

# The New Era

SWEET HOME • LEBANON • AND SURROUNDING COMMUNITIES

Serving East Linn County Since 1929

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 25, 2026

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## Rural Living Day is back

### OSU program returns after COVID hiatus

By Sarah Brown  
Of The New Era

On a warm, sunny day during Oregon's mid-winter season, people from throughout the Willamette Valley spent their Saturday mostly inside for an opportunity to learn how to care for their land.

Some dropped off jars of water for free nitrate testing while others perused resources available to the public.

It was Saturday, March 7, the day Oregon State University Extension's Small Farms Program held its first Rural Living Day event since COVID had put a moratorium on the program in 2020.

The event provided free instruction on a variety of topics at Junction City High School that could satisfy an urban dweller or large-scale farmer.

Rural Living Day offered land owners an opportunity to sit in on workshops for vermicomposting, soils, hay assessment, tree identification, septic systems, chainsaw safety, maple syruping, growing ber-



Attendees at OSU Extension's Rural Living Day event browse booths providing free resources for land stewards. - Photo by Sarah Brown

ries, defensible space, pasture renovation, tools and maintenance, harvesting rainwater, growing small-scale grains, drying herbs and seasonings, creating a pollinator meadow, and assessing what one can do with their small farm.

Attendees came from across

the Willamette Valley, including as far away as Gervais.

The OSU Extension Service is "a bridge from the university," explained Teagan Moran, OSU Extension's ag small farms coordinator.

"We work in communities, not on campus, to bridge the

expertise, the research, the resources, and actually make sure they are applicable and have an impact in our communities," she said. "We want to see healthy communities, healthy economies."

To do that, Extension of-  
See Rural Living, Page 20

## Dog saved from river by police, Search and Rescue efforts

Sweet Home police and Linn County Search and Rescue personnel rescued a dog Tuesday morning that had fallen down a cliff Monday evening north of the intersection of 18th Avenue and Yucca Street.

Officers had responded the previous night to a call reporting a dog in distress and located the animal approximately 20 to 30 feet down a cliff at the edge of the river, according to Sweet Home Police Department. It was deemed unsafe to attempt a rescue due to the darkness.

Tuesday morning, Recruit Officer Tye Moore "took the initiative to attempt to locate the dog and coordinate its rescue," SHPD reported in a Facebook post. Moore contacted residents across the river and confirmed that the dog was still alive and in the same area.

The Linn County Sheriff's Office was contacted for assistance, and it was deter-

mined that a technical rope rescue would be the safest method for retrieving the dog. The Linn County Search and Rescue technical rope rescue team responded and safely retrieved the dog.

Sweet Home Veterinary Hospital evaluated the animal and confirmed it appeared to be in good health.

The dog will be taken to the Linn County Sheriff's Office Animal Control, SHPD said.

The Facebook post noted that Tuesday was Moore's last day of field training and he "will officially become Officer Moore."

"Officer Moore has spent the last 8½ months learning the basics of law enforcement and has proven he is ready to serve Sweet Home, as evidenced by the compassion he showed today for one of its furry citizens," SHPD said. "Please congratulate Officer Moore for a job well done when you see him on patrol."



A Linn County Search and Rescue member checks on the dog, rescued by his colleague, center. See more photos at sweethomenews.com. - City of Sweet Home photo

HOMETOWN  
NEWSPAPER OF  
ROY  
HOUTZ

This Week's Top Stories



### Inside: SH Spring Sports Preview

See how things are shaping up for Husky sports, including the new tennis program. Season previews for the Lebanon Warriors and East Linn Christian will appear in the next few editions.

Inside



### Explosion trophies

Lebanon's dance team ends a season full of challenges with state trophies.

Page 10

## Obituaries

### Calvin Edward Peterson

Oct. 4, 1991 - March 2, 2026

Calvin Edward Peterson, 34, of Albany, born Oct. 4, 1991, in Corvallis, passed away surrounded by the love of family and friends on March 2, 2026.

Calvin was known for his big heart, easy smile, and the kind of personality that could light up a room. He was one of the happiest people you could meet and had a way of making everyone around him feel welcome.

Calvin was the son of Edward Charles Peterson and Diana Faye Goodwin. He is survived by his loving wife, Roselle, who meant the world to him, along with his beloved dogs, Finnley and Raleigh.

Calvin enjoyed the simple things in life, especially spending time with friends, hosting gatherings, and cheering on his favorite teams.

He was a devoted fan of NASCAR, the Portland Trail Blazers, Oregon State Beavers football, and the Seattle Mariners. Calvin will be remembered for his kindness, his laughter, and the joy he brought to everyone who knew him. He will be deeply missed, and his memory will live on in the hearts of those who loved him.

Sweet Home Funeral Chapel is handling the arrangements.



14, 2026.

He was born Sept. 20, 1983, to Elaine (Zacpal) and James L. Quick in Sacramento, Calif.

Jason lived in Port Orford, Coos Bay, Corvallis, Sweet Home, Lebanon and Waterloo. He worked as a commercial fisherman and security guard.

He helped build houses in Mexico when he was a teenager. He enjoyed ocean fishing and liked to build and play with RC cars. Most of all, he loved spending time with his family.

Jason is survived by his wife, Darci Quick of Lebanon; his children, Riley Quick of Lebanon, Jordan Quick of Albany, and Kaylee Quick of Lebanon; brother Randy Zacpal of Coos Bay, sister Stephanie Quick of Coos Bay; and Jeremiah Quick of Lubbock, Texas.

He was preceded in death by his grandfather (2025).

A celebration of life will be at 2 p.m. Saturday, April 4, at 42825 Green River Drive in Sweet Home. Sweet Home Funeral Chapel is handling the arrangements.

### Death Notices

**Bernie Bailey, 58**, of Lebanon, passed away Feb. 28, 2026.

Huston-Jost Funeral Home is handling the arrangements.

**Michael James Brendle, 57**, of Sweet Home, passed away March 5, 2026.

McHenry Funeral Home of Corvallis is handling the arrangements.

**Bill Collins, 85**, of Lebanon, passed away March 8, 2026.

Huston-Jost Funeral Home is handling the arrangements.

**Albert William Crebs, 85**, of Sweet Home, passed away March 15, 2026.

Sweet Home Funeral Chapel is handling the arrangements.



For updated information, visit [www.sweethomefuneral.com](http://www.sweethomefuneral.com).

**Dicky "Dick" Dale Dimick, 94**, formerly of Foster, passed away peacefully Dec. 9, 2025, in Portland.

A service and inurnment with the Army military honors will be held at 1 p.m. Saturday, May 30, at Gilliland Cemetery in Sweet Home.

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

**Charlotte Ann Dugan, 81**, of Lebanon, passed away March 16, 2026.

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

**Wanda Sue Felkins, 91**, of Sweet Home, passed away March 21, 2026.

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

**Pauline Lorraine Gillispie, 94**, formerly of Lebanon, died March 15, 2026.

A committal service will be held from 1:30 to 2 p.m. on April 10 at Willamette National Cemetery, 11800 SE Mt. Scott Blvd., Happy Valley.

**Carla Rose Healy, 94**, of Sweet Home, passed away March 22, 2026.

Celebration of life will be at 11:30 a.m. Thursday, April 2, at River of Life Fellowship. Private burial took place at Gilliland Cemetery.

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

**Randi Lee Hilton, 72**, of Lebanon, died March 15, 2026.

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

**Steven Eugene Lawrence, 72**, of Sweet Home, passed away March 18, 2026. Sweet Home Funeral Chapel is handling the arrangements. For

updated information, visit [www.sweethomefuneral.com](http://www.sweethomefuneral.com).

**Janice LuAnn Maxwell, 75**, of Lebanon, passed away March 17, 2026.

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

**Shirley Primasing, 83**, of Lebanon, died March 14, 2026.

Huston-Jost Funeral Chapel is handling the arrangements.

**Leonard Dale Sigmund, 86**, of Lebanon, passed away March 21, 2026.

Services will be Tuesday, March 31, at the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints in Lebanon.

Viewing will be 10 a.m., with the funeral following at 11 a.m. Burial, with military honors, will be at Sand Ridge Cemetery in Lebanon.

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

**Roy Alvin Steinborn, 83**, of Sweet Home passed away Jan. 7, 2026.

A celebration of life, with military honors, will be held at 11 a.m. Saturday, April 4, at Sweet Home Community Center, 880 18th Ave.

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

**Frances Anna Thums, 92**, of Sweet Home, passed away March 21, 2026.

A funeral service will be held at St. Helen Catholic Church in Sweet Home.

A rosary service will begin at 11 a.m. Saturday, March 28, with a funeral mass at 11:30 a.m.

Final burial will be at the I.O.O.F. Cemetery in Lebanon.

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

### Nettie Mealue

May 6, 1944 - Feb. 19, 2026

Nettie May McCain Mealue, 81, of Sweet Home, passed away peacefully on Feb. 19, 2026, after a week surrounded by loved ones.

She was born May 6, 1944, in Lansing, Mich., to Birdie Pauline (Hale) and John Franklin Loper. She grew up in Empire, in the Coos Bay area.

In 1961, Nettie married Douglas McCain; they had three children. She raised them with deep faith and dedication, supported by her church.

Nettie served as director of the HOPE Center in Sweet Home, coordinated women's ministries, led Bible studies. She previously taught preschool and kindergarten.

Nettie enjoyed embroidery, knitting, scrapbooking, rainy walks, and especially visits to the Oregon Coast, sharing

these hobbies with her granddaughters.

In 2011, Nettie married Wayne "Tom" Mealue, cherishing travels to several states.

She is survived by her husband Tom; sisters Lula and Flora, and her brother Michael (Patsi) Toney; daughter Rebecca (David) Buller; grandchildren; and great-grandchildren. She was preceded in death by her first husband Douglas; daughter Cynthia; and son Richard.

A celebration of life will be held at 2 p.m. on her birthday, May 6, at River of Life Fellowship in Sweet Home. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Sweet Home River of Life Women's Ministry.

A private graveside service was held at Gilliland Cemetery.

Sweet Home Funeral Chapel is handling the arrangements.

### Jason Quick

Sept. 20, 1983 - March 14, 2026

Jason LeRoy Quick, 42, of Lebanon, passed away March



## Events

### Last Lebanon winter farmers market Thursday

Lebanon Downtown Farmers Market will open its Winter Farmers Market on Thursdays from 2-6 p.m. until March 26 at the Santiam Place Event Center, 139 S Main St., Lebanon. SNAP match up to \$20. To be a vendor, email [shldfarmersmarket@gmail.com](mailto:shldfarmersmarket@gmail.com) with your information and, if approved, we will send you an application link.

### Stations of the Cross, Soup Supper Fridays

St. Helen Catholic Church is hosting Stations of the Cross during Lent each Friday this month, followed by a Soup Supper and fellowship time. Remaining event at 6 p.m. on Friday, March 27.

All are welcome to attend.

### American Legion Spring Bazaar

The Albany American Legion 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.

### Rock and Mineral Show this weekend

Sweet Home Rock and Mineral Club will hold its annual Rock & Mineral Show Saturday and Sunday, March 28-29, at Sweet Home High School's Activity Gym. This is the show's 76th year. The event, themed "Rough to Cut!" will include door prizes, raffles, lots of kids activities and plenty of vendors, silent auctions and lots and lots of rocks.

Food will be provided by Hot Poppin Concessions. Hours are 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Saturday and 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Sunday. Cost is \$1 per adult; kids under 12 are free.

### Indivisible group plans No Kings rally Saturday

East Linn Indivisible will hold a rally from noon to 2 p.m. Saturday, March 28, at Academy Square, north of the Lebanon Library. Participants will gather along Main Street, between Tangent and Academy, with pro-democracy signs, flags, and noisemakers. All are invited to join.

The purpose of the rally is to demonstrate that America has no king, that the sovereign power belongs to the people, and that the people of eastern Linn County stand together in supporting our democracy.

For more information about the No Kings movement, see <https://www.nokings.org/>. To learn more about the work of East Linn Indivisible, join the East Linn

Indivisible Facebook group or, at the rally, add your email address to the list at the East Linn Indivisible booth.

### 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 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. Monday, 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/](http://America250.org/fieldtrip/application/).

### Emergency preparedness for seniors

Oregon Cascades West Council of Governments will host a community workshop for emergency preparedness at 2:30 p.m. on Tuesday, March 31, at Albany Public Library, Meeting Room A, 2450 14th Ave SE. Designed for older adults, individuals with disabilities, and

See Events, Page 5

# 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), **LCCC** (Linn County Circuit Court), **LCJC** (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 22 SWEET HOME POLICE

7:57 a.m. - Kevin Lee Cuomo, 29, arrested for theft II following report from Thriftway, 621 Main, of theft at location. Approximate value \$160. Cited and released.  
2:07 p.m. - Caller reported rental car damaged, unknown how it occurred. Officer provided incident number. 1600 block Main.  
5:01 p.m. - Caller reported wallet found at Safeway, 1540 Main, with drug paraphernalia inside. Officer responded, seized property.  
5:59 p.m. - Crash reported in

1100 block Main. Non-blocking, non-injury, no tow needed.  
6:37 p.m. - Caller reported confused female wandering neighborhood in 1200 block 46th. Officer responded, female was returned home and son responded to care for her.

## LEBANON POLICE

7:38 p.m. - Kurtis Riley McClurg, 36, cited for DWS, improper display, fail to register, LMC warrant for FTA.  
8:19 p.m. - Eric David Utley, 54, cited on LCCC warrant for PV - possession of meth.  
10:15 p.m. - Benjamin Philip Hyatt, 47, cited on LMC warrant for FTA.

## LCISO/OSP SWEET HOME S. COUNTY

11:36 a.m. - Illegal camping reported in 1000 block Wlley Creek. Trespassers departed.  
11:37 p.m. - Deputy issued illegal parking citation for vehicle blocking roadway in 500 block Calapooia, Brownsville.

## LCISO/OSP LEBANON

1:30 p.m. - Exzavier Wright, 26, of Lebanon, arrested for DWS and on several warrants. Also cited for DWS, failure to use ignition interlock device. Waterloo/1st. Report taken.  
2:18 p.m. - John Vogt, 54, of Keizer, cited for DWS, DU, Franklin/Waters Edge.  
3:40 p.m. - Deputy spotted suspicious vehicle with no plates. Deputy confirmed

vehicle was not stolen and then located owner, who was walking the ditch, looking for golf balls, 31700 block Bellinger Scale.

5:26 p.m. - Kelvin Attebery, 37, of Lebanon, arrested for DWS, cited for DU, failure to renew registration and switched plate. Rylee Watts, 21, of Lebanon, arrested on warrants. Hwy. 34/13th. Vehicle towed. Report taken.

8:30 p.m. - Stephen Scantlin, 52, of Lebanon, cited on LMC warrant, 2600 block Porter. Report taken.

## MARCH 21 SWEET HOME POLICE

4:47 p.m. - Caller reported fight with her boyfriend, who was hitting himself in face. Girlfriend's windshield broken during incident. Officers responded, report taken for criminal mischief II. 4400 block Main.

8:28 p.m. - Caller from Thriftway reported juveniles skating in loading dock area, 621 Main. Officer responded, contacted juveniles, who ceased playing in area.

## LEBANON POLICE

7:30 a.m. - Raymond Lyle Tressel, 30, cited on LCCC warrant.

5:34 p.m. - Caller reported juveniles pulled gun from under seat of car and held it up, showing to someone at River Park. Officer found it was a CO2

gun.  
10:47 p.m. - Intoxicated subject punched in face, fell and sustained bleeding head wound, possible broken nose, Sam's Place.

## LCISO/OSP SWEET HOME S. COUNTY

9:02 a.m. - Deputy responded to 000 block E. C, Halsey, regarding report of injuries to child. It was determined bruise was result of siblings playing, hitting each other with bucket.

2:46 p.m. - Kyle Roebuck, 30, of Sweet Home, arrested for felon in possession of restricted weapon, carrying concealed weapon, 1000 block Wiley Creek. This followed call to SHPD reporting concerns about people camping in creek in that area. Report taken.

3:42 p.m. - Ryan McGinness, 38, of Sweet Home, arrested on warrant, 1000 block Main. Report taken.

3:44 p.m. - Ryan Krause, 28, of Lebanon, arrested on outstanding warrant after deputy responded to report of shots fired in 46600 block Old Hufford. While checking area, deputy located Krause. Report taken.

6:01 p.m. - Melissa Colburn, 48, of Cascadia, cited for DWS, failure to carry proof of insurance, failure to install

See Public Safety, Page 6

## Comfortably Dumb by Bruce Quast



## TEMPERATURES

DATE	HIGH	LOW	RAIN
3/17	74	40	0.00
3/18	76	38	0.00
3/19	77	41	0.00
3/20	68	44	0.00
3/21	56	38	0.12
3/22	57	34	0.00
3/23	58	38	0.00

## RAIN IN INCHES

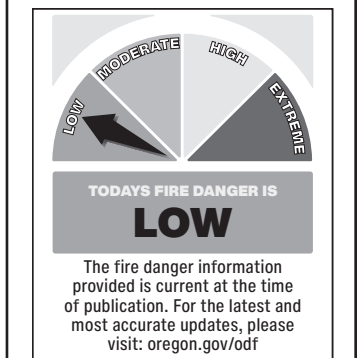
Year to date: 8.42  
3/26/25: 13.24

## FORECAST

DATE	WEATHER	HIGH/LOW
3/26	SUNNY	59/33
3/27	CLOUDY	68/40
3/28	CLOUDY	69/42
3/29	CLOUDY	67/43
3/30	RAIN	58/41
3/31	RAIN	55/39
4/1	RAIN	55/39

## LAKE LEVELS

Foster 619.7  
Green Peter 991.1



## CROSSWORD KEY

Puzzle on page 16

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

## SUDOKU KEY

Puzzle on page 16

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

# Municipal Court

**Somara M. Dulaney, 21**, pleaded no contest to DU - fine \$215.

**Hudson P. Forum, 22**, pleaded no contest to DU - dismissed with \$100 fee.

**Shannon G. Hampton, 61**, pleaded guilty to DUII - fine \$2,406, 180 days jail suspended, 60 mos. probation, 10 days work crew, drug and alcohol evaluation and treatment, victim impact panel, 12 mos. license suspension.

**Scott K. Heinz, 38**, pleaded guilty to assault IV, criminal driving while suspended or revoked, criminal trespass II - fine \$2,033, 60 mos.

probation, no contact orders. Dismissed: harassment.

**Tina C. Holt, 58**, guilty by default for DWS, DU - fine \$3,030, license suspended.

**Kirene S. Leslie, 23**, guilty by default for failure to register vehicle, DWS, DU - fine \$3,295, license suspended.

**Tereza G. Martin, 46**, pleaded no contest to DWS, DU - fine \$705.

**Terry J. McCarthy, 41**, guilty by default for DWS, DU - fine \$3,030, license suspended.

**Stephanie Mitchell, 44**, pleaded no contest to two counts of theft III - fine \$992, 10 days

work crew, 60 mos. probation, no contact orders.

**Jesse C. Richardson, 44**, pleaded no contest to unlawful use or failure to use lights - dismissed with \$50 fee.

**Christopher J. Swisher, 61**, guilty by default for DWS, DU - fine \$3,015, license suspended.

**Justin L. Walker, 38**, pleaded no contest to public indecency, two counts of criminal trespass II - fine \$3,283, 60 mos. probation, 14 days work crew, no contact orders. Dismissed: three counts of criminal trespass II.

# Circuit Court

**Rachel Leann Adams, 32**, charged March 19 with DUII (liquor), fleeing or attempting to elude, reckless driving.

**Erin-Jesse Vivian-M Austin-Clark, 25**, was placed in the diversion program after pleading no contest to DUII (cannabis).

**Jordan Eric Brendle, 36**, charged March 16 with two counts fleeing or attempting to elude, criminal DWS, escape III, resisting arrest, unlawful delivery of meth. Security: \$25,000.

Charges against **Brandin Martin Hugley, 38**, of theft I and three counts of unauthorized use of a weapon were dismissed with prejudice.

**Matthew Todd Lewelling, 63**, charged March 16 with two counts attempted sodomy I, two counts attempted sodomy II, attempted rape I, three counts sexual abuse I. Allegations involve a female under 12 since

2022. Security: \$150,000.

**Chloe Estelle Linares, 25**, sentenced March 18 to one year suspension of drivers license, 720 hours jail, 10 days compensatory service in lieu of jail, 24 mos. supervised probation after pleading guilty to resisting arrest, fleeing or attempting to elude, two counts criminal mischief I. Dismissed: fleeing or attempting to elude, two counts escape III, reckless driving, recklessly endangering another person, three counts criminal mischief I, resisting arrest, failure to perform duties of driver - property damage.

**Adam Stanley McDowell, 44**, charged March 16 with DUII (liquor), reckless driving, criminal DWS, DU, failure to install ignition interlock device.

**Andrew Charles Naegeli, 42**, sentenced March 20 to 10 days compensatory service in lieu of jail, 36 mos. bench probation after pleading no contest to menacing. Dismissed: unlawful

use of a weapon, pointing a firearm at another.

A case against **Elijah Aaron Pauls, 38**, was dismissed as a civil compromise. Charges were burglary I, criminal mischief I, criminal mischief II, criminal DWS.

**Eric Duane Peacock, 38**, charged March 10 with DUII (liquor), criminal DWS.

**Jerry L. Thompson, 61**,

76TH ANNUAL SWEET HOME ROCK & MINERAL SOCIETY  
**ROCK & MINERAL SHOW**  
 1641 LONG STREET, SWEET HOME  
**SAT. MARCH 28TH 10AM - 6 PM**  
**SUN. MARCH 29TH 10AM - 5PM**  
 DOOR PRIZES. VENDORS. DEMONSTRATIONS. SNACK BAR  
 ADULTS \$1.00 | CHILDREN UNDER 12 FREE  
**INFO: 541-451-2740 OR 541-451-1577**

## From our Files



Egg hunters wait behind the rope just before Easter egg hunting time in 1951.

### MARCH 29, 1951

City Council told a Eugene outdoor adventure advertising firm it must remove a billboard it had begun to erect at 15th and M streets because it was within the city's fire zone and was not approved by council. Petitioners had also objected to existing signs and future billboards, asking the council to prohibit erection of new signboards and require recently-built ones to be torn down.

Beginning work to straighten the S-curve on east L Street is delayed due to fear of rainy weather. As it exists now, the street has a sharp steep S-curve just before it meets Old Corral Road. At one point, an underground stream crosses L Street and motorists must bump over it despite constant patching efforts. The project will straighten the S-curve, build a gentler slope and connect L to Old Corral with a closed Y.

Arnold Hietala's 1947 coupe

caught fire while parked in front of the Marshall-Wells store, caused by either a burning match or spark from a burning pipe that fell to the seat. Two fire extinguishers were used to control the fire, but both went dry before the fire died. Hietala then drove to the fire station to get the job done.

### MARCH 25, 1976

The city will attempt to solve drainage problems which caused flooding in areas of the city during recent heavy rainfall. The council approved a drainage agreement and the expenditure of \$6,910, which the city hopes to use to allow it to go onto private property to solve area drainage problems.

High school students in Eva Benson's home economics class are involved in Adopt a Grandparent Enterprise (AGE) to "increase contact, provide for understanding and allow young people an opportunity to know

better what the older people still have to offer." The students hosted a Valentine's Day party last month, but the AGE organization meets regularly to discuss youth-senior issues, do activities with seniors, volunteer at the senior center, visit nursing homes and more.

### MARCH 28, 2001

Oak Heights Elementary hosted an open house to allow students to share what they've been doing in the Fun After School Time (FAST) program, a part of the school district's Community Learning Centers. FAST provides academic help to those who need it, as well as extra-curricular activities. Students have been helping in the Ames Creek Restoration Project with research and restoration, other students donned costumes to act out various roles for entertainment, and others shared their watercolor projects.

# Opinion: Oregon voters reject most laws in referendums

By Mia Maldonado

May's vote on a controversial 2025 transportation law will mark the 67th time in state history that Oregonians opposed a law strongly enough to petition for its placement on the ballot.

A majority of voters approved just more than one-third of those laws, including measures that gave sheriffs control of county prisons and closed the Willamette River to commercial fishing south of Oswego. Most recently, in 2018, voters approved higher taxes on hospitals and health insurers to cover funding gaps in the Oregon Health Plan after the first Trump administration cut Medicaid funding.

The remaining 42 times, Oregonians voted against laws that were referred to the ballot, often forcing lawmakers to find alternative solutions to budget constraints. That could very likely be the case for Measure 120, which voters will see on their May ballots.

A "yes" vote on the measure would raise most vehicle title and registration fees, increase the gas tax from 40 cents to 46 cents and double the payroll tax used for public transit from 0.1% to 0.2% of a

worker's paycheck until 2028.

This process, known as a referendum, has roots in distrust in the political class, according to Rep. Ed Diehl, a Scio Republican who helped lead the state's most recent referendum alongside Sen. Bruce Starr, R-Dundee and Taxpayer Association of Oregon founder Jason Williams. In late 2025, the petitioners submitted to the Oregon Secretary of State's office more than 200,000 signatures — more than double the 78,000 signatures they needed — to secure a spot on the ballot.

While they've sued to keep the vote in November rather than May, those legal attempts have so far been unsuccessful, and a Marion County judge said the law would likely survive other legal challenges.

It's not unusual for a referendum to take place outside of the November general election. The Legislature moved five out of seven referendums since 2000 to special elections in January or February or to the date of the May primary.

While a May vote means there will likely be less voter turnout, it is also true that delays on the implementation of the law will delay much

needed maintenance on Oregon's roads, according to Reed College political science professor Chris Koski.

### Referendum process has populist roots

Oregon was a pioneer in the West when it came to establishing the initiative process, Koski told the Capital Chronicle.

While South Dakota was the first state to adopt a process giving citizens a chance to veto a law, Oregon followed shortly after when early Oregon lawmaker and populist William U'Ren pushed for ways regular Oregonians could propose laws or amendments to the state constitution, or reject a bill passed by the Legislature.

"There was this feeling that parties were not being responsive to populist demands," Koski said. "There was this idea that if the Legislature wouldn't respond to what the will of the people were, and that was often happening in machine politics, that the people ought to have a say in a number of different ways."

In 1902, Oregon voters approved a legislatively referred ballot measure creating Oregon's initiative, referendum and legislative referral process. This trinity of tools became known as the Oregon

System, which Republicans recently warned they would use if Democrats don't take their concerns seriously.

"They're really influential," Koski said. "The threat of an initiative is enough to motivate the Legislature to do something."

Initiatives are widely used in Oregon in comparison to other states because Oregon doesn't just allow citizens to pass laws, but to change the state's constitution.

"As a result, the Oregon Constitution looks less like a hallowed document like the American Constitution, and more like a document with a bunch of sticky notes all over it associated with different kinds of changes that have been from this initiative process," Koski said.

### Gas tax hikes historically unpopular

Through a mix of ballot initiatives, referendums and legislative referrals, Oregon voters have shot down several attempts to increase the gas tax.

In November 1928, 73% of Oregon voters voted against a ballot initiative aimed at raising the gas tax from 3 to 5 cents per gallon.

In the May 1978 primary, the Legislature asked voters if it would support requiring highway revenue to be used first for maintenance and

infrastructure rehabilitation before any new highway construction. That referral also proposed increasing the gas tax from 7 cents to 9 cents. It failed, with 66% of people voting no.

The Legislature tried asking voters again in November 1980 if they would support increasing the gas tax to 9 cents per gallon. Nearly 850,000 Oregonians — 74% of voters at the time — voted no.

And in May 2000, Oregonians voted on a referendum petition opposing a Republican-led law establishing a diesel fuel tax and increasing the gas tax by 5 cents to the same 29-cent rate as the diesel tax. Oregonians defeated the law with 87% of the vote.

Gas tax increases are so unpopular because they disproportionately impact people living in rural parts of Oregon who have to commute to work, Diehl said.

"As I go around the state, everybody feels like they're taxed enough," Diehl, who is campaigning for governor, told the Capital Chronicle over the phone. "They're taxed to death and they do not feel like they're getting their money's worth for the taxes they're paying."

— Mia Maldonado writes for the Oregon Capital Chronicle, whose editor, Julia Shumway, contributed to this article. To see a list of the 67 bills that have been referred to the ballot in Oregon, and how they fared with voters, visit [oregoncapitalchronicle.com/2026/03/20/oregon-voters-have-rejected-most-laws-in-referendums-with-many-decided-outside-november](https://oregoncapitalchronicle.com/2026/03/20/oregon-voters-have-rejected-most-laws-in-referendums-with-many-decided-outside-november). Oregon Capital Chronicle is an affiliate of States Newsroom, the nation's largest state-focused nonprofit news organization, focusing on focus on "deep and useful reporting on Oregon state government, politics and policy."

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CCB# 110950

# Waterloo to update security measures, hire new recorder

By Sarah Brown  
Of The New Era

The Waterloo City Council hit on a variety of topics during its regular meeting on Tuesday, March 17.

**During the meeting:**

- Earlene Little asked the council to consider providing some sort of hardship clause or similar resolution in the city's ordinance regarding RV habitation, as her property caretaker lives in an RV on her property and she is unable to care for the property herself. The council agreed to discuss ideas at a future council meeting.

- Councilor Chad Wolfe reported he installed a stop sign on 4th Street at Kay Street.

- Councilor Dennis Scott will be sending out ordinance violation letters following a recent "city walk through" session held Feb. 21.

- City Recorder Grace Reed said the work computer needs IT assistance due mainly to her inability to

upload or access files that are locked under previous recorder Brandi Libra's access.

- The council approved the purchase of a laptop and printer/scanner that will allow the city recorder to digitize the city's ordinances.

- The council set a date to conduct interviews for the two applicants who submitted resumes for the city recorder job. Interviews will be held Monday, March 23, followed by a regular meeting at 7 p.m. to announce the new hire.

- The city will be putting up announcements seeking budget committee member volunteers.

- The council reviewed risk management changes the city's insurance provider would like to see, including continuity of operations, emergency planning, upgraded security cameras, and other points.

- The council directed Reed to look for a new bookkeeper.

## EVENTS

From page 2

caregivers who do not already receive services through the COG's Senior and Disability Services, attendees will receive emergency preparedness backpacks and learn how to use the items and how to customize the bag to their individual needs. Core conversations will include: What to pack and how to personalize your go/stay kit; how to plan for independence and

interdependence; Community Care strategies for emergencies; and accessible resource guides and planning tools. No RSVP is needed.

### Citizens Academy for Sheriff's Office

The Linn County Sheriff's Office is accepting applications to the 2026 Citizens Academy. The free course gives residents an inside look into the dynamics of the Sheriff's Office. Every Wednesday from 9 a.m.

to 12 p.m. for nine weeks, from April 1 to May 27, students will be introduced to each division and specialty team. There will also be one Sunday "field trip" to the firearms range and Animal Control.

The free course includes classroom instruction and hands-on training in areas such as patrol, detectives, corrections, firearms, defensive tactics, traffic enforcement, narcotics

See Events, Page 20

# SH woman arrested on DUI, other charges, after pursuit

A Sweet Home woman was arrested Wednesday evening, March 18, after allegedly attempting to elude a Sheriff's deputy during a chase that started on Highway 228 and moved on to Upper Calapooia Drive, Sheriff Michelle Duncan reported Friday.

According to Duncan, a deputy, who was not identified by the Sheriff, was traveling east at approximately 7:42 p.m. on Highway 228 near First Avenue in Sweet

Home observed an oncoming vehicle, a grey 2010 grey Mazda 3, which passed the deputy at a high rate of speed with no lights on. Duncan said the deputy saw the Mazda cross over into the oncoming lane and continue at a high rate of speed, still without lights.

The deputy activated emergency lights and siren to conduct a traffic stop and, according to Duncan,

the Mazda failed to stop and continued driving in the oncoming lane. Recognizing that the Mazda was posing a danger to the public before and after initiating the traffic stop, the deputy began pursuing the vehicle. During the pursuit, the Mazda continued to enter the opposite lane of travel around blind corners and on blind hills, still without lights, Duncan said.

As the vehicle continued, it forced three other vehicles off the roadway, nearly causing a collision, she said. The deputy was unable to stop and identify the drivers of the vehicles that were forced off the roadway and continued to pursue the Mazda, as it posed a danger to the public.

The pursuit continued onto Upper Calapooia Drive, where the Mazda finally stopped in the middle of the road.

The driver, identified as Rachel Adams, 32 of Sweet Home, was taken into custody without further incident.

The deputy determined that Adams showed signs of impairment. She was transported to Linn County Jail, where a search warrant was obtained for a breath sample. Duncan said Adams blew a .20% BAC, over twice the legal limit.

She was lodged at the Linn County Jail for fleeing or attempting to elude, a felony, DUII and reckless driving.

Drivers of the vehicles that were forced off the roadway on Wednesday evening are asked to contact the Sheriff's Office at (541)-967-3950 to provide additional information.

"Their statements are valuable to the investigation," Duncan said.

## 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:** Thur., April 2, 6:30 p.m., at City Hall, 3225 Main St.

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

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

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

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

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

**Lebanon Fire District:** Tues., April 14, 5:30 p.m., at 1050 W. Oak St.

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

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

**Halsey City Council:** Tues.,

April 14, 7 p.m., at City Hall, 100 Halsey St.

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

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

**Lebanon Planning Commission:** Wed., April 15, 6 p.m. at Lebanon Library, 55 Academy

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

**Sodaville City Council:** Thur., April 16, 7 p.m. at City Hall, 30723 Sodaville Road.

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

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

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

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

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

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# Commissioners back WesternU application for grant funds

By Alex Paul

Linn County Communications

At their March 17 meeting, Linn County Commissioners Roger Nyquist, Sherrie Sprenger and Will Tucker signed a letter of support for a grant application by Western University of Health Sciences (WesternU) to obtain an ODOT Connect Oregon grant to aid in the construction of a new medical school campus in Lebanon.

WesternU's College of Osteopathic Medicine of the Northwest (COMP-Northwest) opened in Lebanon in 2011 west of Samaritan Lebanon Community Hospital and adjacent to what is now the Edward C. Allworth Veterans Home.

WesternU plans to create a 150-acre campus on property that was donated by the Heatherington Foundation. The property is east of the current campus and is bordered by Gil's Landing and

the South Santiam River.

Connect Oregon funds would be used to create a street and underpass of an existing railroad and allow access to the new campus.

In the letter of support, Commissioner Tucker noted, "This project will offer a significant influx of highly trained health care professionals through the longer-term offering of post-graduate doctoral programs, contributing to the demands of our fastest growing and largest industries in Linn County and the larger region."

The commissioners added that private education and health services were the state's fastest growing industries last year, with employment up 2.9%. In Linn County, private education and health services account for nearly 20% of the private, non-farm jobs.

The commissioners also

pointed out the numerous community activities WesternU students take part in community-wide, donating more than 16,000 hours at community clinics, health fairs, literacy programs and donation drives.

## In other business commissioners:

- Approved a Personal Services Contract between the Linn County Sheriff's Office and Dr. Trey Woods to provide physician advisor services for the LCSO 911 Center, the LCSO Search and Rescue medical team and the Linn County Regional SWAT team. The programs require a medical doctor to provide oversight and approval of protocols. The current contract is expiring and the new contract will run through December 31, 2028.

- Approved an Inter-governmental Agreement between the Linn County Sheriff's Office and the Deschutes

County 911 Service District. Linn County will borrow an Evantide Recorder while the LCSO 911 Center's recorder undergoes maintenance.

- Were told there were 51 births (26 girls and 25 boys) and 100 deaths in February, including three people who were more than 100 years old.

- Reappointed Michelle Hawkins as the Linn County Budget Officer.

- Approved a draft Memorandum of Understanding with the Bureau of Land Management creating a Cooperating Agency status for Linn County for the revision of the Northwestern Resource Management Plan and approved having the Association of Oregon O&C Counties to act as a representative of Linn County with the BLM.

- Set an annexation hearing for 10 a.m. on April 7 at the Board Room. Craig and

Debra Bateman want to annex their property at 47080 Evergreen Lane near Lyons into the Lyons Rural Fire Protection District.

- Approved a Personal Services Contract with Family Tree Nursery to provide services to corrections and Drug Court clients who are experiencing addiction issues. The contract is not to exceed \$68,082 from July 1, 2025 to December 31, 2025 and \$204,246 from January 1, 2026 to August 31, 2027. This is pass-through funding from the Criminal Justice Commission's Justice Reinvestment Program.

- Were told the Environmental Health Department inspected 54 food service facilities in February and made 11 follow-up inspections.

- Approved the appointment of Marilyn Smith to the Community Service Consortium's Community Action Advisory Council.

## PUBLIC SAFETY

From page 3

ignition interlock device, and on outstanding warrant, 44500 block Quartzville. Report taken. 8:33 p.m. - Charity Bowers, 21, of Halsey, cited for speeding, 80/55, Peoria/American.

10:22 p.m. - Overdose reported in 40100 block Mountain Home. LCSO, Sweet Home Fire responded. Individual transported to area hospital.

### LCSO/OSP LEBANON

11:14 a.m. - Damage to vehicle reported, 1100 block Cascade. Damage estimate \$300. Investigation ongoing. Report taken for criminal mischief.

8:17 p.m. - Anthony Middleton, 62, of Lebanon, arrested on outstanding warrant, 3200 block S. Santiam Hwy. Cited and released. Report taken.

9:24 p.m. - Jeremiah Alberts,

48, of Sweet Home, cited for FTOTCD, Santiam Hwy./Honey Sign.

9:54 p.m. - Conner Provtsgaard, 37, of Lebanon, cited for warrants, 32800 block Brewster. Report taken.

### MARCH 20

#### SWEET HOME POLICE

12:27 p.m. - Caller reported juveniles climbing and throwing sticks on Church of Christ building, 1825 Long. When officer arrived, however, juveniles were sitting and playing guitar. They denied alleged behavior.

3:22 p.m. - Caller reported wallet, purse and phone stolen from 4600 block Mahogany Lane. Officer responded, report taken for theft I. Unknown value. Investigation ongoing.

10:34 p.m. - Caller from La Mota, 1027 Main, reported male setting up camp behind

location, talking about engaging in substance abuse. Officer responded, contacted male, who stated he was just trying to hide his belongings to keep them from being stolen. He packed up and moved along.

### LEBANON POLICE

8:49 a.m. - Jonah M. Poorman, 29, cited for speeding 37/20 school zone, 500 block Cascade Dr.

9:32 a.m. - Megan D. Axe, 27, cited for speeding 40/20 school zone, 500 block Cascade Dr.

9:45 a.m. - Kenneth D. Hale, 49, cited for speeding 34/20 school zone, 500 block Cascade Dr.

7:23 p.m. - Vehicles doing cookies in pullout at Berlin Rd./E Grant St.

8:10 p.m. - Noah Riley Carper, 18, cited for careless driving, fail to carry proof of insurance.

9:01 p.m. - Nickolas Ryan Shoulders, 36, cited on SHMC

warrant for contempt of court, AMC warrant for contempt of court.

### LCSO/OSP SWEET HOME S. COUNTY

1:01 a.m. - Deputy warned illegal camper, North River/Foster Dam.

5:12 a.m. - Cynthia Lynn Brown, 61, of Brownsville, cited for failure to yield to emergency vehicle, failure to renew vehicle registration, 3400 block Hwy. 228, Halsey.

9:01 a.m. - Caller reported crossbow bolt lodged in roof, 40900 block Hwy. 228.

11:04 a.m. - Blake Boshart, 20, of Shedd, cited for FTOTCD, 1st/Seefeld, Halsey.

12:33 p.m. - Deputy investigated burglary at Young Marines forest camp, area of Old Hufford/Quartzville. Missing items included TV, brush hog, generator, gas cans, propane

tanks and wiring. Value estimated at over \$8,000. Investigation ongoing. Report taken.

1:39 p.m. - LCSO investigated harassment complaint involving juvenile, 500 block Hausman, Brownsville. Report taken.

3:16 p.m. - Rhonda Moon, 58, of Sweet Home, cited for DWS, DU, Main/47th.

### LCSO/OSP LEBANON

11:00 a.m. - Caller reported that someone spray-painted the word "FREE" on the side of caller's bus, 32900 block Brewster Rd. Investigation ongoing. Report taken.

12:56 p.m. - Lora Doucet, 55, of Lebanon, cited for speeding in school zone, 40/20, 32100 block Berlin.


1:11 p.m. - Male trespassed from 38100 block Weirich.

3:52 p.m. - William Banks, 80, of

See Public Safety, Page 8

## Church Directory

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*Church of Christ*


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Wednesday, 7 pm  
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# Lebanon Fire District presents overview, challenges to board

By Sarah Brown  
Of The New Era

Lebanon Fire District held a workshop for its Board of Directors on March 5, providing a five-hour deep dive overview of the district's responsibilities and challenges.

### Financial snapshot

Chief Administrative Officer Desiree Barker presented the board with a financial overview of the LFD.

When measures 5 and 50 were introduced in the 1990s, challenges for all governmental districts began to grow.

In 1992, ambulance costs went from "reasonable rate" to a fee structured rate, which also affected the district's revenue, she said.

"It cut it back pretty significantly from what we were seeing before," Barker said.

It was in 2016 when the district began seeing the trajectory of expenses outpacing revenue, "and we are definitely seeing that today." Though the district continues to seek ways to mitigate it, the problem persists.

While property tax revenue goes directly to fire services, decreasing ambulance revenue demands some of that tax revenue cover ambulance service expenses.

It's a problem that causes the budget to look like the district is bringing in or spending more money than it actually is, based on how transfer line items function, Barker said. When residents see the budget, they misunderstand what's really happening.

"I've been looking for effective ways to communicate it so that people understand how that inflates our budget so that there's that immediate understanding, but it's very difficult," she said.

Barker said when she tries to talk to people about the problem, they seem to have "no real true interest in numbers" yet there's "a lot of interest in the accusations."

Currently the district is looking at a \$643,000 deficit, despite trying to cut even the smallest costs, from postage all the way up to staffing. Barker said the district had 43 full time staff in 2020; today there are 37.

"Removing staff means removing ambulance services, and that is very, very significant, and I think the community needs to understand that," she said.

Fire Chief John Tacy explained the district receives limited property tax from properties within urban renewal development areas, of which Lebanon has five, adding up to approximately \$364,000 loss per year (2022). Additionally, enterprise zones in Lebanon are exempt from property taxation during a period of time. When new homes are built in those areas, LFD doesn't receive tax for three to five years.



Fire Chief John Tacy, left, leads Kyle Kemper in a swearing-in ceremony March 10. - LFD photo

Other challenges include the rising cost of PERS, insurance costs, aging infrastructure and apparatus, and a growing population's needs.

As the district continues to seek various forms of funding, including federal and state grant programs, it's a levy that would ultimately help LFD simply "bring us back into alignment," Barker said.

"Public awareness is important," she said. "We've got to get the public on our side to understand how desperate we are to keep things in the right place so that we do not lose the ambulance services, because that's what's at risk."

LFD will be seeking guidance into the possibility of returning to the community for another chance at gaining a levy from voters.

"I believe we can get the message to the community by letting them know just how serious it is, but the mission here hasn't changed; we're here to help," Barker said. "That's what we need them to help us to do."

### Recruitment challenges

Firefighter Michael Perkins addressed the board on behalf of the Lebanon Professional Firefighters Union regarding recruitment.

"Based on the trends we are seeing, we believe this is becoming an organizational risk that could impact staffing stability and service delivery if not addressed," he said about recruitment.

Eight years ago, he said, was the last time the district increased its line personnel. Since then, several positions have been eliminated, "resulting in fewer personnel assigned on shift, even as overall call volume has continued to increase."

Eight years ago, the district was running over 6,000 calls a year. Last year, they responded to more than 7,000 calls.

He reported that in the past eight years, 28 line personnel

voluntarily left the district, representing a 100% turnover rate when comparing the number of union members currently working the line.

They cited the following reasons for leaving: compensation, call volume, burnout and schedule.

According to Perkins, line personnel receive about 10-15% below the average rate of comparable departments, while experiencing double the call volume per badge in addition to other duties they have little or no time to perform.

"At present, the district is facing increasing difficulty attracting paramedic applicants," he said. "We have developed a reputation among some local paramedic programs as a place that quickly burns through our paramedics."

Board member Robert Taylor asked Perkins how to, based on the budget crisis, fix

the problem.

"This is not just to say you need to pay us more money," Perkins responded. "This is saying that we see a significant challenge here in both retaining and recruiting employees."

Essentially, he asked, what alternatives can we come up with together?

### Operations overview

Tacy told the board he believes the district's Standard of Cover (SOC) is "really, really out of date," about 12 years old or so.

An SOC is a data-driven plan defining how emergency resources - such as personnel, engines and ambulances - are distributed to manage risks, and includes performance benchmarks, such as turnout and response times for fire, medical and specialized services.

"Standard of Cover really kind of tells us where we're at right now with what expecta-

tions are," Tacy said.

In order to update the district's Strategic Master Plan, Tacy would first like to update the SOC.

"It's pretty hard to project where we wanna be or where we're going without knowing where we're at," he said.

Deputy Fire Marshal Jason Adamson presented an overview of the Fire and Life Safety Division, which provides a variety of services such as fire code inspections, fire investigations, development plan reviews and training.

The division also performs a variety of public services, such as meeting children, giving station and tours, staff training, recommending medical options to families, defensible space assessment, fire extinguisher training, social events, smoke alarm installs, residential key box installs, lifejacket kiosk, youth firesetting intervention, emergency pre-planning and address marking.

Other services and programs provided under the division include hazmat, rescue, fire academies, CPR/First Aid education, lift assists, fatal accident investigation and clean up, and, of course, fire and wildland suppression, and EMS transportation.

As Adamson presented his division's duties, Board Member Dale White took the opportunity to chime in with a simpler, broader view of how LFD is perceived.

"The fire department is a problem solver," White said. "If anybody has a problem, they call the fire department, whether it's a lost kid, a cat in a tree, anything like that."

Division Chief Mark Fitzwater said the district tries to follow the National Fire Protection Association recommended guidelines as best it

See Fire District, Page 13

# TIME TO TRIM!

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

# Sodaville sets water rate structure, eliminating water restriction rate

By Sarah Brown  
Of The New Era

Following a work session on Monday, March 16, the Waterloo City Council approved a resolution during its regular council meeting on Thursday, March 19, implementing new water rates.

Residents currently pay a \$47 base fee that includes 2,500 gallons of water a month, with a tiered structure as follows:

Tier 1 - 2,501-5,000 gallons = 2 cents per gallon

Tier 2 - 5,001-7,500 gallons = 2.5 cents per gallon

Tier 3 - 30,000 gallons or more = 4 cents per gallon

During water restrictions, the tier structure - in addition to the \$47 base fee - would follow:

Tier 1 - 2,501-5,000 gallons = 2 cents per gallon

Tier 2 - 5,001-7,500 gallons = 4 cents per gallon

Tier 3 - 7,500 gallons or

more = 9 cents per gallon  
Mayor Brian Lewis explained there is no money from the Oregon Water Resources Department this year to pay for trucking-in Lebanon water during the water restriction season.

The council continues to work toward drilling Well 6, ideally to happen this year, but there's no guarantee it will happen or no guarantee what it will produce, he said.

"So we did a discussion on what our water rates would be in order to keep supplying water to Sodaville," Lewis said.

The newly adopted rates will "establish a year-round tiered rate structure," he said.

Meaning, there will no longer be higher rates during water restriction seasons.

The resolution explains the council believes the new

tier structure "will encourage responsible water usage and reduce the need for seasonal water restrictions," and will help with cost recovery.

"We don't know the reasons why (some people are) using that much water and we're not here to judge anyone," City Recorder/Administrator Molly McGuire said.

"We just need to make sure that we, as a city, can be sustainable and afford trucking in water at a rate that is completely affordable to the city but not reliable ... We're hoping that this will cover any of those indifferences throughout the years."

Effective April 1, the new rates - in addition to the \$47 base fee - will be as follows:

Tier 1 - 2,500-5,000 gallons = 4 cents per gallon

Tier 2 - 5,001-7,500 gallons = 5 cents per gallon

Tier 3 - 7,501-10,000 gallons = 9 cents per gallon

Tier 4 - 10,001 or more gallons = 11 cents per gallon

In other business:

Ray Jackman announced Rick Ally would like to donate a few concrete park benches to the city.

Public Works Director J D Burns reported about 380,000 gallons of water was consumed last month, "which is one of the lowest usages I've seen since I've been here," indicating people are conserving more water.

Burns reported wells 1 and 3 are each producing about 6,000 gallons a day, and Well 4 is "picking up whatever the difference is that's needed," while Well 5 is "just puttin' along."

Burns reported he, with Councilor Roger Perry's help, removed moss-covered plastic tiles from the

park's playground and pressure-washed the concrete.

The council adopted a resolution adopting Linn County's 2025 Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan, which identifies natural hazard vulnerabilities and outlines mitigation strategies. Adopting the plan makes the city eligible for certain federal mitigation funding programs.

Perry told the board he is in talks with someone who might help the city get a set of stairs at the park's lower parking lot to the restroom. He also intends to paint the old store building this summer.

Lewis said he used to be on the city's Citizens Committee, during which time he would ask residents to help out around town. He mentioned it might be of interest to resurrect this type of ambassador program again.

## Sweet Home Fire District reports positive movements

The Sweet Home Fire and Ambulance District continues to build its equipment and programs, thanks in part to grant funding and ambulance revenue.

During the March 17 board meeting for SHFAD, the following actions were taken or heard:

- SHFAD hired Kathy Brooks of Pacific Northwest Accounting and Tax with CWDG grant funds to help with the budget preparation this year to help manage the district's facilitations of large grant funding received and shared.

- The board approved the purchase of a 2022 40,000-pound hydraulic

gooseneck trailer for \$39,500, and two Type 6 brush rigs for \$575,000 through a cooperative procurement process.

- The board heard that two medic units being built for the district should be ready this year, one in April and one in October.

- The district is beginning to focus further on developing more in-house training programs and getting to the point where they can start inviting other agencies, including a DPSST-endorsed class.

- Ambulance revenue was up to \$110,000 in January, compared to December's \$86,000 draw, and February is also looking positive so far.

## PUBLIC SAFETY

From page 6

Lebanon, arrested for menacing following verbal altercation with another male, 32900 block Brewster. Report taken.

### MARCH 19

#### SWEET HOME POLICE

4:22 a.m. - Caller from 1500 block Tamarack reported neighbor put sugar in her gas tank, stole from her. Officer responded, report taken for theft II. Value \$300.

7:08 a.m. - Caller from 1800 block 18th reported phone and purse stolen. Officer responded, report taken for unauthorized entry into motor vehicle, theft I. Missing items described as black backpack-style purse and iPhone 15 pro.

9:13 a.m. - Heather Mae Kelly arrested on SHMC warrant for FTA in theft case, LMC warrant for FTA in trespass case, and AMC warrant for FTA in theft

case. Lodged at LCJ. 5500 block Nandina.

4:03 p.m. - Dylan Uriah Elder arrested by OSP on SHMC warrant for FTA in disorderly conduct case. Cited to appear April 8.

4:03 p.m. - Franklin Joe Whitton arrested by OSP on SHMC warrant for FTA in disorderly conduct case. Cited to appear April 8.

7:24 p.m. - Caller from All-Star Pizza, 2425 Main, reported male and female acting strangely at location, making multiple trips to bathroom and from front to back of building. Officer responded, trespassed male and will trespass female if located.

7:28 p.m. - Tiffany Ann Persinger, 42, arrested by OSP on SHMC warrant for FTA in theft case. Cited to appear April 8.

#### LEBANON POLICE

Lebanon police had not

submitted a log for this date in time for publication. When available, log will be updated at lebanonlocalnews.com.

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

5:12 a.m. - Jared Scott Swensen, 42, of Sweet Home, cited for speeding, 64/45, failure to renew registration, Bishop/Pearl, Brownsville.

2:39 p.m. - Deputies located campers on property near Old Miner's Meadow, 51200 block Quartzville. They were educated on camping rules and locations, agreed to move.

8:34 p.m. - Stacy Teixeira, 60, of Sweet Home, cited for DWS, DU, Hwy. 20/54th.

#### LCSO/OSP LEBANON

7:59 a.m. - Crash reported in area of Spicer/Spicer School. Single vehicle into ditch. Non-injury. Vehicle was extracted, drove from scene.

10:10 a.m. - Garry Archey, 61, of Springfield, cited for DWS, Santiam Hwy./Waterloo. Vehicle towed.

1:20 p.m. - Roger Gaskey, 43, of Sweet Home, cited for failure to wear seatbelt. 1000 block Williams.

1:57 p.m. - Cara Morrow, 38, of Albany, cited for failure to obey stop sign, 38100 block Mt. Hope.

2:16 p.m. - Kevi Wilson, 60, of Lebanon, cited for DWS, DU, 700 block E. Oak. Vehicle towed. Report taken.

2:50 p.m. - Corey Pedigo, 53, of Lebanon, arrested on outstanding warrant, possession of meth, 1200 block Franklin. Report taken.

2:56 p.m. - Nicholas Storm, 21, of Albany, cited for DU, 2500 block Porter.

### MARCH 18

#### SWEET HOME POLICE

6:06 a.m. - Brian Scott Keathley, 33, arrested for DUUI, 1100 block 18th. Cited and released.

10:57 a.m. - Caller reported someone hit mailboxes in 2200 block Long, left scene. Officer responded, report taken for hit

See Public Safety, Page 9



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**PUBLIC SAFETY**  
From page 8

and run. Damage estimated at about \$10.

11:38 a.m. - Caller from Taylor Made Cafe and Bakery, 1100 block Long, reported older male yelling at kids at location. When caller told him to stop, male threw can at them, according to caller. Officer responded, was unable to locate male, caller declined to pursue matter.

1:03 pm. - Caller reported animal feces in yard in 900 block 7th creating "bad smell." Matter referred to code enforcement.

1:07 p.m. - Citizen turned phone into SHPD that had been found in area of 10th/Oak Terrace. Item placed in evidence.

1:45 p.m. - Crash reported in area of Main/15th. Operators were Yerial Rosas Tenbusch, 19, driving 2008 Chevrolet Silverado pickup, and Charles Wilson Jr., driving 2011 Chevrolet Cruz. Officers responded. No injuries, damage under \$2,500. Parties exchanged information.

2:33 p.m. - Caller reported elderly female in area of 22nd/Main, standing in road, attempting to get into cars. Officer responded, contacted female, who was determined to be experiencing some mental issues. Family member was working on getting her home.

2:38 p.m. - Caller reported someone backed into his work vehicle, then left scene in 1500 block Main. Officer responded, report taken for hit and run. Investigation continuing.

2:51 p.m. - Caller reported stolen phone in 1800 block Vine. Officer responded, report taken for theft I. Approximate value \$1,050. Described as iPhone 15 pro.

5:41 p.m. - Caller from 1500 block Tamarack reported someone had made copy of her car keys and had used her vehicle, and had stolen her identity. Officer responded, investigation continuing.

7:17 p.m. - Multiple callers reported physical disturbance in 1800 block Vine. Officers

See Public Safety, Page 16

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# Lebanon's dancers cap challenging season with third at state

By Scott Swanson  
Of The New Era

It may not have been quite the finish that Lebanon's Explosion dance team has gotten used to in recent years, but the Warriors overcame some big hurdles this season to walk away with two third-place trophies from Saturday's OSAA Dance/Drill State Championships in Salem.

Lebanon has finished first or second in the 5A/4A/3A/2A/1A division every year - other than the COVID shutdown - since Coach Megan Lofton took over in 2019.

This year, Lofton said, she attempted to retire but it didn't work out. She was named the Lebanon Chamber of Commerce's Junior First Citizen earlier this month in recognition of her participation in a wide variety of community activities, including the Strawberry Festival parade and downtown events through the Lebanon Downtown Association. She also volunteers with an elementary school multiple times a week, all while working full time and raising her two young children.

But, Lofton said, "things just were not working out well" for the dance program at the high school, noting that her replacement coach left midway through the football season.

"They were kind of scrambling to find someone to take the program over."

She agreed to return on an "interim" basis.

"They needed routines," said Lofton, who started with the Explosion as its choreographer, right out of high school, before moving up to assistant, then to head coach. "I had longstanding relationships with these kids and



Lebanon's Explosion dance team members show off their hardware after finishing third in two events at the state Dance/Drill Championships Saturday, March 21, in Salem.

- Lebanon High School parents' photos



Ilikea Howerton goes high for the Explosion during a Pom performance earlier this year.

their parents," Lofton said. "Honestly, because everyone has their own process, I felt so far behind."

One positive: She had experience to work with.

This year's team has five seniors - Kaiyah Allen, Bryce Barber, Alley Gutierrez, Ilikea Howerton and Addison Raymond, - and six juniors, Addison Baldwin, Taylie

Dalebout, Inez O'Driscoll, Lucy O'Driscoll, Callie Steinhel and Sophia Vitali.

Sophomore Addison Keene and freshman Reese King rounded out this year's roster.

"That was so helpful," Megan said of the returnees. "They knew how things ran, how to operate when I came back, even though we were behind. They knew the slack had to pick up and they knew what they wanted to do."

"My goal was just to qualify for state. I never thought we would be as competitive as we were."

Lofton put together routines for the Explosion in the Pop and Jazz competition divisions, which are the ones Lebanon had been highly successful in over the past several years. She got help from her assistant over the past few years, Trinity Immel.

In the Jazz competition, dancing to "Dream On," they were third with 79.14 points in a fairly close points race won by Silverton (82.06), with Canby second (81.17).

In Pom, it was even tighter at the top, with West Albany first (81.31), followed by Parkrose (80.69) and Lebanon (79.36) in an 11-team field.

"It was kind of a crazy season," Lofton said. "I'm thankful for the help from all the parents."

"I really didn't expect to place as high as we did."

"Everyone stepped up to the plate."



Explosion members draw applause during a performance earlier this season.

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## Warriors named to All-Conference, All-State honors

These athletes are among those selected for All-Mid-Willamette Valley Conference basketball honors or who were state qualifiers or honorees in cheer, swimming and wrestling. In front is David Brandt, state qualifier in boys wrestling. In the second row, from left, are Samantha Walsh, state qualifier in swimming; Zoe Ruonavaara, state qualifier in girls wrestling; Brooklyn Davis, state qualifier in swimming; Addy Pickles, all-state and 5A champion in cheer; Piper Sewell, Second Team All-MVC in girls basketball; Jayden Hare, Honorable Mention All-MVC in girls basketball; Ruby VandenBos, Honorable Mention All-MVC in girls basketball; Mary Jane Duty, state qualifier and Second Team All-State in girls wrestling; Cade Weber, state qualifier in boys wrestling; Chase Herb, state qualifier in swimming; and Michael Foubert, state qualifier in boys wrestling. In the back row, from left, are Molly Basting, state qualifier in swimming; Peyton Vorderstrasse, First Team All-MVC in girls basketball; Hazel Pepperling, First Team All-MVC in girls basketball; Gunner Miller, Second Team All-MVC in boys basketball; Michael Kluttz, state qualifier in swimming; Logan Large, First Team All-MVC in boys basketball; Grant Basting, state qualifier in swimming; Grady Cox, state qualifier and Third Team All-State in boys wrestling; and Alex Kolling, state qualifier in swimming. Not available for this photo were Boston Borgmann, state qualifier in boys swimming; Orianna Buczko, state qualifier in girls swimming; Jack Johnson, state qualifier in boys swimming; Zech Halsey, state qualifier and Honorable Mention All-State in boys wrestling; Anouk Ricketts, state qualifier in girls swimming; Ryan Robinson, Honorable Mention All-MVC in boys basketball; Abigail Settle, state qualifier in girls swimming; Bailey Sim, All-State in cheer; Tyson Trask, state qualifier in boys wrestling; and Seth Wynn, state qualifier and state champion/First Team All-State in boys wrestling.

## Weyerhaeuser announces \$42,500 in grants to local nonprofits

Weyerhaeuser Co. last week announced it has awarded \$42,500 in philanthropic grants to Lebanon nonprofits through its Giving Fund.

A total of nine grants were awarded for workforce development, education initiatives and community projects.

"We're proud to support projects that not only offer environmental education and cultural experiences for children but also deliver essential services to our neighbors who need them the most," said Luke Rappe, Lebanon Giving Fund committee member and Weyerhaeuser's Santiam Mill manager.

"These grants are an investment in the strength and future of our community."

Weyerhaeuser employees serve on local advisory committees and help determine funding priorities within several focus areas, including environmental stewardship, education and youth development, human services, affordable housing and more.

"The grant from Weyerhaeuser will be used by our

Youth Watershed Councils for riparian plantings, habitat restoration and to purchase safety equipment," said Alex Shoulders, Education and Outreach Coordinator at South Santiam Watershed Council.

"This is a unique program that gets kids outdoors, giving back to their community and learning at the same time, and the grant will have a big impact in what we can achieve in the year ahead."

Across Oregon, nearly \$280,000 in grant funding was distributed. Recipient information is available upon request. East Linn County recipients include:

- Future Natural Resource Leaders - \$5,000
- Weaving Fala - \$3,000
- Dala's Blue Angels - \$1,000
- South Santiam Watershed Council - \$4,000
- Boys and Girls Club of the Greater Santiam - \$10,000
- United Way of Linn, Benton and Lincoln Counties - \$10,000
- People Involved in Education - \$3,000
- Native American and

Alaska Native Education Program at Lebanon Community School District - \$2,500

Weyerhaeuser is now accepting applications for its

2026 Giving Fund grant cycle. Eligible organizations located within Oregon operating communities are encouraged to apply by Sept. 30.

Organizations can learn more and submit applications at <https://www.weyerhaeuser.com/company/values/citizenship/giving-fund>.

## The ICEBOX Performer Of The Week



This week's ICEBOX Performer of the Week goes to Kasey, our new Inventory Yard Specialist.

Kasey was recognized by our managers for his great attitude and the way he shows up ready to work every day. In his short time here, he's proven to be very capable in every task assigned to him, pulling samples quickly and helping keep things organized and moving.

On top of his regular responsibilities, Kasey is always willing to step in and help with side projects. No matter the task, he takes it on and gets it done efficiently, helping keep the shop running the way it should.

Kasey is a great example of what our core values look like in action. We appreciate you!



# Huskies, Eagles post PRs in low-key season track opener

Sweet Home and East Linn Christian kicked off their track and field seasons Tuesday, March 17, with a low-key matchup at Husky Field.

"Usually, our first meet is just us versus us," said Sweet Home Head Coach Nathan Whitfield. "We added a little bit by having East Linn come, so they had a little more competition."

Sweet Home swept the sprints on the boys side, with junior Landon Murry winning the 100 (11.77, a personal best), senior Dillan Davis the 200 (24.02), and freshman Brayden Driver the 400 (55.32) in his first high school race.

ELCA sophomore Jonah Magness took first in the 800 (2:16.89, four-second PR) while Sweet Home freshman Elijah Rodriguez outleaned teammate Louis Kistner in the 1500 to win by four-hundredths of a second in 4:54.11.

Sophomore Evan Knight won the 3000 for Sweet Home in 10:26.15, outpacing Huskies senior McKenzie Miller, who was the girls winner in 10:57.41, 11 seconds off the personal best she ran last year at state.

Senior Loralai Mark won the 100 in 13.55, then Eagles senior Lexi Kauffman took over, winning the 200 (27.62) and the 400 (1:01.84, a personal best).

Junior Noelle Helrich was first in the 800 for Sweet Home (2:50.83), and sophomore Emma Whitton won the 1500 in a personal best 5:27.19.

In the hurdles, junior Nick Larson won both the 110 (18:02) and the 300 (46.38) for the Sweet Home boys, while senior Delanie Pratt won the girls 100 (18.84). Junior June Cowan was first for ELCA in the 300, in 54.28, which tied her PR.

No 4x100 relay was con-



Sweet Home's sprinters get things rolling with their first 100 meters of the season. From left are Bradly Dewitte, Mason Tyler, Kaeson Walker, Landon Murry, Dillan Davis, Manuel Rivera, Sam Barringer and Brayden Driver. Every one of the runners posted a personal best in the race. See more photos at [sweethomenews.com/lebanonlocalnews.com](http://sweethomenews.com/lebanonlocalnews.com). - Photos by Scott Swanson



East Linn's Tessa Savage clears the bar on her way to a personal best of 4-8½ and a win in the high jump.

tested, but Sweet Home's team of Driver, junior Hunter Clark, junior Landon Murry and Davis won the boys 4x400 in 3:50.95, about two seconds ahead of East Linn's all-sophomore foursome of Magness, Gabe Talleur,

Karter Nofziger and Ryder Howard (3:53.19).

In the girls relay, sophomore Cassie Spencer, junior Miu Simmons, Whitton and freshman Pyper Hall combined for a win in 4:55.62.

East Linn's girls swept the



East Linn's Maci Modderman unleashes a discus throw en route to a win in that event.

throws, sophomore Maci Modderman winning the shot (32-1½) and the discus (90-10), and senior Svetlana Manner leading a top-three sweep of the javelin with a throw of 85-6.

Sweet Home did the same on the boys side, junior Gavin Tyler winning the shot (46-6), senior Cannon Klumph the discus (117-4, a personal best) and sophomore Ean Tackett the javelin (124-7).

Howard won all three jumps for East Linn, clearing 6-0 in the high jump, edging Murry by two inches with 18-8¾ in the long jump, and taking the triple in 36-9.

Sophomore Sam Barringer posted a 3½-in PR in the high jump to take second for the Huskies, clearing 5-10.

On the girls side, junior Tessa Salvage cleared a personal-best 4-8½ to win the high jump, Mark won the long jump with 15-8, three inches short of the PR she

set at last year's districts, and Amara Gonzales won the triple jump for Sweet Home, going 27-9.

The pole vault was not contested due to an equipment issue.

"A lot of those kids hitting those same marks in Week Three is a pretty tall task," Whitfield said. "It's a little bit hard because we did so well at the end of last year. But we had a bunch of kids that were right there, close to their previous PRs, not quite hitting them yet, but they're right where we want them for this point of the season."

Sweet Home will host Woodburn Thursday, April 2, while East Linn and Lebanon will compete at the Regis Invitational that day, though some Eagles are scheduled to compete this week in the Mondo Track Club Decathlon-Heptathlon March 27-28 at Summit.

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# WesternU students get 98% match rate

By Sarah Brown  
Of The New Era

It was a red carpet affair for COMP-Northwest's Class of 2026.

The Lebanon medical students walked through glittering black streamers and onto a red carpet that featured each student's class picture on a star, Hollywood style. Other complementary decorations in the room made it obvious this was a special event, thanks to the decorating committee led by Katelyn Williamson and Natalija Stern.

COMP-Northwest doctor of osteopathic medicine (DO) students set to graduate this year joined other graduating medical students across the nation at the same time on Friday, March 20, to learn which residency program they matched with.

"Match Day is a significant milestone for our fourth-year osteopathic medical students as they learn where they will spend the next several years completing their residency training," said Emily Campbell, communications specialist for WesternU.

In Lebanon, approximately half of the 101 DO graduates gathered together at Boulder Falls Event Center to learn their residency fate. Others choose to take a more private approach because it can be a very special, emotional moment for them, Campbell said.

Past students at the Leba-

non campus have oft-repeated a well-known metaphor that going through the college is like drinking from a water hose, but most find a way to make it happen, even when they have children.

Kiana Fincher, specializing in family medicine, was among 12 other students from her class who went through the college while raising children.

"The biggest blessing has been my husband (Brandon)," she said. "He stays at home with our kiddos and takes care of everything that I can't, but we have been very adaptable throughout school and kind of making things work where we need to. That has looked really different in each year of med school; we kind of adjust with whatever we need to be doing."

Fincher came to Lebanon from southern Oregon, but only after the fact did she learn her own father was born in Lebanon's hospital just across the street from the college.

Of her three children, Eli, 2, and Eleanor, 3 months, were born at Albany General during her COMP-Northwest education. Her oldest, Blake, is 5. Her children are no stranger to the Class of 2026, as they attended all the after school events with their mom.

"They've been passed around this class since the day they were born, so we consider this entire class to be



Medical students in Lebanon gather with friends, family and WesternU staff as they await the celebratory moment when they learn where they matched for residency. - Photo by Sarah Brown

part of our extended family, and they've been a huge support," Fincher said.

During this particular event, the two boys flitted about the table, picking at their plates of food, while Eleanor found comforting arms by a couple of adoring "moms."

Campbell explained that graduating students apply and interview for several dif-

ferent residency programs, and this is the day they look forward to to find out where they will be going. A majority of COMP-Northwest students match with their preferred program. This year, 98% of the Class of 2026 matched with their preferred program.

Prepared by a countdown timer, the room went silent as each student held their

large red envelope and carefully tore open the seal, then read the words on the enclosed certificate.

Fincher's read "Cascades East Family Medicine" in Klamath Falls, Ore.

It was her first choice, leading to smiles, congratulations, a little bit of tears and a couple of nearby kids who were oblivious to the significance of the moment.

## FIRE DISTRICT

From page 7

can given its resources.

In urban areas, the NFPA recommends 15 firefighters on a scene within nine minutes. However, LFD can staff only two ambulances and one engine a day, Fitzwater said. The ambulance service, which helps fund firefighting staffing, covers 419 square miles from Brownsville to Scio, as well as some mutual aid in Sweet Home.

He said the district is seeing a rise in the number of ambulance service calls.

Ten years ago, the majority of calls they received had no overlap. There were 2,174 "no overlap" calls, and 1,762 "two concurrent calls," plus some three or more concurrent calls.

In 2025, the majority of calls were concurrent calls. There were 2,004 "no overlap" calls, and 2,413 "two concurrent calls," plus an increase in three or more concurrent calls.

Fitzwater told The New Era the LFD staffs only two ambulances, so when they are out during the concurrent call times, there are no more ambulances to respond to any other calls, forcing LFD to call in off-duty crews.

"We, on average, request

callbacks 48 times a month," he told TNE. "That means that on average, we have 48 times a month where we have no ambulance coverage in the district and either have to rely on mutual aid from Sweet Home, Albany or off-duty personnel to respond to the station and take an ambulance."

The number of concurrent calls is increasing, leading LFD to see they are in need of more ambulances, Fitzwater told the board.

According to him, LFD is currently receiving an average of 550 to 600 calls a month, about 75% of which are ambulance calls.

He explained that the district tries to hit NFPA guidelines. With the resources they have, LFD would like to get 10 firefighters on scene within 10 minutes, but by doing that, it would take longer for them to respond to a second call that may come in at the time.

Division Chief Russell Duerr leads the Training Division, which provides training for volunteers on different levels, including any mandated training and recertification processes.

Training includes firefighter and support volunteers, including partnerships with College of Osteopathic Medicine of the Pacific-Northwest



Julee Kemper, at right, pins a badge on her husband, Lt. Kyle Kemper, during a swearing-in ceremony March 10. - LFD photo

and Chemeketa Community College, which provides students who bring a variety of support to LFD.

Duerr organizes firefighter academies in partnership with other area agencies. Training covers a variety of focuses, such as standard firefighting, hazmat, rescue, wildfire, engine operations and more.

He noted that volunteer enrollment is dwindling.

"Speaking of needs," he said, "on the recruitment side, we're always looking for the rural firefighters. In addition to that is the tender operator program in our support volunteers."

Currently, LFD has only

two or three emotional and practical support volunteers, which Duerr would like to fill out more. A challenge Duerr faces is convincing volunteers to spend at least one night a week training, and to do additional training and respond to calls.

"The easy part for me is I can get people through the door," he said. "But then to have them engaged and continue their training and continue with the culture of the fire department and then so much learning plus the academy, that's where the struggle is and where the drop off is to keep people engaged and interested."

Other topics reviewed

during the workshop included apparatus, maintenance and protective gear reports, communications and general operations.

To watch the full workshop, visit LFD's YouTube page at <https://www.youtube.com/live/L08uOlik2dY?si=If6rW-Cl48nuykoo7>.

### Board meeting

The following week, on March 10, LFD held its monthly Board of Directors meeting.

During a mass badge-pinning ceremony on Feb. 10, firefighter Kyle Kemper was out responding to a call and was unable to be officially pinned by his family. The board took the opportunity during their March 10 meeting to recognize Kemper, who was promoted to lieutenant.

### In other business, the board:

- Approved annexations of 40850 McDowell Creek Drive and 43349 Snow Peak Drive.

- Approved the purchase of a Ford pickup from a pre-approved \$86,000 CWDG grant. The truck will be used mainly for Home Inspection Zone inspections and address marking, Tacy said.

- Tacy met with a public affairs consultant who recommended a levy vote in the May 2027 elections.

# Local organizations receive grants for cultural projects

The Linn County Cultural Coalition handed out a total of \$28,009 in grants to cultural projects and events in Linn County at an awards dessert Tuesday, March 17, at Santiam Place Event Hall in Lebanon. Coalition President Linda Ziedrich made the presentations to representatives of 15 local organizations planning events ranging from musical training and performances to museum exhibits.

#### The awards were:

- \$1,500 to the Lebanon Downtown Association, for Concerts in the Park. Shellie Jackola of the LDA said the event has grown in popularity and quality of artists in recent years. Seven musical acts are planned for this summer's performances, scheduled for July 7, 14, 21, 28, and Aug. 11, 18, 25 in Academy Square.

- \$2,000 to the Lebanon Community Chorus, for Music Master Classes. Organizer Denise Parmenter said the class, scheduled for Nov. 7 at Linn-Benton Community College, have drawn increasingly larger numbers of participants in each of the four years it has been held. During the MasterClass sessions, vocal coaches work directly with student singers while an audience of fellow students and teachers actively observes and engages.

- \$2,500 to Oregon Oldtime Fiddlers, for the state fiddle contest held earlier this month in Lebanon. The event draws 60-65 contestants who performed this year at the Lebanon Mennonite Church to an audience which, organizer Linda Parks said, increased in size due to advertising paid for by LCCC grant money.

- \$2,500 to the Farmworkers Housing Development Corporation, for Cafecito Multicultural. FHDC, which operates the housing complex located behind WalMart on Weldwood Drive, will use the grant funds to provide cultural training in music and inter-generational community and learning for some 150 families, many of them immigrants.

- \$2,500 to the Native American Education Program, for the Lebanon-Willamette Valley Powwow. Attendance at last year's inaugural powwow, held at Boulder Falls Conference Center, exceeded organizers' expectations and



Recipients of Linn County Cultural Coalition grants represent a wide range of local organizations serving Lebanon and Sweet Home.

- Photos by Scott Swanson

this year's event, planned for May 30, will be held at Lebanon High School, where more space will be available. The free cultural event will celebrate Native American heritage through traditional dance, drumming, singing, art and community education.

- \$1,500 to Sweet Home's SHOCASE, a community arts organization dedicated to promoting local arts, culture, and education, which is planning a murder mystery dinner performance this fall.

- \$409 to the Sweet Home Genealogical Society, for a scanner that will be used to digitize past editions of The New Era newspaper. Genealogical Society representative Chris Barnes said the newspaper archives, extending back to the 1940s, are full of historical details but are in bound volumes with no index, making it difficult to find information easily.

- \$2,000 to Brownsville's Linn County Museum Friends, for an exhibit on agriculture planned for later this year at the museum. Mandy Cole, a museum volunteer, noted that the new project, entitled "Rooted," will replace an outdated exhibit one designed to more effectively capture visitors' attention with artifacts from the museum's collection, illustrations, maps and interpretation, offering an authentic story highlighting indige-

nous practices, settlers' agricultural customs, landscape changes, and the evolution of Linn County's social culture resulting from the growth of agriculture. The exhibit is scheduled to be completed by the end of the year.

- \$2,500 to the Albany Downtown Association, which has revived the historic Crazy Days celebration. Historically rooted in early downtown (1898) "bargain days," Crazy Days long served as a gathering point for residents, merchants and visitors and was recently resurrected as a community celebration. The ADA plans to create 12 plaques-photographic installations for the event, which will be held July 10-12.

- \$2,200 to the Albany Friends of the Library, to cover the cost of books supplied to the Modern Voices Reading and Discussion Group at the Albany Public Library. Friends representative Laree Dominguez said the Modern Voices program provides underserved communities with the opportunity to read and discuss books on various topics without the need to purchase the book for each month's discussion. After each Modern Voices meeting is complete, that month's title is then put into a Book Club Kit for other groups to check out.

- \$2,000 to the Albany Regional Museum, for construction of a permanent exhibit on how Prohibition impacted Linn County. Visitors will enter a replica speakeasy room featuring an interactive bar and booth seating, historic maps of local bootlegging locations, hidden compartments, period games, and a music station showcasing popular songs of the 1920s. Costumes and photo opportunities will encourage inter-generational engagement, while interpretive content connects Prohibition to wom-



Susana Arroyo Burdett speaks about cultural programs planned by the FHDC Farmworkers Housing Development Corp. With her is Jorge Alvarado, director of programs for FHDC.

en's suffrage, the early Great Depression, and notable local figures. The exhibit is scheduled to open by the end of the year, museum Executive Director Val Van Alstyne said.

- \$1,000 to the Willamette Valley Concert Band, for music folders. Andrew Mitchell of the band said its membership numbers have grown to the point that its music library needs to be upgraded to accommodate the increase.

- \$2,500 to Albany's Riverside Cemetery, for an informational sign. Kay Birt, president of the Riverside Cemetery Association, said the planned signage is intended to inform visitors to the cemetery of its history and significance in the community. Currently, she said, there is no such information displayed at the historic cemetery, which was established in 1847 adjacent to the current Albany General Hospital complex.

- \$1,500 to Scio Saturday Market, to fund free access for the public to live music and entertainment each week during the market, including such groups as Celtic dancers, Aztec dancers, a marimba band playing Zimbabwe music, folk music and more.

- \$1,400 to Scio's Centennial School, for cultural perfor-

mances, which will include didgeridoo music and a cultural presentation for three age groups of the school's students, which will focus on live music, Aboriginal Australian history and traditions. Also planned is a Native American Cultural Gathering led by Deitz Peters of the Kalapuya Tribe.

Operating in Linn County since 2005 as an independent, nonprofit corporation, the Linn County Cultural Coalition promotes development of the arts, heritage, and humanities in Linn County through periodic distributions of grant monies from the Oregon Cultural Trust, supplemented by local donations.

The LCCC is among 45 countywide and tribal cultural coalitions organized to ensure that Cultural Trust dollars reach every county in Oregon.

The trust provides each coalition with an annual base grant plus additional funds based on population. The local grants are intended to fund a broad range of cultural activities, including arts education, historical preservation, community theater, and library programs for toddlers and elders.

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# 55 Plus

## Sr. centers offer activities, companionship for E. Linn County elderly

By Satina Tolman  
For The New Era

As the years pass, life often settles into a quieter rhythm. Careers come to an end, families grow and change, and daily routines can become more still. While this season can bring reflection and peace, it can also bring something many older adults quietly face: loneliness.

Health experts say that staying connected matters more than ever. According to the National Institute on Aging, too much time alone can affect both emotional and physical well-being, contributing to concerns such as depression, anxiety and even heart disease. But the good news is simple. Meaningful connection and activity can make a powerful difference.

Research shows that older adults who stay socially, physically or creatively engaged tend to live longer, feel happier and maintain greater independence. Whether it is joining a class, learning something new or simply sharing conversation, these small steps can open the door to renewed purpose.

That sense of purpose is exactly what local senior cen-



Members of the Lebanon Senior Center participate in a tai chi class, one of many activities offered by the center.

ters strive to create.

Kindra Oliver, director of LINX Transit and Lebanon Senior Services, describes the Lebanon Senior Center as a place focused on helping individuals “promote physical wellness, foster social connections, enhance cognitive

health, maximize independence, and connect individuals to resources to create a community where seniors can thrive.”

For Oliver, aging is not about slowing down.

“We believe that aging is an opportunity to celebrate

where you’ve been and support dreaming up new adventures to be had,” she said. “Life at 50 and beyond is full of possibilities for everyone.”

“Those 50 and older are already ‘members’ just because they live in the area,” she said.

Inside the Lebanon center,

those opportunities come to life in everyday moments. Creative groups such as wood carving provide more than a hobby. They create space for connection. Oliver said participants have supported one another through difficult times, including conversations about grief and encouraging each other to seek help when needed.

In exercise classes, that encouragement continues. Participants support one another through joint replacement, stroke recovery and chronic illness. Oliver said watching someone progress from struggling to walk through the building to participating in sit-to-stand exercises becomes a shared moment of celebration.

Moments of joy are just as common. On Thursdays, line dancers fill the building with laughter and cheers. Friendships often form in simple ways. Some participants discover shared interests, such as camping, and begin planning trips together. Veterans also find connection with others who have served.

For those who attend, those relationships make a lasting

See Sr. Centers, Page 16

– Photo by Sarah Brown

## Museum artifacts suggest ‘Golden Age’ not wonderful

By Roberta McKern  
For The New Era

Is the East Linn Museum a place of refuge from current history?

Yes. It contains examples of social history which focuses on the common lives of ordinary people – for the most part.

Artifacts displayed show us a past we have survived as a community. Was the last part of the 1800s and the early years of the 1900s really a golden age? Maybe our fascination with AI can answer the question while providing graphs to back up the assertion.

Many nations have claimed to have had a “golden age.” The ancient Greeks filled their legends with nymphs flitting around among fauns and centaurs.

Other people have looked for lands of milk and honey while in this country the desire was once for a chicken in every pot on Sunday. That may mean now is our golden era because carry-out fried chicken can be had at every meal as long as plastic credit cards are viable.

While we wander through the museum, we can decide if the earlier years were so golden although we know the answer – likely not?

We might, however, envision a man guiding a plow pulled by a large spotted

ox through a field of green spring grass and wild yellow mustard flowers with the Santiam River chuckling along the edges of a flood plain. How bucolic, we might think, overlooking how hard the work of planting and harvesting wheat or rye might be.

But were oxen so commonly used in farming once the land was settled by pioneers?

No. Horses took over for oxen when mustangs from the Deschutes bunch grass prairies began to be traded west over the Santiam Pass and its toll road.

Oxen were still used in logging and farming, partly as a matter of choice, at least according to what one man said, our imagined man with the ox and plow, Jake Menear. He claimed he used an ox instead of a horse because he felt ploughing was below a

horse’s dignity.

That seems to be a fair and sympathetic assessment.

Jake Menear settled on the Santiam River in the latter part of the 19th century at what is now called “Menear’s Bend”. His descendant, Don Menear, donated part of the family’s history to the East Linn Museum when he was involved in its founding in the 1970s, the times of the nation’s second hundred anniversary. This July the museum will be 50 years old.

Regarding Jake Menear, we know he was a Pennsylvanian who started moving west following service in Abraham Lincoln’s blue-clad Army of the Potomac toward the end of America’s Civil War.

As a young infantryman, Menear served during the final attacks leading to the fall of Richmond, Va., the

Confederate capitol. The war had become one of attrition, meaning the rebels being starved out from their trenches.


This was a type of warfare that expanded with the terrible trenches of World War I. The museum has Jake Menear’s discharge papers from 1865 which, frankly, we regard with awe.

After the Civil War, while

he was westward-bound, Menear and his growing family paused for a while in Nebraska. It is possible, then, that Oregon, with its plenty of wood and water, did look like golden land to him, as it has to many former mid-westerners.

History is nebulous and would and water in good

See Golden Age, Page 17



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April 2026

Sweet Home Senior Center  
Wednesday Lunch Menu

April 1<sup>st</sup>: Ham, Scalloped Potatoes, Vegetables,  
Salad & Dessert

April 8<sup>th</sup>: Salisbury Steak, Mashed Potatoes,  
Vegetable, & Dessert

April 15<sup>th</sup>: Baked Pork Chops with Stuffing,  
Vegetable, & Dessert

April 22<sup>nd</sup>: Open Faced Turkey Sandwich, Vegetable  
and Dessert

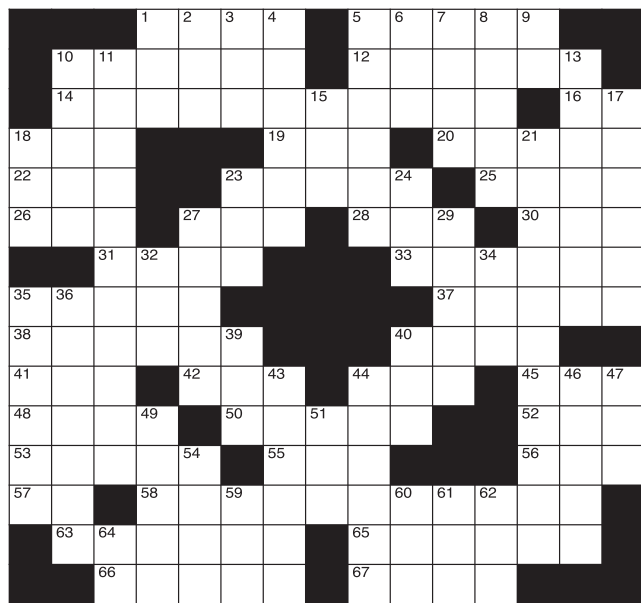
April 29<sup>th</sup>: Hamburger Stroganoff with Noodles,  
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\$6 Dine In, \$6.50 Take Out

Dining room opens 11:30 Lunch Served 11:30-12:30

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# CROSSWORD



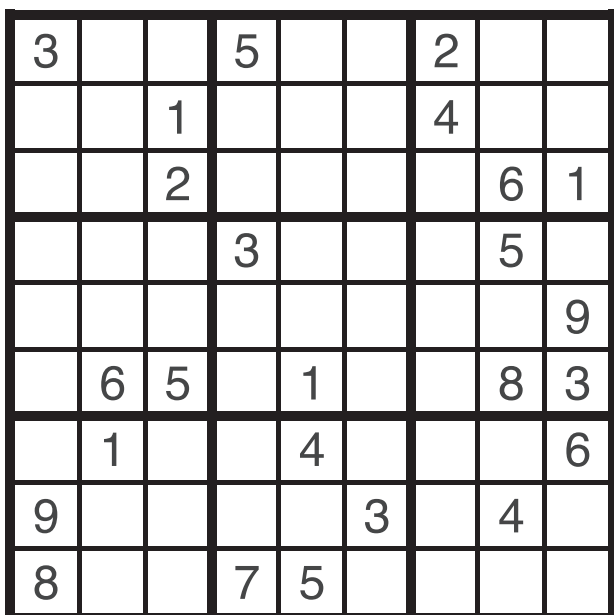
## CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Sexual cells of fungi
- 5. Communication device
- 10. Consumers
- 12. Kindness
- 14. Argentina's capital
- 16. Spanish be
- 18. Ad \_\_; done for a specific purpose
- 19. Fiddler crabs
- 20. Type of wrap
- 22. Picnic invader
- 23. Hammer ends
- 25. One-time Roman emperor
- 26. Pounds per square inch
- 27. Not pleased
- 28. Father's Day gift
- 30. Wildebeests
- 31. Algerian coastal city
- 33. Thoroughfare
- 35. More lucid
- 37. "All \_\_ on deck"
- 38. Singel-celled animals
- 40. Iron-containing compound
- 41. Where golfers begin
- 42. One who is gullible
- 44. Type of tree
- 45. Popular form of music
- 48. Makes a mistake
- 50. Recorded
- 52. Basics
- 53. Facilitates
- 55. Where a bachelor lives
- 56. Ink
- 57. Bibliographical abbreviation
- 58. Furnishes anew
- 63. Popular James Cameron film
- 65. With many branches
- 66. Flat pieces of stone
- 67. Sixth month of the Hebrew calendar

## CLUES DOWN

- 1. Had a meal
- 2. Monetary unit
- 3. Civil restraint order
- 4. Distributed
- 5. Pliable
- 6. Not him
- 7. Singles
- 8. First month of the Assyrian calendar
- 9. And (Latin)
- 10. Ingersoll and Moss-Bacharach are two
- 11. Ones who accept bids
- 13. Pined for
- 15. A team's best pitcher
- 17. Noses
- 18. Lansdale characters \_\_ and Leonard
- 21. Replaces lost tissue
- 23. Peter's last name
- 24. Female sibling
- 27. Kate and Rooney are two
- 29. Flammable, colorless liquid
- 32. Confederate soldier
- 34. Popular Dodge truck
- 35. A cotton fabric with a satiny finish
- 36. \_\_ Hess, oil company
- 39. Stopped standing
- 40. Concealed
- 43. Documents
- 44. Man's hat
- 46. Degrade
- 47. Amount in each hundred (abbr.)
- 49. Stage in ecological succession
- 51. Political action committee
- 54. Invertebrate structure
- 59. Touch lightly
- 60. Excellent!
- 61. Doctors' group
- 62. Hill
- 64. Against

# SUDOKU



Level: Advanced

# 55 Plus

## SR. CENTERS

From page 15

impact.

Margaret Hemnes, who regularly attends the Lebanon Senior Center and teaches a card-making class, said getting involved has made a difference in her life.

"That's the whole thing. If you just stay home and work on crafts, which I also like to do, you don't get to meet people and get out of the house. That's what you need to do," she said.

She said the welcoming environment makes it easy to build friendships. "Everybody there is very friendly. I have made some very good friends there."

She also pointed to the health benefits. "It is good for your health. It is good to get out and meet people and stay active. There is a big range of classes and activities," Hemnes said.

A similar sense of connection can be found in Sweet Home.

Rosemary Thurber, a retired nurse, has attended the Sweet Home Senior Center for about 10 years. She first began going with her late friend, Anita Lewis, to an art class and later added fitness classes to her routine.

That sense of community became especially meaning-

ful to her recently. After missing three weeks, a class leader called to check on her.

"I thought that was nice that she checked up on me," Thurber said.

She said those small gestures reflect the relationships built over time. "I think there is a connection anytime you socialize with people from week to week and you develop a close connection to them so it is great for your emotional health," she said. "The exercise classes keep you physically strong as well."

Thurber encourages others to give the center a try.

"I would encourage them to do it. There are so many activities at the senior center," she said. "The quilters make some beautiful quilts and auction them off once a year. There is a Bible study group and one for people who like jigsaw puzzles. The men like to play pool and do other activities offered also."

She also described it as "a great way to stay active and make new friends," adding that getting out, moving and socializing supports both mental and physical health.

At the Sweet Home Senior Center, 880 18th Ave., participants gather for activities ranging from Qi Gong and exercise classes to card games, crafts and community meetings. The center also hosts Se-

niors and Law Enforcement Together, or SALT, meetings, which provide information about safety and local issues.

In Lebanon, the senior center at 80 Tangent St. offers a wide range of programs for adults 50 and older, including tai chi, gentle yoga, Bingocise, creative arts, games and support groups for grief, Alzheimer's disease and dementia, and veterans.

Health experts recommend starting with one or two activities and increasing involvement gradually. The goal is to find activities that are enjoyable and meaningful, not overwhelming.

Sometimes, staying active is as simple as showing up. It may mean joining a class, starting a conversation or reconnecting with a favorite hobby.

For older adults looking to stay engaged, local senior centers offer opportunities to build friendships, maintain independence and improve overall well-being.

For more information, community members can contact the Sweet Home Senior Center at (541) 367-4775 or the Lebanon Senior Center at (541) 258-4919.

Staff at both locations are available to answer questions and help individuals find activities that fit their interests and needs.

## PUBLIC SAFETY

From page 9

responded; incident mostly verbal. Parties agreed to remain separated for night.

### LEBANON POLICE

Lebanon police had not submitted a log for this date in time for publication. When available, log will be updated at lebanonlocalnews.com.

### LCSO/OSP SWEET HOME

#### S. COUNTY

8:51 a.m. - Deputies responded

to suicidal subject, 100 block Kisling, Brownsville, who was transported to hospital on police officer mental health hold. Report taken.

7:42 a.m. - Deputy spoke to six classes at Central Linn High School, 32400 block Hwy. 228, on law enforcement careers.

10:20 a.m. - Deputy responded to report of trespassing in 500 block Spaulding, Brownsville. Investigation ongoing. Report taken.

3:01 p.m. - Stephen Yingling, 63, of Brownsville, arrested for

assault IV, menacing, following domestic disturbance in 100 block W. Kisling, Brownsville. Lodged at LCJ. Report taken.

4:22 p.m. - Deputy responded to report from hikers at McDowell Creek Falls who reported finding bones, 43100 block McDowell Creek. Deputy determined bones were non-human and were apparently a deer carcass that someone had dumped, along with other trash, on county property. Report taken.

4:41 p.m. - Caller reported vehicle burglary, 34300 block Lake Creek, Brownsville. Missing items valued at \$400. Investigation ongoing. Report taken.

6:58 p.m. - Vehicle blocking five parking spots reported in 37800 block Hwy. 228, Brownsville. Deputy determined vehicle appeared to be non-functioning. Tagged for removal.

7:42 p.m. - Rachel Adams, 32, of Sweet Home, arrested for elude-vehicle, DUII and reckless driving, Hwy. 228/Greenville. Report taken.

7:54 p.m. - Fraud reported involving bank account, 400 block W. 4th, Halsey. Investigation ongoing.

8:23 p.m. - Deputy checked on male in 44400 block Shea Hill, gave him ride to his residence.

11:30 p.m. - Linsey Mae Northrup, 36, of Brownsville, arrested on outstanding warrant, cited for DWS, Bishop/Loucks, Brownsville. Report taken.

### LCSO/OSP LEBANON

7:57 a.m. - Alan Lee, 37, of

See Public Safety, Page 17



Wolthuis Family Dentistry

### Q: What are the worst drinks for my teeth?

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

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

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

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

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

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# 55 Plus

## GOLDEN AGE

From page 15

supply has long been a determining factor.

As long as people have been settling down, they've frequently done so beside rivers with groves of trees on their banks. In the East Linn vicinity, this has been in the Santiam and Calapooia river valleys.

Yet as we view the museum's displays, we can sense wood has taken precedence over water in that logging became very important around the start of the 20th century. In the 1930s, after the train came to Sweet Home with a spur track up the Calapooia to Dollar Camp, work in the timber industry expanded rapidly, especially when Europe began to prepare for World War II. The museum features a collection of cross-cut saws, the cookstove from Dollar Camp on the Calapooia, the Denby truck used in logging, and various other

relics, including the paraphernalia used by a tree topper to prepare a carefully selected fir as a spar pole for getting the logs out of the forest.

The war years of 1939 when war began in Europe to 1945 when it ended, saw a growth of the timber industry here which continued during the conflagration's aftermath. Jobs in the timber industry included logging, sawmills, plywood mills, and eventually a paper mill and were plentiful in the general vicinity.

This has been called the "good times," when cars were big enough to seat six 6-footers (men) and many families began to have two cars, one so Dad could commute to work and the other, the big one with fins, for the family.

Mom would have to learn to drive if she didn't already know how. Now, she could take the kids to the dentist or doctor.

Too, as prosperity grew, avenues of education increased, especially when the Russians launched Sputnik at the end of the 1950s, setting off a rocket science race between the Communist and American worlds.

Considering the late 1940s to about the 1970s when the timber industry began to drop off, those of us who can just remember the end of World War II likely lived through the "golden era" here.

It involved rising expectations. Like the museum, each of us carries a trove of social history memories. Children building their own mental files can make connections as a 4-year-old did who once tried to climb into a high-chair displayed accessibly. The boy was too big to fit into the chair, but he understood its meaning.

He was also adventurous and not interested in seeing himself reflected in the glass

in the lower display cabinets twice as tall as he was. In truth, we take refuge in the past frequently. There is the quote about history attributed to Winston Churchill: "Those who fail to learn from history, are doomed to repeat it." That seems to happen politically all the time or failures of politics might not contribute to our many wars or conflicts or armed excursions always taking place somewhere and, it seems, around the globe.

Many nations depend on inflated historical pasts to explain competition with their neighbors for lands each claim.

The museum's little military room, plus the sabers and guns displayed in the main room emphasize this.

But, the bulk of the museum's goods reflect the mundane facts of life including

furniture, crockery, cooking stoves, rocking chairs, carpenter's tools, and much more.

We can think of Jake Meneer and his use of an ox to plow with because of respect for the dignity of a horse and we humans should be able to spare consideration for each other and treat each other with courtesy. If we can stack facts of history to promote bad results, we can also take refuge in what is good enough to outweigh the bad.

In truth, most people do behave well. They just need to visit the East Linn Museum and wonder how the past continues to contribute to the present in material form.

A picture of Jake Meneer can be found along with logging and other gear from timber's heyday, but we lack a photograph of a particularly dignified horse.

## PUBLIC SAFETY

From page 16

Corvallis, cited for DU. 36300 block Airport. Vehicle towed. Report taken.

### MARCH 17

#### SWEET HOME POLICE

1:33 a.m. - Johnny Lee Stone, 33, arrested by Albany police on SHMC warrants for FTA in trespassing case, FTC in false report case. Cited to appear April 8.

2:11 a.m. - Ashley Ruthann McCarthy, 28, arrested on SHMC warrant for FTA in trespassing case. Cited to appear April 8.

3:30 a.m. - Cody Lee Vern Jones, 44, arrested by Lebanon police on SHMC warrant for FTC in theft case. Cited to appear April 8.

6:27 a.m. - Caller from City Hall, 3227 Main, reported person sleeping at location, would like them moved along. Officer responded, located male who was advised not to camp on city property, to move along.

8:36 a.m. - Brett McCan Caudill cited for speeding, 55/35, 100 block Main.

10:17 a.m. - Brenna Rae Candler, 45, arrested for theft III after caller from Thriftway, 621 Main, reported female stole items from store. Approximate value \$14.32. Cited and released.

10:26 a.m. - Eric Abril Encinas, 47, arrested for theft II after caller reported male and female had set up camp in gazebo in Sankey Park, 877 14th. Arrest stemmed from earlier case in which a wallet with bank cards was stolen from a parked vehicle in 1100 block 4th. One of the cards was used at several businesses in county for a total loss of approximately \$125.

12:00 p.m. - Caller reported someone camping in 1300 block Clark Mill. Officer responded, advised caller of options.

2:07 p.m. - Caller reported neighbor's dog jumping fence, attacking his dog, 1100 block 24th. Officer responded, advised caller of options.

8:47 p.m. - Officer responded to verbal disturbance in parking lot at SHPD. Argument involved bathroom use. Parties agreed to remain separated, female trespassed from SHPD restricted driveway.

#### LEBANON POLICE

3:25 a.m. - Cody Lee Vern Jones, 44, cited on SHMC warrant for contempt of court.

4:21 a.m. - Joseph Lee Shores, 54, cited on Benton County Circuit Court warrant for FTA - false information. Deanna Bernice Terwilliger, 41, cited on LMC warrant for PV and LCCC warrant for FTA - theft II. Both taken into custody for criminal trespass I.

8:57 a.m. - Bryan James Hortt, 44, cited on Philomath Municipal Court warrant for FTA - theft III.

9:06 a.m. - Lock for garbage area at Redbud Apartments broken off. Loss: \$80. Wyatt Lynn Alan Vaughan, 22, taken

into custody for theft III. Report taken.

12:40 p.m. - Catherine J. Molini, 65, cited for DU, speeding 41/25, improper display.

1:50 p.m. - Wyatt Lynn Alan Vaughan, 22, taken into custody on AMC warrant for FTC - contempt, Benton County Circuit Court warrant for unlawful possession of meth, LMC warrant for PV - criminal trespass II, and LCCC warrants for FTAs - DUII, possession of meth. Report taken for escape III, criminal mischief III.

3:40 p.m. - Complaint about free range ducks and chickens in neighbor's yard, 37800 block E Grant St.

3:56 p.m. - Caller reported drone attacking their security camera, 900 block S 9th St.

**See more and updated public safety reports on our websites.**

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## Public Notices

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 irrigation in Sec. 10, T10S, R2W, WM. The applicant proposes to change from supplemental use to primary use. The Water Resources Department proposes to approve the transfer, based on the requirements of ORS Chapter 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 additional information. If no protests are filed, the proposed final order will become a final order 33 days after the protest period ends, without any further action by the Department. (3/18 - 3/25)

#### 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 Committee will take place. Any person may appear at the meeting and discuss the proposed programs with the Budget Committee.

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, between the 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 discuss 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 receive the budget message. A copy of the budget document may be inspected or obtained after April 7th, 2026, at the Lebanon Fire District office between the hours 9:00A.M. to 4:00 P.M Monday-Thursday.

This is a public meeting where deliberation of the Budget Committee 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 appear at this meeting and discuss the proposed programs with the Budget Committee. Information is also available on the Lebanon Fire District

## Public Notices

website: <https://www.lebanonfireoregon.gov/> . You may also join the meeting via Zoom. (Instructions below) Live Stream the meeting: <https://www.youtube.com/@lebanonfiredistrict/streams> Join Zoom Meeting: Meeting ID: 862 5563 8389 Passcode: 598282 <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86255638389?pwd=bsLYwet0ly5rz5y14jFxadmHAh8WcO.1> Dial by your location • +1 669 444 9171 US (3/18 - 4/1)

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

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

REQUEST: The applicant is requesting a Maximum Lot Coverage Adjustment to allow the construction of a new 1,994 square-foot single family residence on a 4,500 square foot lot. The minimum lot area for a single-family dwelling on a Residential Low-Density Lot is 7,000 square feet. The subject property, located at 5550 Quince Street, is Block 10 Lot 7 of Charles Altschul's Subdivision Addition. The average lot area on Block 10 is between 4,500 square feet and 5,000 square feet. The subject property is considered a non-conforming lot. SHMC 17.04.020 Non-Conforming Structure or Lot: A lawful existing structure or lot at the time this chapter or any amendment thereto becomes effective which does not conform to the dimensional or similar standards of the zone in which it is located. Based on SHMC 17.10.060, the maximum allowed lot coverage is 40%. SHMC 17.100.010 permits adjustments that result in no more than a 10 percent modification to a quantifiable development standard. The proposed 1,994 square foot single-family dwelling on a 4,500 square foot lot would result in 44% lot coverage. This represents a 4% increase over the standard and therefore qualifies for consideration as an adjustment. The subject property (identified as Tax Lot 2500) is located in the R1 (Low Density Residential) Zone.

APPLICANT AND PROPERTY OWNER: Quality Plus Inc. FILE NUMBERS: AD26-03. PROPERTY LOCATION: Property A: 5550 Quince St, Sweet Home, OR 97386; Identified on the Linn County Assessor's Map as 27AC Tax Lot 2500.

REVIEW AND DECISION CRITERIA: Sweet Home Municipal Code Section(s): 17.10.020, 17.100, 17.124. STAFF CONTACT: Ray Grundy, Planning & Building Permit

## Public Notices

Technician. Phone: (541) 367-8113; Email: [rgrundy@sweethomeor.gov](mailto:rgrundy@sweethomeor.gov) DATE MAILED: 03/16/2026.

Comments must be received no later than: 5:00 PM March 27th, 2026. Written comments may be submitted to the Planning and Building Department at 3225 Main Street, Sweet Home, Oregon 97386 or to the staff contact listed above. Please include reference to the file number in the subject line of your comments. Notice of the decision on this application will only be mailed to the applicant, property owner, those who provided written comments on the proposal, and those who requested a copy of the decision. The failure of an issue to be raised in writing within the specified time frame, or failure to provide sufficient specificity to afford the decision maker an opportunity to respond to the issue, precludes appeal to the Land Use Board of Appeals based on that issue. A copy of the application and all documents and evidence relied upon by the applicant and applicable criteria are available for inspection at no cost and a copy will be provided at reasonable cost. A copy of the staff report will be available for inspection at no cost when it is complete, and a copy will be provided at reasonable cost. You may contact the Planning and Building Department at 3225 Main Street, Sweet Home, Oregon 97386; Phone: (541) 367-8113. (3/25)

NOTICE OF PENDING ADMINISTRATIVE DECISION AND REQUEST FOR COMMENT. The Sweet Home Community and Economic Development Department received an application for an Adjustment, and the Planning and Building Manager will decide on this request soon. The Department is now seeking your comments and suggestions. REQUEST: The applicant is requesting to partition an approximately 22,216 square foot (0.51 acre) lot into two parcels per Sweet Home Municipal Code 17.98. Proposed Parcel 1 shall be approximately 14,739 square feet. Proposed Parcel 2 shall be approximately 7,477 square feet. The subject property is located in the R1 (Low Density Residential) Zone. APPLICANT: Sweet Home Residential, LLC, C/O Josh Victor. PROPERTY OWNER: SH Residential LLC. FILE NUMBERS: P26-03. PROPERTY LOCATION: Property A: 3303 Long St, Sweet Home, OR 97386; Identified on the Linn County Assessor's Map as 32AD Tax Lot 00400. REVIEW AND DECISION CRITERIA: Sweet Home Municipal Code Section(s) 17.10.030, 17.58, 17.98, 17.124. STAFF CONTACT: Ray Grundy, Planning & Building Permit Technician. Phone: (541) 367-8113; Email: [rgrundy@sweethomeor.gov](mailto:rgrundy@sweethomeor.gov) DATE MAILED: 03/16/2026. Comments must be received no later than: 5:00 PM April 3rd, 2026. Written comments may be submitted to the Planning and Building Department at 3225 Main Street, Sweet Home, Oregon 97386 or to the staff contact listed above. Please include reference to the

## Public Notices

file number in the subject line of your comments. Notice of the decision on this application will only be mailed to the applicant, property owner, those who provided written comments on the proposal, and those who requested a copy of the decision. The failure of an issue to be raised in writing within the specified time frame, or failure to provide sufficient specificity to afford the decision maker an opportunity to respond to the issue, precludes appeal to the Land Use Board of Appeals based on that issue. A copy of the application and all documents and evidence relied upon by the applicant and applicable criteria are available for inspection at no cost and a copy will be provided at reasonable cost. A copy of the staff report will be available for inspection at no cost when it is complete, and a copy will be provided at reasonable cost. You may contact the Planning and Building Department at 3225 Main Street, Sweet Home, Oregon 97386; Phone: (541) 367-8113. (3/25)

#### Summons By Publication To: Axl Lee Gallagher

You have been sued by Megan Gallagher, the Petitioner, in the District Court in and for Bannack County, Idaho, Case No. CV03-26-00657.

The nature of the claim against you is for Divorce with Minor Children.

Any time after 21 days following the last publication of this Summons, the court may enter a judgment against you without further notice, unless prior to that you have filed a written response in the proper form, including case number, and paid any required filing fees to the Clerk of the Court at [mailing address, physical address (if different from mailing address) and telephone number of the district court clerk] 624 E Center St. Pocatello, ID 83204 Phone number 208-915-2604 and served a copy of your response on the other party, whose mailing address and telephone number are: 1624 N. Arthur #1 Pocatello, ID 83204 phone number 208-915-2604

A copy of the Summons and Petition/Motion can be obtained by contacting either the clerk of the Court or the other party. If you wish legal assistance, you should immediately retain an attorney to advise you in this matter.

Date: 3/17/2026  
Clerk, by: Brandy Peck, Deputy Clerk (3/25 - 4/15)

In the Matter of the Intestate Estate of GLEN A. BERGERON  
**NOTICE TO INTERESTED PERSONS**

Linn County Case No. 26PB02171  
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 Glen A. Bergeron, deceased. All persons having claims against said estate are required to present the same, with proper vouchers, to the personal representative in care of Sarah Castleton, of Ivers & Miller Law 317 W. 1st Ave, Suite

## Public Notices

302, Albany, OR 97321, within four (4) months after the date of first publication of this notice, or the claims may be barred. All persons whose rights may be affected by the proceedings may obtain additional information from the records of the court, the personal representative or the attorney for the personal representative. DATED and first published: March 25, 2026. Antonio Taylor  
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](mailto:sarah@ivers.law)  
(3/25)

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#### Free Garden Class

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#### Stop Smoking

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#### Statewide Notices

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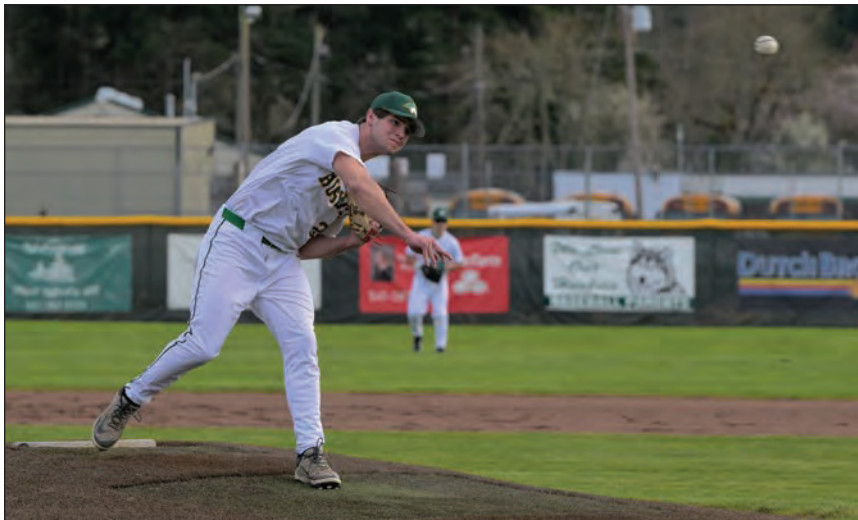
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# Huskies kick off 2026 baseball season with win over Madras



Sweet Home opened its baseball season with a 3-0 win over visiting Madras. (See our baseball preview in the second section of this issue for more on that game.) At left, catcher Eddie Taylor awaits the arrival of a Madras runner at home. Right, Cohen Gutierrez awaits the throw to third as a Madras runner slides in. Below left, Luke Rosa delivers a pitch. Below right, Conner Northern goes low for the throw at first. Note: Madras did not provide a roster with numbers so we could identify its players. See more game photos at [sweethomenews.com](http://sweethomenews.com).

– Keeghan Gittins photos



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### EVENTS From page 5

investigations, swift water rescue and dive recovery, and search and rescue.

The minimum age for attendees is 18 years, however applications will be considered for those as young as 16, provided they attend and take part in Citizens Academy with their parent or guardian.

For more information, contact Community Services Specialist Michael Mattingly at [mmattingly@linnsheff.org](mailto:mmattingly@linnsheff.org). To apply, visit [www.linnsheff.org/volunteer-programs/citizens-academy](http://www.linnsheff.org/volunteer-programs/citizens-academy).

#### Donate blood April 3 in Sweet Home

A blood drive will be held from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Friday, April 3, at the Evangelical Church Activity Center, 1347 Long St., Sweet Home.

Schedule an appointment by calling 1-800-733-2767 (RED-CROSS) or visiting [RedCrossBlood.org](http://RedCrossBlood.org) and enter SweetHomeComm.

If you are an eligible type O, B- or A- donor, consider making a Power Red donation. Red blood cells are the most commonly transfused blood component. Donors between March 30 and April 12 can receive a Red Cross Life is Good T-shirt. Quantities are limited.

#### Activities at the Healing Gardens

Lebanon Community Hospital Foundation invites people to enjoy the hospital's Japanese healing gardens through several upcoming opportunities. For more information, contact Brandy O'Bannon at [bobannon@samhealth.org](mailto:bobannon@samhealth.org).

**April 10 at 10 a.m.** – Garden Tour: Free monthly garden tour. No registration required. Meet at the gazebo by the koi pond at the Boulder Falls garden, 605 Mullins Dr.

**April 11 at 1 p.m.** – Quiet Seeing-Creative Nature Journaling Class: Explore the healing garden through mindful observation and simple creative practices during a time of quiet attention, reflection and connection. Artist and instructor Elizabeth Higgins will guide participants to slow down, engage their senses and observe the natural setting through mindful drawing and writing. Gentle, accessible prompts support attentive looking and listening, sensory awareness and simple recording through sketches and brief written reflections. This free event is geared toward adults 18 and older; pets are not permitted. Participants should bring a notebook or journal. Register online at [samhealth.org/event/de-stress-with-your-senses](http://samhealth.org/event/de-stress-with-your-senses).

#### Habitat for Humanity Breakfast Fundraiser

Habitat for Humanity will host a complimentary buffet breakfast at 8 a.m. on Tuesday, April 14, at Boulder Falls Inn Event Center, 605 Mullins Dr.

A guest speaker from Washington, D.C., will share her story about growing up in an Habitat home. The purpose of the breakfast event is to ask for community financial support to help sustain the nonprofit's work toward building homes for low income families.

RSVP by emailing [info@lebanonhabitat.com](mailto:info@lebanonhabitat.com). For more information, send an email or call (541) 405-5213.



Attendees at a Rural Living Day workshop use clues to identify what kind of tree is growing on the Junction City High School Campus. - Photo by Sarah Brown

### RURAL LIVING From page 1

fers a diversity of programs throughout different counties under the focus areas of 4-H youth development, agriculture and natural resources, family and community health, forestry and natural resources, Juntos, KidSpirit, Native American and tribal programs, open campus, Outdoor School and the Oregon Sea Grant.

Master Gardeners is among

the most well-known programs offered through Extension.

"In the Willamette Valley, we are fortunate to have some of the world's most rich, amazing soils that means we can do amazing things on just a little bit of land," Moran said.

For the Small Farms Program, Extension serves a diverse population of small scale farmers "who tend to sell at farmer's markets" or into the local food system. They also serve farmers who are not necessarily selling what they produce, but are considered stewards of their land.

Moran said Extension's Small Farm Program helps people explore what is possible with the land they steward – be it less than an acre, or more – including ideas such as livestock capabilities, marketing, niche crops, and "just figuring out what is possible" and what the best fit per person is.

The Small Farm Program will work one-on-one with

people to help these landowners thrive, she said, and they have a variety of partnerships and resources to help.

"Just know that there is this whole ecosystem of support," Moran said. "I like to say Extension is really a great entry point into learning about those resources."

But the workshops offered at Rural Living Day were not just for people who have a large plot of land to tend. They ranged from backyard gardening to larger scale farming, from food preservation to well and septic programs, and from tool maintenance to tree identification.

"Really, today is a unique program for our Small Farms Program because it really leans heavily into just rural living," Moran said. "And if the Small Farms Program isn't a great fit for some of your questions or needs, we have a variety of other programs that we can tap people into."

*Easter*  
**AT HOLLEY CHURCH**

<b>TENEBRAE SERVICE</b> THURSDAY, APRIL 2 @ 7 PM	<b>EASTER WORSHIP</b> SATURDAY, APRIL 4 @ 5 PM	<b>EASTER WORSHIP</b> SUNDAY, APRIL 5 @ 8, 9:30 & 11 AM + 12:30 PM
--	--	--

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**GOOD FRIDAY**  
STATIONS OF THE CROSS - NOON  
PASSION OF THE LORD - 3:00 PM

**EASTER RESURRECTION OF THE LORD**  
SATURDAY VIGIL - 8:30 PM  
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# HUSKIES SPRING SPORTS PREVIEW

## Loaded with experience, SH softball aiming for another state berth

By Keeghan Gittins  
Of The New Era

After a strong finish to last season, Sweet Home softball is entering 2025 with experience, confidence and clear expectations.

The Huskies ended last year as the No. 12 team in 4A, earning a play-in win over Estacada before falling to Pendleton in the first round.

Having graduated just two seniors, relief pitcher Jocelyn Fairchild and outfielder Kenadie King, Sweet Home returns a roster full of players who have already seen varsity time.

Every player on this year's roster has started at least one game, giving the Huskies a level of experience few teams can match. That depth is led by a senior class of seven players who now set the tone both on and off the field.

"Having so many seniors and players with experience has been a great advantage to our team. They have been excellent leaders and I can't wait to see them reach their potential this year," said Head Coach Em-

See Softball, Page 3



Sweet Home varsity softball team members are, in front, from left, Hannah Sieminski, Trinity Victor, Addyson Vannice, Anabelle Morris, Kayhlee Silacci and Emmalin Rosa. In the rear, from left, are Miley Smith, Natalie Smith, Taylee Rosa, Aubrey Newberry, Aaliyah Brown, Katriona Harris and Kalissa Ellis.

## Experienced Huskies off to solid start, with big plans for baseball

By Keeghan Gittins  
For The New Era

Head Coach Evan Teter believes that extensive training in the offseason this year will have his Huskies ready for a postseason push in this year's baseball season.

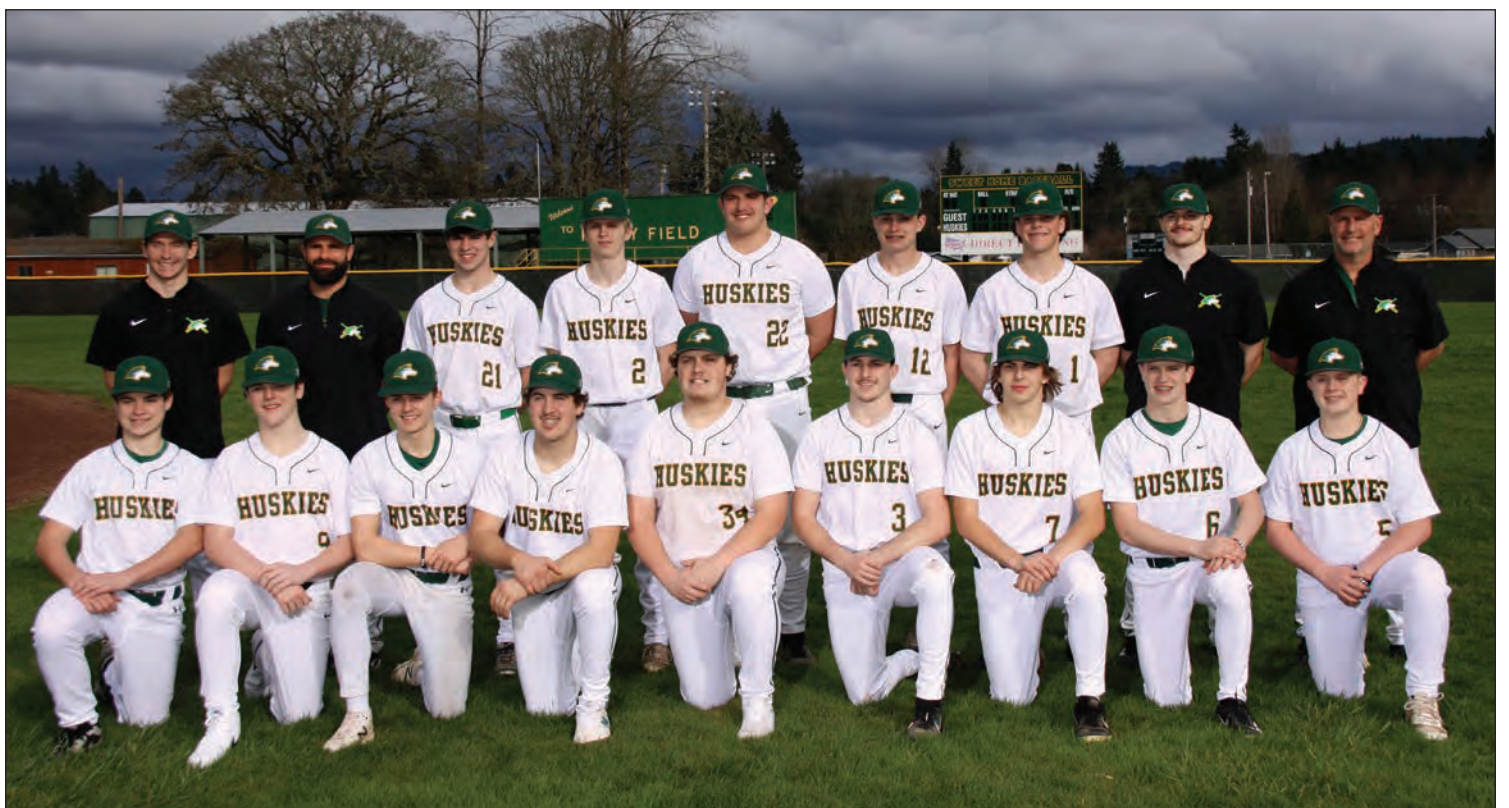
Judging by the results of Sweet Home's first two games, that seems like a very realistic goal.

"We are going into this season with the expectation of being in the postseason, and these guys have been putting in countless hours this offseason preparing for success," Teter said.

That work has already translated into results. The Huskies opened the season with a slow 3-0 win over Madras, followed by a 7-4 victory over Siuslaw, giving them early momentum and a glimpse of what they're capable of when things come together.

Last year Sweet Home finished as the No. 27 4A team

See Baseball, Page 3



Members of the Sweet Home varsity baseball team are, in front, from left, Macen Rosa, Colten Lindsey, Damon Lawrence, Cohen Gutierrez, Eddie Taylor, Kyle Zajic, Lawson Lawrence, Jake Smith and Kyler Bondesen. In the rear, from left, are Coach Zach Luttmmer, Coach Joe Rosa, Luke Rosa, Bradyn McClure, Lynkin Royer, Tregon Francis, Conner Northern, Head Coach Evan Teter and Coach Jim Hagle.



Sweet Home's golf teams boys and girls golf team members are, in front, from left, Eleanor Larsen, Victoria Victor, Ava Murry, Isabella Wagner, Lynnikka Damag, Aivaih Duran, Caira Erspamer and Talon Temple. In the rear, from left, are Taelyn Coleman, Blayne Schuster, Korbin Poirier, Henry Gainer, Evan Malabago, Trent Harvey and Kylie Melkvik.

# Golfers return experience, stirring postseason hopes

Sweet Home has been on a quest to get back into the thick of things in golf since COVID and this could be the year it happens, for both the boys and girls.

Boys Head Coach Ron Moore and girls Head Coach Haley May both have returning experience to build around and both say they could see their teams playing at state this year.

"The kids are working a lot on their short game, which is 70% of golf," Moore said, noting that he's putting the finishing touches on a practice facility located behind Little Promises preschool.

**Sweet Home Boys Golf**  
Moore lost three seniors to graduation but he has three players back from last year's team, all of them with experience gained in the off-season, he said.

Junior Trent Harvey returns as the most experienced Husky, but Moore predicted Harvey could be feeling some pressure from improving sophomores Henry Gainer and Blayne Schuster. All put in time on the links over the summer and it's showing, Moore said.

"Trent is playing a lot better than he did last year and Henry's really improved," he said. "Blayne played a lot last

summer and he's fine-tuning his swing. Now he just has to learn to manage the game of golf and that aspect."

Joining those three are junior Thomas Culbertson, sophomore Evan Malabago and freshmen Waylon Campbell, Korbin Poirier and Talon Temple.

Sweet Home has no seniors, but the newcomers show promise, Moore said.

"All of our newer players have potential," he said. "We're just getting them tournament-ready."

The Huskies opened their season on Old Mac at Bandon Dunes, a world-class course that was a new experience

for most of them.

Harvey led the team with a 79, while Gainer finished with a 95 and Malabago, a newcomer to high school golf, shot 98.

"Evan played really well," Moore said. Schuster finished with a 110.

After playing a nine-team special division last year with Marist, last year's state runner-up, the Huskies will simply compete against Oregon West Conference this year during the regular season. They will play four league matches, the top finisher overall from those becoming the OWC's automatic state qualifier. A district champi-

onship tournament at Tokatee in McKenzie Bridge on May 11 and 12 will determine the No. 2 seed.

Sweet Home will host the April 13 OWC tournament at Mallard Creek.

"We have a good solid four already and I'd like to have one or more of the newcomers step up to take the fifth and maybe sixth spots," Moore said.

"I think we've got the squad this year, with the kids returning, to have a pretty good opportunity to make state."

**Sweet Home Girls Golf**  
Head Coach Haley May has five returning girls on her nine-player roster and she says her team has progressed from last year - to the point that the state championships might be within reach for the Huskies for the first time since 2019.

That was the first year a Sweet Home girls golf team has qualified for state. May herself was a 12th-place finisher at state in 2017, before heading to Corban University, where she played four years for the Warriors.

Back for Sweet Home are seniors Eleanor Larsen and Kylie Melkvik, along with juniors Isabella Wagner and Tori Victor, and sophomore Taelyn Coleman.

Joining the team for the first time are junior Aivaih Duran, sophomore Lynnikka Damag and freshmen Ava Murry and Caira Erspamer.

The newcomers have brought energy and excitement to the team - and potential, May said.

"I would say Mikka and Cai-

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**BASEBALL**

From page 1

in the state, 3-12 in league and 8-18 overall.

A key difference for this year's group is experience. With 10 returners back in the lineup, the Huskies have a stronger foundation than in years past.

"We have a more experienced group this year, and they know what it looks like to be both unsuccessful and successful," Teter said. "They understand what they need to do to get there."

That experience has been paired with a strong commitment in the offseason, where players consistently showed up for extra work.

"This result wasn't by accident — we've been in the cages all offseason," Teter said. "It's pretty special when you have 10 to 15 guys getting in cuts and bullpen sessions at 7 a.m. before school."

Teter has made a deliberate effort to change the culture, with an emphasis on growth, of course through the successes but also in the failures, always providing a time and way to learn.

"This year we defined what was important to us by establishing the core val-



Sweet Home junior varsity baseball team members are, in front, from left, Gavin Duran, Jaxson Burke, Landen Pruitt, Murphy Savolt, Paxton Freeman, Kaleb Fortune and Brodie Starha. In the second row, from left, are Braidyn Borello, Boone Cupp, Gunnar Stafford, Koltan Reddington, Ryder Cummings, Sam Sims, Tatum Hoffman and Mason Flores. In the rear, from left are Ayden Marin, Daniel McCubbins, Coach Joe Medley, Head Coach Cliff Dominy, Coach Mike Carpenter, Coach Chris Miner, Coach Brett Blachly, Gage Pettner and Michael Eggers.

ues of our program. Each player has a journal they can use, so when they face struggles later on, they have something to look back on." Said Teter

Leadership from the senior class has also helped set the tone.

"This senior group is the first I've been able to see

all the way through their high school career," Teter said. "They've taken it upon themselves to have a great senior year, and it's been cool to see them lead."

On the field, the Huskies' early success has been driven largely by their pitching and defense. This was a large point of emphasis

over the off season.

In the season opener, junior Luke Rosa delivered a standout performance, throwing a complete-game shutout in the 3-0 win over Madras. Rosa allowed no runs over seven innings, using just 84 pitches — 54 for strikes — while recording five strikeouts. Sweet

Home's defense backed him up, not allowing a baserunner until the third inning.

Offensively, Rosa also led the way with a double and two RBIs, while sophomore Damon Lawrence added a double in a game in which runs didn't come easily.

See Baseball, Page 7

**SOFTBALL**

From page 1

ily Marchbanks.

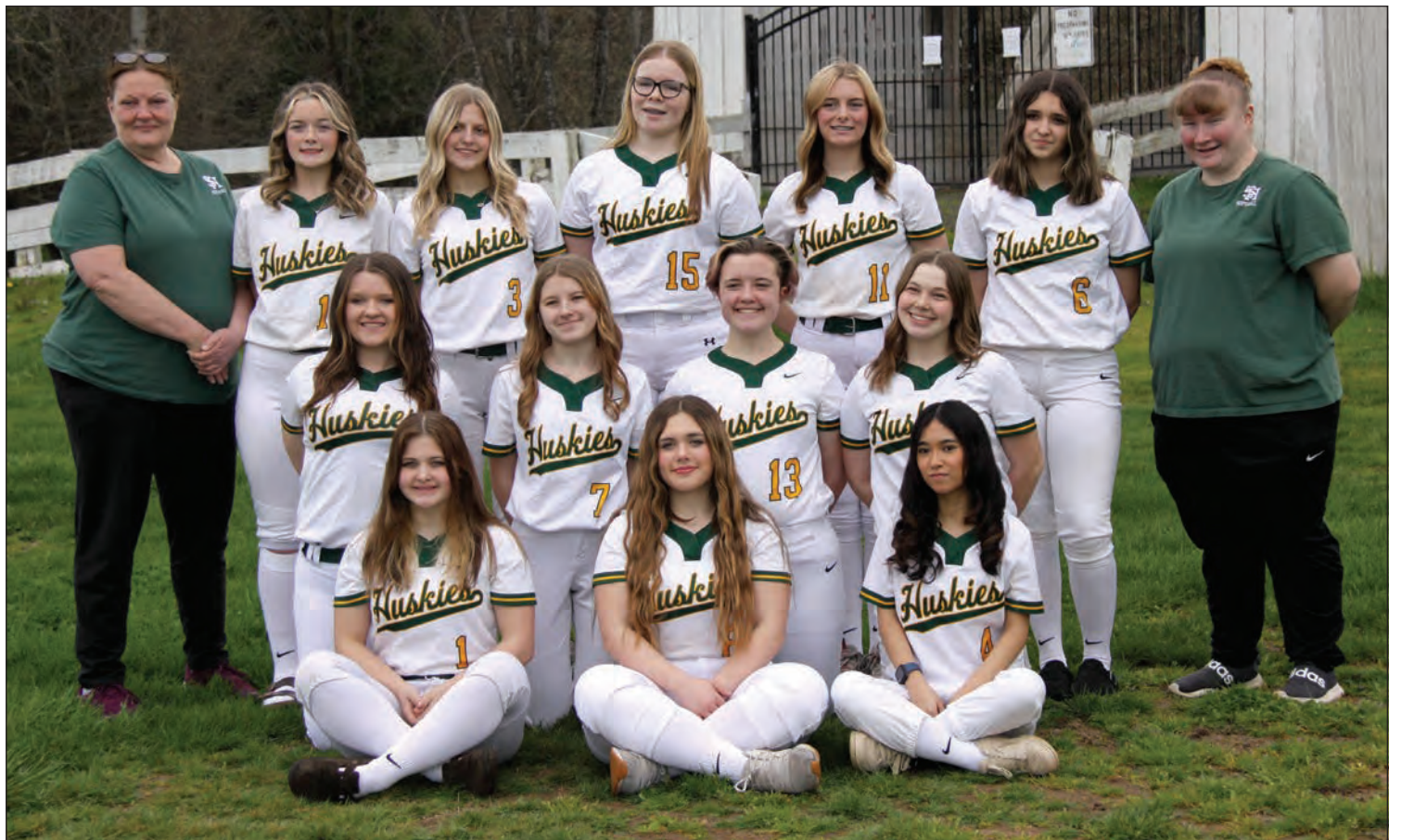
That experience has translated into a strong early start. Sweet Home is 2-1 to open the season, with dominant wins over Madras 15-3 and Siuslaw 17-2, while their only loss came in a close 5-4 extra-inning battle on the road at Estacada, ranked No. 2 this week in the 4A Division.

In that loss, the Huskies showed resilience early. After falling behind by three runs in the first inning, both teams remained scoreless until Sweet Home broke through with two runs in the sixth. The Huskies then took the lead with two more runs in the seventh, but Estacada answered to tie the game and eventually secured the win in the eighth inning.

Sweet Home quickly bounced back.

Against Madras, the Huskies started slow with a scoreless first inning before their offense took over. Sweet Home scored 4, 3, 5, and 3 runs across the next four innings, ending the game early due to the mercy rule.

The momentum carried into their third game against Siuslaw. Leading 7-2 heading into the third inning, the Huskies broke the game open with eight runs in the frame, followed by two more in the fourth to secure another mercy-rule victory.



Junior varsity softball team members are, in front, from left, Amaya Smith, Saide Dalton and Tiffany Abarcar. In the second row, from left, are Oakley Freitag, Trinity Foley, Loki Davis and Eveline Harris. In the rear, from left, are Coach Sandy Brown, Ziarra Duncan, Aubrey Bartlett, Ellie Wagoner, Kalissa Ellis, Alexis Bernardi and Coach Caytlin Gillespie.

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See Softball, Page 7

# Tennis returns to SHHS after a few decades

By Scott Swanson  
Of The New Era

After 30-some years in hibernation, tennis is back as a sport at Sweet Home High School.

Brian Brands, who heads the school district's Student Services division, and his wife Cathy Brands-Hawken, a teacher at Sweet Home Junior High, have reinstated the program this year, starting with eight prospects.

Brian Brands said he played tennis and basketball at Northwestern College in Iowa, after competing in football, basketball, track and baseball in high school.

"I've always had a passion for basketball and for tennis," he said, noting that he still plays regularly in Corvallis, where he finds competition at his level.

"The great thing about tennis is it's a lifetime sport. I was all-league in football and basketball and track and baseball in high school, and I played tennis in college, but the only sport I get to play now is tennis."

Plus, he said, Sweet Home is one of "only a few" 4A Division schools that don't offer tennis.

"So, kind of with all that being said, we thought, 'Let's give tennis a try.'"

He and his wife have held a free summer tennis camp during the past few summers.

"We'll get 25 elementary kids up for that," Brands said, adding that they "definitely" plan to do it against this summer, during the second week of July.

Sweet Home's tennis courts, formerly located south of the welding shop at the high school, were in bad shape when then



Tennis team members are, in front, from left, Anonymous Mayfield, Ryder Oakley, Devon Sharp and Brytnee Hart-Campbell. In the rear, from left, are Coach Cathy Brands-Hawken, Ben Perry, Mack Martineau, Christian Romero and Coach Brian Brands. Not pictured are Kyle Petrait/Benjamin Perry.

Supt. Larry Horton proposed removing them in 2005. It took a few years, as community members voiced concerns that they would not be replaced, but SHEDG offered \$100,000 to replace the courts if they were moved, which made room for Oregon Jamboree operations.

Horton was able to procure a \$20,000 grant from

the Charlotte Martin Foundation and \$38,200 in two grants from the U.S. Tennis Association to install six new courts along 18th Avenue, between the bus barn and the varsity baseball field.

Brands said he's starting with eight players, none of whom have participated in other spring sports in high school.

"We've got a small group of kids out, but hopefully, once you start something, you kind of build how it goes forwards," he said.

"I've told people, you know, with tennis, definitely, our goal is not to try to get these baseball and softball players that have been playing since second grade. These kids that aren't playing a spring sport, if you

want to do something, get some exercise and learn a fun sport that you can play for your whole life."

Sweet Home's initial prospects are Mack Martineau, Ryder Oakley, Benjamin Perry, Kyle Petrait, Christian Romero and Devon Sharp on the boys side, and Brytnee Hart-Campbell on the girls. Senior Anonymous Mayfield is also interested in playing, but she's nearly finished with her high school classes, so Brands said he needs to figure out if she can be eligible to play with a limited class schedule.

He said the Huskies will play a "modified" schedule this season, not really a junior varsity schedule, but against other teams that have beginners as well.

They open April 2 at Junction City, with their, so far, only home match against Creswell April 9.

His players are beginners, but Brands said they're persevering.

"I keep telling the kids, it's just like a lot of sports. It's just like golf. You know, when you start out playing, it's hard, it takes repetition, but the the more you play, and the better you get, the more fun it gets."

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Sweet Home track and field athletes include, in front, from left, Zoey Allison, Acen Webber, Kaylee Bain, Jayla Moore, Noelle Helfrich, Ellie Dominy, Jocelyn Simmons, Elizabeth Hankins, Sydney Dominy, Madison Ohlheiser, Cassie Spencer, Delainie Pratt, Yadira Martinez, Khloe Wood, Kali Vogel, Navaeh Lopez and McKenzie Miller. In the second row, from left, are Selah Wright, Mailey Brewer, Eturnty Allison, Wes Goff, Hudson Ogden, Emma Whitton, Landon Murry, Logan Anderson, Adriana Morse, Dinah Watkins, Manuel Rivera, Carson Kelinschmit, Persephone Brookfield, Brayden Driver and Miu Simmons. In the third row, from left, are Nick Larson, Logan Estep, Halen Salvador, Coach Randy Whitfield, Coach Andy Waldrop, Coach Dave Martin, Head Coach Nathan Whitfield, Coach Spencer Hart, Coach Ramiro Santana, Coach Josie Macklin, Elijah Rodriguez, Cade Spencer, Loralai Mark and McKenzie Ohlheiser. In the third row, from left, are Ean Tackett, Jaicob Shaw, Silas Baker, Eli Adams, Evan Knight, Caden Foley, Dillan Davis, Marcus Warthen, Bradly Dewitte, Kyle Porter, Landon Thomson and Conner Spencer. In the rear, from left, are Louis Kistner, Mason Tyler, Elisha Scofield, Kaeson Walker, Gunnar Summers, Russell Schroeder, Cannon Klumph, Ernie Hicks, Memphis Gay, Sam Barringer, Marshall Van Dijk, AJ Rodriguez, Hunter Clark and Gavin Tyler.

# Huskies looking to move up in OWC track and field

By Scott Swanson  
*Of The New Era*

The numbers may not be quite what track and field coaches were hoping for, but the Huskies look like they will be able to deliver some quality performances this year.

That's Head Coach Nathan Whitfield's assessment as he looks forward to the 2026 season.

"We have a lot of returners this year," Whitfield said of his team, which numbered 50 boys and 37 girls going into Spring Break.

"They're looking really good," he said.

Gone are graduates Chase Cameron, Kasey Kast, Jack Simmons, Conner Stevens and Kolton Wilmarth, after qualifying for state or contributing to the 4x100 and 4x400 relays that made state. They were among approximately a dozen seniors who departed to graduation.

"We're real excited about the ones we have returned and we have a pretty good freshman group, though not quite the numbers that we expected this year," Whitfield said. "That led to our overall numbers being a little bit lower than last year. But we're still a good-sized team."

Senior Dillan Davis and junior Ryker Burr return for the boys after qualifying in the 400 and 800, respectively, as well as contributing to those relays, and junior Nick Larson returns after winning district titles and making state in both hurdles races (posting a PR of 16.88 in the 110 and 43.62 in the 300) and the pole vault, finishing the season with a best of 11-8. Gavin Tyler, now a junior, returns in the throws after qualifying for state in the shot last year with a throw just

under his personal best of 47-9.

Davis ran 50.48 in the 400 at the district meet, his personal best, and Burr finished second to Newport senior Noah Larson in a photo finish, running a personal best 2:02.44.

They're not the only ones who return with promise.

Kaeson Walker, now a junior, was third in the district triple jump last year with a leap just short of his PR of 40-11, and then-freshman Sam Barringer was fourth, also just short of his PR of 40-3¾.

Landon Murry, now a junior, was fourth in the long jump, though his district finish was about a foot short of his personal best of 19-10¾, set midway through the season.

On the girls side, the only returning state qualifier is now-senior McKenzie Miller, who secured her first trip to state in track in the 3000, running a PR of 10:48.91 at state.

Other promising returnees include Loralai Mark, now a senior, who missed a trip to state in the long jump by inches last year with a third-place finish at districts, with a personal best of nearly a foot - 15-11½.

Noelle Helfrich, now a junior, was fourth in the 800 with a personal best of 2:37.36, behind two seniors.

Miller was fourth in the 1500 ((5:04.53) with now-sophomore Emma Whitton, a two-time top-10 state cross-country placewinner behind her in

fifth.

Now-senior Delanie Pratt was fourth in the 100 hurdles after running a PR of 17.94 in the district prelims.

Now-senior Selah Wright is back in the shot and discus

after finishing well off her personal bests in the top five in both events at districts, with repeat district champion Kalina Saechao of Cascade now gone to graduation.

See Track, Page 6



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**GOLF**

From page 2

ra have pretty natural swings, which is fun to watch."

Plus, the Huskies who come with experience got more of it during the off-season, she said.

"It may not have made a difference in their scores a ton, but it's definitely made a difference in their course etiquette and course management," the coach said. "They're making smarter decisions and taking care of the course. They're not like the annoying group of teenagers in front of you. You know, they're starting to be respect-

ful of the people around them and understand the golf etiquette a lot more."

Although the numbers aren't there yet, May said her team is improving "a ton."

"Just their willing willingness to learn and change things and get better has been a huge improvement," she said. "I think that we have Tori's swing starting to get dialed in, which is great." Coleman, she said, also has big potential. "I think that we've just got to get her scores lowered."

The girls will host a District 3 match featuring on April 13 at Mallard Creek, and then

will also host the district championship tournament May 4-5, also at Mallard Creek. State comes the week after that, with the top two district teams and any individuals not already on those teams who finish in the top five, qualifying.

May said things are moving faster than she expected coming into the season.

"I think that, based on their performances already, and we only get out on the course once or twice a week, I think there's a slight chance that it is very possible they could surprise everybody."

"I'm excited."

**TRACK**

From page 5

Sweet Home's boys finished second at the six-team Oregon West Conference district meet last year, 28½ points behind Philomath, while the girls were fourth as Philomath won the district title, then moved on to win the state championship.

Rounding out the boys roster are

On the boys side are: seniors Memphis Gay, Cannon Klumph, Kyle Porter, Elisha Scofield, Manuel Rivera and Lukas Thompson; juniors David Anderson, Logan Anderson, Hunter Clark, Bradley Dewitte, Logan Estep, Caden Foley, Rafe Hayes, Carson Kleinschmit, Malakai Pizarro, AJ Rodriguez, Conner Spencer, Gunnar Summers and Kaeson Walker; sophomores Eli Adams, Sam Barringer, Chance Corey, Wes Goff, Louis Kistner, Evan Knight, Russell Schroeder, Kace Stevens, Ean Tackett, Mason Tyler, Malakai Walls and Acen Webber; and freshmen Silas Baker, Brayden Driver, Ernie Hicks, Mason Mark, Austin Millard, Hudson Ogden, Elijah Rodriguez, Halen Salvador, Jaicob Shaw, Landon Thomson, Bentley Uhly, Marshall Van Dijk,

Marcus Warthern, and Adam Wilmarth.

The girls roster also includes: senior Madison Olheiser, juniors Eturnyti Allison, Mailey Brewer, Brooke Elder, Amara Gonzales, Noelle Helfrich, Jayla Moore, McKenzie Ohlheiser, Miu Simmons and Khloe Wood; sophomores Kaylee Bain, Yadira Casas, Madison Ciullo, Ellie Dominy, Sydney Dominy, Grace Gardner, Adrianna Morse, Hannah Nicholson, Hailee Ramsdell and Dinah Watkins; and freshmen Zoie Allison, Persephone Brookfield, Pyper Hall, Elizabeth Hankins, Marion Helfrich, Alexis Lee, Navaeh Lopez, Jocelyn Simmons, Cassie Spencer, Kali Vogel, Taleah Zacarias and Cassidy Zajic.

Whitfield is assisted by Andy Waldrop and Randy Whitfield in throwing events, Spencer Hart and Angela Stevens in the jumps, Dave Martin in the distance events and hurdles, and Josie Macklin and Ramiro Santana in the relays and short sprints.

The Huskies opened this season Tuesday, March 16, with an intrasquad meet that also included East Linn Christian which, Whitfield said, gave both teams some competition beyond themselves.

"I'm really happy with this

team, with where they're at," he said. "Kind of a lot like last year, this is a team that just knows how to work and shows up and works every day."

"We have some underclassmen that are pushing those upperclassmen a little bit more this year, so they're a little bit more motivated and working that little bit extra."

The schedule is similar to the Huskies' in 2025, with a trip to Banks for the Bob Frank Invitational on April 11, and the Meet of Champions at home on April 25. Stayton will host this year's districts May 22-23.

Whitfield said that after that runner-up finish last year, the boys are looking for more this year.

"We're hoping to be in the fight for the district title," he said. "We got second last year, which was a little bit of a disappointment, but we knew it was a tall order and it's the same thing again this year."

He said he sees Stayton as a rising power in the Oregon West Conference and "Philomath's girls are returning four-time state champs, so that's a tough team to crack."

"But we're getting more competitive on our girls side and we're hopefully moving up a few spots."

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**BASEBALL**

From page 3

"Luke Rosa is a great example of the work these guys have put in," Teter said. "He's built a lot of trust with the effort he puts in and the attention he gives to the little things."

Pitching depth has been a major role in the Huskies' recent success. Senior Eddie Taylor started on the mound, working through early trouble, before junior Kyle Zajic came in to stabilize the game. Zajic threw four scoreless innings in relief, allowing just two hits while striking out two to help secure the win.

"Having guys who can come in and shut the door late in games when we have a lead is going to be very important for us this season," Teter said.

At the plate, Sweet Home showed more balance in its second game. Lawrence and Rosa each recorded a triple, while sophomore Jake Smith contributed a double and two RBIs. Zajic also added a double, highlighting the team's ability to get production throughout the

lineup.

"With young guys ready to contribute, we're able to balance development and competing right now, the young guys don't feel like young guys because of the experience they've already gained," the coach said.

"Our league is always tough, so it will be a challenge to finish at the top. But we're confident in our preparation and expect to be competitive every game."

Rounding out this year's varsity roster are seniors Cohen Gutierrez, Lynkin Royer and Eddie Taylor; juniors Tregon Francis, Lawson Lawrence and Bradyn McClure; sophomores Kyler Bondesen and Conner Northern; and freshmen Colten Lindsey and Macen Rosa.

Junior varsity players are: juniors Daniel McCubbins and Gage Pettner; sophomores Braidyn Borello, Michael Eggers and Paxton Freeman; and freshmen Ayden Marin, Jaxson Burke, Ryder Cummings, Boone Cupp, Gavin Duran, Mason Flores, Kaleb Fortune, Tatum Hoffman, Landen Pruitt, Kolten Reddington,

Brodie Starha, Murphy Salvolt, Sam Sims and Gunnar Stafford.

For Teter, the focus goes beyond wins and losses. The program's growth, both on and off the field, remains a central priority.

Teter is assisted by Jim Hagle, Joe Rosa and Zach Luttmir; JV Head Coach Mike Carpenter; and JV assistant coaches Brett Blachly, Chris Minter, Cliff Dominy, Joe Medley and Kelso Ellis.

"Our coaching staff is top-tier," he said. "They invest in our athletes in a way that helps them not just as baseball players, but as men."

With a strong returning core, improved depth on the mound, and a clear sense of identity, Sweet Home plans to turn their off-season preparations and hopes into reality.

The Huskies have a long spring break, playing four games in a tournament in The Dallas starting Monday, March 23. Sweet Home returns home March 31 to play what looks to be a solid Cottage Grove team.

**SOFTBALL**

From page 3

"I think we found our timing with our hitting to get better contact," Marchbanks said.

That offensive rhythm has been fueled by strong individual performances throughout the lineup.

Sophomore Taylee Rosa has emerged as one of the team's top hitters early in the season, leading the Huskies with six hits, including three singles, two doubles, and a home run.

"Taylee put in a lot of extra work in the offseason," Marchbanks said. "She also plays on a summer team and they practice a lot as well. All of her extra practice is definitely paying off."

Senior Addy Vannice has also made a major impact at the plate, leading the team in RBIs, with Rosa close behind with seven.

In the win over Siuslaw, Rosa drove in four runs, while Vannice added three. Four different players recorded doubles, and five Huskies scored at least twice, showing the depth of the lineup.

In the circle, senior Katriona "Peanut" Harris has been dominant. Through three games, Harris has recorded 22 strikeouts, including a nine-strikeout performance in less than five innings against Siuslaw.

"Our goal is to be better than we were last year," Marchbanks said. "We are working towards a goal of going to the postseason again this year and hope to continue to improve."

Rounding out the varsity roster are seniors Anabelle Morris, Aubrey Newberry, Miley Smith, Natalie Smith and Trinity Victor; juniors Aaliyah Brown, Kalissa Ellis and Hannah Sieminski; and sophomores Emmalin Rosa and Kaylee Silacci. Ellis may swing to the junior varsity.

Junior varsity players are sophomores Tiffany Abarcar, Alexis Bernardi, Ziarra Duncan, Trinity Foley and Oakley Freitag; and freshmen Aubree Bartlett, Sadie Dalton, Loki Davis, Eveline Harris, Amaya Smith and Ellie Wagoner.

Marchbanks' assistants are Ashley Cota, Hailey

Johnson and Brent Smith, with Sandy Brown and Caitlyn Gillespie coaching the JV.

Returning to the playoffs will not be a walk in the park. The Huskies face a competitive league schedule, but confidence remains high within the program.

"We have some tough teams in our league, but our team is capable of competing with everyone in our league," Marchbanks said.

Sweet Home has a long spring break, not playing a game until March 31, when the Huskies will travel to Cottage Grove. The following day will host Molalla.

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# 2026 HUSKIES

# SPRING SPORTS SCHEDULE

## TRACK & FIELD

Apr 02	Sweet Home, Stayton	@ Woodburn
Apr 09	OWC Cascade, Sweet Home, North Marion	Cascade HS, Turner
Apr 12	Rob Frank Invitational	Banks HS, Banks
Apr 16	North Marion OWC - Stayton, Sweet Home	Norht Marion High School Aurora
<b>Apr 22</b>	<b>Cascade, North Marion @ Sweet Home</b>	<b>Husky Field, Sweet Home</b>
<b>Apr 26</b>	<b>Meet of Champions 4A-1A</b>	<b>Sweet Home HS, Sweet Home</b>
May 03	59th Centennial Invitational	Centennial HS, Gresham
May 10	Stayton Invitational	Stayton HS, Stayton
<b>May 12</b>	<b>Sweet Home V Newport</b>	<b>Husky Field, Sweet Home</b>
May 15	Oregon West JV Districts	Stayton HS, Stayton
May 23-24	4A-3 Oregon West Conference Championships	Philomath HS, Philomath
May 29-31	OSAA State Track & Field Championships	UO/Hayward Field
June 14-15	Combined Events Festival	Churchill High School Eugene
June 19-22	Nike Outdoor Nationals	UO/Hayward Field
Jul 3	Night of Miles at The Pre Classic	UO/Hayward Field

## TENNIS

Apr. 2	@ Junction City
Apr. 7	@ Philomath
<b>Apr. 9</b>	<b>vs Creswell</b>
Apr. 30	@ N. Eugene * After they play Churchill
May. 7	@ Creswell

## SOFTBALL

Mar 31	V/JV	@ Cottage Grove / Yoncalla
<b>Apr 1</b>	<b>V/JV</b>	<b>vs. Mollala</b>
Apr 7	JV	@ Marist Ctholic
Apr 9	V/JV	@ Harrisburg
Apr 14	V	@ Marshfield
<b>Apr 14</b>	<b>JV</b>	<b>vs Marshfield</b>
Apr 17	V	@ La Grande/ Imbler/ Elgin ( 16th St. Ball Park)
Apr 17	JV	@ The Dalles/ Dufur (16th St Ball Park - Lower Field)
Apr 17	V/JV	@ Pendleton (16th St. Ball Park)
Apr 18	V	@ Gladstone (16th St. Ball Park)
Apr 18	JV	@ The Dalles/ Dufur (16th St Ball Park - Lower Field)
Apr 18	JV	@ Gladstone (16th St. Ball Park)
<b>Apr 20</b>	<b>V/JV</b>	<b>vs. Philomath</b>
Apr 22	V/JV	@ Cascade
<b>Apr 23</b>	<b>V/JV</b>	<b>vs Newport</b>
Apr 27	V/JV	@ North Marion
<b>Apr 29</b>	<b>V/JV</b>	<b>vs Stayton</b>
Apr 30	V/JV	@ Philomath
<b>May 4</b>	<b>V/JV</b>	<b>vs Cascade</b>
May 6	V/JV	@ Newport (Yaquina View Elementary School)
<b>May 7</b>	<b>V/JV</b>	<b>vs North Marion</b>
Apr 11	V/JV	@ Stayton
<b>May 13</b>	<b>V/JV</b>	<b>vs Philomath</b>
May 14	V/JV	@ Cascade
<b>May 18</b>	<b>V/JV</b>	<b>vs Newport</b>
May 20	V/JV	@ North Marion
<b>May. 21</b>	<b>V/JV</b>	<b>vs. Stayton</b>

## BASEBALL

<b>Mar 25</b>	<b>V</b>	<b>vs. Phoenix (Quinton Street Ballpark)</b>
Mar 26	V	@ Gladstone (Quinton Street Ballpark)
<b>Mar 31</b>	<b>V/JV</b>	<b>vs. Cottage Grove</b>
Apr 1	V/JV	@ Molalla
Apr 2	JV	@ Harrisburg
<b>Apr 7</b>	<b>V/JV</b>	<b>vs. North Bend</b>
Apr 9	V	@ Harrisburg
<b>Apr 10</b>	<b>JV</b>	<b>vs. Santiam Christian</b>
<b>Apr 14</b>	<b>V/JV</b>	<b>vs. Marshfield</b>
Apr 17	V	@ Santiam Christian
Apr 20	V/JV	@ Philomath
<b>Apr 22</b>	<b>V/JV</b>	<b>vs. Philomath</b>
Apr 23	V/JV	@ Philomath
<b>Apr 27</b>	<b>V/JV</b>	<b>vs. Cascade</b>
Apr 29	V/JV	@ Cascade
<b>Apr 30</b>	<b>V/JV</b>	<b>vs Cascade</b>
May 4	V/JV	@ Newport [V @ Frank Wade Memorial Field] [JV @ Newport Middle School]
<b>May 6</b>	<b>V/JV</b>	<b>vs Newport</b>
May 7	V/JV	@ Newport [V @ Frank Wade Memorial Field] [JV @ Newport Middle School]
<b>May 11</b>	<b>V/JV</b>	<b>vs. North Marion/ Gervais</b>
May 13	V/JV	@ North Marion/ Gervais
<b>May 14</b>	<b>V/JV</b>	<b>vs. North Marion/ Gervais</b>
May 18	V/JV	@ Stayton
<b>May 20</b>	<b>V/JV</b>	<b>vs. Stayton</b>
May 21	V/JV	@ Stayton

## BOYS GOLF

Apr 6	OWC Tournament at Trysting Tree (Corvallis)
<b>Apr 13</b>	<b>OWC Tournament at Mallard Creek</b>
Apr 20	OWC Tournament at Langdon Farms (N. Marion)
Apr 27	OWC Tournament at Cross Creek (Stayton)
May 11-12	OWC District Tournament at Tokatee (Mckenzie Bridge)

## GIRLS GOLF

Apr 8	Special District 3 Match at McNary (Keizer)
<b>Apr 13</b>	<b>Special District 3 Match at Mallard Creek</b>
<b>May 4-5</b>	<b>Special District 3 Championship at Mallard Creek</b>

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