

# The New Era

SWEET HOME • LEBANON • AND SURROUNDING COMMUNITIES

Serving East Linn County Since 1929

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 22, 2026

VOL. 96, NO. 16 | \$2.00

## Aging schools pose big challenges for Lebanon

By Scott Swanson  
Of The New Era

Lebanon Community School District officials are weighing their options as they face problems caused by years of, as Chief Executive Officer William Lewis has described it to the School Board multiple times, "kicking the can down the road."

"We have a lot of old schools in need of repair," Lewis said earlier this week. "Even our newest schools are approaching 25 years old. There's going to be a need for repair. We want to make sure we're proactively maintaining at the highest level, but even then their boilers are wearing out."

A District Facilities Assessment produced by Soderstrom Architects two years ago, in February 2024, rated structural and other conditions of buildings on 12 of the district's campus facilities, including the District office and Maintenance Building.

The assessment determined that more than 30% of the district's deficiencies were "critical," and 10 to 30 rated



Seven Oak Principal Colin McHill surveys water damage to a classroom ceiling from roof leakage at the nearly 70-year-old school. - Photo by Scott Swanson

"poor," with pages of specific alerts and recommendations for each campus.

It identified Lacombe, built in 1953, as the campus with the greatest overall needs in the district - noting that nearly every element of its

structures needs replacing.

Cascades, built in 1953, and Green Acres (1948) were rated the next-worse, followed by the high school, whose rating was skewed by the condition of its grandstand, which was closed down last year due to

structural issues and torn down earlier this year.

That was followed by Seven Oak Middle School.

The ages of the district's school facilities range from 78 years for Green Acres to

See Repairs, Page 12

## Courthouse standoff ends with man's arrest

Police and Sheriff's deputies found themselves in a standoff Monday morning, April 20, in front of the Linn County Courthouse in downtown Albany, which ended after about four hours with the arrest of a suspect, Albany police said.

According to police, at approximately 9:36 a.m. the Albany Police Department responded to a wanted subject identified as Alan William Dude, 43, of Albany in front of the Linn County Courthouse.

Dude was parked in a vehicle in the 300 block of SW 4th Ave.

According to police, he had failed to show up for a Linn County Circuit Court pre-trial hearing that was scheduled to begin Monday. Upon contact with Dude, responding officers saw what appeared to be a firearm in his hand.

Officers immediately established a secure perime-

See Standoff, Page 11

## Mini Medical School Day



A kindergarten "patient" from Riverview Elementary, center, smiles after her classmates successfully performed a mock surgery by removing "her" organs and placing them back in the correct spot. COMP-Northwest's 15th annual "mini medical school" kicked off on Friday, April 17, with kindergarteners from Riverview and Green Acres. The field trip allows kids to experience the medical field and learn about the body. There are four stations the kids visit where they learn about handwashing, the bones of the body, how the heart works and "surgery," where the kids remove and replace the internal organs. When preparing for "surgery," the kids don a hair net, gloves and a special scrub top they get to keep. See more photos on page 24.

Photo by Sarah Brown

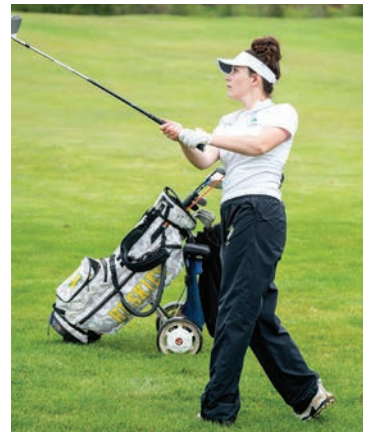
HOMETOWN  
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JORGENSEN

This Week's Top Stories



## Plans Approved for Western U Expansion

Lebanon's Planning Commission approved a conceptual master plan for Western University's expansion. Page 19



## Husky Golfers' Scores Drop

Sweet Home hosted its home golf match, with good results. Page 14



## Events

### FREE SATURDAY GARDEN LECTURES

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 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.

### BLOOMS & BREWS FEST IN SWEET HOME

Sweet Home will celebrate Arbor Day with a Blooms and Brews Festival from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday, April 25, at Sankey Park, 877 14th Ave.

Admission is free. Attendees can enjoy beer, wine, food, flowers, lots of vendors, live music and more to celebrate Arbor Day.

### CRUISE-IN AT VETERANS HOME

The Oregon Veterans Home in Lebanon invites car enthusiasts to share their classic or military vehicles during the annual Spring Fling Cruise In. Space is limited.

The event will be held from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Saturday, April 25, at the OVHL, 600 N 5th St., Lebanon.

To reserve your car spot, or for more information, contact Bess Nichols at [bessnichols@ovhlebanon.org](mailto:bessnichols@ovhlebanon.org), or text (541) 409-6569.

### FIREWORKS FUNDRAISER AT A&W

A fundraiser for this year's Icebox July 4 Celebration fireworks show will be held from 5 to 8 p.m. on Monday, April 27, at A&W restaurant at 1010 Main St. in Sweet Home.

Those unable to swing by at

the fundraiser are welcome to drop donations off at the Sweet Home Fire Hall, 1099 Long St.

### LEBANON CHAMBER CANDIDATE FORUM

Lebanon Chamber of Commerce will host a candidate forum at 6 p.m. on Tuesday, April 28, at the River Center, 3000 S Santiam Hwy., Lebanon.

Candidates running for Senate District 6 and House District 11 will have an opportunity to share their vision and plans for representing our communities in Salem. For more information, call (651) 258-7164.

### PACIFIC POWER WILDFIRE OPEN HOUSE

Pacific Power representatives will talk about what the company is doing to increase safety and reliability in local communities during wildfire season, as well as the rest of the year.

The event will be from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. Thursday, April 30, at Lebanon Chamber of Commerce, 1040 S. Park. There is no charge and refreshments will be provided.

Get your questions answered by customer service team

See Events, Page 22

## Obituaries

### Christopher Rowton March 19, 1970 - April 12, 2026

Christopher Charles Rowton, 56, of Sweet Home, passed away April 12, 2026.

He was born March 19, 1970, to Sharon (Sigle) and Paul Rowton Sr. in Lebanon.

Chris grew up in Sweet Home. He moved to Bend for quite a few years and moved back to Sweet Home in 2018. He managed a couple of auto dealerships in central Oregon prior to moving back to Sweet Home.

He enjoyed years of family hunting and camping in the Cascades. He was involved in vocal music in high school and LBCC. He liked to sing karaoke.

Chris loved to fish and catch brown trout in lakes in central Oregon and kokanee in Green Peter. His dad has often said Chris could catch a fish in a mud puddle in the middle of Highway 20.

Chris is survived by his daughters: Whitney and Lacey Bruce; parents: Paul Sr. and Linda Rowton; siblings Paul Rowton Jr. (Joyce) and Michelle Gregory (Wade); good friend Karen



Ferrell; two grandchildren and one on the way.

He was preceded in death by his mother, Sharon Rowton (2020).

Viewing will be from 10 to 11:30 a.m. Friday, April 24, at Sweet Home Funeral Chapel. A graveside service will be at 12:30 p.m. Friday, April 24, at Gilliland Cemetery.

A memorial service will be held at 12:30 p.m. Saturday, May 23, at Sweet Home United Methodist Church, 845 6th Ave.

Sweet Home Funeral Chapel is handling the arrangements.

*Paid Obituary*

### Death Notices

**Victoria "Vicky" Freeman**, 75, of Lebanon passed away April 17, 2026.

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

**Jennifer Kathleen Walczyk**, 46, of Sweet Home,

passed away April 16, 2026.

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

**Edward Winkler**, 86, of Sweet Home, passed away April 18, 2026.

A viewing will be held from 5 to 7 p.m. Monday, April 27, at Sweet Home Funeral

Chapel. Burial, with military honors, will be at noon Tuesday, April 28, at Alpine Cemetery near Alsea.

A celebration of life will be at noon Wednesday, April 29, at Sweet Home Evangelical Church.

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

## THE NEW ERA on the road...



Kimber Parker took The New Era to Sintra, Portugal. This photo was taken at Pena Palace, a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Built on ruins of a 16th-century monastery, the palace, commissioned by King Ferdinand II in 1838, features a vibrant blend of Gothic, Moorish, and Manueline styles.

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#### TAKING A TRIP?

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

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

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

## Upcoming City Meetings

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

**Sweet Home 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.

**Charter School Board:** Mon., May 4, 6 p.m., at Sand Ridge Charter School, 100 Sand Ridge Ct., Lebanon.

**Sweet Home Planning Commission:** Thur., May 7, 6:30 p.m., at City Hall, 3225 Main St.

**Central Linn School Board:** Mon., May 11, 6 p.m., at Conference Room, 239 W 2nd St., Halsey.

**Sweet Home School Board:** Mon., May 11, 6:30 p.m., at 1920 Long St.

**Lebanon Fire District:** Tues., May 12, 5:30 p.m., at 1050 W. Oak St.

**Sweet Home City Council:** Tues., May 12, 6:30 p.m., at City Hall, 3225 Main St.

**Waterloo City Council:** Tues., May 12, 7 p.m., at 31140 1st St.

**Halsey City Council:** Tues., May 12, 7 p.m., at City Hall, 100 Halsey St.

**Lebanon City Council:** Wed., May 13, 6 p.m., at Lebanon Library, 55 Academy St.

**Lebanon School Board:** Thur., May 14, 6 p.m., at Lebanon Library, 55 Academy St.

**Lebanon Aquatic District:** Mon., May 18, 6 p.m., at Lebanon Pool, 1800 S 5th St.

**Sweet Home Fire Board:** Tue., May 19, 6:30 p.m., at 1099 Long St.

**Brownsville Fire Board:** Tue., May 19, 6:30 p.m., at 600 E Blakely.

**Sweet Home Park & Tree Committee:** Wed., May 20, 8:30 a.m. at City Hall, 3225 Main St.

**Lebanon Parks, Trees & Trails:** Wed., May 20, 2 p.m. at Lebanon Library, 55 Academy St.

**Lebanon Planning Commission:** Wed., May 20, 6 p.m. at Lebanon Library, 55 Academy

**Sweet Home Planning Commission:** Thur., May 21, 6:30 p.m. at City Hall, 3225 Main St.

**Sodaville City Council:** Thur., May 21, 7 p.m. at City Hall, 30723 Sodaville Road.

**Sweet Home City Council:** Tue., May 26, 6:30 p.m. at City Hall, 3225 Main St.

**Brownsville City Council:** Tue., May 26, 7 p.m., at City Hall, 255 N Main St.

# 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 20 SWEET HOME POLICE**  
 2:42 a.m. - Sammy Raymond Hughes, 25, arrested by OSP on SHMC warrant in theft case. Cited to appear May 4.

6:05 a.m. - Caller reported female may have stolen his credit card and attempted to use it at a bar in Lebanon. 3600 block Green River. Information noted.

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

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

2:40 a.m. - Danielle Anderson, 32, of Sweet Home, arrested on multiple warrants, including SHMC warrant for FTA in theft case. Cited to appear May 4. Jered Roebuck, 29, of Sweet Home, cited for warrant. Holley/ Fern Ridge. Report taken.

**LCSO/OSP LEBANON**  
 12:36 a.m. - Samuel Brewer, 36, of Lebanon, arrested for Assault IV-domestic, 38100 block Meerbug Way. Lodged at LCJ. Report taken.

**APRIL 19 SWEET HOME POLICE**

6:34 a.m. - Disturbance reported in 300 block W. Holley. Officers responded. Suspect still at large, but according to SHPD, there is probable cause for arrest. Report taken for assault III.

6:39 p.m. - Ashton Tyler Fox, 26, arrested for felony assault IV-domestic following report from caller that her brother had assaulted her and her grandmother, 1000 block 46th. According to SHPD, Fox allegedly punched and elbowed a sibling. Lodged at LCJ.

9:40 p.m. - Joseph Aldor Dunham, 47, arrested by Lebanon police on SHMC warrant for FTC in theft case. Cited to appear May 4.

5:27 p.m. - Caller reported group of juveniles trespassing and vandalizing fence in 2400 block Long. Officer responded, nine juveniles counselled, parents advised.

6:10 p.m. - Caller reported male and female with crowbar trying to enter building at Money Man, 755 Main. Officer responded, located owner, who was changing the locks.

6:58 a.m. - Caller reported neighbor's dogs "consistently loose" and had killed cats in the neighborhood of 4100 block Osage. Officer responded, owner not home. Report forwarded to code enforcement.

**LEBANON POLICE**  
 6:00 a.m. - Complaint about loud music coming outdoor speaker at Market Street Dutch Bros.

9:01 a.m. - Subject with axe, moving around all over the property, 100 block Williams St. and Walmart (police log

indicates both locations). Shania L. Sims, 27, arrested for trespass I and theft II.

9:06 a.m. - Attempted entry into car with screwdriver, damaged lock, 800 block W Vine St.

12:15 p.m. - Kristy Lynn Burns, 48, cited on AMC warrant for theft II.

1:51 p.m. - Theft of socks, eyelashes from Walmart. Loss: \$6.49.

9:30 p.m. - Joseph Aldor Dunham, 47, cited on LCSO warrant for contempt of court, LCJC warrant for contempt of court, SHMC warrant for contempt - theft III.

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

12:31 p.m. - Domestic disturbance reported in 43500 block Wiley Creek. Deputies responded. No further details available.

9:08 p.m. - Klarisa Miller, 22, of Lebanon, cited for DWS, DU, Hwy. 20/Clark Mill.

10:29 p.m. - Christopher Cuillo, 40, of Sweet Home, arrested on outstanding warrant, cited for DWS. 40800 block Hwy. 228. Report taken.

**LCSO/OSP LEBANON**  
 2:43 a.m. - LCSO began investigation into possible sex crime, 35400 block Ponderosa Lane. Investigation ongoing. Report taken.

9:46 a.m. - Katahdin (sheep) buck reported running loose in

See Public Safety, Page 6

## Comfortably Dumb by Bruce Quast



## TEMPERATURES

DATE	HIGH	LOW	RAIN
4/14	52	40	0.00
4/15	50	37	0.00
4/16	55	36	0.63
4/17	59	33	0.02
4/18	69	35	0.00
4/19	68	45	0.00
4/20	68	48	0.08

## RAIN IN INCHES

Year to date: 10.08  
 4/23/25: 18.50

## FORECAST

DATE	WEATHER	HIGH/LOW
4/23	CLOUDY	63/40
4/24	CLOUDY	69/41
4/25	SUNNY	72/41
4/26	CLOUDY	70/44
4/27	CLOUDY	65/43
4/28	CLOUDY	69/44
4/29	CLOUDY	68/46

## LAKE LEVELS

Foster 614.5  
 Green Peter 987.4

## CROSSWORD KEY

Puzzle on page 21

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

## SUDOKU KEY

Puzzle on page 21

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

# Circuit Court

**Danielle Rene Anderson, 31**, charged April 20 with FTA for a 2023 charge of supplying contraband.

**Samuel Patrick Brewer, 36**, charged April 20 with DV - assault IV.

**James Nathan Brown, 41**, charged April 16 with criminal driving while suspended, and fleeing or attempting to elude.

**Ashton T. Fox, 26**, charged April 20 with DV - assault IV.

**Kraig James Fox, 39**, sentenced April 14 to one year revocation of a drivers license, 37 mos. prison, 60 days jail and two years post-prison supervision after pleading guilty to recklessly endangering another person, criminal mischief II, assault III, and fleeing or attempting to elude. Dismissed: fleeing or attempting to elude, failure to perform duties of driver - injured persons, failure to perform duties of driver - property damage, reckless driving and criminal trespass II.

Charges in a separate case of reckless driving and fleeing or attempting to elude were dismissed with prejudice.

**Caleb Rosburg Fry, 40**, sentenced April 16 to 18 years and nine mos. prison, 10 years post-prison supervision after a jury found him guilty of three counts of sexual abuse I involving a female under age 14. A fourth count of the same charge was acquitted.

**Steven Dean Harrison, 30**, sentenced April 16 to five days compensatory service in lieu of jail, 24 mos. bench probation and a \$100 fine after pleading no contest to harassment. Dismissed: strangulation, coercion and menacing.

**Eric Ray Harvey, 53**, charged April 20 to 10 days jail and 24 mos. supervised probation after pleading no contest to reckless burning, criminal mischief II and unlawful possession of meth. Dismissed: arson II.

**Makenzie Kay Mayer, 37**, charged April 14 with DUII (liquor).

**Jordan Thomas Nixon, 25**, sentenced April 13 to five days compensatory service in lieu of jail and 18 mos. supervised probation after pleading no

contest to burglary II. Dismissed: theft III.

**Travis Earl Pressey, 47**, charged April 17 with felon in possession of a firearm.

**Bobby James Rand, 43**, charged April 17 with DV - assault IV.

**Sean Ever Robinson, 42**, charged April 16 with robbery III, theft II and harassment. Bail set at \$10,000.

**Jason Andrew Christopher Daniel Scott, 38**, sentenced April 15 to 270 days jail after pleading no

contest to assault IV. Dismissed: reckless driving, criminal mischief II, DWS and FTA. In a separate case, he was sentenced to nine mos. prison, two years post-prison supervision and a \$200 fine after pleading no contest to felon in possession of a firearm. Dismissed: unlawful use of a weapon.

**Paige Leann Wombacher, 25**, placed in diversion program after pleading guilty to DUII (liquor) with a .09% BAC.

## The *ICEBOX* Performer Of The Week



This week's ICEBOX performer of the week goes to James, one of our awesome Utility Specialists.

Every day, James comes in and asks management where he's needed. From testing to packaging and shipping, he brings a wide range of skills to keep production moving wherever there's a need, and he does it all with a positive attitude and a big smile.

Thank you, James, for your hard work, versatility, and dedication to the team. We appreciate you!



## From our Files



Edward L. Walton examines the string of 32 coupons for bus tickets which will get him to Maine where he will visit his mother in 1951. At left, Mrs. VanHorn, local agent for Pacific Trailways, said the 11-foot, 8.5 inches of tickets breaks the record for Willamette bus terminals set by her office last year.

**APRIL 26, 1951**

An open invitation is out to any potential marble shooting champion of eastern Linn County to participate in the annual grammar school marble tournament at Oak Heights, sponsored by the VFW. Schools should hold playoffs to determine which students will go on to the championship for a chance to move on to the state championship where they could win a bike and trip to the national championship.

Five fires this week were reported. Shingles caught fire on Leslie Beck's house caused by a chimney spark. A cleaning machine at Sweet Home Cleaners caught fire. Amos Emery's 1939 model sedan got considerable damage when defective wiring set fire to the car's interior. Sparks from a chimney set fire to Lloyd Kessell's home on Holley Road. A flue fire dumped sparks on the shingle roof at 1747 L St.

**APRIL 22, 1976**

About 400 kids attended the Sweet Home Jaycee Easter egg hunt at Sankey Park, coordinated for the fifth year running by Jaycee Al Severson. Many of the kids showed up more than an hour early, but the Jaycees reported everything ran smoothly. As many as 1,440 eggs, colored by the Brownies of the Sweet Home Girl Scouts, were divided into four age groups, and included golden eggs to be redeemed for toys. Golden egg finders were: (age group 1-3 years old) Tracy Wells, Mark Johnson, Shelly Comtois; (4-6) Nicky Agoff, Terry Sallee, Tyler Sims; (7-9) Patrick Patterson, David Carson, David Reynolds; (10-12) Jim Namitz, Earl Yardley, Bryan Loftan.

A \$300,000, two-year project improving the quality of toll telephone facilities between Lebanon and Sweet Home, and allowing for

additional toll channels, is now complete. The new microwave system replaced the toll cable route and existing microwave facilities which restricted further growth. The previous system was at full capacity; the new system allows for 120 talk paths between the cities.

**APRIL 25, 2001**

Ralph Erlandson recently received a draft of the final report from the National Transportation Safety Board regarding the EgyptAir Flight 990 crash in 1999. Erlandson's daughter and son-in-law, Dorene and Dale Beck, were killed on that flight. The report indicates the plane was likely driven into the ocean by the co-pilot in an apparent suicide.

The Sweet Home Community Foundation kicked off its grant program with a \$500 check toward the purchase of ground cover and flowers for Main Street's meridian.

## Letters to the Editor

### Sanchez would bring experience to House

Editor:

With this letter I endorse Angelita Sanchez for State Representative House District 11.

I have known Angelita for over 10 years, as she has been a contracted resource for our company and local advocate for our communities.

Angelita Sanchez isn't just a small business owner, she has driven one of her dump trucks on road projects in the forests of western Oregon. The sudden loss of her husband caused her to take the bull by the horns to step up and manage the trucking company.

She is a single mom, a seventh-generation native Oregonian from Sweet Home, where she is a city councilor, lifelong Republican, and a founding member of Timber Unity, who advocated for working families and rural communities that depend on natural resources.

Angelita worked with State Sen. Cedric Hayden at the Oregon Legislature who vice chaired Healthcare.

She was directly involved in healthcare policy, access, affordability and the impact

of regulations on patients and providers. She worked closely with constituents navigating complex systems, helping bring forward concerns about cost barriers, provider shortages, and the strain on rural healthcare.

In addition, at her request Sen. Hayden brought forward Senate Joint Resolution 1 (SJR 1) to create a property tax freeze for seniors, aimed at protecting fixed income homeowners from being taxed out of their homes.

Angelita is rooted in the same values that guided her life: faith, family and community.

She will fight to protect rural jobs, cut red tape and taxes, improve public safety, enhance healthcare, defend parental rights, and to ensure that local voices are not just heard, but respected in Salem.

Please join me during the May Primary Election to elect Angelita Sanchez as the Republican for State Representative House District 11.

Thank you.

**Milton I. Moran Jr.**

*President, Cascade Timber Consulting, Inc.  
Sweet Home*

## Opinion: Are we getting an upgrade?

By Hudson Ogden

Sweet Home High School has been around since the early 1900s.

Before the school got its first building, the students were taught in a neighboring church.

After getting a high school building in 1913, it got multiple add-ons. These ranged from the library, boiler room, and classrooms (1934) to the activity gym and more classrooms (1948). Since then, we have added the auditorium (1950) and also both B and C buildings (1970s). Since then we have not been able to add major changes to the high school itself.

The high school's next major change might begin this year and last for more than three years.

In order for the high school to be able to afford the remodel of the school, they need voters to approve a general obligation bond that would allow the school district to receive a \$12.2 million grant from the government to the district, with no extra cost to local taxpayers.

The school district has already started to make big plans for what to do with the campus, if we get this money.

According to our principal, Ralph Brown, the first issue is security. With 40-plus entrances in this open-campus

school, anybody could walk into buildings or classrooms.

The school district is planning to build a two-story building which will replace both B and C buildings.

This building will be part of A building; it will be on the outside of where the English hall was, and connect to A building by a new hallway which will cut through where the library is currently. The new two-story structure will be accessible with a handicap and service elevator.

The English hall will be completely torn down, along with the woodshop, the art building, the modules, and both the B and C building. With the new space available, the current site of B and C buildings might be turned into a new athletic field for PE classes.

The site might also be able to house a greenhouse. The new buildings will use materials that will create a safer environment and meet current building codes, meaning the buildings will be able to withstand the climate of the Pacific Northwest better.

For example, the design of the roof would be updated. This would lead to fewer leaks and less money used to repair the ceiling.

The Sweet Home School District is already looking for many architectural pos-

sibilities to efficiently use the space they have. They have been going to other schools in order to see how they use their space.

Mr. Brown has said that he wants a bus area specifically for buses. The area currently used is also in the parking lot next to the pool and main gym. This causes an issue because the buses can be stuck in traffic as cars come and go at the end of the day. They have already bought an empty lot next to the auditorium that is attached to 18th Avenue. This might be the new load/drop off place for the buses.

The school also has plans on having an entrance to the school near the bus driveway. This would mean that a major entrance to the school, the driveway near the baseball fields, would be closed off.

Furthermore, with the finances associated with the bond, we will be able to afford building additional new structures, such as multi-use science labs. The district also hopes to use a portion of the money to improve career and technical offerings. These offerings are electives such as metals, forestry, culinary, etc. This will help students find a specialized field if college is not for them.

Despite all these amazing plans for upgrades to our school, we don't have the money yet. The primary election is coming up in May, and the school district still needs the bond to pass if we are to get all the upgrades that we need.

So, please try and convince everyone eligible to vote for the bond.

- Hudson Ogden is a freshman at Sweet Home High School.

**THE**  
**NEW ERA**  
NEWSPAPER CO  
SWEET HOME, OR EST. 1929

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# SH School Board gives semi-final approval to drug policy

By Scott Swanson  
Of The New Era

Sweet Home School Board members approved the second reading of changes to the district's drug testing policy that members had questioned the clarity of at their March meeting.

Specifically, the new policy clearly states that all student athletes at the high school will be entered into a lottery, from which names of students will be drawn for drug testing.

The former policy made drug testing mandatory for all students, and Board Member Dustin Nichol, Sweet Home's head football coach from 2010 to 2021, expressed concerns about that, noting that his own son, a diabetic, had had issues with the drug testing when he was in school.

Dustin said at the April 13 meeting that he was satisfied with the wording changes.

He said the old system made it difficult for athletes, particularly in fall sports.

"You had 70, 75 football players, volleyball players, cross-country runners lined up before or right after the first practice to take a drug test," he said, adding that the testing was done by administrators and was subject to "mishandling," "interesting results and false positives."

He said his son's synthetic insulin "raised questions."

"There were a lot of problems," he said.

Eventually, he said, the district switched to a lottery system.

Board Member Rachel Maynard said she was concerned that "it's not the same four kids" who get tested.

The policy requires that "the person drawing names has no way of knowingly choosing or failing to choose particular students for testing" and that those selecting will not know the identities of students selected. The selection process must be observed by at least two adults who are independent contractors.

The new policy discards percentage requirements for testing of student athlete populations and dictates that "random testing will be conducted periodically by a method determined by the district to assure the integrity, confidentiality and random nature of the selection process."

Also, testing is now done by an outside laboratory rather than by district personnel.

Students who report recent drug use will not be subject to testing, the policy states, and students may voluntarily disclose use of prescription medication which might affect the outcome of the test. Students who refuse to provide a sample will be considered to have tested



Foster sixth-grader Paige Meier speaks to School Board members about the school's Fox Leadership Program, in which she and other qualifying students are involved in leadership, mentoring and other activities. — Photos by Scott Swanson

positive, the policy states.

In the event of a positive test, a student or parent may request the testing of a second sample, which the policy provides for.

The board also heard from Foster Principal Shelley Nurre, accompanied by four of her students, who reported on the school's Fox Leadership Program, which is made up of 26 students who, Nurre said, play "a variety of important roles" at the school, as role models, mentors, student leaders and providing support for other students, as well as helping with assemblies and other school events.

Students apply to qualify for the program, which is based on similar programs she has established at other schools she has worked at and is "designed intentionally to create student leadership opportunities." Fox Leaders meet "high expectations," she said.

Nurre said she's seen an increase in "student ownership" and students take leadership "very seriously" and that younger students look up to the Fox leaders.

The students, sixth-graders Blake Bellon, Maddison Martin and Paige Meier, and fifth-grader Emerie Martin, told the board that they enjoyed being able to be examples to and help younger students and make a difference at the school.

**In other action, the board:**

- Approved wording changes to the district's Board Officers Policy, putting in writing a decision made by the board last fall to eliminate the position of board secretary and replace



Sweet Home ESPY winners for April include, in front from left, Noah Deshazer of Hawthorne, Amelia Smith of Sweet Home Charter School, Nathan Uhly of Hawthorne, Spencer Van Dijk of Foster Elementary, JT Chiaffino of Oak Heights Elementary, Abigail Williams of Oak Heights, Naomi Huff of Holley Elementary, and Aili Hammond of Foster. In the rear are Paydon Roberts of Sweet Home Junior High and Kace Stevens of Sweet Home High School. Not available for the photo were Zoie Allison of the High School, and Peyton Lytle of the Junior High and David Nelson of the Charter School.

it with a vice chair position,

- Approved an out of state trip for the high school basketball team to Gonzaga University in Spokane, Wash., for a team camp June 27 through July 1.

- Approved the hiring of Amy Middlemiss as Student Success Coordinator at the High School, effective March 30. Middlemiss replaces longtime coordinator Kristin Adams, who recently resigned from the position.

- Accepted the resignation of Emily Wagner, math teacher at the High School,

effective at the end of the 2025-26 school year.

- Accepted the retirement of Michelle Snyder, science teacher at the High School, effective July 1. In a letter to the district, Snyder said she would only retire contingent on being rehired back for the 2026-27 school year under a post retirement agreement

- Accepted the retirement of Heidi Thorstad, credit recovery teacher at the High School, effective July 1. Thorstad also said in a letter to the district that she would only retire contingent on

being rehired back for the 2026-27 school year under a post retirement agreement

- Accepted the retirement of Jerika Spencer, third grade teacher at Hawthorne Elementary, effective at the end of the 2025-26 school year.

- Approved an out-of-state field trip April 19-22 for TRIO/Upward Bound students at the High School to Seattle, Wash., where they will tour colleges and explore career options.

# Sodaville well project progressing step by step

By Sarah Brown  
Of The New Era

When asked what the one event would be that would make the City of Sodaville feel secure that its Well 6 project will be a reality, City Administrator/Recorder Molly McGuire said, "When it's finished."

According to her, Sodaville has been trying to drill a sixth well for about 10 years now - a move that should help alleviate water shortages during dry seasons - but costs and government regulations have hindered their progress.

During Sodaville's City Council meeting on Thursday, April 16, McGuire said the current plan for Well 6 is to place it near Well 3. Work continues in Salem for that project.

Mayor Brian Lewis said drilling has been approved, but "everyone involved" in the project is working on getting that in writing for Sodaville.

"We can start anytime," Lewis said.

"If we have the funds," McGuire added.

The city is inquiring on costs for drilling, she said. Meanwhile, they plan to break the entire undertaking into three projects: drilling, upper portion and lower portion.

"That way, our funds that we currently have will be able to cover those three projects instead of one big project with different stipulations," because, she said, the different funding sources have different requirements.

"We're making progress; of course, it's slow," McGuire said.

McGuire also reported the



Mayor Brian Lewis talks about progress on Well 6 during the April 16 City Council meeting. - Photo by Sarah Brown

city has one more reimbursement check expected for this year's water hauling from a grant through Oregon Water Resources Department.

**In other business:**

- McGuire reported the pit toilet at City Hall was recently pumped out, the first time in five years. The city will keep it on a yearly maintenance schedule. Councilor Roger Perry helped with cleaning.

- It was reported that Public Works Director J D Burns contacted Environmental Health Services of Linn County regarding a septic

tank installed by a resident and concerns regarding a person living in a trailer on city property.

- Resident Peggy Bishop brought up concerns about kids riding motorcycles around town.

- HD 11 candidate Ken Jackola introduced himself to the council, expressing an interest in understanding what concerns and struggles rural area municipalities face so he can better serve them if he wins the race.

- McGuire reported some residents volunteered time to help clean the park.

## PUBLIC SAFETY

From page 3

area of Brewster/Balm. Owner was located.

10:20 p.m.- Ashlea Woods, 27, of Foster, cited for DWS, DU, Main/Rose.

**APRIL 18**

**SWEET HOME POLICE**

10:34 a.m. - Crash reported in area of Main/22nd. Drivers were Joel Enrique Nieblas, 26, of Albany, in a 2008 BMW 335 and Danny Keith Lusardi, 80 of Sweet Home in a 2018 Nissan Rogue. Report taken for damages over \$2,500. No injuries reported. Nieblas cited for DU.

1:05 p.m. - Tammy Reta, 44, cited on warrant, 2000 block Main. Cited and released.

8:10 p.m. - OSP transferred report of vehicle driving eastbound on Hwy. 20 with kids in trunk. Officer responded, contacted registered owner by phone, learned that owner's juvenile daughter was in possession of vehicle. Owner said concerns would be addressed.

**LEBANON POLICE**

1:52 a.m. - Benjamin Joseph Kohler, 39, taken into custody for DUII. Report taken.

2:28 p.m. - Jonathan McDougall, 30, cited for no valid license and going the wrong way on a one-way street.

2:32 p.m. - Keely Gomez, 21, cited on LCCC warrant for PV - unauthorized use of a vehicle, and LMC warrant for FTA.

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

8:44 a.m. - Mail theft reported in 42100 block North River. Report taken.

6:43 p.m. - LCSO investigating suspicious situation involving

narcotics, 43400 block Ames Creek.

7:34 p.m. - Armed disturbance reported in 28100 block Hwy. 20. Altercation involved axe. Further details not available. LCSO/OSP Lebanon

3:18 a.m. - Deputy located damaged fence from crashed vehicle, 35900 block Providence School. Suspect vehicle was gone and victim declined to pursue matter.

4:16 a.m. - Thomas Gantt, 37, of Lebanon, arrested on warrant, 2000 block S. Santiam Hwy. Report taken.

2:25 p.m. - Deputy responded to "unruly 10-year-old" who did not want to get into parent's car for drive home, 33800 block Totem Pole. Juvenile eventually did.

3:42 p.m. - Chelsea Peutz, 43, of Grants Pass, arrested on four outstanding warrants, 36700 block Hwy. 226. Cite and released. Report taken.

**APRIL 17**

**SWEET HOME POLICE**

12:37 a.m. - Overdose reported in 1200 block 12th. Police, medics responded. Male transported by medics.

4:10 a.m. - Caller reported car windows broken in 1000 block Mountain View. Report taken for criminal mischief II.

3:18 p.m. - Jeremy Alan Quait, 39, arrested for DUII, reckless endangerment, reckless driving, following traffic stop in 1200 block 44th. Cited for speeding, 95 mph-plus.

**LEBANON POLICE**

2:32 a.m. - Complaint of driver drove at high rate of speed from Taco Bell to Jack in the Box, sped through the drive thru, then left at a high rate of speed. Driver told police he was hungry and was mad Taco Bell wasn't open.

7:41 a.m. - Theft of bike, 300 block Boulder Falls Dr.

8:28 a.m. - Theft of wires from residence under construction, 1100 block Mazama Ave. Loss/Damage: \$4,000.

See Public Safety, Page 9

## Church Directory

Colossians 3:17 And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

*Highway 20*  
**Church of Christ**

Pastor Machiel Greyling

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

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

**Mt. Calvary**  
Missionary Baptist Church

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Bible Study  
10 am Sundays.

1042 Pleasant Valley Rd.  
541-818-0022

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www.sweethomecatholicchurch.com

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Tues 5:30 pm & Wed-Fri 8:30 am

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(formerly Sweet Home Mennonite)

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10:30 a.m. Children's Church

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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

# Sports Roundup: Track athletes continue to post personal bests

Lebanon's girls placed seventh out of 20 teams and the boys were ninth of 19 at the Roseburg Twilight Invitational track meet Saturday, April 18.

The meet included many teams from Grants Pass west and north to Lebanon. Grants Pass won both the boys (121 points) and girls (99) competitions, ahead of Roseburg (86), Bend (66) and Sheldon (63) on the boys side, and Bandon (75), Bend (61) and Glide (59) on the girls.

The Warriors scored 35 points on both the boys and girls sides, with the boys getting an extra six points from David Brandt, who ran the special Morning 3K, clocking 10:09.35 to place third in a field of 13.

Cade Weber continued a string of wins in the 400, taking first at Roseburg in 49.29. Bodhi Brown was second in the 100 (11.14) and fourth in the 200 in a personal-best 22.68.

Other scorers for the boys were Weber, seventh in the 200 (22.18), the boys 4x400 relay team of Weber, Brown, Rowan Jones and Luke Johnson, who placed fifth (3:29.94).

Gunner Harris was seventh in the pole vault (10-6), while Zachary Dickerson was seventh in the long jump (19-4½) and the triple jump (39-3).

Top finishers for the girls were Heather Savedra, second in the javelin with a PR of 115-9; Jane Brandt, second in the long jump with a personal best of 16-3 and eighth in the triple (30-1); and Ruby Vandenbos, second in the triple jump (33-3) and fourth in the long jump (15-6). Harper Pepperling was sixth in the 400 (2:43.72) and seventh in the 200 (27.71, a PR).

Up next for the Warriors is an Mid-Willamette Conference meet at Corvallis on Tuesday, April 21, followed by the Rob Allen Twilight Invitational Friday, April 24, in Heath Stadium.

## Lebanon beats three MWC track foes

Lebanon's varsity boys scored 92 points to best Dallas 87, Corvallis 65 and McKay 5 on the road in track and field in Salem Tuesday, April 14. The girls were third with 58 points, behind Dallas 96, Corvallis 69 and ahead of McKay 19.

Winners for the boys in the sprints were Bodhi Brown in the 100 (11.34) and Cade Weber in the 200 (23.91) and the 400 (51.23).

The Warriors also won both relays, Luke Johnson, Logan Large, Weber and Brown combining to win the 4x100 in 43.67, and Large, Rowan Jones, Brown and Weber winning the 4x400 in 3:34.44.

In the field, Gunner Har-

ris won the pole vault 11-0 and Nicholas Brockett was first in the triple jump (31-3¾).

For the girls, Harper Pepperling won the 400 (1:03.86) and Jane Brandt, Addy Pickles, Pepperling and Brooklyn Hensley won the 4x100 in 52.52.

Heather Avedra won the javelin (86-9) and Pickles won the long jump 16-5) and the triple jump 33-9½.

## SH boys, girls win at Stayton track

Sweet Home's track and field teams both won a dual meet with Stayton Wednesday, April 16, the boys outscoring their hosts 73-40 and the girls 71-49.

On the boys side, Sweet Home swept the top six spots in the 100 and the top five in the 200.

Landon Murry was the top finisher in the 100 (11.84), with Dillan Davis first in the 200 (23.49) and the 400 (52.63).

Ryker Burr was first in the 800 (2:05.00), with Kaeon Walker first in 110 hurdles (18.16, a PR).

Murray, Sam Barringer, Davis and Brayden Driver 45.31 to win 4x100.

Gavin Tyler finished first in javelin 127-6, leading a top-four sweep by Sweet Home in that event with Ean Tackett, Gunnar Summers and Malakai Walls.

Nick Larson was first in the pole vault (8-6), leading a top-four sweep with Conner Spencer, Elijah Rodriguez and Hudson Ogden.

Other top-three finishers were Acen Webber, third in the 1500 (4:44.00 (PR) a step ahead of Louis Kistner (4:44.55)

Mason Tyler finished first in the long jump (18-7¾).

For the Sweet Home girls, Brooke Elder won the 200 in 28.99, and Elder, De-

lainie Pratt, Jayla Moore and Loralai Mark won the 4x100 relay in (54.18).

McKenzie Miller won 800 in a PR of 2:28.35, for the girls' other win on the track.

In the field, the Huskies got first-place finishes from Selah Wright in the javelin (97-10), Amara Gonzales in the high jump 4-2, Elizabeth Hankins in the long jump (14-8), Cassie Spencer in the pole vault (6-6 PR) and Miu Simmons in the triple jump (29-4).

Sweet Home will return to Stayton on April 22 to face the Eagles and North Marion, then will host the Meet of Champions Saturday, April 25, for which competitors must qualify.

## Eagles make their marks in track

East Linn's girls were second with 141 points behind Delphian (150) and ahead of Kennedy (105), Regis (55) and Santiam (32) in a five-way meet Thursday, April 17, at Kennedy.

The ELCA boys were third with 93 points behind Delphian (171), Kennedy (113) and ahead of Regis (73) and Santiam (62).

"We had some really solid performances at Kennedy," ELCA Coach Kellen Peters said.

Winners for the Eagle girls were Lexy Kauffman in the 800 (2:36.59) - moving up from the 400, Maci Modderman in the shot (31-1) and discus (102-0, a PR), Tatiana Manner in the pole vault (8-0) and June Cowan in the long jump (15-9).

"Svetlana Manner and Maci Modderman broke 100 feet for the first time this season in winning the javelin and discus, respectively," Peters said. "Tatiana Manner has been very con-

sistent in the pole vault, vaulting 8-0 for the third time in a row for the win."

Other top-three finishers for the Eagle girls were Kauffman, second in the 100 (13.25), Cowan in the 300 hurdles (53.00); Kaylynn Kauffman, Avery Runyon, Cowan and Lexy Kauffman, third in the 4x100 relay (54.44); Lexy Kauffman, third in the long jump (15-0); Svetlana Manner, second in the pole vault (7-6), and Ella Stutzman, third in the triple jump (29-6½, a PR).

For the boys, Josh Rehart won the 400 in 53.04 in a season debut at that distance and sophomore Cole Pennington was first in the 300 hurdles 43.30 and the pole vault (11-6, a 12-inch PR). Ryder Howard set personal bests in winning both the high jump (6-5) and the triple jump (40-9), the latter moving him to No. 2 in the state 2A rankings.

"Ryder Howard had a monster jump in the high jump with a 6-5 leap, a 3-inch personal best, taking the 2A state lead and moving to second in school history, trailing only Frank Stutzman's 6-7½ leap from 1989," Peters said.

Other top-three finishers for the boys were Pennington, second in the 100 (11.74, a PR); Jonah Magness, third in the 800 (2:11.47, a PR); and Howard, second in the long jump (19-11½).

"Cole Pennington was our performer of that meet, jumping onto the top 10 in school history in the 300 hurdles, pole vault and 100 meters," Peters said. "He took the 2A state lead in the 300 hurdles and moved to No. 7 in 2A, winning the pole vault."

Magness, Pennington, Howard and Rehart com-

bined for second in the 4x400 (3:36.62), the second-fastest time in school history, anchored by a 51.3 leg from Howard.

Up next for the Eagles is a trip to Toledo on Thursday, April 23, followed by the Meet of Champions Saturday, April 25, at Sweet Home, where their top performers will get tested by top athletes from throughout Western Oregon's small schools.

## Golf: East Linn wins at Shadow Hills

East Linn Christian's boys won the team title April 13 at the Marshfield Invitational at Shadow Hills, beating a field of 11 teams, nine of which had scoring rosters.

The Eagles, all sophomores, scored 350 to edge Junction City (352) and host Marshfield 357 - both 4A teams.

Grady Knurowski shot a two-over 74 to take individual champion honors and lead his team. Dailey Kirkpatrick and Anderson Kropf both finished with 89, Liam Medford 98 and Parker Caddick 99.

Up next for East Linn is its own tournament Tuesday, April 21, at Mallard Creek, which has 13 teams (two from ELCA) scheduled to play. The Eagles will play April 27 at Blanchet.

## Golf: Lebanon boys fifth at Trysting Tree

Lebanon's boys were fifth in a nine-team field Monday, April 13, in an MVC match Monday, April 13, at Trysting Tree in Corvallis.

The Warriors shot 339 as a team. Corvallis finished with 312 to win, over West Albany (328), and Silverton and Crescent Valley (337).

See Roundup, Page 9



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THROUGH TOWN

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

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# LDS Lebanon Stake announces new leadership team

By Satina Tolman  
For The New Era

For the first time in nine years, new leadership has been called for the Lebanon Oregon Stake of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.

The stake includes approximately 3,810 members across Lebanon, Sweet Home, Brownsville, Albany, Jefferson and surrounding rural communities.

The LDS stake is a regional organization comprised of multiple local congregations. Each stake is led by a presidency consisting of a president and two counselors, who provide spiritual and organizational leadership.

Stake leadership is selected through a structured process that includes administrative review and, according to church members, spiritual guidance. Leaders are identified through interviews and prayer by visiting senior church leaders, extended a volunteer calling and sustained by members.

The changes were announced during a Stake Conference held March 21-22, when the members from all 11 congregations in the Lebanon Oregon Stake met together.

Elder Kevin J. Parks, of Eagle River, Alaska, and Elder Steven D. Shumway, of Pinetop, Ariz., presided over the conference and conducted interviews throughout the weekend before extending the new leadership assignments.

David Blunck of Albany was called as stake president, with Aaron Martineau of Sweet Home and Kacey Duncan of Albany serving as counselors.

All three positions are unpaid and filled by local

members. Individuals invited to serve may choose whether to accept, and they continue their regular employment, family responsibilities and community involvement.

## President David Blunck

Blunck, a professor of mechanical engineering at Oregon State University, moved to Albany in 2013 from Ohio to be closer to extended family. He and his wife, Sheri, have been married 22 years and have four sons.

Blunck described his initial reaction to the calling as "humbled, overwhelmed, and excited to contribute to this incredible and important work," adding that he views the role as one of service.

"I am called to be the chief servant right now," he said.

He noted that such positions are not pursued but accepted when extended.

"This is not something that we aspire to, but gladly choose to serve," Blunck said. "It is God's work. We are invited and allowed to participate."

As he begins his service, Blunck said his focus is helping individuals strengthen their faith in Jesus Christ.

"One of the most important ways to stay on God's path is through reading daily from the scriptures and listening and acting on the counsel from living prophets," he said.

Blunck also shared a personal statement of belief.

"I know that there is a God and that Jesus Christ is our Savior. I feel their love and guidance," he said. "Jesus Christ and His teachings and commandments are the way to find joy and peace in this life and the

church is voluntary," Duncan said, adding that he has seen how service can be balanced with other responsibilities.

Duncan said, adding that he has seen how service can be balanced with other responsibilities.

Duncan said the opportunity has shaped his view of leadership.

"Leadership is not about being seen by others, but about helping others to see the Savior," he said.

He added that part of that effort includes helping individuals recognize their potential.

As he begins his service, Duncan said his focus will be on supporting others and working collaboratively with fellow leaders.

"To help others see the Savior, who they are, and who they can become," he said.

Reflecting on past experiences, including six years as a bishop, Duncan said those roles have influenced his outlook.

"All of us have experienced the joys and trials of life and have witnessed Jesus Christ strengthening us through all things," he said.

He also shared a message about his faith.

"We believe that God continues to reveal truth to prophets today," Duncan said. "Jesus Christ is the way, the truth and the light."

## Community Invitation to Temple Open House

Blunck also extended an invitation to the broader community to visit the church's new temple in Springfield during its upcoming public open house.

"We welcome everyone to come learn about the temple," Blunck said. "This includes members of the Church, members of the community, and anyone who just wants to see what a temple is about."

Temples of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints are considered sacred spaces where members worship and seek to draw closer to God and Jesus Christ. Once a temple is formally dedicated, attendance is limited to members of the church. The open house provides a rare opportunity for the public to tour the building and its grounds.

The open house will be held Thursday, April 23, through Saturday, May 9, excluding Sundays. Hours are scheduled from 9 a.m. to 8 p.m., Monday through Saturday.

The temple is located at 300 International Way in Springfield.



New leaders of the LDS church's Lebanon Stake are, from left, Aaron Martineau, David Blunck and Kacey Duncan.

— Satina Tolman photo

next."

Despite the scope of his new responsibilities, Blunck emphasized the importance of family life.

"The most important responsibility that I have is to be a disciple of Jesus Christ, strive to be a good husband, and to love, care, and teach my children," he said.

## First Counselor Aaron Martineau

Martineau has been called to serve as first counselor in the stake presidency. He will continue serving as bishop of the Sweet Home congregation, a position he has held for the past four years, until a successor is appointed.

A telecommunications engineer, Martineau has lived in Sweet Home for nearly 13 years after moving from Denver. He and his wife will celebrate their 25th wedding anniversary this year and have five children, including two currently serving as missionaries.

Martineau described his reaction to the new calling

as "excited, humbled and a bit intimidated," noting the opportunity to connect with more members of the community.

"There is so much to learn and so many people to get to know and to learn to love," he said.

He said the experience represents an opportunity for personal growth and service.

"This is an opportunity to come into better alignment with the Savior's teachings," Martineau said. "It's an opportunity to become a better disciple of Jesus Christ by living the gospel He established."

As he begins his new role, Martineau said his priorities include supporting others and fostering a sense of belonging.

"I would like to love as the Savior loves, help others feel His love, and help others come to Him," he said.

Martineau also shared a message directed to the broader community.

"Jesus loves them completely and perfectly, and we are all invited to come to Him," he said. "He will heal us; it is never too early and never too late to come to Him."

## Second Counselor Kacey Duncan

Duncan has been called to serve as second counselor in the Stake Presidency. He has lived in Albany for just over three years after previously residing in Monmouth.

He and his wife, Janica, will celebrate their 25th wedding anniversary this year and have five children.

Duncan operates three residential homes that provide around-the-clock support for individuals with developmental and physical challenges.

He described his reaction to the call as "a kaleidoscope of emotions," including excitement, honor and humility, along with consideration of the time commitment involved.

"Every position in the

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# Nearly \$1 million deficit anticipated in Lebanon Fire budget

By Sarah Brown  
Of The New Era

Prior to its regular meeting, the Lebanon Fire District Board of Directors met with the Budget Committee to review and approve the budget for fiscal year 2026/2027 on Tuesday, April 14.

Fire Chief John Tacy, acting as budget officer, presented a rough draft of the \$15.9 million budget for the next fiscal year.

Tacy explained the budget package this year includes some new pages, including an expenditure summary chart showing "the outpacing of our resources to our expenditures," and a list of "unfunded needs" showing foreseeable needs the district will not be able to fund at this time.

Those needs include an oxygen concentrator, replacement ambulance (medic unit), six personnel for a medic unit, replacement vehicle, radios for drone pilot communications, drone battery backup, replace 15-year-old portable radios, drone pilot mapping, generator for Station 32, engine refurbishment, replacement engine for Station 35, security cameras, appliance replacements, roof replacement for Station 34, recuse mini boat, vehicle extrication kit and shore trench kit. The full expected cost for the list totals approximately

\$3.3 million.

With the district's limited permanent tax rate of \$2.26 per \$1,000 assessed value, the budget officer expects a structural budget deficit of approximately \$931,961 for the next fiscal year. In his budget message, Tacy reported "this deficit is structural, meaning expenses consistently outpace revenues" due to rising operational costs, increased demand for services and limited revenue growth.

The fire district's revenue comes from four primary sources - property tax, ambulance fees, grants and the ending fund balance. State law restricts property tax increases, and many ambulance reimbursements "fall significantly short of the actual cost," especially due to Medicare and Medicaid.

Budget Committee Member Allen Forster asked what more could be done to encourage a positive response, should the fire district decide to attempt another levy measure that would alleviate financial strain, given that a May 2024 levy measure was turned down.

Tacy said the first thing is to better educate the public on how governmental budgets work, which appears to have hindered the 2024 election results because of "misinformation" regarding the appearance of a "hyper-in-

flated" budget from line items pertaining to the recent build of Station 31.

Other issues he touched on included hindrances from increased development in the city, campaigning, and the "political climate."

Still, he suggested, the district should consider trying for a levy again.

"I think the district would have some serious impacts and changes to this district and how it operates, and to the service delivery that it provides to the community, at some point if we do not come up with another revenue resource," Tacy said.

As district staff have been talking to strategists regarding a second go on a levy measure, they are considering placing it on the May 2027 ballot, but, Tacy said, they have to also be careful to try to avoid a tax anticipation loan.

Budget Committee Member Alesanne Dugan noted the budget's comparison to previous years.

"You guys did a good job this year of being tight with your expenses and trying to have money for cash carry-over into the coming year," she said.

Tacy pointed out they tried to simplify the budget to "make it a little more reader friendly."

Board Director Matt Herb

expressed the need to be able to explain the difference between an "adopted" budget and an "estimated" budget. Board Director Wyatt King expressed gratitude for the work put in to the budget.

"It shows, with the estimated versus adopted, that we're being tight with the purse strings," King said. "I like the conservative approach that we're not overcounting our chickens before they hatch on our resource side, we're being conservative on the expenditure side.... Even though we're at a deficit, even though times are tough, we're still being forward-thinking, we're putting in money to have available at a beginning balance so we avoid the tens of thousands in interest in a tax anticipation note. We're still putting away for refurbishments and building maintenance."

During the regular board meeting, Tacy mentioned that, while there may be "low hanging fruit" that provides funding in one way or another, it's not a source of "stable, consistent, reliable funding."

"A lot of these things really are gonna take constitutional changes within the state," he said.

Some time ago, districts used to be able to take tax anticipation notes and invest them in order to actually make extra money, but the

state has since limited a government's ability to do that. But Tacy has his eye on another idea.

"The fire district here at Lebanon sat very good until Measures 5 and 50 came along," he said. "I think that, what it's really gonna take is the courage of lawmakers to make constitutional change that emergency services are pulled out of that Measure 50 provision (which limited annual increases in taxable value to 3%)."

He reminded the board that voters approved tax rates when the district was formed prior to Measures 5 and 50, suggesting the district should be allowed to raise its rates based on the original intent of the vote.

Touching on the idea of forming a separate ambulance district, which would allow that particular district to also collect taxes, Tacy pointed out it would compete with taxes collected for the fire district, based on compression rules.

Still, despite the amount of time and money it would take to form an ambulance district, Tacy said he believes it's still worthwhile to look into that as an option, "because I think at some point that might be the only thing that keeps a reliable, consistent, community-based EMS program in place."

## PUBLIC SAFETY From page 6

10:32 a.m. - Joseph D. Castleman, 35, cited on LMC warrant for FTA - theft III.

1:08 p.m. - Juvenile crossing the street, not in a crosswalk, hit by a car, car did not stop, Cascade/Weldwood Drs. No serious injuries.

1:24 p.m. - Leslie Poole, 71, cited for DWS.

1:58 p.m. - Nicholas Orval Duncan Jr., 47, cited on LMC warrant for PV - DWS.

2:16 p.m. - Kelvin Edwin Attebery, 37, cited on LMC warrant for PV - DWS, and AMC warrant for FTC - DWS.

4:46 p.m. - Hunter Lee Allen, 19, cited for driving without a license.

7:12 p.m. - Female wanted sex but boyfriend refused. She slapped him. He threw Cup of Noodles and spit at her.

### LCSO/OSP SWEET HOME S. COUNTY

1:15 a.m. - Justin Denherder, 39, of Sweet Home, cited on warrant in DWS case. Andrew Windom, 51, of Lebanon, cited on warrant. Main/19th. Both cited and released. Report taken.

8:51 a.m. - Police, medics responded to medical emergency involving employee at 7-Eleven, 2405 Main. Male transported to SLCH, other employees arrived to take over store operations.

10:25 a.m. - Caller found vehicle crashed at edge of his property in 44900 block Quartzville.

Occupants had left scene. Vehicle towed. Investigation ongoing. Report taken.

2:22 p.m. - Caller reported female standing in driveway in 1400 block Sunset. Officer responded. Female transported to SLCH by medics.

3:19 p.m. - Deputy located two license plates stolen out of Benton County. 43700 North River. They were turned over to Benton County deputy.

4:14 p.m. - Stolen firearm recovered, 28000 block Pleasant Valley. Report taken.

5:54 p.m. - Alexander Parker, 19, of Sweet Home, cited for speeding, Seven Mile/Harrison.

7:58 p.m. - Caller reported juveniles riding minibikes in street in 900 block 27th without helmets, and with other kids playing in the street. Officer responded, contacted three individuals who were educated on laws.

9:48 p.m. - Caller from 500 block 9th reported someone possibly in back yard of neighboring home, and possible existence of small campfire. Officer responded. Light turned out to be solar lights. Nobody appeared to be present at location.

11:37 p.m. - Leonard Finnell, 23, of Sweet Home, cited for speeding, 85/55, Hwy. 20/Sun Lane.

### LCSO/OSP LEBANON

12:28 a.m. - Porter Mhoon-Coatney, 19, of Lebanon, cited for speeding, 66/40, 34000

See Public Safety, Page 16

## ROUNDUP From page 7

Senior Sam Tunstill led Lebanon with a two-over 73, which made him the individual match winner as well.

Senior Austin George and junior Joey Squires both finished with 87, followed by senior Jaden Offutt (92) and senior Sebastian Sharp (101). Sophomore Tanner Lee was not entered as a top-five-seeded player for Lebanon, but finished with an 83.1

The Warriors hosted an MVC match Monday, April 20, at Mallard Creek. They will play their final pre-district outing April 27 at the OGA course in Woodburn.

### Golf: Miller leads Lebanon girls

Junior Sierra Miller shot a 99 to place 12th overall for the Warrior girls at a MWC meet held April 13 at the OGA Golf Course in Woodburn.

Lebanon placed seventh out of nine teams, with a team score of 459. Crescent Valley finished on top with 369 points, followed by Silverton (389).

Sophomore Sophie Culbertson finished with 106 for Lebanon, followed by sophomore Bailey Lester (121), freshman Kapri Collins (133) and junior Carmen

Johnson (143).

"Our girls did a great job at OGA," Coach Bart Baldwin said. "We had three of our five players shoot their lowest round of the year. And the other two missed it by a couple strokes. Our team is anchored by Sierra Miller who shot a 99 and told me that she left at least 10 strokes out on the field.

"Next week we play Trysting Tree and the girls are going back to LGA for a state preview, I look forward to seeing if their scores could go even lower."

Lebanon played Monday at Trysting Tree in Corvallis and will host an MVC meet this coming Monday, April 27, at Mallard Creek.

- Staff Reports

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# Lebanon splits in baseball with McKay, Central

By Mike Warner  
For The New Era

Lebanon's baseball team won a make-up double-header against McKay last week, then lost two to league leader Central in a busy week.

At home against Central on Thursday, April 16, the Warriors fell 9-0, then lost 8-3 on the road against the Panthers.

In the Thursday game, Lebanon was held to four hits.

"We played poorly," Coach Jeff Stolsig said. "Not characteristic of us."

The Warriors played much better in the second game but still lost 8-3. Lebanon started scoring three runs in the top of the first but were held scoreless for the remainder of the game. The Warrior bats were more effective in the second game. Their four hits recorded three RBI.

Niko Autry jacked a home run, scoring two. Wyatt Jenkins recorded his fourth and fifth hit of the week, scoring one RBI.

The Warriors jumped on McKay early and often on Monday, April 13, after their initial scheduled games were postponed after officials failed to show.

Lebanon won the first game 19-0 and the second game 29-1.

Both games were run-ruled due to the huge leads. The Warrior offensive barrage was something to behold.

In total, the Warriors scored forty-eight runs on 30 hits and 19 walks.

The individual hit parade was just as impressive. Cohen Vandiver recorded five, Jaidyn Von Ruden had four. Trey Enright, Austin Turnidge and Wyatt Jen-



Austin Turnidge beats the throw to first against Central, while, at right, Owen Wodtli arrives a second too late at second during a tough day for the Warriors. See more photos at [lebanonlocalnews.com](http://lebanonlocalnews.com).

- Photos by Cole Harnar

Jenkins each had three. Eight other Warriors also had at least one hit.

The hits led to 35 RBIs, Jaidyn Von Ruden leading the team with eight and Wyatt Jenkins adding five. Warriors pitchers Preston Bryan, Cole Gerig, Owen Wodtli and Jonah King held the Scots to four hits and just one run.

The Warriors, 2-2 in league going into this week, are tied for fifth in the early running, with Central, Corvallis and Dallas, all 4-0, in

an early tie for the top of the Mid-Willamette Conference.

Lebanon has three games scheduled this week, traveling to Corvallis on Monday, hosting Corvallis on Wednesday and traveling to Dallas on Friday.

## Warrior Softball Drops Two League Games

Lebanon's softball team opened its MWC schedule with losses to Central (13-1) and Corvallis (5-4).

Central was a tough game



for the Warriors. The Panthers took command early and the Warriors never really got out of the blocks.

Central scored two runs in the first inning, six in the second, one in the third and four in the fourth. Lebanon was only able to score one run in the same time frame. The game ended 13-1.

The Corvallis game was much more competitive, as both teams battled all the way to the 5-4 win for the Spartans.

Lebanon took the lead scoring a run in the first and second innings. Corvallis scored twice in the top of the fourth to tie the game. Lebanon added another run in the bottom of the inning to retake the lead. Corvallis had a big fifth inning scoring three runs. Lebanon scored one in the bottom of the sixth but could not plate the tying run.

Lebanon out-hit the

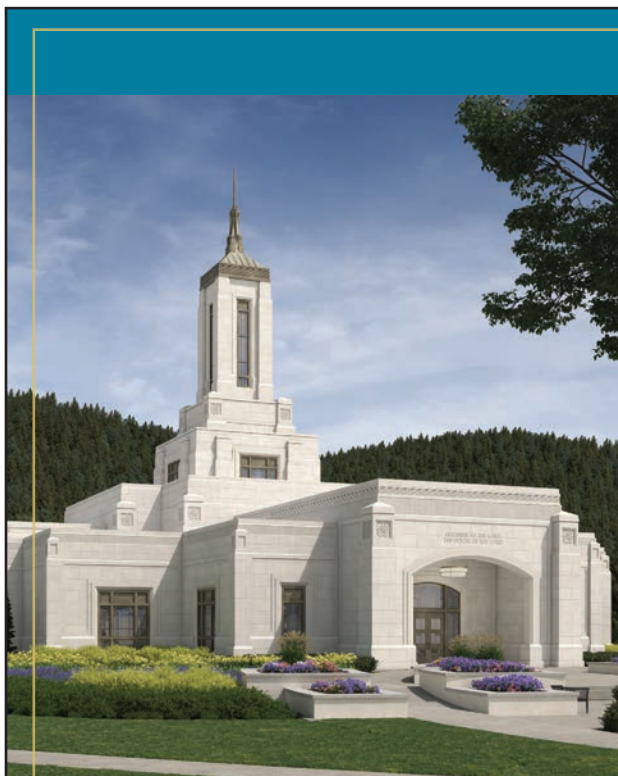
Spartans seven to six. Anastasia Marshall had three hits and Majestah Nida had two. Tatum Cole recorded three RBI.

The Lebanon defense allowed Corvallis to score in only two innings, while scoring in four themselves.

"The girls have been working very hard and had two double plays in Friday's game," Coach Julie Holden said. "I was so proud of them."

The Warriors' final non-league game, scheduled against Putnam on Wednesday, April 15, was cancelled.

Lebanon has three league games this week, traveling to West Albany on Monday, hosting Crescent Valley on Wednesday, April 22, and traveling to Silverton on Friday, April 24.



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Scott & Miriam Swanson and The New Era Staff

**STANDOFF**  
From page 1

ter and initiated safety protocols to protect the public. Surrounding streets were closed and the Linn County Courthouse, Albany City Hall and surrounding businesses were restricted and locked down while the Linn Benton Regional SWAT Team responded to the scene.

Crisis negotiators engaged in conversation with Dude, who is described in court documents as standing 6-3 and weighing 300 pounds, in an effort to bring the incident to a peaceful resolution.

After an extended unsuccessful negotiation, Dude began to reach for a firearm and Linn Benton Regional SWAT Team members used less-than-lethal munitions to subdue him, police said.

He was taken into custody at 1:27 p.m. without injury to the public or law enforcement personnel. Dude was treated for minor injuries at the scene by the Albany Fire Department.

The streets, businesses and public buildings were reopened for normal traffic at approximately 1:50 pm.

According to Linn County court documents, Dude had been scheduled to go to trial later this week on multiple rape, sexual abuse and assault charges involving two alleged victims, one a minor.

This week's trial, according to records, was the sixth effort to bring Dude to trial after five other cancellations or postponements in a case that began with his arraignment in June of 2023.

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### REPAIRS

From page 1

25 for its two newest schools, Pioneer and Riverview, both built in 2001 after voters passed a \$49.85 bond measure in 2000 that paid for those schools, as well as additions and repairs to other campuses.

The oldest of the district's schools are Cascades and Lacombe (73 years), Seven Oak and the District Office (71/1955), Lebanon High School's main building (69/1957 - the annex was added 23 years ago, in 2003, following the bond passage), the Maintenance Building (66/1960), and Hamilton Creek (54/1972).

The average age of district buildings is 56 years, according to the report.

"A majority of our schools were built post-World War II, right in that era," Lewis said. "That puts them in that 70-plus age range. Anything that old has challenges. A 1970s car is not going to perform without problems. Even if you maintain it, there are still challenges."

According to the Soderstrom report, gymnasiums, cafeterias and multipurpose rooms that are feasible to be used as emergency shelters in disasters must be rehabilitated to meet "immediate occupancy" seismic safety requirements, the report stated. Many older district buildings



Brian Eilers talks about repairs that have been made to the Lebanon High School roof over one of the original classroom wings. The original asphalt rolled roofing was coated with white mineral granule surfacing that has largely disappeared over some 70 years, requiring patching and other repairs visible as lighter sections and reducing the roof's ability to reflect sunlight during the summer.

- Photo by Scott Swanson

have ADA accessibility issues and contain hazardous materials, such as lead, mold, PDBs and radon gas, as well as asbestos, the latter particularly in flooring.

The report rated several buildings - the original Classroom Wing A and gymnasium at Seven Oak, and the auditorium and cafeteria, and weight room at the high school as the highest risks for structural collapse. Cascades' facilities, the older structures

at Green Acres, the older buildings at Lacombe and the north Classroom Wing A at the high school were rated "moderate" risks, as was the district's Maintenance Facility, located next to the District Office.

Lewis said the biggest issues the district is facing are failing roofs, problems with the building shells and "electrical and plumbing that is 70 years old."

"The plumbing has col-

lapsed underneath some of our schools," he said. "They didn't do plumbing back then the way they do now. In 1950 they put a single drain under a school."

#### Roofs Triple Life Expectancy

In March, district staff took a tour of the high school and middle school campuses with a reporter to look at some of the issues.

The tour was limited to the high school and middle

school, but Lewis and Maintenance and Custodial Supervisor Brian Eilers, who's been with the district 13 years and oversees all of its facilities, said the problems that were evident to participants were similar to those on other older district campuses as well.

Participants started on the high school roof, much of which is, like the Seven Oak, nearly 70 years old, more than triple its expected lifespan.

Most of the roof is rolled asphalt roofing, originally covered by white grit that, when it still was adhered to the roof, helped deflect solar rays. Mostly, it's gone, leaving visible shreds of fiberglass in many areas.

"We've had several failures in this," Eilers said as the group of several people picked their way around standing water on the roof. He noted that the roof, which had a 20-year guarantee, is nearing 70 in age.

Here and there were patches of white vinyl sheets, thermoplastic polyolefin (TPO) roofing a cost-effective, single-ply membrane used primarily on flat or low-slope commercial roofs, such as the high school.

Eilers said portions of the roof were replaced in 2002-03, when the last bond was passed by voters, using the white vinyl, which is now aging out.

See Repairs, Page 13

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**VOTE FOR ANGELITA SANCHEZ MAY 19TH**



William Lewis, left, discusses with Principal Colin McHill the boilers that heat Seven Oak Middle School.

Brian Eilers points out the boilers that heat the high school. Although they work, they are trouble-prone and have become very expensive to maintain, as qualified repair has become more scarce. - Photos by Scott Swanson

**REPAIRS**  
From page 12

As the roof expands and retracts with changes in seasons, the vinyl starts wearing through, especially at the seams.

"I always refer to it as a swimming pool," Eilers said, noting that the vinyl covering is very thin. "It's very fragile."

Eilers said TPO "was a great, great idea," but there are better options now, called "built-up roofs" composed of alternating layers of bitumen (asphalt or coal tar) and reinforcing fabrics (felts or fiberglass), which cost about 40% more.

"To be honest with you, out of an 80 (millimeter) PCV you get the same 30-year warranty that you do out of a built-up," Eilers said.

This excursion was less about finding solutions than identifying the problems.

"You see the start of some of the degradation there," said Lewis, who's been with the district seven years and currently oversees its business operations.

"This is supposed to be white, with a kind of grit sand. It's been washed off over the years," he noted.

Eilers said the flat roofs have settled to the point that the gutters on the edges are higher than the centers in some spots. That has contributed to expensive leakage.

"As we look back through our records, we can find no second-generation roof," he said. "The original high school was the 100 Hall. This is the 200 Hall and we can't find any records that this was ever replaced at any point between then and now. So from 1957 to now, we could very well be looking at the original roof."

He said he's seen evidence of repairs, but the roof is largely missing the white granules that served as a protectant against the sun's rays.

"This roofing is only 70 years old," Eilers said, semi-jokingly, as he surveyed the expanse. "I don't know

why it would be failing."

Recently, he said, the district had to spend \$30,000 - not counting framing - to fix the roof over a boys bathroom in the 200 Hall where water had slowly seeped in and dried, rotting out the ceiling members.

At the middle school, overhangs, which measure roughly 4 feet, were so rotten along the original A wing that maintenance staff cut them back about a foot, Lewis said.

In one classroom, ceiling tiles were missing because of leakage from the roof.

"This wing is our oldest section of roof and it is every bit as bad as what you saw at the high school," he said.

Another issue is the lack of insulation, besides what the roof itself provides: "There's no added space," Eilers said of the existing flat roofs. "There's no hidden area, so there's no insulation that you can see underneath. That's just the way it was built."

Eilers said that one solution to the high school roof issues would be to reshape the flat roofs with approximately 6 inches of rigid foam, which would both provide insulation and drainage that is currently lacking.

**Building 'Envelope,' Interior Issues**

The Soderstrom facilities assessment reported two years ago that while the district's newer buildings are in "good shape overall," its older facilities are, in general, "under-insulated, have inefficient windows, worn siding and aging roof systems."

"Roofing is the most critical item, as it impacts the building most significantly and directly. Additionally, there are significant operating costs that can be saved if energy efficiency is prioritized, including more efficient insulated windows and added roof insulation, in particular."

Eilers noted that the high school has very little to no insulation in its roofs and walls.

In the high school classrooms and cafeteria, the walls

consist essentially of quarter-inch metal sheets and windows, supported by steel posts.

"You have, basically, a thin piece of metal and a thin piece of glass and that's your whole facade," he said. "You're not looking at a wall. You're not looking at any R (insulation) value at all. So actually, you're conducting cold and you're losing heat."

The older buildings of the middle school, noted later, are built the same way, except roughly half of the original windows have been replaced with drywall along the older wings.

Those issues were among those flagged by the Soderstrom report, which noted "significant building envelope issues" on older elementary school campuses and stated "generally speaking, (district) buildings are "under-insulated" and have "inefficient windows."

"While all of the district's buildings are well-maintained, many have identified

a long list of needs, particularly the older elementary schools," the assessment reported. "With an average building age of 56 years, there are several buildings well beyond their practical lifespan."

Lewis said that flooring at the middle school is problematic and the district hopes to replace layers of worn asbestos tiles in the older hallways with polished concrete.

"This whole hall would be amazing," he said, gesturing. "That's a nice, cheap way of fixing everything."

Cascades, Green Acres and Lacombe, particularly need "significant" interior improvements, according to the Soderstrom assessment, particularly to flooring, but many district buildings have outdated window covering and need repainting.

**Mechanical/Plumbing/ Electrical Systems**

Many buildings, particularly older ones, have "significant needs" ranging from controls to actual replacement, as well as overall capacity concerns,

the Soderstrom report said.

"Generally speaking, many building systems are well beyond their practical lifespan and require significant work." Buildings need lighting upgrades, from fluorescent to LED, and many have water delivery issues, well behind current code requirements, and in some cases "are aged beyond their practical lifespan."

In total, the report estimated needed repairs to the district's mechanical and plumbing systems at \$7,556,764, including nearly \$2.25 million at the high school alone, and over \$1 million each at Lacombe and Hamilton Creek, with Cascade right behind at \$972,587. Needed electrical upgrades total \$5,920,338 for the district, nearly \$2 million of those at the high school, with Green Acres totaling \$808,912 and Seven Oak \$648,682.

Eilers showed the tour group the boilers-based heating systems that provide

See Repairs, Page 16

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# Five Huskies under 100 as boys are 2nd at Mallard

Sweet Home's boys finished second, as all five of their players shot under 100, and the girls were fourth in their home tournament Monday, April 13, at Mallard Creek.

The boys were led by junior Trent Harvey, who finished fourth individually with a nine-over 81, followed by sophomore Evan Malabago, a rookie to high school golf, who finished right behind with 82, and sophomore Henry Gainer with 85.

Senior Lynkin Royer, in his first year of high school golf as well, had a 95 for the Huskies and sophomore Blayne Schuster finished with 96.

Cascade's Grant Hemelstrand was the top individual finisher with a 78, followed by teammate Garrett Wells, a freshman, second with 79, and Clark Clayton, third with 80.

On the girls side, six teams fielded enough players to score as a team, with the Huskies solidly in the middle of the pack in fourth out of 12 teams.

Salem Academy won with 319, followed by Taft (431), Santiam Christian (439) and the Huskies (445), ahead of Philomath (454) and Newport (500).

Senior Isabella Wagner led the Huskies with a 102, followed by junior Tori Vic-



Isabella Wagner tees off during the match at Mallard Creek. - Cole Harnar photos

tor (108), sophomore Taelyn Coleman (115), senior Eleanor Larsen (120) and senior Kylie Melkvik (145).

Salem Academy's Ellie Gladow shot a one-over 73 to edge teammate Chloe Johnston (77).

"With only two weeks till

girls districts and three for the boys, we are seeing some serious improvements from both teams," Coach Haley May said.

The boys played April 20 at Langdon Farms and are scheduled to be at Cross Creek on April 27.



Trent Harvey fires an iron shot during the boys match, in which he placed fourth with an 81.

The girls played April 20 at Santiam and were scheduled for a match on April 22 at Bar Run, before completing their

pre-district schedule April 28 at Salishan. The girls district tournament will be May 4-5 at Mallard Creek.

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## Exploring Area Businesses

The Lebanon Chamber of Commerce held its annual Biz Expo event on Thursday, April 16, at The River Center, where businesses from throughout the area made themselves available to share about the services they provide. Students from the Lebanon High School stopped in during an exercise to ask questions and explore opportunities for their future.

Photos by Miriam Swanson



# CITY OF SWEET HOME BLOOMS & BREWS SPRING FESTIVAL

**SATURDAY, APRIL 25TH**  
**11:00 AM - 3:00 PM**  
**SANKEY PARK**  
**877 14<sup>TH</sup> AVENUE**

Join us for beer, wine, food, flowers, vendors, live music, and more to celebrate Arbor Day!

[SWEETHOMEOR.GOV](http://SWEETHOMEOR.GOV)




## REPAIRS

From page 13

heating and hot water for the high school and middle school.

The giant boilers at the high school, he said, "are a massive ticket item."

About the height of a single-story building, they are "very inefficient" compared to modern units, though they do their jobs of providing heat and hot water to some 200,000 square feet of building space.

"It's just that they're 70 years old," Eilers said. "Brand new systems will use the same technology, but it's just been moved along."

The more modern boilers at Seven Oak could "fit in the back of your pickup," he noted.

The insulation on the high school boilers needs replacement, he said, but the cost would be about \$60,000.

Also, he said, any repairs on older boilers are very expensive.

"We have a tank right now that needs to be repaired and that was \$30,000, just for a tank and a pump."

Another challenge, Eilers said, with the high school plant is that maintenance staffers must crawl through sometimes long tunnels to address issues. The tunnels, roughly 3 feet by 3 feet in size, run the lengths of the buildings and include the steam lines through which the buildings are heated by the boilers, other plumbing and power lines and technology cables.

"It's not fun," he said. "You'll have a trap door about every third classroom so you're crawling a ways."

Standing in the high school cafeteria, he pointed out the length of the room: "This tunnel runs all the way through into the kitchen, runs all the way down this and you don't see another trap door. So if I've got to get down there, and we did have to do some



Damage to the soffit of an eave on one of the original classroom wings at Seven Oak Middle School indicates leakage. The overhang has already been cut in by approximately a foot due to rotting of the beams.

- Photo by Scott Swanson

repairs in here one time, you had to crawl in here and crawl all the way into the kitchen and do repairs. And it's just not fun. Never a fun thing, yeah, never a fun thing again. No insulation in the ceiling, other than what's on the roof. So you have large space, it's either getting super hot or you crank the heat up.

At the middle school, heating is inconsistent because a giant fan is used to suck air into the school rather than using individual rooftop air intakes to recycle fresh air.

"The problem is, when you get down to the end of the hall there's not much air left to get there," Eilers said. "All these walls are concrete in this hallway, so if you draw the lucky end-of-the-hall room, it's really cold or really hot."

If the district could install more efficient rooftop units, that would also provide heating and cooling, he noted.

Also, Eilers said, repairs are expensive on the boilers.

"I can find anybody that can work on a rooftop unit," he said. But for a boiler, "I have

to call one of three specialists in Oregon to come work on this. So we pay the price.

When you know you're one of the only games in town, you can demand a little higher price."

The south wing at Seven Oak, added in 2003 after voters passed the \$49.85 bond measure in 2000, has concrete floors, gender-neutral bathrooms, LED lighting on controllers, and includes an indoor physical education facility that has roll-up doors to give students access to an outside grassy field when needed.

"The maintenance side of (the new building) was very well thought out," Eilers said. "What is the biggest bang for the buck? What's tough? What will handle kids?"

The new wing is heated with what he described as "glorified homeowner heating and air units" which allow him to easily arrange for repairs.

"We would love for this to be a prototypical design for the high school," Lewis said,

noting the ease of maintaining a polished concrete floor that doesn't require stripping and waxing each year, easily accessible mechanical systems, efficient lighting and more.

"A normal human can walk in there and actually service things" he said, as Eilers chimed in: "stand upright."

"Exactly," Lewis said.

### Security Issues

Installation of chain link fencing is planned for this summer to enclose the campus, Lewis said.

Access to the back of the high school campus is not difficult, Eilers pointed out.

The back of the high school is surrounded by a chain link fence, but the "big weak spot," he said, "is at the front of campus where "anybody could walk to the back, which is where we have all our open doors."

The plan is to set up a system in which students and visitors are funneled through the athletic doors or the front door, next to the office.

### The Money

Lebanon, like school districts around the state, is struggling with budget reductions - in its case, approximately \$2 million this year, due to enrollment declines and other factors.

Those restraints make the price tag for fixes even more daunting.

The Soderstrom report estimated district-wide repair costs at \$119,459,336 in 2024, about one-fifth of actual replacement costs at that point in time.

Lewis said that the district asked Soderstrom "to go back and fine-tune" the figures.

"We don't want the \$70 (per square foot) cost in Portland metro," he said. "They've adjusted them to Linn County and to a public works contract," adding that by state law, any construction contract over \$50,000 must pay a prevailing wage.

Given all that, he said, district officials have arrived at a \$100 million figure to just cover "basic needs," particularly at older campuses.

Michelle Steinhelb, district communications director, noted that staffing accounts for about 80% of the district's budget.

"The leftover is for maintenance," she said. "It's always for maintenance. We're using Band-Aids, but you can only Band-Aid a roof so many times."

Lewis emphasized that district staff, in his words, "does a lot with a little. We really do."

"As we're going along, we're making reductions to our budget as needed. We Band-Aid, we make it look good, we spend time and effort to cut costs. We have in-house staff construct certain things, which saves taxpayers a lot of money.

"But it's going to be a challenge, going forward."

## PUBLIC SAFETY

From page 9

block Santiam Hwy.

1:31 p.m. - Taylor Ray Plummer, 33, of Lebanon, arrested on warrants, including SHMC warrant for FTC in criminal conspiracy case. Cited to appear May 4. 2600 block Porter. Report taken.

8:01 a.m. - Nicholas Shoulders, 36, of Lebanon, arrested on two outstanding warrants, one a SHMC warrant for FTC in theft case. Cited to appear May 4. 32800 block Brewster. Cited and released. Report taken.

8:34 a.m. - Shania Sims, 27, of Lebanon, arrested on outstanding warrant. 32800 block Brewster. Cited and released. Report taken.

9:45 a.m. - Abandoned vehicle tagged for removal, 32700 block Brewster.

11:21 a.m. - Eric Abril Encinas, 47, of Lebanon, arrested on four outstanding warrants,

including SHMC warrant for FTA in fraudulent use of credit card case. Cited to appear May 4. 32700 block Brewster. Lodged at LCJ. Report taken.

10:37 p.m. - Michael Saul, 30, of Lebanon, cited for no driver's license, DU, Wagon Wheel/View Lane.

10:50 p.m. - Rex Babb, 52, of Lebanon, cited for DWS, DU, 1800 block Main.

### APRIL 16

#### SWEET HOME POLICE

1:58 a.m. - Caller from Foster Post Office, 5300 Poplar, reported female knocked on door, requested he call police for her. Officer responded, contacted female, who reported that male pushed her and took her phone, property. Sean Ever Robinson, 42, arrested for robbery III, theft II, as well as LCCC warrant for FTA in burglary case, three SHMC warrants for FTA in trespassing, assault and criminal misconduct cases.

Lodged at LCJ.

2:03 a.m. - Michael Travis Flanigan, 31, arrested by Corvallis police on SHMC warrant for FTA in giving false info to police officer case. Cited to appear May 4.

7:58 a.m. - Juvenile, 17, cited for driving uninsured, 300 block Long.

8:01 a.m. - Juvenile, 17, cited for speeding, cited for speeding, 30/20, Mountain View/Harding.

9:26 a.m. - Beverly Jean Sherwin, 68, cited for FTOTCD. 1900 block Main.

11:53 a.m. - Michael Lee Jackson, 41, arrested for failure to register as sex offender, after he visited SHPD, 1950 Main, to register and was found to be out of compliance since 2009. Cited and released.

12:05 p.m. - Andrew Edwin Amundson, 36, arrested on LCCC warrant for FTC in meth possession case. 18th/Tamarack. Cited and released.

2:31 p.m. - Brandon Ryan Freeman, 32, arrested on SHMC warrant for FTA in trespassing case, LMC warrant for FTA in theft case. 2300 block Main. Cited and released.

3:58 p.m. - Caller reported being bitten by dog in 4300 block Long. Officer responded. Caller requested owner not be cited. Quarantine order issued.

4:14 p.m. - Jessica Rae Deffenbaugh, 40, arrested on AMC warrant for contempt of court, 1000 block 38th. Also cited for DWS. Cited and released.

#### LEBANON POLICE

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

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

12:59 a.m. - James Brown, 41, of Halsey, arrested for felony DWS, elude, 24100 block Hwy. 99. Report taken.

12:15 p.m. - Deputy responded to civil dispute over tree trimming over easement, 46900 block Old Hufford. According to LCSO, this was a disagreement between a property owner and a timber company that has an access easement. The timber company was trimming trees for access ahead of fire season, and the owner disagreed. Owner was directed to work it out with timber company.

12:18 p.m. - Caller reported mail theft in 51400 block Upper Calapooia. Information documented.

3:00 p.m. - Ciaran Whatley, 44, of Sweet Home, cited for offensive littering after deputy located garbage left behind at campsite in 51400 block Quartzville. Report taken.

7:12 p.m. - Bobby Rand, 44, of Sweet Home, arrested for assault IV, domestic violence,

See Public Safety, Page 18

# Diamond Roundup: SH wins baseball thrillers in extra innings

Sweet Home was supposed to play four baseball games over two weeks but due to weather delays the Huskies ended up only playing two.

But both were nail-biters, going into extra innings before they emerged victorious.

At home, Sweet Home was able to beat No. 18 North Bend in a nine-inning thriller before beating Santiam Christian on the road, 5-2. The pair of wins helped rise the Huskies to No. 14 in the rankings, up from No. 22.

The game with North Bend was a slugfest, the teams combining for 28 hits, 14 apiece, in a see-saw contest that saw five lead changes.

Sweet Home committed three errors while North Bend played error-free, but the Huskies overcame those mistakes with timely hitting and depth on the mound.

Three Huskies recorded doubles, with Kyle Zajic, Mason Rosa and Luke Rosa each collecting two-baggers. Luke Rosa led the offense, going 4-for-5 at the plate, while Mason Rosa and Eddie Taylor each scored three runs.

Zajic showed his dual threat ability, starting on the mound and throwing 77 total pitches over two innings, 55 of them strikes. He faced 19 batters, striking out five.

In Zajic's first at-bat of the game he hit a fly ball that cleared the left field, resulting in the first score of the game and his first home run of the season.

"Kyle came up huge for us against North Bend," Coach Evan Teter said. "It's always a good thing when you can start off with a home run in our first at bat of the game. That confidence was crucial late in the game. He's continued to be lights out on the mound and has shown that he can be trusted to be on the bump in big games."

Tatum Hoffman and Rosa each added an inning in relief, with Hoffman recording two strikeouts, before Taylor closed out the final two innings.

Rosa had a successful day at the plate, delivering two singles in his first two at-bats, then a sacrifice fly.

Rosa found another gear when the game went to extra innings, hitting a double in the eighth inning.

With two outs, bottom of the ninth, the game tied at 9, and his brother Mason on third. Rosa sent a fly ball to right field that hit the fence, allowing his freshman brother to come home to seal the win. Huskies 10, Bulldogs 9.

"Luke has grown so much since last year," Teter said. "He's really simplified his approach at the plate that has allowed him to have a clear mind and be ready for anything he encounters. Whenever we can have him at the plate in those big situations I think it makes everyone be-

lieve that we can get out of it on the right side."

Sweet Home followed that performance with another gritty extra-inning win against Santiam Christian.

The Huskies took an early 2-0 lead in the second inning before Santiam Christian answered with runs in the third and fifth to even the score. But Sweet Home again found a way late, pulling away for a 5-2 victory.

Rosa got the start and gave the Huskies four innings, allowing two hits and one run while striking out three. Freshman Colton Lindsey then took the mound, allowing just one hit and one score.

Lindsey then pitched a shutout over the final three innings, throwing a total of 51 pitches, 40 of them strikes.

"This is definitely the deepest we've been on the mound, and we've got a lot of young guys contributing early," Teter said. "It's been so encouraging as coaches to look at not just our success right now, but what it means for us moving forward. These guys are only going to improve, and with them being able to be competitive right now, the sky is the limit for them."

The Huskies also showed a trait that has become a defining part of their season: responding under pressure.

"Our guys have done a great job of fighting late in games and responding to adversity," Teter said. "That's something we've struggled with over the past couple years, the second another team would throw a punch we would start to step off the gas. This year, it almost seems like it makes us press on the pedal even harder."

Sweet Home had two games canceled due to weather between the two wins, but the momentum has only grown.

At 5-5, the Huskies enter league play with renewed confidence and a significantly improved ranking.

Teter pointed to the team's energy and belief as the biggest reasons for that climb.

"We've had some good energy during practices, and that has carried over into games," he said. "Seeing that they can win in tight games helps them realize that regardless of where the game is at and what the score is, they have a chance at winning."

The 2-0 streak is going to be tested against Philomath; last year Sweet Home lost all three games to the Warriors by a combined score of 56-5.

"Philomath was a very solid team last year with great pitching and are very well coached," Teter said. "We carried some negative energy into the series last year which didn't help us at all. Our team this year is much more experienced, and we are performing better in almost every facet of the game than we were last year. It should be a competitive series."

After proving they can win close games against ranked opponents, the Huskies now turn their attention to OWC play, hoping their extra-inning toughness translates into a playoff push.

Sweet Home travels to Philomath, Monday April 20, then returns home Wednesday, April 22, before going back to Philomath Friday, April 24.

— Keeghan Gittins

## Sweet Home Softball

Sweet Home's softball team closed out a challenging weekend against three ranked opponents by showing both resilience and growth, finishing with a dramatic 13-11 comeback win over No. 18 Gladstone after losses to No. 7 Pendleton and No. 3 The Dalles.

Despite the 1-2 weekend, the Huskies enter league play 6-5 and sit atop the league standings entering Oregon West Conference play, having scored a league-high 89 runs.

Sweet Home opened the stretch with a first-round matchup against Pendleton, falling 10-0 to a Buckaroos team that eventually finished second in the tournament. While the final score was lopsided, the Huskies stayed competitive through much of the game.

Four complete innings were scoreless before Pendleton broke through for four runs in the bottom of the fourth. Defensive miscues proved costly, as Sweet Home committed six errors, with four Buckaroo runs coming as a result.

Katriona Harris was solid in the circle despite the loss, allowing just four hits, while issuing four walks.

"I think at the end of the day Pendleton just out hit us," Coach Emily Marchbanks said. "Towards the end of the game they started to get on to Peanut and we didn't have that same streak. We also had some costly defensive errors, and to compete with high level teams, errors need to be kept to a minimum."

Though the score mirrored last season's 10-0 loss to Pendleton, Marchbanks saw major differences in this year's team.

"The girls went into the game fired up and ready to compete," Marchbanks said. "Our girls have been working really hard and are better in most ways than they were when we played them last year."

The Huskies followed with a 7-3 loss to The Dalles in a game that was closer than the scoreboard suggested. Sweet Home held the Riverhawks' powerful offense scoreless through the first four innings and matched them offensively with nine hits. But six more defensive errors again proved costly.

Sweet Home responded in a

big way against Gladstone.

Trailing 10-5 entering the fifth inning and having gone scoreless over the previous three innings, the Huskies mounted one of their most impressive rallies of the season. Sweet Home scored once in the fifth, added three in the sixth and erupted for four more in the seventh to complete the 13-11 comeback.

Natalie Smith led the offense with three hits, while Miley Smith, Taylee Rosa and Aaliyah Brown each scored three runs. The Huskies pounded out 15 hits and struck out just twice, their lowest strikeout total of the season.

Addy Vannice and Miley Smith each added two stolen bases.

After Katriona Harris pitched the first three innings, allowing 10 runs on six hits, Marchbanks turned to Brown in relief. Brown delivered a major shift in momentum, allowing just one run and one hit over four innings to help fuel the comeback.

The defensive turnaround was also notable. After committing six errors in back-to-back games, the Huskies made just two against Gladstone.

"I think the girls just went into the Gladstone game more confident and they were very determined throughout the game to keep persevering," Marchbanks said.

That perseverance showed most when Sweet Home faced a five-run deficit late.

Marchbanks said she emphasized unity when her team was down 10-5.

"Just to continue to be good teammates and support each other on the field and in the dugout," Marchbanks said. "The girls did a great job of finishing the game strong as a team and continuing to persevere."

The Huskies started league play this week, with a home game against Philomath Monday, April 20, a road game on Wednesday at Cascade and a home game Friday against Newport.

— Keeghan Gittins

## East Linn Christian undefeated in District 2

The Eagles continued their winning ways in a double-header Friday, April 17, at Santiam, coming away with 26-14 and 18-3 wins.

East Linn actually trailed 10-9 after the second inning before erupting offensively with four runs in the third, five in the fourth and eight in the fifth inning to finish with the 26-14 mercy-rule win.

Josi Davidson brought a big bat, hitting a home run and two triples in a 4-4 performance at the plate, and Abby Mitchell went 4-4 with two doubles to lead the Eagles, who finished with 16 hits and 14 RBIs, Davidson contributing five of those.

Macy Rehnberg and Liv Kropf split time in the circle for the win.

In the second game, East Linn opened with nine runs in the first inning and never looked back, scoring three more in the third, five in the fourth and finishing off the mercy-rule win with one in fifth.

Ally Hatch led the team at the plate, going 4-5, with Eva Pimm finishing 3-3 and Davidson and Meeya Rehnberg both going 2-3.

Kropf pitched the entire game, giving up five hits and three earned runs to the Wolverines, all the runs coming in the bottom of the second.

Coming into a home game against Central Linn Tuesday, April 21, the sixth-ranked Eagles are 10-1 overall, 8-0 in league, their sole loss to 3A-Division Salem Academy on March 18. Since then, they have won nine straight, eight of their 10 wins coming in mercy-rule games. They are scheduled to play on the road in a double-header Friday at Central Linn, 3-9 coming into this week.

## Eagles fall to Santiam in baseball

East Linn Christian's baseball team had a rough day Friday, April 17, losing both ends of a double-header at Santiam 11-1 and 10-1.

In the first game, the hosts had all 11 of their runs on the scoreboard by the bottom of the second after Chase Fenerty scored for the Eagles in the top of the first.

East Linn had one hit, from Fenerty, who went 1-1 at the plate, walking in his other at-bat. The Wolverines took advantage of starter Casey May, who gave up the hosts' runs in 1.2 innings of work before being relieved by Asher Taylor, who finished out the last two innings.

In the nightcap, the Eagles again got on the board in the first inning, as Jesse Younger hit a grounder to score Blake Burns, but Santiam came back to take a 2-1 lead in the bottom of the frame, then got its bats booming for six runs in the bottom of the second. The hosts scored a run each in the fifth and sixth innings to ice the win.

The Eagles were more successful at the plate this time around, finishing with a hit each from Marshall Darwood, Isaac Taylor and Isaiah Blount.

Taylor, Fenerty and Owen King shared duties on the mound, giving up a total of six hits and nine earned runs.

This week East Linn will match up with Central Linn at home Tuesday, and in a road double-header on Friday. The Cobras enter this week winless in Special District 2. The Eagles are 3-5, in fifth place as of Monday.

# Lebanon city budgets focus on priority needs, financial stability

The City of Lebanon and Lebanon Urban Renewal Agency presented their proposed 2026-2027 fiscal year budgets to the Budget Committee on Thursday, April 16.

The proposed budget for the City of Lebanon focuses on carefully pursuing priority infrastructural needs while maintaining a shaky financial position, while the proposed budget for the Lebanon Urban Renewal Agency focuses on closing out two of its urban renewal districts.

## City of Lebanon

City Manager Ron Whitlatch presented the city's \$87.85 million budget message, which focuses on "carefully maintaining essential city services while keeping finances stable."

Staff structured the budget to provide the "community's service expectations" and align with the City Council's goals.

Whitlatch noted the proposed budget is the second year of the city's five-year strategic plan that focuses on strengthening core services, advancing important infrastructure projects and improving financial stability.

"The fiscal year 2027 budget aligns resources with these priorities and reflects the city's commitment to carrying the strategic plan forward in a deliberate and fiscally responsible manner," he said.

By using a five-year bud-

get model for utility funds and the General Fund, the city can better respond to changing financial conditions, he said.

The \$18 City Service Fee, implemented on utility bills last year, "addressed an ongoing structural deficit in the General Fund," generating approximately \$2 million a year to balance the fund. Without it, Whitlatch said, the fund would have grown deficits within the budget and ultimately reduce core city functions or eliminate certain programs.

"However, it is important to note that the fee is designed to maintain current service levels within the city's core business and does not provide additional capacity to expand services as the community continues to grow," he said. "The City Service Fee has helped us move toward long-term sustainability, but we still have limited room to expand services. Even so, this budget reflects our commitment to using resources wisely and ensuring the city's financial health."

Despite an improved financial outlook, projected deficits are still expected, including a planned deficit of approximately \$409,933 in fiscal year 2027 and additional operating deficits in fiscal years 2030 and 2031.

"These projections highlight the need for continued monitoring and disciplined financial management," Whitlatch said.

Changes to the budget include staff organization and "efforts to improve efficiency and clarity" – such as simplifying transaction recordings, but it also includes the addition of a LINX transit manager to help support the increasing day-to-day operations of the transit system, which has "experienced significant growth." The position will be fully funded through state and federal transit grant programs.

Still, Whitlatch said, "it is important to recognize that city departments continue to operate with lean staffing levels. This creates challenges in maintaining efficiency and makes it difficult and, in some cases, unsustainable to take on new programs or expanded service levels without additional staffing resources."

Major capital projects in the works include: Grant and Sherman street improvements, a traffic signal at Airport Road and Twelfth Street, Cheadle Lake Park improvements, the wastewater treatment plant biosolids project, N 5th reconstruction from Tangent to Mary streets, and small sewer and waterline replacement projects.

## Additional infrastructure and operational considerations include:

- Limited funding for street maintenance and repair, and decreasing state support for street work.
- Regulatory require-

ments for wastewater treatment plant upgrades, adding up to an expected \$95 million in costs for the next 20 years. Additional rate increases may be necessary.

- Increased water treatment challenges and costs associated with turbidity in the South Santiam River from the Green Peter drawdowns.

- Reduced eligibility for certain grant programs due to the city surpassing a population of 20,000.

As external funding and grants become increasingly necessary, the opportunities to secure such funding are competitive and often come with "complex" requirements that require significant staff time and resources, which is already limited.

The proposed fiscal year 2027 budget also reflects the final year of payments to pay off and close the Northwest and Downtown URDs. Closure of the districts will increase revenue to the city's General Fund and other agencies that rely on property tax funding.

## Lebanon Urban Renewal Agency

Presenting the budget message for the Lebanon Urban Renewal Agency (LURA), Whitlatch explained the agency facilitates "targeted investment in areas of the community that would not otherwise see development at the same pace or scale."

Through tax increment

financing, urban renewal districts (URD) support infrastructure improvements, redevelopment projects and economic activity that ultimately increase assessed value within its districts over time.

LURA currently maintains five URDs – Northwest, Cheadle Lake, North Gateway, Downtown and Mill Race.

Total expenditures for fiscal year 2027 are proposed at \$8.6 million, an increase compared to the current year's budgeted \$7.4 million. The increase, Whitlatch said, is primarily due to the agency's intent to accelerate and finish debt service payments in the Northwest URD and increase capital spending planned for the North Gateway URD.

During the past few years, LURA has focused on accelerating debt repayment across its URDs, he said. This will reduce long-term interest costs and return property tax revenue to other jurisdictions, thus benefiting public safety and schools.

By the conclusion of fiscal year 2027, LURA anticipates closing the Northwest and Downtown URDs, representing "a significant milestone, as the assessed value growth generated within these areas will once again be fully available to overlapping taxing districts."

## PUBLIC SAFETY

### From page 16

following report of domestic disturbance in 40900 block Hwy. 228. Lodged at LCJ. Report taken. According to LCSO, verbal altercation turned physical and when Rand learned that call had been made to 911, he took a rifle and ran into woods. A friend went after him and was able to take the rifle away. Deputies contacted Rand and the friend by phone multiple times and were able to convince him to come out of the woods. He was taken into custody without further incident.

LCSO/OSP Lebanon

12:24 p.m. - Caller complained about speeding log trucks, jake brakes in 31700 block Berlin. Information taken for extra patrol.

7:42 p.m. - Travis E. Pressey, 47, arrested on outstanding warrant, 900 block S. Williams. Report taken.

10:42 p.m. - Taylor Candler, 23, of Lebanon, cited for speeding, 77/40, 34100 block Santiam Hwy.

11:17 p.m. - Katherine Reichert, 43, of Lebanon, cited for DWS, 33400 block Santiam Hwy.

### APRIL 15

#### SWEET HOME POLICE

7:56 a.m. - Daniel William Sappington, 30, cited for DWS, speeding, 33/20, 900 block 22nd.

8:52 a.m. - James Alan Wood, 41, arrested on LCCC warrant for FTA in meth possession case. Arrest followed report from caller of van parked on 9th Avenue near railroad tracks since previous day, with someone believed to be in it. Wood lodged at LCJ.

11:36 a.m. - Caller from Columbia Bank, 1890 Main, reported dog ran into bank. Owner unknown, Officer responded, dog placed in kennel.

2:05 p.m. - Caller from BiMart, 1980 Main, reported van camped at location, asked that occupants be asked to move along. Officer responded, contacted female who was so advised.

2:39 p.m. - Faron Walter Kennedy arrested on LCCC warrants for FTA in theft case, FTA in reckless driving and six criminal citation cases; and LMC warrant for FTA in fraudulent use of credit card case. Sara Janene Kennedy cited for DWS, DU and failure to renew registration. Cited and released.

7:05 p.m. - Austin Lanier Meeks arrested for theft III in connection to shoplifting case at Thriftway reported April 2. Store video indicated multiple shoplifting incidents on multiple dates. Total value \$96.34. 500 block 4th. Cited and released.

#### LEBANON POLICE

2:06 a.m. - Juan Gerardo Sanchez Jr., 39, cited for DWS, DU. Car towed.

9:46 a.m. - Christina May Davis, 54, cited for cell phone use while driving.

12:43 p.m. - Two-car crash, S Santiam Hwy./Dewey St.

Jeremiah CK Jinna, 22, cited for failure to obey traffic control device. Klarissa Marie Kay, 33, cited for DWS.

1:29 p.m. - Theft of brand new generator taken from back of truck parked at Walmart. Los: \$629.99.

3:58 p.m. - Report taken for theft of items taken from home, 1800 block Stoltz Hill Rd.

4:33 p.m. - Theft of beads and jewelry from vendor space in downtown business. Loss: \$30.

4:39 p.m. - Jesse Nathaniel Mendell, 46, cited for failure to obey traffic control device.

5:29 p.m. - Pamela Jean Smith, 65, cited on LCJC warrant for PV - tampering with evidence.

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

10:18 a.m. - Male warned for illegal camping on BLM land, 49500 block Quartzville.

10:32 a.m. - Denise Doan, 69, of Brownsville, cited for DWS, DU and failure to install ignition interlock device. 200 block S. Main, Brownsville. Vehicle towed.

3:54 p.m. - Austin Lindsey, 43, of Foster, cited for speeding, 35/55, Bishop/Hume, Brownsville.

4:24 p.m. - Deputies, Brownsville Fire, responded to fire in 200 block S. Main, Brownsville. Small warming fire was extinguished.

10:34 p.m. - Jessica Jofziger, 40, of Sweet Home, arrested

on outstanding warrant, North River/Foster Dam. Report taken.

10:43 p.m. - Brittany Peterson, 31, of Sweet Home, cited for DU, 4700 block Hwy. 20.

#### LCSO/OSP LEBANON

12:14 p.m. - Deputy spoke with caller regarding problem with squatters in 100 block Russell. Issue is civil, so caller will pursue eviction.

4:47 p.m. - Troy Bias, 36, of Lebanon, arrested on warrant, cited for DWS, 2500 block S. Santiam Hwy. Report taken.

### APRIL 14

#### SWEET HOME POLICE

12:02 a.m. - Caller reported that transients living in home she owns in 1400 block Nadina. Officer responded, located vehicle reported stolen to LCSO on April 13, a 1999 GMC pickup, on property. Vehicle owner and caller were advised. Owner was to respond to retrieve vehicle. Officer unable to locate anyone else on property.

3:18 a.m. - Caller from 1400 block Nandina reported restraining order violation. Report taken, investigation continuing.

7:40 a.m. - Multiple callers reported crash at 18th/Main. Officers responded. Roadway was cleared, driver Kathryn Boyles was taken to hospital by family member.

See Public Safety, Page 19



# Lebanon's WesternU expansion conceptual plan approved

By Sarah Brown  
Of The New Era

The Lebanon Planning Commission approved a conceptual master plan for the phased development of Western University's proposed expansion at a former mill site during its April 15 meeting.

Western University of Health Sciences operates the College of Osteopathic Medicine of the Pacific Northwest (COMP-NW) in Lebanon. It acquired the old mill site by donation from the Heatherington Foundation for Innovation and Education in Health Care, with an additional financial donation of \$22.5 million from Family-Care, Inc.

The 110-acre site is sandwiched between E Grant to the north and Riverview School to the south, bordered on the east by the South Santiam River.

The three-phase plan proposes a total of about 500,000 square feet of development to accommodate 1,200 students and 415 staff. Phase 1 is planned for 2026 to 2035, Phase 2 is planned for 2036 to 2045, and Phase 3 is planned for 2045 to 2055.

Phase 1 includes three buildings totaling 177,000 square feet to accommodate 520 students and 180 staff. Development Services Director Shana Olson said the college is expected to be a "commuter institution," daily drawing in staff and students from throughout the Willamette Valley.

Primary access to the school is expected to come



The 110-acre site for a proposed expansion of WesternU's campus in Lebanon is situated south of E Grant Street and west of the South Santiam River. The 30-year development of WesternU's colleges in Lebanon at its new location includes three phases and consideration of park-like settings and habitation for wildlife.

from E Grant Street via a road situated between an RV storage facility and a commercial building.

Between E Grant Street and the campus is an elevated railway. WesternU is waiting to hear whether they will be awarded an ODOT Connect Oregon grant that will help the university build an underpass under the railroad during Phase 1.

An additional entry point comes from E Milton Street.

In her report, Shana says "Significant portions of the site are designated as open space, natural areas and recreational amenities, including trails and passive use ar-

eas."

Kim Olson, architect with Mahlum Architects, explained the development's focus includes "looking at the campus in a way that will support the students, but also thinking about the ecological health of the site, and the community health and how the campus can become a partner to the community as well."

The developers "paid a lot of attention" to flora and fauna on the property, keeping in mind how they can build while also maintaining a safe habitat for native plants and animals.

"One of the things we con-

sidered was how do we do that in a way that respects the history of the site," Kim said.

They identified floodplain river forest, oak savannah and woodland history on the property.

The developers also designed the campus to be pedestrian-friendly in a park-like setting, with paths and bike trails throughout.

A resident from Park Drive, located off E Milton Street near the proposed campus, said that although he likes the college, he has concerns about traffic on E Milton Street. He expects the street will have a heavy traffic flow,

with it being backed up when a train crosses E Milton near S Williams Street.

"We also are very concerned about the traffic on Milton and we'll make every effort to have all of the people coming to and from the campus understand the situation on Milton and use our main Grant Street entrance," said Lyle Hutchens, of MCH Project Strategies, LLC.

Find more images and the full agenda packet for the meeting attached to this story at LebanonLocalNews.com or SweetHomeNews.com.

## PUBLIC SAFETY

From page 18

9:39 a.m. - Caller reported semi truck hit power line in 1600 block 53rd. SHPD and Pacific Power responded, determined that damaged wire was telecommunications line. Nothing criminal.

### LEBANON POLICE

9:14 a.m. - Video shows neighbor taking sign from yard, 3200 block S 8th St. Sign returned. Subject identified only as Wendy Anne Prisk, 65, cited for theft III.

3:08 p.m. - Stephen Philip Hanold, 51, cited for DUII, reckless endangering.

11:21 p.m. - Ashlea Ryan Woods, 27, cited for DWS.

### LCSO/OSP SWEET HOME S. COUNTY

8:47 a.m. - Crash reported in 43100 block Marks Ridge. Single-vehicle, non-injury. Teen driver failed to negotiate curve and ran down small ravine, landing in trees. Report taken.

10:10 a.m. - Deputy patrolled Pioneer Park in Brownsville for unleashed dogs. One person was in park, with an unleashed dog. They were informed of park rules.

Cited for DWS, failure to install an ignition interlock device.

12:05 p.m. - Noah Larson, 21, of McMinnville, cited for speeding, Seven Mile/Forry, Brownsville.

2:16 p.m. - Ashlie Waggoner, 45, of McKenzie Bridge, arrested on Marion County warrant for delivery of meth, Polk County warrant for parole violation, Washburn/Kisling, Brownsville. Report taken.

9:57 p.m. - Cory West, 30, of Albany, cited for DWS, Hwy. 20/57th.

10:36 p.m. - Phengphachanh Luangaphay, 56, of Lacey, Wash., arrested on outstanding warrant. 3100 block Hwy. 20. Lodged at LCJ. Report taken.

### LCSO/OSP LEBANON

12:05 a.m. - Mary Riley, 41, of Albany, cited for DWS, DU, Cascade/Washington.

8:48 a.m. - Connor Provtsgaard, 37, of Lebanon, and Jon Robertson, 57, of Lebanon, both cited on warrants, 32800 block Brewster. Both cited and released. Report taken.

10:08 a.m. - Kendria Wright, 34, of Lebanon, arrested on two outstanding warrants, 32800 block Brewster. Cited and released. Report taken.

Investigation ongoing. Report taken.

### APRIL 13

#### SWEET HOME POLICE

8:24 a.m. - Caller reported aunt stealing from caller's father, 1200 block 46th. Officer responded. Investigation ongoing.

9:01 a.m. - Caller reported mail belonging to someone else in their trash cans, 4200 block Osage. Officer responded, property seized.

10:55 a.m. - Gregory Allen Tibbs, 58, arrested by Albany police on SHMC warrant for FTC in theft case. Cited to appear May 4.

11:15 a.m. - Officer at SHPD, 1950 Main, found vandalism on cell door. According to SHPD, Issac Justham, 26, scratched his name into the cell door paint while in custody. He was cited for criminal mischief II while in custody at the Linn County Jail on unrelated charges. Report taken.

12:18 p.m. - Jonathan Philip VanCleave arrested at SHPD, 1950 Main, for failure to register as sex offender. Cited to appear May 4.

4:30 p.m. - Custin Jones Jr., 25, arrested by Lebanon police on SHMC warrant for FTC in theft case. Cited to appear May 4.

4:57 p.m. - Caller reported

his wallet stolen at A&W, 1010 Main, and someone used his card to purchase gas. Information noted.

5:19 p.m. - Caller reported juveniles had made a jump that went into roadway in area of 47th/Nandina, and had moved road signs. Officer responded to find juveniles riding bikes in area. Signs were intact and kids had used small amount of dirt as jump. Nothing determined to be hazardous, dangerous.

8:45 p.m. - Nick Louis Begrin, 45, arrested on LMC warrant for FTA in DWS case, LCCC warrant for FTA in possession of meth case, AMC warrant for FTA in theft case. 2200 block Main. Cited and released.

6:39 p.m. - Multiple callers reported female driver hit median in 4800 block Main,

had two flat tires. Officer responded. Driver Brittany Harrington was able to move vehicle, which was towed. Damage under \$2,500.

9:47 p.m. - Leo Elijah Brawn, 18, arrested on LMC warrant for probation violation in DU case, Main/44th. Cited and released.

### LEBANON POLICE

7:52 a.m. - Report taken for theft of Knife River property, 4100 block Weirich Dr. Someone cut fence and locks, stole generator and balloon light. Loss: \$3,000.

9:07 a.m. - Tina Ann Rood, 48, cited on LMC warrant for FTA - offensive littering.

10:15 a.m. - Officer escorted mother duck and her ducklings safely across highway near Market Street.

10:40 a.m. - Amanda L. Phillips,



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# Commissioners increase Youth Wage Grant stipend to \$4

By Alex Paul

Linn County Communications

At their April 14 meeting, Linn County Commissioners Roger Nyquist, Sherrie Sprenger and Will Tucker unanimously approved increasing the First-Time Youth Wage Program stipend from \$3 per hour to \$4 per hour for this coming summer.

This will be the 20th year for the popular program that is supported by a portion of the county's share of Oregon's video lottery funds.

Administrative Assistant Amanda Giles noted in a written report that Linn County's minimum wage is now \$15.05 per hour. She reported that in the last 10 years the program has supported 168 unique businesses and there have been 786 youth participants.

In 2025, employees who were 14 to 19 years of age, worked a total of 47,000 hours and the program paid out \$28,145 in stipends.

Treasurer Michele Hawkins told the commissioners the county has sufficient lottery funds set aside to support the \$1 per hour stipend increase. In the past 10 years, 2018 saw the high-

est total payout of \$56,434 and in 2016, the payout was \$56,264.

Qualifying businesses must employ 35 or fewer employees and the young people must be first-time employees who have not previously worked for the individual business. An employer can only hire three qualifying young people at any given time. Maximum reimbursement per employer is \$6,000, with a maximum of \$2,000 per newly hired young person.

To qualify, businesses must hire eligible employees between May 1 and Sept. 30. The employee must be legal to work in the United States and a resident of Linn County. Youth ages 14 through 17 must be hired with a Bureau of Labor and Industries (BOLI) permit. The employer must certify they are following all federal and state youth labor laws state and BOLI rules and regulations).

For more information, contact Amanda Giles at the Linn County Board of Commissioners office at (541) 967-3825, or visit [www.linncountyor.gov/business-development/page/youth-wage-grant](http://www.linncountyor.gov/business-development/page/youth-wage-grant).

## In other business the commissioners:

- Held a public hearing concerning an application for an Outdoor Assembly Permit to conduct a five-day outdoor pirate festival called Port Nassau on a small farm on Allen Lane southwest of Albany. Property owner Brooke Knutzen outlined several changes planned for the proposed event including limiting the number of tickets to 1,000, providing tickets that control the flow of participants by hour of entry, no alcohol sales on-site and including an emergency egress roadway on property owned by a neighbor. Opponents cited safety concerns due to the narrow width of Allen Lane, possible trespassing by participants and the potential for fires that could escape the site and damage other properties. The commissioners agreed to accept new written testimony only until 5 p.m. on April 21 and to reconvene the public hearing for a possible decision at 10 a.m. on April 28.
- Were told the Planning and Building Department issued 257 total building permits in March, compared to

292 a year ago. There were 18 permits for dwellings; three for single family dwellings; one for manufactured dwellings. Eleven permits were issued for dwelling alterations and three permits for accessory buildings. Code enforcement staff opened six new cases and closed 12 cases.

- Accepted the annual Emergency Management Performance Grant for the Linn County Sheriff's Office. The grant funds about 50% of the LCSO Emergency Management staffing costs.

- Gave Roadmaster Amy Ramsdell the authority to extend a contract to purchase fuel from Carson for the Road Department.

- Announced that the Budget Hearings for the 2026-2027 Fiscal Year will begin at 9:30 a.m. Monday, April 27, at the Linn County Fair and Expo Center, 3700 Knox Butte Road East, Albany.

- Approved several items for the Health Department, including extending an Intergovernmental Agreement with Portland State University for Alcohol and Drug outreach from September 29, 2025 to September 29, 2026.

- Extended an agreement with Marion County from June 30, 2026 to June 30, 2027, not to exceed \$91,468 to provide occupational therapy services.

- Approved a Services Contract with Ejido Oso to provide food sourcing for the Food for Health program, not to exceed \$78,000. This is a pass-through funding from the InterCommunity Health Network CCO.

- Approved an Intergovernmental Agreement with the Multnomah Education Services District to provide and maintain a web-based survey to allow county employees to record and document time associated with Medicaid administrative claiming activities. Not to exceed \$71,746.

- Approved software licensing agreements with Qualifacts Systems for software to manage the Alcohol and Drug Program's electronic medical records not to exceed \$50,094. A separate agreement not to exceed \$159,832 was approved to provide the same service for the Mental Health Department.

# Waterloo hires new city recorder

By Sarah Brown  
Of The New Era

The City of Waterloo hired a new city recorder, David Reed, after conducting interviews between two applicants on March 23.

Reed worked for the Benton and Linn County Sheriff's offices for 25 years, retiring in 2020. He recently began considering taking up some part-time employment when the Waterloo position opened up.

With his experience in law enforcement, Reed described himself as people-oriented, detail-oriented and a problem solver. During his career, he often worked in east Linn County, noting that "I just like Waterloo. Waterloo is a nice place."

He has already begun training under the outgoing city recorder, Grace Reed, who is also his daughter.

The council approved a motion to allow up to 100 total staff hours per month between the outgoing and incoming recorders during David's training through July 2026, to be reevaluated at that time.

## During the council's regular meeting on April 14:

- Grace Reed reported the city incurred a \$200 fine for filing taxes late. She learned a volunteer was filing the city's payroll and W2s free of

charge. As such, Reed signed the city up for Gusto, an automatic payroll service, for approximately \$111 per month.

- Grace Reed reported the city continues to have trouble accessing files, accounts and emails on the computer because a former city recorder has not unlocked the password to the Microsoft account, and they have been unsuccessful in contacting the former recorder. She continues to look into options on how to gain access, but it could end up costing the city as much as \$250 an hour for a professional to gain access. The council approved a motion allowing Reed to hire a professional.

- The council talked about the need to find budget committee members, and they set a date to deliver notices on upcoming budget meetings.

- Grace Reed recommended the council consider paying the IRS standard mileage rate to staff who drive around in the course of business.

- The city received a complaint about trash on a property at 4th and Davis streets.

- Enforcement Officer Dennis Scott reported the city sent out a number of ordinance violations in the city. The property owners are at risk of being fined on a regular basis until the issue is resolved.

FORM LB-1		NOTICE OF BUDGET HEARING		
A public meeting of the <b>Halsey-Shedd Rural Fire Protection District</b> will be held on <b>May 12, 2026</b> , at 7:00 p.m. at <b>740 W 2nd Street, Halsey, Oregon</b> . The purpose of this meeting is to discuss the budget for the fiscal year beginning <b>July 1, 2026</b> as approved by the <b>Halsey-Shedd Rural Fire Protection District Budget Committee</b> . A summary of the budget is presented below. A copy of the budget may be inspected or obtained at: <b>740 West 2nd Street, Halsey, OR 97348</b> , between the hours of <b>9:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m.</b> ; (not available online). This budget is for an <b>X</b> annual budget period. This budget was prepared on a basis of accounting that is the same as the preceding year.				
Contact: District Clerk Tammi Morrow		Telephone: 541-369-2419		Email: <a href="mailto:halseyfireclerk@rtinet.com">halseyfireclerk@rtinet.com</a>
FINANCIAL SUMMARY - RESOURCES				
TOTAL OF ALL FUNDS	Actual Amount 2024-25	Adopted Budget This Year 2025-2026	Approved Budget Next Year 2026-2027	
1. Beginning Fund Balance/Net Working Capital	1,004,171	950,439	1,191,122	
2. Fees, Licenses, Permits, Fines, Assessments & Other Service Charges	35,125	42,100	43,300	
3. Federal, State and all Other Grants, Gifts, Allocations and Donations	1,061,911	22,500	1,617,173	
4. Revenue from Bonds and Other Debt	0	0	0	
5. Interfund Transfers / Internal Service Reimbursements	96,669	103,562	212,108	
6. All Other Resources Except Current Year Property Taxes	61,528	44,000	34,000	
7. Current Year Property Taxes Estimated to be Received	637,790	634,552	664,050	
<b>8. Total Resources - add lines 1 through 7</b>	<b>2,897,194</b>	<b>1,797,153</b>	<b>3,761,753</b>	
FINANCIAL SUMMARY - REQUIREMENTS BY OBJECT CLASSIFICATION				
9. Personnel Services	564,715	400,923	423,840	
10. Materials and Services	249,710	292,300	298,600	
11. Capital Outlay	884,764	53,100	2,495,097	
12. Debt Service	0	0	0	
13. Interfund Transfers	96,669	103,562	212,108	
14. Contingencies	0	50,000	50,000	
15. Special Payments	706,060	827,268	212,054	
16. Unappropriated Ending Balance and Reserved for Future Expenditure	395,276	70,000	70,054	
<b>17. Total Requirements</b>	<b>2,897,194</b>	<b>1,797,153</b>	<b>3,761,753</b>	
FINANCIAL SUMMARY - REQUIREMENTS AND FULL-TIME EQUIVALENT EMPLOYEES (FTE) BY ORGANIZATIONAL UNIT OR PROGRAM *				
Name of Organizational Unit or Program FTE for that unit or program				
Fire and Emergency Services	2,897,194	1,797,153	3,761,753	
FTE	2	2	2	
Not Allocated to Organizational Unit or Program	0	0	0	
FTE	0	0	0	
<b>Total Requirements</b>	<b>2,897,194</b>	<b>1,797,153</b>	<b>3,761,753</b>	
<b>Total FTE</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>	
STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN ACTIVITIES and SOURCES OF FINANCING *				
No changes.				
PROPERTY TAX LEVIES				
	Rate or Amount Imposed 2024-2025	Rate or Amount Imposed This Year 2025-2026	Rate or Amount Approved Next Year 2026-2027	
Permanent Rate Levy (rate limit <b>0.9894</b> per \$1,000)	0.9894	0.9894	0.9894	
Local Option Levy				
Levy For General Obligation Bonds				
STATEMENT OF INDEBTEDNESS				
LONG TERM DEBT	Estimated Debt Outstanding on July 1	Estimated Debt Authorized, But Not Incurred on July 1		
General Obligation Bonds	\$0	\$0		
Other Bonds	\$0	\$0		
Other Borrowings	\$0	\$0		
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>		

**Public Notices**

**NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING**  
The Annual Meeting of the Linn Soil and Water Conservation District will be held on Tuesday, May 12th at 5:00 p.m. at OSU Extension, 33630 McFarland Rd., Tangent, Oregon. For further information or to RSVP, contact Debra Paul at 541-926-2483; email: [debra.paul@or.nacdn.net](mailto:debra.paul@or.nacdn.net). (4/15 - 4/22)

**Notice of Budget Committee Meetings:** Two public meetings of the Budget Committee of the City of Sweet Home to discuss the budget for the fiscal year July 1, 2026 to June 30, 2027 will be held at 3225 Main Street, Sweet Home, OR 97386. The meetings will take place on April 29 and 30, 2026 at 5:30 PM. If needed, an additional public meeting will be held on May 4, 2026 at 5:30 PM. The purpose of the meeting on April 29th will be to receive the budget message. During the meeting on April 30th, a public hearing to consider the spending of Shared State Revenues will be held. There will be opportunity to receive comment from the public on the budget at each meeting. These are public meetings where deliberation of this Budget Committee will take place. A copy of the budget document may be inspected or obtained after April 16, 2026 between the hours of 7:00 AM and 5:30 PM. Any person may appear at these meeting and discuss the proposed programs with the Budget Committee. This notice is also posted at <https://www.sweethomeor.gov/>. (4/22)

**Notice of Budget Committee Meeting**

A public meeting of the Budget Committee of the Sweet Home School 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 1920 Long Street, Sweet Home, OR 97386. The meeting will take place on May 20, 2026 at 5 p.m. The purpose of the meeting is to receive the budget message and to receive comment from the public on the budget. A copy of the budget document may be inspected or obtained after May 20, 2026 at 1920 Long Street, Sweet Home, OR 97386 between the hours of 8 a.m. and 4 p.m. 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. This notice is also posted at <https://shsd55or.gov/departments/business/> (4/22)

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

In the Matter of the Estate of CONSTANCE R. BURRIS, Decedent. Case No. 26PB02825  
**NOTICE TO INTERESTED PERSONS** Notice is hereby given that Kenneth Braun has been appointed personal representative. All persons having claims against the estate are required to present them, with proper vouchers attached, to the personal representative or his attorney, DONALD M.

**Public Notices**

KELLEY, at law offices of KELLEY KELLEY, 110 North Second Street, Silverton, OR 97381, within four months after the date of publication of this notice, or the claims may be barred. All persons whose rights may be affected by the proceedings may obtain additional information from the records of the court, the personal representative or the attorney for the personal representative. Dated and published on April 22, 2026. Kenneth Braun Personal Representative (4/22)

**NOTICE OF BUDGET COMMITTEE MEETING**

A public meeting of the Budget Committee of the Sweet Home Cemetery Maintenance District, Linn County, State of Oregon, to discuss the budget for the fiscal year July 1, 2026 to June 30, 2027 will be held at the Sweet Home Chamber Off ice. The meeting will take place on the 12th day of May, 2026 at Noon. The purpose is to receive the budget message and document of the District. A copy of the budget document may be inspected or obtained on or after May 23, 2026 at the off ice of B.E. Accountable 30035 Main St. Sweet Home between the hours of 8:00 A.M. and 5:00 P.M. Note: a copy of the Budget will be available at the Budget Committee meeting. This is a public meeting where the deliberation of the Budget Committee will take place. Any person may appear at the meeting and discuss the proposed programs with the Budget Committee (4/22-4/29)

**Help Wanted**

Foster Lake RV Resort looking for a part-time maintenance person or couple. Light maintenance duties, year round or seasonal. Must have their own RV, other housing options are available. RV housing preferred. Call for application, compensation package, and further details 541-367-5629. (4/15 - 4/29)

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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)

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For Sale 2017 Chevrolet Trax hatchback - silver, power windows & locks, power mirrors, 65,700 miles \$9,995 firm. Phone calls only no text 541-401-2236. (4/22,4/29)

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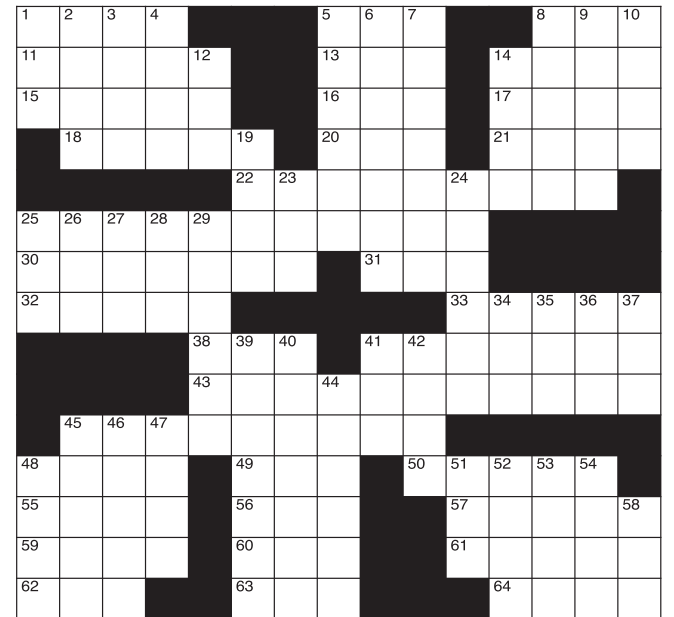
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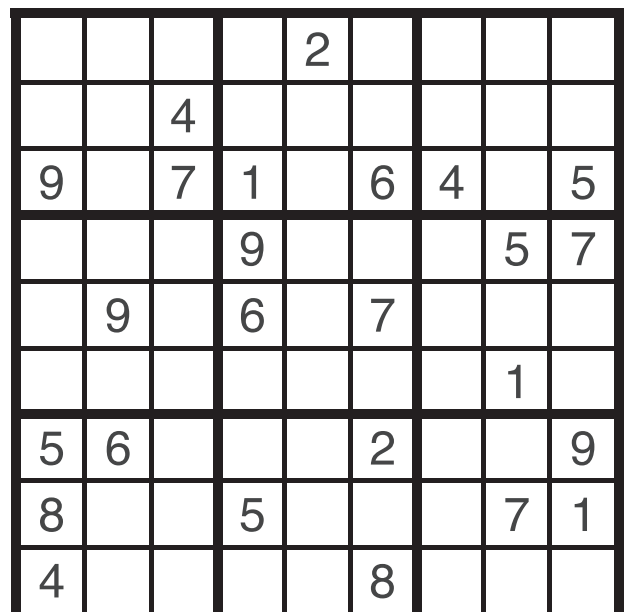
**CLUES ACROSS**

- 1. Inventor of the apochromatic lens
- 5. Time units (abbr.)
- 8. Cool!
- 11. NY football family
- 13. A way to consume
- 14. Competition
- 15. Monetary units
- 16. Plant in the daisy family
- 17. Ottoman military title
- 18. Small Polish village
- 20. Relatively insignificant lie
- 21. Argument
- 22. Comforts
- 25. Early
- 30. Went on and on
- 31. Type of IRA
- 32. Short musical composition
- 33. Images
- 38. Major component of wood glue (abbr.)
- 41. Observing expeditions
- 43. Used as a lightweight foam
- 45. Recall knowledge
- 48. Afrikaans word for "language"
- 49. Fried chicken guru Sanders' title (abbr.)
- 50. Caucasian language
- 55. A Spanish river
- 56. Used to pierce holes
- 57. Song of praise
- 59. In bed
- 60. Originally called
- 61. Iron Age Brittonic tribe
- 62. Young goat
- 63. Not even
- 64. Make from wool or yarn

**CLUES DOWN**

- 1. Current unit
- 2. Bleats
- 3. Soft creamy white cheese
- 4. Opposite of west
- 5. Young female cow
- 6. Deep, narrow gorges
- 7. Freestanding sculpture
- 8. Finger millet
- 9. Hurts
- 10. Unable to hear
- 12. Vast body of water
- 14. Volcanic island in Fiji
- 19. Not early
- 23. Wet dirt
- 24. Be characteristic of
- 25. Before
- 26. Tell on
- 27. Resembles the ostrich
- 28. Million barrels per day (abbr.)
- 29. War-torn city in Syria
- 34. Mode of transportation
- 35. Metals and minerals are extracted from this
- 36. Trent Reznor's band
- 37. Midway between south and southeast
- 39. Vesuvius is one
- 40. Permitted
- 41. A type of corrosion (abbr.)
- 42. Tip of Aleutian Islands
- 44. Shouted
- 45. Jewish spiritual leader
- 46. Punched in the side of the head
- 47. Lout
- 48. Used to make furniture and ships
- 51. Spectrum disorder (abbr.)
- 52. A way to talk
- 53. American shoe company
- 54. Chinese ethnic group
- 58. Egg of a louse

**SUDOKU**



Level: Intermediate



## Recycled Makeovers

"Upcycled" treasures are on display at the Et Cetera Thrift Shop in Lebanon in the store's first Upcycle Contest.

Employee Catherine Brewer said the idea is to encourage people to recycle and also to let artists show their work.

"You don't have to be a great artist to create something," she said. "You just have to spend a little time, mess around and see what you can make."

Fifteen artists submitted their projects to be voted on by the public through April 25 during business hours. Projects included a space divider made of records, planters made from newspapers, mushroom art made from glass, jewelry made from broken ceramic pieces, vase marbles or thimbles, figures and clothing made from recycled materials, quilt square batting made from used dryer sheets, driftwood art, a mini notebook made from sea shells, and whimsical art made from things found in the home.

- Photo by Sarah Brown

## EVENTS

### From page 2

members, and interact with public safety representatives from the area.

For more information, contact the chamber at (541) 258-7164.

### MODEL TRAIN EXHIBIT

Lebanon Public Library will host the Oregon Electric O-Gaugers Model Train Club model train event on Wednesday and Thursday, April 29-30 (11 a.m. to 6 p.m.) and Saturday, May 2 (12-3 p.m.), at 55 Academy St.

The room-sized interactive exhibit allows families to watch trains circle the track, complete with a trolley, lighted cities and hands-on activities for kids.

### 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.

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 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.

### FREE FUNERAL PRE-PLANNING CLASS

Sweet Home Funeral Chapel will host a free class on funeral pre-planning at 2 p.m. Thursday, May 7, at Sweet Home Senior Center, 880 18th Ave.

This will be a no-pressure informational session to learn about the benefits and steps of funeral pre-planning. Light refreshments will be provided.

For more information, contact Sweet Home Funeral Chapel at (541) 367-2891.

### HELP BEAUTIFICATION PREP FOR SESQUICENTENNIAL

The Sweet Home Beautification Committee is seeking volunteers to help plant various floral displays in the community, as well as maintain the Main Street median through the summer.

Here are planned events:

Tuesday, May 19: Volunteers will plant the median strip downtown in red, white and blue to mark the USA's 250th birthday.

Wednesday, May 20: Volunteers will plant entryways to the city. Shea Point planting will be from 8:30 to 10 a.m.; Hwy. 228/Fern Ridge from 11 a.m. to noon; and Clover Park at the intersection of Hwy. 20 and 1st Avenue will be from 1 to 2:30 p.m.

Regular bi-weekly workdays to maintain the Main Street median are from 8:30 a.m. on the second and fourth Tuesdays of the month. Volunteers meet at Key Bank, on the corner of 10th and Main.

Safety vests and trowels are provided for volunteers.

The public is welcome to attend the committee's monthly meeting at 10 a.m. on the second Thursday of each month at City Hall, 3225 Main St.

For more information, contact Candice Snyder at (541) 971-1092 or scandice192@gmail.com.

### FREE SWEET HOME ELECTRONIC RECYCLING

In partnership with Green Century Electronics Recycling, the City of Sweet Home will host a free household electronics recycling event from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Saturday, May 23, at Sweet Home City Hall, 3225 Main St.

This event is open to households and small businesses. Green Century Electronics Recycling will perform secure data destruction (NIST 800.88) on data-containing devices.

Be sure to follow the guidance for what can and cannot be recycled. There will not be the opportunity to dispose of anything not accepted by Green Century Electronics Recycling on site.

For more information, contact Maggie Clark, of Green Century Electronics Recycling, at maggie@greencenturyonline.net, or call 503-764-9963.

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# Frey, Lebanon boys win MWC tennis matches last week

Junior Alison Frey won both her singles matches last week, but the young Warriors lost the team competitions to Dallas and Silvertown last week.

Dallas 6, Lebanon 2: Lebanon's girls scored two wins on the road April 17 at Dallas, both in singles.

Frey won the No. 1 singles match 6-4, 6-1 over Sayre Irving and senior Hailey Destowet won the No. 2 match against the Dragons' Addisyn Moore 6-2, 6-3.

Silvertown 7, Lebanon 1: Lebanon's sole win at home April 16 against the Foxes was Frey's 6-3, 6-3 victory in No. 1 singles over Marion Bosseler.

Up next for the Warriors are home matches against Corvallis on Tuesday, April 21, and West Albany on Thursday, April 23. Both start at 4 p.m.

"These next few matches we have are up against some of the top schools in our league so it'll be some more challenging matches," Coach Endya Robinson said. "Alison Frey is currently 4-0 for league matches and on track to be seeded this year.



Left, Alison Frey serves during her win in the Dallas match. Right, Greta Abbott returns the ball during a doubles match against Dallas. See more photos from the match at lebanonlocalnews.com. - Cole Harnar photos

As well, Hailey Destowet is showing great progress, being 3-1 with league matches."

### Lebanon boys beat Silvertown

Lebanon won all four sin-

gles matches and two doubles matches in a 6-2 victory over Silvertown on April 16.

Junior Micah Zderad won the No. 1 singles match 6-0, 6-1, with senior Landyn Whitney taking No. 2 6-2,

6-0, sophomore Benjamin Klinger No. 3 6-4, 6-1 and freshman Colton Parrish taking the No. 4 match 6-0, 6-2.

In doubles, senior Silas Fitchett and sophomore

Joshua Allydice combined for a win at the No. 2 spot, 6-4, 7-5, while sophomore Nick McLoed and junior Daniel Doerzaph took the No. 3 doubles match, 6-1, 6-2

- Staff Report

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Kindergarteners from Riverview Elementary inspect replica bones while attending "mini medical school" at COMP-NW.



Kindergarteners from Green Acres play a racing game after which they will learn about the heart and how it beats.



Green Acres kindergarteners identify which bones are found in the hand.



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Jeannie Davis, assistant professor of Population Health, at right, helps a young student get his surgical gloves on in preparation for a mock surgery.

**Photos by Sarah Brown**