

The New Era

SWEET HOME • LEBANON • AND SURROUNDING COMMUNITIES

SERVING EAST LINN COUNTY SINCE 1929

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 25, 2026

VOL. 96, NO. 8 | \$2.00

Fun, surprises on display at science fair

By Sarah Brown
Of The New Era

Henry Scott wanted to know what the dirtiest thing in his house was. After a little experimentation, he shared the answer with his classmates: his sister's foot.

Henry, a fourth-grader at Pioneer Elementary in Lebanon, did a scientific experiment as part of the school's science fair by growing bacteria in petri dishes from swabs taken from a toothbrush, toilet seat, pillowcase, raw chicken, Playstation controller, cell phone and, of course, some feet.

Henry's foot was also part of the experiment, and it was the second-dirtiest thing in the house. The toilet seat was the least dirty.

Fourth and fifth grade students at Pioneer exhibited their science fair projects on Friday, Feb. 20, allowing parents and students to view their project

See Experiment, Page 10



Justin McCraven shows the ribbon he got for his project on camouflage at Pioneer School's science fair last week. — Photo by Sarah Brown

SH hand crew filling out the full body of SH fire district

By Sarah Brown
Of The New Era

According to what Fire Chief Nick Tyler has to say, it sounds like the year is starting out pretty well for the Sweet Home Fire and Ambulance District as he reported on the district's wildland fire-fighting program to the board during their monthly meeting Wednesday, Feb. 19.

Tyler said he was happy when he walked in a month or so ago to find 15 shift personnel and wildland crew firefighters on duty, which is the National Fire Protection Association's recommended number of firefighters to have on hand.

"Fifteen is a big number," Tyler said. "I walked in and it was really the first time looking at this globally and seeing it play out in real life. Pretty cool moment for the district. There's not too many agencies in our county that can do that."

The next day, Administrative Firefighter Ryan Paul

See SH Hand Crew, Page 5

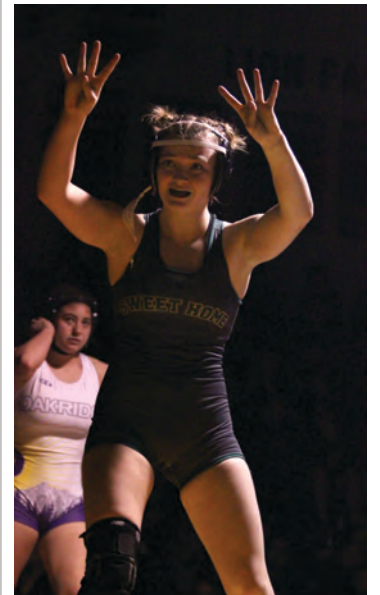


Off to Cheer Nationals

Sweet Home High School's competition cheer squad got a very public sendoff Wednesday afternoon, Feb. 18, as they headed for the airport escorted by Sweet Home fire district's ladder truck and a police unit, with sirens blaring and lights flashing. The cheerleaders were headed to Anaheim, Calif., to compete — along with Lebanon's cheer team — at the USA Spirit Nationals last weekend. Check next week's edition for details on how the local teams did in that competition. — Photo by Scott Swanson

HOMETOWN
NEWSPAPER OF
CINDY
HOGAN

This Week's Top Stories



Huskies girls win in regional wrestling

Sweet Home's girls won their third regional championship in four years Saturday as Bailey Chafin, above, won her fourth regional individual title. Six girls for the state championships.

Page 16



Remembering a local Olympian

Page 8



Obituaries

Tricia Coulter

Jan. 20, 1960 - Dec. 21, 2025

Tricia Coulter, 65, of Medford, went to heaven on Sunday, Dec. 21, 2025.

She was born on Jan. 20, 1960, to Josephine Christina (Rocco) and Jack Warner Coulter in Las Vegas, Nev.

She was raised by her uncle and aunt, Harlan and Donna Shortreed, in Sweet Home.

Tricia graduated from Sweet Home High School in 1978.

She is survived by her daughter, Christina; and her siblings, Kim (Connie) Shortreed of Lebanon, and Tana Tracewell and Wendy (Phil) Pollock of Sweet Home.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Jack and Jo Coulter, and Harlan and Donna Shortreed; and sister Marcy Godell.

Tricia loved people but her greatest accomplishment was her daughter, Christina.

Tricia was a member of Calvary Worship Center in Central Point.



Melissa Estep

Nov. 18, 1959 - Feb. 12, 2026

Melissa Estep, 66, of Lebanon passed away Feb. 12, 2026, at her home in Lebanon.

She was born Nov. 18, 1959 in Newnan, Ga., to the late Wayne and Marynelle Cook. In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her brother, Mickey Cook. Wanelle Greene is the only living sibling.

Melissa is survived by her loving husband of 41 years, Dan Estep and their daughter, Lindsey Estep, of Lebanon.

Melissa and Lindsey proudly traveled the globe with Dan, who served 23 years in the United States Navy, stationed in Marietta, Ga.; Whidbey Island, Wash.; San Diego, Calif.; Okinawa; and Hawaii.

After settling in Waco, Texas, following Dan's retirement from the Navy, Melissa served as the administrative assistant to the pastor and associate pastor at Highland Baptist Church for several years before transitioning to administrator of the nonprofit International Hoops for Hope.

The Celebration of Life is at 2 p.m. Saturday, March 7, 2026 at Highway 20 Church of Christ in Sweet Home, with Pastor Machiel Greyling officiating.

Melissa was a loving and faithful wife, mother, sister, and friend. She loved music, played the piano, and led worship teams in Okinawa and Hawaii. Nothing pleased her more than singing praise to the Lord.

Survivors include husband (Dan), daughter (Lindsey), sister (Wanelle Greene), brother-in-law (Kevin Greene), nephew (Braden Greene), niece (Melissa Lowe), nephew (Jason Lowe), and grandnieces (Madison and Abby Lowe).

She will be sorely missed until the great reunion in the sky. Huston-Jost Funeral Home is handling the arrangements.



THE NEW ERA

on the road...



Gloria Klawiter recently visited Reba's Place in Atoka, Oklahoma. The venue, created by country music star Reba McEntire, features a unique combination of restaurant, bar, live music space, and retail shop. On display were several of McEntire's iconic concert outfits, along with memorabilia highlighting her decades-long music career.

SPONSORED BY LOCALLY OWNED:



MEMORY MAKING ADVENTURES

CRAFTING MEMORIES, ONE ADVENTURE AT A TIME

BOOK YOUR NEXT CRUISE VACATION WITH US!

MICHAEL & BEN MATTHEISEN:

michael@memorymakingadventures.com

memorymakingadventures.com

TAKING A TRIP?

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

Travel photos selected for print will receive a complimentary gift package courtesy of Memory Making Adventures.

Gift packages are limited to one per person per year. Photos are selected at the editor's discretion. The New Era on the Road photos must be taken at a place of significance, preferably located outside a three-hour radius of Linn County, and our editorial approval.

Bobbie Hawkins

Oct. 27, 1947 - Feb. 3, 2026

Bobbie "Fisherman Bob" Zane Hawkins, 78, formerly of Sweet Home, passed away Feb. 3, 2026, in Springfield.

He was born Oct. 27, 1947, to Edith May Hawkins in Vancouver, Wash.

Bobbie was an Army veteran. He loved fishing, his dogs, collecting eagles and camping.

He is survived by his sister, Jackie Hawkins, and Julie Gonzales; numerous nephews and nieces; numerous great-nieces and -nephews; and adopted nephew Jared Claunch.

Bobbie was preceded in death by his mother and father; his brother Terry McMillan; and sister Carolyn Cape.

Sandra Webb

Feb. 14, 1957 - Feb. 19, 2026

Sandra Jean Webb, 69, of Sweet Home, passed away Feb. 19, 2026.

She was born Feb. 14, 1957, to Fern (Heileg) and Ralph E. Webb in Vancouver, Wash.

She enjoyed cooking, gardening and knitting. Sandra especially loved to take her dogs on rides; they were her

pride and joy.

Sandra is survived by her son Christopher Torland of Sweet Home.

Sweet Home Funeral Chapel is handling the arrangements.

DEATH NOTICES

Editor's note: During our transition to weekly coverage of the entire east Linn County area, we haven't been publishing death notices from the Lebanon area that we regularly published in the monthly edition. We will resume that as of now, on a weekly basis, and the list below includes notices that have not yet been published. Anyone desiring an obituary or a death notice is welcome to call us at (541) 367-2135 or

contact the funeral home that is handling the arrangements.

Diane Jane Ader, 76, of Sweet Home, passed away Feb. 17, 2026.

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

Jared T. Atchley, 36, formerly of Lebanon, passed away Jan. 31, 2026. Anderson Stevenson Wilke Funeral Home & Crematory - Helena is handling the arrangements.

Michael Boykin, 67, of Lebanon, passed away Dec. 3, 2025. Huston-Jost Funeral Home is handling the arrangements.

See Obituaries, Page 3

CORRECTIONS

Our story in the Feb. 18 edition on the Sweet Home School Board meeting mischaracterized a comment Business Manager Kevin Strong made regarding the district's spending on professional development for staffers. Strong confirmed that costs of Coalition of School Administrators conferences fall within the district's administrative professional development expenditures. He noted after the Feb. 9 meeting that administrative professional development represents "a very small fraction" of the district's overall budget.

Our story in the Feb. 18 about the Sweet Home boys basketball team's win over Stayton contained some incorrect information. Here's what it should have said: Bradyn McClure scored 22 points in a loss earlier in the week to Philomath and then, against Stayton, Kellen Hartsook scored 20 points in that win, to which Mason Tyler added 15 for the Huskies.

SUNSHINE INDUSTRIES UNLIMITED

ANNUAL FUNDRAISING DINNER!

MARCH 7TH 5PM - 8PM

Raffle Prizes

Silent Auction

Dinner & Bar!

BOYS AND GIRLS CLUB

880 18TH AVE, SWEET HOME, OR

Trevor Tagle
music
performing
live!

FOOD PREPARED BY: CASA DE REYES!



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. 22

LCSO/OSP LEBANON

10:04 p.m. - Deputies responded to assist with intoxicated family member who was causing ruckus in 32100 block Weldon.

LCSO/OSP SWEET HOME /S. COUNTY

5:09 a.m. - David Schuh, 20, of Halsey, cited for speeding, Hwy. 99/Tandy.

11:12 a.m. - Travis Stach-Sells, 36, and Stefani Brock, 35, both of Sweet Home, cited for theft III following report of suspicious activity on CTC property in 26200 block Cedar Creek.

2:22 p.m. - Elijah Ring, 21, of Brownsville, cited for speeding, 75/55, Hwy.99/MP 10.

SWEET HOME POLICE

1:35 a.m. - Caller reported

neighbors having loud party in 3100 block Main. Officer responded, but initially observed no violations. Caller reported at 2:39 that the party was continuing and was loud. Officer responded and parties agreed to turn music down.

8:34 a.m. - Keegan Ryker Fox, 23, arrested by LCSO on SHMC warrant for FTA in DUII case. Given court date, unspecified in police log, and released.

12:56 p.m. - Isaac Booker Justham, 26, arrested by Albany police on SHMC warrant for FTA in theft case.

8:25 p.m. - Dorothy Underwood, 64, cited for DU, Main/18th. Vehicle impounded.

LEBANON POLICE

5:35 a.m. - Jordan Scott Carter, 36, cited on LCCC warrant for FTA - possession of meth.

1:00 p.m. - Unknown object struck back glass sliding door, shattering first pane, 800 block Tangent St.

1:24 p.m. - Theft of beer and candy by juveniles reported at Safeway. When confronted, one juvenile gave his beer back.

3:05 p.m. - Seven juveniles took food from Dollar Tree cooler, ate it and left without paying. Loss: \$10-15.

5:54 p.m. - Subject stole hair products from Dollar Tree. Loss: \$15.

FEB. 21

LCSO/OSP LEBANON

12:09 a.m. - Driver, who was not identified in LCSO log, cited for speeding, 71/45, Brewster/Payne.

12:36 a.m. - Driver, who was not identified in LCSO log, cited for speeding, 71/45, 33000 block Brewster.

8:09 a.m. - Caller reported license plate stolen from motorcycle in 1600 block S. 9th,

at some point since June of 2025. Caller suspected theft occurred while caller was on trip to California. Report taken.

10:35 a.m. - John Adam Evans, 48, of Lebanon, arrested for failure to report as sex offender, 29500 block Santiam Hwy. Lodged at LCJ. Report taken.

7:49 p.m. - Daniel Dillon, 19, of Brownsville, cited for speeding, 78/55, Rock Hill/Brownsville.

9:30 p.m. - Elderly female with dementia reported missing in 30600 block Old Santiam. As deputy was speaking with family, female was located by Lebanon police.

LCSO/OSP SWEET HOME/S. COUNTY

12:53 p.m. - Alicia Tyman, 44, of SH, cited for failing to carry proof of insurance, Long/Clark Mill.

1:28 p.m. - Caller reported attempted online tech support scam, but did not suffer financial loss. Deputy took report. 400 block Washburn, Brownsville.

SWEET HOME POLICE

9:57 a.m. - Police and medics responded to 300 block W. Holley to assist female who reported having chest pain and was alone with children. Female transported by medics; children staying with father.

10:08 a.m. - Caller from SHEM, 1115 Long, reported male from another business was yelling at caller because individuals who use SHEM services were digging through other business's trash. Officer responded, but was unable to locate male immediately. Report taken.

LCSO/OSP SWEET HOME /S. COUNTY

5:33 p.m. - Bryant Ray Hostetler, 23, arrested for DUII after report of erratic driver entering city from east. Also cited for speeding, 35/25. Cited and released.

LEBANON POLICE

12:05 p.m. - Anthony David Lloyd Stalford, 38, cited on LMC warrant for FTA - DUII.

2:23 p.m. - Jay Boyd Marsh, 61, cited on LMC warrant FTA - harassment, SHMC warrant for contempt of court - theft II.

FEB. 20

LCSO/OSP LEBANON

10:59 a.m. - Mikaylea Conger, 22, of Scio, cited for driving without privileges, DU, 39300 block Gross.

11:13 a.m. - Kayla Smyers, 26, of Sweet Home, cited for speeding, 31500 block Waterloo.

12:17 p.m. - Michael Curran, 26, of Lebanon, cited for DWS, 3200 block Burdell.

12:56 p.m. - Theft reported in 34500 block Pinewood. Suspects arrested by Albany police during separate, but related, call. Further information unavailable in LCSO log.

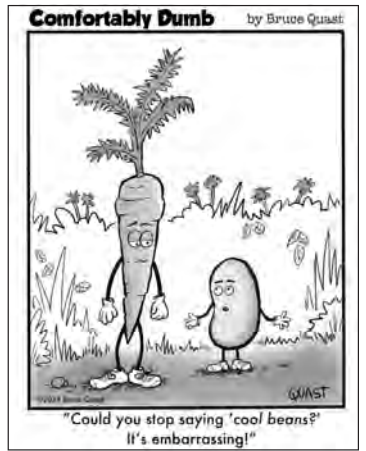
3:31 p.m. - Jeffrey Richter, 36, of Lebanon, arrested for DUII, reckless driving, criminal trespass II, felon in possession of restricted weapon, and on two outstanding warrants following crash in area of Brownsville/Rock Hill. According to LCSO, Richter crashed his vehicle into a ditch, then attempted to leave scene on foot. Also cited for DWS, DU, failure to maintain lane and refusal of breath test. Lodged at LCJ. Report taken.

6:21 p.m. - Crash reported in 32900 block Denny School. Non-injury. Vehicle towed. Further details not available in LCSO log. Report taken.

LCSO/OSP SWEET HOME /S. COUNTY

4:20 a.m. - Keith Earl Smallwood, 55, of Lebanon, cited for speeding, 65/45,

See Public Safety, Page 9



TEMPERATURES

DATE	HIGH	LOW	RAIN
2/17	42	33	0.85
2/18	43	30	0.04
2/19	43	32	0.09
2/20	47	28	0.00
2/21	57	41	0.01
2/22	54	43	0.01
2/23	54	43	0.68

RAIN IN INCHES

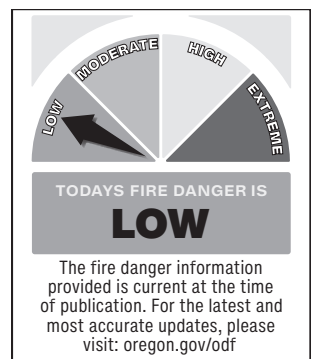
Year to date: 5.11
2/26/25: 7.61

FORECAST

DATE	WEATHER	HIGH/LOW
2/26	Cloudy	56/32
2/27	Cloudy	59/34
2/28	Showers	54/36
3/1	Cloudy	56/36
3/2	Cloudy	57/35
3/3	Cloudy	62/37
3/4	Cloudy	64/42

LAKE LEVELS

Foster 615.5
Green Peter 928.3



OBITUARIES

From page 2

Dorothy Wanda Bricker, 95, of Lebanon, passed away Jan. 25, 2026.

Fred Chewing, 91, of Lebanon, passed away Feb. 18, 2026 in Albany. Huston-Jost Funeral Home is handling the arrangements.

Charlotte R. Hainz, 85, of Lebanon, passed away Dec. 26, 2025. Huston-Jost Funeral Home is handling the arrangements.

Zayne Richard Hannah, 19, of Lebanon, passed away Dec. 5, 2025. Huston-Jost Funeral Home is handling the arrangements.

Gerald "Jerry" E. Jones, 79, of Lebanon, passed away Dec. 17, 2025.

Huston-Jost Funeral Home is handling the arrangements.

Norma Jean Kirk, 95, of Lebanon, passed away Feb. 3, 2026.

Huston-Jost Funeral Home is handling the arrangements.

Jimmie L. Leisy, 83, of Lebanon, passed away Jan. 25, 2026.

Huston-Jost Funeral Home is handling the arrangements.

Jane Marie McKiernan (Linnell), 72, of Lebanon, passed away Dec. 25, 2025.

Huston-Jost Funeral Home is handling the arrangements.

Nettie May Mealue, 81, of Sweet Home, passed away Feb. 19, 2026.

A private graveside service will be held at Gilliland Cemetery. A celebration of life will be on her birthday, May 6, with details to be announced later.

Sweet Home Funeral Chapel is handling the arrangements.

Thomas Edward Meyer, 81, passed away January 16, 2026.

Weddle Funeral Service is handling the arrangements.

Donna Rae (Athey) Monroe, 93, of Lebanon, passed away Dec. 9, 2025.

Huston-Jost Funeral Home is handling the arrangements.

Brian Michael Rogers, 63, of Brownsville passed away February 15, 2026. Sweet Home Sweet Home Funeral Chapel is handling the arrangements. For updated information, visit www.sweet-homefuneral.com.

Dale Leon Roth, 91, of Lebanon, passed away Dec.

29, 2025. Huston-Jost Funeral Home is handling the arrangements.

Kenneth LeRoy Smith, 76, of Lebanon,, passed away December 24, 2026. Huston-Jost Funeral Home is handling the arrangements.

Tony Spence, 60, of Lebanon, passed away Dec. 27, 2025.

Huston-Jost Funeral Home is handling the arrangements.

Joshua Keawe Taylor, 27, of Sweet Home, passed away February 19, 2026.

A graveside service will be at 1 p.m. Friday, March 6, at Lewis Cemetery.

Sweet Home Funeral

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

Cheryl Ann Thorn, 68, of Sweet Home passed away Feb. 21, 2026.

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

Betty Lou Ward, 86, of Lebanon, passed away Dec. 8, 2025. A celebration of life will be held at 2 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 28, at Brownsville Assembly of God.

Huston-Jost Funeral Home is handling the arrangements.

The New Era

A LOCALLY OWNED NEWSPAPER

SWEETHOMENEWS.COM
OFFICE: 1313 Main St., Sweet Home, Oregon
Phone: 541-367-2135 **Fax:** 541-367-2137
WHO WE ARE:
 Miriam Swanson, Publisher - miriam@sweethomenews.com
 Scott Swanson, Publisher - scott@sweethomenews.com
 Jessica Sands, Office Manager - jessica@sweethomenews.com
 Sarah Brown, Staff Writer - sarah@sweethomenews.com
 Tamara Shinko, Advertising Rep - tamara@sweethomenews.com
 Pamela Templin, Advertising Rep - pamala@sweethomenews.com
SUBSCRIPTIONS: Monthly: \$6.99 Annual: \$79.99
NEWS QUESTIONS / TIPS - news@sweethomenews.com

CROSSWORD KEY

Puzzle on page 17

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

SUDOKU KEY

Puzzle on page 17

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

Opinion: Individualists rugged, but not frigid

"We will replace the frigidity of rugged individualism with the warmth of collectivism."

– New York City Mayor Zohran Mamdani, in his Inaugural Address

By Lucian Gideon Conway III

All governments face the challenge of balancing the rights of individuals against the good of the collective.

Most Americans want the right to do what they want with their own property, and yet most Americans also do not want rowdy property owners ruining their neighborhoods by having loud parties at 2 a.m.

The trick of government is to figure out the correct balance between the rights of the rowdy neighbors and the needs of everyone else in the neighborhood to get a good night's sleep.

With one simple line, Zohran Mamdani erased that nuanced goal. He doesn't want to balance individualism and collectivism; he wants to replace individualism with collectivism.

This idea is especially strange because, as Jonah Goldberg noted, the New York City government Mamdani wants to replace with collectivism is already quite collectivist. How much collectivism is enough? Mamdani seems more interested in a gutting of American individualism than in balance.

Because he is a government official, Mamdani's speech, plus remarks and actions in recent days, set off a firestorm. Many observers, including Ron DeSantis, Ted Cruz, and Matt Taibbi, have

pointed out that "collectivist" governments have generally not ended very warmly.

Catholic Bishop Robert Barron summed up this sentiment: "Collectivism in its various forms is responsible for the deaths of at least 100 million people in the last century. Socialist and Communist forms of government around the world today – Venezuela, Cuba, North Korea, etc. – are disastrous."

They are right to worry.

Indeed, research from my own lab shows that cultural shifts in favor of collectivism predict future shifts to a dictatorial government. However, it is also worth asking a deeper, more fundamental question about Mamdani's comment.

He used three psychological terms to describe individualism and collectivism: Is he right about those terms? Is individualism psychologically frigid and rugged? Would people truly be happier with the "warm embrace" of collectivistic societies?

Although no set of research studies can possibly capture the whole truth, based on what we know so far, it is fair to say that Mamdani's assertion is highly questionable at best and outright false at worst. Let's briefly evaluate some of that psychological evidence.

Individualists Not Frigid

On the surface, one can see why the myth persists that collectivism is warm and happy. Psychology research has long verified the

commonsense idea that we need other people.

Indeed, the desire to fit in with others is an irreducible and foundational human motive. That fact sounds like pro-collectivism.

But the myth rests on the false assumption that individualists are hermits who avoid human interaction and as a result are deprived of good relationships.

It turns out they aren't like that at all. Individualists are people who view interactions through an autonomous lens, where people are agents who can make choices that are not dictated by the collective.

And that leads to an important question: What happens when we compare the individualist way of engaging in relationships with the collectivist way?

Contrary to the Mamdani narrative, research generally shows that people in individualistic countries have healthier relationships than those in collectivistic countries.

For example, one study of 39 nations evaluated relational mobility – that is, the ability of people to choose their relationships in a more individualistic fashion (versus being forced into relationships by a collective hierarchy).

You might think that this individualistic trait would lead to worse relationships. You would be wrong. Quite the opposite: The study showed that relational mobility was associated with increased trust in others – the building block of all good re-

lationships.

Other research studies show that this highly individualistic societal feature was associated with better relational intimacy, more self-disclosure, and higher degrees of social support.

This coalesces with other evidence from my own lab showing that individualism is associated with helping behavior in the United States. Taken in total, this suggests that (quite the opposite of Mamdani's quote) it is collectivists who are more likely to be frigid and individualists who are more likely to be warm.

They Are Rugged (And Therefore Happy)

People need more than relational belonging, of course. The desire for autonomy—the need to be an individual agent who chooses—is itself a major human motive.

Individualist cultures encourage the meeting of this need, and thus it is perhaps unsurprising that individualism is consistently associated with happiness around the world.

For example, in three separate studies, Fischer and Boer evaluated the relationship of both individual autonomy and wealth to three different markers of mental health in 63 nations.

In their words, "the overall pattern strongly suggests that greater individualism is consistently associated with more well-being ... providing individuals with more autonomy appears to be important for reducing negative psychological symptoms,

relatively independent of wealth."

Individualism produces more wealth – a fact that's itself instructive for political purposes – but it also makes people mentally fit.

That is in part because a focus on individual autonomy also fosters personal resiliency.

As I've documented elsewhere, evidence shows one of the reasons conservatives are happier than liberals is that they are more resilient – they are psychologically tougher. So, it turns out that one of Mamdani's two adjectives for individualism is correct: Individualists aren't "frigid," but they sure are "rugged."

And rugged is a good thing, because rugged people tend to lead happier lives.

Everyone needs other people; and everyone needs some degree of autonomy. But this nation was built largely by erring on the side of rugged individualism, and that's a good thing for political, relational, and psychological health.

If we truly tip the psychological balance in favor of collectivism, we will not like what we get.

– Dr. Lucian Gideon Conway III teaches psychology at Grove City College. He earned his Ph.D. in Social Psychology from the University of British Columbia, and his primary academic interests revolve around the psychology of culture and politics. Conway is the author of over 80 articles, commentaries and book chapters in these areas.

From our Files

March 1, 1951

Three ministers, armed with petitions bearing 385 signatures (many of which came from the east Albany area), successfully argued their anti-liquor cause before the city. The City Council turned down a Class B liquor license application submitted by a V.H. Tabor, owner of White's Cafe, who wanted to serve beer, wine and mixed drinks. Tabor said "hundreds of people want a little something to go with their meals," but Rev. Lee Finley and Rev. said such a place of business would lose customers and Rev. William H. Cooksley was concerned about the juvenile population.

About 150 grade school students and parents met at the Long Street school auditorium for instruction in folk and square dancing under the guidance of Harry E. Moffit, Oak Heights instructor. The Pals Square Dance Club concentrated on learning the polka steps, the Virginia reel and fundamentals of square dance. One enthusiastic parent appreciated Moffit's experience and the children's eager response to

the new activity, adding, "This type of rhythmic dancing helps the child develop a feeling of rhythm and more graceful posture."

Feb. 26, 1976

Sam R. Cairnes was honored in a special "40 years of Scouting Day" held in the Foster School Cafetorium. More than 100 people attended to honor the 71-year-old who has been active in scouting for 40 years. Still, he said, he's "not through yet." Jim Riggs served as master of ceremonies, and six of Cairnes' Eagles returned to tell of the experience and benefits of scouting.

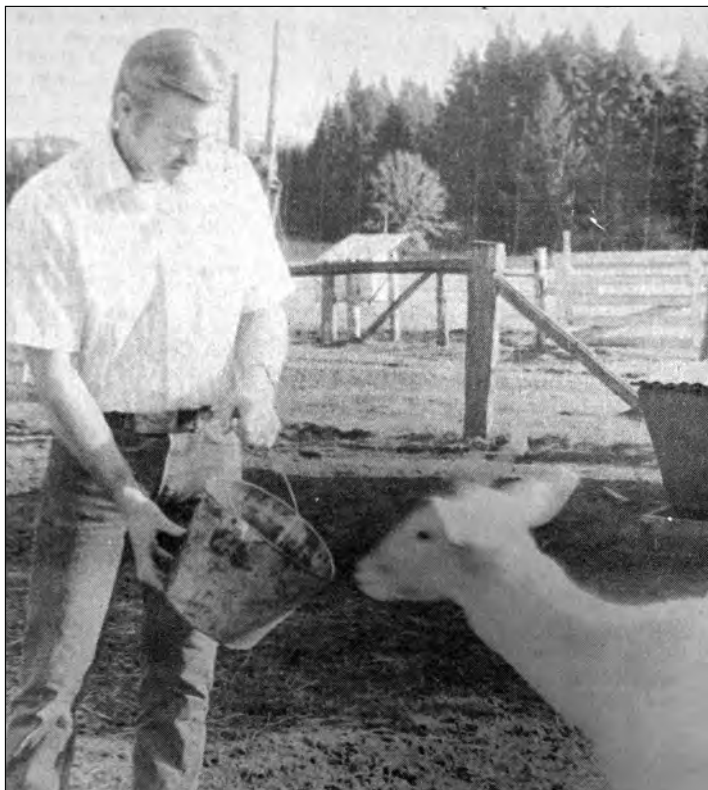
The City Council is applying for grants totaling nearly \$2.7 million for a Foster-Midway interceptor and trunk sewer project. But no one would be allowed to use the money prior to the court's determination on a pending suit unless they voluntarily annex to the city or sign a deferred annexation agreement. Residents of the Foster-Midway area brought suit against the state and city for its attempt to force the area

to annex to the city.

Feb. 28, 2001

Sweet Home Habitat for Humanity dedicated its fifth home this week, marking the completion of the home of Jeri Anlauf and her children Cassi and Allen. Construction began nearly a year ago. The home is one of three planned in the 1900 block of Vine Street. Anlauf, who was required to invest 500 "sweat equity" hours into the build said she learned a lot and has a whole new appreciation for a home.

Following an attempt to provide for the growing company, Cirtek Manufacturing moved to Lebanon, taking about 100 jobs with it. The company occupied the city's "flexible manufacturing building" (Flex Building), at a reduced rent in return for the creation of at least five family wage jobs. The Flex Building, which is meant to be an incubator, was paid for through federal grant funds. Cirtek owner Robert Skinner said "the problem is there hasn't been anything to incubate to."



Glacier Springs Ranch, located about four miles from Sweet Home's core at the end of Ames Creek Road, is as close to paradise as the McCubbins family can find in 1976.

Sports Roundup: East Linn girls move on to state basketball playoffs

East Linn Christian's girls will open the 2A state basketball playoffs Saturday, Feb. 28, on the road at No. 6-ranked Bandon after splitting their league playoffs last week with a 46-41 win at Central Linn, and a 44-33 loss to league leader Crosshill Christian on Friday, Feb. 20.

The Central Linn win was the Eagles' first in three match-ups this year with the Cobras, and it gave ELCA second-place in the final Valley Coast League standings.

"That was a super fun game to be a part of," Coach Sierra Carrier said. "The girls showed up knowing that they were not going to accept third in conference and they were ready to win."

"We had every cylinder firing in every aspect of this team. We were crashing the boards, playing really solid defense, being patient and finding good shots. The girls set their standards for the rest of the year to an even higher level. Central Linn put up a good fight but we wanted it more."

Maya Van Dyke led the Eagles with 17 points, while adding six rebounds, five

assists and three steals. Maci Modderman added 16 points and 14 boards.

In the district championship game Friday, East Linn, ranked 11th coming into this week, faced No. 4 Crosshill, whose only VCL loss came from the Eagles in mid-January.

"We had a lot on our backs riding into this game," Carrier said. "We had a season full of highs and lows but knew we had a good chance walking in on Friday."

"Unfortunately, things didn't go our way," she said of the 44-33 final score. We battled through injuries, missed shots, and getting into foul trouble."

Modderman led East Linn with 10 points and five rebounds, while Van Dyke added eight points, three rebounds and six steals.

"Crosshill is a very solid team who earned that first place spot and having VCC player of the year on their team," Carrier said.

East Linn hosted Bandon on Dec. 18, losing 39-28, but Carrier said this time may be a different result.

"Luckily for us, it is not over yet," she said. "We've

seen Bandon already this year and it was a good game, it was just early for us. We are ready this time."

Warrior boys drop games to Corvallis and West Albany

Coming off a six-game winning streak last week, Lebanon's boys were hoping to solidify their status for post-season play.

Unfortunately, waiting in their way was Corvallis and league leader West Albany. Even with their best efforts on Tuesday, Feb. 17, Lebanon fell to Corvallis in a hard-fought battle, 59-50.

Reeling from that loss, the Warriors fell to West Albany 85-58 on Friday. Both losses were at home.

Corvallis is always a tough contest and this game was no different. The Spartans established a small lead in the first quarter. Lebanon battled back and tied the game going into the half. The third quarter was back and forth, with no team establishing any significant advantage. Midway through the fourth quarter, Corvallis was able to drain several threes, which gave them control at

the end of the game. Lebanon was forced to play the foul/free-throw game but Corvallis made it happen from the charity stripe, giving them the final victory.

Lebanon's shooting was 36.1% (18/46) from the field but only 11.1% (2-18) from three-point land. The Warriors did shoot well from the free throw line 75% (12-18).

Contributors for Lebanon included Ryan Robinson who scored 23 points and had seven rebounds; Logan Large who scored 12 points, had five boards and four steals; and Gunner Miller who had six points, five rebounds and five assists.

West Albany, whose size, speed and skills make it the league leader at 15-0 coming into this week, set the tone early on and had a 20-11 lead at the first-quarter break.

The Warriors battled as best they could and went to half time down 40-26. West continued its dominance in the second half, extending its lead to 66-41 at the end of the third quarter.

Lebanon shot better at 46.6% (21/45) from the field

but only 20% (4/20) from the three. Free throw shooting was very good at 92% (12/13).

Top contributors for the Warriors were again Large, who scored 18 points, had five rebounds, two steals and three assists; Robinson who scored 16 points; and Miller who scored 14 points, had two rebounds and three steals.

At 9-6 coming into this week, one game behind Crescent Valley (10-5), the Warriors are ranked 18th and have a chance to change their situation as they host Crescent Valley Friday, Feb. 27, at 5:30 p.m.

They play at Central on Tuesday, Feb. 24, then finish their regular season at South Albany on Tuesday, March 3.

- Mike Warner

Warrior girls dominated after dominating

After scoring a decisive 49-32 win over Corvallis earlier in the week, the Warriors fell 76-41 on Friday, Feb. 20, to Mid-Willamette Conference girls leader West Albany.

See Roundup, Page 6

SH HAND CREW

From page 1

had a dozen firefighters out on training. Tyler said when he started as chief a few years ago, there would only be two to four people out there, "so it was pretty cool to see that."

More recently, on Jan. 22, SHFAD received three calls, one shortly after the other, for a fire, medical event and car accident.

"We were able to put 11 people on the fire, two people on the medical call and four people on the motor vehicle accident, and handle everything ourself without having to ask for mutual aid."

He said it was "a very cool chief moment" for him to be able to see that level of service they could provide the community.

Type 2 Training under ODF

Tyler said that when they started talking with the Oregon Department of Fire a few years ago, the ODF set a goal for SHFAD to have a Type 2 IA (initial attack) hand crew, which is "a big dip."

There was some doubt, he said, that the SHFAD would be able to get that certification process done. However, "we exceeded the minimums to be a Type 2 IA"

They were notified this week that their crew will be dispatched this year as a Type 2 IA hand crew under a training tab, which is exactly what SHFAD wanted, "for our guys to have the opportunity to go out in a Type 2 IA status and let their body of work and their evaluations speak

for themselves."

Agreements, grants cover area

Tyler reported the district recently updated its inter-governmental agreement (IGA) with ODF, which "ensures all mechanisms for ordering and all that stuff is in place for the summer."

The district is also working on an IGA with the U.S. Forest Service that would essentially give them initial attack and a primary hand crew for the Willamette National Forest, in addition to local forest protection.

"That should guarantee, with those two contracts or IGAs in place, that should keep them employed most of the summer, doing good work locally in our region," Tyler said.

He also reported that, thanks to efforts championed by senators Jeff Merkley and Ron Wyden through their community-initiated project, SHFAD was awarded \$1.34 million for the hand crew program. The money will help fund equipment and operating costs.

The board approved the purchase of the following equipment:

Wildland Division Chief Christian Whitfield, paid through the \$8.7 million Community Wildfire Defense Grant received last fall from the U.S. Forest Service.

\$327,000 for a 2024 Western Star Hooklift truck. The used truck comes from a private seller with 8,000 miles on it. It includes a water tank, flatbed and trash box attach-

ments, which will be used to pull the chipper, and haul water and an excavator (see below).

\$140,000 for a Bobcat E88 compact excavator with a masticating drum mulcher (for smaller trees).

\$84,982 for a 2026 F550 Chassis 4x4 SD crew cab pickup with flatbed. To haul fuel, tools and the excavator.

\$65,000 for a 2026 Transit 350 all-wheel drive passenger 16-person van for transport.

In other business:

- Tyler reported the district offered the position of CWDG Coordinator to Maddie Tutton. The coordinator will be responsible for building maps to identify potential fire control lines as well as mitigation work, for coordinating that work and for developing future funding for the program.

- Board members learned that the district is going through the first round of hiring for seasonal positions. They are looking to hire 25 and currently have about 12 positions filled.

- Battalion Chief Shannon Pettner reported EMS training includes obstetrics and neonatal skills, especially given that now Lebanon's obstetrics unit is on diversionary status. They also just purchased three new airway mannequins, replacing ones that were more than 20 years old, and paramedics were recently connected to WesternU's COMP-Northwest for access to cadavers to be able to practice certain procedures.

UPCOMING CITY MEETINGS

These are regularly-scheduled meetings. Sometimes the dates or times are changed due to schedule conflicts among members, work session additions, holidays, etc. Last minute changes do occur at times. Please check the governing board's website for updated information and agendas.

Lebanon School Board: Thursday, Mar. 12, 6 p.m., at Lebanon Library, 55 Academy St.

Lebanon Aquatic District: Monday, Mar. 16, 6 p.m., at Lebanon Pool, 1800 S 5th St.

Sweet Home Fire Board: Tuesday, Mar. 17, 6:30 p.m., at 1099 Long St.

Brownsville Fire Board: Tuesday, Mar. 17, 6:30 p.m., at 600 E Blakely.

Sweet Home Parks & Trails: Wednesday, Mar. 18, 8:30 a.m. at City Hall, 3225 Main St.

Lebanon Parks, Trees & Trails: Wednesday, Mar. 18, 2 p.m. at Lebanon Library, 55 Academy St.

Lebanon Planning Commission: Wednesday, Mar. 18, 6 p.m. at Lebanon Library, 55 Academy.

Sweet Home Planning Commission: Thursday, Mar. 19, 6:30 p.m. at City Hall, 3225 Main St.

Sodaville City Council: Thursday, Mar. 19, 7 p.m. at City Hall, 30723 Sodaville Road.

Sweet Home City Council: Tuesday, Mar. 24, 6:30 p.m. at City Hall, 3225 Main St.

Brownsville City Council: Tuesday, Mar. 24, 7 p.m., at City Hall, 255 N Main St.

Charter School Board: Monday, Mar. 2, 6 p.m., at Sand Ridge Charter School, 100 Sand Ridge Ct., Lebanon.

Sweet Home Planning Commission: Thursday, Mar. 5, 6:30 p.m., at City Hall, 3225 Main St.

Central Linn School Board: Monday, Mar. 9, 6 p.m., at Conference Room, 239 W 2nd St., Halsey.

Sweet Home School Board: Monday, Mar. 9, 6:30 p.m., at 1920 Long St.

Lebanon Fire District: Tuesday, Mar. 10, 5:30 p.m., at 1050 W. Oak St.

Sweet Home City Council: Tuesday, Mar. 10, 6:30 p.m., at City Hall, 3225 Main St.

Waterloo City Council: Tuesday, Mar. 10, 7 p.m., at 31140 1st St.

Halsey City Council: Tuesday, Mar. 10, 7 p.m., at City Hall, 100 Halsey St.

Lebanon City Council: Wednesday, Mar. 11, 6 p.m., at Lebanon Library, 55 Academy St.

SH scores 2 state swimming runner-ups

By Satina Tolman
For The New Era

Ten Sweet Home High School swimmers closed their season with a series of personal bests, podium finishes and program-building momentum at the 2026 OSAA 4A/3A/2A/1A Swimming Championships, held Feb. 20-21 at the Tualatin Aquatic Center in Beaverton.

The Huskies were represented by seniors Kylie Melkvik and Andrew Tolman; juniors Ella Haggas, Lexie Rundell, Austyn Hogan, Henry Jones, and Ethan Hernandez (alternate); and sophomores Khloe Sautel, Emma Whitton, and Grason Savri.

Across two days of competition, Sweet Home athletes produced breakthrough swims, tight finishes and encouraging relay growth that head coach A.J. Bronson said reflects the team's mindset.

"I think we do a good job all season preparing them for state and districts," Bronson said. "I try and focus a lot on the mental aspect of swimming to make sure they have the confidence to hit the times we know they are capable of."

Double threat delivers

Sophomore Khloe Sautel was the Huskies' top individual finisher, demonstrating what Bronson described as an uncommon versatility by placing in both sprint and distance freestyle events.

Sautel moved from fourth in prelims to third in the 50 Freestyle, lowering her time from 25.47 to a personal-best 25.22. She then placed second in the 500 Freestyle, dropping from 5:15.81 in prelims to 5:13.10 in finals.

Bronson said that the combination is unusual at the state level.

"That is not a combo you see very often. It speaks volumes to her ability as a swimmer and a competitor," he said. "We can put her anywhere and she would be competitive."

Sautel said the 50 Free was especially meaningful.

"The 50 (is) an event I don't normally swim, and I got to swim against some pretty fast girls," she said. "I was fourth going into finals and I was so happy to end the weekend getting third."

Her race-day routine helps her stay focused.

"I always have my headphones on to pump me up and

mentally go through how I'm going to swim it and then be in the moment before my race," Sautel said.

Despite the exhaustion of the 500, the emotions afterward were positive.

"I always have a mixture of emotions. This meet I was very proud about how I swam, so I was very happy, but also so out of breath," Sautel said.

Race decided by hundredths

Few moments matched the intensity of senior Andrew Tolman's 100 Backstroke final.

Tolman dropped more than two seconds in prelims, breaking the one-minute barrier with a 59.27 to secure the No. 2 seed.

In the championship final, he held off a late charge to claim second place in 59.60 - edging the third-place finisher by just one-hundredth of a second.

Bronson said the race showcased Tolman's poise under pressure.

"To not let the moment overcome you is a huge obstacle and takes several years to learn and he nailed it," Bronson said. "I knew he would break a

See SH Swim, Page 11

ROUNDUP

From page 5

Both games were on Lebanon's home court.

West Albany has sufficient size, speed and talent to win the league and do well in the postseason, and although Lebanon came ready to compete, West was able to control the game and throttle the hosts' efforts.

The Bulldogs led 22-10 after one quarter and 37-21 at the half. West continued its control the remainder of the game leading 65-34 at the end of three.

Lebanon's shooting was a very real testimony to West's defense.

The Warriors shot just 21.4% (15-70) from the field including 13.6% (3-22) from three. Their free throw shooting helped at 72.7% (8/11). Lebanon's defense helped, creating 25 turnovers, but were out-rebounded by 12.

Top contributors to Lebanon's efforts were Peyton Vorderstrasse who scored 15 points, had eight rebounds, and two steals, and Hazel Pepperling, who finished with 13 points, six rebounds, two assists and nine steals.

The Warrior girls, fourth at 8-5 in the MWC with three league games remaining, coming into this week, were two games behind South Albany (11-2), with West Albany (12-1) and Silverton (12-2) on top of the rankings. Lebanon plays on the road at Central Tuesday, Feb. 24, followed by the Warriors' final home game Friday, Feb. 27, against Crescent Valley. They finish the season Tuesday, March 3, at South Albany. Ranked 12th, they are still

in line one of the MWC's four automatic playoff berths, but finishing out with three wins will be crucial to staying in or bettering their position.

The girls were dominant against Corvallis on Feb. 17 at Page Activity Center, though maybe not as much as some expected.

Wins in the Mid-Willamette Conference are never easy regardless of who you are playing, but Lebanon got the job done with a tough-fought 49-32 win.

The Warriors' defensive pressure helped to control the game and they led 28-12 at halftime. They continued to dominate in the third quarter, outscoring Corvallis 12-6 to take a 40-18 lead into the final stanza.

The Spartans came back to outscore their hosts 14-9 in the fourth quarter resulting in the final score.

As always, the Lebanon defense was in complete control and key to the win.

The Warriors recorded 21 steals and forced 10 other Corvallis turnovers, which allowed Lebanon to score early and often. Lebanon's shooting was not up to par, as the Warriors connected on 25.3% (20-79) from the field and only 16.6% (4-24) from the three. They were held to only eight free throws but made five.

Contributors to the win were Pepperling, who recorded another double-double with 18 points and 17 rebounds; Piper Sewell who had 11 points, six rebounds, three assists and seven steals, and Vorderstrasse, who added nine points, six rebounds and three steals.

- Mike Warner

WE'RE ALL ABOUT EAST LINN COUNTY AND WE HAVE BEEN - SINCE 1929!

HOW CAN YOU SUPPORT LOCAL NEWS?

- Advertise
- Thank an Advertiser
- Subscribe or give a gift subscription
- Make a tax-deductible donation by scanning the QR code
(Community Journalism Donation Program, a 501(c)(3))

1313 MAIN STREET | 541-367-2135 | SWEETHOMENEWS.COM

Church Directory

Psalm 46: 1 God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.

*Highway 20
Church of Christ*

 Pastor Machiel Greyling

Sunday, 10:30am & 6pm
Wednesday, 7 pm
Prayer & Bible Study

3025 Highway 20, Sweet home
541-367-6899 - highway20cc.org

**Mt. Calvary
Missionary Baptist
Church**

Sunday Service 11am
Come join us!

 Bible Study
10 am Sundays.

1042 Pleasant Valley Rd.
541-818-0022

 **St. Helen
Catholic Church**
600 6th Ave, Sweet Home

www.sweethomecatholicchurch.com

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

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

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

 **Sweet Home
United
Methodist
Church**

*Open Hearts,
Open Minds,
Open Doors*

A Reconciling Congregation

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

6th & Ironwood
541-367-3073

The
COMMUNITY CHAPEL



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

42250 AMES CREEK RD
SWEET HOME OR

 hope.church
sweet home

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

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

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

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

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

 **Sweet Home
Evangelical Church**

Join us Sunday 10:30 am

FOLLOW US AT:
FACEBOOK.COM/SWEETHOMECC
1347 Long Street • 541-367-4357

 **Elm Street Baptist Church**

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

1150 Elm St. Sweet Home
541-367-5883

Band Perry set to headline Saturday lineup at this year's County Fair

Grammy and ACM Award-winning country music duo The Band Perry will headline the Linn County Fair's Saturday night concert lineup, the Fair Board announced last week.

The Band Perry has sold 2.5 million albums, 12 million singles and racked up over one billion streams.

The Band Perry features Kimberly Perry and her husband Johnny Costello. They performed at the Oregon Jamboree in 2010.

Their concert will cap off fair week on Saturday, July 18, 2026 – part of three full days of family-friendly fun, livestock events, carnival rides, competitions and more at the Linn County & Expo Center, 3700 Knox Butte Road East, Albany.

The Linn County Fair will run Thursday, July 16, through Saturday, July 18, offering thousands of attendees a full weekend of exhibits, shows, entertainment, and community celebration.

Known for their string of crossover hits like "If I Die Young," "Better Dig Two," "All Your Life," and "You Lie," The Band Perry has thrilled fans worldwide with powerful vocals, energetic performances and genre-blending sound. Their return to live touring in 2026 promises an unforgettable concert experience for fair-goers of all



The Band Perry will headline Saturday's music lineup at this year's Linn County Fair.

ages.

"We are thrilled to bring The Band Perry to Saturday night at the Linn County Fair," said Roger Nyquist, Linn County commissioner and Fair Board member. "This performance elevates our entertainment lineup and gives the community a concert experience that's

truly special."

Reserved seats for the concert – which include fair admission – and general fair admission tickets will be available online at linncountyfair.com. Fair admission grants access to all fair attractions, rides, exhibits and nightly entertainment.

Commissioners approve Health Services contracts

By Alex Paul

Linn County Communications

Linn County Commissioners Roger Nyquist, Sherrie Sprenger and Will Tucker approved several contracts for the Linn County Health Services Department at the board's Feb. 17 meeting.

The agreements were brought before the commissioners by Health Services Administrator Todd Noble.

The agreements included:

- \$144,000 between Linn County and Family Tree Nursery. Family Tree Peer Recovery Mentors will provide mentoring and transitional integration services to corrections and Drug Court clients who have addiction issues. This is pass-through funding from the Criminal Justice Commission from the Treatment Court Grant Program.

- Up to \$245,000 per year from Jan. 1, 2026 through Dec. 31, 2030 with the Pelton Project. The funds will help provide services for persons affected by mental illness through Oregon's Home and Community Based Services 1915i program. The program helps people maintain their highest level of independence and least restrictive housing and independent community setting.

- \$98,110 in pass-through funding from the Criminal Justice Commission to ABC House. The funds will support Victim Support Services.

- \$98,110 in pass-through funding from the Criminal Justice Commission to the Center Against Rape and Domestic Violence. The funds will support Victim Support Services.

In other business, the commissioners:

- Were told there were 48 births – 31 girls and 17 boys – and 108 deaths in January. One death was of a person who was more than 100 years old. There were 42 reported animal bites, compared to a five-year average of 29.

- Were informed by Environmental Health Manager Shane Sanderson that his staff completed 79 food service facility inspections in January and 333 year-to-date.

- Approved the transfer of \$126,420 within the General Fund for payroll adjustments in the GIS, General Services, General Administration, non-departmental and Animal Control departments.

- Approved creation of a Chief Financial Officer position.

- Approved the purchase of liquid asphalt emulsion as needed from Western Emulsions Inc. for the Road Department's 2026 chip seal projects.

- Heard from Daniel Farrington of Sublimity, who is seeking the House District 17 seat in the Oregon Legislature.

Bushnell U. announces it is adding men's and women's wrestling

Bushnell University announced Feb. 16 that it is adding varsity programs in men's and women's wrestling in the fall of 2027.

Bushnell athletics officials cited the recent rise in popularity in youth wrestling as a contributing factor in the decision to add both men's and women's programs at Bushnell.

High school wrestling participation nationally is at its highest in over 50 years with nearly 375,000 boys and girls competing. Additionally, Bushnell will be the seventh four-year university in Oregon to sponsor the sports.

"We are thrilled to be adding to our athletic offerings with the addition of our wrestling program," said Athletic Director Corey Anderson. "Girls wrestling is the fastest-growing high school sport in the country, and USA Wrestling has launched national campaigns to increase the popularity of the sport. National trends for high school and collegiate programs are on an upward trajectory."

He added: "We have quickly learned that there is

a strong passion for men's and women's wrestling in Eugene, Lane County, Oregon and beyond. Once we started talking to a few key contacts in the region about the idea of us adding an NAIA collegiate wrestling program, we immediately started having knowledgeable and passionate people reach out to us to celebrate the idea but also wanting to know how they can help. I am excited about these new relationships and partner opportunities that Bushnell Wrestling will provide us while continuing to do The Kingdom's good work!"

The addition of two new teams will bring Bushnell's

total number of varsity teams to 19 and are the first programs to be added since Baseball came on board in 2021. The Wrestling teams will begin play in the 2027-2028 season, joining the Cascade Conference which boasts 11 men's and eight women's programs.

"What an exciting day for Bushnell University, the Cascade Conference, and wrestling in the West," stated CCC Commissioner Robert Cashell. "The program immensely strengthens men's and women's wrestling for the conference and represents continued growth and evolution of Beacon Athletics. It is won-

derful to see more opportunities for young men and women to compete in the sport they love at the collegiate level, while also pursuing an outstanding education like the one they will receive at Bushnell."

When Bushnell Wrestling officially begins in the fall of 2027, the Beacons will host home wrestling meets in the Morse Center on the Bushnell University campus, which also serves as the home for men's and women's basketball and women's volleyball. A planned practice facility and home for Beacons Wrestling will be developed, located within campus

property that was recently acquired by Bushnell University.

Bushnell will immediately open a national search to fill Head Coach positions for both the men's and women's programs. Interested parties are encouraged to contact Athletic Director Corey Anderson (canderson@bushnell.edu) or visit the job listing at bushnell.edu/careers.

Current high school and junior college athletes interested in joining Bushnell Wrestling are encouraged to complete the player interest form located at bushnellbeacons.com/wrestling.

OSU's sole winter Olympian grew up in Cascadia

By Montana Burack
For The New Era

While dozens of Oregon State University alumni have made their mark in the summer games, including high jumper Dick Fosbury and gymnast Jade Carey, only one known Beaver alumnus has ever been in contention for a winter title: alpine ski racer and two-time Olympic medalist Jean Saubert.

And she started in Sweet Home.

Born in Roseburg in 1942, Saubert grew up in Cascadia. She and her sister learned to ski at Hoodoo Ski Bowl from her U.S. forest ranger father. She went on to race competitively at Mount Hood and Mount Bachelor.

Saubert was competitive on the national stage throughout her teenage years, winning her first of several national junior championships at 14 and taking home two national titles soon after.

Upon graduating as valedictorian from Lakeview High in 1960, Saubert enrolled at OSU's College of Education. While at OSU, she pursued her studies while continuing to train and compete in ski racing.

In 1962, after winning six U.S. championships, her training earned her a coveted spot on the U.S. Ski Team, where she remained for four years.

Saubert went on to win a total of eight U.S. national titles and place in several

World Championships and many other races across circuits in the United States and Europe.

In 1964, she competed as a favorite in the winter Olympics in Innsbruck, Austria.

The Associated Press labeled her as the "best woman of the year" ahead of the games, and commentator Jim McKay said that Saubert was the "hope of America."

She ultimately won a silver medal in the giant slalom and a bronze medal in the slalom, two of only six medals earned that year by Team USA in Innsbruck. She was the first Oregonian to win two Olympic medals and the first OSU female to medal at the Olympics.

Following the Olympics, Saubert set her sights on teaching and returned to OSU to complete her education degree. An honors student, Saubert was awarded a full-tuition scholarship from the OSU Alumni Association for her athletic achievements.

After graduating from OSU and retiring from ski racing in 1966, Saubert joined the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints and pursued a career in teaching. She taught elementary school in Vail, Colo., and Salt Lake City, Utah.

Saubert earned a master's degree at Brigham Young University, where she then taught physical education



Jean Saubert is pictured above, left, in a Wikipedia photo, and right, in a file photo from The New



Era in 1963, serving as grand marshal of the Sporsman's Holiday Parade that year.

courses to prospective teachers for three years.

Saubert was inducted into the U.S. National Ski Hall of Fame in 1976.

In 1978, she moved to Hillsboro to teach elementary school, where she remained for 22 years before her retirement in 2000. Every four years, she brought her medals to class to show her students.

A lifelong athlete, Saubert continued to stay active throughout her life. She participated in many sports leagues and endeavors, including swimming, soccer, tennis, racquetball, golf and volleyball.

She continued to ski competitively in charity races and won a national soccer championship with one of her teams.

Many of Saubert's students, fellow competitors, colleagues, family and friends remembered her as kind and community-minded and as a fighter with a competitive spirit.

In an article, Saubert was once quoted jokingly saying, "I'm so competitive, that if I was sitting in a room stuffing envelopes, I'd have to stuff the most."

Saubert headed south to watch the 2000 Summer Olympics in Australia, and

volunteered and served as a torchbearer at the 2002 Winter Olympics in Salt Lake City before moving to Bigfork, Mont., to live with her sister and brother-in-law.

In her retirement, she spent time volunteering at local elementary schools and LDS churches.

After a long six-year fight against breast cancer, Saubert died in 2007 at age 65.

— Montana Burack is a sports writer for the Oregon State University Daily Barometer and Orange Media Network. This article is used by permission.

Local recipients receive Samaritan Social Accountability Grants

Samaritan Health Services has awarded \$200,000 in Social Accountability grant funding to 12 nonprofit organizations that offer programs aimed at improving the health and well-being of residents in Linn, Benton and Lincoln counties.

"Our region faces many pressing health needs that have been identified by a collaboration of community partners," said Paulina Kaiser, Samaritan's director of Community Health and Research.

"We recognize that an individual's health needs are greatly impacted by social factors, such as where they live and work," Kaiser said. "Through Social Accountabil-

ity funding, we hope to leverage resources and build partnerships across our region, creating a more cohesive and sustainable approach to improving quality of life for all."

The successful grant applicants presented proposals that address one or more of the priority areas listed in the Regional Community Health Improvement Plan. Those priority areas are:

- Improve housing stability with access to affordable housing.
- Improve access to essential health care.
- Enhance behavioral and mental health and emotional well-being.
- Foster inclusion, diversity, anti-racism and equity for a

more inclusive and equitable community environment.

The recipient agencies are:
ABC House (Linn/Benton) – \$25,000 to provide partial salary support for a forensic medical provider to support child abuse services.

Agape Respite Center – \$25,000 to help hire a part-time health care coordinator to provide wraparound support services at the Lincoln County homeless day shelter.

Boys & Girls Club of Albany – \$10,000 to bring a mental health clinician and bilingual health navigator to B&GC services in Albany.

Boys & Girls Club of Greater Santiam – \$10,000 to train staff in trauma-informed care and implement

curriculum to improve coping and emotional regulation skills at Clubhouses in Lebanon and Sweet Home.

CHANCE – \$15,000 to address barriers faced by adults experiencing homelessness in Albany and Lebanon.

Crossroads Communities – \$25,000 to increase staffing for drivers to provide transportation services across the region.

Habitat for Humanity of Lincoln County -- \$35,000 to help hire a homeowner services coordinator and establish a homeowner support services committee to help low-income families transition to homeownership.

Lebanon Basic Services – \$5,000 for its rental assis-

tance/eviction prevention project, which addresses financial barriers to securing permanent or transitional housing.

Northwest Coastal Housing – \$10,000 to help with wages for a housing case manager and peer support specialist to support homeless clients actively pursuing housing.

Oregon Cascades West Council of Governments – \$10,000 to provide transportation services to homebound Lincoln County seniors.

The Homie House – \$20,000 to hire extra staff to support rural Lincoln County youth ages 14 to 21 with mentorship and substance use prevention education.

Volunteer Caregivers – \$10,000 to help provide door-to-door transportation services to medical appointments for Linn County seniors, age 55 and up.

Samaritan Health Services has provided Social Accountability funding since 1997. To learn more, visit samhealth.org/CommunityBenefit. The Regional Community Health Improvement Plan can be found at lbppartnershipforhealth.org.

FASTEST COMIC STANDING COMEDY SHOW
SAT. FEB. 28 - 7PM
FREE EVENT
(Tips appreciated)
THE DAM BAR
6099 US-20 • SWEET HOME

WE SUPPORT THE NEW ERA!

Electrical Systems Services
Dan and Cindy Rice

PUBLIC SAFETY

From page 3

Bishop/Pearl, Brownsville.

4:38 a.m. - Justin Robert Herry, 29, of Lebanon, cited for speeding, 66/45, and failure to renew vehicle registration, Bishop/Pearl.

2:47 p.m. - Caller reported possible overdose in Cascadia Park, 48200 block Cascadia, but supposed victim was gone when deputies arrived.

4:38 p.m. - Kyle Richards, 32, of Sweet Home, cited for DWS, and on warrant, Long/Terrace Lane. Report taken.

SWEET HOME POLICE

9:27 a.m. - Caller reported male using public trash bins to dispose of personal trash. Officer responded, contacted male, who was counseled on behavior, stated he would stop. 16th/Elm.

10:24 a.m. - Caller reported her wallet taken from cart at BiMart, 1980 Main. Officer responded, report taken for theft II. Approximate loss \$860.

10:38 a.m. - Caller from Hawthorne School, 3205 Long, reported female was asked to leave campus and refused. Officer responded, contacted female, who was not happy but was trespassing.

10:58 a.m. - Clinton Jack William, 37, arrested after he turned himself in at SHPD, 1950 Main, on SHMC warrant for FTC in criminal mischief case. Cited and released.

11:01 a.m. - Caller reported large pig in her back yard, 1200 block 44th. Officer responded, but was unable to capture pig, which remained at large.

1:13 p.m. - Caller from Linn County Health, 799 Long, reported male continually entering and exiting premises, scaring clients. Officer responded, contacted male, who was trespassing.

1:19 pm. - Christopher Earl Anlauf, 49, arrested for assault IV, 1000 block 15th. According to police, the arrest resulted from a child abuse investigation. Cited and released.

2:05 p.m. - Caller reported individual transporting "multiple

See Public Safety, Page 16

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

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

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

EXPIRES 12/31/2026

Taqueria Dos Arbolitos

LEBANON

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

2 FOR \$8
MIX & MATCH

Crispy Alaska Cod Sandwich
Double Cheeseburger

REVV'D UP
ROOT BEER & CREAM FREEZE

NEW REVVD UP ROOT BEER \$3.99
NEW REVVD UP ROOT BEER CREAM FREEZE - \$5.49

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

the POINT RESTAURANT
EST. 1970

\$5 OFF
ANY PURCHASE OF \$30 OR MORE
NOT VALID WITH ANY OTHER OFFERS. MUST PRESENT COUPON. EXPIRES 3/04/26

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

FOR RESERVATIONS AND TAKEOUT
POINTSWEETHOME.COM

OREGON'S
INDOOR HIGH CALIBER KITCHEN

FAMILY-OWNED - ON THE CORNER OF MAIN AND ASH IN LEBANON
NOW SERVING WINE, BEER, LIQUOR, AND COCKTAILS!

\$3 OFF
ANY LUNCH OR DINNER SPECIAL

WHEN YOU DINE AT HIGH CALIBER KITCHEN
SAVE YOUR RECEIPT
50% OFF
A SHOOTING LANE AT OREGON INDOOR SHOOTING NEXT DOOR.

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

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

IxtaPa Mexican Restaurant

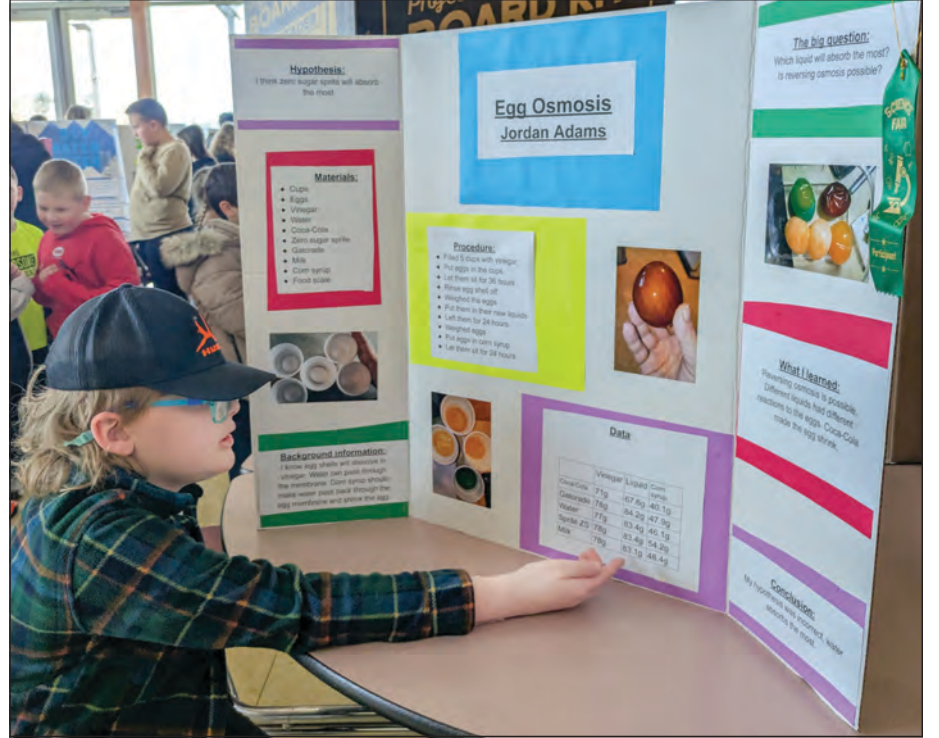
Gift Certificates Available Now!
\$2 OFF ANY LUNCH OR DINNER
Not valid with any other offer.

25 N Santiam Hwy • (541) 451-3995
ixtapamexicanrestaurant.com

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



Students and parents look over the variety of science fair projects during an open house at Pioneer Elementary School on Feb. 20. See more photos at lebanonlocalnews.com and sweethomenews.com.



Jordan Adams explains his project, which looked into the process of osmosis by using eggs and different liquids. — Photos by Sarah Brown

EXPERIMENT
From page 1

and, sometimes, even play with them.

One of the more popular projects was Torsten Padilla's (fifth grade) research to determine which Rubik's Cube can be solved the fastest. His exhibit was often flocked by several students who seemed to enjoy trying out the varying sizes of 2x2, 3x3, 3x3x1 and 4x4.

Cameron Sisemore's (fourth grade) interactive tornado project allowed visitors to shake liquid-filled bottles to create tornadoes. He hypothesized that water with glitter in it would spin the fastest and the one with dish soap would spin slowest, but he learned that the water-only bottle spun fastest.

Special guests were invited to judge each exhibit.

"Some of them are going for a low bar, some of them are going for a pretty high bar, really," said Dale Hall,

judge.

He was particularly impressed with Jonas Rojas's (fifth grade) project on water filtration and Aurora Logan's (fifth grade) experiment with how the density of liquid affects object floatation.

Jonas explored the question of whether a homemade filter would purify water well enough to drink. He used sand, charcoal, gravel and water quality test strips to learn how well cotton balls versus coffee filters filtered out contaminants.

"After the cotton balls were tested out, it became cloudy and not drinkable; you could see little chunks floating in it," Jonas said. "But with the coffee filter you can't."

Still, despite a very clean looking water result from the coffee filter, Jonas concluded that water can look clean but still contain harmful bacteria.

Jordan Adams' (fourth grade) experiment on osmo-

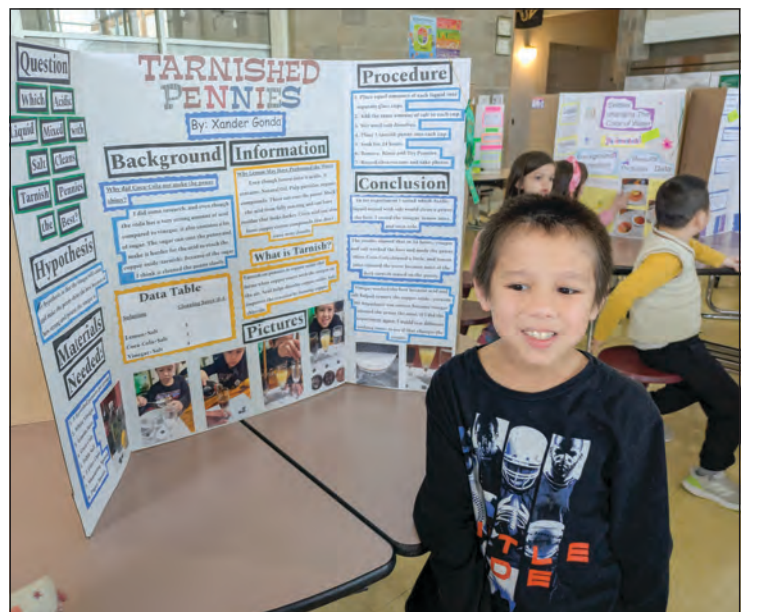
sis involved the disintegration of egg shells before soaking them in different liquids such as vinegar, soda, Gatorade and milk. He learned that reverse osmosis is possible, and that water absorbed the most.

Then there was Xander Gonda who learned about tarnish on copper pennies, Jocelyn Bill who learned that baking soda makes a better activator for slime, Aniyah Betts who determined that Downey paper towels hold more water than others she tried, Josephine Birch who grew mushrooms on different substrates, and Justin McCraven who observed the protective nature of camouflage.

Other students tested how many times they could fold a piece of paper, learned whether water freezes with sugar or salt in it, investigated gelatin from horse hoofs, made electricity from lemons,



Josi Birch looks over her science project about mushrooms.



Xander Gonda talks about his science project which involved learning which acidic liquid mixed with salt cleans tarnished pennies.



Etc Thrift Shop

Bargains That Benefit All

We Accept Donations

Check out our sewing section!

- Crafts for All Ages
- Check Out our Fabric Selection
- Daily Sales
- Tues. - Senior "bingo" Discounts
- Sat. - Student Discounts
- Silent Auction - Starts 2nd Sat. of each month, lasts for 2 weeks.
- Books, DVDs, and CDs
- Kitchenware
- Electronics and Office Supplies

20% OFF

on a purchase of \$15 or more with coupon

836 South Main, Lebanon • 541-258-5614



McClure buzzer-beater gives SH hoops win over North Marion

By Keeghan Gittins
For The New Era

The Sweet Home High School boys basketball team split its two games last week, earning a dramatic 43-41 win over North Marion High School before falling 66-53 to Newport High School on senior night.

Against North Marion, the Huskies secured the win on their final possession.

With 12 seconds remaining, Mason Tyler grabbed the rebound and pushed the ball up the floor before finding Bradyn McClure with seven seconds left. McClure beat his defender, rose over a double team just in front of the free-throw line and sank the game winner with just one second in regulation.

Despite shooting 5-19 from the field, McClure said he trusted himself with the final attempt.

"We needed a shot to win and I believed in all the hours of practice and the work I have put in," McClure said.

Sweet Home struggled from three-point range, finishing just 2-14, and committed 18 turnovers. However, the Huskies stayed in the game because of their perfor-

mance at the line, going 10/12 after failing to shoot above 60 percent from the stripe in their last five games.

Newport

On Friday, Sweet Home celebrated Senior Night, but lost to No. 3 Newport, 66-53. Tyler led the Huskies with an efficient 17 points, making five of 11 inside the arc and 3-6 from three.

Senior Alex Bachand came up big with 12 points, shooting 57% on seven attempts. Six of his points came in the opening four minutes.

"It was fun to see Alex shoot the ball really well with it being Senior Night," said Coach Drew Emmert.

"(Trenton) Templin also played well, defending at a high level, grabbing some boards and a score or two."

McClure was assigned to defend Newport's Ayden Bokuro, an all-league player averaging 19 points per game. Bokuro proved difficult to slow, going 8-12 inside the arc and adding two three-pointers.

After the game, Emmert credited Newport's guard play and pointed to turnovers as a key factor.

"Newport is a really good

team with three of the best guards in 4A," he said. "We didn't do a good job defensively of handling those three. They were too comfortable all game.

"We tried to play off their posts and pack the paint so their guards couldn't get to the hoop - which we did OK at in the half court. We just had too many TO's, which led to easy transition buckets.

"With that we continued to battle. We played hard and shot the ball well, which kept us in it."

After the mixed week the Huskies fall to 4-5, still tied for third in league with No. 17 Stayton. With an unlikely route to the playoffs, as Stayton will be playing league bottom-dweller North Marion, Sweet Home will most likely play its last game against No. 19 Cascade on Feb. 24.

This will be the Huskies' last game in the Oregon West Conference and their last in the 4A division for the foreseeable future, as they will play next year in the 3A-division Mountain Valley Conference.



Alex Bachand launches a three-pointer over a soaring Aidyn Bokuro of Newport. See more photos at sweethomenews.com. - Photo by Keeghan Gittins

SH SWIMMING

From page 6

minute that day but I didn't know if he would hang on to second place."

From the deck, the finish was almost too close to call.

"I saw him getting caught with about 10 yards to go and it was too close to call," Bronson said. "(Assistant coaches) Mark and Jess are screaming in my ear and I just waited for the Big Board to tell us what had happened."

For Tolman, the moment capped a meaningful senior season, especially in breaking that one-minute mark.

"I was so excited," he said. "I was worried I wouldn't be able to do it and this was the last meet I had the chance."

Tolman also reflected on what the sport has meant to him.

"It's sad because I'm going to miss swimming. I love swim. It's been one of the biggest parts of my life for the past six years," he said. "It is a very hard but rewarding sport. I've had a lot of good memories with my teammates."

He added that the runner-up finish stands above the rest.

"Getting second in the 100 Back as a senior meant so much to me. It was the highlight of my whole swimming career," Tolman said.

Hard work delivers results

Junior Austyn Hogan delivered one of the team's biggest improvements, highlighted by a dramatic nearly 20-second time drop in the 500 Freestyle.

Bronson called the improvement extraordinary.

"I've never seen a drop like that over this short of time at

that high of level," he said. "To drop from 5:32 to do a 5:13 is unheard of... this was all his mindset and decision to go out and go for it."

Hogan credited the competitive field for helping unlock the performance.

"At districts and state I was up against people that I could pace, allowing me to swim faster because I had someone I could race," he said.

Late in races, his focus was simple.

"I was telling myself that you only have 100 yards, push through this, then you are done. Don't hold back," Hogan said.

Program depth pays off

Sweet Home's relays also showed measurable progress.

The girls medley relay team of Haggas, Rundell, Sautel and Whitton placed 10th in 2:08.97. The girls 400 freestyle relay finished ninth in 4:13.96.

On the boys side, the medley relay moved up from sixth in prelims (1:52.00) to fifth in finals (1:51.40).

Both relays had milestone splits. Bronson pointed to those moments that signal future potential.

One of the highlights came when Grason Savri broke the 30-second barrier on his breaststroke leg - a milestone Bronson called significant for the program's development.

"It's a huge stepping stone," Bronson said. "The breaststroke breaking a 30 sets up a medley relay like no other, to be competitive at that level, you need a fast breaststroke."

"Grason is a huge contributor and is someone we can



Khloe Sautel, above, right, swims to a second-place finish in the 500 Freestyle after also finishing as the runner-up in the 50 Freestyle at the state 4A/3A/2A/1A swimming championships. See many more photos at sweethomenews.com. - Satina Tolman photo

COMMITTED TO SUPPORTING OUR OREGON COMMUNITIES

We're proud to support our Oregon operating communities, and in 2025 we contributed nearly \$300,000 to projects across the state.

Thank you to our nonprofit partners for helping us provide important resources our communities need to grow and thrive!

Weyerhaeuser | WY.COM |

See SH Swim, Page 19

Huskies fall to Molalla, rebound with win over Newport

By Keeghan Gittins
For The New Era

The Sweet Home girls basketball team showed it can compete with top programs before snapping a four-game losing streak with a senior night win.

The Huskies fell 45-37 on the road Feb. 17 to No. 14 Molalla, but the close game demonstrated their ability to compete with higher-ranked opponents.

"We played a really competitive game against a great team in Molalla and made some adjustments in the second half defensively that made a big difference," said Coach Erika Evans. "The girls never stopped competing for each other."

Sweet Home bounced back Friday with a 34-31 win over Newport High School, breaking a four-game losing streak in dramatic fashion.

With the Huskies trailing late, senior Addy Vannice stole an inbounds pass in the closing seconds and dished to Taylor Gaskey under the rim. Gaskey's layup gave Sweet Home a 33-31 lead with 19 seconds remaining and proved to be the game-winning basket.

Gaskey's shot was notable as she had taken just 10 attempts inside the arc all

season prior to Friday night. Aaliyah Brown led the Huskies offensively with a game-high 14 points, shooting 6/14 from the field. Vannice led the defensive effort with three steals.

"Our version of success has long been defined by many other aspects than the scoreboard," Evans said. "In our four games between wins, we had many victories in terms of our definition of success."

"While beating Newport High School on senior night was great, I think all of the girls would tell you we didn't put on our best performance against them. This group is so much more resilient than being defined by the scoreboard; they know what their potential is, and as long as they are climbing toward it, they know they have a lot to be proud of."

Senior leadership remained central to the victory.

"Our seniors - Loralai Mark, Vannice, and Aubrey Newberry - are awesome leaders who have poured their hearts into growing our girls basketball program from the ground up," Evans said. "They have stuck it out, encouraged others to get better, and

been leaders in many tough moments. They have truly been invaluable pieces in the growth of this program and the belief in our locker room."

Evans called a late time out with 30 seconds left to reassure her team of the plan and strategy. Sweet Home had five fouls and couldn't afford a foul, which would have given the visitors two free throw attempts.

"We made sure the time, score, and foul situation were all clear, made defensive adjustments and anticipated Newport's strategy, and clarified our offensive intentions," Evans said.

Brown's consistency has helped power the Huskies' offense all season, she said.

"Aaliyah has been a great offensive force all season," the coach said. "She has been confident and has been expanding her avenues of scoring. She has also been working on being more of a distributor offensively."

Vannice's defensive presence continues to define Sweet Home's identity. Her last steal on Friday night brought her season total to 54. The Huskies' next closest is Brooke Elder, with 29. Vannice is averaging more



Aubrey Newberry drives around Newport's Brehenna Bailey during their game Friday. See more game photos at sweethomenews.com. - Keeghan Gittins photo

than three steals per game.

"Addy has been a defensive force for longer than just this year," Evans said. "She was a candidate last year for Defensive Player of the Year in our league. Other people stepping up defensively and being able to guard the primary ball handler this season - Brooke and Taylor specifically - have allowed Addy to focus more on off-ball

steals. It really is a group effort, but a defensive identity that was led by Addy starting last season."

Sweet Home will look to build on its momentum as it faces another tough stretch, traveling to play No. 7 Cascade on Feb. 24. They then will finish the regular season at home Saturday, Feb. 28, with a rescheduled matchup against No. 13 Madras.

Buczko just misses qualifying for state swim final for Lebanon

Lebanon sent an individual swimmer, senior Orianna Buczko, and three relay teams to the 5A state championships last weekend at Tualatin Hills Aquatic Center in Beaverton.

None of them made the finals, but Buczko came close, finishing seventh - one place away from the medals - in the 100 Freestyle in a personal best 58.12, a half-second faster than her districts time, which

is one of the fastest times in the program's history, coach Joe Andrews said.

Andrews said coaches were overall, "very happy" with the Warriors' performances.

"While we wanted to advance to the finals, this year was another step forward," he said.

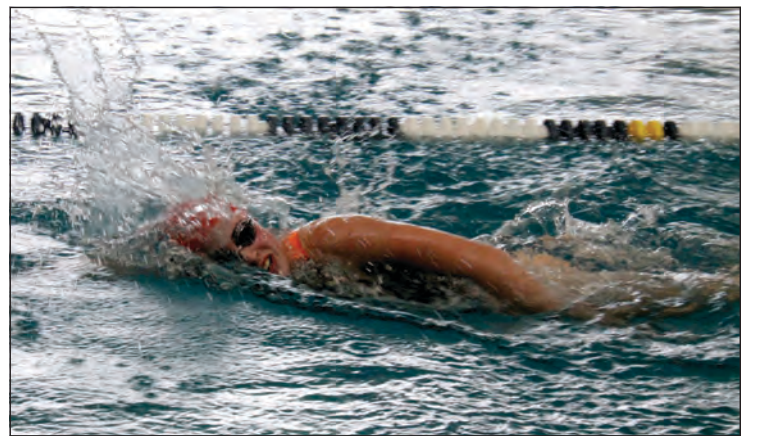
Buczko also competed in the 200 Freestyle, swimming 2:11.16 to finish 11th, a "solid

swim, Andrews said.

Two boys and one girls relay teams competed for the Warriors. All three finished 11th.

In the 200 Freestyle Relay, seniors Grant Basting, Michael Kluttz and Boston Borgmann teamed with sophomore Jack Johnson to finish in 1:37.01, nearly a second below their qualifying time from districts.

See L Swimming, Page 16



Orianna Buczko swims the 200 Freestyle at the state championships. See more photos from the meet at lebanonlocalnews.com. - Satina Tolman photos

Experience a New Standard in Senior Living

- ✔ Unique, innovative living solutions
- ✔ Family & Resident Portal
- ✔ Redefined senior living
- ✔ High-end, supportive amenities
- ✔ Fun activities & events
- ✔ Delicious home-style meals
- ✔ Housekeeping & maintenance



WILEY CREEK
SENIOR LIVING



Call today • (541) 824-0657

wileycreeksl.com

5050 Mountain Fir St., Sweet Home



Lebanon state swimmers are, in front, from left, Boston Borgmann, Anouk Ricketts, Abigail Settle, Molly Basting, Brooklyn Davis and Samantha Walsh. In the rear, from left, are Chase Herb, Michael Kluttz, Grant Basting, Orianna Buczko, Jack Johnson and Alex Kolling.

55 Plus

Linda Ziedrich quiet leader in Lebanon efforts

By Scott Swanson
Of The New Era

Linda Ziedrich sits in her living room, an assortment of books scattered across the table in front of her.

The titles included "The Curious Kitchen Gardener: Uncommon Plants and How to Eat Them." "The Joy of Pickling: 300 Flavor-Packed Recipes for All Kinds of Produce from Garden to Market." "The Nursing Mother's Guide to Weaning." "Cold Soups."

They, and others, all carry her author's credit.

Those books, which represent significant research and experience in food-related fields, are only the tip of a quiet but persistent leader whose interests and involvement in Lebanon are widespread.

Ziedrich is a founder, leader or otherwise involved in the League of Women Voters, Build Lebanon Trails, the Lebanon Museum, The Linn County Cultural Coalition, the Santiam Food Alliance, Lebanon Pioneer Cemetery, Lebanon Garden Club and the Linn County Master Food Preservers, which is a local arm of the Oregon State University Extension.

Frankly, she isn't one to turn heads when she walks into the room.

"I'm only motivated to do things that other people are not doing, will not do, or cannot do," she stated, matter-of-factly, which is her way. "If other people are handling things, then I'm glad to take a back seat or not be involved in a particular organization at all. I only step in when I see a need."

Oh, she did volunteer to join the museum, but that's because she has a deep interest in local history.

All this while she writes and, occasionally, edits, which was her line of work long before moving to Lebanon in 2015, from Scio, where she and her husband Robert had operated a farm for 22 years.

Ziedrich, 68, grew up in Sonoma County, Calif., north of the Bay Area. She attended U.C. Davis, but didn't like it there, so she ended up at U.C. Berkeley, where she graduated in 1979 with a degree in social anthropology.

After graduation, she got into book publishing, working first for a small publisher on the Stanford University campus.

"Robert and I decided we wanted to experience a different part of the country, so we moved to Massachusetts," she said.

There she wound up at Harvard Common Press, a fledgling publisher specializing in culinary, parenting and other lifestyle themes.



Linda Ziedrich stands at Riverview Park where she and other members of the Lebanon Garden Club have planted trees and shrubs on the riverbank in an effort to stop erosion and beautify the area. - Photo by Scott Swanson

"The company was so small that I did everything," Ziedrich recalled. "So I did all phases of editing, acquisitions, development, copy editing, and also book design and managed production and did marketing too. It was kind of fun, but also kind of crazy."

After a couple of years, pregnant with their first child - of what eventually were three - she started freelancing as a book designer and editor, focusing more heavily on the latter as publishing moved into the digital age.

After six years in Somerville, Mass., they decided to return to the West, so they moved to the Santa Cruz Mountains, south of the Bay Area, for six years before relocating to Scio after Robert got a job with Entek.

Before long, Harvard Common Press contacted her, asking if she would write a cookbook featuring cold soups.

"Instead of doing library research on, you know, 'what kind of cold soups are there in the world?' I just started inventing them," she said. "So that was the way I began. And then I did the library research."

"And so the book has lots of

traditional kinds of soups. It started out with experimentation, and I used my own garden, because book publishers don't pay you for the food."

After that first book was published in 1995, a second, on pickling, followed in 1998; it's still in print.

"I got the idea for the pickle book when my eldest got interested in eating pickles," Ziedrich noted.

Eventually, she decided to focus just on writing, rather than editing, especially as she started getting involved in non-literary activities.

Living six miles out of town in the Scio community, she said, opportunities to get involved were somewhat limited.

"Our family was very involved in the Sheepskin Revue, which put on plays at Christmas and during the Lamb Fair," she said.

She also got involved in an attempt in the early 2000s to establish a countywide library district after being encouraged to do so by the then-state librarian.

"We held regular meetings, we dealt with politicians, we hired consultants, and we had

this whole plan put together," Ziedrich said. "And then the Albany City Council ended up being against it."

She recalled that Albany had just acquired a building to house its city library.

"We actually had a city councilor say that she didn't want country people to come get their new carpets dirty."

She said one outcome of that effort, though, was the creation of a countywide library consortium, which allows local library members to borrow books from other libraries for free.

But, she said, rural residents still have to pay to use city libraries, which is why she wanted to establish the

countywide district.

"Some people aren't willing to do that, and that's fine if they don't read books, but it's not fine for their children," she said.

After moving to Lebanon, she got involved in the Garden Club, partly because she had once presented a program for the members. She had become a Master Gardener in Suffolk County, Mass., and in the Santa Cruz area had had a "big garden" when she wrote her "Cold Soups" book.

When she arrived in Oregon, she completed OSU's Master Food Preserver Program, and in Scio farmed about seven acres of land with "subsistence" crops.

When she moved to Lebanon, she dialed it down to her new back yard in town and a community garden plot, first at Our Saviour's Lutheran Church and then at Porter Park.

"It's a great challenge to grow in a small area, because you have to be very choosy," Ziedrich said. "You have to make sure what you plant is going to have a good chance of working, and that you fit in everything that's important to you."

Less gardening has given her time to chair the Linn County Cultural Coalition, which distributes funds provided by grant money from the Oregon Cultural Trust, supplemented by local donations, to a wide range of local cultural activities.

In 2008 in Scio, the Ziedriches and two other couples founded a League of Women Voters chapter to hold forums for local political candidates "because we were

See Linda Ziedrich, Page 15

FEBRUARY SWEET HOME SENIOR CENTER WEDNESDAY LUNCH MENU

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

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

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

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

\$6 DINE IN | \$6.50 TAKE OUT

DINING ROOM OPENS 11:15 LUNCH SERVED 11:30 - 12:30

Please note: If you plan to pick up more than 3 take out lunches, please call at least a day ahead to ensure we have enough to fulfill all orders.

541-367-4775
880 18TH AVE - SWEET HOME



Sweet Home Pregnancy Care Center

Free parenting classes to help with practical resources & information.

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

55 Plus

'Shank's mare' a key 'player' in local settlement

By Roberta McKern

While thinking about the East Linn Museum and stories from it of the trek made down the Oregon Trail by those who settled here, the words "shank's mare" came to mind. Some pioneers likely traveled by shank's mare nearly most of the way. That is, they walked. True, when we think of the unity of traveling in wagon trains, we can imagine them riding along, but in reality, the wagons were primarily conveyances of food, water, and other necessities.

In order to spare the oxen or horses pulling the wagons, those who were neither too old nor too young or ailing were expected to walk. Shank's mare is a phrase referring to our lower limbs and our being able to put one foot in front of the other, as we learned when we were young. And probably, many more people walked west than we realized.

Settlers coming down the Willamette Valley were lucky to have horses or oxen after the trials of the trail and its

western mountains, and some arrived with wagons pulled by milk cows—like Josiah Weddle and his family, who lit near Holley.

For the earliest settlers, having draft animals was nearly imperative because the one grist mill serving the area was in Oregon City. In fact, anything not brought with them that the settlers might want was the Willamette to the Columbia under the dominance of the Hudson's Bay Company—until the question of the boundary between the U.S. and Canada was settled. That happened in 1846, by which time four years of settlers' arrivals had brought over five thousand into the valley, enough to influence the decision to give the Americans more than the British wished (although it was less than in the American slogan of "54-40 or fight").

One interesting way that settlers from the valley reached Oregon City was to "ride and tie," a variation on shank's mare. It involved two

people and a horse. One person rode the horse to a designated place along the way, tied the animal up to wait, and continued walking on. The second person, who had been walking all along (but presumably slower than the horse), had a turn on the horse, riding forward and passing the first rider, going up to a point where the horse was again tied up to await the other walker, and so on.

Was this a better way to go instead of having two men walking and leading the horse? Did time pass faster? It's like an arithmetic story problem: "If two men and a horse start off to go seventy miles, plus or minus, to Oregon City and they have only one horse, how long will it take them to get to Oregon City?"

Was the horse expected to carry grain to the grist mill, or were flour and supplies simply bought to be brought home to this area? At any rate, the trip took days and maybe up to two or three weeks.

It was better if a community

could join to send a contingent north with grain to be ground into the flour needed. But it was even better if a community had a grist mill of its own.

We are looking at the way in which our area was the product of rapid change as the Oregon country became settled. Fortunately for those who first came here, Richard C. Finley of the Crawfordsville vicinity knew how he could construct a grist mill on the Calapooia River where a basalt dike causes an area of riffles and a faster current. One problem: The site was already part of a filed land claim, but the man had gone away for the moment, for word of California gold had filtered north.

There was no better place for the first grist mill south of Oregon City, Finley insisted. Build, his neighbors decided, and they would back him. Necessity ruled. The original claimant to the site did return and there were hard feelings, but the need for the grist mill overruled.

However, building the mill,

which went into business in 1848, left Finley in debt. On the other hand, with gold discovered in California, like many other Oregon men, Finley headed south. He was able to send gold dust home to his wife, who found that when visitors to the mill asked to see and feel it, the gold dwindled—flakes having clung to fingers. She realized it could be seen but not felt.

Many Oregon men caught gold fever in the 1800s as gold in the mountains was discovered at various sites. The demands for supplies in the gold fields fueled Oregon's economy because crops—including potatoes, onions, and wheat for flour—were in high demand among the gold seekers pouring into the west by oxen-, horse-, or mule-propelled vehicles, as well as shank's mare, nearly always a dependable way to travel on a budget.

The 1800s were an amazing time. Men seeking land as well

See Shanks Mare, Page 15

Expert warns of major risks in relying on AI to generate wills

Artificial intelligence platforms can produce polished-sounding documents in seconds, but estate law varies significantly from state to state.

Requirements around witnesses, notarization, wording, and execution are precise—and even small errors can invalidate a will entirely.

"One of the biggest dangers is false confidence," says Anthony Martin of Choice Mutual Insurance, which commissioned a survey of 1,500 adults on how they view the use of AI in creating a will.

"People assume that be-

cause a document looks professional, it must be legally sound. Unfortunately, many of the most serious problems only surface after someone passes away, when it's too late to correct them."

Common risks associated with AI-written wills include:

Invalid execution, such as missing witness signatures or improper formatting.

Ambiguous language that creates room for disputes between heirs.

Failure to account for state-specific inheritance laws.

Overlooking complex family

dynamics, including blended families or dependents with special needs.

In worst-case scenarios, an invalid or unclear will can push estates into probate court, delaying distributions and significantly increasing legal costs for surviving family members.

Survey Shows Growing Reliance on AI

The Choice Mutual survey highlights how quickly attitudes toward AI in legal planning are shifting, suggesting a common belief it would be "good enough" for straightfor-

ward estates.

That perception concerns Martin.

"Even so-called 'simple' estates often aren't simple at all," he says. "Life insurance beneficiaries, digital assets, stepchildren, shared property, and debts all introduce complexity that generic AI tools aren't designed to handle."

The survey suggests that many Oregonians may be underestimating the long-term consequences of errors in estate planning—especially when those errors are only discovered during moments

of grief and emotional stress.

Why Mistakes Are Often Discovered Too Late

Unlike many financial or legal decisions, wills rarely get tested until the original author is no longer alive. This creates a unique risk profile, where mistakes can't be clarified or corrected.

"When a will fails, families are left trying to interpret intentions without guidance," Martin says. "That's when disagreements arise, relationships fracture, and assets end up consumed by legal fees instead of going to loved ones."

In some cases, courts may default to state intestacy laws, distributing assets in ways that directly contradict what the deceased intended.


Advice for Consumers Considering AI Tools

Martin is not urging Americans to avoid technology altogether, but he stresses the importance of understanding its limitations.

"AI can be a helpful starting point for learning or organizing your thoughts," he says. "But it shouldn't replace professional review when it comes to estate planning."

He recommends that anyone considering an AI-generated will:

- Treat AI output as a draft, not a final document.
- Verify state-specific legal requirements.
- Have documents reviewed by a qualified estate planning attorney.
- Revisit and update wills regularly as life circumstances change.





AVAMERE

REHABILITATION of LEBANON

A PART of the AVAMERE FAMILY of COMPANIES

350 S 8th Lebanon, OR 97355
541-259-1221





Q: Do I have dry eyes or allergies?

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

Dr. Michael W. Stoner

Advanced Family Eyecare | Michael W. Stoner, O.D.
2245 Long Street, Sweet Home • 541-367-2188

55 Plus

LINDA ZIEDRICH From page 13

tired of getting these ballots with all these names that we'd never heard of; we didn't know who these people were."

The local LWV, which remains small, continues to organize such forums, she said.

"I would love to have somebody else step in and take over and run with that one," she said. "There's no end of work you can put into the League of Women Voters, and we keep it very limited because we have only so much time."

She's also become "very passionate" about the effort to establish a historical museum in Lebanon.

"We're the only good-sized town in the county without a museum, right? We're still looking for a building, and I know that once the museum gets a building, that things will take off."

But then, she said, docents will be needed, as well as peo-

ple with design skills to help set things up.

Since the organizing group came together in 2018, she's organized "close to 20" programs on local historical topics for the membership.

"I'm not leaving that," she said.

Her latest "big thing" has been trees, which has allowed her to coordinate efforts by the Garden Club membership - "which exploded" during the pandemic, providing funds and manpower - and others to plant trees at the Pioneer Cemetery and Riverview Park.

She formed a Garden Club Community Projects Committee, which has taken on some of those efforts, placing a wide variety of trees and shrubs along the bank of the South Santiam River at the park, which is suffering "serious bank erosion," she said, as well as three "big shade trees" by benches along the river-side trail.

On March 12, she and other members of Build Lebanon



These are among the books Linda Ziedrich has written, many on food and gardening topics. - Photo by Scott Swanson

Trails, with employees from Weyerhaeuser, will plant 36 trees donated by that company along the Marks Slough trail.

Ziedrich acknowledges that she needs to dial things back.

"I'm doing too much," she

said. "I need to spend more time on my own work, and so I need to step back from some things."

There is a lot of opportunity to get involved, she said, particularly in summer watering efforts.

"We need people to water

those trees," she said, referring to the recent plantings at Riverview and the cemetery and the ones that will be planted in Marks Slough. "The river bank project seems to be a success so far. So I really look forward to those trees growing."

SHANKS MARE From page 14

as gold and other exploitable resources could head to Oregon country, Idaho, Montana, Colorado, Nevada, and California—as well as further south through Texas into New Mexico and Arizona territories. Gold acted as the lure and funded telegraph lines to California and Oregon in the 1860s and contributed to shipbuilding, stagecoach and mail lines, all other sorts of developments—including vice—which pulled populations in. Thoughts of easy riches exerted strong dynamics in the past as well as the present.

People headed into our area. Looking at the 1914 Oregon Blue Book, we get some interesting statistics. In 1890, the population of Linn County was 16,285 people. By 1910, it had grown to 22,662—an increase of over six thousand in twenty years. By 1910, Sweet Home made it into the Oregon Blue Book census with 202 as its population. By then too, the state's population of 672,765 compared to 52,465 in 1860. With the help of various means of locomotion—including trains, steamships, and stagecoach lines—the nation's and Oregon's growth had begun to gallop, and shank's mare was still in the running.

We don't see much direct influence here by steamboats and trains in the immediate East Linn area until the 1930s when Sweet Home got a train station. However, coastal steamers and steamboats on the Columbia and Willamette Rivers shuffled people and goods around starting in about 1845. Oregon was, after all, discovered by sail in its first days of exploration.

The natives used sea-going

canoes to chase whales on the coast and traveled the inland rivers by dugout ones. Hudson's Bay voyageurs traversed inland waterways to arrive from Canada at Fort Vancouver. The Methodist missionary Gustavus Hines recalled traveling up the Willamette River to the mission in the Salem area by canoe manned by Kalapuyan Indians from a band which did not survive the dying of native people without immunity to European diseases. Hines was one of those baffled by it while seeing their passing opened the Willamette Valley for settlement.

Steamboats strengthened communications with the east because information could be brought from San Francisco's

telegraph and be published in the Oregonian, plus bringing mail at 50 cents a letter. Mailboats and steamboats up the Columbia and on the Snake took produce and miners into new inland gold strikes.

Our area did have a flirtation with a steamboat. The little Calliope made it up the Santiam River to Lebanon. The Calliope, like other river boats, had a shallow draft and the Santiam was in flood stage. The town planned a banquet once the boat was loaded to celebrate a bright future. But the river began to drop. The Calliope was hastily unloaded and the banquet postponed. The celebrants banded together to pull and shove the Calliope downstream. It steamed back to Jefferson the

best it could, and that was the end of a steamboat connection further up the Santiam.

Stagecoaches and freight trains influenced travel on the Santiam toll road and otherwise came and went. Still, shank's mare had a place in the area's settlement. One museum story tells of Jess Barr, an early settler on Fern Ridge, who worked at Finley's grist mill on the Calapooia and was known to sling a fifty-pound bag of flour on his shoulder and walk those several miles home, mostly uphill.

We know many people in the past did not walk everywhere with horses, mules, oxen, and buggies and wagons available, but many people did. When limitations set

in, they had feet to amble with.

In praise of shank's mare, it's been said humankind in its rise first learned to walk on two legs. This freed the hands to reach with and exercise the opposable thumb in a power grip. Gripping and hanging on allowed the brain to develop and to come up with many diverse ideas—including the mechanical automations that lead us to travel less with our shank's mare. It is something to ponder.

East Linn Museum is celebrating its 50th anniversary in July and is open for visitors now. Welcome, come one, come all!!

YOUR HOME TOWN DRUG STORE



DRIVE THRU PHARMACY



Located inside Thriftway | 541.367.6777

Mon. - Fri. 8 a.m. - 6p.m. | Saturday 9a.m. - 5p.m.



Wolthuis Family Dentistry

Q: What are the worst drinks for my teeth?

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

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

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

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

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

COMPLIMENTARY ORTHODONTIC CONSULTATIONS (reg. \$85)

Wolthuis Family Dentistry | Ivan H. Wolthuis, DMD, MAGD

1524 Long St. Sweet Home, OR | 541-367-2931 | www.sweethomedental.com

MEMBER OF: American Dental Association, Oregon Dental Association, Southern Willamette Dental Society, Academy of General Dentistry (Master), International Association of Orthodontics

Husky girls capture third regional title in four years; Chafin four-time champ

By Ryker Burr
For The New Era

In front of a crowd of nearly 500 at Cottage Grove High School, Sweet Home's girls won their third 1A/2A/3A/4A regional wrestling title in the last four seasons Saturday, Feb. 21.

Sweet Home, with nine placers (top six finishers placed), was the only team to score over 200 in a packed field of 50 teams.

The Huskies finished with 210 points, with Harrisburg (180) and Mazama (172.5) rounding out the top three. Harrisburg had the most individual champions with five, while Oakridge (fourth overall) finished with three.

Sweet Home will be sending six wrestlers to Portland for the state tournament.

Those state-qualifiers are: Kass Zajic (third at 110), Lyla Ventura (fourth at 110), Alizeah Weikel (second at 115), Bailey Chafin (first at 125), Madison Looney (second at 145) and Eternity Allison (second at 170).

Head Coach Tomas Rosa praised his team: "Our girls are some of the best in the state. They're gamers. They put in a lot of work and deserve it."

Two-time state champion

Bailey Chafin led the Huskies' winning effort with her fourth straight regional title. She was the only individual winner for the Green and Gold.

"This one means a lot more because of the knee surgery," Chafin stated, referring to an injury she suffered in last year's state finals, which forced her to sit out the rest of the year. "I wasn't even sure if I could wrestle at the beginning of this season."

Rosa also had something to say about Chafin's historic feat.

"All year long she's been trying to wrestle her best coming off the injury. We're constantly focusing on wrestling our best despite the noise," he said. "She lost to that girl earlier this year... It was good to see Bailey get back to wrestling the way we know she can."

Chafin, who is seeded No. 1 at 125 pounds going into the tournament, attributed her increased motivation this year to the team around her: "Their support and desire to win makes me want to win more. I don't want to let them down."

Chafin went on to note she is excited for what the team will show at state, though she



Kass Zajic gets ready to turn Rogue River's Josephine Gervasi in the 100-pound consolation final, which Zajic won by tech fall. See more photos at sweethomenews.com. - Ryker Burr photo

is uncertain how high they'll place.

But she certainly knows what her goal is: a third state title.

"Getting a state title this year would mean more than getting four because it's more meaningful to come back, just a year later, from a full reconstructed knee surgery."

for the second.

Despite the lack of experience, Rosa thinks this group can come home with a trophy.

"It's been our goal the whole time. If we stack a few good wins, we're sittin' pretty for a pretty high placing."

Even if they don't return with a trophy, there's something else Rosa will be looking for in Portland: "We're looking to get state experience and try to stay on our routine as much as possible. If we wrestle our match, good things will happen."

The 4A state tournament for boys and girls will take place Thursday and Friday, Feb. 26-27, starting at noon Thursday at the Veterans Memorial Coliseum in Portland. Friday's matches will start at 2:45 p.m., with finals taking place following the Parade of Champions at 7 p.m.

Sweet Home's boys enter the tournament with three top seeds: Cody Sieminski at 106, Riley Vaughan (120) and Jesse Landtroop (126), and two No. 2 seeds, Keeghan Jefferson (113) and Luke Rosa (175).

PUBLIC SAFETY From page 3

deceased dogs" out of house in wagon, 400 block 7th. Officer responded. Male at location turned out to be licensed trapper, who had two coyotes and a skunk.

2:09 p.m. - Caller reported vehicle in 900 block 27th parked on street for over a year. Code enforcement officer responded, vehicle posted for removal.

2:27 p.m. - Caller reported female operating vehicle with child unbuckled in seat. Officer responded, located female who was counseled. 1st/Hawthorne.

2:38 p.m. - Caller reported pig in his yard, 4200 block Main. Officer responded, but was unable to locate pig.

3:24 p.m. - Caller reported injured nutria in yard in 1800 block Grape. Officer responded, dispatched animal, which was disposed of.

6:53 p.m. - Caller from BiMart, 1980 Main, reported male yelling and threatening at store. Officer responded, caller requested male be trespassed.

8:32 p.m. - Caller reported male in parking lot, 2000 block Main, honking and refusing to stop when asked. Officer responded, but was unable to locate male in

area.

LEBANON POLICE

1:14 a.m. - Subject said she woke up and a doll with strings told her to cut people up and eat them for steak because she's now a cannibal. Officer told her to ignore the doll and go back to sleep.

10:57 a.m. - Theft of exhaust tip reported. Loss: \$300.

1:42 p.m. - Colton Smith, 25, cited for DWS.

1:48 p.m. - William Read, 47, cited for DWS. Car towed.

2:18 p.m. - Kathleen Hendricks, 38, cited for DWS, LMC warrant for probation violation.

5:26 p.m. - Colby Lyon taken into

custody for interfering. Report taken.

FEB. 19

LCSO/OSP LEBANON

8:23 a.m. - Richard Ogbin, 66, of Lebanon, arrested on warrant, 500 block Weldwood. Lodged at LCJ. Report taken.

9:02 a.m. - Juvenile, 16, cited for speeding, 32200 block Berlin.

11:14 a.m. - Christopher Hileary, 43, of Lebanon, cited for equipment violations, Porter/Taylor. Vehicle towed as nuisance. Report taken.

See more and updated Public Safety logs at sweethomenews.com or lebanonlocalnews.com.

L SWIMMING From page 12

The four also swam the 400 Freestyle Relay, finishing in 3:34.73.

Andrews said they were hoping for a slightly higher finish in the 200, "but we swam faster than we have all year.

"It was a nice bonus to swim well on the 400 Free relay but we knew some things beyond our control this year would have to happen for us to make top six.

"This was a great send-off for the three seniors on these teams. Sophomore Jack Johnson dropped significant time over the last two weeks, putting him into a position to earn individual berths next year and really be the core of the team."

The girls 400 Freestyle Relay team of Buczko, junior Molly Basting, sophomore Brooklyn Davis and freshman Samantha Walsh cut six seconds off their district time, finishing in 4:17.75.

"The women's 400 Free relay really came together and dropped serious time," Andrews said. "Three of the members of the team were able to benefit from not having individual swims so they were very fresh.

"It is a very encouraging swim going into next year with three of the four women returning along with our alternates.

"Last year was the first state experience for several of the team; this year that institutional knowledge paid off well."



LINN SHUTTLE

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

DIAL-A-BUS

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

SWEET HOME IN TOWN TRANSIT

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

Starting March 9th, 2026 there will be a route change. Currently on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays the Sweet Home In-Town Transit (formerly the Shopper) makes 3 trips up to Cascadia. That route will be replaced by our Dial-A-Bus service. Starting March 9th, our riders needing to get to and from this community can call us 541-367-4775 and schedule a ride. Rides cost \$1 each way. Rides must be scheduled 48-72 hours in advance. Eligible pick-up times are available between the hours of 10am-3pm. Outside those times will be on a case-by-case basis.

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



All About Seeds, Plants

Participants in the Santiam Food Alliance's Seedy Tuesday, above, sort through seeds contributed to the event, which was held Feb. 17 at the Lebanon Library. The annual seed swap and gardeners' gathering included a presentation on unusual vegetables by Linda Ziedrich and a Master Gardeners' advice table and an information table staffed by the Lebanon Garden Club.

— Santiam Food Alliance photos



Lebanon students showing gains in math, reading, School Board told

By Jennifer Moody
For The New Era

Primary-grade students in Lebanon are showing significant gains in their math skills so far this winter, and both math and reading scores are strengthening across the district.

That information was part of a mid-year report on academic data that Supt. Jennifer Meckley presented Thursday, Feb. 19, to the Lebanon Community School District Board of Directors. The winter assessment is a checkpoint before spring testing, she said.

Board members also received an updated report on class sizes as part of Thursday's meeting.

Most grade levels are showing "typical to above typical growth" in math from fall to winter, with the strongest showings coming in grades 1-3, Meckley said. Emphasis on foundational skills is reflected in the findings, she said.

Growth is present but more variable in grades 4-8, with sixth grade trending slightly downward from fall to winter.

For reading, assessment results show "steady growth across grade bands," also most consistent in grades 1-3, she said. Sixth grade again showed a slight dip from fall to winter.

While intervention takes place at all grades, "We

definitely have some plans to make sure we intervene as quickly as possible to support those students," Meckley said.

At Lebanon High School, educators look at the pass rate for the first semester, which is at 92% for grades 9-12 overall. The lowest of the four grades is 11th, at 89%. The report states that rate is being monitored to help inform targeted support and credit recovery.

The class size report showed a handful of elementary classes slightly over the recommended enrollment figure at Pioneer, Lacombe and Riverview schools, and higher case management figures for special education and speech therapy at Pioneer, Riverview and Lebanon High schools.

In answer to a question from board member Mike Martin, Meckley said when numbers climb, principals meet with teachers to look at options, such as adding extra grading days for the teacher or extra time with assistants.

In contrast to the elementary grades, some of the classes at Lebanon High School — particularly Advanced Placement classes and other electives — have fewer than 20 students. This is something the district is watching to ensure the schedule stays financially

sound, Meckley said. The report indicates AP Calculus has just 10 students this year, as an example, and lifeguard training has nine.

In other business Thursday, the board:

- Learned that a work session to continue discussion about whether to issue a bond measure for school repairs and other projects has been scheduled for 5 p.m. April 9, before that night's board meeting.

- Received a "clean opinion with no reservations" from auditors on district financial statements for the past fiscal year.

- Heard a request to name the paved walking trail at Pioneer School the "Brandt Legacy Walking Path," in recognition of Rachel and Tony Brandt, who helped make the path project possible through fundraising and by monitoring the progress. Public comment on the request will be offered at the March meeting of the board, and board members may choose to vote on the proposal then.

- Voted unanimously to use an alternative contracting method for fire alarm control panel replacements and other fire system upgrades across the district. A report on the project found such a contracting method would save money and time in accomplishing the replacements.

Scio farmer Ivan Maluski announces run for District 11 seat

Ivan Maluski, a farmer and rancher from Scio, is running for House District 11 to represent rural Linn County in the Oregon House of Representatives.

The candidate is making his second run for the seat, hoping that voters tired of ineffective leadership in Salem will opt for an independent voice to represent them at the State Capitol in 2026.

Maluski said his focus is on lowering costs and boosting jobs in rural Oregon.

"Oregon should be a place where families can afford to live, rural communities are thriving, and everyone has access to quality, affordable health care and meaningful local job opportunities.

"I'm running for state representative to make our state work for all of the people who live here instead of out-of-state interests or partisan political agendas.

"For far too long, our representatives in the Legislature have been ineffective at delivering on priorities like lowering costs and improving the lives of local folks like you and me. We



Ivan Maluski

need a new approach. It's time for an independent voice to represent rural Linn County."

Maluski previously spent over a decade advocating for family farmers and ranchers at the state capitol in Salem and also served four years as an elected director of one of Oregon's rural fire protection districts.

A political independent, he ran as a 'nonaffiliated' candidate in 2024 and is running in the Democratic primary this year.

Despite the party label, he's not one to fall in line

and is critical of the leadership of both political parties, opposing both the controversial gas-tax increase and transportation bill passed last year, as well as Gov. Tina Kotek's plans to expand publicly funded tax-credits to data centers that are driving up electricity prices for Oregonians and eating up farmland and water supplies.

"Both Republicans and Democrats are playing politics on transportation and average Oregonians are the ones left with crumbling roads and bridges and poorly managed public funds.

"And with energy hungry data centers driving up electricity prices with no end in sight, we should be putting a moratorium on new data centers, not handing out bigger tax breaks or paving over farmland to build more of them," Maluski said.

Maluski highlighted the need for the Legislature to focus on bringing costs down for Oregonians.

"Families feel squeezed from every direction: rising electricity and fuel bills,

high food and health care costs, and the price of housing and childcare," he said.

"If elected, I'll prioritize passing legislation that brings down the cost of living, creates jobs, and makes things like health care, groceries, housing, energy and childcare more affordable.

"No one should have to choose between medical care and paying their bills or buying groceries. It's time for practical solutions to lower costs and create good paying jobs for Oregonians.


"Rural Oregon deserves the same respect and investment as our bigger

cities. Oregon's economic development resources should be focused on revitalizing small towns and cities in rural Oregon, not just big cities and suburbs.

"We can grow Oregon's economy by supporting the independent businesses and workers who are the economic backbone of our communities.

"The Legislature needs to invest in the value that small towns, agriculture, sustainable timber, hunting, fishing, and recreation bring to our state's economy and quality of life."

Maluski's campaign website is www.ruralindependent.com.



**Sweet Home
Pregnancy Care Center**

Free parenting classes to help
with practical resources & information.

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

Public Notices

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

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF BILLY (aka BILL) RAY WOODS, deceased.

Case No.: 26PB01313

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 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 25, 2026.

Personal Representative
MICHAEL WOODS
3217 Madison Street SE
Albany, OR 97322
Attorney

DAVID B. BECKHAM
319 Sixth Avenue SW
Albany, OR 97321
(2/25)

In the Matter of the Intestate Estate of

OPAL L. JONES

NOTICE TO INTERESTED PERSONS

Linn County Case No. 26PB00252

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Circuit Court of Linn County, State of Oregon, has appointed the undersigned as Personal Representative of the Estate of Opal L. Jones, deceased. All persons having claims against said estate are required to present the same, with proper vouchers, to the personal representative in care of Sarah Castleton, of Ivers & Miller Law 317 W. 1st Ave, Suite 302, Albany, OR 97321, within four (4) 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 25, 2026.

Victoria Allen-Hitt
Personal Representative
c/o Sarah Castleton
Ivers & Miller Law
PO Box 1033
317 First Ave W., Suite 302
Albany, OR 97321
(541) 928-5875
sarah@ivers.law
(2/25)

DISTRICT COURT

EUREKA COUNTY, NEVADA

KATIE LYNN VAN ATTA Plaintiff, VS. TONY JAMES VAN ATTA Defendant.

CASE NO.: CV2602-280
DEPT.: 2

SUMMONS

NOTICE! YOU HAVE BEEN SUED. THE COURT MAY DECIDE AGAINST YOU WITHOUT YOUR BEING HEARD UNLESS YOU RESPOND IN WRITING WITHIN 21

Public Notices

DAYS. READ THE INFORMATION BELOW VERY CAREFULLY.

To the Defendant named above: A civil complaint or petition has been filed by the Plaintiff against you for the relief as set forth in that document (see the complaint or petition). The object of this action is: Divorce.

If you intend to defend this lawsuit, within 21 days after this summons is served on you (not counting the day of service), you must:

1. File with the Clerk of Court a formal written answer to the complaint or petition.

2. Pay the required filing fee to the court, or file an Application to Proceed In Forma Pauperis and request a waiver of the filing fee.

3. Serve a copy of your answer upon the Plaintiff whose name and address is shown below.

If you fail to respond, the Plaintiff can request your default. The court can then enter a judgment against you for the relief demanded in the complaint or petition.

Issued on Behalf of Plaintiff:
Plaintiff's Name: KATIE LYNN VAN ATTA

Address: 3013 Crescent Ave
City, State, Zip: Crescent Valley, NV, 89821
(2/25 - 3/4)

NOTICE OF ONLINE AUCTION - A SQUARED STORAGE 1294 44th Ave. Sweet Home, OR 97386 Online bidding at www.storageauctions.com, auction ends 03/13/2026 at 11:00 a.m. Arielle Van Gundy, Unit 518. (2/25 - 3/4)

Statewide Notices

SERVICES: DIVORCE \$130. Complete preparation. Includes children, custody, support, property and bills division. No court appearances. Divorced in 1-5 weeks possible. 503-772-5295. www.paralegalalternatives.com legalalt@msn.com.

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

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

SERVICES: Audien Hearing. The world's first hearing aid with touchscreen controls. No tiny buttons, apps or prescriptions. 45-day risk free trial. Free shipping. Lifetime support. More than 1.5 million happy customers. Call Audien 1-844-387-1163.

SERVICES: YMT Vacations. Over 50 guided tours available. Affordable, social and stress-free travel designed for mature travelers. Our tours include accommodations, transportation, baggage handling, sightseeing, entrance fees, a professional Tour Director and select meals. For a limited time SAVE \$250 on all tours. Call YMT today. 1-866-335-3689.

Public Notices

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)

For Sale

Seasoned Firewood Fir & Pine mixed. U-haul \$200 a cord. We haul \$220 a cord 541-231-2251, 541-981-4177 (2/4 - 3/25)

Rummage Sale

Evangelical woman's rummage Sale: March 6 (9-4 p.m.) & March 7 (9-2p.m.) at Sweet Home Evangelical Church 1347 Long St. Sweet Home. Parking in back. (2/25 - 3/4)

Healthcare

Hello my name is April I have worked in healthcare for over 20 years. Looking for part time work. Can reach me at 541-405-6048. (2/25)

1611 King James Bible

Interested in the 1611 King James Holy Bible?

Take a look at kjbm.org. Authentic 1611 facsimile, Gothic font, softcover. Questions or local showing: text/call Lebanon 541-401-5654 / Phoenix: 661-373-5378.

Statewide Notices

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

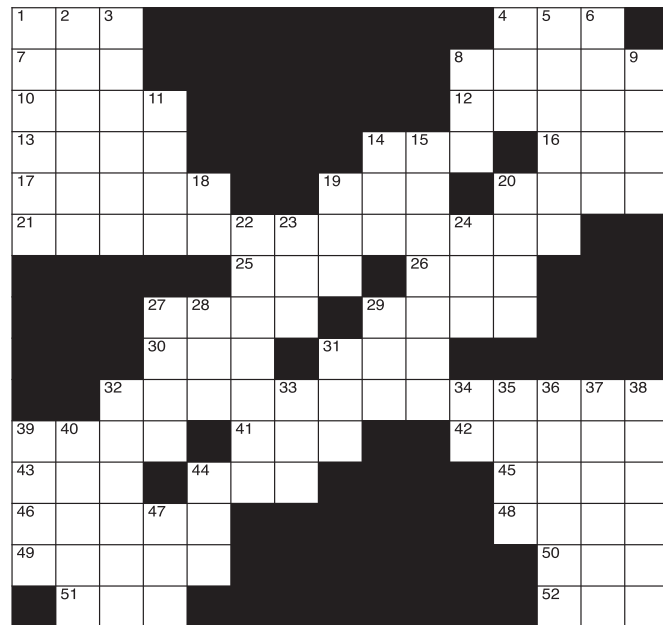
SERVICES: We buy 8,000 cars a week. Sell your old, busted or junk car with no hoops, haggles or headaches. Sell your car to Peddle. Easy three step process. Instant offer. Free pickup. Fast payment. Call 1-855-980-4382.

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

SERVICES: Jacuzzi Bath Remodel can install a new, custom bath or shower in as little as one day. For a limited time, waiving ALL installation costs! Additional terms apply. Subject to change and vary by dealer. (Offer ends 12/27/26.) Call 1-855-341-5268.

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

CROSSWORD



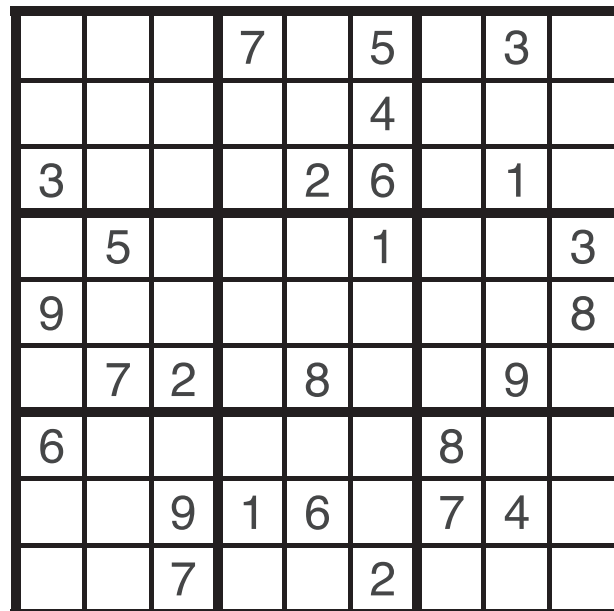
CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Belonging to a thing
- 4. Woman (French)
- 7. "Incredible" TV veterinarian
- 8. Volcanic craters
- 10. Geological times
- 12. Ghana's capital
- 13. Any small compartment
- 14. Conductance unit
- 16. Athens, Georgia, rockers
- 17. Plant of the arum family
- 19. Hawaiian dish
- 20. Pop
- 21. Imparting of information
- 25. Take in solid food
- 26. Dutch banking group (abbr.)
- 27. Contemptible
- 29. Peak
- 30. Play a role
- 31. Yuck!
- 32. Diversion
- 39. ___ and groan
- 41. Helps little firms
- 42. Large, edible game fish
- 43. To do so is human
- 44. Supervises interstate commerce
- 45. Basics
- 46. La Cosa Nostra
- 48. Mens' neckwear
- 49. Buddhist shrine
- 50. Midway between north and northeast
- 51. Wood
- 52. Hair product

CLUES DOWN

- 1. Induces vomiting
- 2. Matador
- 3. A way to travel on skis
- 4. ___ and cheese
- 5. Indicates long vowel
- 6. Made a mistake
- 8. Chinese chairman
- 9. Indigenous people of the Philippines
- 11. Slender
- 14. Extinct, flightless bird
- 15. Japanese conglomerate
- 18. Of (French)
- 19. Rate in each hundred (abbr.)
- 20. Unit of loudness
- 22. Most organized
- 23. 007's creator Fleming
- 24. Computing giant
- 27. American singer Aimee
- 28. Shock treatment
- 29. Ottoman military commander
- 31. Urban Transit Authority
- 32. Too much noise
- 33. Type of blood cell
- 34. Home of football's Panthers (abbr.)
- 35. Fortifying ditch
- 36. Receding
- 37. Christian creed
- 38. Tuft of hanging threads
- 39. Microelectromechanical systems
- 40. Speak
- 44. Supervises flying
- 47. Inches per minute (abbr.)

SUDOKU



Level: Intermediate



Below, Andrew Tolman swims the backstroke, in which he was second in the 100-yard final. - Satina Tolman photo

SH SWIMMING

From page 11 build around. Emma's freestyle is a milestone for so many opportunities. Both of these are one of the biggest hurdles for individuals, and so happy that two sophomores got them."

Savri said the achievement "felt fantastic," adding that the relay's success came down to collective focus.

"We all locked in when it counted," Savri said.

Additional individual results included Rundell placing 11th in the 100 backstroke (1:10.71) and Savri taking 10th in the 100 breaststroke (1:08.57) after dropping more than two seconds.

Overall, the Huskies finished

13th in the girls standings and 10th in the boys, despite their relatively small roster and having suffered some disqualifications of relay teams in the district meet that would have been good bets to score at state.

"Their determination," Bronson said about what stood out most. "It's difficult to do as well as we did with only the small amount of kids we had all season."

He believes the program is positioned to keep climbing.

"I think we can build on it and keep surging forward," Bronson said. "I'm hopeful we can recruit a bit more and score a bit more points. Would love to see a trophy."



Rollover crash east of SH

Sweet Home Police Sgt. Geoff Hamlin and Sweet Home Fire Lt. Josh Bondesen survey the scene of a crash that occurred Friday afternoon, Feb. 20, east of Sweet Home near Milepost 32 on Hwy. 20. According to Oregon State Police, the Kia Rio, driven by Jerry Thompson, 61, of Sweet Home, was eastbound when it left the highway and rolled into shrubs above Foster Lake. An OSP report indicated that medics did not find any major injuries, but Thompson, according to OSP, showed signs of impairment and was arrested for DUII. The Kia was towed, due to damage.

- Photo by Scott Swanson

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

AUTO REPAIR

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

EQUIPMENT

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

FURNITURE

2550 S. SANTIAM HWY
f @ G
(541) 259-3646

HOME & GARDEN

SUMMIT
HOME & GARDEN
541-258-7107
www.summitacehg.com
ASK ABOUT FREE DELIVERY
FINANCING OPTIONS AVAILABLE
MON- FRI 7:30AM-6PM
SATURDAY 8AM-5PM
1055 TANGENT ST. LEBANON

INSURANCE

Irwin Agency
Enriching The Lives In The Communities We Serve

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

INSURANCE

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

INSURANCE

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

JEWELRY

Custom Design
Diamond Specialist
722 S. Main Street
tremisjewelry.com
(541) 258-2888

LOANS

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

PLUMBING

CCB #238181

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

REAL ESTATE

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

REAL ESTATE

Tamara Shinko
Licensed Broker
503-951-7658
TAMARASHINKO@KW.COM
KW MID-WILLAMETTE
KELLER WILLIAMS REALTY
MLS
2125 SW PACIFIC BLVD, ALBANY

RV SALES & SUPPLIES

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

THRIFT STORE

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

TIRE / AUTO REPAIR

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

Sodaville replaces 'Frankenstein' work truck

By Sarah Brown
Of The New Era

Mayor Brian Lewis, of the City of Sodaville, donated a used work van to the city to replace an old truck that could barely leave town.

Before accepting the gift, the council held a work session on Feb. 5 to determine whether it was worth the trouble to take on the vehicle. That's because it was going to need a new transmission.

The 2018 Ford Transit Connect XLT van has about 152,000 miles on it, plus about 30,000 more on a recently replaced engine. It also has new brakes. Lewis acquired the vehicle for a very low price tag due to transmission problems, and opted to donate it to Sodaville.

The city paid \$5,500 for the transmission issue, and Burns said he is already stocking it with work tools.

The "new" front-wheel drive fleet vehicle has sliding doors on each side, as well as a back door, making access to equipment and supplies more accessible, which Councilor Roger Perry really liked.

During the work session, Councilor Joseph Parsons said he would prefer a brand new four-wheel drive, given road



Councilor Roger Perry and City Administrator Molly McGuire look over a used van the city recently acquired for the public works department. - Photo by Sarah Brown

conditions in Sodaville, but agreed it was a good deal and a "pretty sweet little van" with its storage racks.

According to City Recorder Molly McGuire, the work truck Public Works Director J D Burns had been using was a 2002 GMC pickup with more than 250,000 miles and a body that "has been Frankensteined together over the last several

years" with welded doors and electrical issues.

It was equipped with a non-working four-wheel drive, and more recently the engine had died.

"The pickup cannot leave town," McGuire informed the council. "I don't even trust it to go fuel up at the north side of Lebanon."

Because the city vehicle was

nearly impossible to use, Burns had been using his personal truck daily since November, but had been using it for longer than that any time he had to drive a long distance, such as delivering water tests to Salem, "which he has had to do quite often recently getting Well 3 back online," McGuire said.

Since November, the city has

paid Burns \$720.68 for a total of 1,016 miles on his personal truck.

During the City Council meeting on Thursday, Feb. 19, Burns reported that the city is looking into options to get rid of the GMC.

"Having a new fleet vehicle will alleviate the need for use of his personal vehicle," McGuire said.

In other business:

- Burns reported that Well 3 is back online and water restrictions are lifted;

- More gravel and grading has been completed in The Village;

- The council tabled further discussion about setting permanent water rates and water restriction prices for a future meeting;

- The council approved a \$300 rate adjustment on a resident's water utility bill following several discussions on the matter when they learned the city's meter reader played a role in not identifying a leak;

- The council discussed concerns about a transient living in a trailer in the city's right-of-way on St. Louis Street;

- The council approved a building permit application submitted by John Kirkman for a pole barn. Councilor Caleb Gay abstained.

Lebanon boys wrestling fourth at districts; sending seven to state

By Ryker Burr
For The New Era

Lebanon's boys wrestling team placed fourth out of 10 teams at the OSAA 5A Mid-Willamette Conference tournament at Crescent Valley High School Feb. 20-21.

Lebanon (212) had a way to go to catch the victorious West Albany (354.5). Dallas (317.5) and Silverton (297.5) rounded out the top three.

The Warriors were dominant from 157-175, winning all three of them and two more

finished in the top three.

Seven Warriors punched their ticket to Portland for state, which will take place at the historic Veterans Memorial Coliseum Feb. 27- Mar. 1.

Those state-qualifiers are: Michael Foubert (fourth at 106), David Brandt (fourth at 150), Tyson Trask (third at 157), Seth Wynn (first at 157), Cade Weber (second at 165), Grady Cox (first at 165) and Zech Halsey (first at 175).

Head Coach Michael Cox chalked up this group's success

to their brotherhood: "Those guys have amazing workout partners. They just grind all the time. Practices are way harder than the tournament because their partners are who they face in the finals."

Cox also gave praise for freshman Cody Cruz, who wrestled the 175-pound weight class despite weighing in at 162. He placed sixth, just short of qualifying for state.

Cox said he expects his wrestlers to come back with medals.



Lebanon's district wrestling placers are, in front, from left, Tyson Trask, David Brandt and Cody Cruz. In the rear, from left, are Seth Wynn, Grady Cox, Tyson Trask, Miller Swanson, Cade Weber and Zech Halsey. Not pictured is Michael Foubert.

- Lebanon Wrestling photo

"Our expectation is for them to compete to the best of their ability. If they compete we'll come home with four or five placers. We point to this two-week stretch as the reason they work so hard all year."

He also noted that four of these qualifiers are seniors, so this is their last dance.

Cox said Wynn, who is the top seed at 157, has already beaten second-seeded Jaxson Godley of Crater, though he noted that was a tight match.

Halsey goes into the tourna-

ment as the No. 3 seed at 175, while Grady Cox, the coach's son, will be the No. 2 seed at 165.

The 5A boys and girls, including Lebanon's two female qualifiers, Mary Jane Duty (110) and Zoe Ruonavaara (235) start Friday morning at 8 a.m. and runs till 3 p.m. at the Veterans Memorial Coliseum. Wrestling will resume Saturday, Feb. 26, at 9 a.m., with finals scheduled following a Parade of Champions at 6 p.m.

The ICEBOX Performer Of The Week



This week's ICEBOX performer of the week goes to Ryan. Our Digital Media Specialist. In just three months with RSH, Ryan has made a huge impact, taking our social media presence to a whole new level. This past week alone, two of his posts went viral — bringing RSH hundreds of new followers and millions of views.

Beyond his deep social media expertise, Ryan is incredibly talented behind the camera and in the editing room. His creativity, skill, and dedication have quickly made him a vital part of our marketing team and the company as a whole.

We're lucky to have you on the team, Ryan, and we can't wait to see what you create next!

