

# The New Era

SWEET HOME • LEBANON • AND SURROUNDING COMMUNITIES

Serving East Linn County Since 1929

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 8, 2026

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## Egg-Static in East Linn



Photo by Scott Swanson



Photo by Sarah Brown

Children of all ages enjoyed some spectacular weather Saturday, April 4, at egg hunts around East Linn County. Above left, Emma Olson, 3, checks out her collection as her mom and dad, Jessica and Chad Olson, get a family photo at the Sweet Home Rotary Club's annual egg hunt, held this year between Husky Field and the Junior High. Above, children make a mad dash toward colorful eggs spread out behind the Lebanon's Boys & Girls Club. See more photos of the action on page 24 and online at [sweethomenews.com](http://sweethomenews.com) and [lebanonlocalnews.com](http://lebanonlocalnews.com).

## Sankey Park bandstand anticipated this summer

During the Sweet Home City Council meeting, held March 24, the council moved forward with a contract to get Sankey Park's new bandstand built by the end of June, and approved council goals.

The council approved a contract 4-1 with Tocher Construction relating to the construction of a new bandstand at Sankey Park. Councilors Ken Bronson, Chelsea Augsburger, Josh Thorstad and Angelita Sanchez approved the motion, Councilor Dylan Richards opposed; Councilor Aaron Hegge was absent.

In 2023, Sweet Home was awarded a \$177,080 Oregon Parks and Recreation Department Local Government Grant to help with Phase III of the Sankey Park project, which included an ADA trail connecting upper and lower Sankey, sidewalk improvements, and general park upgrades, as well as the replacement of the original bandstand, which was torn down a few years ago due to disrepair.

See Bandstand, Page 7

## Mountain Patrol deputies help keep local forests open, safe

By Scott Swanson  
Of The New Era

Piper Engler stands on a logging road off Old Hufford county road, east of Sweet Home, surveying what could be described as a muddle of muck and mess.

In front of the Linn County Sheriff's mountain deputy is a large, obviously deep, puddle. Trash is everywhere - cans, wrappers, ammo casings, pieces of pallets, along with charred remainders of bonfires. Up the road, stumps are scattered where people have been shooting at targets. Grooves in the muddy road show where trucks or ATVs have traveled around rock piles designed to block off the road.

This, she says, is a "prime example" of why she's out there.

Engler, who grew up in Lebanon, has been a deputy with the department for four years and started working mountain patrol last fall.

She polices the private forestlands in north and east Linn County, while other deputies focus on public lands, such as BLM properties, and the Corps of Engi-



Deputy Piper Engler inspects a bullet she has pulled out of a tree that's been destroyed by target shooters in the Old Hufford area. - Photo by Scott Swanson

neers land around Foster and Green Peter reservoirs. Around Sweet Home, the majority of those private lands are Hill Timber properties managed by Cascade Timber Consulting.

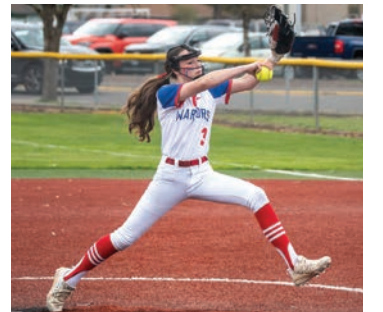
It's a varied job. In her diesel four-wheel-drive Ford F250 pickup, she cruises the logging roads, patrolling for blocked or damaged timber gates, littering, trespassers, vandalism, theft of forest

products and illegal camping, as well as more typical law enforcement issues such as theft, particularly from logging operations.

"It's really evident on those tire tracks off to the side of the road," Engler says gesturing at muddy grooves digging into a bank on an ungraveled spur road. "It's like, one person does it and See Forest Deputies, Page 21

HOMETOWN  
NEWSPAPER OF  
SUSAN  
GAMESTER

This Week's Top Stories



## Inside: Warriors Spring Sports Previews

Find out what the season is looking like for Warriors track, baseball, softball and tennis.

Pages 11-15



## Walking a Mile For Awareness

Members of the Strawberry Festival Junior Court joined the crowd Saturday to walk in support of abused children.

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## Obituaries

### Larry Bergstrom

Sept. 1, 1964 - March 23, 2026

Larry Dean Bergstrom, 61, of Sweet Home passed away March 23, 2026.

He was born Sept. 1, 1964, to Eulah Faye (Howell) and Larry Vernon Bergstrom in Albany.

He lived in Sweet Home most of his life. He liked to fix and repair bikes. He enjoyed drawing and collecting calendars.

Larry is survived by his mother, Eulah Faye Grissom and father Larry V. Bergstrom.

He was preceded in death by his sister, Kim Sharlene Vandenburg (2020).

A memorial service will be at 2 p.m. Saturday, April 11, at Full Gospel Church. Donations to help with funeral expenses can be sent to Sweet Home Funeral Chapel. Sweet Home Funeral Chapel is handling the arrangements.

### Stephen McCoy

July 18, 1947 - March 30, 2026

Stephen Lloyd McCoy, 78, of Sweet Home passed away March 30, 2026.

He was born July 18, 1947, to Freda Bell (Rector) and Clayton Lloyd McCoy in San Diego, Calif.

Stephen moved to Sweet Home in 1999. He worked for Riverbend Sand and Gravel in Salem.

He enjoyed woodworking, RC helicopters and planes. Stephen drag raced cars at the age of 14. He raced a jet boat and won the Winter Nationals championship in 1967.

He is survived by his daughter, Synthia Walden, her husband Chad; son Steven McCoy and his wife Stacey; and four grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by his parents.

Sweet Home Funeral Chapel is handling the arrangements.

### Linda Pedigo

May 24, 1952 - March 7, 2026

Linda Lou Pedigo, 73, of Lebanon, passed away March 7, 2026.

She was born May 24, 1952, to Calvin and Ann Trahan.

She was raised in Lyons and graduated from Stayton Union High School.

Linda enjoyed gardening, fishing, camping and spending time outdoors. She had a



special love for flowers, especially butterfly bushes and forget-me-nots.

Linda worked at Mr. D's Wood Shop before owning and operating a lawn care business with her husband, Billy, for over 15 years. Over the years, she was active in the American Legion Auxiliary, the Hospital Auxiliary and local garden groups.

Linda will be remembered for her generosity, her quick wit, her strength, and her ability to bring people together. Her presence left a lasting impact on those who knew her.

She is survived by her children, Chris Pedigo, Corey Pedigo and Nona Miller; as well as many grandchildren and great-grandchildren, extended family and friends.

She was preceded in death by both parents; husband Billy Pedigo; brother David Trahan; and her children, Michael Pedigo, Missy Pedigo and Lee Pedigo.

A celebration of life will be held at 11 a.m. Saturday, April 25, at the American Legion Post 51, 480 South Main



Street, Lebanon. Refreshments and snacks will be provided by the American Legion Auxiliary Unit 51.

### David Sharp

Feb. 21, 1955 - April 2, 2026

David Lee Sharp, 71, of Lebanon, passed away April 2, 2026.

He was born Feb. 21, 1955, to Harold Richard and Jean Joy (Lamb) Sharp in Linn County.

David graduated from Central Linn High School in 1974 and then joined the Army. He enjoyed fishing and hunting with his father.

He is survived by his siblings, Norm (Betsy) Sharp, Delores (Ron) Dunaway, Doris (Steve) Nash and John Sharp; brother-in-law Frank Launer; and sisters-in-law Helen and Tina Sharp.

He was preceded in death by his parents; sisters Ginger Launer and Kathy Sharp; brothers Larry and Tim Sharp; niece Melissa Johnson; and great-niece Kadence Johnson.

Private family services were held.



Huston-Jost Funeral Home is handling the arrangements.

## Death Notices

**Gerald Paul Shaver, 61**, of Sweet Home, passed away March 12, 2026.

A memorial will be held at 1 p.m. Saturday, April 18, at the Church of Nazarene in Sweet Home. Sweet Home Funeral Chapel is handling the arrangements. For updated information, visit [www.sweethomefuneral.com](http://www.sweethomefuneral.com).

**Holbert Bennett Thompson, 73**, of Sweet Home passed away March 30, 2026.

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

**Carolyn Mae Wilkerson, 89**, of Sweet Home passed away April 4, 2026.

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

## Events

### FREE GARDEN LECTURES START THIS SATURDAY

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

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

Register by emailing Sheryl Casteen at [casteen@aol.com](mailto:casteen@aol.com).

Provide your first and last name, and phone number.

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

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

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

May 2: Pests and Predators in your Garden - an insect pictorial from egg to adult, presented by

Sheryl Casteen, MG, and Anna Sassalos, MG

Also, stop in to pick up some free tomato plants and get some tomato-growing tips at 10 a.m. on Saturday, May 16.

### ACTIVITIES AT THE HEALING GARDENS

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

April 10 at 10 a.m. - Garden Tour: Free monthly garden tour.

No registration required. Meet at the gazebo by the koi pond at the Boulder Falls garden, 605 Mullins Dr.

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

May 1 at 10 a.m. - May Day Garden Clean Up: Volunteers needed who are willing to help with light gardening tasks at the hospital healing garden, such as raking and weeding. Email

[bobannon@samhealth.org](mailto:bobannon@samhealth.org) to sign-up.

May 3 at 1 p.m. - De-stress With Your Senses: Experience the garden through guided activities that engage all five senses. A series of short sessions designed to awaken the senses and promote relaxation. Participants will rotate through five activities, including a therapeutic garden walk (sight), a succulent plant activity (touch), tea tasting (taste), sachet making (smell) and a musical experience (sound). Geared toward adults 18 and older; pets are not permitted.

### MARCH AGAINST CHILD ABUSE IN SH

Sweet Home Police Department will host its annual March Against Child Abuse at 10 a.m. Saturday, April 11, at SHPD, 1950 Main St.

The event will include a presentation by Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) followed by planting of a pinwheel garden in front lawn.

The march will travel down Main Street down to 15th Avenue, then turn around and march on the south side of Main Street

See Events, Page 8

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## Corrections

Our report of Rep. Jami Cate's remarks at the Lebanon Chamber of Commerce's Forum Lunch in the April 1 edition should have correctly identified Senate President Rob Wagner. It did not.

A reader alerted us that we had misspelled Dad Bod Detailing's name in our March 4 edition, in which we reported that Dad Bod had hosted a fundraiser for Sweet Home Junior High librarian Velma Canfield. We appreciate the heads-up.

# Public Safety

- Information herein is sourced from law enforcement and fire agencies. Details, which may not always be available in time for our weekly publication, are updated on our website as information becomes available. - Addresses noted generally denote the location of the incident or arrest, occasionally indicating the origin of the call.

- Our reporting of an individual's arrest or citation for a crime does not imply guilt. Determination of guilt can only be established through legal proceedings in court. We commit significant effort to following through as cases move through the judicial process. A Roman numeral indicates the degree of a charge: theft I (first-degree theft).

- Following are abbreviations that may appear in our log reports:

**AMC** (Albany Municipal Court), **DU** (Driving uninsured/without insurance), **DUII** (Driving while intoxicated), **DWS** (driving while suspended), **FTA** (failure to appear), **FTC** (failure to comply), **FTOTCD** (Failure to obey traffic control device), **LCJ** (Linn County Jail), **LCSO** (Linn County Sheriff's Office), **LCCC** (Linn County Circuit Court), **LCJC** (Linn County Justice Court), **LMC** (Lebanon Municipal Court), **MIP** (Minor in possession), **PV** (Probation Violation), **SHMC** (Sweet Home Municipal Court), **SHPD** (Sweet Home Police Department), **SLCH** (Samaritan Lebanon Community Hospital)

## APRIL 5

### SWEET HOME POLICE

12:20 a.m. - Caller from Mr. Lucky's Deli, 1207 Long, reported male throwing trash all over parking lot. Officer responded, contacted male, who was reminded of trespass.

12:47 a.m. - Natalia Gerai Arroyo, 25, arrested on Marion County Circuit Court warrant for FTA in theft case, Andrew Wiley Park, 1900 block 53rd. Cited and released and given courtesy ride.

5:02 a.m. - Caller reported scooter stolen from 3100 block Main. Officer responded, report taken for theft I. Missing scooter is described as a black Robot LS7, no other identifying marks or stickers. Valued at \$2,500.

9:28 p.m. - Kaitlyn Chandra Lagene Lay, 29, arrested on LMC warrant for FTA in criminal citation. Charles Daniel Coats, 39, arrested on AMC warrant for contempt of court, LCJC warrant for contempt of court. 1600 block Long. Both cited and released.

8:17 p.m. - Caller reported items stolen from location in 3200 block Main. Officer responded, report taken for theft III. Missing were a Motorola phone and an EBT card. Value \$50.

8:24 p.m. - Caller from Safeway reported female stealing items from store, 1540 Main. Officer responded, female was trespassed. Items remained at

store.

9:49 p.m. - Caller reported juveniles playing basketball in Northside Park, 1712 11th. Officer responded, contacted juveniles, who left park.

10:26 p.m. - Caller reported loud music and running vehicles in 1600 block Main. Officer responded, contacted resident, who agreed to quiet things down.

### LEBANON POLICE

4:41 a.m. - Lilia Padilla-Cruz, 48, cited for DWS.

10:12 a.m. - Report taken for theft of lighter. Jennie Lee Marie Eilers, 51, charged with theft III.

12:42 p.m. - Two ducklings stuck in drain near Safeway. Several ducklings were returned to mother.

2:05 p.m. - Nicholas T. Wells, 34, cited on LMC warrant for FTA - littering near waterway.

2:25 p.m. - Kyle A. Metzger, 36, arrested on LMC warrant for PV - criminal trespass II, LCSA warrant for PV - burglary II.

2:25 p.m. - Loose dog nearly causes multi-vehicle crash near Marathon Gas.

7:23 p.m. - Caller got cash back from Walmart, but forgot to take cash. Returned to find money gone. Loss: \$100.

11:00 p.m. - Mitchell Gene Melbye, 46, cited on LMC warrant for FTA and LCJC warrant for trespass II.

### LCSO/OSP SWEET HOME S. COUNTY

9:37 p.m. - Yvette Castillo,

37, of Sweet Home, arrested for DWS, Hwy. 20/Weatherly. Report taken.

### LCSO/OSP LEBANON

1:12 p.m. - Dog owner, whose name was not reported in LCSO log, cited for dog as public nuisance, 39300 block Mt. Hope. Report taken.

8:38 p.m. - Male and female trespassers told to leave private property in area of Berlin/Brewster.

## APRIL 4

### SWEET HOME POLICE

1:43 a.m. - Tiffany Ann Bates, 25, arrested by Albany police on SHMC warrant for FTC in theft case. Cited to appear April 22.

2:25 a.m. - Jaime Castro-Hernandez, 29, arrested by Albany police on SHMC warrant for FTC in criminal driving case. Cited to appear April 22.

10:53 a.m. - Multiple callers reported a crash at the intersection of Main/15th, adjacent to the Speedee Mart convenience store. According to SHPD, Scott Lawrence, 41, was seated in his parked maroon 2005 Cadillac Escalade in front of Speedee Mart. Eugene Jungwirth, 87, was driving a red 2009 Nissan Frontier southbound on 15th and turned east onto Main, into the westbound lanes. According to witness and driver statements, Jungwirth appeared to realize his mistake and drove over

See Public Safety, Page 10

## Comfortably Dumb by Bruce Quast



## TEMPERATURES

DATE	HIGH	LOW	RAIN
3/31	58	42	0.01
4/1	51	40	0.63
4/2	58	39	0.00
4/3	64	32	0.00
4/4	71	37	0.00
4/5	73	41	0.00
4/6	78	40	0.00

## RAIN IN INCHES

Year to date: 9.08  
4/9/25: 15.78

## FORECAST

DATE	WEATHER	HIGH/LOW
4/9	Sunny	72/46
4/10	Cloudy	70/45
4/11	Showers	57/44
4/12	Showers	56/41
4/13	Showers	59/41
4/14	Showers	59/43
4/15	Showers	60/42

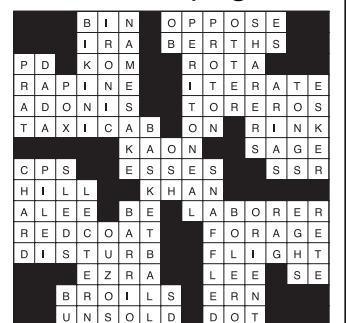
## LAKE LEVELS

Foster 615.8  
Green Peter 989.9

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

## CROSSWORD KEY

Puzzle on page 17



## SUDOKU KEY

Puzzle on page 17

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

# Municipal Court

## MARCH 30

**Denise R. Armstrong, 59**, pleaded no contest to FTA - fine \$316. Dismissed: failure to perform duties of a driver when property is damaged.

**Latricia L. Barnes, 65**, guilty by default for dog running at large - fine \$500.

**Landon G. Godell, 18**, pleaded no contest to DUII - fine \$2,406, 180 days jail 180 days - suspended, 10 days work crew, drug & alcohol treatment, license suspended one year.

**Andrea H. Harper, 42**, pleaded no contest to DWS, DU - fine \$705.

**Christian B. Hurley, 24**, pleaded no contest to child neglect II, disorderly conduct II - fine \$1,167, 90 days jail - suspended, 60 mos. probation, 20 days work crew. Dismissed: disorderly conduct II.

**Rose L. Jones, 66**, pleaded no contest to speeding 46/20 - fine \$265.

**Erin L. Koening, 45**, pleaded no contest to theft II - fine \$601, five days work crew, 24 mos. probation. Dismissed: theft III.

**Jalayne A. Koontz, 69**, pleaded no contest to DUII - fine \$2,456, 10 days work crew, drug and alcohol treatment, victim impact panel, license suspended one year.

**Lokepa L. Leslie, 36**, pleaded no contest DWS, DU - fine \$640.

**Davy A. Phillips, 53**, pleaded guilty to criminal trespass II - fine \$301, five days work crew, 60 mos. probation, no contact orders.

**Donald T. Reed, 72**, pleaded

no contest to no operators license - fine \$265.

**Michael Rosencrantz, 38**, pleaded guilty to theft III, resisting arrest, criminal mischief II - fine \$2,183, five days work crew, 60 mos. probation, no contact orders. Dismissed: escape III, two counts theft II.

**Elisha N. Sherwood, 39**, pleaded guilty to DUII - fine \$2,456, 180 days jail - suspended, 10 days work crew, drug & alcohol treatment,

victim impact panel, license suspended one year. Dismissed: reckless driving.

**Logan N. Stanley, 19**, pleaded no contest to criminal DWS - fine \$1,402, 60 mos. probation, 15 days work crew.

**Christopher Turner, 30**, pleaded no contest to two counts of unlawful dissemination of an intimate image - fine \$2,267, 30 days jail, 60 mos. probation, 10 days work crew, no contact orders. Dismissed: four counts

unlawful dissemination of an intimate image.

**Ciaran Whatley, 43**, pleaded no contest to offensive littering - fine \$775, five days work crew 24 mos. probation. Dismissed: theft of services.

**Tara S. Wilber, 29**, pleaded guilty to FTA II - fine \$1,893.16, 60 mos. probation, 10 days work crew. Dismissed: theft of services, criminal mischief II, two counts FTA, criminal trespass II.



# Etc Thrift Shop

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## Earth Day Upcycling Contest

Get Creative + Give New Life to a Thrift/Recycled item for a chance to win \$50 Gift Cards from ETC Thrift Shop + Camelia's Candles

Join ETC. Thrift Shop + Camelia's Candles at the Thrift Shop on the dates below!

April 8-15 - Submit Items: Drop off at ETC. Thrift Shop

April 17-25 - Items on Display: Public in-store Voting

April 29 - Winners Announced: Please check FB for more information

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## From our Files



Sandy McLellan, an organizer for the Pat Christianson fund drive, leads the way in a bikeathon on a tractor donated by Sherman Supply in 1976.

**APRIL 12, 1951**

"Two weeks from fighting snow to fighting fire" summarized the amazed and disgusted attitudes of weary firefighters, loggers pulled out of the woods and farmers whose lands were endangered by the worst pre-fire season on record for East Linn County. Outbursts of fire flashed across the county this week, but the worst was a fire 10 miles east of Holley that started from intentional burning, starting at two acres and fast spreading to 300 acres, just a five minute walk from some areas that still had snow.

Opponents of the proposed 7th Avenue and A Lane improvement district "had their say" during the City Council meeting, mostly citing the cost per property owner for paved streets, drainage, curbs and sidewalks. One said it would cost him \$1,200. Still, 56.6%

of those affected petitioned for the work to be done, which would cost a total \$32,348.

**APRIL 8, 1976**

Sandy McLellan and Tom Holley are leading efforts to raise money for their friend, Pat Christianson, who is diagnosed with bone cancer (multiple myeloma), which is rapidly draining away her life. She did not respond to chemotherapy and now waits to see if she will go to a cancer research center. Fundraising efforts so far include a car wash, donation jars, bikeathon, business pledges, karate demonstration, band and dance session, nationwide appeal through CB radio and door to door solicitation, totaling so far about \$2,000.

**APRIL 11, 2001**

Sweet Home's Kara Keenan, 31, walked away with \$32,000 after playing on the show "Who

Wants to be A Millionaire?" Fighting sleep deprivation, slight illness, a three-hour time change, nervousness and details of appearing on camera, she made it to the hot seat across from Regis Philbin. She lost a chance for \$64,000 when she incorrectly identified the part of a spider's body that makes the silk webbing.

Sweet Home updated its goals, adding one to "balance the needs of the community with responsibility for stewardship of our natural resources." That particular goal was a strong concern in a city-wide survey last year. Another goal focuses on protecting the environment, which complements new regulations that will affect city operations. Those goals include educating citizens about conservation, addressing regulations protecting watersheds, and monitoring impacts of natural resource limitations.

# Editorial: Shooting from the hip on social media

By Scott Swanson  
Publisher

I once taught college classes in journalism law, so I'm pretty familiar with things you can do with "pen and paper" that can get you in trouble.

I use that phrase in quotes kind of metaphorically, because we all know that fewer of us really use the old time-consuming tools of the writing trade any more.

Instead, we have smart phones or computers that can churn out reams of comment and information in the matter of seconds, which can be good and bad.

It's the latter that I'm focusing on here.

Social media has put the

tools of mass communication in the hands of, well, just about everyone. Anybody can now be a "reporter," as is obvious when I go to a house fire or a crash and I see a bunch of people standing by with their cellphones, broadcasting away. They're in the spotlight now.

It's not all bad, but it's not all good, either.

A recent situation in Sweet Home presents a good illustration of what can go wrong when people fire away without any guardrails.

As you may have read in last week's paper (if you hadn't already gotten a "breaking" news flash online), the Sweet Home School District issued

an announcement to parents of Oak Heights Elementary School students that an interim principal would be stepping in while Principal Todd Barrett was "away."

This launched a barrage of social media posts filled with unsubstantiated assertions, innuendo and conjecture, along with comments from individuals purportedly in the know.

Sweet Home schools Supt. Terry Martin in a later post about the situation in the district, asked the public to tone down the babble on social media, specifically "rumors and unverified information."

The story we published online and in the newspaper was much less exciting because we decided to stick solely with what the district could confirm. There was a lot that they couldn't say. It was a personnel issue, albeit involving an important district official, but the rules are the same as they are for anyone else being "investigated" in an employment context. For the district to actually say anything other than what it did could very well be legal suicide.

And that raises another question: How much do we, the public, really need to know at this point? If wrong has been done, lives will be ruined - and it's not the people taking potshots from the sidelines. We'll be keeping our eye on this situation.

Meanwhile, let's talk about guardrails. Journalism students who are well-taught always learn about the law of defamation. Put simply, defamation is a false statement that damages someone's reputation - published, which can be libel, or spoken, which can be slander.

If I make a factual statement about someone, such as "they did such-and-such," and it turns out that they did

not do such-and-such, that is a false statement. Even if I'm just thinking out loud and I throw that out there, it could be a defamatory statement.

Any of this sound familiar? Sure, we see it constantly in the cesspool - which is how I heard a prominent local figure recently describe the nature of many local social media posts.

One thing that has surprised me over the past years is that more defamation suits have not been filed in connection with online posts or broadcasts.

If information posted on social media is truthful and accurate, even if it's not nice, it's not necessarily a legal problem. But getting one detail wrong, particularly out of spite or just being careless, could literally get you sued.

The biggest "protection" that posters have is that it's costly and often complicated to sue and win a defamation suit. But it wouldn't surprise me if, one day, perpetrators of false accusations or malicious innuendo could find themselves paying up.

I don't want to sound snotty here, but there are reasons why we want our journalists trained. They have to be more than simply competent writers; they need to know how to conduct themselves as writers as well.

Let me introduce an even greater concern by saying that I have great appreciation for the First Amendment, on many levels. But as every junior high school student should know, with freedom comes responsibility. It's hard to think that we could ever lose freedoms provided us by the Bill of Rights, but if you think back even a few years to COVID, well, some of those freedoms suddenly didn't seem quite as inviolable, as inviolable.

Legislators have an uncanny ability to find ways to rein in those who, they consider, are out of line - or simply that they can control.

When I see and hear people asserting things that I know to be factually inaccurate if not absolutely false in social media posts or broadcasts, I wonder how far this is going to go. Could they get sued for libel? Could the level of incivility and hostility reach the point where legislators and judges find ways to curtail our ability to say what we think?

We're surrounded by increasing crudeness, people saying things that even a generation or two ago would never have been uttered out loud, in public. Yet now they're being uttered in print, letters or digital recordings that, even when deleted, don't necessarily go away.

In today's issue we have a story, written by me, about abuse of freedoms that are occurring in the woods around Sweet Home, people taking their privileges for granted to the point that, frankly, if they go too far, they may lose them. We all could.

That's my fear here. Social media can be a great experience, but a lot of times it's not. Mark Zuckerberg might assert that his original goal in creating Facebook was to "accomplish a social mission - to make the world more open and connected." Well, he made it more open and connected, but a lot of times it's not in a nice way. And then, of course, there are the lawsuits that Meta is losing. But that's another issue.

Fact is, we live in a society where a lot of people are their own god and nobody tells them what to do, so they exercise their right to grab the spotlight and tell everybody what they know, regardless of whether it's appropriate.

## Letters to the Editor

### Signs inappropriate during demonstration

Editor:

Last Saturday I was in downtown Lebanon, where I saw a large group of adults and children in the street with signs.

Observing the signs, I was very unhappy to see two early-aged teens, with signs stating "F--k TRUMP" and various other adults, including senior members of our community,

with those signs! What kind of a message are we sending to our communities with this low-class message! And what kind of parents are those attending that event?

President Trump, like him or not, has worked day and night to improve our safety and close our borders so please show some respect.

Thank you.

Mike Hall  
Lebanon

THE  
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SWEET HOME, OR EST. 1929

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# Opinion: We're not broken; we're overloaded

By Jennifer Puccio

As Americans pore over the latest release of Epstein-related documents – pages detailing exploitation, abuse and institutional failure – millions of people are consuming the same disturbing material.

This shared attention feels unusual, even unsettling. The last time the country truly watched or read the same thing together was decades ago, when there were three television channels and a nightly news anchor.

Then, the shared experience often unified. Today, it exhausts.

This isn't only about content. It's about synchronization. When large populations deal with emotionally charged material simultaneously, emotional responses align. Stress signals multiply. Nervous systems built for episodic threat and recovery are pushed into sustained activation to remain engaged. What emerges is something many people struggle to articulate but can feel: a heavier emotional atmosphere, a low-grade sense of unease, a narrowing of patience and trust.

This phenomenon isn't mystical.

It's biological.

Modern neuroscience, psychology, and sociology all point to the same mechanisms: observing the trauma of others, emotional content meant to influence, and lasting distress caused by reading acts that violate deeply held moral beliefs.

When people are repeatedly exposed to narratives of harm, empathy systems activate alongside threat systems. Without containment or closure, reactions trigger without anything initiating it and over time, the culture's baseline of what is considered normal shifts into a lower gear.

Some people notice this shift earlier than others. Often, they are people with experience in caregiving, community work, or sys-

tems thinking, accustomed to tracking morale and cohesion rather than headlines. They recognize the signature of eroded trust and shared exhaustion because they've seen it at smaller scales.

What makes this moment distinct is not only what we are consuming but how. A CIA-released document from the 1970s and 80s reported studies of biofeedback, stress regulation, and meditation for strategic reasons. The question was how human systems stabilize under pressure and, implicitly, how they destabilize.

Emotional synchronization works both ways. Calm reproduces itself and spreads through groups. Fear does too.

For much of the Cold War, psychological destabilization techniques were aimed outward, targeting foreign populations. Ethical firewalls, at least on paper, kept these tools from being turned inward.

But with the rise of the algorithmic platform, particularly on social media, the distinction between foreign and domestic influence has collapsed. Attention has become monetized, outrage a growth strategy.

And destabilizing dynamics no longer require a central actor but are produced by the system itself.

Late last month, during the same week, a New Mexico jury found Meta (Facebook) liable of creating a "breeding ground" for child predators and a California jury found Meta and YouTube knowingly designed addictive platforms, failed to warn parents and users of the risks, and harmed a young woman's mental health. Both companies face hundreds more cases. Meta and YouTube plan to appeal.

As Tristan Harris, former Google design ethicist and co-founder of the Center for Humane Technology, noted on The Diary of a CEO podcast, a small design choice – the decision to ping phones

for every new Gmail – marked the beginning of a new era. Attention stopped being something humans offered and became something technology took. Interruption became the default. Silence disappeared.

Then, the information environment accelerated faster than the human nervous system could adapt. We entered a world without mental health safety standards, the cognitive equivalent of the early industrial era before labor laws or weekends existed.

Every farmer, mechanic, nurse, and teacher understands that safety standards exist because human beings have limits. The information environment should be no different.

For a long time, we've lacked plain language for the harm we're experiencing. "Doom scrolling." "Attention overload." The burden fell on individuals who blamed themselves for feeling overwhelmed by systems designed to overwhelm them.

The result is a population stuck in partial threat mode: reactive, polarized, morally exhausted, and increasingly convinced that the problem lies in one another rather than in the environment shaping everyone's behavior.

None of this requires a grand conspiracy. Algorithms don't need ideology to divide us; they only need incentives aligned with arousal. And we do not evolve on quarterly earnings cycles. Our brains are ancient, relational and rhythm-dependent.

Industrial reform succeeded by redesigning environments to fit limitations and the same approach applies now. National public awareness campaigns, healthier default settings on platforms, and education about nervous system regulation would be a start.

Most importantly, the cultural narrative must shift from "stay informed at all costs" to "a regulated society is a more competent society."

We are not broken. We are overloaded.

And recognizing the mismatch between ancient biology and modern velocity is not pessimism. It's the first step every reform movement has taken before meaningful change became possible.

Sometimes, progress begins not with answers, but with a collective pause and a shared sentence:

This pace is not sustainable.

– Jennifer Puccio lives in Sweet Home, has a degree in International Relations and currently studies environmental science at Linn-Benton Community College. She notes that she used AI to edit this piece to demonstrate how "AI is a tool that can be used in everyday life, and people can see what that looks like in practice."

## Fuel spill closes Hwy. 20

A mult-vehicle accident involving a log truck, two pickup trucks and two trailers caused the closure of a portion of Highway 20 on Monday, April 6.

The accident apparently occurred when the pickup trucks rear-ended the log truck.

According to the Lebanon Fire District, responders arrived to the scene near Horseshoe Loop at approximately 6 a.m. where they found heavy front end damage to two company pickups, heavy damage to a trailer with an asphalt spreader and heavy damage to the log truck, as well as a 400-foot diesel spill spreading across all four lanes of the highway.

An asphalt spreader being hauled on one of the trailers had rolled on its side and was

actively leaking the fuel from its 30-gallon tank.

Firefighters used absorbents and booms to stop the spill and soak up what they could. They attempted to plug the hole in the fuel tank with putty and dowels, but the leak continued to spill out.

LFD reported the spill was exacerbated by a 100-gallon tank of water that was also leaking, pushing the fuel off the roadway and into the ditch.

Traffic was diverted onto Fairview Road for east and west travel until the highway was cleaned up.

No injuries were reported.

Oregon Emergency Response System and Oregon Department of Transportation were notified.

## Upcoming City Meetings

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

- Lebanon School Board:** Thur., April 9, 6 p.m., at Lebanon Library, 55 Academy St.
- Central Linn School Board:** Mon., April 13, 6 p.m., at Conference Room, 239 W 2nd St., Halsey.
- Sweet Home School Board:** Mon., April 13, 6:30 p.m., at 1920 Long St.
- Lebanon Fire District:** Tues., April 14, 5:30 p.m., at 1050 W. Oak St.
- Sweet Home City Council:** Tues., April 14, 6:30 p.m., at City Hall, 3225 Main St.
- Waterloo City Council:** Tues., April 14, 7 p.m., at 31140 1st St.
- Halsey City Council:** Tues., April 14, 7 p.m., at City Hall, 100 Halsey St.
- Sweet Home Park & Tree Committee:** Wed., April 15, 8:30 a.m. at City Hall, 3225 Main St.
- Lebanon Parks, Trees & Trails:** Wed., April 15, 2 p.m. at Lebanon Library, 55 Academy St.
- Lebanon Planning Commission:** Wed., April 15, 6 p.m. at Lebanon Library, 55 Academy St.
- Sweet Home Planning Commission:** Thur., April 16, 6:30 p.m. at City Hall, 3225 Main St.
- Sodaville City Council:** Thur., April 16, 7 p.m. at City Hall, 30723 Sodaville Road.
- Lebanon Aquatic District:** Mon., April 20, 6 p.m., at Lebanon Pool, 1800 S 5th St.
- Sweet Home Fire Board:** Tue., April 21, 6:30 p.m., at 1099 Long St.
- Brownsville Fire Board:** Tue., April 21, 6:30 p.m., at 600 E Blakely.
- Sweet Home City Council:** Tue., April 28, 6:30 p.m. at City Hall, 3225 Main St.
- Brownsville City Council:** Tue., April 28, 7 p.m., at City Hall, 255 N Main St.

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# Lebanon Planning Commission: More lots OK, housing height size denied

During its March 18 meeting, the Lebanon Planning Commission considered requests on two different developments seeking updates to previously approved plans.

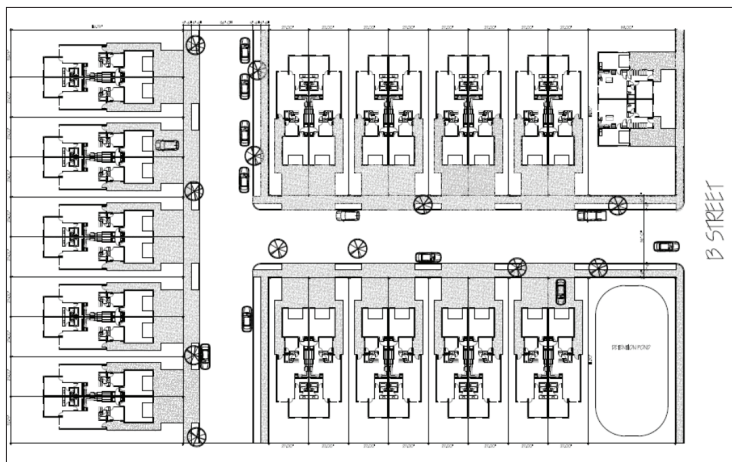
In one, the commission approved a 52-lot residential subdivision, but denied the Class III Variance for 6.39 undeveloped acres located off W Joy Street, east of S 5th Street. Just to the east of the property is Kidco Headstart.

In 2024, the commission approved a 35-lot subdivision on the property, which provided larger lot sizes intended for duplex development. The current proposed design includes 48 small-lot, single unit detached residential lots and four standard residential lots for single family or duplex development.

Andrew Rappé, with Udell Engineering, explained the reason for the increase in number of lots is due to a recent zoning change that now allows for small lot, single detached units.

The design includes a new public street extending east from S 5th Street, leading into a cul-de-sac about two-thirds the way into the property, with a private street extending into the last third of the eastern portion. Also, a street would extend north from Joy Street to connect with the cul-de-sac. The private street would serve development of up to 16 dwelling units.

The subdivision is expected to be developed primarily with single-unit detached dwellings, but duplex development may also be permitted on qualifying lots consistent with state housing



Plans for a subdivision off B Street include two roads and single family zero lot line townhomes. - City of Lebanon images

regulations and the Lebanon Development Code.

A city-maintained drainage ditch is located along the southern portion of the property, and a 20-foot easement has been established over the drainage ditch.

The approval of the subdivision establishes the general layout of the property's lots, streets, utilities and infrastructure, but does not authorize construction of specific homes. Individual dwelling units will be reviewed at the time of building permit review for compliance with applicable development standards, including setbacks, building height, lot coverage and parking requirements.

A representative of the property owners, identified only as Blake, said the average home in the development would be between 800 to 1,600 square feet and mostly two to three bedrooms.

"They're all small, modest homes is the intent here," he said. "Small, modest homes to allow a more average entry level person to come into

the market, someone who wants to downsize, wants the backyard but can't afford the \$500,000 house. The intent is to provide an alternative for someone in that \$300,000 or \$400,000 price point to actually own a home and buy a house cheaper than an apartment is in town."

Development Services Director Shana Olson told the commission objections or concerns to the proposed development from residents in the area centered around traffic impact, density and building height, neighborhood character and privacy, parking, sidewalks and fencing.

Nearby resident Donna Clark addressed the commission, citing concerns about densely packed homes high enough to look like "a San Francisco kind of view," and requesting trees be planted along the fence-line to help block out lighting.

Chair Don Robertson stated his own concerns about granting the height variance, reminding the com-



A planned subdivision located in Lebanon off B Street, between 7th and 9th streets, could have up to 28 lots.

mission the reason they approved small lot sizes with a 25 foot height was because "the intent of the code was to provide affordable housing." In this development proposal, the two story homes take away the affordability, "which was the intent of the code."

The commission unanimously approved the subdivision and denied the variance for height.

### Extension granted

The commission approved a three-year extension of a previously approved preliminary subdivision, which was set to expire on April 1, 2026.

The applicant informed the commission that the property changed ownership, and the new owner

needs more time to complete engineering, permitting coordination and final plat preparation. There are no modifications to the approved proposed subdivision as part of this request.


The original approval of the property located off B Street between 7th and 9th streets included division of the 2.89-acre site into 28 residential lots each at approximately 3,248 square feet. The property currently has three single family residences, all of which are proposed for demolition.

The proposed subdivision would be eligible for development as single family zero lot line townhomes and with direct driveway access to a proposed new public street.

## Church Directory

Hebrews 4:12 For the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and of spirit, of joints and of marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart.

*Highway 20*  
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 Pastor Machiel Greyling

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Wednesday, 7 pm  
Prayer & Bible Study

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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

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Open Minds,  
Open Doors

A Reconciling Congregation

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

6th & Ironwood  
541-367-3073

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10:45 A.M.

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541-967-HOPE (4673)  
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 **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

# Behavioral health providers connect for support

By Sarah Brown  
Of The New Era

In an effort to connect service providers with each other and create supportive networking opportunities, staff from Samaritan Treatment and Recovery Services (STARS) in Lebanon hosted a meet-and-greet gathering on Friday, April 3.

The "Mid-Willamette Behavioral Health Meet & Greet" gave nonprofits, not-for-profits, emergency service providers and community partners involved in behavioral health treatment a chance to network and, perhaps, figure out how they could work together where needed.

"The purpose of the event is networking for these different organizations within our county to be able to connect, and then also to inform," said Zoe Costa, peer support at STARS.

Multiple agencies within that framework were given the floor to share what they do and what they have available for the community, and to answer any questions the other attending organizations may have.

"For me, working in my position, a lot of my work is connecting people to services," Costa said, adding she's not

well-informed enough about some of the other services out there. This meet and greet will help her, and others, gain a little more knowledge about resources they may be able to utilize in their own work.

STARS opened in 2020, providing addiction recovery services to adults with residential, outpatient and intensive-outpatient levels of care. They recently opened a second location in Newport last year.

Costa, who has seen success stories "every day" during her time with STARS, said lives are being completely turned around. In one example, she has "walked alongside" one individual who went from the emergency department into the STARS residential program, gone through treatment and is now "thriving" in the intensive outpatient program.

"They are in a stable living environment, achieving their personal goals and engaging with the community through volunteering and fellowship," she said. "There is a very human aspect to this work, as there is with any health care, when you get to see the light, that spark of life return to people's eyes."

Eight other organizations



Representatives from Crossroads Communities share about the services they offer in Lebanon and beyond. - Photo by Sarah Brown

shared with the group what kind of services they offer. They were Samaritan Medical Group, CHANCE Recovery, Community Outreach Assistance Team (COAT), Emergence Addiction & Behavioral Therapies, Family

Assistance & Resource Center (FAC), Family Tree Relief Nursery, Crossroads Communities and Albany Comprehensive Treatment Center.

"The more people we can get collaborating and on the

same page, aware of what's happening in other organizations, where the funding's coming from, who can help in the best way, the more streamlined our care is for people," said Shea Darnell, peer support at STARS.

## BANDSTAND From page 1

The council originally approved a special procurement to award Timber Framers Guild with a contract for the new bandstand, but later found additional requirements and costs in excess of what the city could provide.

The city solicited quotes for completion of the work and received the lowest bid of \$118,850 from Tocher Construction to build a 30'x36' structure and concrete pad with lighting and electrical connections.

The bandstand will be larger than the original 1930s design, so as to accommodate small events and future growth.

The Sankey Park Phase III project is funded through grant funds, city funds and donations; whatever is not covered by the grant and donation is budgeted in the city's General Fund. The city must complete the band-

stand by June 2026 in order to obtain the grant funds.

Following two recent work sessions, the council unanimously approved its 2026 City Council Goals. They are: continuing the restoration of Weddle Bridge, build sidewalks on Mountain View Road, install pedestrian and bike trails, park projects, review council rules, possible demolition of the former City Hall, Willow-Yucca LID, finish the wastewater treatment plant, complete audits and revise the cost of the wastewater treatment plant, install the water treatment plant generator, Canyon Creek pump station, make a plan for the former Santiam Feed Store, Quarry Park, and rebuild the CEIP funding.

### In other business:

Les Pool addressed his concerns about the process taken by City Council recently to approve the addition of an outdoor gym at the park next to City Hall.



Officials work at the scene of the rollover Saturday morning. See more photos at sweethomenews.com. - Photo by Scott Swanson

## Driver arrested after rollover crash

Sweet Home police arrested a Monroe man Saturday morning, April 4, after they responded to a rollover crash at the intersection of Main Street and 1st Avenue, next to Clover Memorial Park.

According to police, officers arrived at the scene at approximately 9:18 a.m. to find a gold 2004 Chevrolet Trailblazer on its roof, blocking part of 1st Avenue.

Sweet Home Fire and Ambulance District personnel responded and evaluated the driver, Justin Russell Jr., 22, of Monroe. Russell complained of pain but declined transport to the hospital.

According to police, Russell's vehicle was eastbound on Main when it left the highway and hit a rock retaining wall

at Clover Park, then went airborne and cleared the creek embankment running through the park, rolling multiple times.

Russell was arrested for reckless driving and his vehicle was towed.

According to police, witnesses reported Russell had been driving at a high rate of speed as his vehicle entered the west city limits just before the crash, which damaged not only city property but the ODOT facility at 1st and Main.

Multiple callers contacted police, complaining about Russell's driving.

Russell told police he had been involved in a road-rage incident with an unknown red pickup truck on Highway 20 between Sweet Home and

Lebanon prior to the crash. Anyone who witnessed the crash or the road rage incident before it is asked to contact Officer Cody McPherson at (541) 367-5181 or cmcpherson@sweethomeor.gov and reference case 202602296. Police are also interested in any dash cam video that witnesses may have recorded.

Police are asking the public to call 911 if they witness a road rage incident, which can result in crashes involving injury or death.

Police said Monday that the crash report from the incident was not available at press time for The New Era and that the matter is being investigated as a criminal case, so that report will not be released until it is complete and adjudicated.

We support The New Era!

# Electrical SS Services

Dan and  
Cindy Rice

# Public health care worker recognition this week

April 6-12 marks National Public Health Week, a time to recognize the many efforts from public health workers to protect local communities.

While health care providers typically care for individual patients, most public health workers care for the health of our entire community.

- Communicable Disease Nurses help individuals who may have been exposed to an infectious disease like measles in order to stop the spread.

- Environmental Health specialists check local restaurants to make sure the food is prepared safely.

- Health educators work with populations on how to manage health conditions like diabetes.

"Much of what influences our health happens outside of the doctor's office," said Shane Sanderson, Linn County Public Health Manager. "Public health departments are responsible for monitoring health threats in the community and taking action to reduce the risks of



**Shane Sanderson,**  
Linn County Public  
Health Manager

those threats."

Sanderson noted that in the past year, 70% of adults in Linn County visited a health care provider for a routine checkup.

"Unfortunately, we have a lower number of providers per capita in our area and it can take longer to get the care you need," Sanderson added. "That means taking

care of the overall health of our community is more important than ever."

Public Health workers take action to protect people from getting sick or hurt.

Last year, Public Health conducted more than 1,000 investigations to limit the impact of communicable disease in Linn County.

Strong public health services strengthen economic well-being in our community as well.

Thanks to the Women, Infants and Children (WIC) Program, \$2,230,930 is spent locally by participants to support our community.

This includes serving a third of all pregnant women in Linn County.

The Farm Direct Nutrition Program provides families with nutritious food and education on how to select and prepare fresh produce. Through WIC's Farm Direct Nutrition Program, \$26,196 was paid directly to local farms.

Ultimately, public health is your health. Where we live, work and play influence indi-

vidual health and the overall health of our communities as much as personal hygiene, good nutrition and exercise.

Public Health supports the strength and resilience of Linn County by offering services, tools, and information. We work alongside families, neighbors, and local partners to prevent illness and promote well-being. Together, we build a foundation where every resident has the chance to thrive.

Linn County Public Health is located at 1050 7th Ave. SW in Albany.

Environmental Health can be found at 315 4th Ave. SW, second floor. Offices are open Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m.-noon and 1 to 5 p.m.

Other locations include Lebanon and Sweet Home, by appointment only. Lebanon clinic: 1600 South Main Street, call (541) 451-5932. Sweet Home clinic, 799 Long St., call (541) 367-3888

## Need vaccinations for school?

Call to get up to date on your child's immunizations.

Services available include childhood/school immunizations, sexually transmitted disease (STD) testing and assessment and testing for Latent (asymptomatic) Tuberculosis due to possible exposure or for school/work requirements.

Linn County's Health Services Hub has Certified Health Care Workers and OHP assisters who can work with you to navigate a wide variety of resources, wrap around services, and assistance with treatment if interested.

Also housed at the LCHS Hub are the Maternal Child Health and WIC programs. These programs and departments provide a continuum of services that support personal health and well-being with a focus on pregnant women and families with young children, including home visits.

For more information, or to make an appointment, call (541) 967-3888. Find out more about services by visiting [www.linncountyhealth.org](http://www.linncountyhealth.org).

## SHOCASE Gala concert this Saturday at SHHS

SHOCASE will host its sixth annual Gala performance at 7 p.m. Saturday, April 11, at the Sweet Home High School Auditorium, 1641 Long St.

This year's theme is "A Tribute to the Legends," featuring the music of such past popular and country greats as Frank Sinatra, Barbra Streisand, Elvis, Dolly Parton, Whitney Houston, Johnny Cash, Jim Croce, Loretta Lynn, Stevie Nicks, Hank Williams and more.

"It's a tribute to the legends, so I think it's going to be something that a lot of people are going to recognize and enjoy," Director Shirley Austin said of the program.

Performers will be headed by professional artists Dakota Harris and Melody Jordan, along with local community performers including Ward Christman, Sean Morgan, Ember Ogden, Cathy Scheele, Matthew Stalheim, Scott Swanson and Amanda Wilde.

"Dakota was the winner of the Tallman Talent Search last summer and I just saw him there and I thought he

would be a good fit for the program I wanted to do for this Gala," Austin said. "He does a lot of entertaining in the area and he's getting a following

"Melody is also getting quite the following. I think a lot of people want to see her."

VIP tickets include a pre-concert meet-and-greet reception with food and beverages, VIP seating, and swag. The reception will be held from 5:30 to 6:45 p.m. in the high school commons.

VIP tickets are \$35; general admission is \$15, and students are \$10. Tickets are available during office hours at The New Era (10 a.m. to 5 p.m. M-F), at the Sweet Home Chamber of Commerce (9 a.m. to 4 p.m. T-F) and at the door.

Guests are invited to dress up for the occasion, although formal attire is not required.

"It's one of the best entertainment events in Sweet Home for the year," Austin said. "It's good entertainment for the whole family."

## EVENTS

From page 2

to 18th Avenue. Attendees will finish the march by walking to the police station on the north side of Main Street. Hot dogs donated by Thriftway will be offered at the march's endpoint.

Pinwheels can be purchased from the police department at \$2 apiece. All proceeds from the pinwheel purchases will go to a child abuse prevention organization.

For more about the event, contact Morgan at (541) 367-5181.

### EGG HUNT APRIL 11 AT WILEY CREEK

Wiley Creek Senior Living will host an Easter Egg Hunt for children of all ages at 2 p.m. Saturday, April 11, at 5050 Mountain Fir St. in Sweet Home.

A hunt for children ages 0-6 will be from 2 to 2:15 p.m.; ages 7 through 12 from 2:15 to 2:30 p.m., and older children from 2:30 to 2:45 p.m.

Three Golden Egg prizes will be awarded.

For more information, call (541) 367-1800 or visit [WILEYCREEKSL.com](http://WILEYCREEKSL.com)

### LEBANON COMMUNITY CHORUS SPRING CONCERT

Lebanon Community Chorus presents "The Rhythms of Life," a Spring choral concert at 3 p.m. on Sunday, April 12, at the Lebanon High School, 1700 S 5th St.

Tickets at Lebanon Bi-Mart, Lebanon Chamber of Commerce and at the door, \$15 per person; 18 and under is free.

### HABITAT FOR HUMANITY BREAKFAST FUNDRAISER

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

A guest speaker from Washington, D.C., will share her

story about growing up in an Habitat home. The purpose of the breakfast event is to ask for community financial support to help sustain the nonprofit's work toward building homes for low income families.

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

### AFTER 5 CONNECTIONS DINNER, PROGRAM

After 5 Connections - a gathering for women - will host "B Organized...Not Overloaded" dinner and program from 6-7:45 p.m. on Tuesday, April 14, at Ma's Restaurant, 2416 S. Santiam Hwy., Lebanon.

Guest speaker will be Darien Parsons, of Yelm, Wash. She will discuss the legacy of Walter Duff, Sr., the father-in-law of Helen Duff Baugh, founder of Stonecroft Ministries. Her personal stories will bring interesting historical information about the organization the Lebanon After 5 Connection represents.

Karen Bourgeois, talented flutist of Lebanon, will perform for us, and the featured presentation will be from Alyssa Rimer, of Queen B Organizing, who says, "Our homes and lives are filled to the brim with things. Providing space and caring for these possessions requires time, money and effort." Alyssa will share how we can downsize and create an environment of harmony, free of chaos that clutter creates.

Cost for dinner is \$23; credit cards cannot be accepted. To RSVP, contact Sherri at (541) 258-6414, or Nancy at (541) 259-1396 or by email at [NancyPinzino@comcast.net](mailto:NancyPinzino@comcast.net).

### GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY WORKSHOP APRIL 18

Sweet Home Genealogical Society will hold its annual Genealogical Workshop from 10 a.m. to noon Saturday, April

18, at the Genealogical Society Library, 1223 Kalmia St.

Two sessions will be offered, the first on the War of 1812 and the second on the Mexican-American War during the 1840s.

The speaker will be David Dickson, a retired high school history teacher.

Preregistration is required before April 15, due to limited space. Cost is \$5 for society members, \$8 for non-members and \$3 for students.

The library will open at 9 a.m. to allow completion of the registration process and time for visiting and questions regarding genealogy. Coffee, hot water for tea and hot cocoa, and water will be available throughout the morning.

### LEBANON CHAMBER BIZ EXPO APRIL 16

The Lebanon Chamber of Commerce will hold its annual Biz Expo from noon to 4:30 p.m. Thursday, April 16, at the River Center, 3000 S. Santiam Hwy., Lebanon.

The event brings together local businesses, entrepreneurs, and community members for networking, promotion, and connection. Businesses can showcase their products and services, while visitors can explore local opportunities, enjoy interactive exhibits, and sign up for a chance to win thousands of dollars in prizes.

Admission for the public is free.

### THIRD-SATURDAY MINI MART ON APRIL 18

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

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

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The 2026 Lebanon Strawberry Festival and Sweet Home Sportsman's Junior Courts. Back row, from left: Abigail Williams, Leo Davis, Ardella Hadley, Emma Walls, Sydney Lou Smith, Allison Dickerson, Braiden Clark, Emmett Villines and Skiler Denué. Front row, from left: Piper Pettit, Gracie White, Eden Cowgill, Delilah Quinlan, Carly Deckert, Aubree Anderson, Adalynn Camper and Adalyn Balagot. Below, Strawberry Festival Junior Princess Adalynn Camper, far right, gives a royal curtsy after receiving her tiara and sash. - Photos by Sarah Brown

## Strawberry Junior Court introduced in tiara ceremony

By Sarah Brown  
Of The New Era

The Strawberry Festival Junior Strawberry Princess Court was introduced during a special tiara-crowning ceremony on Tuesday, March 31, at The River Center in Lebanon.

The tradition began in 1922 when Marjorie Billings was crowned Strawberry Festival Junior Queen, with her coronation kicking off the children's parade, much like how today's Senior Court coronation kicks off the Strawberry Festival.

There wasn't a second Junior Queen until 1951, after which time the Strawberry Festival's Junior Court was a regular feature until 1983. It was once again revived in 2018.

Since the mid-1900s, the Junior Court evolved, sometimes including boys, changing from third graders to second graders, and eventually removing the title of Queen.

Today, the Junior Princesses are randomly selected from applicants at each of the area schools.

According to Junior Court Co-Chair Daijah Prestenbach, about 40 second-graders applied to the court this year.

The 2026 Strawberry Festival Junior Court is The 2026 Strawberry Festival Junior Court is Aubree Anderson, Adalyn Balagot, Adalynn Camper, Eden Cowgill, Carly Deckert, Delilah Quinlan, Gracie White and Piper Pettit.



## Walking for Children

Volunteers with Dala's Blue Angels lead the charge in the Walk For A Child event held in Lebanon on Saturday, April 4. In their 14th year advocating for awareness of child abuse – which is observed nationally during the month of April every year – Dala's Blue Angels drew in hundreds of participants to its walk/5K run and ceremony at Academy Square Park. Dala's Blue Angels raises money throughout the year, including the annual Walk For A Child, to support local services that protect children and educate the community about child abuse. They reported that last year they raised \$54,000 for those services in Linn County, including \$25,000 for ABC House.

- Photo by Sarah Brown

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**EXPIRES 12/31/2026**

**PUBLIC SAFETY**  
From page 3

the median strip across the eastbound lanes and into Lawrence's parked Escalade. Although not contributing to the crash, Lawrence was cited for DWS and DU.

Jungwirth was submitted for a retest. Report taken for non-injury crash.

6:38 p.m. - Multiple callers reported female walking into traffic near Mobile gas station, 2295 Main. Officer responded. Neighbor agreed to care for female. Unknown where care provider for female was. Investigation continuing.

6:47 p.m. - Caller from Safeway, 1540 Main, reported finding drug paraphernalia at location. Officer responded. Items were disposed of by store.

9:32 p.m. - Jason Bruce, 47, of Sweet Home, cited for DU, and on warrant, 12th/Nandina. Report taken.

9:51 p.m. - Caller reported vehicle revving and purposefully backfiring in area of 8th/Dogwood. Officer responded but was unable to locate vehicle.

**LEBANON POLICE**

3:17 a.m. - Intoxicated subjects, with a female and male couple engaging in assaultive behavior. Language barrier made investigation difficult.

12:25 p.m. - Daniel Jay Looper, 52, cited on LMC warrant for FTA - giving false info, LCCC warrant for meth, LCSA warrant for PV - ID theft, and Marion County Circuit Court warrant for unauthorized use of a motor vehicle.

9:07 p.m. - Theft of tent from Walmart. Loss: \$129.

9:18 p.m. - Quintin David Schlim, 34, cited for DWS and LMC warrant for FTA.

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

7:13 a.m. - Emily Honey, 34, of Creswell, cited for speeding, 25000 block Hwy. 99, Halsey.

1:10 p.m. - Mellissa Zenk, 43, of Springfield, cited for speeding, 24900 block Hwy. 99, Halsey.

2:00 p.m. - Driver, who was

See Public Safety, Page 11

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# WARRIORS SPRING SPORTS PREVIEW

## Slow start in baseball doesn't deter Warriors

By Mike Warner  
For The New Era

Lebanon baseball is in full swing, but the Warriors are still trying to find theirs.

The team has not seen the success that they expected coming into the season.

Lebanon started with two encouraging wins, but then lost six in a row, four to southern Colorado teams at a tournament in Arizona during spring break.

Despite the early losses, Coach Jeff Stolsig remains very positive.

"We didn't have the results we wanted in Arizona, but there were a lot of learning opportunities and we really laid a good foundation for the rest of the season," he said. "The kids are working hard."

Stolsig's attitude is shared by his players.

"We started out pretty good with two good wins but then had some rough losses down in Arizona. However, our bats were pretty hot and we showed a lot of potential," said senior outfielder Carson Quigley.

Senior catcher Wyatt Jenkins, knows the team pretty well. He has been the starting catcher all four years. He said that he "has a lot of hope for the rest of the season. We have great arms".

Stolsig has great faith in the team. Its strength will be its balance, depth and experience.

After finishing eighth in the Mid-Willamette Conference last year with a 5-13 record, 10-16 overall, the Warriors graduated only one player, Zane Cox.

This year's roster includes seven returning seniors, Niko Autry, Preston Bryan, Walker Erickson, Jenkins, Trenton Lewis, Quigley and Austin Turnidge; and five juniors, Brayden Fountain, Cole Gerig, Cohen Vandiver, Dylan Walker and Owen Wodtli; so the Warriors have plenty of returning experience.

Rounding out the varsity roster are sophomores Treyton Enright, Riley Grove, Jo-



Lebanon varsity baseball team members are, in front, from left, Austin Turnidge, Preston Bryan, Jaidyn Von Ruden, Cole Gerig, Cohen Vandiver, Trey Enright, Riley Grove, Brayden Fountain, Dylan Walker and Wyatt Jenkins. In the rear, from left, are Head Coach Jeff Stolsig, Coach John Von Ruden, Niko Autry, Carson Quigley, Owen Wodtli, Trenton Lewis, Lincoln Randall, Jonah King, Coach Brent Randall, Coach Joel Carlson and Coach Erik Salazar. Not available for this photo was Walker Erickson.



Lebanon junior varsity baseball team members are, in front, from left, August Barnes, Aiden Anderson, Maximo Aragon, Dylan Walker, Brittan Stevenson, Casey Stutz, Lane Murray, Ben Duty, Logan Gibson, Cooper Burian and Jacob Freeman. In the rear, from left, are Brent Randall, Riley Grove, Yago Ruano, Hunter Weathers, Winston Stuck, Zachary McQuistan, Lincoln Rundall, Jack Mitchell, Nolan Dierksen, Porter Kuhns, Joel Carlson and Eric Salazar.

nah King and Lincoln Randall, and freshman Jaidyn Von Ruden.

Junior varsity team members include junior Yago Ruano Perez; sophomores Nolan Dierksen, Benjamin Duty, Zachary McQuistan, Jack

Mitchell, Lincoln Randall, Casey Stutz, Brittan Stevenson, Hunter Weathers, and freshmen Aiden Anderson, August Barnes, Cooper Burian, Jacob Freeman, Logan Gibson, Issac Esqueda, Porter Kuhns, Lane Murray, Carter

Reece and Winston Stuck.

Stolsig notes that the league will get four teams in the post-season playoffs and there are about six teams battling for those four positions. He believes Lebanon will be one of the six in the mix.

The Warriors finish their preseason schedule Tuesday, April 7, at Cleveland and will start MWC play Friday, April 10, at McKay.

Their first home league game will be against McKay Monday, April 13.

### PUBLIC SAFETY From page 10

failing to maintain lane because she was too busy enjoying scenery, was warned by deputy, 45500 block Quartzville. 2:03 p.m. - Domestic disturbance reported between father and adult daughter in

43700 block Willey Creek. No injuries, neither wanted to pursue criminal charges. Parties warned for harassment. 3:12 p.m. - Cody Lawrence, 36, of Sweet Home, cited for DU, Main/18th. 3:48 p.m. - David North, 47, of Sweet Home, cited on LCJ warrant, 29800 block Berlin.

Report taken. 5:07 p.m. - Vehicle in road in area of Brownsville/Harrison roads towed as hazard. 5:29 p.m. - Deputy responded to caller stuck behind timber gate in 43400 block Ames Creek. CTC employee let caller out of gate. 10:04 p.m. - Jason Avery, 33, of

Sweet Home, cited for DWS and for warrants, including SHMC warrant for FTA in harassment case. Cited to appear May 4. 43rd/Coulter. Report taken. **LCSO/OSP LEBANON** 12:00 a.m. - Brenda Sacre, 58, of Lebanon, cited for DWS, failure to carry proof of insurance, Grant/Cleveland.

11:45 a.m. - Violation of order reported in 35500 block Truelove. Investigation ongoing. Report taken. 1:47 p.m. - Crash reported in 100 block Santiam St. Non-injury. Drivers exchanged info and departed before LCSO was

See Public Safety, Page 16

# Warriors see increased numbers, prospects in boys tennis

By Scott Swanson  
Of The New Era

In his third year as coach of Lebanon's boys tennis team, Jacob Butler has seen a "huge improvement" in multiple facets.

One has been an increase in numbers, from 10 boys three years ago, when Butler took the reins to 16 this year.

"It's been great," Butler said of the increased participation.

He is aided on the sidelines by longtime assistant Hector Aquino, along with new addition Nicklas Osberg.

A majority of this year's team are returnees, led by seniors Grant Basting, Silas Fitchett, Chase Herb, Hunter Jacobsen, Ryan Robinson and Landyn Whitney. Also back are junior Micah Zderad and sophomores Josh Allydice, Abram Fitchett, Benjamin Klinger and Nicholas McLoed.

Zderad, in his third year on the roster, is the Warriors' No. 1 singles player, and Butler said the junior "has a great chance on the singles side if he puts some things together, late in the year, to make a run at state through the districts" after making a run to the second round of the district tournament.

Robinson and Jacobsen, who also reached the second round of last year's districts as a doubles team, and Silas Fitchett are "good athletes"



Lebanon boys tennis team members include, in front, from left, Abram Fitchett, Micah Zderad, Chase Herb, Nick McLoed, Daniel Doerzapf, Landyn Whitney, Silas Fitchett and Kadyn Hull. In the rear, from left, are Head Coach Jacob Butler, Hunter Jacobsen, Josh Allydice, Grant Basting, Ben Klinger, Ryan Robinson, Colton Parrish, Alex Keeling and Coach Hector Aquino.

who, Butler predicted, are also going to be in the mix as the season progresses, particularly in doubles competition.

Newcomers are juniors Daniel Doerzapf, an exchange student from Germany who's experienced in the game, and Alex Kolling; sophomores Ka-

dyn Hull and Alvin Villa-Madrid; and freshman Colton Parrish.

Parrish also looks like a good prospect, particularly in doubles, he said.

"I think we might be able to shake some things up and really play well. I'm really excit-

ed with all the boys that we've got and the returnees and to see what they can do."

The Mid-Willamette Conference is never short on tennis talent and Butler said he expects the Corvallis schools and West Albany to be "tough," along with McKay. "South (Al-

bany) has been pretty good the last few years," he added.

Crescent Valley's Richard Wang won the individual state championship last year as a senior.

"They're always well-coached," he said of those schools. "It's always a battle and a grind in our league."

Lebanon came into this week 1-2-1 after a 5-3 season-opening win over Philomath on March 17 and losses to McDaniel (7-1) and Cascade (7-1) last week.

Herb and Silas Fitchett battled to a No. 2 doubles win over McDaniel on April 3, 3-6, 6-4, 10-7, and Doerzapf and McLoed scored the Warriors only team point over Cascade on April 1 with a 7-6, 3-6, 10-5 doubles victory.

Whitney and Klinger were winners in singles against Stayton, while Zderad fell to Stayton senior Zachary Flett in three sets, 7-5, 1-6, 6-3

Silas Fitchett and Allydice were winners in doubles, as were Grant Basting and Abram Fitchett.

**March 19 4-4 tie**

Against Philomath on March 17, Zderad defeated the Warriors' Lane Schell 6-1, 6-0, while Whitney, Silas Fitchett and Doerzapf all went three sets in singles losses.

Jacobsen and Robinson (6-2, 6-2), and Klinger and Allydice (6-0, 6-0) both won their doubles matches, the only two who competed.

The Warriors host home matches the next two weeks, Woodburn on Thursday, April 9, and Silverton on April 16, then host Central on April 28 and finish the regular season against South Albany at home on May 5.

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# Warrior girls aim to rise in MWC tennis

By Scott Swanson  
Of The New Era

Lebanon's girls tennis is on the upswing, says Head Coach Endya Robinson, and that's going according to plan - her plan.

Robinson, in her second year at the helm, is a Warrior alum who played four years on Lebanon's courts herself. Towards the end of her playing career, the program started slumping and after she graduated, she said, she decided she wanted to do something about it.

"I live in my hometown and I work at one of the schools, so I wanted to bring this program back up to what it used to be when I went to school. I want to bring it back."

After volunteering for two years with then-coach Andrew Evans, Robinson took over last year. She's assisted by Carra Culbertson.

"We didn't have uniforms until last year," she said. "It's been really exciting."

Players have been recruiting girls who aren't playing other spring sports, she said.

"They've reached out to their friends and told them about how fun the program was and how, like, we want to build it back up."

"A lot of these girls have worked hard."

Robinson said she played tennis as an alternative to her main high school sport, volleyball, because it helped her develop the explosiveness necessary for both games.

Her team is young, although 12 of her 27 players are back from last year: seniors Greta Abbott, Hailey Destowet, Jane Gonzalez, Daniela Sanchez-Guzman and Gwyneth Wheeler, junior Alison Frey, and sophomores Elizabeth Goodwin, Valeria Ortiz, Emma Ross, Kendall Sowa, Livian Victor and Kadence Volkers.

New to the team are seniors Mayte Diaz-Sanchez, Payton Voight and Anne Workman, sophomores Lylah Cox, Brooklyn Davis, Alexis Lindsay, Monica Ramirez, Kylee Ryan and Emma Wright, and freshmen Avery Carver, Bella Foubert, Katy Kolling, Rylie Noonchester, Sophia Vo and Chloe Walters.

The Mid Willamette Conference is not only the largest in the 5A Division but includes some of the top teams, perennial state champion Crescent Valley and 2019 state champ Corvallis among them.

"It's a pretty diverse level of skills throughout," Robinson said of the league. "So some of our girls have more challenging matches, while other girls, it's a breeze for them. It's definitely a competition for us."

She said she's hoping to



Lebanon girls tennis players include, in front, from left, Jane Gonzalez, Monica Ramirez, Greta Abbott, Kylee Ryan, Mayte Dias and Avery Carver. In the second row, from left, are Daniela Sanchez-Guzman, Kadence Volkers, Emma Wright, Chloe Walters, Hailey Destowet, Brooklyn Davis, Kendall Sowa, Valeria Ortiz and Sophia Vo. In the rear, from left, are Head Coach Endya Robinson, Gwyn Wheeler, Bella Foubert, Lylah Cox, Elizabeth Goodwin, Payton Voight, Anne Workman, Alexis Lindsay, Katy Kolling, Rylie Noonchester and Coach Carra Culbertson. Not available for the photo was Livian Victor.

get at least one Warrior to state this year, or by next year.

Frey, who's in her third year with the team, is one that Robinson hopes to see playing at the end of the season.

"If we keep on track with her improvement now, either this year or next year

we're looking at a really high chance of her getting to state."

Frey was 3-1 in No. 1 singles play coming into this week after matches against McDaniel on April 3, in which she suffered her first loss of the season, to Nhi Tran 6-4, 6-4, after wins over Cascade's Kenzie Clausen (6-

3, 6-3) on April 2, Stayton's Elise Comstock (6-1, 6-0) on March 19, and Philomath's Lucy Thomas 6-2, - (retired) on March 17. Destowet (1-6, 6-1, 10-7) and Workman (6-4, 6-1) were singles winners against McDaniel and Workman won her singles match against Cascade (6-3, 6-2).

Abbott and Sanchez-Guzman won their No. 1 doubles match against McDaniel (7-5, 7-5) as Lebanon finished 3-5 as a team.

Lebanon's remaining home matches will be against Dallas on April 14, followed by Silverton on April 17, Central on April 29 and South Albany on May 6.

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Lebanon varsity softball team members are, in front, from left, Jalyynn Wilson, Chloe Regalado, Annastazia Marshall, Majestah Nida, Hailey Myers, Scarlett French and Maddi Anderson. In the rear, from left, are Coach Julie Holden, Sophia Summerlin, Kinley Clark, Tatum Cole, Brystol Hockma, Taelyn Witney and Coach Brody Hillman.

# Warriors see 'potential' despite slow softball start

By Mike Warner  
*For The New Era*

The Lebanon softball team is off to a bit of a slow start, coming into this week at 2-5 in the young season, but there is a strong, positive mental attitude among the coaches and players.

They all believe that better days are ahead.

"This is a very fun team," Coach Julie Holden said. "These guys know how to work hard and get after it. They never quit. They just keep coming back for more. They just keep working and learning. I tell them that it is a journey and they are buying on the journey with us."

Seniors on the team echoed Coach Holden's thoughts.

"So far, we haven't done the best, but we have a lot of girls that have a lot of potential and the more we work, the better we will be," said

Annastazia Marshall.

Jalyynn Wilson seconded those thoughts: "We have a progressive team; we are very slowly developing and we are almost there. Almost there."

Hailey Myers added, "The team is wonderful. We all get along so well and there is no drama. We have a lot of improvement and we are a very fast team."

Holden said that the Mid-Willamette Conference is tough as always, but no one team stands out this year. "There are a lot of good coaches and good players out there. It is whoever shows up and competes."

A number of teams could be vying for league honors and Lebanon is clearly in the mix.

The varsity is led by senior Tatum Cole, along with Marshall, Myers and Wilson. Juniors include Taelyn Whit-

ney, Majestah Nida, Scarlett French and Chloe Regalado. Sophomores include Maddi Anderson, Sophia Summerlin and Kinnley Clark. The lone freshman is Brystol Hockema. With only 12 players on the team, the girls will play multiple positions based on team needs.

Junior varsity players are sophomores Maci Kau, Zoey Savage, Bella Jackson, Anouk Ricketts, Sunny Schuler, Brookelynn Sim and Dannaka Stover; and freshmen Emily Nelson, Annabelle Fleming, Zoe Ruonavaara and Rylie Trask.

The remaining preseason schedule includes at Willamette this week, on April 7, Nelson at home on April 9, and at Century on the road on April 10. Conference begins at Central on April 13, with their first home MWC game against Corvallis on April 17.



Lebanon junior varsity softball team members are, in front, from left, Dannaka Stover, Maci Kau, Bella Jackson, Zoe Ruonavaara, Annabelle Fleming, Anouk Ricketts and Brookelynn Sim. In the rear, from left, are Coach JR Clark, Emily Nelson, Rylie Trask, Sunny Schuler, Zoey Savage, Qynn Whitney and Coach Joan Suing.



Lebanon track and field team members include, in front, from left, Addy Pickles, Ariaahna Durgeloh, Landen Franklin, Ismael Benitez, Lawrence Parker, Catherine Attebery, Izzy Argo and Makayla Gonda. In the second row, from left, are Faith Strauss, Avery Lindsay, Miko Mattison, Nuala Attebery, Diana Sanchez, Danica Jimenez, Grace Murray, Hannah Pool, Cami Murray, Payten Heflin, Danica Teague, Kiiannah Stevenson, Kenley Mortensen, Angelina Castillo and Grycin Durgeloh. In the third row, from left, are Coach Troy Walker, Coach Mackenzie Durrant, Reese King, Heather Savedra, Ruby VandenBos, Brooke Fountain, Brody Hensley, Cadence Davis, Nova Barnes, Bodhi Brown, Raquel Biggs, Jane Brandt, Alyssa Zhiltsov, Alec Weber, Coach Kyle Saulmon and Head Coach Cameron Eberhart. In the fourth row, from left, are Jocilynn Durgeloh, Leslie Thayer, Libby Pointer, Jordan Tharp, Nickolas Nakphouminh, Zoey Beskow, Daphne Graves, Hailey Hasenyager,

Maliha Mowdy, Eva Graves, Teryn Gandy, Leelin Flesher, Michael Foubert, Emma Estes and Sophia Ramos. In the fifth row, from left, are Molly Basting, Boston Borgmann, Jack Whitacre, Harper Pepperling, Peyton Vorderstrasse, Rowan Jones, Zade White, Jayden Nunez, Tyler Deckert, Grady Cox, Cade Weber, Cash Davis, David Brandt, Tyson Trask, Gunner Harris and Ava Neuhaus. In the sixth row, from left, are Axel Bradbury, Paul Bloedel, Abram Plagmann, Austin McKamey, Jack Nelson, Treigon Haselip, Zane Smith, Jaxon Christopherson, Xavier Macedo, Logan Taylor, Luke Johnson, Jackson Simmons, Nicholas Brockett, Carson Kolling, Landon Phinney and Aaron Bradbury. In the rear, from left, are Joey Meyer, Logan Large, Samuel Bloedel, Jakin Lee, Gabriel Manner, Giovanni Hodson, John Rokitka, Sawyer Gillispie, Gunner Barnes, Michael Kluttz, Miller Swanson, John Kluttz, Dylan Juntunen, Steven Searles and Lake Tucci.

# Lebanon returning promising track and field talent

By Scott Swanson  
*Of The New Era*

Despite losing some big scorers to graduation, Lebanon's track and field team returns some athletes who have the potential to make their own marks - especially if they're willing to put in the work to get there, Coach Cameron Eberhart says.

Leading the girls last year were the Cornell twins, Taryn and Teagan, who went 1-2 in the discus at state and 3-4 in the shot.

"They brought some great talent in the throws and will be missed," Eberhart said of the Cornells. "As far as the throws go, it will be hard to fill the shoes of the twins, being that they went to state all four years. I know the other girls looked up to them and will strive to make them proud."

On the boys side, Isaac Jordan was third at state in the shot (after opening last season with a massive PR of 51-3½) and finished fifth in the discus at state behind Gabe Allise-jester, who was fourth. Grayson Jackson was fifth in the 110 hurdles.

"Isaac was great all around and fun to be around," said Eberhart, who has been at the helm for the Warriors since 2021, when they came out of the COVID shutdown.

"I know a few of our guys are looking to chase down his marks, but he left making sure they would have to work

for it.

"In the hurdles, Grayson worked really hard to get to where he did. My hope is that some of the other hurdlers saw that and will aim high as well."

After a third-place finish by the girls at the MWC district meet last year and fourth place for the boys, both finished ninth at state.

But the cupboard is not bare.

Back for the girls is Addy Pickles, now a senior, after qualifying for state in the 400 every year so far.

Although her quest to medal in that event last year was stymied by a false start call, she was fifth as a freshman and last year finished seventh in the long jump after posting a PR of 17-6¼ at the district meet. She was also 10th last year in the state triple jump after placing second in the MWC districts with a PR of

36-5.

Sophomore Brooklyn Hensley is back in the sprints as well, after placing 11th at state in the 100 (12.87), while Ruby Vandenbos, now a senior, was seventh in the triple jump at state after PRing at districts with a leap of 35-3. Vandenbos was also 11th at state in the long jump, behind Pickles, after PRing in that event as well at districts, with a leap of 16-2¼.

For the boys, senior Cade Weber is back after placing fourth in the 400 at state (49.60 after running 49.53 in prelims) and just missing the finals with ninth in the 200 (22.48).

Logan Large is also back as a senior after taking fifth in the state triple jump at state following a PR of 43-1½ to take runner-up spot in the district meet.

"All five of those athletes are big leaders at practice and

continue to push the others to do their best," Eberhart said.

Along with Weber, the then-all-junior 4x400 relay team of Bodhi Brown, Rowan Jones and Large are back after finishing 12th last year at state in 3:28.86.

Coach Troy Walker said he expects Brown to be a "force with the sprint group" after running an 11.09 in the 100 at the team's first real meet Saturday, the Titan Track Classic at West Salem..

He also noted that Brown, Large, Weber and sophomore Luke Johnson, whom Walker described as an "up-and-coming sprinter for us," combined to set the school record in the 4x100, clocking 42.81.

He said he also expects the Warriors to be strong in the 4x400 relay; the Warriors foursome of Large, Jones, Brown and Weber were first at the Titan meet in 3:27.46.

On the girls side, Pickles and Hensley are also joined by sophomore Jane Brandt, who with now-graduated Dakota Whitaker, were ninth at state in the 4x100 last year (50.06).

With more than 20 seniors on the team, the Warriors will take "a big hit at the heart of the team" this year, Eberhart said, so "our season goals this year is to continue to build up great leaders."

Also returning from last year for the girls are seniors Jocilynn Durgeloh, Emma Estes, Avery Lindsay and Peyton Vorderstrasse; juniors Isabel (Izzy) Argo, Molly Basting, Makayla Gonda, Evangeline (Eva) Graves, Ava Neuhaus, Diana Sanchez and Heather Savedra; and sophomores Nova Barnes, Raquel Biggs, Jane Brandt, Angelina Castillo, Ariaahna Durgeloh, Brooke Fountain, Hailey

See Track, Page 19



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# East Linn aiming for return trip to state golf tourney

By Scott Swanson  
Of The New Era

After a sixth-place finish last year in the 3A/2A/1A state golf championships, East Linn is back with a young team that, Coach Jayce Boyd says, is full of potential.

Gone to Southwestern Oregon Community College is Blake Knurowski, who led the Eagles, who graduated five seniors.

That leaves East Linn with one returning varsity member, sophomore Grady Knurowski, who shot 75-80-155, good for sixth in the Special District 2 tournament last year, then finished 15th at state (76-76-152).

"We're really, really young," Boyd said. "We have one junior on the team, who's playing a year ahead of where he's actually at. Everybody else is either a sophomore or a freshman. We are definitely building."

The roster includes players who didn't get to see a lot of action last year and are back to take the lead, Boyd said. Those would be senior Randy Holmes; junior Wyatt Smothers; and sophomores Parker Caddick, Dailey Kirkpatrick, Anderson Kropf and Liam Medford.

"They have a lot of potential and they've all been working really hard so far this season, even in the off-season, which is really cool."

"I always love it when guys play over the summer - you get better, right?"

New to the team are sophomore Greyson Martin and freshman Lincoln Boyer.

Boyer is brand new to the game, "but he's already made some great strides," Boyd said, adding that Boyer played "really well" in his first tournament.

Also new to the team is sophomore Zeke Wells, who has already demonstrated length off the tee, the coach said.

"Once he gets comfortable with more of the clubs in his bag, he can be dangerous, especially if he plays all summer."

Others on the roster are junior Wyatt Smothers, sophomores Casey May and Steven Ream, and freshman Keegan Connaghan.

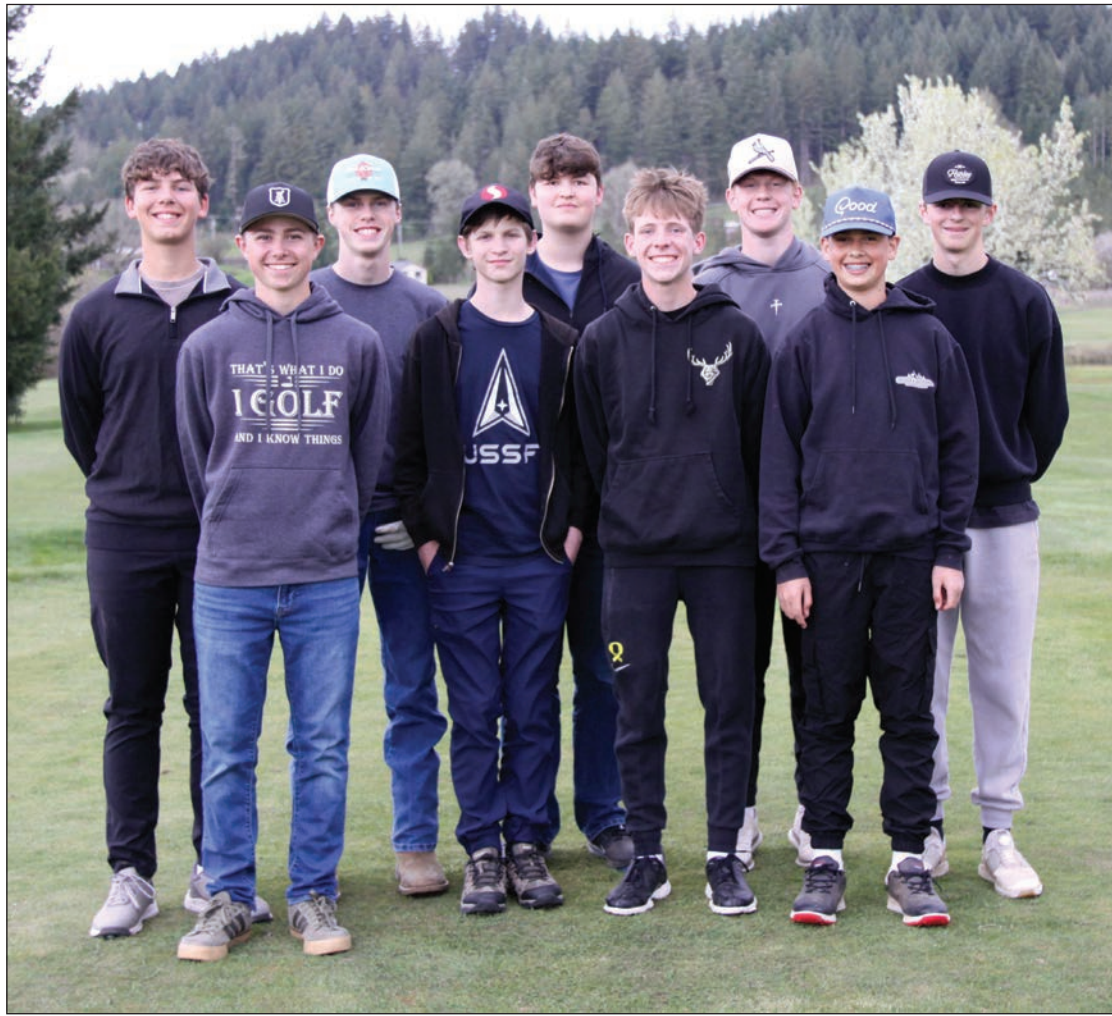
Boyd is assisted by Johnnie Watterson.

East Linn, with a senior-laden roster, was sixth last year at state with a two-day 653 team score (Bandon won with 580). Blake Knurowski tied for 10th (four-way) with a 150.

Boyd said his team might be able to get back into the big dance.

"I think we've got a shot," he said. "Grady's won both the tournaments we've played, with a 72 out of Tokatee from the blue tees and a 73 at Salem Golf Club from the whites. He can score."

"And we've got other guys that are trending in the right direction. Dailey's put in a lot of work in the offseason and



East Linn golfers include, in front, from left, Dailey Kirkpatrick, Lincoln Boyer, Anderson Kropf and Wyatt Smothers. In the rear, from left, are Liam Medford, Steven Ream, Zeke Wells, Grady Knurowski and Parker Caddick. Not pictured are Keegan Connaghan, Randy Holmes, Greyson Martin and Casey May.

he made a huge jump from the first tournament to the second tournament.

"We'll have a pretty good lineup once all our top five

are here."

East Linn played April 8 at Marshfield and will play there again on April 13 before moving on to Blanchet

on April 27, the Blue River State Preview on May 7 and the district tournament May 11-12 at Gleneden Beach.

## PUBLIC SAFETY From page 10

contacted.

8:30 p.m. - Stop sign at railroad crossing reported missing, Brewster/Griggs.

**APRIL 3  
SWEET HOME POLICE**

4:38 a.m. - Andrew Lee McQuiston, 37, cited for DU, 1500 block Main.

7:27 a.m. - Carey Brian Barfield cited for speeding, 37/25, 1000 block 7th.

7:44 a.m. - Caller reported RV parked in 800 block 12th, possibly abandoned. Code enforcement responded,

posted for removal.

9:10 a.m. - Brittany Elizabeth West cited for DU, 1400 block Main.

9:59 a.m. - Caller from Sweet Home High School, 1641 Long, reported speaker stolen. Officer responded, report taken for theft II. Missing speaker

is described as a portable bluetooth JBL Partybox 1000 speaker valued at \$800. It was stolen from one of the small outbuildings on the south fields near the community center.

11:55 a.m. - Caller reported suspicious male in 4800 block Main. Officer responded,

contacted male who was looking for rocks. Male was advised to return rock and move along.

1:26 p.m. - Caller from Sweet Home School District, 1920 Long, reported firearm belonging to employee had been left on school property. Officer responded, firearm seized for safekeeping.

5:29 p.m. - Caller reported teens inappropriately touching each other in Sankey Park, 877 14th. Officer responded, located two adults who were advised to keep their actions appropriate.

6:32 p.m. - Caller reported individual sleeping in covered area at SHPD, 1950 Main. Officer contacted female, who was advised she could not stay there and was directed where she could go.

8:38 p.m. - Cristy Jane Cromwell, 45, arrested by Albany police on SHMC warrants for FTA in two theft cases, trespassing case. Cited to appear April 22.

### LEBANON POLICE

8:04 a.m. - Report taken for theft of tires, brakes and lights from dump trailer, 300 block E Elmore St. Loss: \$5,250.

9:41 a.m. - Shalom A. Hancock, 54, cited for cell phone use while driving.

9:43 a.m. - Dogs attacked a dog that was being taken on a



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## LINN SHUTTLE

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

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

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**Public Notices**

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

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

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

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

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

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

**PURSUANT TO ORS  
CHAPTER 819**

Notice is hereby given that the following vehicle will be sold, for cash to the highest bidder, on 4/16/2026.

The sale will be held at 10:00am by SANTIAM TOWING & RECOVERY 611 MAIN ST LYONS, OR 2019 MAZDA 3 VIN = 3MZB-PAAL9KM109797

Amount due on lien \$8303.00  
Reputed owner(s) PEREZ CHAMPOT DE BOJ, MELIDA BOJ GOMEZ, JUAN EMANUEL  
(4/1 - 4/8)

**NOTICE OF BUDGET  
COMMITTEE MEETING**

A public meeting of the Budget Committee of the Brownsville Rural Fire District, Linn County, State of Oregon, to discuss the budget for the fiscal year July 1, 2026 to June 30, 2027, will be held at Fire Station 61 600 E. Blakely Ave, Brownsville, OR. The meeting will take place on April 28th, 2026 at 6:30 pm.

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

This is a public meeting where deliberation of the Budget Committee will take place. Any person may appear at the meeting and discuss the proposed programs with the Budget Committee.

A copy of the budget document may be inspected or obtained on or after April 17th, 2026 at Station 61, 600 E. Blakely Ave. Brownsville, OR, between the hours of 9:00 am and 4:00 pm.  
(4/8 - 4/15)

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE STATE OF OREGON FOR THE COUNTY OF LINN IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF DAVID C. JACKSON, deceased, Case No. 26PB02329

**Public Notices**

**NOTICE TO INTERESTED  
PERSONS**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the undersigned has been appointed personal representative of the above estate. All persons having claims against the estate are required to present the same, with proper vouchers, to said personal representative at the office of Jessica K. Meyer, Jessica K. Meyer Law, 80 E. Maple St., Lebanon, Oregon 97355, within four months of the date of first publication of this notice, or such claims may be barred.

All persons whose rights may be affected by the proceedings may obtain additional information from the personal representative or the attorneys for the personal representative at the address stated, or from the records of the Court.

Dated April 8, 2026.  
David T. Jackson, Personal Representative. Jessica K. Meyer, OSB #053242 Jessica K. Meyer Law LLC, 80 E. Maple St., Lebanon OR 97355  
(4/8)

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE STATE OF OREGON FOR THE COUNTY OF LINN IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF AUSTIN MICHELL KEYSER, deceased, Case No. 26PB02771

**NOTICE TO INTERESTED  
PERSONS**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the undersigned has been appointed personal representative of the above estate. All persons having claims against the estate are required to present the same, with proper vouchers, to said personal representative at the office of Jessica K. Meyer, Jessica K. Meyer Law, 80 E. Maple St., Lebanon, Oregon 97355, within four months of the date of first publication of this notice, or such claims may be barred.

All persons whose rights may be affected by the proceedings may obtain additional information from the personal representative or the attorneys for the personal representative at the address stated, or from the records of the Court.

Dated April 8, 2026.  
Victoria Lynn Keyser, Personal Representative. Jessica K. Meyer, OSB #053242 Jessica K. Meyer Law LLC, 80 E. Maple St., Lebanon OR 97355.  
(4/8)

**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)

**Stop Smoking**

Stop smoking with hypnosis \$75 call 541-327-3513  
(3/25-4/15)

**Statewide Notices**

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

**Public Notices**

**Notice of Application for  
Allocation of Conserved  
Water CW-149**

CW-149 filed by Lee Holdings, LLC, 34309 Highway 34 SE, Albany, OR 97322, proposes to convert 399.2 acres from big gun overhead irrigation to a drip irrigation system under Certificate 98556 with a September 16, 2015, priority from two wells in Oak Creek Basin. The project is expected to conserve approx. 1.33 cubic feet per second (cfs) and a max. duty of 399.2 acre-feet (AF). The applicant also proposes to convert 136.04 acres from big gun overhead irrigation to a drip irrigation system under Certificate 98658 with a July 27, 2018, priority from a well in Oak Creek Basin. The project is expected to conserve approx. 0.6 cfs and a max. duty of 136.0 AF. The Applicant proposes 25% of the conserved water under each right, being 0.33 cfs/99.8 AF under Certificate 98556 and 0.15 cfs/34.0 AF under Certificate 98658 be protected in the source aquifer.

The project appears to be consistent with the requirements under ORS 537.470. Any interested person may submit written comments directly related to CW-149 within 20 days of the last date of newspaper publication, being by 5:00pm on April 15.

Comments should be sent to the attention of the ACW Program, Water Resources Department, 725 Summer Street NE, Suite A, Salem, OR 97301.  
(4/8 - 4/15)

**Statewide Notices**

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

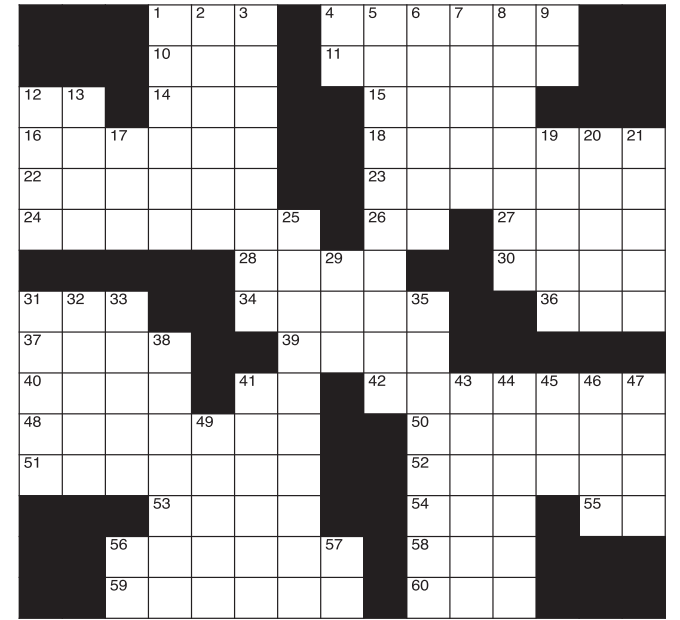
SERVICES: Get a break on your taxes! Donate your car, truck, or SUV to assist the blind and visually impaired. Arrange a swift, no-cost vehicle pickup and secure a generous tax credit for 2025. Call Heritage for the Blind Today at 1-844-533-9173 today!

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

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**CROSSWORD**



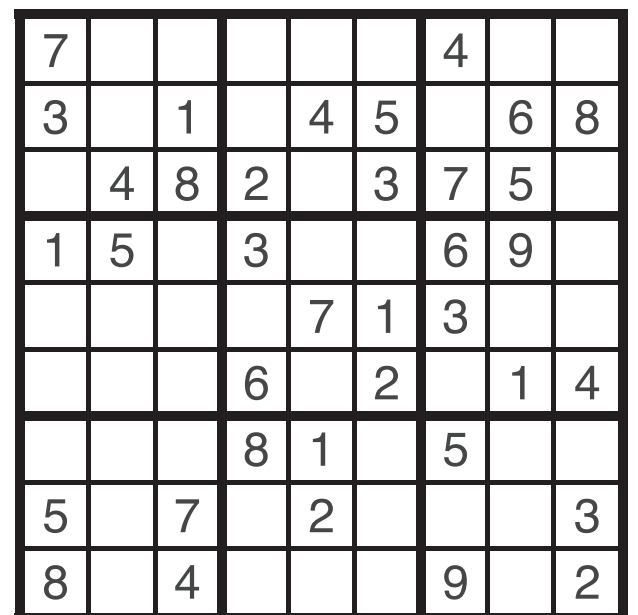
**CLUES ACROSS**

- 1. Storage device
- 4. Disagree with
- 10. Political organization
- 11. Playoff appearances
- 12. Collection of cops
- 14. Balkan mountain peak
- 15. Island north of Guam
- 16. Seizure of someone's property
- 18. Repeat
- 22. Beautiful youth
- 23. Bullfighters
- 24. Charges a fare
- 26. Not off
- 27. Where skaters ply their trade
- 28. Meson
- 30. Guru
- 31. Cycles/second
- 34. Alternating turns
- 36. Soviet Socialist Republic
- 37. Mound
- 39. Boxer Amir
- 40. Away from wind
- 41. Exist
- 42. Working man
- 48. British soldier
- 50. Scrounge
- 51. Upset
- 52. The act of escaping
- 53. Poet Pound
- 54. Confederate general
- 55. Midway between south and east
- 56. Becomes hot from the sun
- 58. Fictitious poet Mailey
- 59. Not yet purchased
- 60. Intersperse

**CLUES DOWN**

- 1. Bathing suit
- 2. Poignantly different from what was expected
- 3. A person with the same name as another
- 4. West Siberian river
- 5. Of the membrane lining the abdominal cavity
- 6. Has a positive electric charge
- 7. Fish-eating mammal of the weasel family
- 8. Offerers
- 9. Spanish be
- 12. Chilean province Capitan
- 13. Father
- 17. Pestilence
- 19. Songs
- 20. Grilling tools
- 21. Long, winding ridge of sand and gravel
- 25. Card game
- 29. \_kosh, near Lake Winnebago
- 31. Variety of beet
- 32. Caps
- 33. Rides in the snow
- 35. Took without permission
- 38. Tall stand to hold books
- 41. Spanish neighborhood
- 43. Spanish dance
- 44. Countries of Asia
- 45. Make fun of
- 46. Elk Grove High School
- 47. Network of nerves
- 49. Greek apertifs
- 56. Unit of volume
- 57. South Dakota

**SUDOKU**



Level: Beginner

# Huskies lose heartbreaker to No. 7 Molalla

By Keeghan Gittins  
For The New Era

Sweet Home softball battled No. 7 Molalla in a close contest that came down to the final inning, ultimately falling to a late home run by the Indians, losing 6-5.

Molalla threatened early, sending multiple line drives into center and left field with runners on second base. The Huskies' defense responded each time, as Addy Vannice and Trinity Victor threw out runners at the plate, with Natalie Smith completing the plays with tags to prevent runs.

Sweet Home built a 5-2 lead heading into the top of the sixth inning, but Molalla answered with three straight runs to tie the game. After a quick sequence of pop outs, the Indians carried their momentum into the next inning.

Brooklyn Brady then delivered the decisive blow, hitting the game's only home run to give Molalla the lead.

Katriona "Peanut" Harris kept the Huskies within reach, striking out three consecutive batters to close the

inning.

In the final frame, Sweet Home fought to extend the game. With two outs, Taylee Rosa hit a double to keep the rally alive, but Trinity Victor grounded out to third base to end the game.

Molalla had two solid pitchers, each recording five strikeouts.

"We need to work on hitting against more competitive pitchers. It is good for us to see better pitching and hitting, like against Molalla, to help prepare us for stronger teams in our league," Coach Emily Marchbanks said.

Despite the loss, Sweet Home showed resilience throughout.

"I felt like our team never gave up or let up during either game," Marchbanks said.

Earlier in the week the Huskies had a strong outing against Cottage Grove, winning 8-3.

Harris pitched all seven innings, recording 10 strikeouts while throwing 121 pitches, 76 of them strikes. The Huskies' defense supported her effort, allowing just five hits



Addy Vannice slides into home against Molalla. See more photos of the game (in color) at [sweethomenews.com](http://sweethomenews.com).  
- Keeghan Gittins photo

in 32 at-bats.

"In general, pitching is the first line of defense, so having a dominating game definitely makes things easier for the rest of the team," the coach said. "But we play several teams who are excellent hitters, so the team will have to back Peanut up."

Offensively, Emma Rosa led the team with three hits and scored two runs, tying Aaliyah Brown for the team lead in runs. Every player in the starting lineup recorded at least one hit.

Vannice set the tone early, leading off the game with a triple that hit the fence.

"It is always nice to see their hard work pay off," Marchbanks said.

The Huskies have a long road series ahead of them playing their next six games away, returning home to start league play against Philomath on April 20.

## Sports Roundup

### HUSKIES WORK ON GETTING OFFENSE ROLLING ON DIAMOND

The Sweet Home Huskies continue to show potential early in the season, beating Cottage Grove at home 10-0 on March 31, and keeping it relatively close on the road the next day at No. 10 Molalla in a 6-0 loss.

"In terms of both games, we played solid defense and our pitchers have been performing well," Coach Evan Teter said.

"Cottage Grove was a weaker offensive team, and we made the plays we needed to. Molalla was a solid offensive team and they hit the ball well. We made some good plays over there as well, but they were able to create chaos and put the ball in play often.

"Once our offense picks up the pace, we will be in a great spot; we just haven't been able to figure out that side of the game yet."

Against Molalla, the Huskies struggled, but kept it close for most of the game.

Molalla's pitcher gave the Huskies trouble, serving them 12 strikeouts, and only letting three Sweet Home batters record a hit.

"Molalla's pitcher was a good competitor. We put him in a couple difficult situations with runners in scoring position, but he kept his composure," Teter said.

Despite the offensive struggles, Sweet Home remained competitive thanks to its defense, trailing by just three runs entering the bottom of the fifth inning.

"We are right there. Our defense can hang with just about anyone when we are at our best," Teter said.

On the mound, Luke Rosa started the game, pitching three innings while allowing five hits and three runs. Kyle Zajic came

on in relief, throwing the final three innings and surrendering just two hits, though he also allowed three runs.

"We have some pitchers that we also trust that haven't seen much time on the mound because our starters have been able to go deep into games," Teter said.

Defensively, the Huskies have made noticeable strides, significantly reducing errors over recent games. In the last four games the Huskies were averaging 5-7 errors per game. In the last two just 1-2 per game.

"Defense is very important, and the guys have done a good job of cleaning up some of the mistakes we saw earlier in the season. It definitely helps us stay competitive and always have a shot at winning a game," said Teter.

The improvements were definitely displayed in a dominant 10-0 victory over Cottage Grove, where the Huskies invoked the mercy rule in a landslide win.

Zajic delivered a standout performance on the mound, pitching five innings on just 58 pitches, including 38 strikes. After allowing a hit in the second at-bat of the game, Zajic and the Huskies did not allow another base runner. He struck out nine of the 16 batters he faced.

"He's been lights-out for us so far this year," said Teter.

Offensively, the Huskies broke the game open in the second inning. After loading the bases with three consecutive walks, Luke Rosa delivered an inside-the-park grand slam as Sweet Home erupted for eight runs in the inning.

With continued defensive consistency and pitching depth, the Huskies appear poised to take the next step once their offense finds its rhythm.

The Huskies will host No. 18 North Bend, Tuesday April 7, then will play at Harrisburg Friday April 10.

"We just need to make some adjustments at the plate to put some runs on the board. Once we figure that out, we can compete with anyone," Teter said.  
- Keeghan Gittins

### HUSKIES DOWN WOODBURN IN HOME TRACK MEET

Sweet Home hosted Woodburn Thursday, April 2, in the first of two homestands for the Huskies, winning the boys competition 109-35 and the girls 118-21.

It was the first full competition for the Huskies, who were also to host Newport and Stayton Tuesday, April 2, as their season gets rolling.

Winners for Sweet Home were freshman Brayden Driver in the 200 (24.64), junior David Adderson in the 400 (1:01.89), freshman Elijah Rodriguez in the 3000 (10:30.26) and junior Nick Larson in the 110 hurdles (18.07).

The boys 4x100 relay team of junior Landon Murry, sophomore Sam Barringer, junior Kaeson Walker and Driver won that event in 45.71

The boys 4x400 relay team of Driver, freshman Bentley Uhly, Murry and junior Ryker Burr (3:49.81).

In the throws, junior Gavin Tyler finished first in the shot (45-9¾), senior Cannon Klumph in the discus (114-5) and junior Gunnar Summers in the javelin in a personal best of 113-1.

Senior Elisha Scofield won the high jump (5-6), and Larson won his first outing in the pole vault with a leap of 10-4. Sophomore Mason Tyler won the in the long jump (19-1¼) and Barringer the triple jump (38-5½).

On the girls side, Sweet Home won almost all of the track

events.

Senior Loralai Mark won the 100 (13.70); junior Noelle Helfrich the 400 (1:07.32); freshman Kali Vogel the 800 (2:56.41); senior McKenzie Miller the 1500 (5:13.88); and sophomore Emma Whitton the 3000 (11:55.48, a PR).

Senior Delanie Pratt was first in the 100 hurdles (19.20) and junior Amara Gonzales in the 300 hurdles (56.97).

Junior Brooke Elder, Pratt, junior Jayla Moore and Mark teamed up to win the 4x100 (54.00), and Miller, Helfrich, freshman Elizabeth Hankins and Elder were in the 4x400 relay (4:36.96).

In the field, sophomore Sydney Dominy won the shot 30-7¾, while senior Selah Wright was the top finisher in the discus (88-6) and the javelin (101-8, a PR).

Gonzales won the high jump (4-6) and the triple jump (28-7), Mark the long jump (15-4) and Pratt in the pole vault (7-6).

Sweet Home will be on the road Saturday, April 11, to Banks for the Rob Frank Invitational, which will also include East Linn (see below).  
- Staff

### EAST LINN GIRLS FIRST AT REGIS MEET

A limited roster of Lebanon track and field athletes, along with East Linn, competed April 2 at Regis.

Lebanon's depth paid off with 51 points, over Regis (36) and East Linn (46) on the boys side, while the Eagles won the girls competition with 64 points to 36 for Regis and 38 for Lebanon, which saved its top varsity performers for the Titan meet at West Salem on Saturday (see Lebanon track preview in this edition for more details on that competition).  
Individual winners on the track

at Regis for the Lebanon boys were sophomore Eadon Marshall in the 100 (11.88, a personal best) and senior Logan Taylor in the 400 (56.27, a PR), while the

4x100 relay team of senior Boston Borgmann, junior Jack Whitacre, Marshall and Taylor won that event in 45.96.

Winners for the East Linn boys were Ryder Howard in the 200 (24.31, a PR) and the 4x400 all-sophomore team of Gaber Talleur, Jonah Magness, Cole Pennington and Howard (3:47.11).

Howard also won the high jump (5-10) and the long jump (19-7, a PR) and Pennington won the javelin 129-6, a PR, while senior Hank Davidson won the pole vault in 12-6, his first competition in that event this year.

Freshman Libby Pointer won the long jump for Lebanon girls with a leap of 14-6.

Winners for the East Linn girls were senior Lexy Kauffman in the 100 (13.34) and 200 (27.41), and freshman Morgan Lalonde in the 3000 (13.14.77).

Junior June Cowan won the 100 hurdles (17.55).

Sophomore Kaylyn Kaufman, Cowan, junior Avery Runyon and Lexy Kauffman teamed up to win the 4x100 relay in 53.95.

Sophomore Maci Modderman won the shot (31-2) and the discus (95-9), and senior Svetlana Manner in the javelin (96-9) and the pole vault (7-9) and the triple jump (29-6).

Up next for ELCA is the Harrisburg Invitational Thursday, April 9, followed by the Rob Frank Invitational at Banks Saturday, April 11.  
- Staff

# Sweet Home Swim Club athletes place at state championships

Three Sweet Home Swim Club athletes, Novaleigh (Nova) Adams, Sophie Burns and Ryder Parr, competed March 6-8 at the 11-14 Oregon State Championships.

Burns, 12 qualified for state in the 100 and 200 Individual Medley, 50 and 100 butterfly events, 50 Backstroke and 100 Freestyle.

She dropped time in all of her races and qualified for finals in all six of her events.

She placed fifth in the 50 Butterfly, sixth in the 50 Backstroke, eighth in the 100 Butterfly, ninth in the 100 Freestyle and 10th in the 200 IM.

Two weeks later Burns competed at her first Northwest Age Group Regionals in Federal Way, Wash., which included swimmers from Oregon, Idaho, Washington, Montana and Hawaii. She qualified in the 100 and 200 IM, and 50 and 100 fly events.

"After having such big time drops two weeks prior, we didn't expect all new best times - we wanted her to race her best and that's what she did," Coach Jessica Rice said.

Burns finished 24th in the 200 IM, 21st in the 50 fly, 19th in the 100 fly, and 16th in the 100 fly.



Sweet Home swimmers, from left, Sophie Burns, Nova Adams and Ryder Parr, compete at the Oregon State Championships. - Sweet Home Swim Club photo

In her first state meet, Adams, also 12, qualified in the 200 Individual Medley, and 50, 100 and 200 freestyle events, dropping time in all of her races. She placed fifth in the 50 Freestyle and 10th in the 200 Freestyle.

She posted a 10-second drop in the 200 IM, placing 22nd; and placed 20th in the 100 free.

Parr, 13, qualified for state in the 200 backstroke, and the 200 and 500 freestyle.

He dropped time in all three races and placed 28th in the 200 back and 12th in both the 200 and 500 free.

## PUBLIC SAFETY

From page 16

walk, 900 block W D St.

11:22 a.m. - Brandy Glynn Davis, 46, cited for unlawful change of lane.

8:00 p.m. - Report taken for dog biting neighbor child. Robert Michael Blair, 24, cited for nuisance dog. Dog quarantined.

10:30 p.m. - Physical disturbance, apparently between family members. Juvenile detained in a wrap, transported away by medics.

### LCSO/OSP SWEET HOME S. COUNTY

11:33 a.m. - Alexandra Soto, 25, of Springfield, cited for driving without proof of insurance, Depot/Ash, Brownsville.

12:48 p.m. - Crash reported in 47300 block Quartzville, near Thistle Creek Park. Gilbert Martinez, 50, cited for driving without license, SHMC warrant in disorderly conduct case after, according to LCSO, he crashed into rocks and the Thistle Creek Park sign. No injuries reported. He was transported to LCJ on LCCC warrant for FTA in meth possession case. Cited to appear in SHMC May 4.

1:30 p.m. - Daniel Hernandez-Luttrell, 22, of Sweet Home, cited for DWS, DU, Bishop/Templeton, Brownsville. Report taken.

5:31 p.m. - Keyanoosh Gallagher, 48, of Eugene, cited for speeding, American/2nd, Halsey.

### LCSO/OSP LEBANON

8:54 a.m. - Bryan Watts, 51, of Lebanon, cited on three warrants, 300 block Russell.

1:23 p.m. - Anthony Middleton, 62, of Lebanon, arrested on warrant. Cited and released. Report taken.

2:13 p.m. - Anthony Whitebird, 40, of Albany, arrested on warrant, 32800 block Brewster. Lodged at LCJ. Report taken.

4:13 p.m. - Ashley Barger, 36, of Lebanon, arrested on warrant, 32800 block Brewster. Report taken.

4:28 p.m. - Caller reported finding controlled substances in driveway, 37800 block Sodaville Cutoff. Report taken.

4:36 p.m. - Jhenna Lance, 31, of Albany, arrested on

SHMC warrants for FTA in two trespassing cases, 32800 block Brewster. Cited to appear May 4 and released. Report taken.

9:01 p.m. - Soloman Kovach, 43, of Beaverton, cited for DWS, DU and failure to install ignition interlock device. Santiam Hwy./Russell.

9:25 p.m. - Porter Martin Mhoon-Coatney, 19, of Lebanon, cited for speeding, 81/55, 34300 block Santiam Hwy.

10:26 p.m. - Juvenile arrested for harassment, contempt of court and MIP, 1600 block S. 7th. Report taken.

### APRIL 2

### SWEET HOME POLICE

12:11 a.m. - Caller reported

getting threatening calls over course of three weeks from unknown number. Officer responded, info noted, caller advised of options.

7:41 a.m. - Caller from Shear Country Salon, 2312 Main, reported male sleeping in front of business. Officer responded, male was trespassed.

8:13 a.m. - Candace Ruth Fisher cited for DU, using mobile device while operating vehicle, 1200 block Long.

9:58 a.m. - Caller from 100 block 8th reported neighbor stating they were going to shoot caller's chickens, noting that rooster was "going off" more than usual that morning.

See Public Safety, Page 20

## TRACK

From page 15

Hasenyager and Leslie Thayer.

Also back for the boys are seniors David Brandt, Bohdi Brown, Gunner Harris, Treigon Haselip, Rowan Jones, Michael Kluttz, Kael Robinson and Steven Searles; juniors Ismael Benitez Aguilar, Gunner Barnes, Aaron Bradbury, Grady Cox, Dylan Juntunen, Raymond Romero, Lyric Thompson, Tyson Trask and Jack Whitacre; and sophomores Samuel Bloedel, Jaxon Christopherson, Cash Davis, Tyler Deckert, Zachary Dickerson, Luke Johnson, John Kluttz, Eadon Marshall, Austin McKamey, Jack Nelson and Zade White.

Rounding out the roster for the girls are seniors Sophia Ramos and Kiiannah Stevenson; juniors Cami Murray, Alec Weber and Alyssa Zhiltsov; sophomores Teryn Gandy, Kenley Mortensen and Grace Murray; and freshmen Catherine Attebery, Nuala Attebery, Zoey Beskow, Cadence Davis, Harmony Villafana-Garcia, Daphne Graves, Payten Heflin, Danica Jimenez, Reese King, Miko Mattison, Ava Mills, Maliha Mowdy, Harper Pepperling, Libby Pointer, Hannah Pool, Faith Strauss and Danica Teague.

Savedra is leading the league in the javelin after throwing a personal-best

108-6 to place third at West Salem and Graves is sitting third in the discus in the early standings with a throw of 85-1, a personal best.

Walker said Brandt, Pepperling and Pointer all show "potential" as well.

Joining the boys roster this year are seniors Boston Borgmann, Joey Meyer and Lawrence Parker; juniors Javier Cabuto and John Rokitka; and incoming freshmen Oliver Blatchey-Penner, Paul Bloedel, Axel Bradbury, Nicholas Brockett, Cody Cruz, Grycin Durgeloh, Leelin Flesher, Michael Foubert, Landen Franklin, Sawyer Gillespie, Chaz Hamner, Brody Hensley, Giovanni Hodson, Carson Kolling, Jakin Lee, Xavier Macedo, Gabriel Manner, Nickolas Nakphouminh, Jayden Nunez, Kasey Parker, Abram Plagman, Jackson Simmons, Zane Smith, Miller Swanson, Logan Taylor, Jor-

dan Tharp and Lake Tucci.

Eberhart is assisted by Mick Bittick, Kaitlyn Burson, Mackenzie Durrant, David Evans, Kyle Saulmon, Eric Speldrich and Troy Walker.

Both the Warrior boys and girls were fifth at the Titan meet, which included 20 girls teams and 19 boys, all but a couple 5A Division or above.

Top finishers for the boys were Brown, fourth in the 100 (11.09), with Johnson close behind in seventh (11.20, a PR); Weber, second in the 400 (50.30) and fifth in the 200 (22.89); Large in the long jump (21-2½, a PR) and third in the triple (42-3¼).

For the girls, Pickles was sixth in the 200 (27.15) second in the long jump (16-8) and fourth in the triple (32-6), right behind Vandebos, who was third (34-2); Hensley was second in the 100 Hurdles (15.58); and both were part of the third-place 4x100 relay

team, along with Brandt and Pepperling, which finished in 50.56. Villafana-Garcia finished sixth in the javelin, behind Savedra, with a personal best of 98-7. Basting finished in a tie for eighth in the pole vault in a personal-best 7-8½

Eberhart said he was reluctant to highlight teams to beat in the conference.

"All the schools bring competition, so it's hard to be specific about each and every

event," he said. "I would say that the team to beat is the jersey of the kid in front of you."

The Warriors host the Rob Allen Twilight Invitational Friday, April 24, followed by a home meet against McKay and Woodburn Wednesday, April 29. The Mid-Willamette Conference Championships will be May 20 and 22 at Corvallis, followed by state on May 29-30.



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## Awareness in Blue

Volunteers joined the Sweet Home Police Department, placing blue pinwheels and signs along the median strips running through downtown on Tuesday, March 30. Alongside the blue decorators were members of the Beautification Committee, who kicked off their spring cleaning of the medians by pulling weeds. The blue signifies April's National Child Abuse Prevention Month has arrived and, with it, the department's annual March Against Child Abuse, which will be held Saturday, April 11, at 10 a.m. at SHPD, 1950 Main St. - **Photo by Sarah Brown**

### PUBLIC SAFETY

From page 19

Officer responded, matter referred to code enforcement.  
 10:58 a.m. - Caller reported shed broken into in 1100 block 55th. Officer responded, report taken for burglary II.  
 11:09 a.m. - Travis Lane Siler cited for DWS, 1300 block 40th.  
 11:42 a.m. - Caterina Amber Hardy-Lancellotti arrested for theft III, after caller from Thriftway, 621 Main, reported female had stolen items from store. Cited and released.  
 12:19 p.m. - Aleece Rochelle Woods arrested by LCSO on SHMC warrants for FTA in two theft cases, FTA in two trespassing cases. Cited to appear April 22.  
 3:00 p.m. - Robert Adam Oshea cited for failure to carry proof of insurance, 22nd/Ironwood.  
 3:40 p.m. - Melissa Gambardella cited for DWS, 1000 block Main. Driver's license seized.  
 4:35 p.m. - Caller from Thriftway, 621 Main, reported multiple thefts. Report taken for theft III. Approximate total value \$223.82.  
 7:56 p.m. - Steven Anthony Young, 31, arrested at LCJ on SHMC warrant for FTA in disorderly conduct case. Cited to appear April 22.  
 8:16 p.m. - Jonathan Lee Hill, 53, cited for DWS, 4200 block Main.

#### LEBANON POLICE

12:25 a.m. - Officer and K9 searched vacant house, which had smoke coming out of chimney, 900 block S 2nd St. Richard Alan Walls, 55, cited

on LMC warrant for PV.  
 8:41 a.m. - Andrew Devick, 30, cited for DWS, DU.  
 9:11 a.m. - Theft of gas from car reported, 1600 block S 5th St.  
 9:22 a.m. - Report taken for theft of items from storage, 2100 block Franklin St. Missing: golf bag and clubs, coins, military bags and clothes.  
 9:27 a.m. - Crystal Johnson, 47, cited for speeding 43/25.  
 10:01 a.m. - Ann Elizabeth Daugherty, 70, cited for speeding 40/25.  
 10:23 a.m. - Rubia Marie Chavez, 47, cited for speeding 45/25.  
 10:50 a.m. - Pamela Jean Smith, 65, cited for criminal trespass II.  
 1:22 p.m. - Christian Duane Justham, 19, cited for DU.  
 1:36 p.m. - Female near Ralston Park waving down cars, yelling "help me." Intoxicated female fell in planter, causing mouth to bleed, and urinated on herself.  
 7:03 p.m. - People fighting over shared custody of a dog, 1100 block S 4th St.

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

1:25 a.m. - Amber Barton, 47, of Sweet Home, cited for DWS, 44700 block North River.  
 8:32 a.m. - Abandoned motor home on county right of way towed after owner had been given ample time to remove it, Scott Mountain/Mountain Home.

**See more and updated Public Safety log reports at [sweethomenews.com](http://sweethomenews.com) and [lebanonlocalnews.com](http://lebanonlocalnews.com)**

— APRIL IS NATIONAL —

# CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION MONTH

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## SIGNS OF CHILD ABUSE

1. Changes in behavior. Abused children often appear scared, anxious, depressed, withdrawn or more aggressive.
2. Returning to earlier behaviors. Abused children may display behaviors shown at earlier ages, such as thumb-sucking, bed-wetting, fear of the dark or fear of strangers.
3. Fear of going home.
4. Changes in eating habits.
5. Changes in sleeping. Abused children may have frequent nightmares or have difficulty falling asleep.
6. Changes in school performance and attendance.
7. Lack of personal care or hygiene. Abused and neglected children may appear uncared for.
8. Risk-taking behaviors.
9. Inappropriate sexual behaviors.
10. Unexplained injuries. Children who have been physically abused may exhibit unexplained burns or bruises in the shape of objects. You may also hear unconvincing explanations of a child's injuries.

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 Sweet Home Police Department, 1950 Main Street

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 March in support of safety for all children. Hot dog lunch to follow.

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**FOREST DEPUTIES**  
From page 1

then a bunch of these people decide they want to do it. One person decides to drive up this little hump to see if they can make it up here and then a bunch of people do."

Timber landholders have rules and people violate them. Engler's job is to, if not prevent violations of those rules, to catch violators. She does both.

Engler was a swimmer for Lebanon High School and then for Southwest Oregon Community College in Coos Bay, where she qualified in multiple events for nationals. After graduating - she earned valedictorian honors in both high school and college, where she earned three associate degrees, she then served on the SWOCC coaching staff. Then, she said, she decided to go into law enforcement - in Linn County, where she'd grown up.

"I only applied one place," she said as she drove along Marks Ridge Road: "to Linn County Sheriff's Office. If I couldn't work here, I wasn't going to do it."

After a few years on regular patrol in Millersburg and other areas, she moved to the mountains.

With a reporter riding shotgun, Engler pointed out some of the problems she sees and deals with in her forest patrols.

She said that problems intensify with proximity to the towns, and Old Hufford is a prime example because it's a county road that's close to town. The problem, she said, is that what people do often violates company rules and, sometimes, the law.

Milt Moran, president of Cascade Timber Consulting, which manages 145,000 acres of timberland in east Linn County, said the mountain deputy program has been in place for nearly 20 years.

The program is contracted between the Linn Forest Protective Association and the Sheriff's Office, he said. LFPA pays 80% of the deputy's salary, which makes the mountain deputy available to respond to traffic and other crimes when necessary, he said.

"We, as landowners, felt it was important to do this, with the amount of public access - so many of our lands are surrounded by neighbors, off of county roads and main lines that bisect our properties."

Recreation, such as hiking, hunting and fishing is allowed for the public, he said, though camping is prohibited.

Even with those provisions, "people are still breaking the law," he said.

"It's super important that we maintain good communication and good visibility."

**Party Sites, Fires, Shooting Ranges**

Shooting is a big problem, particularly close to town, she said, gesturing at a CTC gate

riddled with holes, sporting a cock-eyed warning sign that had been shot up. Nearby, a 6-inch Douglas fir was missing its top, courtesy of some shooter.

Engler reached into the ragged shaft of the tree's trunk and pulled out a spent bullet.

"One of the really common things specific to 'No Shooting,' signs," she said, "is people will shoot them down. Yeah, it doesn't matter how many times that timber companies will put signs up, people pull them down so they can, you know, try to get away with things or claim that they don't know."

She said the Old Hufford area, particularly, is off-limits to shooters.

"Cascade Timber has areas where they allow shooting, but there's areas where they post not to target shoot, and those are usually the areas where there's houses in the general decision," she said, noting that there are residences scattered along the length of Old Hufford and Shot Pouch, which runs to the south of the main line.

"Old Hufford, specifically, is a no target-shooting area. That doesn't mean you can't hunt. It's just repetitive shooting at targets."

She said a big problem is shooting up a road or trail without a proper backstop.

"Trees are not a backstop," she noted. "Bullets have a way of traveling long distances."

"We want to be respectful of our neighbors," Moran said. "That's why we put up No Hunting, No Shooting signs where people live."

Another problem, Engler said, is people who decide to bring their TV or some other household item out to the woods to use for target practice.

At another spur road, blue tape marked missing tops of numerous young trees that had been cut off by shooters.

A cattle trail ran up the hill - this was an open range area - and fresh cow tracks were evident in the mud, along with shotgun shells and bullet casings. Several stumps or rocks were surrounded by shattered glass and cans full of holes, and a propane tank lay off to one side, also riddled with holes.

Nearby was a large whipped cream spray container, used by partiers for "huffing." Engler said she often finds such trash around the remains of fires.

Engler, who said she likes horseback riding, noted that she doesn't ride in this area.

"You cannot tell me what is behind those trees," she said, pointing at the trail running up the hill. "You know, someone, maybe they're walking a cow trail back from a hike. I have horses, and sometimes we like to get off the beaten path and we'll just take a little, you know, deer trail or cow trail or whatnot. You don't know who or what is going to be walking around the corner



Deputy Piper Engler, above, walks across an area torn up by mudders. Below, deep water-filled ruts are cut into a road that is actually off-limits to public traffic. - Photo by Scott Swanson



while you're just shooting into an open area."

CTC has private security, who work with deputies, and neighbors often will report violators, she said.

Moran said illegal shooting doesn't just damage trees, it can create hazards for millworkers - especially when target shooters are using metal-jacketed bullets.

Referring to situations such as the tree that had been cut in half by bullets - and he said there are more of those on CTC property, "there's a lot more bullets in trees out there beyond that. Those bullets, depending on what kind they are, can be very dangerous in a sawmill."

"A lot of people are shooting metal-jacketed bullets these days. If we see that in the tree, if it doesn't get caught by the cutters, the loggers, somebody in a mill could get badly hurt."

Fires are another problem; there were charred remains of what likely were party fires, judging by the number of cans and other trash around most of them, in multiple intersections where Shot Pouch

intersects with spur lines or cat roads.

"I think across the board, no one wants people to have buyers recreated from or not on their property. It's just too much of a risk for them and so pretty much no timber company allows fires."

**Off-Road Trespassing**

Mudding and off-road vehicles are another big problem, Engler said, adding that off-road motorists damage the landscape, which creates problems for timber owners.

She said it is common to see evidence of trespassing by vehicle operators who skirt boulders and gates to access areas they're not supposed to be in.

"This is a prime example of, you see, just the tire tracks going through," Engler said, pointing to a slope with ruts cut into it. A muffler lay nearby on the ground.

"Yep, they leave pieces behind. A lot of times when they go through different stuff, they'll leave fluids and stuff just naturally from, you know the things that they damage unintentionally and what-

not, and then you destroy like the soil, and you can uncover roots from different trees and and one of the big things that I had no idea about, is that the timber companies are responsible for how much sediment or debris flows through their different streams," she said; the state can fine timber owners for exceeding sedimentation limits.

Moran said that people tear up roads and, with streams close by, "we have to do a bunch of repair work to keep the water clean" after vandalism.

"We like to have people use our property for recreation, but if it gets to the point that there's too much damage done, we may have to close it off."

That's why, for CTC and other local timber companies, if the public is allowed access, it is usually limited to "maintained, rocked roads," Engler said. "Anything off of that is usually a trespass, even if you are allowed to be on that private timber company's property. If you're not obeying their rules, they don't want

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**FOREST DEPUTIES**  
From page 21

you there; it's a trespass."  
She said one of the most common intrusions she sees is "16-year-old kids in their first vehicle, yeah, that '90 Toyota pickup," who enjoy off-roading in places they shouldn't be.

"It's kind of a nuisance for the timber companies. They try to say that they thought they were able to go through there, and one person does it, and more people follow. And then pretty soon you get like this here where it's like, they didn't make that part of their road initially," she said, gesturing at a spot where muddy tire ruts ran around a closed gate.

**Gate Issues**

Timber gates are a big issue that deputies have to deal with.

Nearly daily, the LCSO Sheriff's log reports incidents of deputies dealing with timber gates blocked by vehicles, trespassing vehicles locked behind gates, locks stolen or damaged, and more.

Engler noted that timber companies operate according to plans created in conjunction with landowners



A Cascade Timber Consulting forest gate clearly has been the target of shooters, as a warning sign dangles after being tampered with. Vandalism to gates is a problem for CTC and other local landowners. - Photo by Scott Swanson

and sometimes those require gates to be open - but not to the public.

"It's not like they just show up for work one day and are like, 'What do we want to do today?' They have a plan and a schedule that they want to

keep."  
Gates are often left open during logging operations to allow trucks to pass through and, in the event of an emergency, allow rescue workers to respond without unnecessary delays. But that doesn't mean

it's open season for everyone. "If it's gated, they can't take their dirt bikes or four-wheelers behind the gate and go up there. People see an open gate and they assume it's open for them."

During the most recent

hunting season, logging operations were being conducted in the McDowell Creek area and gates were open for that reason, but vehicle access was clearly prohibited by "a large orange sign," she said. But a number of hunters were cited there and elsewhere in the area for trespassing because they ignored the signs and driving right on in.

"There's a large, orange sign that says 'Active Operation, No Public Use,'" Engler said. "As long as you're not walking into the actual site, CTC will still let you walk back there. They don't want people getting hurt. There's a lot of risk for them and they want to respect their workers up there."

"Some people will see an open gate and drive through it. It's not a free-for-all, when they open gates."

She said in responding to reports of trespassing, she will often take a photo of the "No Public Access" sign as she drives through the gate.

"I will go up and I'll talk to them. 'No, there's no sign down there.' I'll just show them the picture. 'I took this on the way up here. I have a hard time believing that someone had the sign down and you drove through, and

See Forest Deputies, Page 22

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## FOREST DEPUTIES From page 22

then they immediately just threw it up really quick."

"Believe it or not, not everyone is truthful with us."

Another big problem is blocked gates.

"They'll have signs that say, 'Do Not Block Gate,' right? You never know who's gonna have to go in that gate, and you never know who's coming out of that gate."

But, she said, she sees "many" instances where people have ignored those signs and parked directly in front of a timber gate.

"No one can get through. And they're parked right in front of a sign that says, 'Do Not Block Gate.'"

### Theft of Forest Products

Last fall a Campbell Global employee was marking timber boundaries in the Quartzville corridor when she spotted two men carrying five-gallon buckets filled with chanterelle mushrooms in some "difficult terrain," Engler said.

"She doesn't say anything; she just keeps walking on."

But the employee checked with her company and discovered that no mushroom permits had been issued for that area, so the Sheriff's Office was notified.

Engler said she located the suspects' car, which had been moved by the time she arrived, and found some evidence of the men's presence - mushrooms along the side of the road, footprints, and more. She found two men, from Salem, "soaking wet," huddling in the brush nearby. With help from a translator, she questioned them about their activities.

They agreed to open their trunk, which held multiple five-gallon buckets full of chanterelles, and since they didn't have a permit, they were cited.

Engler said she turned the chanterelles over to a company staffer, weighed them - 96 pounds, which, at \$10 per pound were worth nearly \$1,000.

The chanterelles were then distributed them to company employees "for their Thanksgiving reward," she said.

Fir boughs, popular during the holiday season, burls, bear grass, salal bark, ferns and minerals are other forest products that need to be permitted before they are harvested, she said.

"Someone picks up a rock because it's pretty and they want to take it home for their rock collection, that is one thing," Engler said. "But when people then go and they'll, like, dig in the ground looking for rocks, and you're disturbing all the soil and creating damage, or you're taking out five-gallon buckets, and you're selling this, then that's different.

"Basically, you picking it up, you moving it from its natural position. Is that harvesting it?"

If it's in your hand, it's being moved, pretty much."

Recently, in the Cedar Creek area, a witness reported a man with a trailer stealing gravel from a county site.

"You get a lot of timber companies, they'll have their different roads, and they'll have maybe just a big old pile of, you know, three-quarter minus crushed gravel rock, and people just are like, helping themselves."

Permits, she added, are required for harvesting from public property such as U.S. Forest Service lands, as well as private timber companies, though some of them allow small collection for personal use. She said information is available on those organizations' websites or by calling them.

### Illegal Camping

Sgt. Colin Pyle, Engler's supervisor, said the problem of illegal camping, especially dumped trailers and RVs, is "constant for us now."

People just leave the vehicles out on a mountain road, he said, noting that a particularly egregious example is located near Milepost 21 on Quartzville Road, a trailer that was left on the side of the road and which has since been vandalized.

Engler took a reporter to the spot. The fifth-wheel trailer is on blocks - someone has stolen the wheels and tires off it. A mattress lies underneath it. All the windows are broken out. Often, she said, people shoot at the abandoned campers, occasionally igniting fires.

"They're never of any value," she said of the relics. "People will just load them up with their own trash that they don't want to take to the dump. The RV's are really hard to dispose of because no one wants them. So unless you take them apart, piece by piece, and take that to the dump, or whatever. You know, they cost everyone a lot of money to get rid of it."

"It's expensive for the tow companies," Pyle said. "It's expensive for the private timber companies. They're garbage on wheels."

En route to the dumped RV, Engler stopped to check a camp that was located downhill from the 17.2 milepost, which is the point on Quartzville where camping is allowed in BLM territory. The campsite was neat and clean, perched above Quartzville Creek, but it was in the wrong place. The occupants were not around, so Engler wrote out a warning ticket.

She said an ongoing problem is people who might be camping in a legal location for the 14-day limit, but then just move to another site. BLM rules, she said, require campers to move at least 50 miles, as the crow flies, before settling down for another 14 days.

"People will take little spurs and then they're on private



Deputy Piper Engler, above, inspects a camp that's illegally located inside the 17.2 milepost on Quartzville Road. Below, this RV, being inspected by Engler after being dumped next to Quartzville Creek, poses an expensive problem for public agencies.

- Photos by Scott Swanson



timberland, and they're like, 'I didn't know.'"

### Abuse of Privileges

Engler observed that people who abuse their privileges run the risk of getting banned from private timber lands.

Hunters, she said, are "generally law-abiding" and help timber companies by reporting things that don't look right. Nonetheless, there's potential costs in allowing the public access to timberlands.

"It's less loss, less risk to have less people on your property," she said. "I guess, in some sense, it makes it easier for enforcement purposes, because if no one and nothing's allowed, then when someone or something, you know, when someone's doing something on their land, right?"

Prohibited activities such as shooting or dumping trash simply threaten access for everyone, she said, a fact that is not lost on those who simply want to hike or enjoy the outdoors on CTC and other properties.

"So often, you'll contact people that are just up here, out and about, just enjoying the

property, and a lot of those people just can't stand the people that come up here and shoot at things and leave trash and four-wheel off the road. You hear so much, people will say, 'They're gonna ruin it for the rest of us.'

"Timber companies can't put signs everywhere, which is why they just have some general rules to kind of help cover where they can't just put signs everywhere."

Moran said people who bypass CTC's gates and boulders are "trespassing."

"They will be cited and maybe trespassed from property for a certain period of time," he said, adding that the perpetrator's attitude can influence the outcome.

In Oregon, it's the responsibility of citizens in the woods to know where they are, Engler noted.

"So many people are like, 'I didn't know' in the state of Oregon for trespassing. It's on the person trespassing to know the rules about what's allowed or not on property that is not theirs."

She said she has had nu-

merous interactions with juveniles tearing up the woods in various ways.

"They get referred to the Juvenile Department and I've told the kids that they're trespassed from CTC or whatever property for a full year. That's always the worst part of it for them.

"One kid was like, 'That's gonna ruin my entire hunting season!'

"I said, 'You're gonna have to find somewhere else to hunt. You're gonna just have to make better decisions.'"

Engler said she likes Mountain Patrol because she enjoys the outdoors and because she feels she can help protect timberlands - "in hopes it will keep the timberland recreational opportunities available for future generations."

"I like the job because it is the perfect amount of constant and variety," she said. "It gets me outdoors most days, and I feel like I find parts of the county I never knew existed. I feel like I am helping protect one of the largest backbone industries for Linn County."



Elementary-aged children, above, scramble for eggs at the Sweet Home Rotary Club's hunt Saturday. Below, toddlers figure it out. Above left, children spin the wheel to find out which prize they will win at the Gillott Home Team's special booth at the Lebanon's Boys & Girls Club Easter egg hunt Saturday. Below, left, pre-schoolers hustle for eggs in Sweet Home. Below, children wait eagerly amidst a lawn full of colorful Easter eggs at the Lebanon Boys & Girls Club Easter egg hunt. See many more egg hunt photos at [sweethomenews.com](http://sweethomenews.com) and [lebanonlocalnews.com](http://lebanonlocalnews.com).

- Photos by Sarah Brown, Scott Swanson





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