportation,

lodging and meals for those events.

Martin said the costs fluctuate from year to year, "depending on what's pushed down from the state."

Northern asked how the district compared to similar districts in its travel and professional development costs and Strong said he could find out.

Board members were mixed in their response to Strong's offer to query other districts.

Maynard said she would like to see a comparison, "just so we have a guideline of what other districts are doing."

Strong said he agreed that it would be good to "have a benchmark."



# Warriors deliver state cheer title

By Scott Swanson  
Of The New Era

They are a team full of rookies, but that didn't faze the Warriors as Lebanon's competition cheer squad won the school's first state championship in three years.

Lebanon's girls delivered a performance that outscored two-time defending champion Crescent Valley by nearly four points in the state 5A Traditional cheer championships Saturday, Feb. 14 at Oregon City High School.

The Warriors were viewed as one of the top contenders in what was arguably the deepest field in the state, with 13 other schools in their competition.

"We knew we had a good routine," said Coach Jenny Pickles, in her 11th year with the team. "But the questions were, could we put the nerves aside? Could we hit it?"

She said her team, which included only four girls who had previously competed at state, have paid attention throughout the season.

"They listen to what I have to say, they apply it and in the end, it ended up working out," she said of their performance on Saturday.

"A lot of the teams in our division had the same skill set. They were solid teams and it was going to come down to who bring it at state, who hits their routine and what the judges are looking for.

"The kids did a great job."

One of the leaders on the young team is Pickles' daughter Addy, a senior this year, who was a member of the Warriors team that won the title in 2023. Addy Pickles set a record last fall by becoming the first-



Lebanon's competition cheer squad performs their routine, which won them their first state title in three years. See more photos at [lebanonlocalnews.com](http://lebanonlocalnews.com). — Tiffany Sieminski photo

ever four-time All-State winner in any division for the Oregon Cheer Coaches Association.

She, Aubree Collins and Bailey Sim are the only seniors on this year's team. Rounding out the roster are juniors Chloe Francis, Erin Thiele and Madalinn Howard, sophomores Charli Burns, Charlotte Ford and Faith Strauss, and freshmen Natalie Sanderson and Sophia Vo.

Jenny Pickles said the emphasis for her team Saturday was to simply deliver their best

performance of the year.

"If we did and we walked away empty-handed, that was OK," she said.

But they walked away with the top trophy to boot.

"It's really exciting," Pickles said.

Next up for the Warriors is the USA Spirit Nationals in Anaheim, Calif. The event attracts hundreds of high school teams from around the nation.

"We want to give that our best shot too," the coach said. "We're just so happy about the weekend.

## SPORTS ROUNDUP

From page 15

for us. The other teams key in on him, so it really opens up things for our other guys as well."

At home against Philomath on Tuesday, the guests shifted into a 1-3-1 press early in the second half, a move that disrupted Sweet Home and helped swing momentum, leading to the 14-point loss.

Coming into this week, the Huskies are fourth in a tight Oregon West Conference race — every spot is one point away from the one below or above it, with Philomath leading at 6-1 and Sweet Home at 3-4 after the win over Stayton.

Looking ahead, Emmert stressed staying focused as the postseason picture develops.

"They aren't doing play-ins this year. Sixteen total teams get in. We need to just keep taking it one game at a time and control what we can control.

"Right now, that's preparing for North Marion on Tuesday. The Huskies to the north were 1-6 coming into this week.)

"In our league, everyone can beat anyone, so we're just focusing on one game at a time. It should be an exciting finish and I think we are peaking at the right time."

Sweet Home will hold its Senior Night at 7 p.m. Friday, Feb. 20, hosting No. 4 Newport. This shapes up to be a tight and competitive game that could have huge playoff implications.

— Keeghan Gittins

### Husky girls fall to top-10 teams

The Sweet Home girls basketball team lost both their games last week, falling 50-25 to No. 8 Philomath on Feb. 10, before losing 57-29 to No. 2 Stayton.

Against the Eagles, Stayton connected on 12 three-pointers, with Makenzie Schacher

going 4-for-6 from beyond the arc.

"Stayton shoots at an unreal percentage from beyond the arc," Coach Erika Evans said. "We worked hard to defend the three better than our first matchup, and we did a lot better at it."

Sweet Home had had its own sharpshooter, as Taylor Gaskey connected on three three's.

Despite the final score, Sweet Home showed flashes of strong play.

Aaliyah Brown led the Huskies with 11 points and six rebounds, continuing her steady offensive stretch, while Brooke Elder contributed 10 points on 40% shooting.

"A big takeaway this game was how well the girls celebrate each other," Evans said.

"In moments where they were struggling, the thing that pulled them out of it was making their focus external and supporting their teammates."

Evans also noted improvement in defending Stayton's perimeter shooting compared to the teams' previous meeting.

"Aside from a few communication breakdowns, I thought we did a good job pressuring the outside shot.

"We competed similarly in most stat categories, the only big difference being field goal percentage," Evans said. "The second quarter there was a lid on our basket, but we only had two turnovers that quarter and we were taking all of the right shots."

Evans also highlighted individual growth, particularly from Brown, who has been expanding her offensive game.

"Aaliyah has been working on both her inside game and three-point shot."

Looking ahead, the Huskies' focus remains on sustaining their level of play for a full game.

Sports Round Up, Page 19

# Fire station roof leaks fixed, eight promoted in district

By Sarah Brown  
Of The New Era

A recently reported roof leak at the new Lebanon Fire District Station 31 has been repaired, but the district is still researching how to extend the life of its roof for Station 34.

Fire Chief John Tacy reported to the Fire Board during its Feb. 10 meeting that the roof leak at Station 34 was discovered about three months after a timeline ended when the district could recover repair costs from a bonding agent, but they are still looking into the warranty for the shingles. Some companies will be looking at the site to provide ideas on how to extend the life of the roof.

As for Station 31, the recently discovered leak has been repaired. Tacy said a camera was used to locate a couple of spots where there was some penetration, and the areas were patched and re-seamed.

Board member Dale White suggested adding an annual roof inspection to the maintenance schedule.

Badge pinning

Eight firefighters were sworn in for positions as firefighters, engineers, lieutenants and a division chief.

"I think it's important that we recognize all of our people, and when our people step up and face that challenge," Tacy said. "This is more than formality. It's a commitment to service and integrity and courage that these people have stepped forward to do."

Russell Duerr first introduced the three newest full-time firefighters of the district, who were Sydney Sattler, Mitchell Suing and Bailie Goff-Noreiga. They recently completed the fire academy. Duerr said all three have had prior experience and their foundational Firefighter 1 certification.

Duerr, himself, was sworn in as a division chief of training (limited duration). Jason Carroll was sworn-in as lieutenant, McKenzie Crenshaw was sworn-in as engineer (limited duration), Tyler Day was sworn-in as engineer and



Participating in the swearing-in ceremony for new firefighters are, along wall, from left, Sydney Sattler, Mitchell Suing, Bailie Goff-Noreiga, Jason Carroll, McKenzie Crenshaw, Tyler Day, Rylan Rogers and Russell Duerr.

— Photo by Sarah Brown

Rylan Rogers was sworn in as engineer. Not present at the ceremony was Kyle Kimber, who is being appointed as lieutenant (limited duration).

"Firefighting's not just a job. It's a promise to protect lives and property, often under challenging circumstances. It requires strength, skill and, above all, heart," Tacy said.

### In other business, the board:

- Heard a property on Snow Peak Drive has applied to be annexed into the fire district;
- Nominated Matt Herb as budget officer;
- Heard the Lebanon Professional Firefighters Local 2163 Union donated 720 pounds of dog food, half of which was donated by Trac-

tor Supply Co., to the Lebanon Soup Kitchen.

• Tacy gave a nod of recognition to WesternU for the great partnership they've had with them for several years now.

• The Roundhouse Foundation gave a \$2,500 grant to the district to be used for the Linn County Women's Fire Academy this year.

Public Notices

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE STATE OF OREGON FOR THE COUNTY OF LINN IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF ELIZABETH JEAN DADEY, deceased, Case No. 26PB00394

**NOTICE TO INTERESTED PERSONS**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the undersigned has been appointed personal representative of the above estate. All persons having claims against the estate are required to present the same, with proper vouchers, to said personal representative at the office of Jessica K. Meyer, Jessica K. Meyer Law, 80 E. Maple St., Lebanon, Oregon 97355, within four months of the date of first publication of this notice, or such claims may be barred. All persons whose rights may be affected by the proceedings may obtain additional information from the personal representative or the attorneys for the personal representative at the address stated, or from the records of the Court.

Dated February 18, 2026. Patricia Lynn Modey, Personal Representative. Jessica K. Meyer, OSB #053242 Jessica K. Meyer Law LLC, 80 E. Maple St., Lebanon OR 97355. (2/18)

**NOTICE TO INTERESTED PERSONS**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that STEPHANIE MILLER has been appointed Personal Representative of the ESTATE OF CYNTHIA ANN MORRIS, Deceased, by the Circuit Court for the State of Oregon for Linn County under

Public Notices

Case No. 26PB01181. All persons having claims against the estate are required to present them, with vouchers attached, to the said Personal Representative at Stayton Law, 582 E Washington St, PO Box 248, Stayton, OR 97383, within four months after the date of first publication of this notice, or the claims may be barred.

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

Dated and first published February 18, 2026. Personal Representative: Stephanie Miller PO Box 727 Stayton, OR 97383 Attorney for Personal Representative: Jennifer L. Tiger, OSB#990890 Stayton Law 582 E Washington St PO Box 248 Stayton, Oregon 97383 (2/18)

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

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF GRETCHEN ANN HERBSTER, deceased.

Case No.: 26PB01091 NOTICE TO INTERESTED PERSONS NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the undersigned has been appointed Personal Representative of the above estate. All persons

Public Notices

having claims against the estate are required to present them to the undersigned Personal Representative in care of the undersigned attorney at: 319 Sixth Street SW, Albany, OR 97321 within four months after the date of the publication of this notice, as stated below, or such claims may be barred. All persons whose rights may be affected by the proceedings in this estate may obtain additional information from the records of the Court, the Personal Representative, or the attorney for the Personal Representative.

DATED and first published February 18, 2026. Personal Representative CHRISTOPHER J. HERBSTER 576 22nd Avenue SW Albany, OR 97322 Attorney DAVID B. BECKHAM 319 Sixth Avenue SW Albany, OR 97321 (2/18)

**NOTICE OF LIEN SALE**

CONTENTS OF STORAGE ARE MISC HOUSEHOLD ITEMS Unit C1 Joe Lawrence Auction ends March 9th, 2026 @10am on www.bid13.com AMES CREEK STORAGE 898 MAIN STREET SWEET HOME, 97386 541-367-4727 www.amescreekstorage.com (2/18 - 2/25)

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**PUBLIC SAFETY**

**From page 9**

8:03 p.m. - Crash reported in area of Main/13th. Operators were Hunter Walker and Gary Cuomo. Officer responded, parties exchanged information. No injuries, damage under \$2,500.

9:21 p.m. - Christian Bailey Hurley, 24, arrested on SHMC warrant for child neglect II after caller reported male and female screaming at each other in 2400 block Main. Officer responded, female gathered her belongings and left premises.

10:45 p.m. - Multiple callers reported male banging on door, screaming in 2400 block Main St.

**LEBANON POLICE**

2:11 a.m. - Ashley Dawn Fagan, 35, cited for DWS, DU. Car towed.

2:16 a.m. - Shania Little Sims, 27, cited on AMC warrant for FTA - theft II, Benton County Circuit Court warrant for FTA - delivery of meth, LMC warrant for FTA.

4:27 a.m. - Timothy Michael Milla, 47, cited for DWS, DU. Car towed.

6:56 a.m. - Male was giving ride for female and she hit him in the face.

1:27 p.m. - Shania Little Sims, 27, taken into custody for theft III.

3:25 p.m. - Scotty Lee Foster, 43, cited on LCCC warrant for DUII.

4:27 p.m. - Report taken for theft of toy hauler camper trailer. 8:00 p.m. - Report taken for theft of water service when

house remodeling situation resulted in one address connecting to another address' water meter. 800 block W Sherman.

8:52 p.m. - Verna Diane Neptune, 58, cited on LCCC warrant for assault III.

10:30 p.m. - Andrew Alan Duncan Jr., 20, cited for DWS.

10:52 p.m. - Dyllan Terry Sieveking, 29, cited for DWS.

**FEB. 11**

**LCSO/OSP LEBANON**

10:29 a.m. - Crash reported in area of Steckley/Wheatland. Samantha Butler, 21, of Jefferson, cited for careless driving. Crash involved injuries, according to LCSO. Report taken.

2:32 p.m. - Caller reported license plate stolen off vehicle in 31100 block Old Santiam. Report taken.

**LCSO/OSP SWEET HOME S. COUNTY**

9:23 a.m. - Missing person reported in 41900 block North River, but Corvallis police located missing male thereafter. Deputy put man in touch with

Linn County Mental Health. 9:34 a.m. - Tyler Harden, 34, of Brownsville, cited for DWS, DU following report of road rage incident, Hwy. 228/Northern. Vehicle left on private property.

11:56 a.m. - Anna House, of Brownsville, cited for dog as public nuisance-trespassing, 1000 block Pine, Brownsville. Report taken.

1:44 p.m. - Caller complained about nuisance barking in 300 block Wilson, Brownsville. Deputy unable to contact owner and left card on gate. Deputy later was able to contact owner, who was issued written warning for nuisance barking and failure to license dogs.

3:55 p.m. - Altercation between juveniles reported in 200 block W. 2nd, Halsey. Investigation ongoing. Report taken.

4:29 p.m. - Caller reported trespassers on CTC land in Old Hufford/Shot Pouch area. When deputy arrived, they were gone. 5:34 p.m. - Caller reported finding abandoned trailer on

See Public Safety, Page 20

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**CROSSWORD**

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14			15					16				
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**CLUES ACROSS**

- 1. Defunct phone company
- 4. Rural area in Guinea
- 9. Hairstyles
- 14. Makes a good meal
- 15. Nats' CFer Adam
- 16. El \_\_, painter
- 17. Midway between south and southeast
- 18. Baseball's "The Big Hurt"
- 20. A serialized set of programs
- 22. A woody climbing plant
- 23. Japanese metropolis
- 24. Whirlpool
- 28. Toddler
- 29. Integrated circuit
- 30. WWII British fighter Blackburn \_\_
- 31. Ancient Briton tribe
- 33. Injurious weeds (Bib.)
- 37. Nonredundant
- 38. Turf
- 39. Canned fish
- 41. Team's best pitcher
- 42. Touchdown
- 43. Woody perennial plants
- 44. Rattling breaths
- 46. Smaller quantity
- 49. Of I
- 50. When you'll get there
- 51. Adventures
- 55. Type of chip
- 58. Having wings
- 59. Mutilated
- 60. Considered
- 64. Wrath
- 65. A citizen of Iran
- 66. American state
- 67. Explosive
- 68. One who challenges
- 69. \_\_ senilis
- 70. Affirmative

**CLUES DOWN**

- 1. Move rapidly in music
- 2. Brief are one type
- 3. Repeated
- 4. Quitter
- 5. Paddles
- 6. Broadway actress Hagen
- 7. Politician Paul
- 8. Joint
- 9. Ottoman military men
- 10. Covers for illegal operations
- 11. Comment
- 12. Office of Consumer Affairs
- 13. Distress signal
- 19. ' \_\_ death do us part
- 21. S. Korean boy band
- 24. Bishop's hat
- 25. Learning environment
- 26. Measurement
- 27. Equines
- 31. Hard plant fiber
- 32. Protocols
- 34. Stands up
- 35. Linear unit
- 36. Songs
- 40. One of the six noble gases
- 41. Cheerful readiness
- 45. Zoroastrian concept of holy fire
- 47. Having only magnitude
- 48. Containing salt
- 52. Chadic language
- 53. Fed
- 54. Beef or chicken intestine
- 56. Hill in Australia and London
- 57. "Waiting for Lefty" playwright
- 59. A list of available dishes
- 60. Have already done
- 61. Geological time
- 62. Swiss river
- 63. Twitch

**SUDOKU**

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Level: Intermediate

# Warrior relays, Orianna Buczko, qualify for state

Lebanon's swimmers qualified three relays and Orianna Buczko made state in two individual events as the Warriors competed last week at the Mid-Willamette Conference district meet.

The meet was held at the South Albany pool Feb. 11-12.

The Warriors placed fourth out of nine teams on the girls side with 124 points, as Silverton took the district title with 300 points, followed by Crescent Valley (246) and West Albany (239).

The boys placed fifth with 91 points in a field of eight, behind Crescent Valley (329), Silverton (269), West Albany (221) and Corvallis (111).

The Warriors posted 27 personal bests out of 73 swims in what was the final meet of the year for most.

Buczko, a senior, moves on after qualifying in the 100 (58.86) and 200 (2:10.62) freestyles.

"Very impressed with Orianna's 100 Free," Coach Joe Andrews said. "She really stepped up and raced tough to lock in the second-place swim. The coaches are excited to see how she comes back this week at state."

Buczko is ranked eighth in the 100 Free going into state.

The boys 200 Freestyle Relay team of Grant Basting, Jack Johnson, Michael Kluttz and Boston Borgmann qualified in 1:37.97, while both boys and girls qualified in the 400 Freestyle Relay.

The same four boys qualified for the 400 relay in 3:37.72, while Buczko, Anouk Ricketts, Samantha Walsh and Molly Basting qualified for the girls in 4:23.81.

"Both freestyle relays on the men's side took care of



Alex Kolling, above, swims the 500 Freestyle for Lebanon, while, left, Molly Basting gets set to dive in as teammate Samantha Walsh closes in on the all in the girls 400 Freestyle Relay.

- Cole Harnar photos

business to get the state qualification," Andrews said. "The teams we raced are going to be gunning for the state championships and are very deep. In some of the other leagues our guys would have been in the running for the district title, where in our league they placed fifth."

"Several of the guys will be well positioned at state as they will not have individual swims before the relays, which should allow us to find some additional time drops."

"While we projected to place a little higher overall

in the points rankings, we held steady versus last year's performance (fifth place) and qualified an additional relay to the state championships."

Andrews said he also saw some "breakout performances" from underclassmen, such as Johnson, a sophomore, who swam the fastest split of 51.9 on the 400 Free Relay.

"Had he swum that in the individual event, likely he would have made a state berth," Andrews said.

"New freshman Paul Bloedel, John Kluttz, Carson Kolling and Samuel

Williamson also showed massive improvements over the season and with continued work will be making big contributions to the team."

He noted that Borgmann delivered "very consistent swims" after experiencing a block malfunction in the 50 Free prelims.

On the girls side, "our entire women's team raced well," Andrews said. "We have had several of our key swimmers have a lot of roadblocks this season, with tough classes, injuries and illness, but most were able to swim very well, with all things considered."

As a team, he said, the girls "dramatically improved" to fourth from last year's seventh-place finish.

"With only graduating one senior this year, Orianna Buczko, we are well-positioned to keep crawling up the standings, Andrews said. "This group of women have been a great group to coach this year and really have come together as a team."

The state championships will be Friday and Saturday, Feb. 20-21, at the Tualatin Hills Aquatic Center.

- Staff

# Waterloo fleshes out plans for City Hall expansion

By Sarah Brown  
Of The New Era

The Waterloo City Council held a work session prior to its regular meeting on Tuesday, Feb. 10, to discuss plans for a grant-funded expansion of City Hall.

According to City Recorder Grace Reed, the council talked about building a restroom on half of the southeast end of the building and questioned how to spend the remaining funds.

In past meetings, ideas of building a community room were tossed around, but there was a question whether there would be enough funding. At the recent meeting, they suggested adding a hallway next to the restroom that could be utilized in any future expansions, and questioned whether they could afford a 10-foot by 10-foot storage room across from the restroom.

Having a storage room, Reed said, could free up space in the current council chambers room, which in turn could create opportunity for residents to use the chamber as a community space.

"Then, in the future with another grant, there could be an addition on the east side for another community type room," she said.

The council asked staff to get bids for the restroom and hallway, and separate bids that would include the storage room.

Council decided to use their own labor to fix the front porch rather than spend grant funds for that project.

**In other business:**

- The council appointed Reed as budget officer.
- Reed announced her decision to resign, due to her

other full-time job. Council voted to post the job opening immediately and close application acceptance by Tuesday, March 3. Interviews will be held Tuesday, March 10.

• Angela Storkson, who appeared on her mother's behalf (Earlene Little), asked the council if a resolution could be created allowing permission for a groundskeeper to live in his travel trailer behind their house on a three-acre parcel off 7th Street. This request comes after the city sent them a notice of ordinance violation regarding the living situation. She said her mother is no longer able to keep up on all the maintenance of the property, so the resident in the trailer does the work for them. The council decided to look at the property during their city walk-through, which will be Saturday, Feb. 21.



Councilor Bill Young lists the needs for the grant-funded expansion of Waterloo City Hall. - Photo by Sarah Brown

**SPORTS ROUNDUP**  
From page 16

"We need to be able to play at the elite level we have been showing for the first three quarters and continue it into the fourth quarter," Evans said.

Sweet Home, 1-5 coming into this week, sits ahead of Newport in the OWC standings. The Huskies will host Senior Night at 5:30 p.m. Friday, Feb. 20. They don't play Tuesday because North Marion discontinued its varsity girls team this season.

They will then travel to Cascade on Tuesday, Feb. 24 to finish OWC play, before hosting Madras at 2 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 28, in a nonleague game that was rescheduled from earlier this season.

- Keeghan Gittins

**Eagle girls positioned for playoffs after double win**

East Linn's girls finished the final week of their Valley Coast Conference schedule with a pair of wins, over Monroe (51-20) and on the road at Waldport (51-44) last week.

At home Tuesday, Feb. 10, against Monroe, the Eagles honored their seniors before going to work on the visitors.

"We had the honor of dedicating the night to Bailey Kramer, Lexy Kauffman, and Bella Albert," Coach Sierra Carrier said. "From the start of the game our energy was high; they wanted to make it a special last night on our home

floor."

Junior Audrey Garber led East Linn with 11 points, three rebounds and four steals, while Kramer added 10 points, eight rebounds and three thefts, and Maya Van Dyke finished with 10 points, five boards and eight steals. Kauffman, in her last regular-season home game, had six points, four rebounds and seven steals for the hosts.

"Audrey had a hot shooting night," Carrier said. "She found the corner open in Monroe's defense and ran with it. Bailey was on top of rebounding to help us gain a fairly large lead against Monroe. It was a special and unforgettable night."

Things were a little tougher on the road at Waldport Friday.

"We started this game with low energy," Carrier said. "I'm not sure if it was our emotions starting to set in, the two-hour drive, or maybe because it was a rainy day."

"This is the time of year where teams stick together like glue or crumble apart, and I made that very clear to my girls at halftime. They had one more half before we entered into the league playoffs for them to show me and everyone else watching that we are the team you should worry about."

"That lit the fire and we took off in the second half, sealing our last regular-season win."

Kauffman led the team with 14 points, six rebounds and

three steals, while Van Dyke had 13 points, nine boards, four steals and three assists. Kramer added nine rebounds and Modderman six rebounds.

The league playoffs start for the girls (7-3 in VCL play) on Wednesday, Feb. 18, at 6 p.m. at Central Linn (8-2), the No. 2 VCL finisher. The winner of that game will play at Crosshill Christian (9-1).

- Staff

**ELCA boys undefeated in Valley Coast League**

East Linn's boys finished the VCL basketball season 10-0 after wins at home against Monroe (72-40) on Tuesday, Feb. 10, and at Waldport (75-52).

Prior to dispatching Monroe, the Eagles said goodbye to seniors Bain Pool, Brison Edwards, Gracen Christenson and Owen Nofziger on Senior Night.

The Eagles are ranked No. 8 in the 2A and will host the winner of the first-round playoff matchup on Thursday, Feb. 19, between Crosshill Christian (8-2) and Toledo (5-5). That game is scheduled for Saturday, Feb. 21, at 3 p.m.

They tuned up with a non-league matchup on the road at Days Creek, the No. 9-ranked team in the 1A Division, winning 58-43.

- Staff



- Photo by Sarah Brown

**Pitching pancakes for players**

Wyatt Jenkins, catcher, selects sausages for guests during the annual Super Bowl Pancake Breakfast benefiting Lebanon High School's baseball program.

The fundraiser, held Sunday, Feb. 8, at Tallman Brewery, hosted a packed house where Warrior supporters bid on dozens of items from a silent auction, purchased raffle tickets for a chance to win a Blackstone grill, and

ate their fill of pancakes and sausage.

Also attending the event on Super Bowl Sunday were former NFL players Eric Castle, Pat McQuistan and Paul McQuistan (who played at Super Bowl XLVIII in 2013 for the champion Seattle Seahawks).

Proceeds from the fundraiser support equipment needs and the players' spring break tournament trip in Arizona.

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Photo by Sarah Brown

## Dishing up for Sharing Hands

The Sharing Hands Chili Cook-off winners are, from left, Lisa Keith (fourth), Barbara Anderson (third), Lawrence Stutsman (second) and Ralph Morrow (first). Eight recipes were entered in the annual contest, but it was Morrow who walked off as champion for the third year in a row.

Sharing Hands, a food bank and community support nonprofit serving the Brownsville and Halsey area, held its annual fundraiser on Saturday, Feb. 7, at Pioneer Christian Academy. The event included raffles, a dessert auction, dinner and oppor-

tunity to taste and judge all eight chilis.

Auctioneer Shannon Duffy, experienced in the history of the organization's dessert auction, took a guess at three desserts that might take highest-bid. While indeed three desserts tied for highest-bid, only one of them was among Duffy's guesses: a raspberry chocolate cheesecake.

The other two highest-bids were a chocolate pudding cake and a lemon supreme pie, both of which were purchased by the same individual. They each sold for \$100.

## PUBLIC SAFETY

From page 17

their property in 39600 block Crawfordsville Dr. It had been "gone through."

5:46 p.m. - Two juveniles cited for riding three-wheelers in 45100 block Old Hufford.

8:12 p.m. - Sara Kennedy, 42, of Sweet Home, cited for DWS, DU, improper display of tags (2023) and warned for operation of unsafe vehicle (bald tire) and improper exhaust (missing). 3200 block Main.

### SWEET HOME POLICE

1:31 a.m. - Brandin Martin Hugley arrested by Albany police on SHMC warrant for FTC in criminal driving case. Cited to appear March 11.

7:50 a.m. - Caller reported individual hit their vehicle with his car door, leaving damage, Safeway, 1540 Main. Officer responded, provided case number for insurance.

8:14 a.m. - Caller reported vehicle parked in same spot in areas of 49th/Maple for more than a week. Referred to Code Enforcement.

1:09 p.m. - Christopher Jon Swisher, 61, cited for DWS and DU, 5900 block Main. Vehicle impounded.

2:28 p.m. - William Lee Phillips, 43, arrested for theft III, Sweet Home Post Office, 1303 Long.

4:51 p.m. - Caller reported two RVs parked in 4300 block Nandina. Officer responded, learned that trailers were part of effort to keep up a property in the area. Officer informed

responsible party that they would have a few days to move them prior to posting.

7:01 p.m. - Caller reported mailbox hit in 1200 block 44th. Officer responded, report taken for hit and run-property.

7:56 p.m. - Caller reported female fell down and broke her arm during disturbance with male. Second caller reported juvenile running through parking lot with blood on him. Officer responded. Female transported by medics. Juvenile transported to residence, "heavily counseled" for actions. He agreed to remain home for the night.

### LEBANON POLICE

7:16 a.m. - Curt Allen Blasch, 47, Nickolas Ryan Shoulders, 36, and Kendria Mae Wright, 34, taken into custody for criminal trespass at old Champion Mill property.

7:40 a.m. - Curt Allen Blasch, 47, cited on LMC warrant for FTA - DWS.

7:45 a.m. - Nickolas Ryan Shoulders, 36, cited on LMC warrant for FTA - DWS x 2.

7:53 a.m. - Kendria Mae Wright, 34, cited on LMC warrant for probation violation - DWS, LCCC warrant for FTA - possession of meth.

10:32 a.m. - Report taken for theft III for theft of cart from American Legion.

3:03 p.m. - Motorcycle crash, Park/E Elmore Sts. See story on page ##

4:23 p.m. - Lebanon Market reported female with joint and open container of Crown stole pack of cigarettes.

4:34 p.m. - Sierra Faye Tagen,

24, cited on AMC warrant for theft III LMC warrant for probation violation - DWS, LCCC warrant for FTA - harassment, and AMC warrants for theft III and FTAs - giving false info to police, criminal trespass I.

### FEB. 10

#### LCSO/OSP LEBANON

9:22 a.m. - Christopher Walter, 45, of Lebanon, arrested for violating restraining order, 31100 block Kay. Lodged at LCJ. Report taken.

12:26 p.m. - Vehicle abandoned on private property in 38800 block Lacombe. Deputy informed property owner of tow process.

3:04 p.m. - Rocky Montigue, 72, of Lebanon, cited for driving uninsured, 2800 block Truman.

3:49 p.m. - Jordan Sunkler, 20, of Cottage Grove, cited for speeding in school zone, 40/20, 32200 block Berlin.

#### LCSO/OSP SWEET HOME S. COUNTY

10:11 a.m. - Deputies collected abandoned property from AirBNB in 44100 block Hwy. 20. Report taken.

12:17 p.m. - Caller reported fake gold scammer in Brownsville. Deputy unable to locate suspect. 100 block E. Blakeley.

6:45 p.m. - Michael Wayne Grabeel, 67, of Sweet Home, cited for speeding, 69/45, 700 block Bishop, Brownsville.

#### SWEET HOME POLICE

7:52 a.m. - Elizabeth Nickole Glick, 35, cited for speeding, 30/20, 2300 block Long.

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