

# The New Era

SWEET HOME • LEBANON • AND SURROUNDING COMMUNITIES

SERVING EAST LINN COUNTY SINCE 1929

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 4, 2026

VOL. 96, NO. 9 | \$2.00

## State Wrestling Champs



Tiffany Sieminski photo

Local champions from last weekend's state wrestling tournament are, above, Sweet Home's boys, who won a decisive state team wrestling championship behind Jesse Landtroop's individual win, below. At right, Bailey Chafin of Sweet Home won her third individual state title, while, far right, Lebanon's Seth Wynn won his first. See page 16 for more on Lebanon's state results and page 20 for Sweet Home's.



Photo by Scott Swanson



Ryker Burr photos

## Republic staffer: New rules aim to make recycling more effective

By Sarah Brown  
*Of The New Era*

Hours have been spent arguing over Pringles cans.

That's what Julie Jackson, municipal manager at Republic Services, told a group of attendees at the Lebanon Chamber of Commerce Forum Lunch on Friday, Feb. 27.

The reason, Jackson explained, is because that one packaging item contains not only paper, but also a thin plastic barrier, a metal ring and a plastic lid.

"It has so many different materials that it's just almost impossible to recycle," she said. "You gotta separate those all out and they've all gotta be sorted differently and go to different locations."

The argument ensued while trash and recycling industry leaders in Oregon were helping to create a statewide list of all items that can be collected and recycled as part of the relatively new Recycling Mod-

See Recycling, Page 4



Members of the recently named Sportsman's Holiday Court greet Emcee Dave Bauer, in red jacket, and chamber Board Member Michael Hall, who was later named First Citizen, as they enter the event Saturday night. From left, court members are Ella Haggas, Kalissa Ellis, Victoria Victor, Mailey Brewer, Amara Gonzales and Miu Simmons.

- Photo by Scott Swanson

## Rice, others honored by chamber

By Scott Swanson  
*Of The New Era*

Cindy Rice and Michael Hall, both longtime leaders in a wide variety of local public service activities, were named Sweet Home Chamber of Commerce's Distinguished Citizen and First Citizen at the chamber's awards banquet Saturday night, Feb. 28.

McKenzie Reynolds, lead organizer of the reincarnation of the Sweet Home Rodeo, which drew a standing room-only turnout last summer, was named Jr. First Citizen.

Sweet Home's A&W restaurant won the Curb Appeal Award, and All Star Pizza was named Business of the Year Organization of the Year

was the Road Maggots.

Dean Hummer, Christian Romero and Trinity Victor were named recipients of the Mona Waibel VIP Awards presented by the President's Club.

City award recipients were Cindi Robeck and now-retired longtime City Attorney

See Banquet, Page 6

## HOMETOWN NEWSPAPER OF JUSTIN ALDERMAN

This Week's Top Stories



## Lebanon, ELCA Basketball

Lebanon's boys and girls produced timely wins as 5A play-offs approach. East Linn Christians boys won their playoff opener. Details inside.

Pages 10-11



## SHJH launches unified hoops

Sweet Home Junior High hosted French Prairie in their first unified basketball game. Up next is Lebanon.

Page 19



# Obituaries

### Melissa Estep

Nov 18, 1959 - Feb 12, 2026

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

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

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

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

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

In December 2020, Dan, Melissa and Lindsey moved to Oregon to be near family.

The Celebration of Life will be Saturday afternoon, March 7, at 2 p.m. at Hwy. 20 Church of Christ, with Pastor Machiel Greyling officiating.

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

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

She will be sorely missed until the great reunion in the sky.



### Pamela Ringheimer

Aug. 20, 1962 - Feb. 26, 2026

Pamela "Pam" Ruth Ringheimer, known for her resilience and loving heart, passed away Feb. 26, 2026 at the age of 63 in Sweet Home, surrounded by her family.

Pam, the youngest of 10 children, was born Aug. 20, 1962 in El Cajon, Calif., to Jeanette (Altringer) and Alton Walvatne.

Pam's life reflected her many talents and incredible strength. She was a gymnast, softball player, model, truck driver, and worked for different companies including Hewlett Packard, Cox Cable, Cirtek, and eventually the Sweet Home Forest Service where she met and married her husband Ronald Ringheimer in 1991.

Together they raised two sons, who will forever be grateful for her unconditional love and support. In 1999, Pam defied all odds and survived after experiencing a brain aneurysm. She enjoyed painting, music, volunteering at her children's schools, and of course, chocolate!

Pam's greatest joy came from her family.

She is survived by her husband, Ronald Ringheimer; her son, Colton Ringheimer and daughter-in-law Stephanie Szuch; son Hunter Ringheimer; and her granddaughter, Wiley Ringheimer.

A memorial service will be held at 3 p.m. Saturday, March 14, followed by a reception at Sweet Home Funeral Chapel. Friends and family are invited to honor, celebrate, and share their memories.

Sweet Home Funeral Chapel is handling the arrangements.



### John Davis Jr.

April 9, 1955 - Feb. 10, 2026

John Thorndyke Davis Jr., 70, of Sweet Home, passed away Feb. 10, 2026, after being diagnosed with stage 4 lung cancer in September of 2025.

He was born April 9, 1955, to Phyllis Jean (Nelson) and John Thorndyke Davis Sr. in Prosser, Wash.

His family lived in Grandview, Wash., and in California during his early childhood. They moved to McMinnville in 1957 and to the Portland area in 1962. In 1964 the family moved to Sweet Home.

John graduated from Sweet Home High School in 1973 and immediately joined the Army. In 1977 he served in Germany, where he was able to visit many countries while on leave. He was discharged in 1979.

John worked most of his life as a logger. He spent several years logging in Alaska and later more locally, while he was living with his mother until she passed in 2005.

He was an avid reader, with a photographic memory. As a child he read the encyclopedia for entertainment. He loved hunting, fishing, tying flies for fishing, camping and rock hunting. He especially loved spending time with his nieces, nephews and especially their children.

He also enjoyed helping the seniors in his neighborhood.

John was never married and had no children. He is survived by his siblings, Vicki Burge, Michael Jimerson and adopted brother Ronald Jimerson.

He was preceded in death by his mother Phyllis (2005), his sister Debra Jackson (2012), and his father John (2020).

Any donations can be sent to Cancer Research. Celebration of Life will be at a later date.

Sweet Home Funeral Chapel is handling the arrangements.



### Raymond Browning

Jan. 8, 1932 - Jan. 8, 1932

Raymond Thomas (Tom) Browning, 94, of Sweet Home, passed away Feb. 19, 2026, at Wiley Creek Senior Living community, where he lived with his wife Shirley.

Tom was born Jan. 8, 1932 in Jetmore, Kan., and was the third of five children born to Francis Leslie and LaVerne Bell (Swisher) Browning.

Tom grew up on a farm and loved horses. After serving in the Army for 2½ years, he pursued a career in sales and ended up working for Reece Corporation as a sales and service representative for 35 years.

Reece sold industrial

sewing machines to factories with machines specializing in buttonholes, pockets, zippers - assembly line work. Tom both sold and serviced the machines which required him to travel throughout his career with his family.

Tom and Shirley Lou (McCullough) were wed in Kansas City, Mo., on May 13, 1956. They had three children.

While raising their family, they lived in Kansas City, Kan.; Kansas City, Mo.; Dallas, Texas; New Hope, Minn., and Spencerport, N.Y., where all their children graduated from high school.

As the kids moved out and started their own lives and

See Obituaries, Page 3



Sue Northrup recently visited The Biltmore Estate, a historic house museum and tourist attraction in Asheville, North Carolina. The main residence is the Biltmore House, a Châteauesque-style mansion built for George Washington Vanderbilt II between 1889 and 1895.

SPONSORED BY LOCALLY OWNED:



MEMORY MAKING ADVENTURES

BOOK YOUR NEXT CRUISE VACATION WITH US!

MICHAEL & BEN MATTHEISEN: michael@memorymakingadventures.com memorymakingadventures.com

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

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

Thank you does not seem to be enough. I would like to say thank you to all who worked so hard in planning - organizing and worked so hard to hold the Pancake Feed and Crab Feed Fundraiser for Carla and I.

So many people to thank, I would not be able to name them all without forgetting so many. The participating friends from this great community was overwhelming. People from other communities, the Sweet Home Elks, other Elks Lodges throughout the state.

Please know that the funds raised, gave Carla & I comfort to know that I was able to be by her side through this tough journey.

Thank You, -Randy & Carla Claasen

OBITUARIES

From page 2

families, Tom and Shirley moved on to live in Glen Ellyn, Ill.; then to Anaheim, Calif. (where Tom retired from Reece Corporation) and then to their final retirement home in Sweet Home.

They sold their home in Sweet Home in October 2025 and moved to Wiley Creek, residing in a two-bedroom bungalow as their big house became too much to maintain.

Tom remodeled their homes in Minnesota, New York and California. In Oregon, their home had a large woodworking shop, where Tom enjoyed making crafts for family and friends and furniture as requested by the family. He made some beautiful walking sticks as well.

Tom was preceded in death by his parents and all his brothers, Francis Glen, Charles Eugene, and Endell LaVerne, and sister Jacqueline Marilee (Schmidt) Browning.

He is survived by his wife,

Shirley, and their three children: Nancy (Browning) Berry of Las Vegas and husband Stewart Marolf; Mark David Browning of Florida and wife Roberta; and Pamela Browning Purtell of Washington. He is survived by six grandchildren and 10 great-grandchildren, with one in the oven.

Tom and Shirley were always active in the Baptist churches wherever they lived and raised their kids in the church as well. They love their church family at Freedom Hill church in Sweet Home and have been active members there for many years. They have also been active members of The Gideons International and they helped raise funds for Bible distributions. Tom loved witnessing and handing out samples.

Tom gave many a speech on behalf of the Gideons in many churches in Oregon to raise funds for Bibles. He loved God and shared his Word with all who would listen, winning many to Christ. He was well-liked and personable. He will be greatly missed by all who knew him.

He enjoyed horseback riding, carpentry, woodworking, golfing, fishing, church, Bible studies, sewing, billiards and puzzles. He even did some square dancing for a short time while in Texas with Shirley.

A celebration of life will be held on April 4, 2026, at 11 a.m. at Freedom Hill Church in Sweet Home. Potluck luncheon will follow.

Death Notices

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

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

Virginia Ruth McFarlan, 95, of Salem, passed away March 1, 2026.

A memorial service will be at 2 p.m. Friday, March 13, at Sweet Home Funeral Chapel. Sweet Home Funeral Chapel is handling the arrangements. For updated information, visit www.sweethomefuneral.com.

Alfred "Glen" Sawyer, 84, of Sweet Home, passed away March 1, 2026.

Viewing will be from 9:30 to 10:30 a.m. Saturday, March 7, at Sweet Home Funeral Chapel.

A funeral service will follow at 11 a.m. Final burial with military honors will follow at Gilliland Cemetery.

Home Funeral Chapel is handling the arrangements. For updated information, visit www.sweethomefuneral.com.

Lola Jean Stephens, 81, of Sweet Home passed away Feb. 27, 2026.

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

Keith Wayne Wolfe, 76, of Sweet Home, passed away Feb. 24, 2026.

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



TEMPERATURES

Table with 4 columns: DATE, HIGH, LOW, RAIN. Rows for dates 2/24 to 3/2.

RAIN IN INCHES

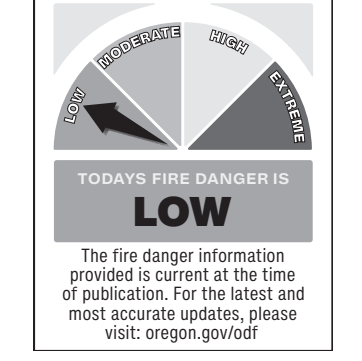
Year to date: 7.77
3/5/25: 9.38

FORECAST

Table with 3 columns: DATE, WEATHER, HIGH/LOW. Rows for dates 3/5 to 3/11.

LAKE LEVELS

Foster 615.5
Green Peter 928.3



CROSSWORD KEY

Crossword puzzle grid with words filled in.

SUDOKU KEY

Sudoku puzzle grid with numbers filled in.

Public Safety

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

A Roman numeral indicates the degree of a charge: theft I (first-degree theft).

Following is a list of abbreviations that may appear in our log reports:

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

MARCH 1

LCSO/OSP LEBANON

2:35 a.m. - Deputy responded to contact from Uber driver who reported female had who had been drinking at local entertainment establishment was incoherent. 38800 block Christopher Way. Decision was made to transport her to hospital.

8:05 a.m. - Citizen with history of mental health problems requested that Sheriff's Office document that deputies were smoking drugs in middle of road near Lacombe, 41300 block Baptist Church. LCSO responds nearly weekly and often repeatedly to this location. Last contact with citizen was when he was arrested for misuse of 911 system.

3:06 p.m. - Michael Doyle, 55, of Lebanon, arrested on warrant,

cited for DWS, Grant/River St. Report taken.

5:50 p.m. - Jack Counts, 36, of Lebanon, cited and released on warrant, 2600 block Porter. Report taken.

7:28 p.m. - Child abuse reported in 200 block Gilbert. Investigation ongoing. Report taken.

LCSO/OSP SWEET HOME S. COUNTY

2:37 a.m. - Deputy responded to assist several "young adults" who had gotten their vehicle stuck in snow and had started walking back towards Hwy. 20 in the dark. 48400 block Upper Calapooia. Parents located them and took them home. Sweet Home Police

1:12 a.m. - Caller reported people behind vacant properties in 2200 block Main. Officer responded, multiple individuals trespassed from location.

1:53 a.m. - Heather Lee Elmer, 32, arrested on LCCC warrant in possession of heroin and meth cases, AMC warrants for FTA in two criminal citation cases and LMC warrant for unspecified case. Also arrested for possession of meth. 2200 block Main. Cited and released.

3:13 a.m. - Caller reported elderly female walking around with no shoes, apparently lost. Officer responded, female transported by medics.

8:46 a.m. - Caller reported recreational vehicle parked on street in 1500 block 9th, possibly being lived in. Officer responded, trailer posted for removal.

9:42 a.m. - Christopher Michael Lindner arrested at SHPD, 1950 Main, on AMC warrant for contempt of court. Cited and released.

9:58 a.m. - Caller reported dog in 1500 block Tamarack barking, tangled in chain. Officer responded, contacted owner to

assist dog.

10:30 a.m. - Caller reported transients had moved into neighboring house in 3100 block Main. Info noted.

12:43 p.m. - Micah Lee Stewart arrested on LCCC warrants for FTA in possession of meth, assault cases. 3100 block Main. Also arrested for conspiracy to commit crime, carrying concealed weapon and possession of meth. Lodged at LCJ.

2:55 p.m. - Caller from 4th Avenue reported wallet stolen, credit cards used. Report taken for theft II, unauthorized entry into motor vehicle and fraudulent use of credit cards. Investigation continuing.

6:23 p.m. - SHPD conducted death investigation at Wiley Creek Memory Care, 4950 Mountain Fir. Report taken.

7:58 p.m. - Michael Thomas Turnbull, 65, arrested on LCCC warrant in possession of meth case and FTA in two criminal citation cases, LCJC warrant for probation violation. Also cited for DWS, DU. Cited and released. Vehicle legally parked. Dollar General, 1937 Main.

8:36 p.m. - Michael Lee Winfrey,

45, arrested by Springfield police on SHMC warrant for FTC in escape case. Cited to appear March 30.

11:29 p.m. - Patrick Anthony Lovato, 33, arrested for failure to register as sex offender, and on probation violation warrant from Oregon State Probation Board. 1700 block Main. Lodged at LCJ.

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.

FEB. 28

LCSO/OSP LEBANON

12:36 a.m. - Natalie Lizaola, 21, of Lebanon, cited for failure to obey traffic control device after allegedly driving through road closure, 32900 block Denny School.

12:48 a.m. - Miguel Mejia Herrera, 34, of Lebanon, cited for failure to obey traffic control device after allegedly driving through road closure, 32800 block Denny School.

11:50 a.m. - Deputy stopped traffic in area of Hwy. 34/Steckley while bale of hay was cleared out of road.

See Public Safety, Page 9

CORRECTIONS

Addy Vannice should have been identified as the player with the ball, driving around a Newport opponent in the photo of the Sweet Home girls basketball game in the Feb. 25 edition. Editor's note: We've had some significant problems getting captions right, particularly for basketball, in recent weeks. We are still quite understaffed for the coverage we're providing, which means that some checks and balances are lacking and there's more balls in the air for everyone. We'll get better and we apologize for what probably seems like consistent inattention to detail. We have heart attacks (figuratively, at least) when such errors occur, because they are not acceptable in our business, but last-minute layout changes, particularly in sports, sometimes create confusion and things falling through the cracks. We're working on the staffing problem.

## Letters to the Editor

### AI not trustworthy, even in telling stories

I advise readers of the Feb. 24 issue to pay attention to the story about artificial intelligence, not to be trusted without oversight regarding making your will or other legalities.

I wrote a story for my grandchildren. Their mother paid for a program for me to tell the story, so they would have my voice as well as (eventually) the print version

in a fancy book.

So I recorded it, and later saw the AI-edited printed version. It wasn't at all "my" story. It seemed to be written by a New York ad writer promoting a cruise.

For instance, I had said a certain person was gone. AI said that person had passed away. Not true! Just not at home.

Please, double check anything AI produces for you.

Joan Scofield  
Sweet Home

## UPCOMING CITY MEETINGS

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**Sweet Home Park & Tree Committee:** Wednesday, Mar. 18, 8:30 a.m. at City Hall, 3225 Main St.

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

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

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

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

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

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

## RECYCLING

From page 1

ernization Act.

The list was created – and argued over – to help all municipalities in Oregon have one set of standards for collection of recycling materials.

You'll notice, she said, that Pringles cans are currently not on that list.

When the Oregon legislature passed the RMA in 2021, it created "some really big changes" in recycling that some may not be aware of. Republic Services has been spending the last several years adjusting to the new rules to provide a better recycling system.

"We really have been working hard at a state level to craft what this act looked like and how we modernize Oregon's recycling bill through the industry,"

Years ago, consumers had to separate their recyclables into different bags, but the trash and recycling industry found more people would recycle if it was easier to do so. Today, much of what can be recycled can all be combined into one cart.

Recently, Republic Service purchased a commingled recycling processing facility in Salem, which helps them sort the different types of materials they receive. Once separated, the materials are baled together and shipped to market, which, Jackson said, is a key player in the recycling game.

"If there's no market for material, nobody will make anything out of it and it can't be recycled," she said.

And then there's manufacturing, which, "if nobody wants to make anything out

of it, it really can't be recycled."

In addition to the shared statewide list of collectible recyclables, the RMA created the "extended producer responsibility," requiring packaging producers to pay a tiered fee based on how difficult or easy their packaging can be recycled.

That's because a large portion of what ends up in the trash is the packaging more so than the item that was in the packaging.

"It's really meant to incentivize those producers to come up with packaging that's more earth-friendly," Jackson said.

And finally, another big change to Oregon's recycling rules is that materials have to go to responsible end markets.

In 2017, the industry started going through what they called "the China sword initiative," when they realized about 65% of all recyclables worldwide were being shipped to Asian markets.

Around that time, Jackson explained, China basically said the world was just shipping them trash, and much of that "trash" ended up in riverbanks.

What came from that was a halt on shipping recyclable materials out of the United States. But what also came from that was the creation of domestic markets for those materials now.

"That's been a really great thing to come out of it," Jackson said.

Some of the materials added to the RMA's statewide list include nursery pots (about two quarts or larger), plastic buckets (no bigger than five gallons),

scrap metal less than 10 pounds or 18 inches long (no tangles or sharp items), polycoated cartons (e.g. milk cartons), and lids screwed onto their bottles and jars.

Jackson offered what she considers the "important tips" for responsible recycling: know what you can recycle or what should be thrown away, keep the materials clean and dry, and never put recyclables in a bag because, for safety's sake, that bag full of unknown items will just get thrown away.

"Contamination reduction is one of the parts of RMA that's really important," Jackson said.

Contamination is not just about food debris. Items that can get tangled in the sorting machines ("tangles") such as hoses, chains, ropes, wire hangers and plastic bags are considered contaminants.

Other dangerous, hazardous, difficult or non-recyclable materials worthy of note include Styrofoam, batteries, clothing, electronics, diapers, coffee cups (because of their plastic lining) and pizza boxes with the food or oil on it.

Jackson also urged people to avoid "wishful recycling," which is essentially throwing an unaccepted material in the cart (e.g. clamshell containers, shredded paper, plastic utensils) simply because one desperately hopes it can somehow be accepted.

"I really can't stress contamination enough," Jackson said. "I think it's really, really important to know what goes in the cart."

## From our Files



### March 8, 1951

A snow storm left nearly 16 inches of the white stuff in the city, appearing in about four layers in as many days. The snowfall, believed to be a record for this time of year – at least, since the fire patrol has been keeping track – was not serious enough to close many schools, but high school absences did double. Snowballs accounted for two broken windows. In town, a wooden awning broke under the snow's weight, power line fuses blew, and one youngster was in tears while moving his snowman to the porch in hopes of preserving his shrinking masterpiece.

Wallace and Allen Wodtli, father and son, joined forces to head the Fern Ridge Lumber company, the only logging-mill operations in the Fern Ridge district. They purchased the mill from the Oregon Timber Products corporation and moved it from the Green Peter area to its present site about two and a half miles west of Sweet Home.

### March 4, 1976

Activities at the Oak Heights Elementary School carnival are expected to net about \$600, which will help fund new recreation and playground equipment

for the school. Games included a fish pond, wheel of fortune, cake walk and Bingo.

Fir Lawn Lutheran Church became a full-fledged member of The American Lutheran Church after paying off debts which had formerly relegated the congregation to mission church members. Charter members lit their papers of indebtedness with a torch in a special burning ceremony.

### March 7, 2001

The first Santiam Mountain Mud Festival didn't get the rain they wanted – despite organizers trying a rain dance – but drivers seemed nevertheless to enjoy getting their rigs stuck in the stickier mud of Marks Ridge. An estimated 2,500 people attended the event that replaces the Foster Lake Mud Flat Races.

Work on the new Sweet Home Police Department building is nearing completion, funded by a \$950,000 bond passed by voters in 1998. Meanwhile, Safeway held a ribbon cutting ceremony for its new building, drawing in about 250 people to go through the new checkstands in the first hour.

The Oak Heights Elementary School Carnival grossed almost \$1,000 during its 1976 event to purchase playground equipment.

## Circuit Court

**Shannon Marie Andicochea, 54**, placed in diversion program after pleading guilty to DUII (liquor) with a .12% BAC.

**Erin-Jesse Vivian-M Austin-Clark, 24**, charged Feb. 13 with DUII (cannabis), driving uninsured and operating vehicle without driving privileges or in violation of license restrictions.

**Jeffery Allen Bagley, 63**, sentenced Feb. 27 to 10 days compensatory service in lieu of jail and 24 months supervised probation after pleading guilty to failure to report as a sex offender.

**Harold Warren Chalker III, 50**, sentenced Feb. 3 to one year revocation of a drivers license, 15 days jail, 15 days compensatory service and 36 mos. supervised probation after pleading no contest to failure to perform driver duties to injured person.

**Linda Lee Childress, 48**, charged Feb. 27 with DUII (liquor) and reckless driving.

**James Raymond Robert Collins, 27**, sentenced Feb. 12 to 60 days jail and three years supervised probation after pleading no contest to burglary I, aggravated harassment, resisting arrest, criminal mischief II. Dismissed: attempt to commit a Class C/unclassified felony, two counts of attempt to commit a Class A misdemeanor, three counts harassment, menacing, disorderly conduct II.

**Coby James Emmitt, 30**, charged Feb. 23 with forgery I, theft I, identity theft, criminal driving while suspended or revoked, and unlawful possession of meth.

**Jacob Adam Evans, 48**, charged Feb. 23 with failure to report as a sex offender.

**Michael Duane France, 45**,

charged Feb. 23 with DUII (liquor), reckless driving and criminal driving while suspended or revoked.

**Herbert Douglas Genz, 44**, sentenced Feb. 13 to 175 years prison, 99 years post-prison supervision and restitution paid to victim after a jury found him guilty of five counts of rape I, two counts sexual abuse I, two counts sodomy I. Dismissed: two counts sexual abuse I, two counts incest. Genz was accused of these charges involving his daughter between 2015 and 2024 before she was 16 years old.

**Daniel Hernandez-Luttrell, 22**, placed in diversion program after pleading guilty to DUII (liquor) with a .18% BAC.

**Marion Ray Hockland, 60**, charged Feb. 24 with criminal driving while suspended or revoked.

**Aron Lee Johnson II, 30**, charged Feb. 18 with DUII (liquor and/or cannabis), driving while suspended, driving uninsured and failure to install ignition interlock device.

**Patrick Anthony Douglas Lovato, 33**, charged March 2 with two counts of failure to report as a sex offender.

**Dani Rena Pace, 45**, sentenced Feb. 27 to 20 days compensatory service in lieu of jail, 18 mos. supervised probation and \$200 restitution to Summit after pleading no contest to forgery I. Dismissed: two counts forgery I.

**Janetta Marie Reedy, 27**, placed in diversion program after pleading no contest to DUII (liquor) with a .15% BAC. Also sentenced Feb. 17 to 90 days suspension of a drivers license and a \$150 fine after pleading no contest to reckless driving. Dismissed: recklessly endangering another person.

**Alexandria June Richardson, 30**, charged Feb. 24 with unlawful possession of fentanyl.

**Michael James Ridders, 53**, sentenced Feb. 3 to 18 mos. prison and three years post-prison supervision after pleading no contest to burglary I. Dismissed: unauthorized use of a vehicle, criminal mischief II, unlawful possession of meth.

**Steven Edward Robinson, 34**, charged March 2 with theft I and felon in possession of a firearm.

**Timothy William Roebuck, 43**, charged Feb. 19 with two counts of DV assault IV. In a separate case he was charged Feb. 23 with aggravated theft I and two counts of unauthorized use of a vehicle.

**Caden Alexander Smith, 24**, sentenced Feb. 6 to six mos. prison, two years post-prison supervision and \$12,375.03 restitution to Progressive Insurance after pleading guilty to criminal mischief I.

**Owen Wayne Winters, 50**, charged Feb. 18 with DV assault IV, DV attempted assault II, DV strangulation and failure to report as sex offender.

**Michael Ron Wood, 69**, sentenced Feb. 23 to 60 mos. prison, five years minus time served of post-prison supervision and \$400 in fines after pleading no contest to two counts of a reduced sentence of attempt to commit a Class C felony - sexual abuse I. Dismissed: sexual abuse I.

**Alex Michael Yoder, 38**, charged Feb. 18 with two counts of failure to report as a sex offender.

## Lebanon man sentenced in DUI, manslaughter case

By Sarah Brown  
Of The New Era

A Lebanon man was convicted on a manslaughter charge after a vehicle collision near Lacombe led to the death of an Albany man on June 12.

Cole Russell Allen, 33, pleaded no contest to manslaughter II and was sentenced to more than six years in prison.

Police and medics responded to a call about a two-vehicle collision at the intersection of Lacombe Drive and Bond Road at approximately 7:32 p.m. on that June day, where they found occupants of one of the cars trapped inside.

Downed power lines that were draped over both vehicles and a small brush fire delayed rescue.

Marion Dennis Johnson, 69, of Albany, died at the scene and his wife, Valda Lynn Johnson, 67, was airlifted to a hospital with serious injuries.

Allen, who sustained minor injuries in the crash, was ultimately charged with DUII, in addition to the manslaughter and other charges. He had previously completed a di-



Cole Allan

version program in 2018 after pleading guilty to reckless driving and DUII with a .23% BAC.

He pleaded guilty to DUII and assault III on Feb. 16, and no contest to manslaughter II. Dismissed charges include reckless driving, recklessly endangering another person and criminal mischief II.

His sentence also includes permanent revocation of a drivers license, 60 days jail, three years post-prison supervision, \$1,400 in fines and \$18,180.38 in restitution to Pacific Power and an individual.

## Consultant maps plan for jail levy poll

By Sarah Brown  
Of The New Era

The Lebanon City Council met with a consultant to discuss a potential levy for the municipal jail during a meeting on Wednesday, Feb. 25.

Betsy Schultz, of PNW Strategies, explained there would be three phases.

The first phase would involve gathering information on the data regarding the jail's history, the city's budget, and a look at the current bond and potential new levy.

Schultz will then work with a pollster, with a goal to return polling results back to the council by March 29.

She said the pollster hopes to receive at least 315 responses and if the results "look like it's going to be passing at roughly 50%," that's considered a "stamp of ap-

proval." If results are under 45% favorable, it would "require a great deal of effort" to help pass the measure.

If the council decides to move forward with placing the levy on a ballot, Schultz offered a few ideas on how they might conduct town halls or other educational outreaches to help inform the public about the levy.

In other business, the Lebanon Planning Commission approved the following actions following public hearings on Feb. 18:

- The annexation of 2015 Stoltz Hill Road, located at the southeast corner of Airport and Stoltz Hill roads.

- The subdivision of a .34-acre parcel of land at 401 Mary St. into five lots, with townhomes being placed on two of the lots.

## Municipal Court

### FEB. 25

**Alysia N. Bailiff, 44**, guilty by default for DWS, DU - fines \$3,030, license suspended.

**Talara Barnes, 20**, pleaded no contest operating a vehicle without driving privileges with accident, DU with accident - fines \$465.

**Michael D. Brown, 49**, pleaded no contest to failure to register vehicle, DWS, DU - fines \$820.

**Hanna M. Connelly, 33**, pleaded no contest to failure to obey traffic control device - fine \$265.

**Daniela Cortes-Arreola, 20**, pleaded no contest speeding 62/35 - fine \$265.

**Paul W. Donaldson, 62**, guilty by default for DWS, DU - fines \$3,030, license suspended.

**Gabriel A. Garcia, 21**, pleaded guilty to failure to register as a sex offender - fine \$501, 24 mos. probation, 15 days work crew.

**Elizabeth N. Glick, 35**, pleaded no contest to speeding 30/20 school zone - fine \$115.

**Leslie Huerta-Fernandez, 40**, pleaded no contest to failure

to obey traffic control device - fine \$265.

**Heather A. Ives, 50**, guilty by default for DWS, DU - fines \$3,030, license suspended.

**Lloyd D. Leininger, 33**, pleaded no contest to operating a vehicle without driving privileges, failure to renew vehicle registration - dismissed with \$200 in fees.

**Ruger N. Marshall, 18**, pleaded no contest speeding 45/35, speeding 78/45 - fines \$555. Dismissed: DU.

**Scott C. McAuley, 38**, pleaded guilty to harassment - fine \$1,201, 24 mos. probation. Dismissed: assault IV, attempted robbery III.

**Kirstin M. Mengore, 55**, pleaded no contest to DWS, DU - fines \$705.

**Tracy L. Mullins, 53**, guilty by default for DWS - fine \$2,015, license suspended.

**Gregory W. Nohrenberg, 48**, guilty by default for DWS, DU, failure to register vehicle - fines \$3,295, license suspended.

**Kayden A. Pangle, 19**, pleaded no contest to operating a vehicle without

driving privileges - fine \$215.

**William C. Phillips, 20**, pleaded no contest to DU - fine \$265

**Christopher Pierce, 29**, guilty by default for DWS - fine \$2,015, license suspended.

**Peggy S. Pitts, 39**, guilty by default for DWS, DU - fines \$3,006, license suspended.

**Riley E. Schmidt, 25**, pleaded no contest to unlawful parking in space reserved for persons with disabilities - fine \$165.

**Stephen P. Smith, 70**, pleaded no contest speeding 38/20 school zone - fine \$225.

**James E. Tagen, 52**, guilty by default for DWS - fine \$2,015, license suspended.

**Kaleb R. Taylor, 41**, pleaded no contest to unreasonable sound amplification from a vehicle, misuse of special left turn lane, unlawful or un signaled change of lanes - fines \$495.

**Christofer J. Williams, 38**, guilty by default for DWS - fine \$2,015, license suspended.

WE SUPPORT THE NEW ERA!

**Electrical  
SS  
Services**  
Dan and  
Cindy Rice

# Commissioners get Juvenile report for beginning of this year

By Alex Paul  
Linn County Communications

The Linn County Juvenile Department held 31 young people in January, director Torri Lynn told County Commissioners Roger Nyquist and Will Tucker at their Feb. 24 meeting.

There were 20 youths from Linn County held for 181 days. Of those, 16 were male and four were female.

Eight youths – six males and two females – from Benton County were held for 64 days.

Three boys from Lincoln County were held for 50 days of care. There were no young people from Clackamas and Marion counties.

Lynn said his department received 34 referrals in January, 22 of which were criminally oriented.

There are 192 young people in the Probation Unit, with 32 assessed as high-risk.

The victim advocate made 125 contacts.

The Tier I work crew completed almost 131 hours of community service in 11 days. In January 2025, the work crew of nine youths completed almost 118 hours of community service.

The 22-member Tier II work crew completed almost 451 hours of community service, compared to 16 youth completing almost 472 hours of community service in January 2025.

Three young people completed 26.25 hours in the restitution program and two youths completed 25 hours through the wildfire risk reduction program.

**In other business, the commissioners:**

- Approved the transfer of \$71,000 within the General Grants Fund to the Health Fund to support the drug deflection program through the District Attorney's Office.

- Approved a Declaration of Necessity to acquire right-of-way for the Bowers Drive Bridge Replacement Project for the Road Department. The project will replace the existing bridge with one meeting current standards to reduce road safety hazards for vehicles, pedestrians and bicycles. The project is federally funded for \$2,561,522.31 million, with a 10.27% match by Linn County.

- Approved a contract between the Linn County Sheriff's Office and AA Towing of Albany.

- Approved a 4.7% increase to the food services contract between the Linn County Sheriff's Office and SUMMIT Food Services for meals at the Linn County Jail. The increase will add about \$20,000 to \$21,000 over the next 12 months.



This year's Strawberry Festival and Sportsman's Holiday court members were both present at the banquet, and here, stand for a portrait. Sportsman's Holiday Court members are in the front. From left, princesses are, Miu Simmons, Ruby VandenBos, Kalissa Ellis, Anne Workman, Ella Haggas, Payton Voight, Victoria Victor, Tatum Cole, Mailey Brewer, Emma Estes and Amara Gonzales.

**BANQUET**  
From page 1

Robert Snyder.

A packed house in the Sweet Home Boys and Girls Club gymnasium, which was decorated in a patriotic theme to mark this year's 250th birthday of the United States, enjoyed a meal served up by Angila Tack and a wide variety of desserts that were auctioned off.

Both the recently named Sportsman's Holiday Court and the Strawberry Court were present, as well as state Rep. Jami Cate and most of the Sweet Home City Council.

Moore Family Vineyard supplied drink options.

Mayor Susan Coleman was out of town, so City Manager Jason Ogden and City Council President Pro Tem Josh Thorstad presented the City Pride and Ownership Award to city Financial Services Manager Cindi Robeck and the

Mayor's Award to Robert Snyder.

The event was emceed by Dave Bauer, who presented all but one of the chamber awards, with assistance from Chamber Executive Director Lagea Mull.

**Chamber Awards Distinguished Citizen Cindy Rice**

Bauer described Rice as an individual who had devoted many years, "not just hours," to strengthen Sweet Home.

He listed some of her "countless" fields of involvement over the past decades: as a volunteer in schools, Cub Scouts, Boy Scouts, and 4-H while her sons were young; Linn County's Peer Court program – "and when that program was defunded, she didn't step away from service. She went back to school. She designed her own degree program at Oregon State University focused on facilitating and supporting healthy relationships with the

community, because she believed in social justice in helping others."

He noted that Rice has applied that education "and her heart" to Sweet Home Emergency Ministries, where she manages inventory, writes grants, stocks shelves, coordinates volunteers, and provides the needs of "vulnerable" people.

"She once spent over 300 hours completing a grant application to secure funding for a generator, because even during a power outage people still need food," he said, adding that "when someone walks through the doors of SHEMA, they're often in crisis.

"Her question is simple: 'How can I lessen their load so they leave knowing they've been cared for, not judged?'"

"Tonight, we recognize a woman whose compassion, persistence and quiet leadership have strengthened Sweet

See Banquet, Page 8

## Church Directory

Isaiah 40:31 They who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings like eagles; they shall run and not be weary; they shall walk and not faint.

*Highway 20 Church of Christ*

Pastor Machiel Greyling

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

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

**Mt. Calvary Missionary Baptist Church**

Sunday Service 11am  
Come join us!

Bible Study  
10 am Sundays.

1042 Pleasant Valley Rd.  
541-818-0022

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

www.sweethomecatholicchurch.com

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

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

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

**Sweet Home United Methodist Church**

Open Hearts,  
Open Minds,  
Open Doors

A Reconciling Congregation

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

6th & Ironwood  
541-367-3073

*The COMMUNITY CHAPEL*

at Ames Creek

SUNDAYS at 10am  
www.chapel.cc

42250 AMES CREEK RD  
SWEET HOME OR

HC hope.church  
sweet home

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

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

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

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

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

**Sweet Home Evangelical Church**

Join us Sunday 10:30 am

FOLLOW US AT:  
FACEBOOK.COM/SWEETHOMECC

1347 Long Street • 541-367-4357

**Elm Street Baptist Church**

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

1150 Elm St. Sweet Home  
541-367-5883

# City Hall park to be fitted with outdoor fitness court

By Sarah Brown  
Of The New Era

The City of Sweet Home accepted a grant that will help fund an outdoor fitness court next to City Hall.

City Manager Jason Ogden said during the City Council meeting on Tuesday, Feb. 24, the National Fitness Campaign awarded Sweet Home \$35,000 toward installation of its National Fitness Court in the park at City Hall.

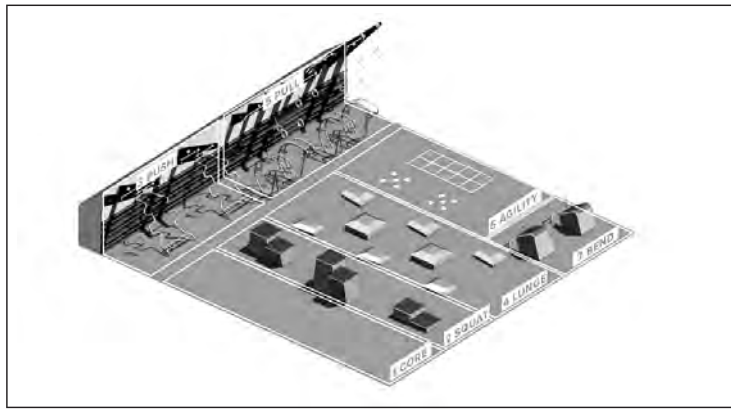
Ogden described the court as a “compact outdoor gym system roughly the size of a half of a basketball court,” that would have steel workout stations for cardio, strength, resistance training, balance and mobility exercises.

The court is part of an overall system designed by National Fitness Campaign that includes access to a training app for every level of fitness ability and support to build a Fitness Court Ambassador program.

The National Fitness Campaign requires the city match the grant with an additional \$185,000 plus the cost of a concrete slab, which would be accounted for in the general fund for fiscal year 2026-2027.

“We have limited outdoor fitness amenities,” Ogden said. “This installation would expand recreational opportunities, particularly on the east side of town, an area that’s currently underserved.”

The council approved acceptance of the grant and its



The National Fitness Court includes workout equipment designed for various exercises.

– National Fitness Campaign photos



The back side of the National Fitness Court provides a space to promote art.

terms 6-1. Councilor Angelita Sanchez opposed the decision, citing concerns about cost to the city, insurance coverage and competition with a local fitness business.

Completion is expected in late summer or early fall this year.

Learn more at [NationalFitnessCampaign.com](http://NationalFitnessCampaign.com).

**In other business, the council:**

- Held a work session for

goal setting ideas.

- Reaffirmed an intergovernmental agreement for the Managing Oregon Resources More Efficiently (MORE) program organized through Marion County.

- Directed Ogden to finalize a contract with North Santiam Paving Co. for Phase III at Sankey Park, which includes an ADA sidewalk and hard surface trail, additional lighting and seating.

# Author pens book about local leader

Being born a girl was her first mistake.

That’s the perspective author Elle Mott believes her great-great grandfather had toward his only daughter, Mott’s maternal great-grandmother, Marie Conner Schmidt, a Lebanon resident.

Mott recently released her newest book about Schmidt, unveiling a history about a woman who ended up becoming one of Lebanon’s trailblazers in the mid-1900s.

Her nonfiction historical biography, “Marie Conner, A Leading Lady: Her Life and Civic Leadership in a Bygone Era,” documents her rise as a leader in Lebanon despite her father’s rejection of her place as a woman.

Learning that her great-grandmother was the first hospital auxiliary president for Lebanon Community Hospital in 1950, she also found Schmidt was well-known in Lebanon during the 1940s and ‘50s for her community involvement and civic leadership, including participation in the American Legion auxiliary, PTA, Red Cross, Marguerite

Chapter of the White Shrine of Jerusalem, and more.

“When I was a girl, she had shown me many scrapbooks of the events and groups in Lebanon that she had been very much a part of,” Mott said. “In my older adulthood and with no scrapbooks in hand, I set out to research her Lebanon life and from that, this book was born.”

Mott’s book paints a vivid account of Schmidt’s life from the moment she was born. The author takes the reader through obstacles Schmidt faced as a woman who not only sought her father’s acceptance as a woman, but also rose to a prominent position in the small town of Lebanon where she advocated for women’s rights.

“Marie steps into her community and into the hearts of many people to give her time and help with their needs,” Mott said. “This is Marie’s story – of a rise from her girlhood angsts to become a leading lady – and much more.”

Jenny Grove, of Lebanon, reviewed the book, stating, “Wow, this book is such a de-

light! ....As a businesswoman and community volunteer in Lebanon, Oregon, I felt a real connection to her journey. I recognized names that begat generations of hard working, generous people.”

Mott, who grew up in Oregon, now resides in Kentucky. She describes herself as a creative nonfiction writer who weaves advocacy, personal strength and humanitarianism into her published works. Her other two books are “Out of Chaos: A Memoir” and “People Helping People.”

Her recent release, “Marie Conner, A Leading Lady: Her Life and Civic Leadership in a Bygone Era,” is 303 pages and can be found on Amazon. It will soon be available also on [bookshop.org](http://bookshop.org), [barnesandnoble.com](http://barnesandnoble.com) and [powells.com](http://powells.com), and distributed through Ingram. More information can be found at [ellemottaauthor.com](http://ellemottaauthor.com).

Mott said the story is “an encouragement to those who are troubled by our country’s current strife and who refuse to sit idly by to see how it unfolds.”

# Linn County offers services to combat problem gambling, increase public awareness

Linn County is making an effort in March, which is Problem Gambling Awareness Month, to increase understanding of problem gambling – a serious but often misunderstood mental health condition.

The Linn County Alcohol and Drug Program is committed to raising awareness and providing free and confidential problem gambling treatment services to community members.

Problem gambling refers to gambling behaviors that negatively impact a person’s family, work, or personal life.

In Oregon, an estimated 2.6% of adults experience moderate to serious gambling-related problems, according to the Oregon Health Authority.

Additionally, approximately 2.2% of Oregon adolescents are considered at risk for, or meet the criteria for, a gambling disorder. The effects of problem gambling often extend beyond the individual, impacting spouses, children and other loved ones.

Warning signs of a gambling problem may include gambling more often or for longer periods than intended, lying about how money is spent, declining performance at work or school, or borrowing money to gamble.

For a complete list of warning signs or to take a confidential gambling self-evaluation, visit the Oregon Problem Gambling Resource (OPGR) at [OPGR.org](http://OPGR.org).

In Oregon, free gambling treatment services are available to all residents, including both inpatient and outpatient care. Even if someone who is struggling with gambling is not ready to seek help themselves, family members and

other supporters can still access free counseling and support.

Linn County residents can contact the Linn-Benton Gambling Treatment Program through the Linn County Alcohol and Drug Program at (541) 967-3819. The program offers a range of services, including:

- Individual assessment and evaluation;
- Individual, group, and family counseling;
- Family education on gambling addiction, relapse prevention, and recovery; and
- Additional classes, including equine therapy and mindfulness.

“For anyone who feels gambling is taking control of their life, help is available without judgment,” said Brian Mayta, certified gambling treatment counselor with the Linn County Alcohol and Drug Treatment Program.

All Oregon residents can also contact the Oregon Problem Gambling Helpline at 1-877-695-4648 24 hours a day, seven days a week. The helpline connects callers with trained professionals who listen, answer questions, and provide referrals to free, confidential counseling. Spanish-language support is available by calling 1-844-888-2537.

Throughout March, the Linn County Alcohol and Drug Program is hosting activities to educate the community and foster conversation around problem gambling, including:

- Problem Gambling Awareness Art Search contest for middle school students.
- Social media outreach on Linn Together Facebook and Instagram.

For more, visit [www.linncountyhealth.org/services/substance-use](http://www.linncountyhealth.org/services/substance-use).



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

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

- 1. Soda:** Two of the most harmful things for our teeth are sugar and acid, and carbonated beverages are full of both! The teeth literally start dissolving under the attack of acid, leading to cavities.
- 2. Sports Drinks:** Like soda, they are often full of sugar and are highly acidic. One study showed that lemon-lime Gatorade dissolved more tooth enamel than any other drink, including Coke.
- 3. Fruit Juice:** After reading to this point, you probably know what this is on the list. Juice has lots of sugar and acid too. While it could be considered a healthy option, most fitness experts will advise you not to drink you calories. Eat the entire fruit instead and enjoy the health benefits of the fiber.

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

**COMPLIMENTARY ORTHODONTIC CONSULTATIONS (reg. \$85)**

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

1524 Long St. Sweet Home, OR | 541-367-2931 | [www.sweethomedental.com](http://www.sweethomedental.com)

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



Eli Strong, center, holds his state trophy. With him are, from left, Elks Bobbie McDermond, Dave Whitlock and Randy Claasen.

– Sweet Home Elks photo

## Local boy wins state, advances to regional Elks Hoop Shoot

Eli Strong, of Sweet Home, won this year's Elks Hoop Shoot 10-11-year-old boys state competition and is moving on to the regional tournament in Idaho later this month.

Eli, a student at Holley School, sank 18 of 25 free throws in the state competition, held Feb. 14 at St. Mary's Elementary School in Mt. Angel, to advance to the regional, which will be held March 14 in Nampa, Idaho. The Elks cover all expenses for competitors, local Hoop Shoot Director Randy Claasen said.

"It will be an experience he

and his family will never forget," Claasen said.

The regional winners will advance to the nationals in Chicago, scheduled for April 18 at the Wintrust Arena, home of the WNBA Chicago Sky and DePaul Blue Demons.

Eli was one of more than 245 kids in the Lebanon and Sweet Home areas who competed at the local level, Claasen said.

"In my 25 years as Hoop Shoot director, Eli is the first one to advance to the regionals," Claasen said. "Please wish him good luck."

## Brownsville Clinic now open five days a week

Samaritan Family Medicine - Brownsville has expanded its walk-in clinic to five days a week, giving patients more access to same-day care close to home.

The walk-in clinic treats acute medical conditions that need prompt attention but are not life-threatening.

New walk-in hours are Monday from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., and Tuesday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Hours may vary depending on daily provider availability.

Patients can use walk-in care for common concerns such as sore throat, ear pain, minor cuts, minor burns, muscle strains and cold or flu symptoms. Walk-in care is available for concerns that cannot wait for the next available primary care visit.

For more information or to reach the clinic, call (541) 451-6940.

## BANQUET

From page 6

Home for decades.

### First Citizen Michael Hall

Bauer described Hall as someone who "grew up here" and started working at a local business as a teenager, "learning the value of hard work from the ground up."

Eventually, he said, Hall became owner of The Point restaurant, also serving as a City council member, and has served as a board member for Sweet Home Economic Development Group, the Chamber of Commerce and Sunshine Industries.

During COVID and other emergencies, he has made sure local families have been fed and "he personally delivered meals to those who were home-bound," Bauer said.

Hall "invested in infrastructure to keep his doors open during outages so the community could continue gathering and being served. He encourages other business owners. He gives his time, his resources and his energy to this town. His heart and soul are here in Sweet Home."

### Junior First Citizen McKenzie Reynolds

"This year's recipient didn't just participate in community events; she helped bring one back," Bauer said in introducing Reynolds, who was instrumental in restoring the Sweet Home Rodeo last year after a 13-year hiatus.

"Providing a rodeo isn't a small undertaking," Bauer said. "It takes leadership, persistence, coordination and the ability to rally a community around something meaningful."

He also noted that Reynolds has been involved in multiple scholarship initiatives for Sweet Home Alumni Foundation, as well as volunteering through various sports and Scholar Day activities. She has also organized trunks or treat events with O&M Point S Tire and Auto.

"In other words, she shows up not for recognition, not for applause, but because she believes in this town, that's exactly what emerging leadership looks like," Bauer concluded in presenting the award.

### Curb Appeal Award A&W

Bauer said the award "honors a business that understands that their storefront reflect the spirit of our community," crediting owners Josh and Patty Hankins' continue investment in their historic facility - continually upgrading the restaurant's interior, keeping the outdoor freshly painted, and preserving its "nostalgic" nature.

"This year, they went above and beyond by purchasing and installing the complete Burger Family - Papa, Mama, Teen and Baby Burger.

"What makes it special isn't just the statues, but the intention behind it, through dedication, restoration and genuine



Organization of the Year winners Road Maggots are represented by Ray Jackman, left, and Doug Tiller.

passion for legacy."

### Business of the Year All Star Pizza

Bauer said All Star, founded and owned by Brad Newport, who was out of town during the banquet, "exemplifies consistency, success and service" in serving Sweet Home for over 16 years.

"They built something more than a business," he said. "They built a place families gather, where teams celebrate and community connections are made. Their longevity speaks to resilience. Their customer loyalty speaks to quality. Their continued presence speaks to commitment."

### Organization of the Year Road Maggots

Mull presented the award, noting that the motorcycle club has held toy runs at Christmas time for the past 18 years and has helped the City of Sweet Home with its Harvest Festival, organizing and putting on the Chili Cookoff, which raised money for local young cancer patient Lexi Vineyard.

"They're just dedicated. They are good, hard workers," she said, adding, jokingly, "This will probably be the only time you'll hear me say this phrase at a banquet: 'The Road Maggots motorcycle group,'" drawing laughter from the crowd as she presented the award.

### VIP Awards

**Dean Hummer** - Robert Snyder introduced Hummer as "a talented seamstress," has "lived a life defined by generos-

ity, service and devotion to her family and community" for more than six decades.

Hummer, he said, since the 2010s, has sewn and donated some 3,000 baby blankets and quilts to shelters in east Linn County and Albany.

She also volunteers at SHEM, where she spends "multiple mornings each week organizing and distributing food and clothing," he said.

Hummer also was involved in Sweet Home youth baseball in the 1970s, serving as president of the organization, and was a Boy Scout den leader, president of the Sweet Home Booster Club, and was named Junior First Citizen in 1984.

"She has put in countless hours fundraising, running Halloween, Easter and other celebrations for youth," Snyder said. "She has baked pies, cakes, done bake sales for fundraising for school and sports fundraisers, and this, again, is years and years of service.

"Her kindness has touched generations of kids who played ball. Her legacy is not measured in quilts, sewn dresses, altars or meetings led, but in the lives she has quietly made better."

**Christian Romero** - Romero, a freshman at Sweet Home High School, is a devoted volunteer at SHEM and other local organizations, Snyder said.

As a member of the Interact Club at the Junior High, he

See Banquet, Page 14

### PUBLIC SAFETY

From page 3

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

12:17 a.m. - Five minors arrested for MIP after deputy investigated juvenile complaint, 800 block N. Main, Brownsville.

1:10 a.m. - Deputy investigated vehicle, found five minors in possession of alcohol, 300 block North, Brownsville. Report taken.

9:15 a.m. - Scott Fleury, 48, of Lebanon, arrested and transported to LCJ on LCCC failure to appear warrant after deputy investigated trespassing report at CTC gate in 27600 block Scott Mountain. Male and female were trespassed from CTC for one year. Report taken.

12:12 p.m. - LCSO conducted death investigation involving adult male, 600 block W. 3rd, Halsey. Investigation ongoing. Report taken.

1:31 p.m. - Cody Plagmann, 23, of Lebanon, arrested for trespass II after allegedly riding dirt bike on closed CTC land, 45200 block Wiley Creek. Report taken.

4:21 p.m. - Kylee Norberg, 35, of Independence, cited for trespassing after driving on road closed to public and getting locked behind gate, Ames Creek Line, 42600 block Ames Creek. Report taken.

#### SWEET HOME POLICE

12:33 a.m. - Faron alter Kennedy, 61, arrested on LCCC warrants for FTA in multiple criminal citation, reckless driving cases, LMC warrants for cutting/transporting forest products and for FTA in criminal citation cases. Also cited for DWS, DU. Wendie Lynn Clark, 54, arrested on AMC warrant for probation violation in trespassing case. 27000 block Riggs Hill.

4:11 a.m. - Multiple callers from Sun Motel, 3026 Main, reported male who had previously been trespassed was back at location. Officer responded but was unable to locate male. Report taken.

7:59 a.m. - William Lee Phillips, 43, arrested on three SHMC warrants for FTA or FTC in theft

See Public Safety, Page 17

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

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

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

**EXPIRES 12/31/2026**

**Taqueria Dos Arbolitos**

**LEBANON**

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

**2 FOR \$8**  
**MIX & MATCH**

Crispy Alaska Cod Sandwich  
Double Cheeseburger

**REVV'D UP**  
**ROOT BEER & CREAM FREEZE**

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

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

**the POINT RESTAURANT**  
EST. 1970

**\$5 OFF**  
ANY PURCHASE OF \$30 OR MORE  
NOT VALID WITH ANY OTHER OFFERS. MUST PRESENT COUPON. EXPIRES 4/01/26

OUTDOOR HEATED PATIO • OREGON LOTTERY  
6305 US 20, FOSTER • (541) 367-1560  
FOR RESERVATIONS AND TAKEOUT  
[POINTSWEETHOME.COM](http://POINTSWEETHOME.COM)

**OREGON'S**  
INDOOR HIGH CALIBER KITCHEN

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

**\$3 OFF**  
ANY LUNCH OR DINNER SPECIAL

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

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

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

**IxtaPa** Mexican Restaurant

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

**25 N Santiam Hwy • (541) 451-3995**  
[ixtapamexicanrestaurant.com](http://ixtapamexicanrestaurant.com)

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

# Eagles beat Enterprise in 2A playoffs; now face No. 1 Trinity

By Scott Swanson  
Of The New Era

East Linn's boys dispatched Enterprise 67-54 Friday, Feb. 27, in the first round of the 2A Division state basketball playoffs.

No. 8 East Linn couldn't get rolling, scoring only five points in the first period against the Pirates, ranked ninth in the 2A and 20-6 coming into the game. The game stayed tight for most of the first three quarters, as the score was tied 47-47 with just over three minutes left in the third period.

But that was when senior Brison Edwards scored six unanswered points to get things rolling for the Eagles, putting them up 56-47 and East Linn never looked back.

"We started off slow, offensively," Coach Jonathan Whitehead said. "Our guys didn't give up and they fought their way back into the game."

Sophomore Grady Knurowski made seven threes, including a critical trey in the fourth quarter, to lead the team with 26 points, going 7-16 from three-point range. Edwards scored 20 points to help pad the Eagles' total.

Whitehead said junior Demetrius Wilke played a big part in the turnaround for East Linn at the end, getting a steal that he fed to Edwards for a crucial score.

That turnover and a couple of others "really gave us a little bit of separation," Whitehead said. "Demetrius doesn't get a lot of attention, but we're not successful without the stuff he does."

He said two other key contributors were junior Gracen Christenson and sophomore Ryder Howard, who kept defensive pressure on the Pirates' 6-7 senior post Kason



Grady Knurowski launches a three-pointer as Enterprise's Dawson Cudmore defends. - Keeghan Gittins photos

Mitchell.

"They both did an amazing job," Whitehead said.

Up next for the Eagles is a trip to the Round of Eight in Pendleton, where they will face No. 1 Trinity Lutheran at 3:15 p.m. Thursday, March 5.

The Saints beat 16th-seeded Santiam 84-50 to open their tournament. It was Trinity's 23rd consecutive win after losing 80-73 in early December to Westside Christian, which was the top-seeded team in the 3A playoffs, but fell in an upset to No. 17 Banks in the first round of the 3A playoffs Friday.

Trinity Lutheran's last 11 victories have been by 29 or more points.

Guard Quentin Romney went 6-for-8 from the floor and 10-for-11 at the free-throw line to pace the Saints with 22 points, while fellow backcourt player Chimi Gilbert added 17. The Saints have height with six players standing 6-2 or more, led by 6-7 junior forward Austin Imhoff, 6-5 junior center Brady Nichols and 6-4 senior forward Ben Limoges.

"They have a really good post and good guard play," Whitehead said. "They are well-coached and really disciplined."

"We have to show up and play really good basketball, hold them to one shot and not turn the ball over ourselves."



Demetrius Wilke lays the ball up inside Enterprise's Quentin Arellano for two points. See more photos at lebanonlocalnews.com.

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



This week's ICEBOX performer of the week goes to Zach, one of our skilled steel welders here at Radiator Supply House.

Zach takes real pride in the work he does. If something isn't quite right, he checks in, digs into why it happened, and helps figure out a solution. That kind of ownership makes a big difference.

He's also someone the team can count on. On days when we're short a guy or two, Zach steps up without hesitation and gets the job done. This kind of mindset is what keeps the shop moving forward and maintains the quality our customers can count on.

Thank you for all of your hard work and dedication, Zach. We appreciate you!



## VISION SOURCE<sup>®</sup> SIGNATURE EYE CARE

### Experience Modern Eye Care

Lifetime Vision Source of Lebanon offers comprehensive eye care services and in-demand lenses and frames to Lebanon and the surrounding communities.



Lifetime Vision Source of Lebanon

90 Market St, Ste 20  
Lebanon, OR 97355  
541-451-1144

lifetimevisionsource.com



# Warrior boys move into playoff hoops contention with clutch win

By Mike Warner  
For The New Era

Lebanon's boys put on a surge to wind down their Mid-Willamette Conference in basketball with two crucial wins last week, over Crescent Valley and Central.

The victories put the Warriors in fourth place in the league standings coming into their final regular-season game Tuesday, March 3, on the road at South Albany. Lebanon and Crescent Valley are tied for fourth place but Lebanon has the upper hand in head-to-head games. However, another win would help in the state rankings.

On Senior Recognition Night Friday, Feb. 27, the boys found themselves locked in a battle with the Raiders, who came in ranked ahead of Lebanon, for that all-important fourth position in the conference standings. The winner would have a leg up in the race to post-season play.

As with previous games, the conflict was a classic battle between the two programs. Both had specific strengths that they employed to their favor. Crescent Valley had the size, starting three players 6-5 or taller. Lebanon had the athleticism.

In the final tally, Lebanon pulled out a 60-55 win.

The Warriors started quickly and had a 10-point 21-

11 lead at the end of the first quarter. Crescent Valley cut into that lead in the second quarter and Lebanon led by only three, 30-27, at the half.

The third quarter was much the same and the Warriors led by just two, 47-45, going into the fourth quarter.

The final period was a classic as the Raiders edged to an eight-point lead with just three minutes left in the contest. That's when the magic began to happen for the Warriors.

Lebanon intensified its defense and shots started to fall. The Warriors inched closer to the visitors and by the end of the game had turned that seven-point deficit into a five-point lead, holding Crescent Valley scoreless for the final three minutes of the game.

The Warriors rode their defense and shooting into the victory circle. They shot 39.6% (19-48) from the field including 34.6% (9-26) from the three. Their 65.5% (13-20) shooting from the free throw line was icing on the cake. Their teamwork was confirmed as 11 of their made baskets came from assists.

There were a number of contributors to the win. Gunner Miller recorded a double-double with 15 points and 12 rebounds, with four assists. Finn VandenBos added another 15 points, while Ryan

Robinson added 11 points and four rebounds. Finally, Logan Large added 10 points and five assists.

## One-point squeaker over Central

Lebanon's boys upset 10th-ranked Central Tuesday, Feb. 24 in a one-point squeaker, keeping their hopes alive for a playoffs berth in the 49-48 win on the road.

The Panthers, currently ranked second in the conference, took down the Warriors in Lebanon in a very close game earlier this year.

As with many Mid-Willamette Conference games, the contest was a true battle of wills, with neither team in complete control. In fact, neither team led by more than three points the entire game.

It seemed as though the Warriors were pushing a big rock up a steep hill the entire game.

Lebanon was in foul trouble early on, with starting center Ryan Robinson playing only 10 minutes and eventually fouling out. In addition, Gunner Miller and Finn VandenBos missed playing time due to fouls.

If that wasn't tough enough, the Warriors created more problems for themselves with shooting problems, connecting on 40.5% (17-42) from the field but only 21.1% (4-19) from three-point land. Free



Samuel Tunstill, right, tries for a steal as Ryan Robinson, left, defends against Crescent Valley. See more photos at lebanonlocalnews.com. — Cole Harnar photo

throw shooting, normally a positive, was less than standard at 55% (11-20).

Even with all the challenges, they battled the Panthers and won when Gunner Miller made two free throws with only seconds remaining. Central was unable to get a last-second shot and the Warriors walked away with the huge win.

Contributors to the win included Large with 14 points, three rebounds, and three

steals; and Miller with 12 points, six boards, two steals and five assists. Sam Tunstill stepped in for Robinson and scored 10 points, with seven rebounds.

"It's all God," Coach Casey VandenBos said after the win. "He has given me the endurance to walk this path and I was able to reap some of the harvest tonight. I praise him on the mountain tops and even more in the valleys."

# Warrior girls down Crescent Valley to secure fourth in MWC

By Mike Warner  
For The New Era

Lebanon clinched a fourth-place finish in the Mid-Willamette Conference girls basketball standings last week with wins over Crescent Valley and Central.

The Warriors finish the regular season Tuesday at second-place South Albany. While Lebanon's place in league is secure, another win could influence their positioning in the state tournament.

## Lebanon 61, Crescent Valley 58

After celebrating their seniors Friday night, Feb. 27, the Warriors delivered a close, hard-fought win over the visiting Raiders, who came into the game one step below Lebanon in the league standings and were loaded for bear.

The teams faced each other knowing their opponent's strengths and weaknesses. Both teams had quality players and exceptional coaching. The upshot: The team with the fewest mistakes would have the best chance to win.

Lebanon exerted its influence and took a 20-16 lead at the end of the first quarter. The second quarter was much the same, the Warriors extending their lead at halftime to 34-28.

One issue was that Lebanon's starting center, Hazel Pepperling, got into foul

trouble and had to sit for parts of the last three quarters. That allowed Crescent Valley to narrow the score.

At the end of the third quarter, Lebanon was down to a 44-43 lead.

Two good things came from Pepperling's forced hiatus. First, the team learned to play significant time without her on the floor. Second, her backup, younger sister Harper, a freshman, played exceptionally well and filled in admirably in Hazel's absence.

The Warriors' toughness and grit won out in the end, despite their shooting leaving something to be desired. Lebanon hit only 30.2% (16-52) from the field and 21.5% (6-29) from the three. Their free throw shooting was much better at 65.6% (21/32).

In fact, one of the keys to the win was the number of free throws taken (32) and made (21) compared to Crescent Valley's (three for seven). In addition, Lebanon forced 21 turnovers, including 18 steals. Finally, Lebanon had eleven assists on the sixteen made baskets which is a very high average and shows strong teamwork.

Contributors for the Warriors included some regulars and several new participants. Despite her foul trouble, Hazel Pepperling recorded another double-double with 12 points,

11 rebounds, five steals and three blocks; and Peyton Vorderstrasse recorded sixteen points, three rebounds, two assists and five steals.

New contributors making themselves known were Jayden Hare, who scored nine points and recorded four rebounds and two steals, and Harper Pepperling, who scored 11 points, with two rebounds and one steal.

## Girls Dominate Central

The girls were on the road Tuesday, Feb. 24, at Central. The Warriors hosted the Panthers earlier in the season and recorded a dominating win.

Tuesday was much the same as Lebanon won easily, 70-34.

As Coach Andrew Evans said, "The girls came out fired up and responded well from our showing against West. A huge focus for us is having a 'next play' mentality and that's with all adversity we deal with and the girls have been getting better with this idea each day."

The Warriors set the tone early, leading 16-9 after the first quarter.

Their pressure defense and up-tempo offense took control and never let go. The Warriors led 44-15 at the half, then continued to press in the second half, leading upping their lead to 58-26 at the end of the third quarter.

Lebanon's shooting was much improved in this game,



Hazel Pepperling puts the ball up under pressure in a crowd of Crescent Valley defenders as Piper Sewell, left, watches. See more photos at lebanonlocalnews.com. — Cole Harnar photo

making 41.2% (28-68) from the field, including a strong 33.3% (10-30) from three. Free throw shooting 44.45 (4-9), normally a strong point, was a non factor, given the pace of the game.

The Warriors' defense was key, creating 19 steals and 12 other turnovers to ease the way for their offense.

Contributors to the game were Hazel Pepperling, who recorded another double-double with 17 points, 10 re-

bounds, five assists and six steals; Vorderstrasse, whose improved offensive efficiency was evident as she scored 11 points on just five shots from the field and two free throws. She also recorded eight rebounds, five assists, three blocks and three steals.

Piper Sewell also had a strong game, scoring 16 points and recording three rebounds. Finally, VandenBos scored 11 points, making four Warriors who scored in double figures.

# Sweet Home, Lebanon compete at national cheer competition

A week after winning state titles at the OSAA state 4A and 5A championships, Sweet Home's and Lebanon's competition cheer teams were in Anaheim, Calif., to compete in the USA Spirit Nationals.

The competition, held Feb. 19-23, drew top teams from throughout the West, including Hawaii and Alaska, Sweet Home Coach Amber Rosa said.

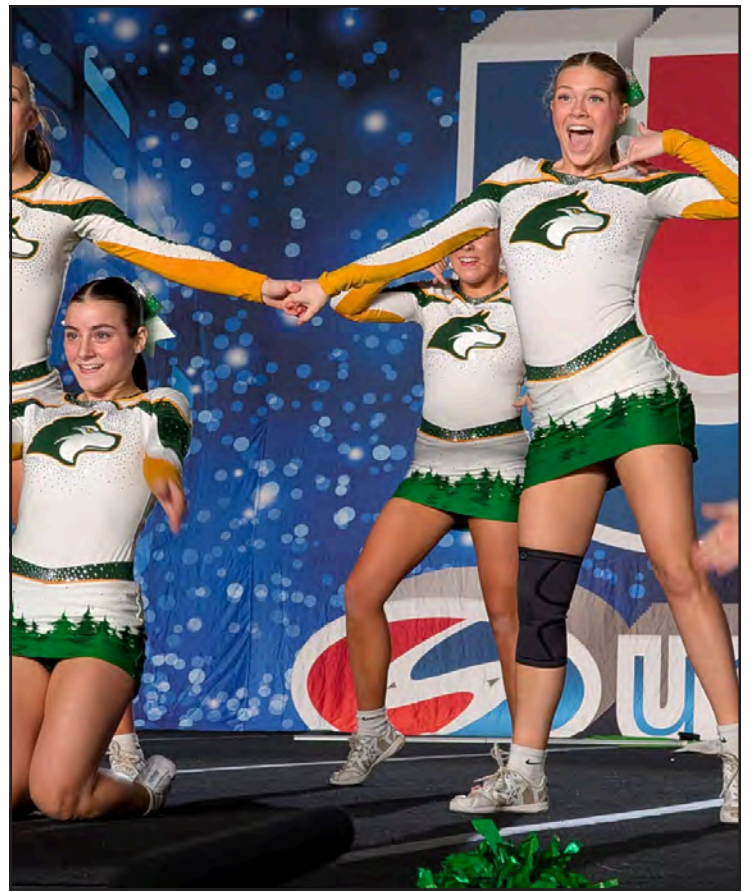
The Huskies competed in a total of seven competitions, involving both stunt and traditional cheer, at the competition, where they found themselves up against teams from much larger schools.

"We were one of the smaller schools," Rosa said.

Still, Sweet Home finished fourth in the Show Cheer Intermediate competition prelims, than sixth in the finals.

"We hit it perfectly on Friday and our goal was to hit it perfectly on Saturday," Rosa said. They did, performing the same routine they had at state, and actually increased their score from 94.4 in the prelims to 95.1 in the finals, "but some other teams also upped their scores," Rosa said. "We fell to sixth, but sixth place feels like first place."

"Our goal there was just to



Sweet Home cheer team members perform at the USA Spirit Nationals, which drew teams from throughout the West to Anaheim, Calif. Feb. 19-23. - Candy Ersparmer photos

improve our scores," she added. "We did much better than we have in the past, but not quite high enough to place."

In the Varsity Show Cheer Novice competition, Lebanon placed eighth with

a score of 91.4, after a three-point deduction.

Sweet Home finished 14th in Game Day Situational Sideline/Cheer, finishing with a 92.2 score after a two-point deduction.

At the Oregon Cheer

Coaches Association championships, held that same weekend in Salem,

Sweet Home's third-through sixth-grade club team finished first, and its sixth-through eighth-grade team finished second.

"We had a great year and we're looking forward to next year," Rosa said. "We're just losing two seniors and we have just two juniors (of 11 total on the roster). We're getting 12 eighth-graders, so the future is bright."

REP.JAMICATE@OREGONLEGISLATURE.GOV 503-986-1411



## I'm here to serve you!

Never hesitate to reach out to my office for help with government agencies, concerns over legislation, or to get clarity on things happening in Salem!



e-Subscribe  
Email updates from

Representative Jami Cate  
Enter your email address below.

Go

### Get my emails!

Visit my Legislative page to register for my in-depth and informative emails.



Subscribe at [OREGONLEGISLATURE.GOV/CATE](https://OREGONLEGISLATURE.GOV/CATE)

# Warrior boys 11th in state wrestling behind Wynn; Duty 2nd

By Ryker Burr  
For The New Era

Lebanon's boys wrestling team finished 11th at the state tournament in Portland last weekend with three placers, including individual state champion Seth Wynn.

"It was awesome," Head Coach Michael Cox said of Wynn, a senior. "All of his hard work has paid off. He's been wrestling for a long time, since he was little."

Wynn shut out Crater's Jaxon Godley 9-0 in the 157-pound final to secure his first individual title. Wynn bested all of his opponents by fall or tech fall until that final match.

Wynn has placed third and fifth before at state, but this year he finally got over the hump.

"It's been a long time coming," Wynn said. "I was pretty happy."

Wynn attributed his new mindset to the title: "Just having a little more fun with it, wrestling more freely. Now worrying too much and just doing what I do."

Grady Cox (165), a junior, placed third and senior Zach Halsey (175) placed fourth, losing by a fall 40 seconds be-

fore the end of the consolation final with the score tied 7-7.

Cox noted that his son's goal was to win the title, but he was proud of him for coming back in less than an hour of having that goal dashed from him to wrestle well enough for third.

Cox was also proud of Halsey: "He's a hard nose, really athletic. Some of the stuff he did yesterday was pretty crazy." Cox also pointed out that Halsey began his wrestling career at a very young age too.

"All these guys are just really good kids. They're hard working and have really good integrity."

As a team, Lebanon racked up 65 points.

Thurston scored 291 points to edge Crater (283) for the title, and Crook County (187.5) took third in its first year as a 5A school.

## Lebanon's Duty second to cap breakout year

Mary Jane Duty always showed flashes of serious potential, but injuries made it difficult to bring that to reality at the state level her first two years.

But that all changed this

season, which ended with a silver medal at state for the junior.

Duty was dominant in her matches leading up to the finals, winning all of them by major decision or a pin in under 35 seconds.

That run ended in the final against Crook County's Lauren Echeverria, who ran up an 18-1 score to emerge victorious with a tech fall.

Freshman Zoe Ruonavaara, the Lebanon girls' other qualifier, at 235 pounds, went two and out at

Cox was surely pleased with Duty's junior campaign, but is already looking forward to next year: "This year she got to see her potential. I'm really looking forward to seeing what she can do in her senior year."

The coach noted that Duty and his son Grady were wrestling partners in their younger years, and they were a very competitive matchup.

Duty's 23 points was good enough to tie the Warriors with Gresham in 34th place. (There were 66 teams in total.) Crook County was the winner with 140; Dallas (130) and McNary (86) were the runner-ups.



Mary Jane Duty wrestles at state, where she placed second. - Photos by Scott Swanson



Grady Cox wrestles to a third-place state finish. See more photos at lebanonlocalnews.com.

# New officer, who grew up locally, emphasizes relationship in work

By Satina Tolman  
For The New Era

For Officer Tye Moore, putting on the badge isn't about authority; it's about relationships.

The newest member of the Sweet Home Police Department to graduate from Police Academy, Moore is also deeply rooted in the community he now serves. A fifth-generation Sweet Home resident, Moore describes himself simply as "a big family guy" who loves his hometown.

"I've grown up here my entire life," Moore said. "To be able to carry those relationships now in a different avenue is important."

Moore graduated from Sweet Home High School in 2020, the COVID-19 year, joking that his class was the "senior skip day champions." His interest in law enforcement started early, shaped both by the police officers he saw in movies and by a real-life influence closer to home.

Former school resource officer Sgt. Jeff Hamlin, who still serves with the department, made a lasting impression.

"I always thought he was kinda cool and I appreciated what he did for us," Moore said. "It stuck with me."

After graduation, Moore had to wait until he met the age requirement to apply. When the opportunity finally came, the timing felt right.

"When I was old enough to apply, luckily SHPD had a po-



Sweet Home Police Officer Tye Moore - Satina Tolman photo

sition and I felt like it was a good fit for me," he said.

Moore was hired in July 2025 and graduated in November from the Oregon Department of Public Safety Standards and Training academy. While the academy provided extensive preparation, he quickly learned that the real work begins on the street.

"You can train through all the scenarios and the different situations, but it's different when it's the real world and real people you're trying to help," Moore said. "That's the

biggest falloff: practice to application in the real world."

One aspect of policing that especially resonates with him is de-escalation.

"I've always enjoyed watching how officers use their words and help console people who are in times of stress," he said. "It is impressive to watch people use those skills to talk to people and just be human with them. I think that's a very important part of the job."

That philosophy aligns with the kind of officer Moore hopes to be.

"Just a kind one," he said with a smile. "I am a typical happy fella. There is going to be conflict in a career like this, but I appreciate joy and happiness. If I can give that to other people and assist them, that's the kind of officer I hope to be."

Working in the town where he grew up brings its own dynamic. Moore frequently encounters people who have known him since childhood.

"Everybody likes to make


jokes," he said, laughing.

Still, he said his interactions with the public have largely been positive.

"I haven't had very many negative interactions," Moore said. "There are a few situations where people are more frustrated, but I haven't had any problems."

In a small town, he believes success in policing hinges on connection.

See Moore, Page 16




# AVAMERE

REHABILITATION of LEBANON

A PART of the AVAMERE FAMILY of COMPANIES

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



## BANQUET

From page 8

conducted a sock drive for the needy, made dog biscuits, and grew vegetable seedlings for SHEMA clients, while also volunteering at elementary school carnivals and the All School Track Meet, helped with school band fundraisers and the purchase of sand for the high school long jump pit, as well as serving as a Salvation Army bell ringer and the Back to School backpack program, assists with blood drives at the high school and helps out at the Booster Club Snack Bar.

"He has the goal for high school of doing at least 1,000 volunteer hours and in ninth grade he has already done 400 - he volunteered all summer at SHEMA and continues to do so on Saturdays."

**Trinity Victor** - Snyder described Victor as "an outstanding individual who has a heart for helping others. Victor, a senior at Sweet Home High School, where she is student body president, has spent "countless hours lifting others up."

She started volunteering in junior high at her church's kids camp, and now leads Bible studies for the Fellowship of Christian Athletes and at her church. She has also gone on several missions trips, teaching English in Romania and fixing buildings in Mexico, he said.

Victor also volunteers as a

volleyball coach for junior high-aged girls.

She actively participates in annual Thanksgiving basket, food and money drive, shops and delivers gifts for Sweet Home Fire's Sharing Tree at Christmas time, helps clean up the high school campus and volunteers with the district Clothing Closet, sorting clothes.

She also has organized several Spirit Weeks at the high school and "works tirelessly to spread school spirit," he said, in presenting the award.

### Mayor's and City Awards City Pride and Ownership Honoree Cindi Robeck

Ogden, working off notes provided by Coleman, described Robeck as "someone whose work often happens behind the scenes, yet whose impact is felt in every department, every budget discussion, and every municipal service we provide" at City Hall.

Robeck oversees the city's passport program, and "every day" ensures that the city's budget "is carefully tracked, faithfully followed and clearly understood," Ogden said.

She has provided "innovative leadership" in the city's financial processes, he said, adding that Robeck often is in the office during off-hours, particularly during city leadership transitions, and often assists residents who need help when City Hall is closed.

She also teaches children's church, helps with city events

and has been known to purchase items "without reimbursement" simply because they were needed.

"One of the qualities that I admire most about Cindi is that she pays attention," Ogden said. "She understands not only her own responsibilities, but what is happening across departments. Because of that awareness, she often provides clarity and guidance to others," consistently prioritizing the city's best interest.

### Mayor's Award Honoree Robert Snyder

Snyder, who stepped down in 2023 after some 40 years as city attorney, "may not always make headlines, but (his) sturdy presence shapes the culture around us in other ways," Ogden said, again working off Coleman's notes.

"He is a man of his word who remains calm in tense situations. Has a long history of bringing civility to emotionally charged moments. He's reliable. In the world we live in today, that quality is invaluable," adding that Snyder "ensured that our local government operated with the same integrity he practices in his own life."

Snyder has also been very involved in the community beyond City Hall, serving on the Highway 20 Committee that played a key role in expanding the highway to four lanes, in the Lions Club, the Presidents Club, the chamber Board of Directors, and as an Eagle



Mona Waibel VIP winners are, from left, Trinity Victor, Dean Hummer and Christian Romero.

Scout himself in Wyoming, where he grew up, "invested deeply in the next generation as a Cub Scout leader and scout master for Troope 362, mentoring many young men."

He helped found the Sweet Home Pregnancy Center, continuing to serve as a board member, and is a faithful member at Hillside Fellowship, where he is known as "the quiet handy man, and shows up without fanfare,

cleaning gutters, painting, repairing, trimming trees and just serving wherever it is needed," Ogden said.

"Robert's legacy in Sweet Home is not defined by one title or one accomplishment, but by decades of consistent principles and because of his faithful service, integrity, quiet leadership and lasting impact on Sweet Home," he concluded.

# COMP-NW announces new master's program in nursing

Western University of Health Sciences has announced it is introducing a Master of Science in Nursing-Entry (MSN-E) program on its Lebanon COMP-NW campus to prepare students from non-nursing backgrounds to enter the profession with a strong foundation in clinical excellence, collaborative lead-

ership and humanistic care.

While this will be the College of Graduate Nursing's first program on the Lebanon campus, it is grounded in Western University's "established history of delivering high-quality nursing education through eight programs on the Pomona campus and a network of more than 1,000

alumni nationwide," the school said in announcing the move last week. "The launch of our MSN-E program in Oregon reflects WesternU's deep commitment to preparing compassionate, practice-ready health professionals who are equipped to meet the evolving needs of patients and communities," said WesternU Provost Paula Crone, DO '92.

"This milestone represents an important expansion of the College of Graduate Nursing's presence in the Pacific Northwest and reinforces our long-standing partnership with Oregon.

Most importantly, this program strengthens the health care workforce pathways, particularly for rural and medically underserved communities, by educating nurses

who are trained to lead, collaborate, and serve where they are needed most."

CGN will seat its inaugural MSN-E Oregon class in Fall 2027. The program will prepare future nurses to lead at the bedside and beyond, excelling in the coordination of compassionate patient care while advancing systemic improvements in health care delivery.

The curriculum is designed to equip students with the skills and adaptability to meet the evolving demands of today's complex health care system.

"We have met with chief nursing officers throughout the Willamette Valley and asked them what they want in a future nurse, and we're revising our curriculum to meet their needs," said CGN Dean

Mary Lopez, PhD, MSN, RN.

While Oregon faces a statewide nursing shortage, reports from the Oregon Health Authority and Oregon Health Policy Board show that rural and remote communities consistently experience an even greater burden of unmet health care needs, the university said, citing an Oregon's Health Care Workforce Needs Assessment completed in 2025.

"Meeting the needs of our community is one of the priorities in our program," said CGN Assistant Professor and MSN-E Program Director Michael Marinello DNP, RN, FNP. "One of the things that we've found in Oregon is that they're asking for, what I'm calling, the 'rural nurse'."

"A nurse that, if they're in the ER, can meet the needs of multiple types of populations based on the fact that they are at a critical care access hospital. There are ER patients we have who may be in the process of giving birth, so we need an ER nurse that can not only do the ER things but can also do labor and delivery care."

For more information about the Lebanon MSN-E program, contact Program Director Dr. Michael Marinello at [mmarinello@westernu.edu](mailto:mmarinello@westernu.edu).



## SUNSHINE INDUSTRIES

OUR PROGRAM PROVIDES JOB TRAINING,  
JOB OPPORTUNITIES, AND COMMUNITY  
ACCESS TO INDIVIDUALS WITH  
DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES.

WE OFFER GROUNDS KEEPING AND JANITORIAL  
SERVICES FOR RESIDENTIAL AND COMMERCIAL  
NEEDS AS WELL AS FACILITY RENTALS.

1333 CLARK MILL RD. • 541-367-2765



621 Main Street, Suite A  
Located inside Thriftway  
541-367-6777

DRIVE UP PHARMACY

# Students glimpse manufacturing programs and job opportunities

By Sarah Brown  
Of The New Era

Sweet Home and Lebanon high school students took a break from the normal humdrum of school routine to take a field trip to Albany for a chance to consider their future.

Linn-Benton Community College hosted a Manufacturing Career Day on Friday, Feb. 27, to present trade-skill opportunities that are considered to be in high demand.

Virginia Mallory, recruitment and admissions director at LBCC, said they hosted 16 schools with about 225 high school students to help inform them on which manufacturing-related jobs are available in the area.

Industries from the region attended the event to encourage students about what they have to offer. The college also provided a look at many of the related programs they offer that would prepare students for those jobs.

Those manufacturing programs, Mallory said, stay full.

Kiana McIntyre, a junior at Ralston Academy, didn't hide her eagerness to see what programs and jobs might be available to her.

"I'm just excited for my future because I'm starting to see one, and I really did not see one for the longest," she said. "For it to be right here,



A student tries to use an AI-powered welding simulator to test their welding skills during the Manufacturing Career Day at LBCC. - Photo by Sarah Brown

it's a little exciting to see what my life can be."

After speaking to someone representing "non-destructive testing" jobs, McIntyre said she already felt like that was more her style and her "speed," as opposed to, say, welding. A non-destructive testing job might include the

use of various tools such as cameras, ultrasonics or radiography to ensure the reliability and safety of an infrastructure.

"We absolutely know that there is a need out there in the manufacturing realm for students with the skills and disposition and some experi-

ence to be good employees in those fields," said Deron Fort, of LBCC's workforce department.

The schools also know, he said, there's a "mismatch" that those who are interested in the fields do not have the necessary skills or preparatory experience to get in the door.

That's why LBCC holds career days like this, to help pre-college students know what jobs are available and how to get there.

"We can place everybody that goes through our program in a job," said Dale Moon, director of LBCC's Workforce Development.

Like McIntyre, Sweet Home High School's Memphis Gay, senior, was interested in the non-destructive testing idea as a job, but overall the career fair presented him "cool opportunities to learn and see how to get into stuff."

Moon said the reason they offer these manufacturing programs is because the industry said "we need them." The one program they're missing, he said, is for water and wastewater treatment, which was dropped in 2018 due to the recession.

"It's highly, highly (needed)," Moon said about the water and wastewater treatment program. "It's the one I keep hearing all the time."

Though Kaitlyn Gurule, a senior at SHHS who wants to be a welder, has been to several career fairs at the college, they always find it interesting.

"Every time, it's more fun than the last and they always have more stuff to talk about," Gurule said.

## Sports Roundup

### Husky girls finish season with loss at Cascade

Sweet Home's girls closed out their basketball season Tuesday, Feb. 24, with a 46-25 loss to No. 7 Cascade.

The Huskies made nine of their 30 shots in the game. Aaliyah Brown led Sweet Home with 13 points, and Brooke Elder scored six points on two three-pointers.

Despite the loss, Coach Erika Evans said, "This season revealed that we were capable of battling with the best of the best teams in the state. The girls were resilient through great wins, tough losses, and everything in between."

Sweet Home finished the season with 652 points scored and 838 points allowed, the second-lowest total allowed in league. The Huskies' final records were 8-12 overall and 2-6 in the Oregon West Conference, which finished with Stayton as the No. 1-ranked 4A team in the state, followed by Cascade at No. 7 and Philomath at No. 8.

"I do determine this season as a success. All things considered, we had double-digit wins (including games that were cancelled, but would have been wins for us), competed the best we ever have with the teams in our league, and every player

grew in some way," Evans said.

Evans said she believes the team will compete well next season with a move to the 3A Division to compete in the Mountain Valley Conference. They will play teams like No. 4 Creswell, No. 7 Pleasant Hill, Elmira, Sisters, and La Pine.

"I think we will be ex-

tremely competitive in 3A and in our new league. Our league will be pretty tough for that division, but looking at some of our 3A competition this year and where they are in the current 3A standings, I believe we will be really competitive," Evans said.

This year's team has only three seniors - Loralai Mark,

Aubrey Newberry and Addy Vannice.

Vannice averaged the second-most steals in the league, averaging 3.5 per game over the course of the whole season.

"I think Addy has taught others how to step up on the defensive end and made them really want to have a bigger defensive role," Evans

said. "(Junior) Brooke (Elder) was stepping up all season, and (sophomore) Taylor (Gaskey) was asking to guard the primary threat on opposing teams by the end of the season as well.

"Including incoming personnel next year, I think we will have a great offensive set and will continue to domi-

See Roundup, Page 16



**LINN SHUTTLE**

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



**DIAL-A-BUS**

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





**SWEET HOME IN TOWN TRANSIT**

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



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

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

## MOORE

From page 13

"In reality, most of a police officer's job is to help fix problems and assist people when they are going through a rough time," Moore said. "Building a solid relationship with the community, in my opinion, is the most important

part of being a small-town cop."

Trust, he added, starts with transparency: "Integrity. Just knowing what's right and wrong, being straight up with people and being transparent," Moore said. "Explaining the situation, explaining our process and what we need to do. That part of the job is really important."

Moore wants residents to know the department's intentions are straightforward.

"I'm here to help," he said. "That's everybody's intention here: to help people on a tough day."

Part of that help involves accountability. Police work, he said, requires both education and enforcement.

"People make mistakes, and

some people make bigger mistakes than others," Moore said. "It's our job to make sure we are accountable. You can educate someone to help them stay out of trouble, or in some scenarios, you have to enforce the law."

He encourages community members to adopt a "help-me-help-you" mindset.

"Give us a call if you have a problem," Moore said. "If you're worried about something, just let us know and we will do what we can to help."

Outside of work, Moore enjoys hunting and football.

"I am a big hunter. I have been hunting most of my life. I have been a little busy lately, but I still enjoy it. I'm also a big football fan. I'm a Husky, I like the Beavers, and I am a big Steelers fan. They didn't do too hot this year, but I am still a fan."

For now, Moore says he is focused on learning and growing in his role. Law enforcement offers many career paths, but he isn't in a hurry to move on.

"I enjoy training and learning; there is always more training to do," he said. "I am pretty content with where I am right now. I just want to keep improving."

Moore sees himself improving and growing, but not leaving. In 10 years he wants to

still be serving the people of Sweet Home.

"Hopefully, here at the Sweet Home Police Department," Moore said. "I see myself sticking around. Even though I have lived here my whole life, I really love this place."

The best piece of advice he ever got was from a beloved family member, he said.

"My Nana always told me, 'Don't ever take away the opportunity for someone else to be kind. Don't let the embarrassment or guilt get in the way. If someone is offering to do something kind for you, you shouldn't take that opportunity for kindness away from them. Depending on the circumstances, allow them to help you.'"

It's a perspective he believes applies broadly, especially in tense times.

"There is a lot of turmoil in the world, a lot of frustrations and heated arguments," Moore said. "But I think it's important at the end of the day to be kind to your neighbor. You don't necessarily have to agree with one another to be kind and lend a hand or have a conversation."

As he begins his career, Moore hopes that simple approach defines his work and reassures the community he grew up calling home.

## Fundraiser For Ailing Librarian

Staffers at Dad Bob Detailing polish up an SUV Saturday afternoon, Feb. 28, during a fundraiser for Sweet Home Junior High librarian Velma Canfield, who is recovering from health problems. Owner Chris Millard organized the effort, which, he reported on Facebook, raised nearly \$1,000.

— Photo by Scott Swanson



## ROUNDUP

From page 15

nate defensively, as we did this season."

— Keeghan Gittins

### SH boys can't quite bounce back in Cascade loss

Sweet Home's boys' basketball season came to an end Tuesday, Feb. 24, in a 56-51 loss on the road at Cascade.

"Against Cascade, we just got down too big in the third and couldn't quite come back," Coach Drew Emmert said. The Huskies trailed by

18 in the third period before closing the gap to five in the final quarter.

"We didn't shoot it well all night and struggled to defend multiple possessions in a row."

The Huskies finished the season 9-14 overall and 4-6 in league play, ending as the No. 20 team in 4A marking the program's best wins total since it last qualified for state, in 2020.

"We had a very tough group," Emmert said. "It took us a little longer to figure out how to win close games. But once we got that confidence,

we were hard to beat."

The coach said he'd hoped his boys could make the playoffs.

"They took away the play-in games or we would have," Emmert said. "Ultimately, we needed to win a few in the preseason that we should have, and we then (should have) won our last game."

Bradyn McClure closed his season with a 26-point performance on the road against Cascade Tuesday, Feb. 24. He shot 11-of-18 from the field and needed just one free throw to reach his total. McClure finishes the year averaging 16.6 points on 45%, with 3 steals and 4 rebounds per game.

"Bradyn had a good year," Emmert said. "That game was his second-highest game this year and third in his career."

Mason Tyler averaged 11.7 points per game, and four rebounds this season.

Kellen Hartsook added an efficient nine points, 5.7 rebounds, a block and a steal in the game.

The Huskies only graduate two seniors Trenton Templin and Alex Bachand. Templin contributed much-needed rebounding and a point per game. Bachand averaged roughly 3.6 points per game.

Sweet Home's season ends with improvement and one of its stronger records in recent years.

Despite the 9-14 record, the Huskies were only 13 total points away from being 13-10, an indication of how close several games were throughout the year.

The Huskies will move into the 3A Division next year to play in the Mountain Valley Conference, which includes this year's No. 5 Pleasant Hill and No. 10 Creswell.

"The move down to 3A won't be much different," Emmert said. "We are moving down to one of the best, if not the best, 3A league in the state. So it will be tough, but so we should be next year."

"It should be exciting."

— Keeghan Gittins

### East Linn girls' season ends with playoff loss

The Eagles' season came to an abrupt end Saturday night, Feb. 28, in Bandon with a 55-30 loss to the Tigers in the first round of the Division II basketball state playoffs.

"It always stings a little when basketball comes to an end, especially when you weren't expecting it," East Linn Coach Sierra Carrier said, noting that the Bandon game was a "tough one."

The Eagles had lost at home in mid-December to the Tigers, who were ranked No. 6 this week. That score, though, was closer, 39-28.

"We had a very long day of traveling and that's always hard to play off of," Carrier said of this matchup. "Bandon was locked in and ready; they shot incredible from the three. We wish them nothing but the best for the tournament but we ended our season hungry for next year."

East Linn came into the league season with a 5-8

record, but turned things around in Valley Coast League play, finishing the VCL season 7-3 and 14-13 going into the playoffs, including a satisfying win over Central Linn in the league playoffs after two earlier losses to the Cobras.

"The girls had an incredible season, looking back, after everything they were thrown this year," Carrier said. "We finished second in league — after a sweet victory against Central Linn, and 11th in state."

The Eagles came into the season after finishing 22-8 last year, having lost "the majority of their starters" due to injuries, graduation and transfers, she noted.

As a new, incoming coach, she said, she also changed the structure of the program "for my vision to really turn things upside down."

But, she said, East Linn finished well.

"Through all of that, starting out the year, we ended on a great note and will be ready to come back next season," Carrier said. "I tell my girls almost every day how proud I am of them and I'd say it a million times more. This year's group was something special."

"There was a lot of questioning when it came to how the program would end up this year and I think we shocked just about everyone. I am a very happy coach with how this first year went with my Lady Eagles, but we are far from done."

— Scott Swanson

## Got a plan?

Bob thoughtfully preplanned his funeral. Now he can get on with his life.



Call us for personal assistance with the funeral, memorial or cremation arrangements of your choice



541-367-2891 | SWEETHOMEFUNERAL.COM

Public Notices

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

**SUMMONS  
NOTICE! YOU HAVE BEEN SUED.  
THE COURT MAY DECIDE  
AGAINST YOU WITHOUT YOUR  
BEING HEARD UNLESS YOU RE-  
SPOND IN WRITING WITHIN 21  
DAYS. READ THE INFORMATION  
BELOW VERY CAREFULLY.**

To the Defendant named above:  
A civil complaint or petition has  
been filed by the Plaintiff against  
you for the relief as set forth in  
that document (see the com-  
plaint or petition). The object of  
this action is: Divorce.  
If you intend to defend this law-  
suit, within 21 days after this  
summons is served on you (not  
counting the day of service), you  
must:

1. File with the Clerk of Court a  
formal written answer to the  
complaint or petition.
2. Pay the required filing fee to  
the court, or file an Application  
to Proceed In Forma Pauperis  
and request a waiver of the filing  
fee.
3. Serve a copy of your answer  
upon the Plaintiff whose name  
and address is shown below.  
If you fail to respond, the Plaintiff  
can request your default. The  
court can then enter a judgment  
against you for the relief de-  
manded in the complaint or peti-  
tion.

Issued on Behalf of Plaintiff:  
Plaintiff's Name: KATIE LYNN  
VAN ATTA  
Address: 3013 Crescent Ave  
City, State, Zip: Crescent Valley,  
NV, 89821  
(2/25 - 3/4)

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

**PUBLIC SAFETY  
From page 9**

cases, LMC warrant for  
probation violation in  
trespassing case. SHPD, 1950  
Main. Cited and released.  
10:04 a.m. - Brandon Ryan  
Freeman, 32, arrested on LMC  
warrant for FTA in unspecified  
case, 22nd/Main. Caller had  
reported individual waving knife  
as he walked in area. Officer  
contacted Freeman, who said he  
was cutting an apple.  
11:53 a.m. - Caller reported rider  
operating ATV at high rate of  
speed on 22nd and 23rd  
avenues south of Long. Officer  
unable to locate rider, but will be  
on alert.  
2:03 p.m. - Renee Ruth Carr, 60,  
arrested after she turned herself  
in at SHPD, 1950 Main, on SHMC  
warrant for FTC in DWS case,  
LMC warrant for FTA in DWS  
case, and LCJC warrant in DWS  
case. Cited and released.  
3:27 p.m. - Caller reported  
children riding dirt bikes in 4100  
block Osage. Officer contacted  
juvenile, parent and discussed  
options for where kid could ride.  
4:14 p.m. - Marcus Wesley  
Hesson, 54, arrested on SHMC  
warrant for FTA in resisting

Public Notices

**PURSUANT TO ORS  
CHAPTER 87**  
Notice is hereby given that the  
following vehicle will be sold, for  
cash to the highest bidder, on  
3/17/2026.

The sale will be held at 10:00am  
by MCCLINTON AUTO COLLI-  
SION 3960 E COMMERCIAL  
WAY SE ALBANY, OR 2017  
CHEV TAHOE SUV  
VIN = 1GNSKBKC3HR157753  
Amount due on lien \$7405.75  
Reputed owner(s) ANDERSON,  
AMANDA MARIE  
(3/4 - 3/11)

**PURSUANT TO ORS  
CHAPTER 87**  
Notice is hereby given that the  
following vehicle will be sold, for  
cash to the highest bidder, on  
3/19/2026.  
The sale will be held at 10:00am  
by M & N AUTO LLC 39821 HIH-  
BEE RD NE ALBANY, OR 2013  
RAM 3500  
VIN = 3C63R3KL7DG616329  
Amount due on lien \$16216.00  
Reputed owner(s) BISHOP SANI-  
TATION EDGAR HOLBROOK  
(3/4 - 3/11)

**Soups On!**

Soups On! Several varieties of  
homemade soup. March 7th 11-  
2pm \$8.00 includes crackers &  
dessert. At the American Legion  
Sweet Home downstairs. 109 W.  
Holley Rd. See you there. Look  
for Signs. Courtesy of the  
Women's Lutheran Church.  
(2/25,3/4)

**Rummage Sale**

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

**Wanted Motorhome**

Wanted Motorhome, Travel  
Trailer or 5th Wheel 2005-2022.  
If it needs work or doesn't run  
that's okay. Willing to buy as is.  
Have cash and willing to pay fair  
price. I am a private party. 503-  
269-2947  
(3/04- 5/27)

Firewood For Sale

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

Seasoned firewood Fir \$220 a  
cord, maple \$275 a cord, Mix  
\$250 a cord. 541-990-7730.  
(3/4 - 3/25)

Statewide Notices

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

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

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

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

**SERVICES: YMT Vacations. Over  
50 guided tours available. Af-  
fordable, social and stress-free  
travel designed for mature trav-  
elers. Tours include accommoda-  
tions, transportation, baggage  
handling, sightseeing, entrance  
fees, a professional Tour Director  
and select meals. For a limited  
time, save \$250 on all tours. Call  
YMT today: 1-866-335-3689**

arrest case in 300 block Holley.  
Arrest followed report of  
intoxicated individual at location  
throwing things and threatening  
caller. Cited and released.  
6:00 p.m. - Caller reported three-  
wheeler on South Hills Trail near  
16th. Officer unable to locate.  
6:15 p.m. - Caller from Hope  
Center, 1080 12th, reported male  
digging through trash at  
location. Officer contacted male,  
who was trespassed.  
8:25 p.m. - Andrew Edwin  
Amundson, 36, arrested on  
SHMC warrant for FTC in  
resisting arrest case, LCJC  
warrant for probation violation in  
trespassing case, and for  
possession of meth. 49th/  
Airport. Cited and released.

10:55 p.m. - Leslie Renee  
Maynard, 53, arrested by Albany  
police on SHMC warrant for FTC  
in harassment case Cited to  
appear March 20.

**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.

**FEB. 27**

**LCSO/OSP LEBANON**

10:58 a.m. - Gerald Peterman,  
54, of Lebanon, cited for

unspecified traffic violations,  
Brewster/Berlin.

12:58 p.m. - LCSO conducted  
death investigation involving  
elderly female in 37100 block  
Pony. Investigation ongoing.  
Report taken.

4:57 p.m. - Hit and run reported  
in 31000 block Blueberry Hill.  
Investigation ongoing.

9:25 p.m. - Deputies responded  
to domestic altercation in 600  
block Cascade. Suspect fled  
prior to LCSO arrival.  
Investigation ongoing.

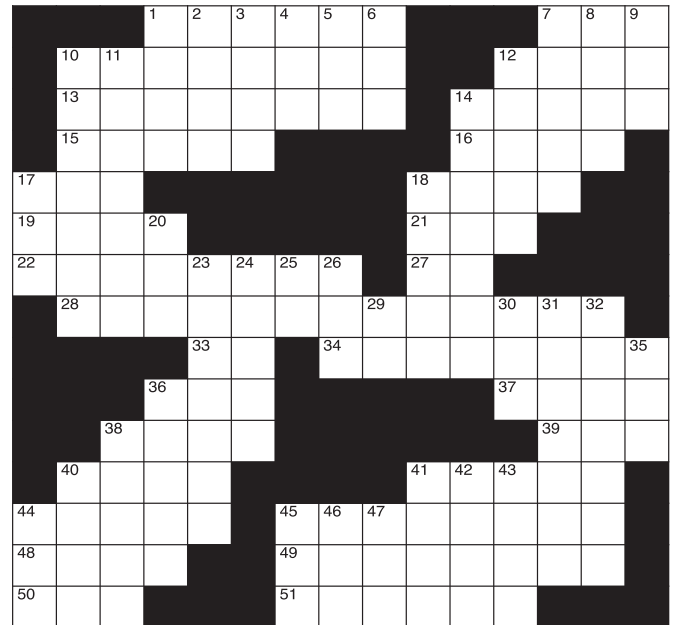
9:29 p.m. - John Sharp, 60,  
of Corvallis, arrested for DUII,  
reckless driving following crash  
in area of Denny School/Oak.  
Due to injuries, cited to appear in  
LCCC. Report taken.

10:44 p.m. - Derik Kindopp, 52,  
of Lebanon, cited for failure to  
obey traffic control device after  
allegedly driving through section  
of closed roadway, 32800 block  
Denny School.

11:19 p.m. - Ryan Dozier, 30, of  
Oregon City, and Keagan Boggs,  
30, of Lebanon, both cited for  
failure to obey traffic control  
device after allegedly driving  
through section of closed  
roadway, 32800 block Denny

See Public Safety, Page 18

**CROSSWORD**



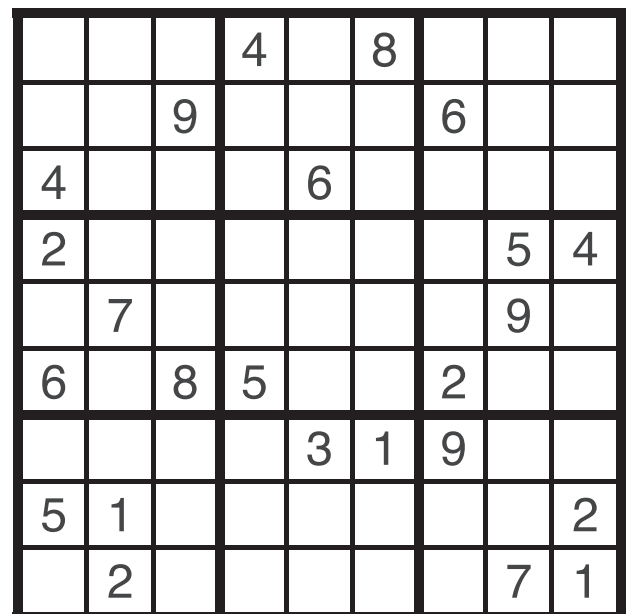
CLUES ACROSS

- |                                          |                                           |
|------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------|
| 1. Would                                 | 28. Lethargic                             |
| 7. Pitching stat                         | 33. Integrated circuit                    |
| 10. Wounded                              | 34. Let your mind wander                  |
| 12. Guitarist Clapton                    | 36. Midway between north<br>and northeast |
| 13. Penalizes                            | 37. Nomadic palace                        |
| 14. Female MMA fighter VanZant           | 38. Posted                                |
| 15. Proverb                              | 39. Trouble                               |
| 16. Urban gym                            | 40. Wise                                  |
| 17. Midway between northeast<br>and east | 41. Make happy                            |
| 18. La __ Tar Pits                       | 44. Dog-__: worn or battered              |
| 19. Go out to eat                        | 45. One who fixes                         |
| 21. Oral allergy syndrome                | 48. Central European                      |
| 22. Where some are put                   | 49. Sleighs                               |
| 27. Spiral galaxy                        | 50. Exponential time hypothesis           |
|                                          | 51. Puts within                           |

CLUES DOWN

- |                                             |                                                |
|---------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------|
| 1. Typically noncoding<br>molecules (abbr.) | 25. Commercial                                 |
| 2. Former Secretary of State                | 26. Chap                                       |
| 3. River in Belgium and France              | 29. Farm state                                 |
| 4. Unnilhexium                              | 30. Chief research officer                     |
| 5. "Fall Guy" actor Majors                  | 31. Poked holes in                             |
| 6. Tooth caregiver                          | 32. Chutes and __                              |
| 7. Lucci character "Kane"                   | 35. What cows say                              |
| 8. Latvian capital                          | 36. A desert in southern Israel                |
| 9. Pet detective Ventura                    | 38. Isaac's mother                             |
| 10. Sporting dog                            | 40. Sodium                                     |
| 11. External genitals                       | 41. Absence of effort                          |
| 12. "The Secret Room" novelist              | 42. A way to articulate                        |
| 14. Ancient wonder                          | 43. Greek god of war                           |
| 17. Electronic data processing              | 44. Midway between east<br>and southeast       |
| 18. Autocratic                              | 45. Run batted in                              |
| 20. Defunct European organization           | 46. The longest division of<br>geological time |
| 23. Removed flesh                           | 47. Public broadcaster                         |
| 24. Indicating silence                      |                                                |

**SUDOKU**



Level: Advanced

# Zoo breeds hope for one of world's rarest birds

The Oregon Zoo in Portland is well-known for its California condor recovery efforts, but now it's working to save an even rarer bird: the sihek (Guam kingfisher), extinct in the wild for nearly 40 years but poised to make a comeback.

Three of these small, brightly colored birds have been thriving in the zoo's Vollum Aviary since 2024. The siheks at the zoo are all males, and housing them together is a new approach — one that bodes especially well for species recovery efforts.

"The conventional wisdom has always been that you can't house male siheks together because they're so territorial and aggressive," said Erica Royer, a sihek expert with the Smithsonian's National Zoo and Conservation Biology Institute. "But the Oregon Zoo has shown us that, actually, under the right circumstances, you can keep them together."

Royer, one of the foremost authorities on sihek care and breeding, says this new approach helps immensely with the recovery effort, freeing up space for breeding pairs at other locations.

And with fewer than 130 of these birds left in the world, every egg counts.

"Currently, the recovery program has 81 males and 44 females," Royer said. "It's not ideal for housing breeding pairs when you have so many males taking up single spaces. It's been awesome to see these boys living their best lives in Portland."

In the zoo's Vollum Aviary, the siheks have been getting along not just with each other but with a variety of bird species, from blue-bellied rollers to emerald starlings.

"They're comfortable sharing space with each other, and they don't interact much with the other birds," said Nicole LaGreco, who oversees the Oregon Zoo's bird population. "They're very active at night. Our motion cameras have captured them flying around, hunting and eating insects."

Like condors, the last siheks were brought into human care in the 1980s in an attempt to save the species from extinction. Non-native tree snakes had all but wiped them out on their native island of Guam.



Three siheks are "living their best lives" at the Oregon Zoo and helping with a national recovery effort. The super-rare species has been extinct in its native Guam for nearly 40 years but is poised to make a comeback. - Oregon Zoo/Michael Durham photo

Although the snake population continues to make reintroduction impossible on Guam, nine young siheks were released in 2024 on Palmyra Atoll, which has protected status and is free of invasive predators. So far, conservationists report, these birds are thriving, and some appear to have produced eggs this year.

"We're so honored that

we've been trusted to care for these birds," LaGreco said. "Hopefully, this approach opens up a lot more room at places that are breeding birds for eventual reintroduction to the wild."

As part of Metro, the Oregon Zoo helps make greater Portland a great place to call home. Committed to conservation, the zoo acts globally on behalf of species

from pikas to polar bears. Over the past 30 years, it has prevented extinctions, expanded populations, advanced conservation science, and formed powerful communities to protect wildlife in the Northwest and around the world. To plan your trip, go to [oregonzoo.org/visit](http://oregonzoo.org/visit). To contribute, go to [oregonzoo.org/give](http://oregonzoo.org/give).

## PUBLIC SAFETY

From page 17

School.

### LCSO/OSP SWEET HOME S. COUNTY

7:47 a.m. - Raul Cardenas, 54, of Brownsville, cited for DWS, DU, 100 block S. Main, Brownsville.  
9:28 a.m. - Zachary Gutierrez, 38, of Brownsville, arrested on four outstanding warrants, cited for DWS, failure to carry proof of insurance, 200 block Templeton, Brownsville. Report taken.  
10:52 a.m. - Richard Labar, 31, of Sweet Home, arrested for

trespass II after allegedly "mudding" on road that was clearly posted with "closed to motor-propelled vehicles" signs on CTC land, Old Hufford/Quartzville. Report taken.  
11:53 a.m. - Jeanie Adams, 47, of Brownsville, arrested on outstanding warrant, cited for DWS, DU, 100 block E. Park, Brownsville. Report taken.  
1:31 p.m. - Tyson House, 18, of Brownsville, cited for DWS, DU, 500 block Kay, Brownsville.  
3:04 p.m. - Rick Walnum, 48, of Brownsville, cited for DWS, DU, 400 block Hume, Brownsville.  
3:23 p.m. - Leo King, 18, of

Brownsville, arrested on outstanding warrant, contempt of court, 200 block Spaulding, Brownsville. Report taken.  
9:14 p.m. - Zane Gregory Tice, 19, of Brownsville, cited for speeding, 53/35, Bishop/Hume, Brownsville.

### SWEET HOME POLICE

2:09 a.m. - Thomas Joshua Gantt, 37, arrested on LMC warrant for probation violation in trespassing case, BiMart, 1980 Main. Cited and released.  
8:11 a.m. - Mark Daniel Newens, 37, arrested on LMC warrant for FTA in harassment case. 2300 block Main. Cited and released.  
8:27 a.m. - Larry Dean Bergstrom, 61, arrested on SHMC warrant for FTC in theft case, SHPD, 1950 Main. Cited and released.  
8:27 a.m. - Caller reported female stole his chickens after accusing him of not taking care of them. Accused female then called SHPD and reported she had returned chickens. She was trespassed from location in 2100 block Main.  
2:01 p.m. - Becky Marie Foster, 52, arrested on SHMC warrant for FTC in criminal mischief case, 2300 block Main. Cited and released.  
2:56 p.m. - Caller reported aggressive dogs had killed cat in area of 8th/Birch. Owner had picked up dogs prior to officer's arrival. No further action reported.  
3:07 p.m. - Caller reported that they are at location in 300 block Holley for court-ordered visit and other parent is refusing to let them have child. Officer responded, investigation continuing.  
4:24 p.m. - Sean Ever Robinson, 41, arrested on SHMC warrants

for FTA in trespassing, criminal mischief and assault cases, and for LCCC warrant for FTA in burglary and theft cases. 2400 block Main. Cited and released.  
6:38 p.m. - Caller reported disturbance in area of Main/60th and female yelling for help. According to SHPD, following a disturbance between an ex-girlfriend and boyfriend, male allegedly slashed the female's vehicle tires causing \$400 worth of damage. The female declined to pursue charges. Report taken for criminal mischief I.

### LEBANON POLICE

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

### FEB. 26

#### LCSO/OSP LEBANON

10:51 a.m. - David Parrish, 40, of Sweet Home, cited for DWS, 43100 block McDowell Creek.  
12:03 p.m. - Deputy checked abandoned trailer in 32900 block Brewster that was scheduled to be towed next day.  
1:49 p.m. - Burglary reported in 1800 block S. 9th. Two truck tires valued at \$14,900 worth of items missing. Report taken.  
2:21 p.m. - Single-vehicle crash reported in 3700 block S. Main Rd. According to LCSO, driver misjudged turn and wound up in ditch. Vehicle towed out of ditch and driver drove away.  
2:36 p.m. - Gabriel Vincent Eckhold, 44, of Lebanon, arrested on six counts of improper use of emergency communication systems, and for resisting arrest. 41300 block Baptist Church. Lodged at Linn County Jail. Report taken.  
6:50 p.m. - Crash reported in area of Richardson Gap/Baptist

Church. Driver failed to stop truck due to mechanical issue, wound up in ditch. Report taken.  
11:06 p.m. - Crash reported in 39900 block McDowell Creek. Investigation continuing. Report taken.

### LCSO/OSP SWEET HOME S. COUNTY

8:32 a.m. - Deputy responded to fire in 1100 block Wiley Creek. Fire was put out and male was told to leave location.  
9:40 a.m. - Brian Watkins, 52, of Sweet Home, cited for DWS, DU and arrested on SHMC warrant for FTC in theft case, 900 block Pleasant Valley.  
11:09 a.m. - Bomb reported in 29200 block Pleasant Valley. Bomb turned out to be "improvised fireworks," according to LCSO. Report taken.  
2:33 p.m. - Joshua Wayne Welch, 37, of Sweet Home, arrested on warrant, 29200 block Pleasant Valley. Cited and released. Report taken.  
4:12 p.m. - Disagreement over driving behavior resulted in yelling match between drivers, 200 block Galbraith, Brownsville.  
**SWEET HOME POLICE**  
11:02 a.m. - Michaelray Jensen, 45, arrested on SHMC warrants for FTA in trespassing, criminal mischief cases. 24th Ave. Access Road. Cited and released.  
11:28 a.m. - Caller from SHJH reported intoxicated male at school, 880 22nd. Male, 13, referred to Juvenile Dept. for MIP, released to parents.  
12:32 p.m. - Custin Jones, Jr., 25, arrested by Lebanon police on SHMC warrant for FTC in theft case. Cited and released.



Dr. Michael W. Stoner

### Q: Do I have dry eyes or allergies?

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

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

# SHJH unified hoops team draws enthusiastic crowd for first game

By Scott Swanson  
*Of The New Era*

Sweet Home Junior High unveiled its new Unified Basketball program as the Tigers hosted French Prairie.

The game took place in front of an audience of the SHJH student body, who filled the south stands in the Main Gym at Sweet Home High School.

The visitors finished on top, by a two-basket 52-48 margin, but a good time was had by all. The home crowd cheered the visiting team as lustily as they did their own players.

SHJH Assistant Principal Amanda GaVette said the idea for starting a Unified program for students who may not be able to participate in regular sports started a few years ago after she and Principal Nate Tyler arrived at the school.

"I said, 'I have this crazy idea: What do you think about putting together a unified sports team?' and he was all for it," she said of Tyler.

She said school staffers have stepped up to get the program rolling and students received some instruction on what unified sports is all about.

"We really made sure that they

put together signs for both Sweet Home and French Prairie because it's really just a big celebration for everyone," GaVette said.

The chance to play at the high school was very big deal, she said.

"They were just jazzed when the unified team found out that we were playing at the high school. It was like, the biggest smiles, the best reactions."

Lebanon has also started a program at Seven Oak Middle School and Sweet Home plans to play there March 5, she said.

The goal, she said, is to develop year-round unified sports. A kickball team is next on the agenda and she said the Junior High may field a team when the high school unified program hosts its annual tournament in the spring.

Judging from the cheering and clapping, waving signs, and rhythmic stomping from the fans in the stands, everybody appeared to be having a fine time at the game.

"Yeah, the kids have been so great and purposeful inclusion, and they really are like teammates on and off the court as well now," GaVette said. "So it's pretty special."



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

**AUTO REPAIR**



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

**EQUIPMENT**



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

**FURNITURE**



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

**HOME & GARDEN**



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

**INSURANCE**

**Irwin Agency**  
Enriching The Lives In The  
Communities We Serve




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

**INSURANCE**



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

**INSURANCE**



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

**JEWELRY**



**Tremi's Jewelry**  
Custom Design  
Diamond Specialist  
722 S. Main Street  
tremisjewelry.com  
**(541) 258-2888**

**LOANS**



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

**PLUMBING**

CCB #238181



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

**REAL ESTATE**



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

**REAL ESTATE**

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

**RV SALES & SUPPLIES**

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

**THRIFT STORE**



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

**TIRE / AUTO REPAIR**



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

# SH boys dominate to win 11th state wrestling title; girls 5th

By Ryker Burr  
For The New Era

"This year's team is the most solid top-to-bottom team I've coached."

Those are the words of Steve Thorpe, who just won his eighth state title and Coach of the Year honors at the OSSA 4A Division state wrestling championships Friday night, Feb. 27.

This title may have capped off the most dominant year of the Thorpe era.

The Huskies scored 283 points to win by a massive margin of 81 points, well ahead of runner-ups Pendleton (202) and La Grande (197). Typically, state wrestling team winners are by much smaller margins, often less than 10 points. It was the largest victory margin since 1999.

Jesse Landtroop embodied that dominance as he has all season. The junior 126-pounder captured his third state title in tech-fall fashion (21-6) over La Grande's Deegan Nelson.

"I knew I was going to do it," he said. "I like how hard the sport is because it feels good when you win. My dad loves it too so it makes me happy when I win."

"Jesse just dominates, he's one of the most dominant wrestlers in the state of Oregon, Thorpe said, after "He studies, trains, and doesn't let the pressure get to him," Thorpe stated after throwing Landtroop onto the mat for celebratory fun



Cody Sieminski

in front of the crowd of more than 1,000, which erupted in laughter after the fun surprise.

Landtroop was the Huskies' lone boys champion, though six of his teammates earned silver medals: freshman Cody Sieminski (106), junior Keegan Jefferson (113), junior Riley Vaughan (120), senior Tytus Hardee (132), senior Dillan Davis (144), and senior Luke Rosa (175).

Many of those final losses were unexpected, some even controversial – especially Davis's final: "There's missed points in Dillan's match. Officials went up to me the next day and told me they have training videos of our match now," Thorpe said.

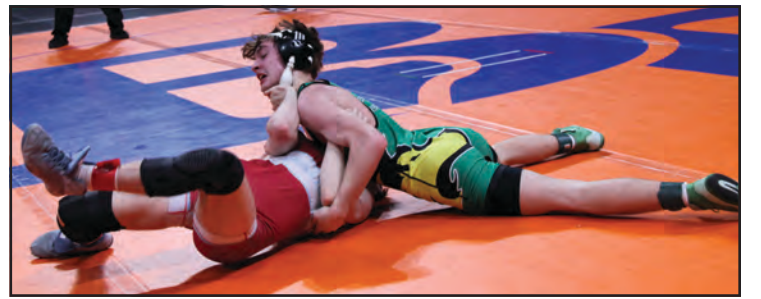
"A lot of those losses hurt

and I was disappointed for them, but not in them.

"They'll bounce back the same way they would've had they won. They'll be in the wrestling room this week; we're already planning... They're gonna go to work."

Thorpe praised Hardee: "Hardee was hurt – he's been hurt; he wasn't even 70%. He knocked off the No. 1 seed. He wasn't able to move or practice well. He didn't make excuses or blame anything. He did what a good man does: show up. He doesn't have to win for me to think he's a champion. He's leaving here as a four-time state placer."

Six other Huskies placed, and 19 of the 20 qualifiers won matches at the Veterans Memorial Coliseum in Portland.



Keegan Jefferson



Riley Vaughan

Senior Jeremiah Steagall was third at 190; junior Cael Stevenson (132), junior Kyle Zajic (165), and sophomore Eli Cruz (215) placed fourth; senior James Hearick (150) placed fifth; and senior Lynkin Royer (285) placed sixth.

Thorpe highlighted more of his placers: "Keegan getting into the finals was great. It was good to see Jeremiah get a third. Lynkin placed in one of the toughest heavyweight brackets I've seen. Zajic carries the weight of the world on him. He's not only a good

wrestler, he's a good person. Cael Stevenson wrestled as well as he could've wrestled, he kept getting stronger and stronger."

Thorpe summarized what made this team so successful: "I've had this group for a long time. They were unselfish and wrestled for each other. They wrestled up, down, for each other."

### Sweet Home girls finish fifth behind Chafin's win

The girls missed a trophy by just four points, finishing fifth with a total of 84. Ahead of Sweet Home was La Grande (132), Harrisburg (122), Oakridge (120.5) and Banks (88).

Senior Bailey Chafin led the Huskies with her third state title, defeating Oakridge's Victoria Keller by a 7-2 decision in the 125-pound final.

Thorpe pointed out what made the victory "poetic redemption" was that Chafin was returning from a full reconstructed knee surgery and a shoulder surgery the year before that. She injured her knee in last year's state final.

"One year ago, to the date, the exact same time, same exact mat – she completely destroyed her knee. Everything that could've happened to her knee did," he said. "It's such poetic redemption that at the same exact location she won her third state title. Had she not gotten hurt there's not a doubt in my mind she would've been a four-time state champ."

"I thought it was so, so, so special and a testimony to how hard she worked to make it happen."

"It just took me believing in myself," Chafin said. "It took everything."

In addition to Chafin, three other girls placed for Sweet Home: junior Alizeah Weikel (115) placed third, freshman Kass Zajic (100) placed fourth, and sophomore Lyla Ventura (110) placed fifth. Thorpe pointed out that Weikel lost to the returning two-time state champ, but other than that she pinned all of her opponents. Thorpe also predicted that next year two-time state qualifier Madison Looney will place.



Tytus Hardee



Alizeah Weikel waits for the whistle signaling a fall. She finished third for Sweet Home's girls. See more tournament photos at [sweethomenews.com](http://sweethomenews.com).



Luke Rosa



Dillan Davis

Photos by  
Scott Swanson  
and Ryker Burr