

The New Era

SWEET HOME • LEBANON • AND SURROUNDING COMMUNITIES

SERVING EAST LINN COUNTY SINCE 1929

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 18, 2026

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Top NW fiddlers display skills in Lebanon

It was a foot-stompin', tune-swappin' day Saturday, March 14, as top musicians from around the Northwest gathered to compete in the 60th annual Oregon State Open Fiddle Contest, held at the Lebanon Mennonite Church.

Dozens of fiddlers, from small fry – there's a division with that name – to aged veterans got up on the stage to show off their best stuff on the strings, as lively tunes filled the church sanctuary for an appreciative crowd that at times nearly filled the room.

The youngest was Loulu Guptill of Keizer, who's 5. On the other end was Jerry Parks, 85, of Lebanon, one of the organizers, who seemed to be in on just about every act – either on the fiddle or playing backup to other contestants on the guitar, often with his wife Linda on her double bass.

This year was the 60th for the event, hosted by the Oregon Oldtime Fiddlers Associ-



Isaac Helland, center, performs during the Oregon State Open Fiddle Contest Saturday at the Lebanon Mennonite Church. Accompanying him are guitarists, from left, Doug Fleenor, Hyatt Hopkins and Helland's brother Jonathan.

– Photo by Scott Swanson

ation.

Contestants played three numbers – an upbeat breakdown, followed by a waltz and then a tune of their choosing of a different genre than the first two.

Overall champion was Celeste Johnson of Portland, who, along with other top Oregon finishers in each division, was certified to move on to the national championships June 21-27 in

Weiser, Idaho, with their entry fee paid and the opportunity to college in special certification divisions.

Local winners included
See Fiddlers, Page 11

City charter amendments to be referred to SH voters

By Sarah Brown
Of The New Era

The Sweet Home City Council voted during its March 10 meeting to refer charter amendments to voters in the May election.

A Charter Review Committee held several meetings last year to review and propose changes to the city's charter, which is essentially the city's constitution defining its structure and procedures for the municipal government.

Many changes to the charter include basic housekeeping in the form of how things are worded, but more notable changes include council vacancies, unexcused absences, council ethics, length of position for a manager pro tem.

More specifically, proposed amendments include:

Formatting updates throughout for readability and language moderniza-

See SH City Council, Page 5

SH School Board hears travel costs explanation, OKs land purchase

By Scott Swanson
Of The New Era

Sweet Home School Board members worked their way through an ambitious agenda Monday, March 9, including an on-and-off discussion of district travel costs that prompted some vigorous responses at the end of the meeting.

The meeting began with public comments from Luke Augsburger, most recently a vice principal at Sweet Home High School, who resumed a line of questioning he began in the January board meeting and continued in February's meeting, questioning what he described as increases over the last several years in the district's travel spending, which is part of the superintendent's budget.

In response to Augsburger's comments in February, board members asked Business Manager Kevin Strong to give them comparisons of the district's spending to comparable school districts, particularly Lebanon and Albany.

Augsburger complained that information Strong in-



This graphic shows the location of the property approved for conditional purchase by the School Board last week. The property in question is the darker colored rectangle at the left, across the fence from the current woodshop facility (at left). 18th Avenue is on the far right.

– Sweet Home School District particular budget line item and Albany spent \$1,400 during the 2023-24 school year, noting that “these are much larger school districts and they choose to spend much smaller percentage of their overall budget on travel for the Office of the Superintendent.

He said he had researched the Greater Albany and Lebanon school districts, and had determined that Lebanon spent \$6,100 on that

He said Sweet home spent \$46,538 on the budget line
See School Board, Page 6

HOMETOWN
NEWSPAPER OF
JIM AND CENA
MORRIS

This Week's Top Stories



Planting Trees on Marks Slough

Volunteers from Weyerhaeuser and local organizations gathered at Marks Slough to plant three dozen trees along the trail last week.

Page 20

Commissioners Remember Former Colleague Lindsey

Linn County commissioners spent a portion of their March 10 meeting paying tribute to former colleague John Lindsey, who passed suddenly five years ago.



Page 7



Obituaries

Anita Catherine Lewis

August 20, 1938 - March 1, 2026

Anita Catherine Lewis, 87, of Sweet Home passed away Sunday, March 1, 2026.

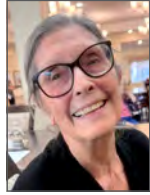
She was born Aug. 20, 1938, to Reginald and Muriel (Peg) Harrison in Cardiff, Wales.

She grew up in Grangetown with her sisters, Tony and Joyce. Much later, her brother Richard, and little sister Josephine came. She met her best friend for life, Elizabeth, at 3 years old. The family moved to LLanrumney as teenagers.

Anita graduated from Cathays High School and then went on to nursing school. She worked long hours. While doing on-the-job training at Llandough Hospital, Anita joined the LDS church.

When she had finished school, Anita went on a mission in Wales. After her mission was complete, a sponsor paid for her to come to the United States to work. She then moved to Salt Lake City where she worked as a personal nurse.

Anita met Bill Lewis, who was going to the University of Utah and they married in 1965. After Bill finished school they moved to Newport for several years before moving to Sweet Home, where Bill grew up.



Bill and Anita had three children, David, Richard and Bronwyn. The family lived in Sweet Home until moving to Albany in 1980.

Anita was actively involved with Oregon literacy program. She helped many adults learn to read. She also taught classes for modeling and poise.

Bill and Anita returned to Sweet Home in the early 1990s, moving into Bill's childhood home. They liked to help people and invited many people to stay in their home. The house was always busy.

Anita was very artistic. She loved oil painting, watercolors and making cards for all occasions. She especially loved helping her primary school children with art.

Anita is survived by her children: David Lewis, Richard Lewis and his wife Heidi, Bronwyn Lewis, and many grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Anita was preceded in death by her husband Bill in 2025; parents Reg and Peg; and brother Richard.

Viewing will be at 10 a.m. Saturday, March 21, at the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, 1155 22nd Ave., Sweet Home. A funeral service will follow at 11 a.m. Private burial will be at Lewis Cemetery.

Sweet Home Funeral Chapel is handling the arrangements.

March 12, 2026.

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

Paul Benjamin Swanson Jr., 92, of Albany, passed away Oct. 14, 2025.

A graveside service will be at 11 a.m. Friday, March 27, at Twin Oaks Memorial Garden.

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

Events

Presentation on backyard birds in Brownsville March 20

Calapooia Food Alliance will present "For the Love of Birds," a presentation by Meredith Love on backyard birding, at 6 p.m. Friday, March 20, at the American Legion Hall, 339 N. Main St., Brownsville.

Love, an Oregon State University student studying fish and wildlife conservation, will discuss habitat, safety, human impact, equipment and apps, and how the public can assist with research.

Dinner will be served: salad buffet, fresh rye bread, spinach artichoke dip and cake. Attendees are asked to bring their own non-alcoholic beverages and place settings.

For more information, visit www.calapooiafoodalliance.org or email calapooiafood@gmail.com.

Third-Saturday Mini Marts on March 21, April 18

The last two of this season's Third Saturday Mini Marts will be held March 21 and April 18 at the Sweet Home Nazarene Church, 415 Holley Road.

Hours are from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Participating vendors will be selling handmade crafts, decor, baked goods and preserves, wire wrapped jewelry, resin art, clothing, woodwork, custom leatherwork and more.

State Representative Cate to speak at Forum Lunch

Jami Cate, east Linn County's District 11 state representative, will speak at the Lebanon Chamber of Commerce's monthly Forum Lunch from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Friday, March 27, at Samaritan Lebanon Community Hospital conference rooms, 525 N. Santiam Hwy.

Cate will update attendees on current legislation and what it means for Oregon businesses and communities.

Cost, which includes lunch, is \$23 for members, \$30 for future members. Prizes and giveaways happen as well, so bring a business card and/or prize donation.

Register at www.lebanon-chamber.org or call (541) 258-7164.

Lebanon winter farmers market

Lebanon Downtown Farmers Market will open its Winter Farmers Market on Thursdays from 2-6 p.m. until March 27 at the Santiam Place Event Center, 139 S Main St., Lebanon.

SNAP match up to \$20. To be a vendor, email shldfarmersmarket@gmail.com with your information and, if approved, we will send you an application link.

American Legion Spring Bazaar

The Albany American Le-

gion Auxiliary Post 10 will host the "Spring Blossoms Bazaar" from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Friday and Saturday, March 27-28, at 1215 SE Pacific Blvd, Albany.

The main room will be filled with local crafters, bakers and other talented individuals who will offer their creative treasures to purchase, just in time for Easter.

This is a primary children and youth program fundraiser for Unit 10 to help provide scholarships for local young ladies graduating from high school in the class of 2026.

Free garden lectures at Lebanon Senior Center

OSU Extension Service's Master Gardeners invite the public to free weekly organic garden lectures on Saturdays, March 28 through May 2, from 9:30 a.m. to 12 p.m. at the Lebanon Senior Center, 80 Tangent St.

Peruse info tables and magazines, select free seeds from the Seed Wagon, find free planting supplies, or ask questions to master gardeners. Each class also involves hands-on planting.

Register by emailing Sheryl Casteen at casteen@aol.com. Provide your first and last name, and phone number.

March 28: Growing Strong Plants & Special Tips for Plant Families, e.g. brassicas, presented by Sheryl Casteen, MG, and Anna Sassallos, MG

April 4: How to Grow, Harvest & Cook Herbs, presented by Valarie Taylor, owner Aplodontia Herbs

April 11: How to Grow Gourmet Mushrooms, presented by Carol Haven, owner Pollinator Haven Farm

April 18: Easy Plant Propagation Methods, presented by Heather Wright and Amy Phillipsen, Agrarian Sharing Network

April 25: Confessions of a Serial "It'll Fit" Gardener (and Other Misguided Efforts), presented by Jean Chapin, MG & landscape designer

May 2: Pests and Predators in your Garden - an insect pictorial from egg to adult, presented by Sheryl Casteen, MG, and Anna Sassallos, MG
Also, stop in to pick up some free tomato plants and get some tomato-growing tips at 10 a.m. on Saturday, May 16.

America's anniversary contest for kids

The Santiam Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution encourages students to enter the America 250. contest for a chance to win a field trip across the nation in honor of America's 250th anniversary, July 4, 2026.

The contest invites students in grades 3 thru 12 to

See Events, Page 14

Richard Kirk

Nov. 25, 1952 - March 9, 2026

Richard Otis Kirk, 73, of Sweet Home, passed away March 9, 2026.

He was born Nov. 25, 1952, in Myrtle Point to Ena Winown (King) and John Edward Kirk.

He lived in the coastal areas of Bandon, Sitkum and in Sweet Home. Richard worked as a cabinet maker, farmer, and was a volunteer firefighter.

He enjoyed reading, liked writing, doing art and loved to listen to music.

Richard is survived by his daughters, Mae Kirk (Tim

Counts) and Emma Kirk (Joel); two grandchildren and his brother, John David Kirk.

He was preceded in death by his wife Linda Kirk (2025). Sweet Home Funeral Chapel is handling the arrangements

Death Notices

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

A memorial service will be at 1:30 p.m. Saturday, March 28, at First Baptist Church, Brownsville.

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

homefuneral.com.

Randi Lee Hilton, 72, of Lebanon, passed away March 15, 2026.

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

Jason LeRoy Quick, 42, of Lebanon, passed away March 14, 2026.

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

Gerald Paul Shaver, 61, of Sweet Home, passed away

THE NEW ERA

on the road...



The New Era went with Lake Town Academy seventh- and eighth-graders, and their teacher Jessica Garrett (and some parents) on a tour of the Oregon State Capitol. The group sat in on legislative sessions, spoke to different representatives and senators, and toured the Capitol building. They ate lunch in the café, were able to ask questions of legislators, and took many photos. Pictured, in front, from left, are Oren Fouts, Wyatt Erickson, Maddox Kingsberry, Tyson Patton and Angelita Sanchez. In the rear, from left, are Lilly Smithburg, Aubree Schroeder, Natalia Sims, Aubry Garrett, Lavaida Kingsberry, Reagan Glaser, Wyatt Simmons and Dustin Boris.

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TAKING A TRIP?

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

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

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

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 are 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)
- FTOTCD (Failure to obey traffic control device)
- LCJ (Linn County Jail)
- LCSO (Linn County Sheriff's Office)
- LCJC (Linn County Justice Court)
- LCJ (Linn County Justice Court)
- LMC (Lebanon Municipal Court)
- MIP (Minor in possession)
- PV (Probation Violation)
- SHMC (Sweet Home Municipal Court)
- SHPD (Sweet Home Police Department)
- SLCH (Samaritan Lebanon Community Hospital)

MARCH 15 SWEET HOME POLICE

12:44 a.m. - Caller from Mr. Lucky's Deli, 1207 Long, reported female sleeping next to trash cans at location. Officer responded, contacted female, who agreed to move along.
 12:27 p.m. - Jordan Eric Brendle arrested by LCSO on SHMC warrant for FTC in criminal driving case. Cited to appear April 8.
 4:19 p.m. - Multiple callers reported male "acting strange, flailing around" in 4100 block Main. Officer responded, male transported by medics.

Circuit Court

Omar Edgar Arroyo, 22, placed in the diversion program after pleading no contest to DUII (liquor) with a .201% BAC. He was sentenced to 12 mos. bench probation after pleading no contest to reckless driving. Dismissed: four counts of recklessly endangering another person.
Jasmine Jewel Bowman, 34, charged March 16 with DV assault IV, harassment.
Jennifer Rae Burton, 54, sentenced March 9 to a \$440 fine after pleading guilty to failure to report as a sex offender.
Linda Lee Childress, 48, placed in the diversion program after pleading no contest to DUII (liquor) with a .12% BAC.
Brien Keith Cockrell, 51, charged March 16 with unauthorized use of a vehicle.
Matthew Paul Dalke, 35, sentenced March 6 to two days jail, 10 days compensatory service in lieu of jail, two years supervised probation and a \$200 fine after pleading no

7:19 p.m. - Max William Denbo, 22, arrested for online sexual corruption of child II, 3100 block Main. Lodged at Linn County Jail.
 8:16 p.m. - Caller reported juvenile male standing outside, trying to sell items to get money for his family, 4400 block Main. Officer responded. According to SHPD, the child told the officer he needed the money for toys. His mother was contacted and believed he was at a neighbor's residence. The officer described her as being concerned about his actions and she counselled her child for his actions.
 8:26 p.m. - Caller from Dollar General, 1937 Main, reported female stole multiple items from store. Officer responded, report taken for theft III. Value approximately \$50. Investigation continuing.

LEBANON POLICE

10:12 p.m. - Male ran through caller's yard carrying an ax and saying he was being chased by someone with a gun, 700 block E St.

LCSO/OSP SWEET HOME S. COUNTY

12:20 p.m. - Randy Ensley, 62, of Sweet Home, arrested for DWS, 3700 block Long. Report taken.
 3:47 p.m. - Deputy patrolled in area of 44600 block Wiley Creek due to reports of off-road vehicles operating in area.
 11:58 p.m. - Deputy located juvenile in 40700 block McQueen, who had left her residence without permission. She was returned home.

LCSO/OSP LEBANON

1:19 a.m. - Deputies on patrol came upon single vehicle crash in 33000 block Bellinger Scale. Lebanon Fire assisted with area search for victims. No driver or passengers were located. AA Towing responded and flipped vehicle over so responders could confirm no one was inside. Investigation ongoing. Report taken.
 3:57 a.m. - Crash reported in 38100 block River Dr. No injuries. Driver and homeowner were working things out.

8:10 a.m. - LCSO conducted death investigation for 72-year-old male in 33500 block Kauffman. Death ruled natural. Report taken.

11:31 a.m. - Following pursuit of motorcycle, Jordan Brendle, 36, of Lebanon, arrested for elude vehicle, elude foot, escape III, resisting arrest, DWS, unlawful delivery of meth and several outstanding warrants, 39100 block Plagman. Lodged at LCJ. Motorcycle towed. Report taken.
 12:31 p.m. - Vehicle stopped for "contradictory traffic signals" on trailer. Investigation determined it was wiring error on newly purchased trailer. Berlin/Waterloo.
 1:56 p.m. - Deputy responded to report of stranger showing up at home in 32300 block Berlin, asking for help. Male appeared to be having mental health issues and wanted to go to hospital. Deputy gave him a ride to hospital.

5:39 p.m. - John Neighbors, 31, of Lebanon, cited for DU, illegal window tint, 35900 block Hwy. 34.
 5:48 p.m. - Christopher Walter, 45, of Lebanon, arrested for violation of restraining order, 31100 block Kay. Lodged at Linn County Jail. Report taken.
 9:51 p.m. - Crash reported in 38000 block Golden Valley. Vehicle swerved to miss deer, ended up in ditch. No property damage, minimal damage to vehicle.
 9:52 p.m. - Jaxson Severns, 18, of Lebanon, cited for no operator's license, DU, 3200 block S. Santiam Hwy.

9:56 p.m. - Kaden Holt, 18, of Lebanon, cited for speeding, 75/45, 34000 block Brewster.
 11:53 p.m. - Crash reported in 34400 block Brewster. Driver reported swerving to miss animal in road. Gabriel Nowak, 18, of Lebanon, arrested after investigation for DUII and reckless driving. According to LCSO, he initially refused a breath test and deputy obtained search warrant. Resulting breath test indicated BAC of 0.17%,

according to LCSO. Nowak arrested for DUII, reckless driving, refusing to take breath test and minor in possession of alcohol. Report taken.
MARCH 14 SWEET HOME POLICE
 1:25 a.m. - William E. Brinton, 61, arrested on LMC warrant for FTA in criminal citation case, Northside Park, 1712 11th. Cited and released.
 7:10 a.m. - Diana Lynn Delaney arrested on LCCC warrant for contempt of court, 1400 block Nandina. Cited and released.
 7:55 a.m. - Caller reported bus shelter glass broken, 13th/Kalmia. Officer responded, report taken for criminal mischief I.
 10:58 a.m. - Joseph Gene Salley arrested on LMC warrant for FTA in DWS case. 1200 block Long. Cited and released.
 11:12 a.m. - Brent Anthony Prather arrested on SHMC warrant for FTC in trespass case, SHPD, 1950 Main. Cited and released.
 12:59 p.m. - Caller reported male "flailing around and running" in area of Airport/44th. Officer responded, contacted male who was exercising.
 1:53 p.m. - Caller reported strange writing on her car, 1300 block 1st. Officer responded, info noted.
 2:13 p.m. - Jalayne Ann Koontz arrested on SHMC warrant for FTC in DUII case, 1400 block Nandina. Cited and released.
 3:02 p.m. - John Burton Hamacher arrested by Jackson County Sheriff's Office on SHMC warrant for FTA in theft case. Cited to appear April 8.
 3:30 p.m. - Multiple callers reported individual yelling in area of 12th/Kalmia. Officer responded, contacted female who was having mental health issues. She was provided a bus pass.
 4:55 p.m. - Caller reported male riding three-wheeler in 1500 block 52nd. Officer responded, contacted male regarding the complaint.

See Public Safety, Page 8



TEMPERATURES

DATE	HIGH	LOW	RAIN
3/10	49	37	0.01
3/11	54	44	0.03
3/12	59	50	0.00
3/13	58	49	0.06
3/14	52	36	0.35
3/15	52	41	0.00
3/16	75	42	0.00

RAIN IN INCHES

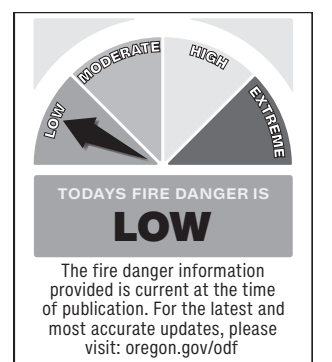
Year to date: 8.30
 3/19/25: 13.24

FORECAST

DATE	WEATHER	HIGH/LOW
3/19	Cloudy	75/48
3/20	Cloudy	72/45
3/21	Cloudy	56/38
3/22	Cloudy	58/38
3/23	Cloudy	58/40
3/24	Cloudy	58/40
3/25	Cloudy	60/41

LAKE LEVELS

Foster 623.7
 Green Peter 990.0



CROSSWORD KEY

Puzzle on page 15

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

SUDOKU KEY

Puzzle on page 15

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

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From our Files



Sweet Home Girl Scouts held a "flames of freedom" ceremony for the nation's bicentennial in 1976 in the city parking lot across from City Hall. The ceremony also marks the 64th birthday of the national organization.

March 22, 1951

Frank Cameron was injured when a gas tank he was welding exploded in his face. He suffered a bruise on the arm, broken nose and cuts inside his mouth as the blast shattered his false teeth and broke his welding glasses and spectacles. Cameron was replacing the end of the tank due to leaks when it exploded.

Nearly 300 youngsters are expected at the third annual Easter egg hunt, sponsored by the Sweet Home Junior Chamber of Commerce. Four Easter bunnies will be awarded the two boys and two girls who gather the most eggs in the wooded area west of the Oak Heights playground.

Lack of sunshine and altitude may be causing the frequent tooth decay among Oregon children, according to an Oregon State college experiment. Studies in three geographic areas - the coast, Willamette Valley and Central Oregon - demonstrated that fluoride content of public water supplies, availability of dental services and consumption of sugared

items are not responsible for the regional differences in dental health. The only significant difference discovered was the amount of sunshine and variations in altitude.

March 18, 1976

Kathleen Jordan, 25, one of two geologists with the U.S. Forest Service, wants to become Oregon's first female district forest ranger. Jordan joined the Sweet Home District two years ago and was named Young Career Woman of the Year by the Business and Professional Women's Club.

Lebanon and Sweet Home high school students earned first place in several categories after competing against 10 other schools at the Regional Skills contest at LBCC. They are: Ted George, LHS, architectural drafting; Doyle Bare, LHS, mechanical drafting; Charlie West, SHHS, gas welding; Jeff King, LHS, construction; Lee Ann Troyer, LHS, shorthand I; Jan Hutley, LHS, spelling.

A recent East Linn Chamber of Commerce survey re-

vealed members almost unanimously favor industrial development for the Sweet Home area. One unanimous response indicated businesses often didn't locate to Sweet Home due to lack of industrial park facilities.

March 21, 2001

James Wildemann Master-son, 29, was arrested after he fired shots and refused to leave his home. Police responded to 1234 Nandina St. at about 5:20 a.m. to investigate several 911 hang-up calls. An officer spotted Masterson, armed, inside the home. As the officer backed away, he heard several shots from inside.

City Council approved the expenditure of \$1,000 to be used as part of a match for the Senior Center to purchase three buses. The Senior Center's transportation system, Linn County Shuttle and Dial-A-Bus, is funded mostly by special transportation funds and tobacco money, but the current purchase will be funded by Oregon Department of Transportation Small Cities and Rural Transportation.

Letters to the Editor

Don't rush it on outdoor gym plans

Editor:

The possibility of a new outdoor gym was a topic during a recent Sweet Home City Council meeting. After a short presentation the council voted to approve one. It will be installed next to the City Hall.

I previously lived in Gladstone, a city the same size as Sweet Home. I was serving as a planning commissioner when a similar opportunity was presented. In that case the mayor wanted it located at a park a few blocks from her home.

After discussion, it was agreed that a centralized park was best, if the idea went forward. Eventually, we realized the cost for the complete installation and amount of time it would be usable didn't quite work out. Hopefully, that won't be the case in Sweet Home.

I'm not opposed to a gym but am concerned about the fast-track process for making the commitment. Councilor Sanchez wanted to pause and look deeper before making a decision but was over-ruled. I understand the enthusiasm

for improving our facilities, but we are in really tough times.

March is the beginning of budget season. There will be many tough decisions on the City's agenda. I encourage everyone involved to be diligent.

Les Poole
Sweet Home

Thanks for 'fantastic' toilet paper donation

Editor:

We would like to thank Georgia-Pacific Consumer Products and Donna Black for their fantastic donation of 6,900 rolls of toilet paper to Lebanon St. Vincent de Paul. We donate two rolls of toilet paper to our clients every month and serve roughly 1,200 clients a month. This will enable us to continue this project for better than a year. This will also enable us to spend our money on other hygiene items.

We are grateful to all involved.

Mary Ann Becker, Treasurer
St. Vincent de Paul
Lebanon

Editorial: Time to end the death tax

By John A. Charles

When Gov. Kotek announced her "Prosperity Roadmap" in December, she quickly appointed former Republican Senator Tim Knopp as her Chief Prosperity Officer.

Given such aspirations, one might logically assume that Democratic colleagues would introduce legislation in the February session to promote economic opportunity for fellow Oregonians. Unfortunately, that legislation never arrived.

When given a chance to repeal or reform Oregon's worst-in-the-nation estate tax, Senate Democrats voted to make it even more punitive. They passed SB 1511-A, which increased the top tax rate on estates from 16 percent to 19.9 percent.

Proponents defended the measure on grounds it provides "tax relief" by raising the exemption on estates from the current level of \$1 million to \$2.5 million. However, once the estate value crossed \$2.5 million by even one dollar, the rate spiked.

Several estate planning attorneys testified against the bill, each of whom arrived at the same conclusion: the legislature had designed such a convoluted formula for estates over \$2.5 million that the "effective taxable amount" landed between 38 and 63 percent on the first \$500,000. In the testimony of Heather Gilmore, she called it "a confusing and unusual tax structure."

Another estate planning lawyer, John Draneas, ex-

plained, "the primary negative...is the dramatic claw-back of these benefits for estates over \$2.5 million. A \$3 million estate will pay an Oregon estate tax of \$261,250. That is more than half, 52.25 percent to be exact, of the \$500,000 increment over \$2.5 million."

Fortunately, the House Revenue Committee was less enthusiastic about the bill than their Senate counterparts. The Committee held a public hearing during the final week of session but never took a vote. The bill died upon adjournment.

There are 38 states with no estate tax, and Oregon's low \$1 million exemption, combined with rates up to 16 percent, affects more estates than in the remaining 12.

Moreover, significant non-financial assets are at stake. As Tom Holt testified during the hearing, "People who are retired and have resources disproportionately participate in our civic life."

Retirees tend to have the time, talent and resources to serve on civic boards and generously contribute to charitable organizations. Those defending the death tax rarely talk about this loss to our state's wealth.

Holt also reminded the Committee that retirees are the most responsive to incentives or disincentives in the tax code. "Those folks won't just stand around but will arrange their estates or domicile to avoid some of the highest estate taxes in the country," he commented. "We should want

those people to stay."

SB1511 makes it clear that the Oregon legislature will not reform the death tax, so voters should do it for them. Initiative Petition 51 was filed last July with a simple title, "End the Death Tax." If Oregonians gather enough signatures to place IP 51 on the 2026 November ballot, voter approval would repeal the Oregon estate tax, prohibit an inheritance tax, and prohibit both at the local level as well.

We live in an era of the greatest intergenerational wealth transfer in world history, with baby boomers leaving trillions of assets to family, friends, and charities and giving back even more to the communities where they live. In Oregon, tax collectors want even more of the cut, already amounting to more than \$1 billion per biennium for the few who stay.

Now that the short session is over, Oregon's taxpayers should put their efforts into signing Initiative Petition 51. With a little effort, Oregon can go from worst to first in the nation—and its retirees can leave a legacy of greater worth than mere dollars alone.

John A. Charles, Jr. is President and CEO of Cascade Policy Institute, Oregon's free market public policy research organization. He researches, writes, and presents testimony and analysis on state and local issues important to the freedom and opportunity of all Oregonians.

The New Era

A LOCALLY OWNED NEWSPAPER

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Lebanon School District to cut \$2 million from budget

By Sarah Brown
Of The New Era

Lebanon Community School District announced it is working on reducing next year's budget, which would likely involve a reduction in staff.

During the first budget committee meeting of the year on Thursday, March 12, Business Director Steven Prosocki said the plan is "to right-size our staffing for 2026-2027 and reduce our total budget expenses by \$2 million."

About 80% of that will be from staffing.

He said the district in recent years has seen an average decrease in attendance of 73 students who don't complete the school year. By March of this year, the district has already seen a decline of 74 students. They've also noted that 91 students

are attending remotely online.

"So we have a lot less students, 74 plus 91, that are not in our buildings that were there on October 1," he said.

Projections indicate there will be a much faster decrease in enrollment by the end of the school year than the national average, he said.

For next school year, 60 students are expected to attend Ralston Academy and an estimated 50 enrolled online, making this "the first time in a long time" that Lebanon High School will have an attendance under 1,000.

"One of the reasons we did online was the intention to give students the opportunity to come back, and we have seen some of that where students have tried online and then come back in the building," Prosocki said. "Our

intention is to get them back in our building, if we can."

The school district receives funds by the state according to average daily attendance.

Beside declining enrollment, Prosocki pointed out some "unseen expenses," namely that classified staff can now claim unemployment benefits for spring, summer and winter breaks. The district expects next year's claims to increase by 30% from four years ago.

Staff do not pay into the unemployment fund, Prosocki said, and the money is not paid by state funds.

Other expenses of concern to Prosocki include PERS and insurance costs.

Supt. Jennifer Meckley said staff have been meeting regularly to figure out how to cut \$2 million.

"We're gonna try to do most of it through attrition,

which means not replacing people that are resigning or retiring," Meckley said. "We want to be as transparent as possible so people know what to expect."

Following the Budget Committee meeting, the LCSD Board of Directors:

- Approved the formal naming of the walking path at Pioneer Elementary as the "Brandt Legacy Walking Path" in honor of Rachel and Tony Brandt, who helped make the path possible and invested in students' health. Teacher Kim Mynar said the path name honors "the spirit of support, perseverance and community that the Brandt family represents."

- Approved staff renewals based on Meckley's recommendations.

- Approved a request by Central Linn School District to partner in an OSAA co-op

for girls golf and, potentially, boys and girls soccer next fall. LCSD has partnered with CLSD for baseball in the past.

- Reviewed a draft agreement on board operations and chain of command, which mainly outlines expectations of board member behavior. Board Member Mike Martin disapproved of the draft, stating it has 44 bullet points regarding the board and five regarding the superintendent. He asked for removal of the "consequences" to board members who do not adhere to the agreement. The board agreed to submit proposed changes for further discussion.

- Awarded the Early Work Package for Seismic Upgrade at the Seven Oak Middle School Gym to GBC Construction for GMP \$521,146.

SH CITY COUNCIL

From page 1

Updated procedures for vacancies that may result from a mid-term councilor being elected mayor (new Section 2.1).

Removal of requirement for city officers other than the city manager to be bonded that was contingent on separate ordinances (current Section 7).

Clarification that eligibility for the office of councilor or mayor requires residency in the city for one year prior to election or appointment (new section 3.1).

Changes the beginning of the term of office for mayor and councilor to the first day of January following the election, rather than the first Monday in January (new Section 3.3).

Changes to how vacancies are handled (new Section 4.1), including:

If the incumbent is elected to another city office (i.e. mayor).

If the incumbent ceases to reside within city limits.

If an incumbent has unexcused absences from council meetings for more than 30 days.

Requires vacancies in elected offices in the first half of the term to be first offered to the two next highest vote-getters in the

previous election before appointing anyone else (new Section 4.2).

Allows a smaller council quorum in the event of three or more concurrent vacancies (new Section 5.2).

Changes the title for president pro tem to council president (new Section 5.4).

Requires at least four affirmative votes for hiring or firing council-appointed positions, filling council vacancies, land use decisions, utility rate changes, modifications to city code, approval of ordinances containing emergency clauses, or any disciplinary action toward a councilor or mayor (new Section 5.5).

Requires a public comment period at all regular council meetings (new Section 5.6).

Adds a section on council ethics and conflicts of interest, including requirements for enforcement (new Sections 5.7 and 5.8).

Changes the bond requirement for the city manager from \$10,000 to an amount set and approved by the City Council and changes the section on interference in administration to comply with state law (new Section 6.2).

Removes a requirement to post ordinances in three or more places within the city for ten days after passage (new Section 7.3).

Full text of the proposed amendments and committee report are available at: www.SweetHomeOR.gov.

The ballot title shall be "Amendments to Home Rule City Charter of Sweet Home," posing the question "Shall the City of Sweet Home make updates to its existing home rule Charter?"

The summary is: This measure would update the city's existing home rule charter. The Oregon Constitution gives city voters the right to adopt and amend charters. Charters grant legal authority to cities and assign duties to city officials.

City of Sweet Home voters last amended the current charter with a small change in 2025 (electing a mayor); the last previous change was in 2015.

Proposed charter amendments include updated formatting; modernized language; updated procedures for vacancies in elected offices; requirement for four affirmative votes for hiring or firing, filling vacancies, land use decisions, utility rate changes, city code changes, approval of emergency-clause ordinances, or any disciplinary action for councilors or mayor; requirement for public comment period at all regular council meetings; added section on council ethics and conflicts of interest, including enforcement.

This measure was referred to the voters by the City Council based on recommendations of the Charter Review Committee. A "YES" vote amends the charter; the full version is available at [\[HomeOR.gov\]\(http://HomeOR.gov\).](http://www.Sweet-</p>
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In other business:

- The council held a work session to review and discuss goal setting for fiscal year 2027.

- Mayor Susan Coleman recognized a young student, Henry Brewer, for his work with Raising Men Lawn Care Service, through which he mowed 50 lawns in 2024 for veterans, teachers, single moms and the like. Raising Men rewarded him with a new lawn mower and leaf blower for his service. Brewer said he plans to do it again.

- Chamber of Commerce Executive Director Lagea Mull presented the annual chamber report.

- Bob Dalton, vice chair of the Community Health Committee, presented an annual report.

TIME TO TRIM!

WEEDS, GRASS, BLACKBERRIES AND MORE MUST BE TRIMMED:

- Grass and weeds cannot be over 10 inches high
- Blackberry vines cannot cross the property lines
- Plants cannot block sidewalks or vision from a road

Property owners and renters will be sent a courtesy notice to trim overgrown vegetation. If not trimmed, the City may have the property mowed or cut as needed without further notice. The City will bill the owner/renter for the work.

For more information, call (541) 367-5181 or email cco@sweethomeor.gov

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SCHOOL BOARD

From page 1

item during that year.

Augsburger questioned how other school districts could meet “legal requirements” set down by the state with much smaller spending?

Augsburger complained that Martin had “refused” to meet with him on the issue, and that he wanted to do so.

Board Chair Mike Adams cut Augsburger off after a few more sentences, saying that he had used up the three minutes Adams had stated he was allotting public comment speakers due to what he said was a full agenda.

When the item came up in the board’s agenda later in the meeting, Strong provided the board with data from the Oregon Department of Education’s Fiscal Transparency Website, which, he said, allowed him to compare Sweet Home’s travel and professional development expenditures “full amounts” by fiscal year to all of the other school districts in Oregon.

“I would say that, comparing apples to apples, this is the way to go,” Strong said.

Districts can charge such expenses to “a variety of different departments, a variety of different funds, a variety of different grants,” he explained, adding, “This captures everything.”

Strong went over costs paid through the Superintendent’s Office during the 2023-24 year, the largest of which was \$23,646 for Response to Intervention (RTI) training to help staff identify struggling students early and provide them with “targeted academic support,” particularly in reading and math. He noted that cost was paid with a federal grant.

Other costs listed were:



ESPY Award winners for March include, in front, from left, Olivia Cookson of Foster School, Sylias McMurtrey of Holley School, Ocean Dugas of Hawthorne School, Ayla Engelhart of Hawthorne, Adrian Bryant of Foster, Wesley Landis of Sweet Home Charter School and Jameson Henry of the Charter School. In the rear, from left, are Aubree Hegge of Sweet Home Junior High, Oliver Lindsey of the Junior High, Christian Romero of Sweet Home High School, Noemi Lopez of Oak Heights School and Quintell Hall of the High School. Not present for the photo was Jaimie Moon-Ticen of Oak Heights.

\$9,699 for the wrestling team’s overnight travel, particularly to the state championships; \$7,196 for Transportation Department staff training and driver reimbursements for field trips and away games; \$7,085 for High School Career Technical Education (CTE) staff professional development, which was funded by a federal Perkins grant; \$6,534 for travel expenses to job fairs and other recruitment activities; Professional Learning Community (PLC) training to

support collaborative data analysis and instructional improvement; \$5,490 for Josai exchange program travel; \$3,853 for travel expenses related to students experiencing homelessness; \$3,800 for K-12 student threat assessment and investigation training; and \$3,382 for swim team travel, including an overnight trip to the state championships.

Strong explained that some Sweet Home costs are charged to the Office of Superintendent because it han-

dled registration in some cases, even though the personnel involved were not necessarily administrative.

“Budgeting it this way, we’re picking up all travel and professional development expenses, district-wide,” he said.

He said the most recent year listed by the state is 2023-24. Strong said that since district sizes vary widely throughout the state, and larger districts tend to spend more than smaller districts, he factored in district

enrollment reports to make an “apples-to-apples comparison.”

He said, based on those calculations, 135 of the state’s school districts reported higher travel expenditures per student than Sweet Home, while 56 were lower.

That places Sweet Home in the lower third, statewide, in travel and professional development expenditures.


Strong noted that “many” district staff members choose

See School Board, Page 7

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 Pastor Machiel Greyling

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Wednesday, 7 pm
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11:00 am Worship
5:00 pm Prayer Meeting

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Commissioners mark fifth anniversary of Lindsey death

By Alex Paul
Linn County Communications

Linn County Commissioners Roger Nyquist, Sherrie Sprenger and Will Tucker commemorated the five-year anniversary of the death of former commissioner John Lindsey at their March 10 board meeting.

Lindsey was 54 when he died on March 9, 2021.

He had served as a Linn County Commissioner for 22 years and had been one of the younger commissioners in Oregon when he was first elected to office in 1998.

Board Chairman Nyquist said that in recent weeks he has been reflecting on Lindsey's passing and what he did for the citizens of Linn County, including being an advocate for development of an aquatic district in Lebanon.

In 2021, Nyquist said that Lindsey was passionate about his beliefs "and at

times the passion was through the roof, but in the end, it always worked out."

He praised Lindsey as someone who didn't hold grudges and had a great sense of humor.

All three commissioners agreed that Lindsey was committed to serving Linn County residents.

Tucker said he and Lindsey both served in the Navy, adding that Lindsey was a "strong advocate for the timber industry and especially advocated for Secure Rural Schools funding."

Although they occasionally disagreed on issues, Tucker said there was usually a piece of logic in what Lindsey had to say.

"You always knew where you stood with John," Tucker said. "And if you disagreed with him, he never held it against you the next day."

Sprenger said she only got to serve with Lindsey for two

months before his passing, but he had sent her numerous emails during her 13 years as a state representative.

"I would get interesting emails from him, but they were always for issues that were near and dear to the hearts of the people who live in Linn County," Sprenger said.

She called Lindsey a "world-class thinker and leader."

In 2021, County Clerk Steve Druckenmiller said that he and Lindsey were close friends for many years.

"John was a warrior. You always knew where you stood with John because he would tell you," Druckenmiller said. "He dearly loved Linn County and our country. If you had John as a friend, it's as good as you could get in life, because he always had your back. He was an honest and decent guy."

In July 2021, a redwood tree was planted in Lindsey's honor on the north side of the courthouse lawn. Commissioner Tucker said he can see the tree from his office window, the same office that had been used for many years by Lindsey.

Lindsey was a Lebanon High School graduate and served in the U.S. Navy during Operation Desert Storm. He was a staunch advocate for veterans and was a strong supporter of the Edward C. Allworth Veterans Home in Lebanon.

He worked in the field of refrigeration before becoming a county commissioner.

Lindsey enjoyed spending time with his family and playing the guitar.

In other business, the commissioners:

- Received an update from Troy Jones about the Friends of Gap Road and that group's

efforts to stop the potential construction of a large solar energy park on farmland near Harrisburg.

- Approved a new Radio Systems Manager position within the Linn County Sheriff's Office.

- Approved the sale of a small piece of property near Old Salem Road to the Albany First Evangelical Church of North America with a bid of \$285.

- Were informed by Planning & Building Director Steve Wills that there were 65 land use permits issued in February, compared to 45 in February 2025. There were 250 total building permits issued in February, compared to 234 a year ago. There were 22 new code enforcement cases, compared to nine a year ago and 10 cases were closed, compared to 18 a year ago.

SCHOOL BOARD

From page 6

not to submit reimbursement requests, describing that as "effectively contributing to the education of students."

Addressing some of Augsburg's comments directly, he pointed out that news reports have indicated that Greater Albany is facing a \$10 million budget shortfall.

Lebanon is facing "critical facility issues," he said, crediting Sweet Home's School Board, two decades ago, with initiating setting aside of monies in the district's long-term facilities fund, which has helped Sweet Home stay on top of many needed repairs that others are struggling to fund.

"We've been able to do a lot of good things and we have opportunities now to do more," he said, referring to the opportunity Sweet Home has to receive a \$12.25 million grant from the state if voters extend the bond they are currently paying.

"If you're looking long-term and planning long-term, in the long term you're saving this community money," Strong said.

Board Member Mary Speck asked why travel and professional development were in the same budget line.

Strong responded that that is typical "because professional development usually involves travel."

He also noted that the district's contracts with its employee unions specify funding for such things.

Supt. Terry Martin pointed out that the district's accounting firm, Pauly Rogers of Tigard, in February gave the district a clean audit, which has continued for over 20 years and "which I know that Kevin strives for and which we expect."

He reminded board members that budgets are approved through a series of steps, starting with the Budget Committee, then by the board, and that he personally signs off on staff reimbursement, and Adams, the board chair, signs off on reimbursements for Martin's activities.

"We have processes in place and those processes are working," Martin said. "A clean audit is the very top tier that you can receive."

Districts "start looking for someone else" when they slip below that top tier, he said.

In response to a question from Martin, Strong said that Sweet Home has continued with Pauly Rogers, "probably since the 1980s."

Speck asked why the travel budget had grown from the point it was at five years ago, which was noted by Augsburg in previous comments to the board.

Martin responded, "Let's not kid ourselves. That's not what the question was."

"What happened five years ago?" he asked, with several "Covid" responses coming from around the room. "What did we go through? Did we travel during COVID? Did we get together as groups? Did we get together face-to-face? If you can't do any of those things, what happens to your budget? You don't use it."

"So coming back from that, that builds."

He urged the board to "keep in mind the totality of what we're going through."

During board comments, which followed, the budget explanation, Speck complained about a lack of "respect" for Augsburg, who had been cut off by Adams during public comment, and told Martin that she was surprised when she asked the question that Martin had responded with "Let's not kid ourselves."

She said she wasn't looking for "a 'gotcha'" in asking the question.

"I was just seeking information and there was no ulterior motive. So when you made that comment, I was a little taken aback."

Adams responded: "I take it that your ulterior motive is to support what I think is accurate and factual to describe as a former, disgruntled employee," he said to Speck. "It's using employee time by continually coming in and requesting information. And in my opinion, it's a waste of time."

"There's a public records process. There's a difference between trying to get information for the purpose of trying to make things better and trying to swing an axe and take off somebody's head. And I'm just going to

leave it at that."

Property Purchase Approved

Following an executive session, board members also approved the acquisition of a slice of property directly east of Sweet Home High School.

Board members agreed unanimously to purchase the property for \$37,500, subject to the approval and completion of a required lot line adjustment.

The 77.2-by-35-foot slice parallels a portion of the flag-shaped 12,214-square-foot property the board agreed in December to purchase for \$90,000.

Strong said later that the district is considering two primary options for the property. One option is to use the property to expand career learning opportunities for students, such as developing the site for a greenhouse.

Another option is to use the property, along with adjoining property, to improve safety for students and community members by establishing a bus loop off 18th Avenue to help reduce bus traffic and traffic congestion on Long Street and in the high school's west parking area before and after school.

Mental Health Counseling

District mental health counselors Josalyn Lawrence of Sweet Home High School and Brooklyn Giles of Sweet Home Junior High reported to the board on steps they are taking to help students be successful in school.

Lawrence noted that their positions were created about three years ago after the COVID shutdown and existing counselors were finding more demand than they were able to meet. After she was

See School Board, Page 18

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PUBLIC SAFETY

From page 3

6:46 p.m. - Caller reported "very loud" music in 900 block Poplar. Officer responded, contacted male who was warned about city noise ordinance.

8:05 p.m. - Caller reported female stole his backpack in 1300 block Main. Officer responded, report taken for theft II. Approximate value \$700.

9:21 p.m. - Caller reported female yelling at customers at Mr. Lucky's Deli, 1207 Long. Officer responded, contacted female who was reminded that she had been trespassed from that location.

10:36 p.m. - Caller reported individuals racing on Old Mill property, Green River area. Officer responded, contacted individuals on property who agreed to leave.

11:38 p.m. - Chase Lee Davis, 34, arrested by Albany police on SHMC warrant for FTA in failure to report case. Cited to appear April 8.

LEBANON POLICE

9:58 a.m. - Michael Scott Doyle, 55, cited for DWS.

9:04 p.m. - Two tires slashed, 500 block S 14th St. Loss: \$250.

LCSO/OSP SWEET HOME/S. COUNTY

12:58 a.m. - LCSO, Sweet Home Fire responded to small driftwood fire in area of Foster Lake. It was extinguished. Due to conditions, no chance of it spreading beyond small pile, LCSO reported. 44500 block Quartzville.

7:51 a.m. - James Watkins, 46, of Sweet Home cited for DU after deputy responded to report of vehicle camping activity at lookout point in area of Marks Ridge/North River. He was advised on prohibitions on camping on public property.

7:24 p.m. - Brien Cockrell, 51, of Sweet Home, arrested on LCCC warrant, unauthorized use of motor vehicle. 41200 block Hwy. 228. Lodged at Linn County Jail. Investigation ongoing. Report taken.

8:05 p.m. - Deputy located abandoned RV parked in 27900 block Hwy. 99E, Halsey. OSP

notified.

LCSO/OSP LEBANON

11:29 a.m. - Deputy responded to dispute over property. It was determined that a theft had occurred, but suspects were not identified. 33500 block Brewster. Report taken.

12:26 p.m. - Deputies responded to 5700 block Santiam Hwy. to report involving two citizens who were involved in civil contract to work on a vehicle, which had then been sold as scrap due to non-payment for work.

2:29 p.m. - Sarena Hendrix, 48, of Lebanon, arrested on warrant, 31000 block Old Santiam Hwy. Report taken.

4:41 p.m. - Michael Garman, 54, of Jefferson, cited for speeding, 34400 block Santiam Hwy.

4:48 p.m. - Wren Wright, 46, of Lebanon, cited for outstanding warrants, 1400 block E. Grant. Report taken.

11:12 p.m. - Travis Haught, 38, of Lebanon, cited on AMC warrant. Devon Clement, 24, of Lebanon, arrested on LCCC warrant. 4th/ Davis. Report taken.

MARCH 13

SWEET HOME POLICE

2:22 a.m. - Caller from Chewy's Pub and Grub, 1200 12th, reported male refusing to leave. Officer responded, trespassed male, gave him courtesy ride to residence.

1:43 p.m. - Theft reported in 1600 block Elm. Officer responded, report taken for theft I, approximate value \$10.430.

2:36 p.m. - Caller reported group of tents in 1400 block Nandina. Officer responded, contacted two individuals who were to be moving along.

10:15 p.m. - Cody Allen Bowman arrested on SHMC warrants for FTA in three theft cases and two trespassing cases, and LCJC warrant for contempt of court, 3700 block Long. Cited and released.

10:26 p.m. - Caller reported fire in empty lot in area of 45th/ Osage. Sweet Home Fire responded.

11:43 p.m. - Gregory Allen Tibbs, 58, arrested by Albany police on SHMC warrant for FTC in theft case. Cited to appear April 8.

LEBANON POLICE

3:28 a.m. - Someone painted "You're a f***ing punk" on a shed door, 300 block Park St.

7:08 a.m. - Christian James Coleman, 27, cited on LMC warrant for PV - DUII. Josette A. Miller, 30, cited on LMC warrant for PV - DWS.

10:08 a.m. - Tyler Craig Howell, 49, cited for dog at large, nuisance dog.

2:52 p.m. - Subject asked WesternU security guard for a microscope to check the germs on her food.

3:19 p.m. - Katrina Counts, 54, cited on AMC warrant for contempt of court.

10:18 p.m. - Caller reported someone at their door trying the door knob, 42 Market St.

LCSO/OSP SWEET HOME/S. COUNTY

8:35 a.m. - Deputy located unoccupied camp in day use area in 27300 block Moose Creek Lane, Cascadia. Appeared to be not abandoned. Deputy left warning sticker.

11:27 a.m. - Female who was staying overnight in day use area

See Public Safety, Page 9



Sweet Home Community Survey

This short survey asks about how you feel the City of Sweet Home is doing overall. Please answer based on your own experience and impressions.

What is your relationship to Sweet Home? Check as many as apply.

Live here Work here Recreate and/or shop here None

Other (please specify): _____

Rating Scale:

1 = Very Poor 2 = Poor 3 = Okay
4 = Good 5 = Very Good Not Sure / No Opinion

Please **circle** the number that best captures your response.

- How do you feel about the direction the City of Sweet Home is going right now?
1 2 3 4 5 Not Sure / No Opinion
- How well do you think the City is being run day to day?
1 2 3 4 5 Not Sure / No Opinion
- How well do you feel the City listens to people who live and work here?
1 2 3 4 5 Not Sure / No Opinion
- How well does the City share information about what is happening or changing?
1 2 3 4 5 Not Sure / No Opinion
- How satisfied are you with City services like streets, water, parks, or public safety?
1 2 3 4 5 Not Sure / No Opinion
- When there is a problem, how well do you think the City tries to fix it?
1 2 3 4 5 Not Sure / No Opinion
- Overall, how would you rate how the City of Sweet Home (the organization) is doing?
1 2 3 4 5 Not Sure / No Opinion



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www.sweethomeor.gov

Optional Comment:

Please share any feedback about what the City is doing well or what it could be doing better, and any feedback specific to the City Manager that you would like City Council to know. Attach your comments on a separate sheet and return with this score sheet to City Hall (3225 Main Street) via mail or in person **before Tuesday, March 31st**. Thank you for your participation!

PUBLIC SAFETY

From page 8

in Cascadia County Park was warned. 48200 block Cascadia Dr.

12:35 p.m. - Lottery reported in 44000 block North River. Bed left on side of road.

5:40 p.m. - Nathan Allen Oliver Deffenbaugh, 49, of Sweet Home, arrested on Oregon State Parole Board warrant, SHMC warrant for FTC in theft case. 46600 block Old Hufford. Lodged at LCJ. Cited to appear on SHMC case on April 8. Jessica Deffenbaugh, 40, of Sweet Home arrested on LMC warrant. She was cited and released. Report taken.

9:52 p.m. - Gunner Williams Kometz, 21, of Lebanon, cited for careless driving, Oak/Hausman, Brownsville.

11:07 p.m. - Andrew Michael Collard, 50, of Halsey, cited for DWS, speeding 56/45, Bishop/Pearl, Brownsville.

LCISO/OSP LEBANON

12:35 a.m. - Nicklaus Glasser, 36, of Lebanon, cited on warrant, 1500 block S. Main. Report taken.

7:49 a.m. - Khaleb Horn, 23, of Lebanon, arrested for possession of cocaine - less than 2 grams, River Dr./Rabbit Run Lane. Report taken.

7:54 a.m. - Crash reported in 38400 block Golden Valley. Non-injury. Cole Lander, 19, of Lebanon, cited for careless driving. Vehicle removed from ditch.

9:54 a.m. - Hit and run reported in 300 block Crowfoot. Report taken.

12:35 p.m. - Loren Rummel, 43, of Lebanon, cited for DU, operating vehicle without privileges, Brewster/Berlin.

12:54 p.m. - Nathan Schmidt, 43, of Lebanon, cited for using cell phone while driving, 4th/Gross, Waterloo.

5:39 p.m. - Jarrod Parker, 26, of Scio, cited for failure to renew vehicle registration, 32400 block Berlin.

6:37 p.m. - Deputy was flagged down by citizen who reported a sheep on I-5, 33200 block Hwy. 228. OSP was notified.

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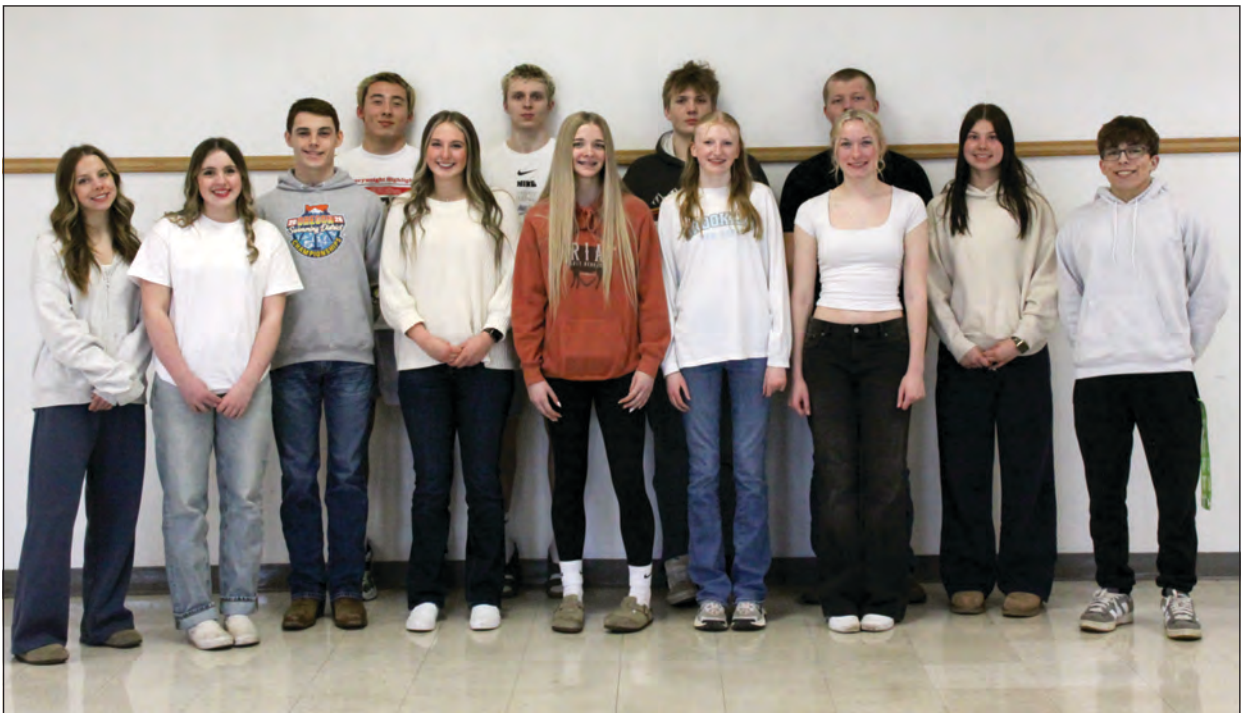
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SH basketball All-League selections, swimming/wrestling state qualifiers



Sweet Home boys and girls wrestlers who qualified for state stand with coaches at this year's OSAA 4A state championships, at which Sweet Home won the team title. Boys qualifiers and their district finishes, in alphabetical order, were: Gavin Baker (third at 157), Martin Chelstad (third at 165), Elijah Cruz (second at 215), Dillan Davis (second at 144), Michael Eggers (third at 190), Zeek Gosnell (third at 175), Tytus Hardee (second at 132), James Hearick (second at 150), Keegan Jefferson (first at 113), Jesse Landtroop (first at 126), Liam Martin (third at 285), Luke Rosa (first at 175), Lynkin Royer (first at 285), Cody Sieminski (first at 106), Conner Spencer (second at 126), Jeremiah Steagall (second at 190), Cael Stevenson (third at 132), Riley Vaughan (first at 120), Jasper Victor (fourth at 144) and Kyle Zajic (second at 165). Girls qualifiers and their regional finishes were: Eternity Allison (second at 170), Bailey Chafin (first at 125), Madison Looney (second at 145), Lyla Ventura (fourth at 110), Alizeah Weikel (second at 115) and Kass Zajic (third at 110). Chafin and Landtroop won state championships and were named to First Team All-State honors. Sieminski, Jefferson, Vaughan, Hardee, Davis and Rosa finished second and were named Second Team All-State. Steagal and Weikel were third and named Third Team All-State. Fourth, and named All-State Honorable Mention were Stevenson, Kyle Zajic, Cruz, Hearick and Royer. For the girls, Weikel placed third at state and was named to the All-State Third Team; Kass Zajic was fourth and named All-State Honorable Mention, and Ventura placed fifth.

These Huskies finished the basketball season with All-League honors or qualified for state in swimming. In front, from left, are Addy Vannice, Honorable Mention All-League in girls basketball; Ella Haggas, state qualifier in swimming; Austyn Hogan, state swimming qualifier and Third Team All-State in the 500 Freestyle; Aaliyah Brown, Honorable Mention All-League in girls basketball; Taylor Gaskey, Honorable Mention All-League in girls basketball; Emma Whitton, state swimming qualifier; Khloe Sautel, state swimming runner-up in the 500 Free and named Second Team All-State in that event, and third in the 50 free, with Third-Team All-State honors in the 50 Free; Kylie Melkvik, state swimming qualifier; and Andrew Tolman, state runner-up and Second Team All-State in the 100 Backstroke. In the rear are: Mason Tyler, Second Team All-League in boys basketball; Bradyn McClure, First Team All-League in boys basketball; Kellen Hartsook, Honorable Mention All-League in boys basketball; and Henry Jones, state qualifier in swimming. Not pictured is Grayson Savri, state swimming qualifier.



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Doug Fleener, left, Jonathan Helland and Kiersten Doggett warm up in a back room of the church. Just about every classroom was occupied by musicians either jamming or warming up. Below, spectators and other competitors fill much of the sanctuary during a section of the competition. See more photos at sweethomenews.com and lebanonlocalnews.com.

- Photos by Scott Swanson



FIDDLERS

From page 1

Isaac Helland, recently of Salem, but whose family resides in Lebanon, who was the top performer in the young adult division. Saxon Ropp of Lebanon was fourth and Kiersten Doggett of Albany was fifth in the division that featured the most local talent in the top spots.

Robert Waterhouse of Lebanon was third in the Senior division.

Starr McMullen of Corvallis won the Senior-Senior division in which Jerry Parks was fifth. Donna Wynn of Springfield was third.

Doug Fleener of Eugene placed right behind Johnson in the Champion competition.

Fleener won the Entertainment category, in which contestants only performed one number with an emphasis on crowd appeal. Helland was third, behind Donna Reuter of Hood River.

To see a livestream of the competition, visit Oregon Oldtime Fiddlers Association's channel on YouTube.



Cheryl Mockford, of Portland, sports semiquincentennial garb as she performs in the Senior-Senior division.



Members of Lebanon High School's Junior ROTC team show off their hardware after winning the Cascade Mountain League championship. - Contributed photo

Warriors secure top honors

Lebanon High School JROTC cadets won the LTC Gary G. Banks Memorial Trophy for the second year in a row after competing against teams throughout Oregon and Washington in the Cascade Mountain League Championship on date.

Warriors earned the following recognitions:

Second Place - Color Guard A (Dylan Bell-Love, Rain Thayer, Chase Stoering, Felix Davis)

First Place - Color Guard B (Xander Parker, Taylor Sparks, Jasmine Wooden, Sierra Nunes)

First Place - Armed Exhibition Drill Team - (Felix Davis, Dylan Bell-Love, Xander Parker, Rain Thayer, Chase Stoering, Taylor Sparks, Jasmine Wooden, Sierra Nunes, Valen Andruss, Riley Bjerklund, Athena Downard, Dominick Emerson, Aidan Smith, Matthew Weisner, Melanie Wilder,

Izzy Whitehead)

First Place - Best Drill Commander (Felix Davis)

Third Place - Physical Fitness Team (John Oeder, Dominick Emerson, Kaden Marvin, Axel Bradbury, Athena Downard, Rain Thayer)

First Place - Individual Armed Exhibition Drill (Xander Parker)

Second Place - Dual Armed Exhibition Drill (Dylan Bell-Love, Chase Stoering)

First Place - Air Rifle Team 1 (Jalynn Wilson, Taylor Sparks, Melanie Wilder, Zachary Schlundt)

First Place - Air Rifle Team 2 (Preston Niesen, Kara Calubad, Alexria Wright, Izzy Whitehead)

First Place - Individual Marksman (Jalynn Wilson)

Second Place - Individual Marksman (Taylor Sparks)

The Lebanon FFA earned first place in the district competition for ag mechanics,

which promotes skills in welding, machinery repair, electrical systems and structural projects.

Senior Tessa Thompson was awarded the Oregon State University Presidential Scholarship for \$10,000 a year.

This is the university's most prestigious and competitive scholarship, giving up to \$40,000 total to new resident freshmen students attending the Corvallis or Bend campuses.

Oregon students must have a minimum 3.85 unweighted high school GPA and/or a minimum 4.20 weighted high school GPA. They are evaluated on their accomplishments, contributions, experiences and talents, as well as their social and personal achievements, and participation in activities demonstrating academic potential, leadership abilities and commitment to service.

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Sweet Home Boys and Girls Wrestlers



Lebanon Boys Wrestlers



East Linn Boys Basketball Team



Lebanon Girls Basketball Team



Lebanon Girls Wrestlers



Sweet Home Swimmers



East Linn Girls Basketball Team

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Lebanon Boys Basketball Team



Lebanon Swimmers

Lebanon utility bill to increase 3.3%

By Sarah Brown
Of The New Era

City Council approved a utility rate increase and denied an increase on the City Service Fee during its meeting March 11.

City staff requested a 6% increase on the sewer, or wastewater, utility charge, and a 1% increase on the City Service Fee. The 6% sewer rate increase equates to a 3.3% increase on the overall bill.

During discussions on the matter in a work session prior to the regular meeting, Councilor David McClain said he did not support an increase on the City Service Fee, which, he noted, he was not in support of implementing at the start. However, he added, he would be in favor of an automatic increase on utility rates that would account for inflation and added costs.

"As we all know, DEQ mandates and state mandates keep increasing on us every year, and I don't know if a 3% increase would keep up with it," he said. "But I would favor something like that instead of coming back every year and arguing and debating about this issue. I would just like to see it set at 3% every year."

Before the matters came to a vote, Deputy Fire Marshal Jason Adamson approached the council to show his support for the possible municipal jail levy.

At the same time, Adamson called out three council members who, according to the Oregon Secretary of State PAC supporter database, financially supported Candidate Identification and Support Committee (CISC) which "has opposed increases in public support stuff in the past," yet were in support of the jail levy. When the fire district was asking for a levy in 2024, Adamson said CISC was in "heavy opposition." He said CISC mailed "incorrect and deceiving information about how the fire district operates, its call statistics and the conditions of its budget."

Since the levy failed, five positions and one ambulance at the fire district were cut.

"I hope CISC does not blast out false information about the police levy as they did the fire levy," Adamson said.

Naming the political donors - Dave Workman, Ken Jackola and David McClain - Adamson requested they ask CISC to not oppose the police levy, and to be prepared to respond to any potential anti-police-levy campaign from the PAC.

Following public comment, the council killed the City Service Fee increase, but approved the 6% sewer rate increase 5-1; McClain opposed.

Water, Wastewater, Storm Utility Snapshot

During the work session, the council heard an update on city utility systems and related finances.

In this fiscal year of 2025-2026, the water treatment plant so far has produced more than 516 million gallons of water.

According to Public Works Director Jason Williams, the city is focusing on undersized water main replacements throughout Lebanon, which includes tying off dead ends and fixing water quality issues and leaks. The city is still "battling" the effects of the Green Peter drawdown.

Available funding allows the city to replace approximately 2,500 to 3,000 lineal feet of line a year, which equates to a 160-year replacement cycle with the city's 89 miles of distribution lines. Typical life cycles of the waterlines are expected to last about 75 years.

The wastewater treatment plant this fiscal year so far has treated about 703 million gallons of sewage. Williams said they continue to see failing aged sewer lines and laterals.

The city is currently designing a plan for disposal of Class B biosolids as new DEQ rules are making it harder and more costly to dispose of its processed sewage sludge.

Available funding allows the city to replace approximately 2,000 to 2,500 lineal feet of sewer main line a year, equating to a 170-year replacement cycle with the city's 70 miles of distribution lines. Typical life cycles of older pipes is 50-75 years, or 100 years for newer PVC pipes.

Heavy rains are driving inflow at the wastewater plant at about 200% of normal levels. The city has about 63 miles of storm drainage mains and 52 miles of open channel drainage ways. Limited funding allows for about 1,500 lineal feet of line replacement every two to three years.

Financial Snapshot

Finance Director Brandon Neish presented a five-year financial project for the water and wastewater funds.

At the end of the current fiscal year, the water fund is expected to have an ending fund balance of \$6.7 million. Assuming a 3% rate increase every year except for next year, there is a projected ending fund balance of about \$2.3 million by fiscal year 2031.

"So you're still at a point where you're kind of dragging that fund balance and spending more than you are bringing in," Neish said. "Because there is a significant fund balance there, you will have plenty at the end of that



Mayor Ken Jackola, left, presents Rod Sell with a handshake and trophy for his 24 years of investment into Lebanon's future. - Photo by Sarah Brown

five-year picture, you're still north of \$2 million in available fund balance.

"However, one of the things we've been focusing on is making sure that we are not spending more than we are bringing in, so some sort of course correction or new revenue will be necessary in order to rebalance that as we move out into the last five years."

In the wastewater fund, following a biosolids capital project funded through grants and loans, the expected ending fund balance for fiscal year 2027 is \$794,168. Assuming a 6% rate increase next year and 3% increase each year thereafter, by fiscal year 2031, it is projected to land at \$2.1 million.

"While we look okay for the next five years - and again, these are snapshots, this is the best information that we have available to us, so this is a plan and things can certainly change - but the best information says over the next five years we would be okay," Neish said.

City Manager Ron Whitlatch explained the city is looking toward some Master Plan projects at the wastewater treatment plant that might cost upwards of \$40 million or less. The city has saved \$20 million and recently received an additional \$2 million from the state.

The 6% increase is expected to cover the biosolids project, while the 3% increases thereafter would assist with the other projects.

Essentially, Neish said, the rate increases are planned ahead of time to prepare to pay the debt services for those upcoming projects.

"We want to be positioned well, because every year we are behind this, that's another year worth of inflation," Whitlatch said. "On a project that big, it's very big, just to give you some idea of what we think it's gonna take, we're looking at about a four-year project."

The Master Plan is looking at about \$95 million in projects just to get the city compliant with state mandated regulation, Williams added.

"These are projects that we are being told that we have to do to meet new conditions in our permit," Williams said.

City Service Fee Snapshot

Concerning the new \$18 City Service Fee initiated in January 2025 to support a declining General Fund for city operations, Neish said things are looking up, but it would be good to look ahead.

He said this year the city anticipates about \$6.9 million in property tax revenue, while personnel expenditures will cost about \$9.1 million. The City Service Fee is intended to fill that gap.

Assuming the city raises that fee 1% every year, the ending fund balance stabilizes, but "starts to tip" downward at the end of fiscal year 2031.

The goal, Neish said, is to build about \$2 million in available, spendable money "for one-time needs, things that pop up in a fiscal year that the council really sees as an important thing to pursue or opportunities that may pop up in the future."

As such, the city asked council to approve a 1% increase on the service fee, making it \$18.20 a month.

During the council meeting, staff made the proposal, but it died on the floor.

In other business, the council:

- Honored Rod Sell for his 24 years of service to the community as a Public Works employee and volunteer, during which time he built essential infrastructure and provided oversight and guidance for the city's parks, trees and trails. Mayor Ken Jackola pointed out that all of Sell's efforts will have a lasting impact on families to come.

- Heard a legislative update from Sean Tate, who provided a summary of activity that took place during the short session.

- Heard from a representative of DevNW, who reported they were able to repair six homes in Linn County - three in Lebanon, two in Sweet Home, one in Stayton - with grant funding last year.

- Approved a resolution that extended some "no parking" locations on N 2nd Street between Tangent and Mary streets.

- Approved the annexation of .75 acres at 2015 Stoltz Hill Road.

- Adopted an updated master plan for the wastewater treatment plant.

- Approved a Statutory Warranty Deed incorporating the three property descriptions associated with the sale of the Santiam Travel Station.

- Tre Kennedy asked the council to consider a location where Jackson Street might be able to keep a drop-in locker box for youth in need.

EVENTS

From page 2

share their perspectives on what America means to them for an opportunity to travel to some of the nation's most iconic historic and cultural landmarks.

The question is: What does America mean to you?

Submit artwork, including physical art through a high-res photo, or a short written response (up to 100 words for grades 3-5, 250 words for 6-8, and 500 words for 9-12).

Artwork attachment should not be larger than 30MB and must be in one of the following file formats: PDF, JPG, PHG, or HEIC. See Official Contest Rules for full details.

Submissions will be accepted until 5 p.m. on March

30. Students under age 18 must have a teacher, parent or legal guardian upload the entry through the submission portal.

For more information and to apply, visit America250.org/fieldtrip/application.

Foster Dam Road closure announced

The road over Foster Dam will be closed from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tuesday, March 31, through Wednesday, April 1, to all traffic.

Dam maintenance activities will require a full road closure. No vehicles will be able to pass.

For questions or to comment, contact Lisa Maguire of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers at (541) 623-1338.

Lebanon secures \$2 million for wastewater upgrades

The City of Lebanon was awarded \$2 million in state funding during the 2026 Oregon Legislative Short Session to support critical upgrades to the city's wastewater treatment facility. The funding will help modernize infrastructure and improve treatment capacity, helping ensure the long-term protection of public health and local waterways.

The investment will support planned improvements to the city's wastewater treatment system, allowing Lebanon to address aging infrastructure, enhance operational reliability and safety, and accommodate future community growth including housing. The upgrades will also help the Lebanon continue to meet state and federal water quality standards while protecting the South Santiam River.

"This funding is a significant investment in Lebanon's

future, and we are grateful for the support of the Legislature this session," City Manager Ron Whitlatch said. "Modern wastewater infrastructure is essential to protecting public health, supporting economic development and safeguarding the natural resources that our community depends on."

Lebanon's wastewater treatment facility serves almost 20,000 residents and hundreds of businesses, and plays a critical role in maintaining environmental quality in the region. As population and economic activity grow, infrastructure improvements are necessary to ensure the system can continue operating efficiently and reliably.

The funding comes after the city's second year of direct and strategic legislative engagement. City officials expressed appreciation to members of the Oregon Leg-

islature for recognizing the importance of investing in local infrastructure during the short session.

"We are grateful to Rep. Jami Cate for putting the request forward, and to Senator Fred Girod and members of the Joint Ways and Means Committee for supporting this project," Mayor Ken Jackola said. "These resources will help us continue to support community growth and deliver essential services to Lebanon residents while protecting our local waterways."

Planning and engineering work for the upgrades will move forward in coordination with state regulatory agencies. Construction timelines will be announced as project design progresses.

For more information about the project, contact City Manager Ron Whitlatch at rwhitlatch@lebanonoregon.gov.

Advertisement for Sweet Home Funeral Chapel featuring a photo of a man on a boat and the text 'Got a plan? Bob thoughtfully preplanned his funeral. Now he can get on with his life.' Includes contact information: 541-367-2891 | SWEETHOMEFUNERAL.COM



Sweet Home police and Linn County Sheriff's deputies gather at a 10th Avenue home where, police said, a suspect fled after eluding police following an attempted traffic stop. See more photos at sweethomenews.com. - Keeahan Gittins photo

Officers converge on 10th Avenue in search for suspect

Sweet Home police and Linn County Sheriff's deputies converged at a home on the south end of 10th Avenue Thursday, March 12 after, police said, a suspect fled from SHPD to a home at 151 10th Ave.

A Sweet Home police officer driving a marked police SUV observed a Buick LeSabre in the 1800 block of Main Street and recognized the driver as Ryan Sechrest, 39, of Sweet Home, who was known to have warrants for his arrest.

The officer observed Sechrest commit several traffic violations, including "running a couple of stop signs and going over the speed limit," Police Chief Jason Ogden said.

When the officer attempted to pull Sechrest over, Sechrest actively at-

tempted to elude the officer until he reached his residence on 10th Avenue. Sechrest and his female passenger fled from the vehicle and onto the property as the pursuing officer arrived.

Officers were advised that Sechrest had multiple felony and misdemeanor warrants through the Linn County Circuit Court, Albany Municipal Court, Lebanon Municipal Court and Sweet Home Municipal Court. His driving status is also revoked at the misdemeanor level through the Oregon DMV.

Additional SHPD officers and LCSO deputies arrived and established a perimeter around Sechrest's residence, while the pursuing officer obtained a search warrant for the property,

which included the main residence and a travel trailer.

After an extensive search, Sechrest was not located on the property.

Ogden said Sechrest is now wanted for fleeing or attempting to elude a police officer, reckless driving, recklessly endangering another person, and misdemeanor driving while suspended, in addition to his felony and misdemeanor warrants.

Sechrest is six feet, three inches tall and weighs approximately 280 to 320 pounds.

Anyone with information can contact SHPD at (541) 367-5181. Reference case number 202601757.

If you see him, call 911 or the SHPD non-emergency line immediately.

Advertisement for Sweet Home News with the headline 'Nothing affects you day to day more than local...' and a list of categories: LOCAL NEWS, LOCAL POLITICS, LOCAL EMERGENCIES, LOCAL SPORTS, LOCAL EVENTS. Includes a large 'subscribe' button and contact information: SWEETHOMENEWS.COM | 541.367.2135

Primary election list of major-party candidates finalized for May 19

The list of candidates on the ballot for the May 19 primary election was finalized last week.

March 10 was the deadline for any major party candidates who are not incumbents to file to run for state and national offices.

Minor political party candidates do not appear on the primary election ballot.

Republicans who have registered to run for the State Senate District 6 seat, currently occupied by Cedric Hayden, who

Three Republicans, including current Rep. Jami Cate, R-Lebanon, are running for Senate District 6, which covers most of Linn County, eastern Lane County and a small part of southern Marion County.

Current Sen. Cedric Hayden, R-Fall Creek, was barred from seeking reelec-

tion after participating in the 43-day walkout by Republican senators in 2023, accumulating more than 10 unexcused absences, which violated Measure 113, although he is listed as having filed for the seat by the Oregon Secretary of State.

Nicole De Graff of Marcola and Harrison "Jack" Tibbetts of Cottage Grove, both small business owners, are also in the race for the Republican nomination.

Sierrah Williams, of Sweet Home, listed as a dietician with WIC, is running unopposed as a Democrat for the seat.

Two Republicans and one Democrat are listed as candidates to run for House Seat 11, currently occupied by Cate. The 11th District covers east Linn County, including Sweet Home, Lebanon, Brownsville,

Halsey and Harrisburg, along with a small slice of Marion County that includes Jefferson.

The Republicans are Ken Jackola, mayor of Lebanon and a small business owner there, and Angelita Sanchez, also a small business owner, who sits on the Sweet Home City Council.

Democrat Ivan Maluski, a Scio farmer, is running unopposed.

Challenging incumbent Janelle S. Bynum, a Democrat, for the U.S. House of Representatives 5th District seat in Oregon Zeva T. Rosenbaum of Salem, also a Democrat, and Republicans Patti Adair of Sisters, a Deschutes County Commission member, and Jonathan Lockwood of Lebanon, a political consultant and law school student.

PUBLIC SAFETY

From page 9

MARCH 12 SWEET HOME POLICE

8:24 a.m. - Caller reported being blackmailed after sending photos to female on dating website. Officer contacted caller. Info noted.

8:30 a.m. - Juvenile, 17, cited for speeding, 55/35, failure to carry proof of insurance, failure to carry registration, failure to carry driver's license and improper display of plates, Sugar City Cleaners parking lot on Long.

10:58 a.m. - Joni Jean Finch, 45, arrested on AMC warrant for FTA in criminal citation case, north end of 24th. Cited and released.

12:20 p.m. - Caller reported dog tied up at bathroom for some time, 1700 block 11th. Officer responded, determined dog appeared to be abandoned. Dog placed in SHPD kennel.

2:51 p.m. - Officer attempted traffic stop, driver eluded, fled into residence in 800 block Long. Report taken.

7:06 p.m. - Police conducted death investigation in 2300 block Main. Caller had requested welfare check on male who was not answering door. Report taken.

9:46 p.m. - William Lee Phillips, 43, arrested by Albany police on SHMC warrant for FTA in theft case. Cited to appear April 8.

LEBANON POLICE

8:58 p.m. - Theft of item reported at Dollar Tree. Loss: \$5.

LCSO/OSP SWEET HOME S. COUNTY

3:16 a.m. - Anna House, 41, of Brownsville, cited on unspecified AMC and LMC warrants, 1000 block Pine, Brownsville.

10:41 a.m. - Matthew-Scott Levesque, 23, of Sweet Home, arrested for failing to perform duties of a driver in property-damage hit and run, North River/Sunnyside. According to LCSO, the original crash occurred the night before, the offending vehicle sliding off the road and striking a road sign and a tree. Levesque's family notified LCSO and deputies responded to his

house and observed damage to the vehicle that matched damage at the scene of the hit and run. Report taken.

1:01 p.m. - Deputy patrolled multiple forestry operations in area of Wiley/Cedar creeks, Big Wiley drainage, contacted loggers who had items stolen from previous operation and set up surveillance equipment at their new site.

1:39 p.m. - Deputy investigated littering at Wiley Creek 100 gate, 44300 block Wiley Creek.

1:54 p.m. - Deputy stopped operator of side-by-side in 44400 block Wiley Creek, warned him for operating ATV on county highway, escorted him to nearby residence.

LCSO/OSP LEBANON

3:41 p.m. - Lawrence Clark, 30, of Lebanon, cited for driving without license, DU. Trespassed from area in 33800 block Mt. Pleasant.

5:38 p.m. - Anthony Middleton, 62, of Lebanon, arrested on outstanding warrant, 3200 block S. Santiam Hwy. Cited and released. Report taken.

MARCH 11

SWEET HOME POLICE

2:22 a.m. - Caller reported female pounding on door, yelling in area of 54th/Osage. Officer responded. Parents took female into residence, where she would be staying for remainder of night.

3:12 a.m. - Raymond Lyle Tressel, 30, arrested by Lebanon police on SHMC warrant for FTA in unauthorized entry into motor vehicle case. Cited to appear April 8.

1:24 p.m. - Rose Lena Jones cited for speeding, 46/20, 4900 block Main.

1:30 p.m. - Caller reported vehicle parked in 4800 block 48th for several days. Officer responded, vehicle posted for removal.

4:13 p.m. - Caller from Key Bank, 1199 10th, reported bag of drug paraphernalia at location. Officer seized items for disposal.

4:57 p.m. - Christian Bailey Hurley, 25, arrested for disorderly conduct in 2400 block Main after caller reported

ongoing issues with neighbors yelling at each other. Caller then called back, stating that male was threatening to harm her. Hurley cited and released.

LEBANON POLICE

2:59 a.m. - Raymond Lyle Tressel, 30, cited on LMC warrant for FTA, LCCC warrant for FTA - possession of meth, Salem Municipal Court warrant for FTA - trespass, SHMC warrant for FTA - unlawful entry into motor vehicle.

8:41 a.m. - Angela M. Ricker, 45, cited for DWS, DU, improper display, AMC warrant for contempt, LMC warrant for contempt - DWS.

10:13 a.m. - Abdul Khaliq Durrani, 66, cited for speeding 37/20 school zone, W Airport Rd./S 12th St.

12:23 p.m. - Walmart security guard reported subject in RV held gun up to window and told them they would shoot if he didn't leave them alone; also punched guard's car window. Suspect bit officer. Kay Foxy Fox, 39, arrested for disorderly conduct II, assaulting a police officer, resisting arrest.

3:38 p.m. - Nicholas Joseph Norris Jr., 20, cited for DU.

LCSO/OSP SWEET HOME/S. COUNTY

1:46 a.m. - Carol Rebecca O'Leary, 54, cited and released on two warrants, Hwy. 228/Ogle, Brownsville. Report taken.

12:05 p.m. - Dylan Elder, 30, of Sweet Home, cited for DWS, DU and failing to register vehicle, 300 block Washburn, Brownsville.

2:36 p.m. - Deputy responded to single-vehicle non-injury crash in 29400 block Berlin. According to LCSO, cause was attributed to poor installation of spare tire. Report taken.

LCSO/OSP LEBANON

8:30 a.m. - Robert West, 43, of Lebanon, cited for DU., 31200 block 1st, Waterloo.

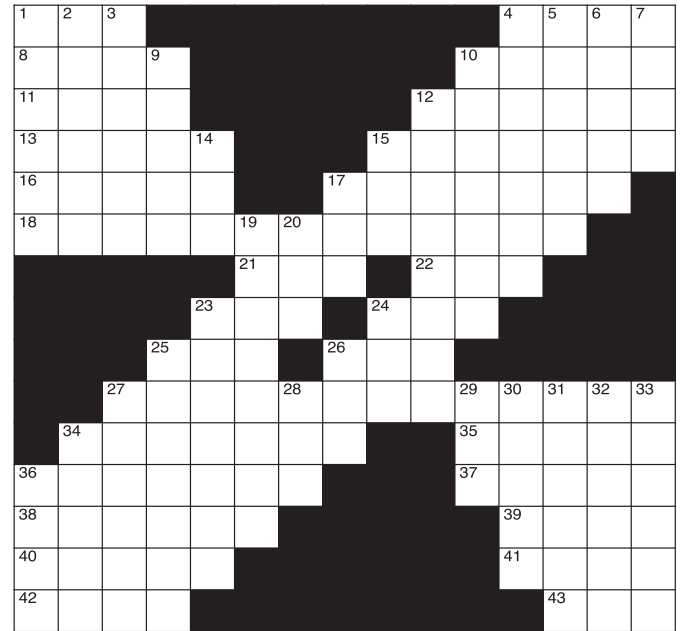
MARCH 10

SWEET HOME POLICE

12:45 a.m. - Nancy Lee Waters, 43, cited for DU, 1200 block 10th.

See Public Safety, Page 19

CROSSWORD



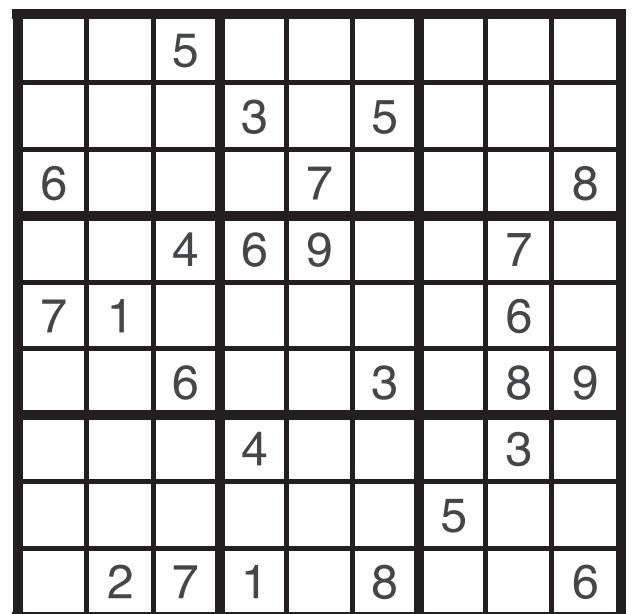
CLUES ACROSS

- 1. One-time Moroccan kingdom
- 4. One who entertains
- 8. Not in favor of
- 10. Couture
- 11. Nonflowering plant
- 12. Of Christian fasting season
- 13. Of birds
- 15. Dealt with
- 16. Duplicate
- 17. More liquid
- 18. Inconsequential
- 21. Doctor of Education
- 22. Electroencephalograph
- 23. Partner to the carrot
- 24. Not young
- 25. Discontinued Apple advertising platform
- 26. Car mechanics group
- 27. Treats allergies
- 34. Rather
- 35. African nation (alt. sp.)
- 36. Suffering
- 37. A way to raise
- 38. Hairstyle
- 39. Vehicle part
- 40. Subject matters
- 41. One who can see the future
- 42. German courtesy title
- 43. Female sibling

CLUES DOWN

- 1. Jungle vacation
- 2. Off-kilter
- 3. Takes off
- 4. Passing
- 5. Where to plug in devices
- 6. Drive
- 7. Take care of
- 9. City in Finland
- 10. Dyed
- 12. Small invertebrate
- 14. Holiday beverage egg ___
- 15. Hawaiian club
- 17. Rural Free Delivery (abbr.)
- 19. Most impoverished
- 20. British romance novelist Pollock
- 23. Burgers
- 24. Organization of American States
- 25. Lacking contact with other people
- 26. Sex Pistols bassist Vicious
- 27. One who uses a rod and line to fish
- 28. Expression of surprise
- 29. Get older
- 30. Rooney and Kate are two
- 31. Wild goats
- 32. Cores
- 33. Walks into
- 34. A way to accustom
- 36. Wet nurse

SUDOKU



Level: Advanced

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.

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

Sodaville City Council: Thursday, March 19, 7:00 p.m. at City Hall, 30723 Sodaville Road

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

Brownsville City Council: Tuesday, March 24, 7:00 p.m. at City Hall, 255 N Main St.

Sweet Home Planning Commission: Thursday, April 2, 6:30 p.m. at City Hall, 3225 Main St.

Charter School Board: Monday, April 6, 6:00 p.m. at Sand Ridge Charter School, 100 Sand Ridge Ct., Lebanon

Lebanon City Council: Wednesday, April 8, 6:00 p.m. at Lebanon Library, 55 Academy St.

Lebanon School Board: Thursday, April 9, 6:00 p.m. at Lebanon Library, 55 Academy St.

Central Linn School Board: Monday, April 13, 6:00 p.m. at Conference Room, 239 W 2nd St., Halsey

Sweet Home School Board: Monday, April 13, 6:30 p.m. at 1920 Long St.

Lebanon Fire District: Tuesday, April 14, 5:30 p.m.

at 1050 W. Oak St.

Sweet Home City Council: Tuesday, April 14, 6:30 p.m. at City Hall, 3225 Main St.

Waterloo City Council: Tuesday, April 14, 7:00 p.m. at 31140 1st St.

Halsey City Council: Tuesday, April 14, 7:00 p.m. at City Hall, 100 Halsey St.

Sweet Home Park & Tree Committee: Wednesday, April 15, 8:30 a.m. at City Hall, 3225 Main St.

Lebanon Parks, Trees & Trails: Wednesday, April 15, 2:00 p.m. at Lebanon Library, 55 Academy St.

Lebanon Planning Commission: Wednesday, April 15, 6:00 p.m. at Lebanon Library, 55 Academy St.

Sweet Home Planning Commission: Thursday, April 16, 6:30 p.m. at City Hall, 3225 Main St.

Sodaville City Council: Thursday, April 16, 7:00 p.m. at City Hall, 30723 Sodaville Road

Lebanon Aquatic District: Monday, April 20, 6:00 p.m. at Lebanon Pool, 1800 S 5th St.

Sweet Home Fire Board: Tuesday, April 21, 6:30 p.m. at 1099 Long St.

Brownsville Fire Board: Tuesday, April 21, 6:30 p.m. at 600 E Blakely

Sweet Home City Council: Tuesday, April 28, 6:30 p.m. at City Hall, 3225 Main St.

Brownsville City Council: Tuesday, April 28, 7:00 p.m. at City Hall, 255 N Main St.

Real Estate Sold

Following are Lebanon, Sweet Home, and Brownsville area real estate transactions recorded with the county during late February and March 2026. These are not properties for sale, and some transactions may represent a change in ownership within a family or corporation. Properties are listed by address, property/residence size and purchase price:

831 Oak St; Lebanon; 1216 sq.ft., three bedroom, two bathroom, built in 1940; 0.15 acres; \$383,000.

742 Walnut St; Lebanon; 1187 sq.ft., two bedroom, one bathroom, built in 1945; 0.31 acres; \$355,000.

43083 Island Inn Dr; Lebanon; 2788 sq.ft., four bedroom, three bathroom, built in 1948; 2.18 acres; \$765,000.

1010 Turtledove Lp; Lebanon; 1637 sq.ft., three bedroom, 2 1/2 bathroom, built in 2006; 0.18 acres; \$409,900.

1198 29th Ave; Sweet Home; 1008 sq.ft., three bedroom, one bathroom, built in 1979; 0.17 acres; \$200,000.

5494 Osage St; Sweet Home; 1280 sq.ft., three bedroom, two bathroom, built in 1997; 0.13 acres; \$165,000.

2100 Park Dr; Lebanon; 3788 sq.ft., five bedroom, four bathroom, built in 1990; 0.89 acres; \$840,000.

785 B St; Lebanon; 1248 sq.ft., two bedroom, one bathroom, built in 1940; 0.18 acres; \$349,900.

80 Berry St; Lebanon; 1092 sq.ft., two bedroom, two bathroom, built in 1976; 0.17 acres; \$220,000.

1480 4th St; Lebanon; 2946 sq.ft., four bedroom, two bathroom, built in 1960; 0.38 acres; \$545,000.

66 Cox St; Lebanon; 864 sq.ft., two bedroom, one bathroom, built in 1950; 0.1 acres; \$285,000.

43091 North River Dr; Sweet Home; 780 sq.ft., two bedroom, one bathroom, built in 1949; 2.51 acres; \$280,000.

33941 Totem Pole Rd;

Lebanon; 2073 sq.ft., two bedroom, 1 1/2 bathroom, built in 1980; 5.78 acres; \$850,000.

41655 Marks Ridge Dr; Sweet Home; 1468 sq.ft., additional details not listed; one bathroom, built in 1935; 2.33 acres; \$300,000.

732 Harmony St; Lebanon; 1806 sq.ft., three bedroom, 2 1/2 bathroom, built in 1976; 0.16 acres; \$279,000.

27999 Meridian Heights Lp; Sweet Home; 1408 sq.ft., three bedroom, 1 1/2 bathroom, built in 1962; 1 acres; \$470,000.

91 Mary St; Lebanon; 1789 sq.ft., two bedroom, two bathroom, built in 1940; 0.28 acres; \$395,000.

121 Williams St; Lebanon; 1287 sq.ft., five bedroom, two bathroom, built in 1920; 0.44 acres; \$404,000.

2551 Porter St; Lebanon; 1538 sq.ft., three bedroom, two bathroom, built in 1940; 0.16 acres; \$150,000.

411 Mayer Dr; Lebanon; 1582 sq.ft., four bedroom, two bathroom, built in 1930; 0.15 acres; \$416,000.

752 Harmony St; Lebanon; 1391 sq.ft., three bedroom, two bathroom, built in 1979; 0.16 acres; \$382,900.

710 Binshadler St; Lebanon; 1804 sq.ft., three bedroom, two bathroom, built in 1963; 0.24 acres; \$320,290.

1306 Clark Mill Rd; Sweet Home; 1066 sq.ft., three bedroom, one bathroom, built in 1950; 0.43 acres; \$316,700.

1716 Fir St; Sweet Home; 1050 sq.ft., three bedroom, two bathroom, built in 2007; 0.14 acres; \$325,000.

36953 Victory Dr; Lebanon; 3715 sq.ft., three bedroom, four bathroom, built in 2023; 2.78 acres; \$760,000.

2652 11th St; Lebanon; 1484 sq.ft., three bedroom, two bathroom, built in 1978; 0.15 acres; \$320,000.

695 16th St; Lebanon; 1120 sq.ft., three bedroom, 1 1/2 bathroom, built in 1977; 0.19 acres; \$358,000.

3990 Osage St; Sweet Home; 1245 sq.ft., three bedroom, two

bathroom, built in 2010; 0.12 acres; \$323,000.

33510 Millview Way; Lebanon; 2062 sq.ft., three bedroom, two bathroom, built in 1977; 1.54 acres; \$620,000.

1090 38th Ave; Sweet Home; 1857 sq.ft., four bedroom, 2 1/2 bathroom, built in 2025; 0.23 acres; \$415,500.

183 Dodge St; Lebanon; 1208 sq.ft., two bedroom, one bathroom, built in 1940; 0.14 acres; \$270,000.

720 Rose St; Lebanon; 1515 sq.ft., two bedroom, one bathroom, built in 1940; 0.17 acres; \$265,000.

443 Mary St; Lebanon; 843 sq.ft., two bedroom, one bathroom, built in 2013; 0.17 acres; \$270,000.

900 Pine St; Brownsville; 1892 sq.ft., two bedroom, 2 1/2 bathroom, built in 2020; 0.17 acres; \$429,000.

39889 McDowell Creek Dr; Lebanon; 4165 sq.ft., four bedroom, three bathroom, built in 2006; 5 acres; \$1,285,000.

40065 Crawfordville Dr; Sweet Home; 1456 sq.ft., three bedroom, two bathroom, built in 1983; 5.33 acres; \$435,000.

25845 Gap Rd; Brownsville; 1204 sq.ft., two bedroom, one bathroom, built in 1976; 61.11 acres; \$990,000.

1196 7th St; Lebanon; 680 sq.ft., one bedroom, one bathroom, built in 1930; 0.18 acres; \$275,000.

36279 Middle Ridge Dr; Lebanon; 2108 sq.ft., four bedroom, two bathroom, built in 2005; 17.72 acres; \$765,000.

1075 12th Ave; Sweet Home; 1419 sq.ft., three bedroom, two bathroom, built in 2020; 0.12 acres; \$360,000.

588 Rose St; Lebanon; 904 sq.ft., three bedroom, one bathroom, built in 1945; 0.17 acres; \$155,000.

347 Shannon Pl; Lebanon; 1577 sq.ft., three bedroom, two bathroom, built in 2017; 0.15 acres; \$415,000.

1290 Evergreen Ln; Sweet Home; 1664 sq.ft., three bedroom, two bathroom, built in 1977; 0.18 acres; \$325,000.



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Public Notices

**DISTRICT COURT
EUREKA COUNTY, NEVADA**
KATIE LYNN VAN ATTA Plaintiff,
VS. TONY JAMES VAN ATTA De-
fendant.
CASE NO.: CV2602-280
DEPT.: 2

**SUMMONS
NOTICE! YOU HAVE BEEN SUED.
THE COURT MAY DECIDE
AGAINST YOU WITHOUT YOUR
BEING HEARD UNLESS YOU RE-
SPOND IN WRITING WITHIN 21
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 compl-
aint or petition). The object of
this action is: Divorce.

If you intend to defend this law-
suit, 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 dem-
anded in the complaint or peti-
tion.

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 - 3/18)

**Notice of Proposed Final Order
for Water Right Transfer T-13015**
T-13015 filed by Eagle Creek
Northwest, LLC, PO Box 592,
Yakima, WA 98907, proposes a
change in use under Certificate
93852. The right allows the use
of 0.4 cubic foot per second
from a well in Sec. 10, T10S,
R2W, WM for supplemental irri-
gation in Sec. 10, T10S, R2W,
WM. The applicant proposes to
change from supplemental use
to primary use. The Water Re-
sources Department proposes to
approve the transfer, based on
the requirements of ORS Chap-
ter 540 and OAR 690-380-
5000.

Any person may file, jointly or
severally, a protest or a request
for party status. Protests must
be received by the Department
on or before 04/16/2026. Call
(503) 986-0935 to obtain addi-
tional information. If no protests
are filed, the proposed final or-
der will become a final order 33
days after the protest period
ends, without any further action
by the Department.
(3/18 - 3/25)

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

IN THE MATTER OF THE ES-
TATE OF: ELSIE SUSAN JONES,
Deceased.

Case No.: 26PB02096
NOTICE TO INTERESTED PER-
SONS

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that
the undersigned has been ap-
pointed Personal Representative

Public Notices

for the Estate of Elsie Susan
Jones. All persons having claims
against the estate are required
to present them, with vouchers
attached, to the undersigned
Personal Representative at c/o
Oregon Pacific Law Group; 117
Commercial Street NE, Suite
275; Salem, OR 97301 within
four months after the date of first
publication of this notice, or the
claims may be barred.

All persons whose rights may be
affected by the proceedings may
obtain additional informa-
tion from the records of the
Court, the Personal Representa-
tive, or the lawyers for the Per-
sonal Representative, David
Johnson, 117 Commercial Street
NE, Suite 275; Salem, OR
97301.

DATE OF FIRST PUBLICATION:
March 18, 2026.

Larry L. Jones
Personal Representative
(3/18)

**NOTICE OF SALE OF PERSONAL
PROPERTY. UNDER LANDLORD'S
POSSESSORY LIEN.** Personal
property left in the following
units have been seized for non-
payment of rent and will be sold
at **The Storage Depot- 36666,
Hwy 34, Lebanon, OR 97355** on
March 27, 2026 at 10am: Austin,
Leslie CC40; Gilmore, Justin
DR47; Johnson, Stevie DC40;
Koenig, Joshua DC72; Libra,
Brandi ER4; Mather, Yasmin
FC22; Medlin, Ann CL22; O'Mal-
ley, Colin CC73; Walker, Kristina
DC9; Corson, Maria DR10.
(3/11-3/18)

**NOTICE OF BUDGET
COMMITTEE MEETING**

A public meeting of the Budget
Committee of the Halsey-Shedd
Rural Fire Protection District,
Linn County, State of Oregon, to
discuss the budget for the fiscal
year July 1, 2026 - June 30,
2027, will be held at the Halsey
Fire Department, 740 W. Second
Street, Halsey, Oregon. The
meeting will take place on the
14th day of April 2026, at 7:00
p.m.

The purpose of the meeting is to
receive the budget message and
to receive comment from the
public on the budget.

This is a public meeting where
deliberation of the Budget Com-
mittee will take place. Any per-
son may appear at the meeting
and discuss the proposed pro-
grams with the Budget Commit-
tee.

A copy of the budget document
may be inspected or obtained on
or after April 8th, 2026, at the
Halsey Fire Department, 740 W.
Second Street, betweenthe
hours of 9:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m.
(3/18 - 3/25)

PUBLIC NOTICE

A public meeting of the Budget
Committee of the Lebanon Rural
Fire Protection District, Linn
County, State of Oregon, to dis-
cuss the budget for the fiscal
year July 1, 2026 to June 30,
2027 will be held at the Lebanon
Fire District Offices located at
1050 W. Oak Street, Lebanon,
OR. The meeting will take place
on the 14th day of April 2026, at
5:00 P.M. The purpose is to re-
ceive the budget message. A
copy of the budget document
may be inspected or obtained af-
ter April 7th, 2026, at the
Lebanon Fire District office be-
tween the hours 9:00A.M. to

Public Notices

4:00 P.M Monday-Thursday.
This is a public meeting where
deliberation of the Budget Com-
mittee will take place. Listed
above is the time and place of
the Budget Committee meeting,
which will be held to take public
comment. Any person may ap-
pear at this meeting and discuss
the proposed programs with the
Budget Committee. Information
is also available on the Lebanon
Fire District

website: <https://www.lebanon-fireoregon.gov/> . You may also
join the meeting via Zoom. (In-
structions below)

Live Stream the meeting: [https://
www.youtube.com/@lebanon-
firedistrict/streams](https://www.youtube.com/@lebanon-firedistrict/streams)

Join Zoom Meeting: Meeting ID:
862 5563 8389 Passcode:
598282

[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/
86255638389?pwd=bsLYwet0-
ly5rz5yl4jFxadgmHAh8WcO.1](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86255638389?pwd=bsLYwet0ly5rz5yl4jFxadgmHAh8WcO.1)

Dial by your location · +1 669
444 9171 US
(3/18 - 4/1)

**In the Matter of the Intestate
Estate of Elizabeth A. Bentley
NOTICE TO INTERESTED
PERSONS
Linn County Case
No. 26PB01370**

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
Elizabeth A. Bentley, deceased.
All persons having claims
against said estate are required
to present the same, with proper
vouchers, to the personal repre-
sentative in care of Sarah Castle-
ton, of Ivers & Miller Law 317 W.
1st Ave, Suite 302, Albany, OR
97321, within four (4) months af-
ter the date of first publication of
this notice, or the claims may be
barred. All persons whose rights
may be affected by the proceed-
ings may obtain additional infor-
mation from the records of the
court, the personal representa-
tive or the attorney for the per-
sonal representative.

DATED and first published:
March 18, 2026.

Lesley Ma
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
(3/18)

NOTICE OF ONLINE AUCTION –
A SQUARED STORAGE 1294
44th Ave. Sweet Home, OR
97386 Online bidding at
www.storageauctions.com, auc-
tion ends 04/02/2026 at 11:00
a.m. Jessie Friend, Unit 102.
(3/18 - 3/25)

**In the Matter of the Estate of
CHERYL LOUISE FRIAR
NOTICE TO INTERESTED
PERSONS Linn County
Case No. 25PB09176**

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
Cheryl Louise Friar, deceased.
All persons having claims
against said estate are required
to present the same, with proper
vouchers, to the personal repre-
sentative in care of Catherine M.
Pratt, Attorney at Law, Ivers &

Public Notices

Miller Law at 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 proceed-
ings may obtain additional infor-
mation from the records of the
court, the personal representa-
tive or the attorney for the per-
sonal representative.

DATED and first published:
March 18, 2026.

Tiffany Watte
Personal Representative
c/o Catherine M. Pratt
Ivers & Miller Law
PO Box 1033
317 First Ave W., Suite 302
Albany, OR 97321
(541) 928-5875
catherine@ivers.law
(3/18)

A ballot title was filed with the
Sweet Home City Recorder (City
Manager) on March 4, 2026 by
the City Attorney. Caption:
Amendments to Home Rule City
Charter of Sweet Home. Ques-
tion: Shall the City of Sweet
Home make updates to its exist-
ing home rule Charter? No later
than 5 PM on March 17, 2026,
any elector may petition the Linn
County Circuit Court requesting
a different ballot title and stating

Statewide Notices

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receive a top tax deduction! Call
Veteran Car Donations at 1-866-
695-9265 today!

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SUV to assist the blind and visu-
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no-cost vehicle pickup and se-
cure a generous tax credit for
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Today at 1-844-533-9173 today!

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ping. Lifetime support. More
than 1.5 million happy cus-
tomers. Call Audien 1-844-387-
1163.

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Public Notices

why the ballot title prepared by
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(3/18)

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SCHOOL BOARD

From page 7

hired, she said, it became clear that there was too much demand for her services in both schools, so a second position was created, filled by Giles.

Giles said they provide one-on-one and group counseling for self-management, coping skills and group skills.

"It varies, based on student needs," she said, adding that they often address students' "immediate needs that are not on our case loads" - students who are having "a difficult day" or otherwise having difficulty being "regulated" and for whom a school guidance counselor is not available.

"We love to include parents in the therapy process," Giles said, adding that she and Lawrence also refer students to outside help when needed.

In response to a question from Board Member Speck later, Giles said that they do not work with students "on a regular basis" without involvement from parents.

They also regularly collaborate with other staff to "strengthen" the mental health program at the schools.

In response to a question on the topic from Board Member Rachel Maynard, Giles said that the counselors have challenges getting outside help, particularly from the county, at the end of the school year when they try to prepare students to cope with the summer break.

Transportation during the summer can be challenging, and health insurance can also be tricky, she said, noting that counselors have to line up outside therapists and then determine whether a family's health insurance is accepted by that therapist.

Telehealth options can also be challenging, Giles said, due to "confidentiality" issues.

Typically, Lawrence told the board, outside resources are located in Albany or Corvallis.

Giles said Breaking Free, a mental health counseling service located in Lebanon, has been helpful.

Giles said she meets weekly with individual students - about 60% female and 40% male, and also assists with the mental health sections in health classes. She also helps plan school events like the eighth-grade progression, and maintains a bulletin board near the cafeteria that posts "fun and engaging activities."

Lawrence reported that she has had 46 referrals this year, with whom she meets as needed - usually anywhere from weekly to monthly. She also meets with students who aren't in her caseload "if an urgent need comes up."

She said efforts are made to connect with students on the first day of school with handouts, music and other goodies, and she participates in student meetings and classes in efforts to promote mental health and wellness.

Giles said students have been removed from "challenging" class situations and placed in classes that better meet "their academic needs."

She said she works with other staffers, including Rich Guzman, the district's family support liaison who works on a contract with the Linn-Benton-Lincoln Educational Services District, and Christy Walker, the Sweet Home's homeless liaison staffer, to provide clothing or shelter or other resources for students in need.

She said she's "proud" of being able to help students learn to manage their thoughts and anxiety and how to "express their emotions in a way that felt better to them while also connecting with their peers, and helping them to decrease

their worries and having a safe place to be able to express themselves" - "providing a safe place for them."

Lawrence said it was hard to describe how much is happening at the high school because "there's so much that has happened."

She said many students show marked improvement after meeting with her and other counselors or being helped by other resources the school provides.

She said a big emphasis is "healthy self-care," teaching students what that involves.

"A lot of people have an idea of what self-care is, but we talk about what it actually is and how it's taking care of yourself" through adequate sleep, connections with others and eating.

"Sometimes, doing your homework is self-care," she said.

She said those efforts, often conducted in concert with other staffers, often result in improved attendance and academic performance.

"Overall, I think it's just a success that we get to be present in the building because I think we're able to meet the students that otherwise wouldn't be met" or that otherwise would be engaged in time-consuming and costly trips out of town for help, she said.

Also, she said, her presence in the building provides support for other staff and coaches who can rely on her help if "something comes up" that is out of the ordinary for them.

"It sounds like you've built up a good team inside and outside," Supt. Terry Martin said, adding, "I'm very proud of our counselors and counseling program. This is a very conscious budget decision that we made to help our students."

"Mental health in our society is heavily stigmatized and it's very important," Martin

said. "It's cliché to say 'hurt people hurt people,' but as people work through the issues that they have, they can do better."

"And when people know better, they do better."

Martin added that in his 30 years in education "I've never had so many parents talk about anxiety, so many students talk about anxiety, and so we're removing barriers to helping our students come to school and be successful."

PET Program Report

The board also heard a report from Robin Lindsey, who has created a Pre-Employment Transition Services program at the high school to, as Martin put it, "help our students be successful after high school."

The program, Lindsay told the board, is funded by a federal grant and is available to "all students with a documented disability," including students on 504 accommodation plans, as well as those served by Lawrence and Giles, who are struggling with anxiety and depression.

Her program includes job exploration help, work-based learning experience, post-secondary counseling for those who need help exploring schooling and transition options, workplace readiness training and self-advocacy.

Activities can include job shadowing, volunteering at local businesses, resume workshops, mock interviews, driver's education and more.

She said she has 37 students currently enrolled in the program, four of whom are working in vocational rehabilitation programs.

Students are volunteering at Hand in Hand Farm, Safe Haven, Wiley Creek, and on campus in the high school cafeteria, the Snack Shack and Cookie House.

"We are always looking for local small businesses to volunteer with and gain employment skills," Lindsey

said.

She noted that the program brings grant revenue to the district and previous graduates have received on-the-job training right out of high school.

She also helps students find college scholarships and fill out paperwork for financial aid and school applications.

Lindsey said she hopes to grow the program and add locations, including opportunities for students to get paid through work-based learning.

Also, she said, like last year, a unified CTE day is being planned for Wednesday of May Week this year.

In other action, the board:

- Approved wording for an application for exceptions to the governor-mandated ban on personal electronic devices for students who have health or other needs that are deemed by school officials to qualify for an exemption to the rule.

- Agreed to postpone further consideration and approval of proposed changes to wording for the district's drug testing program for students involved in extracurricular sports after multiple board members pointed out what they deemed to be unclear wording in the policy.

District staff will work on the wording before the policy is considered by the board. The policy defines illegal drugs and testing procedures, as well as disciplinary and appeals processes for alleged violations.

- Heard a report from Holley School Principal Josh Dargis on his school's "Hawks Times" school newspaper, newly revived by some "ambitious third-graders" after a year's hiatus, which is in its second month being put out monthly by students ranging from third to sixth grades.

- Accepted the resignation of Kristin Adams, High School Success Coordinator at the High School, effective March 31.

- Accepted the resignation of Hailey Schilling, kindergarten teacher at Hawthorne, effective at the end of the 2025-26 school year.

- Accepted the resignation of Kaley Schneider, fourth grade teacher at Foster Elementary, effective June 13.

- Accepted the resignation of Hailey Miller, second grade teacher at Foster Elementary, effective June 12.

- Accepted the donation of a Noble B flat clarinet, a LeBlanc saxophone, an Evette Schaefer alto saxophone and a set of piano tuning tools, and \$1,000 from Janice Horner.



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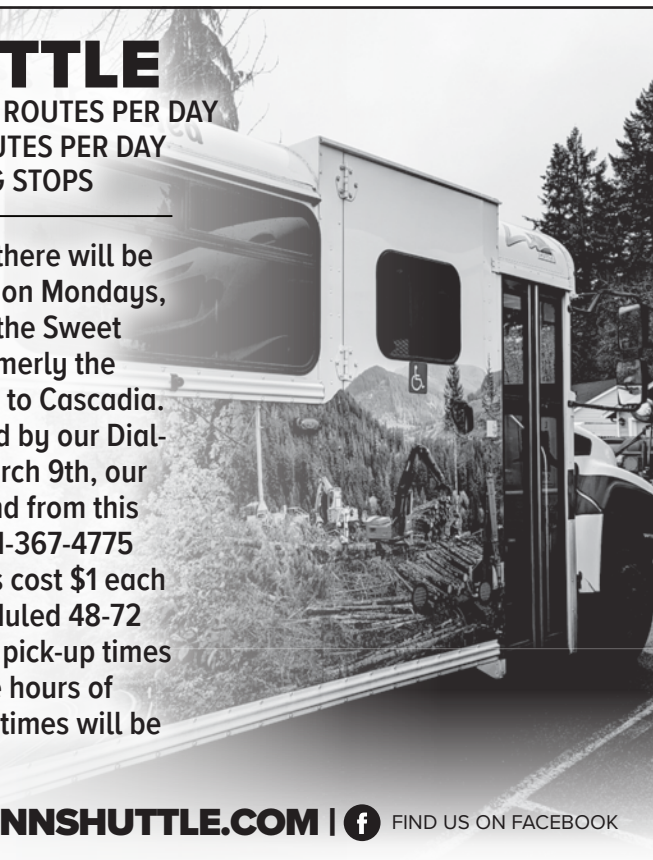


SWEET HOME IN TOWN TRANSIT

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.

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PUBLIC SAFETY

From page 15

1:33 a.m. - Joshua Stephen Porter, 42, arrested for disorderly conduct II after officer came upon physical disturbance at Chewy's Pub and Grill, 1200 12th. Cited and released. According to police, Porter later tossed burning piece of paper into bushes at SHPD, 1950 Main, which turned out to be his citation document. No property damage reported.

11:06 a.m. - Caller reported that male entered carport, stole bags of cans, 1100 block 23rd. Report taken for theft III.

11:41 a.m. - Brandon John Morrissey arrested for an alleged theft that was reported earlier in the day - a report of a male going into a carport and stealing bags of cans (see above). 1300 block 18th Charge was theft III.

12:56 p.m. - Officer assisted in locating juvenile who ran away from Oak Heights School, 605 Elm.

2:03 p.m. - Pierson Robert Lange cited for DU, 5900 block Main.

2:48 p.m. - Caller from Mobil station, 2295 Main, reported customer requested \$7.50 in gas and employee accidentally pumped \$75, whereupon customer left. Officer responded, information noted.

3:52 p.m. - Caller reported apparently abandoned camp trailer in 3000 block Main. Officer responded, report taken.

6:44 p.m. - Caller reported neighbor threatening caller's husband with drill. Officer responded, contacted both parties. Everyone separated and moved along. 1000 block 22nd.

7:06 p.m. - Caller reported he had not seen friend in over a week. Report taken for missing male. The missing individual was later located by a community services officer, and denied being missing.

10:59 p.m. - Shane Michael John Bradley, 52, arrested for criminal trespass II after police responded to report of male lying on sidewalk, not responding to questions, in area of Safeway, 1540 Main. Cited and released.

LEBANON POLICE

11:27 a.m. - Samuel Castillo-Lara, 26, cited for DU and no valid license.

2:20 p.m. - Paul Eric Tooker, 55, cited for careless driving.

3:06 p.m. - Brody Randall Brock, 27, cited for speeding 35/20 school zone, Cascade/Wagon Wheel Drs.

3:51 p.m. - Robert Ray West, 43, cited for DU, no OR license.

LCSD/OSP SWEET HOME/S. COUNTY

6:10 p.m. - Skyler Dodson, 46, of Newport, arrested for DUII, DWS, and reckless driving. Also cited for DU and failure to use ignition interlock device, Main/18th.

See more and updated Public Safety reports at sweethomeneews.com

East Linn basketball players named to All-Valley-Coast league honors



All-Valley Coast Conference boys basketball selections from East Linn Christian are, from left, Grady Knurowski, Second Team All-League; Gavin Wilson, First Team All-League; Brison Edwards, First Team All-League; and Gracen Christenson, Honorable Mention All-League. The Eagles finished sixth at the state championships and won the Sportsmanship Trophy.



All-Valley Coast Conference girls basketball selections from East Linn Christian are, from left, Lexy Kauffman, Honorable Mention All-League; Abby Gardner, Honorable Mention All-League; Maya Van Dyke, First Team All-League; and Maci Modderman, Honorable Mention All-League.

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Volunteers brave nasty weather to plant trees at Marks Slough

By Scott Swanson
Of The New Era

It was pouring rain, but nobody seemed to mind – except a photographer who was trying to keep his camera dry.

About a dozen volunteers from the Build Lebanon Trails group and the Lebanon Garden Club, along with 21 volunteers from Weyerhaeuser’s Snow Peak and Alsea offices, gathered at the Marks Slough trail-head off Tennessee Road on the outskirts of Lebanon Thursday morning, March 12, to plant some trees – a lot of trees.

Thirty-six, to be exact, all of them paid for by a grant of \$25,000 by Weyerhaeuser through American Forests, an organization that promotes the planting of trees all over the country.

Following a brief welcome from Lebanon Mayor Ken Jackola and some opening remarks from Allison O’Sullivan, community assistance forester for the Oregon Department of Forestry, and others, they marched off to get busy.

O’Sullivan provided volunteers with instruction on how to loosen up pot-bound root balls and how to plant the trees at proper heights.



Volunteers warm up for some tree-planting at Marks Slough prior to the action. - Photos by Scott Swanson

“It was wonderful to have Allison,” said Linda Ziedrich, a Lebanon Garden Club member who volunteers with BLT and was an organizer for the event. “I learned a lot from her and I think other people did too. I think we will plant trees better in the future because of that.”

City staff had dug holes for the trees along the trail, which loops around open fields to the east of some clumps of more mature trees, west of the South Santiam River behind the Lebanon Waste Water Treatment plant.

The newly planted trees, most of which were close to 10 feet tall, included various

oaks and maples, some elms, lindens, ginkos, some Village Green zelkovas, yellowwoods and maple-like London plane trees. They were also staked and mulched over the course of about three hours the volunteers were there.

Ziedrich said organizers chose larger trees, most in 15-gallon pots, to give them a better chance of survival. She said the trees were chosen for drought and heat tolerance and “general toughness,” as well as fall color.

She said organizers were unable to procure native species from the nursery they got the trees from, so they went with the species selected.



Volunteers from Weyerhaeuser and Build Lebanon Trails plant a tree. See more photos at lebanonlocalnews.com.

She said more planting efforts may take place later in the year, at other parks.

Despite the conditions – blowing wind and pounding rain, “it was great,” she said of the effort.

“I was so impressed with the volunteers from Weyerhaeuser. They put up with horrible weather and they were happy and worked hard. They were wonderful to have.”

Learning Water Safety

Students at Oak Heights School in Sweet Home show off some of the gear and skills they learned from a visit by representatives from the Oregon State Marine Board Thursday, March 12. OSMB has developed an educational program that focuses on boating and water safety for presentation in schools and camps, which are free for the asking. The presentations are approximately 30 minutes long and teach concepts that prepare students to stay safe when they are in or around water, which in turn creates new opportunities for students to explore and enjoy Oregon’s waterways. Oak Heights PE teacher Logan Shea said, “Students learned how to put on life jackets correctly and played a relay game where they got to throw a life preserver at an inflatable person that needed help.” More presentations are planned at the school later in the spring.

– Oak Heights photo



The ICEBOX Performer Of The Week



This week’s shoutout goes to Isaac, our Warehouse Lead.

Isaac was selected by our operating board as this week’s Employee Shout-Out recipient. His outstanding work ethic and consistently positive attitude especially during long days with heavy product shipments made him a great candidate for this recognition.

Despite being shorthanded in his department, Isaac continues to step up, doing everything that is asked of him and helping ensure operations run smoothly. He leads by example and demonstrates our core values every day through his dedication, reliability, and team-first mindset.



Sweet Home Junior High Leadership at Capitol

Eighth-grade Leadership Class students from Sweet Home Junior High visited the Oregon State Capitol Monday, March 9. Teacher Allison Gardner said the students got a tour of the building and learned how young people can be involved in the legislative process.