

The New Era

SWEET HOME • LEBANON • AND SURROUNDING COMMUNITIES

Serving East Linn County Since 1929

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 29, 2026

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Spring Fling at Veterans Home



The Oregon Veterans Home in Lebanon celebrated its annual Spring Fling Cruise-In on Saturday, April 18. This year's event was packed with classic and military vehicles that took over the parking lot and overflowed onto 5th Street. Food vendors, veterans services and entertainment for the kids filled the Veterans Home courtyard, including a special exhibit featuring Camp Adair. See more photos at sweethomenews.com/lebanonlocalnews.com - Photos by Sarah Brown

HOMETOWN NEWSPAPER OF DAVID & SANDRA LARSEN

This Week's Top Stories

2026 VOTERS GUIDE

Republican Candidates for State House District 11

Republican Candidates for State Senate District 6

Inside: Learn about state House, Senate candidates

See answers to our questions and other information from local Republican candidates in the May 19 state Senate and House (contested) races.

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Lebanon Hospital birth center reopens

Samaritan Lebanon Community Hospital announced that labor and delivery services reopened on Monday, April 27, and an open house will be held May 1.

Staff reported the hospital now has the clinical support in place to safely care for patients and will continue building the team to meet the community's long-term needs.

Outpatient obstetric services such as prenatal visits, postpartum care and gynecologic care have also resumed at the Samaritan Health Clinic - Lebanon, providing care Monday through Friday.

Letters are being sent to patients who previously received OB-GYN care in East Linn County to share details about the reopening, and how to reestablish care to deliver at the hospital's birth center.

"Reopening the Girod Birth Center is an important step for supporting our community," said Jennifer Kimberlain, RN, hospital administrator at Samari-

See Birth Center, Page 4

Sweet Home Fire welcomes newly hired wildfire grant coordinator

By Sarah Brown
Of The New Era

The Sweet Home Fire and Ambulance District swore in a new member to the CWDG team during the Board of Directors meeting on Tuesday, April 21.

Maddie Tutton came to Sweet Home from California to serve as the district's Community Wildfire Defense Grant (CWDG) coordinator. She will help build maps identifying potential fire control lines and mitigation work, coordinate the work and develop future funding for the program.

The Wildland Fire Division is largely supported by grants.

SHFAD first hired Christian Whitfield with \$430,000 in grant funds from the Oregon State Fire Marshal's Office to manage a Wildfire Risk Reduction Program in the Sweet Home area.

The district then partnered with the Oregon Department of Forestry to decrease fire risks surrounding the community, and was funded \$1.9 million by the National Forest Foundation to hire a 20-person hand crew for fuel-reduction work with ODF. The crew is also available to help homeowners create a defensible space around their homes.

Last year, the district received an additional \$5.4 million from the CWDG through



Fire Chief Nick Tyler welcomes Maddie Tutton to the CWDG team during the Board of Directors meeting on April 21.

- Photo by Sarah Brown

the U.S. Forest Service.

"We took that grant from the Oregon State Fire Marshal's Office and you can see the fruit of a lot of things we're doing that couldn't have been done without that grant," Fire Chief Nick Tyler told The New Era last year.

In other business:

- The district honored Dawn Mitchell for her 20th anniversary serving on the board of directors.
- The board heard a presentation about Microsoft mitigation opportunities for security within the district.
- The board approved a motion to complete a parking lot project on the east side of the building. The project includes moving a fence to the property line and paving.



Speedway owners make big change

Willamette Speedway starts a new season as a NASCAR-sanctioned track.

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Obituaries

Edward Winkler

March 12, 1940 - April 18, 2026

Edward E. Winkler, 86, of Sweet Home passed away April 18, 2026, after an extended period of poor health.

Ed was born on March 12, 1940 in Albany to Winifred I. and Jessie Marie (Myer) Winkler. The family lived in Sweet Home for most of Ed's growing up years. He graduated from Sweet Home High School in 1958.

He enlisted in the Air Force and served at Beal Air Force Base in northern California as a cook for four years. It was during this time that he married Loretta Sue O'Neill and they returned to Sweet Home.

Ed then began his decades-long career as a truck driver, usually hauling logs. In addition to truck driving, he also loved guns and motorcycles, of which he owned many throughout his life, including two Harleys of which he was very proud.

And he loved Sweet Home wrestling. He spent many evenings sitting on the bottom row of the high school bleachers with his buddies watching the Huskies and celebrating their many wins with them. He was a jovial guy with a great sense of humor and loved making people laugh.

Ed is survived by his son, Dean Winkler; brother Rick Burnett and wife Alice of Sweet Home; sister Winnie Robertson and husband Ken of LaQuinta, Calif.; grandchildren Whitney Spent and Dustin Winkler of Sweet Home, Kelsey Schultz of Albany, and Samantha Flores of Hillsboro; and five great-grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by his parents; stepfather Red Burnett; daughters Dawn Winkler and Tina Winkler; brother Joe Winkler; and nephew Keegan Burnett.

A viewing was held April 27 at Sweet Home Funeral Chapel. A graveside service, with military honors, was held April 28 at Alpine Cemetery. A celebration of life will be at noon Wednesday, April 29, at Sweet Home Evangelical Church, open to all who would like to attend.

Memorial contributions can be made in Ed's name to Sweet Home Wrestling.

Sweet Home Funeral Chapel is handling the arrangements.



Carla Claasen

Sept. 17, 1962 - Jan. 31, 2026

Carla Rae Claasen, 63, passed away peacefully on Jan 31, 2026, at home with her husband by her side.

She was born Sept. 17, 1962, in Portland to Edna Carlson. She and her mother moved to LaGrande and then Ketchikan, Alaska, where Edna met Lee Cowan. After Lee and Edna married, the family moved farther north and began crab fishing.

Carla spent much of her youth on a 90-foot crab boat named "The Stevie."

Carla went to high school in Ketchikan, graduating in 1980. She started working in retail and moved up to store director and promotions coordinator for several years.

Carla and Randy Claasen met at a local Chamber of Commerce Banquet in 1995 and were married in 1998 in Post Falls, Idaho. They made their home in Ketchikan until 2002 when they moved to Brownsville, to Randy's family home.

Carla started volunteering at the Sweet Home Chamber as a means to become familiar with the area. She was proud to be part of the establishment of the first Business after Hours events.

Randy and Carla became involved with, and she volunteered much of her time at the local Elks Lodge and Auxiliary. She was also very involved in supporting her husband at the Elks as he became an officer.

She joined the Elkettes Auxiliary to help raise funds and plan events. Her mother moved closer and Carla spent much of her time caring for her and also Randy's mother, Sue, until their passings.

Carla also volunteered with the Oregon



Jamboree, and she and Randy were camp hosts at the Willamette Music Festival for five years.

After moving to Oregon, Carla worked in retail including grocery stores and in a bridal shop.

She was a hard worker and always wanted to learn everything about the job she had at the time.

She worked for Royal Caribbean Cruise Lines prior to and during the COVID era. She absolutely loved helping people plan their dream vacation.

She moved on to sales for The New Era newspaper, helping to provide more service to the Lebanon area.

Her most recent position was with Hyundai of Albany, where she worked in customer service. She unfortunately couldn't keep working due to her illness. The family extends much gratitude to the dealership staff who helped her during the cancer battle.

Carla leaves behind her husband of 26 years, Randy; stepdaughter Autumn and grandchildren Ryan and Nathan; stepson Paul and his wife Brytany, and grandchildren Madisynn, Brooklyn, Khayah and Jaxen; and uncle William Carlson.

She was preceded in death by her father, Lee Cowan; mother Edna Cowan; and her granddaughter, Alica.

Carla was known as the "Director of Fun." This included having tea parties with her grandchildren, planning great events and following her motto: "Decide each morning to have a good day. Life is fun if you make it that way."

A celebration of her life will be held from 2 to 5 p.m. on June 6 at the Sweet Home Elks Lodge. All stories and remembrances are appreciated. Any contributions will go towards Elks youth activities.

Jennifer Walczyk

Aug. 16, 1979 - April 16, 2026

Jennifer Kathleen Walczyk, 46, of Sweet Home, passed away April 16, 2026.

She was born Aug. 16, 1979, to Debra Jean



(Gruwell) and Terry Allen Walczyk in Anaheim, Calif.

The family moved to Sweet Home in 1988. Jennifer also lived in both Lebanon and Corvallis.

She was a homemaker, raising her six children. She was a devoted member of the Church of Christ and

involved in Bible studies at Freedom Hill Church.

Jennifer liked to hunt for rock and geods. She enjoyed art, wood burning and making jewelry. She collected dolphins and loved to garden and grow her own sunflowers.

She is survived by her chil-

dren, Austin, Kayla, Suzie and Jaxon; stepsons Adrian and Aaron; her lifelong partner Jeff Smith; her mother, Debbe Walczyk, her siblings, Kristin Walczyk, Melissa Walczyk and Melissa Miller; two grandchildren; and lots of nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by her father, Terry Walczyk (2020); and her grandparents.

A celebration of life will be at a later date.

Sweet Home Funeral Chapel is handling the arrangements.

Nettie May McCain Mealue

May 6, 1944 - February 19, 2026

Nettie May McCain Mealue, 81, of Sweet Home, passed away peacefully on February 19, 2026. A celebration of life will be held on her birthday, May 6th, 2pm at River of Life Fellowship in Sweet Home, OR. In lieu of flowers, please donate to Sweet Home River of Life Women's Ministry. A private graveside service was held at Gilliland Cemetery. Sweet Home Funeral Chapel is handling arrangements. www.sweethomefuneral.com.

Emilio Gallardo Morales

November 16, 1970 - April 23, 2026

Emilio Gallardo Morales, 55, of Lebanon passed away Thursday, April 23, 2026. Sweet Home Funeral Chapel is handling arrangements. www.sweethomefuneral.com.

Death Notices

Glen Marion Foster, Jr., 75, of Lebanon, passed away April 6, 2026. Huston-Jost Funeral home is handling arrangements.

Mark Gescher, 75, of Lebanon, passed away April 16, 2025. Celebration of Life on May 29th, 1pm at Weddle Funeral services - 1777 N. 3rd Ave, Stayton.

Jerry Lee Goodwin, Sr., 79, of Lebanon, passed away April 16, 2026. Huston-Jost Funeral home is handling arrangements.

David Lee Sharp, 71, of Lebanon, passed away April 2, 2026. Huston-Jost Funeral home is handling arrangements.

THE NEW ERA
on the road...



Gina Riley traveled to Fargo, North Dakota. Here she is with the infamous "FARGO Woodchipper" from the 1996 movie Fargo. Gina says, "We have taken the "SAME paper with us on all of our traveling adventures since it was printed - Dec. 21, 2011 when the boys won the Christmas Light decorating Contest!"

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TAKING A TRIP?

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

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

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

Corrections

Taelyn Coleman should have been identified as the golfer in our photo in the April 22 edition from the Sweet Home Huskies' home tournament at Mallard Creek.

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), **LCSD** (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 27

SWEET HOME POLICE

12:41 a.m. - Paul William Kalina arrested on SHMC warrant for FTC in theft of services case, AMC warrant for contempt of

court. 1200 block Tamarack. 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.

LCSD/OSP SWEET HOME/S. COUNTY

2:38 a.m. - Ashley Fagan, 35, of Sweet Home, arrested on warrant, 29200 block Pleasant Valley. Report taken.

APRIL 26

SWEET HOME POLICE

8:39 a.m. - Becky Marie Foster arrested on SHMC warrant for FTC in criminal mischief case. 2100 block Main. Cited and released.

1:19 p.m. - Caller reported burglary at deceased mother's house in 2300 block Birch. Officer responded, report taken for burglary II. Sentry safe valued at \$200 missing. Investigation continuing.

4:16 p.m. - Caller from Cascade Meadow Apartments, 2500 block Long, reported two individuals digging through trash receptacle at location. Officer responded, located female, who was trespassed.

9:02 p.m. - Caller reported small truck driving on rims with no tires, 4200 block Long. Officer responded, located male who had flat tire and drove it home. No roadway damage observed, no violations.

LEBANON POLICE

1:45 a.m. - Driver unable to maintain lane. He "performed poorly" on DUII test, but has .00% BAC. Suspect medical issue. Investigating. Report taken.

9:11 a.m. - Property owner near

Tallman Brewing was mowing tall grass, almost ran over subject lying under green sleeping bag, which was difficult to see.

1:22 p.m. - Dakotah Lane Hodson, 28, cited on LMC warrant for FTA, LCSA warrant and LCCC warrant for possession of meth.

6:09 p.m. - Benjamin Philip Hyatt, 47, cited on LCCC warrants.

6:09 p.m. - Report taken for theft of bike, 700 block N 5th St.

6:26 p.m. - Callers reported subject riding bike in median and roadway in front of cars, near Walmart.

6:37 p.m. - Christian James Coleman, 27, cited on LMC warrant for FTA.

8:09 p.m. - William Lee Phillips, 43, cited on LMC warrant for PV.

9:44 p.m. - Subject told caller his missing phone pinged at their house, and showed possible fake screenshot. He appeared to have gun in his holster. He eventually left.

LCSD/OSP SWEET HOME/S. COUNTY

11:52 a.m. - Deputies located vehicle abandoned on private property in 40100 block Mountain Home. Property owner was educated on private party tow process.

10:03 p.m. - Jayson East, 50, of Halsey, arrested for assault IV-domestic following report of domestic disturbance in 100 block E. C, Halsey. Lodged at Linn County Jail.

LCSD/OSP LEBANON

10:18 a.m. - Jacob Alan Vincent Petrait, 19, of Sweet Home, cited for careless driving, failure to carry proof of insurance, 5000 block Santiam Hwy.

10:39 a.m. - Caller from 100 block Russell asked for extra

patrol due to "nearby squatters smoking things" near caller's house.

2:18 p.m. - Captain Yeauuh Sun, 29, arrested for assault IV-domestic, 400 block E. Olive. Lodged at LCJ. Report taken.

3:09 p.m. - Caller reported runaway 8-year-old in McDowell Creek Park area. Child was reportedly upset about not going to arcade, took themselves for walk. Deputy located child nearby in McDowell Creek Park, 4000 block McDowell Creek. and child was returned home. OSP and Lebanon Fire assisted. Report taken.

4:15 p.m. - Caller reported being punched several times by elderly female in Waterloo Park, 31200 block 1st. Incident was captured on cellphone. Report taken.

9:23 p.m. - Joleene Baird, 50, of Lebanon, arrested on warrant, 38100 block Golden Valley. Report taken.

APRIL 25

SWEET HOME POLICE

11:02 a.m. - Police responded to a report from LPD that a female had been assaulted in 300 block 7th. Investigation continuing. Report taken.

11:22 a.m. - Caller from Lilies and Lovelies, 1141 Long, reported female punching window and throwing things at location. Officer responded, counseled female on her behavior, and she agreed to remain calm for remainder of day.

12:49 p.m. - Caller reported trash and nails in road at Main/18th. Officer responded, hazard was removed.

1:48 p.m. - Hunter Ariel Ringheimer, 32, arrested on

See Public Safety, Page 8



Nothing affects your day to day more than local

- LOCAL NEWS
- LOCAL POLITICS
- LOCAL EMERGENCIES
- LOCAL SPORTS
- LOCAL EVENTS

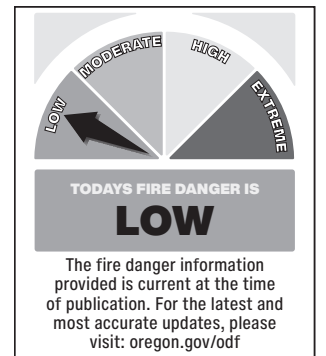


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LAKE LEVELS

Foster 614.5
Green Peter 987.4



CROSSWORD KEY

Puzzle on page 21

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

SUDOKU KEY

Puzzle on page 21

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

Circuit Court

Kristina Larizza Boswell, 40, sentenced April 21 to 34 mos. prison, three years post-prison supervision after pleading guilty to unlawful possession of meth and FTA, and no contest to unlawful possession of a Schedule II controlled substance. In a separate case, a charge of FTA I was dismissed. In a separate case, she was sentenced to one year revocation of a drivers license, 30 days jail, 18 mos. prison and two years post-prison supervision after

pleading guilty to failure to perform the duties of a driver - injured persons, and assault IV.

Connor Churchill, 21, placed in diversion program after pleading no contest to DUII (liquor) with a .15% BAC. Other misdemeanor charges pending.

Jacob Adam Evans, 48, sentenced April 17 to five days compensatory service in lieu of jail after pleading no contest to failure to report as a sex offender.

Colby Scott Grieve, 24, charged April 20 with DUII (liquor).

Jesse Douglas McFarland, 38, sentenced to one year suspension of a drivers license, 240 hours jail, two years bench probation and a \$2,000 fine after pleading guilty to DUII (liquor) with a .27% BAC and recklessly endangering another person. Dismissed: reckless driving.

Donald Riley Nelson, 25, charged April 24 with burglary I and theft II. Bail: \$15,000.

Kourtney Rivers, 29, cited April 25 for speeding 116/55 on Hwy. 20 near Sodaville.

Allison Jane Thompson, 36, placed in diversion program after pleading guilty to DUII (liquor). A charge of refusal to test for intoxicants was dismissed with prejudice.

Morgan Jaylene Walker, 28, charged April 20 with DUII (liquor).

Exzavier Jamar Wright, 25, charged April 22 with DV - burglary I and DV - assault IV. Bail: \$20,000.

Municipal Court

Barbara A. Dean, 38, guilty by default for operating a vehicle without driving privileges, DU - fines \$2,030, license suspended.

Candace R. Fisher, 39, pleaded no contest to cell phone use while driving - fine \$165.

Drema M. Fowler, 60, pleaded guilty to criminal mischief II - fine \$731, 12 mos. probation, no contact orders.

Catherine J. Hampton, 36, guilty by default for DWS, DU - fines \$3,030, license suspended.

Caterina Hardy-Lancellottie, 48, pleaded guilty to theft III - fine \$301, five days work crew, 12 mos. probation, no contact orders.

Johnathan L. Hill, 54, pleaded

no contest DWS - fine \$375.

Ryan J. Hutchinson, 38, pleaded guilty to criminal mischief II x2, offensive littering, criminal trespass II - fines \$3,655, 180 days jail suspended, 10 days work crew, probation. Dismissed: criminal mischief II x2, criminal trespass II.

Matthew C. Jennings, 41, pleaded no contest to criminal DWS - fine \$3,701, 18 mos. probation.

Alicia K. Martinez, 41, DUII - fine \$1,406, one year suspension of drivers license, 180 days jail suspended, 10 days work crew, 60 mos. probation, drug & alcohol evaluation and treatment, victim impact panel. Dismissed: operating a vehicle without driving privileges,

failure to drive within lane.

Athena L. Noble, 42, pleaded no contest to DWS, DU - fines \$740.

Robert A. Oshea, 73, pleaded no contest to failure to carry proof of insurance - dismissed with \$150 fee.

Hunter A. Ringheimer, 33, guilty by default for DWS, DU - fines \$3,030, license suspended.

Frank J. St. John, 25, pleaded guilty to DUII - fine \$2,506, one year suspension of drivers license, 180 days jail suspended, 10 days work crew, 36 mos. probation, drug & alcohol evaluation and treatment.

Travis L. Siler, 46, pleaded no contest to DWS (reduced to operating a vehicle without

driving privileges) - fine \$265.

Morgan J. Walker, 28, pleaded no contest to DUII - fine \$4,306, one year suspension of driver license, 180 days jail suspended, 10 days work crew, 60 mos. probation, no contact orders. Dismissed: FTA II.

Franklin J. Whitton, 45, pleaded no contest to disorderly conduct II - fine \$416, 90 days jail suspended, 10 days work crew, 60 mos. probation, no contact orders. Dismissed: FTA II.

James A. Wood, 41, guilty by default for failure to install ignition interlock device, DWS, DU - fines \$5,045, license suspended.

From our Files



Four children were injured when this Foster grade school bus was struck by a log truck two miles east of Foster on Hwy. 20 in 1951.

MAY 3, 1951

Some Foster school children were injured when a log truck crashed into a school bus this week. Charles Cotton, 7, received the worst injury with a skull fracture. Others injured were Dale Sturdevant, Beulah Wallace and Betty Cotton. The log truck driver, Clyde W. Hackney, of Lebanon, crashed into the rear of the school bus as the bus attempted a turn off of Hwy. 20 near a blind curve. The driver was cited for following too closely.

Dick Meyer's new Music and Appliance store is set to open soon, located in the former Vogue dress shop building at 930 M St. Meyer was associated for three years with the Johnny Walker Music Store in Lebanon and is known in this area as a dance band leader. He will sell a complete line of appliances, instruments and records, and will offer instrument repair services as well as space for a teaching studio.

APRIL 29, 1976

A program entitled "Instrumental Showcase" with 276 band members in concert will be given in the high school gym this week. The performance is presented by the band departments of Sweet Home schools, from elementary to high school. Paul McLain and Ted Marshall will direct. Giving solos are Bill Harriman (trumpet), Mark Gregory (guitar), Pam Mulholland (clarinet), Jeff Black (trumpet), Donna Durdin (saxophone) and Carl Speck (saxophone).

Civil Air Patrol fliers and the LCSO assisted when two cross-country skiers pinpointed the wreckage of a plane in heavy timber near Iron Mountain. The pilot, Richard Larsen, of Spokane, apparently died when his light plane crashed near Tombstone Summit on Hwy. 20.

MAY 2, 2001

The budget for City of Sweet Home includes a proposition to move Public Works functions to City Hall and create a "one stop permit center" for more efficient business with the consolidation of the building division and planning. Another change in the budget is the departure of the fire department, which is now a separate taxing district. With the completion of the new police facility and departure of the fire department, the budget will have a \$1.6 million reduction.

Sweet Home City Council decided to cut penalties, interest and amount owed on delinquent transient occupancy taxes by the Foster Lake KOA campground by \$2,000. The topic caused a stir as the KOA owner believed the taxes were not valid, and City Manager Craig Martin and Councilor Robert Danielson verbally squared off in a heated discussion over whether to place a lien on the property.

Letters to the Editor

School bond measure deserves voters' support

Over the past 25 years the Sweet Home School District has done a fantastic job of making

sure our school facilities are in great condition!

They have leveraged government funds to ensure our children are safe during an earthquake. They have upgraded every elementary school and the junior high school, making sure they are safe and in the process, they greatly improved the aesthetics of each.

Multiple projects have been completed by the maintenance staff and paid for from the district's long term maintenance fund. These improvements have been done without increasing our community's tax rate. They have also saved all of us a great deal of money in the process.

Very few Oregon school districts have been such good stewards of their school facilities and their tax dollars.

The major school project remaining in the district that needs immediate at-

tention is the high school. A good portion of the high school was upgraded about 25 years ago. The facilities facing Long Street were replaced or renovated.

These buildings are now a major source of pride for our community, our school district and most of all our children.

It is now time to complete the remaining renovations at the high school. Many of the classrooms are in disrepair. Many of the roofs are flat with multiple leaks. These classrooms need to be replaced.

Some classes are still held in portable classrooms that were old and close to the end of their usefulness 25 years ago.

One last need that I want to point out is the major safety issue that exists at our high school.

There are currently over 40 different entrance points into our high school facilities.

Twenty-five years ago that was not a major concern. However, in today's world it now is.

The number of school shootings over this time period have gone up dra-

matically!

The current project in this bond will bring the number of uncontrolled entrances to zero. All entrances will be secured and monitored.

The district currently qualifies for over \$12 million dollars in state grant funds that will help the district pay for these impoverishments. Those funds, however, are dependent upon the passage of our bond.

This state funding support will disappear if this bond fails. These funds will cover a significant percentage of the costs of this project.

Another important factor of this bond measure is that it will not increase our tax rate!

This bond measure is a no-brainer! I strongly urge you to vote yes on MEASURE 22-214.

Larry Horton
Retired Sweet Home School District Superintendent

Editor:

I've been involved with transportation and land use for 35 years. During that time I've observed repeated costly project failures and too much focus on "social engineering" by ODOT (Oregon Depart-

ment of Transportation).

A few months ago, The New Era published my letter supporting the referendum to require a public vote on the big gas tax and fee increases.

Neighbors across the state worked in cold wet weather, gathering 251,000 signatures in a few short weeks. It was amazing.

A special thanks to Angelita Sanchez for volunteering as a referendum captain in Linn County. The volunteers far exceeded expectations. She rocked it.

The message from the referendum goes far beyond May. We can no longer afford to fund a broken machine. We have reached our limit.

Please vote to reject the unjustified increases. Vote No on M-120.

Les Poole
Sweet Home

Sanchez has been leader for community
Editor:

I have been asked about whom I support for House of Representatives: It is Angelita Sanchez.

I have known her for years, first as a founder of Timber Unity. She was organizing teams to work issues in Salem; next, in her role as a Sweet Home city

councilor and in the recent past as the legislative assistant for Sen. Cedric Hayden.

Through all of those years, I've seen her as a small business owner, concerned about her employees and their job security. I have seen a mother, caring about her children's lives and happiness. I've seen her as a citizen, concerned about the visual blight of homeless and the impact on the homeless individual and the downtown businesses.

Through all the ways I have known her and worked with her, she has been a partner in solving the issue. She has continually built a resume of work, but more importantly she has built up skills, experience and connections. She has been part of the Oregon legislative process. She has been meeting with state and federal partners, pushing for Linn County and Sweet Home issues. She has led regional efforts from Sweet Home to work on natural resource issues.

She has prepared, she is ready... Support her as the next District 11 state representative.

Will Tucker
Lebanon

BIRTH CENTER

From page 1

tan Lebanon Community Hospital. "Our teams have worked carefully and consistently to make sure we can resume care in a safe and reliable way. We're looking forward to continuing to support parents through every stage of preg-

nancy and delivery."

During the temporary pause, the birth center received cosmetic updates including new flooring and paint, funded by the Lebanon Community Hospital Foundation and their donors.

A community open house will be held from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Friday, May 1, when guests are invited to

tour the space and meet the care team.

"We appreciate the patience shown by staff, patients and the community, and are looking forward to welcoming families back to the birth center," Kimberlain said.

For more information about labor and delivery services, visit samhealth.org/Baby.

THE
NEW ERA
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Willamette Speedway enters new season with big change

By Scott Swanson
Of The New Era

Willamette Speedway kicked off its 60th season on April 18 – and a new era for the one-third mile clay oval on the outskirts of Lebanon with its first-ever NA-SCAR-sanctioned event.

“It’s bigger and better than ever,” said Cory Penfold, who has owned and operated the track with his wife Sandy since 2022.

Cory Penfold said this is his 50th year at the track.

“I started going there when I was 2,” he said, noting that his dad Dan Penfold raced at Willamette.

When he was 12, he determined that he wanted one day to own the speedway.

“Thirty-five years later, I finally made it happen,” Penfold said.

After years of ownership by Clair and Evelyn Arnold, then by Jimmy and Jerry Schram, who owned the racetrack at 36606 Airport Drive from 2010 to 2022, he saw that dream become a reality.

Penfold said they’ve made changes, but some big ones have happened this year as they’ve switched sanctioning bodies, from the International Motor Contest Association (IMCA) to NASCAR.

Penfold said he’s been interested in switching to NASCAR, recognized as the premier motorsports organization, for some time, but he was battling advanced Stage IV cancer last year and “had to put that move on hold.”

“If I wasn’t going to be there, I didn’t want to do it,” he said. “When I got over cancer, we pulled the trigger.”

The only other NA-SCAR-sanctioned track is in Coos Bay, he said.

The move means changes at Willamette, one being the return, after a decade, of a guaranteed points fund for the track championship, Penfold said.

This season’s Division I (Late Model) champion is set to collect a \$7,000 championship check, \$3,500 from NASCAR and the other half from the Penfolds. Also, the Penfolds are matching the NASCAR payout through the top five positions and paying out through the top 10, something no other track in the region is doing.

Also, the number of divisions has been reduced to six: Late Models, Street Stocks, Limited Late Models, Hornets, Modifieds and a division Willamette is calling WPKC (Western Predator Cage Karts) Cage Kloners Leveling the Field and Raising the Stakes.

The move to combine what previously were Modified and B Modified classes into a single division is intended to increase competition and interest, he said, noting that



Willamette Speedway owners Sandy and Cory Penfold prepare for a night of racing at the track outside Lebanon. – Photo by Sarah Brown

Willamette already did that successfully with the Sportsman and Super Sports classes.

“They told me we couldn’t do it,” he said of that move last year. “We had 17 different winners in 22 different starts. The car count was low before and now we get a full field.”

For the new Modified division, he said, “we took a little bit from the Modifieds and gave a whole bunch to the B Modifieds to level the playing field.”

“They get to race for more money.”

Penfold said the change may be a work in progress, and tweaks may be made as they go along.

“It may not be perfect at first, but it was really close,” he said of the opener. “Everybody’s competing in a small group of drivers. We’re going to form our own rule package, combine the two and increase the car count.”

The WPKC competition, open to drivers 16 and up, will include three races on the big track and 12 on the small infield track, those on Sundays.

Penfold said some of the Karts qualified with faster times than street stocks.

“It’s a great way for anybody to get into racing,” he said. “It’s not as costly.”

Another advantage of the switch to NASCAR, he said, is that local drivers are no lon-

ger limited to racing for just track championships.

“Now they’re racing for track, state, regional and national titles,” Penfold said.

“The Division 1 champion, if he wins nationals, gets to get his award at the national banquet,” he noted. “We just like the structure of NA-SCAR. There are many benefits.”

“It will definitely enhance the show for the fans,” Penfold said. “Providing a payout like this increases car counts and gives teams more opportunities for sponsorship and national recognition. My team and I studied this program top to bottom. Every promoter I spoke with in the Weekly Racing Series reported nothing but success – increased revenue, better marketing support, and facility improvements that benefit everyone from the drivers to the fans.”

He noted that the \$1,770 payout for Late Models winner Joey Tanner, who won last year’s championship, was higher than any last year.

Other off-season changes include new flooring in the men’s restroom, which “desperately needed to be replaced and new paint under the grandstands, he said.

“We are constantly upgrading the facilities,” adding that their goal is to make Willamette a “premier” track on the West Coast.

A new gate has been in-

stalled in Turn 3 to prevent major wrecks, he said, noting that improvement was engineered by Shawn Anderson of Sweet Home-based Anderson Enterprises. “It’s a wonderful addition for safety.”

He said their goal is to “get

local businesses and community members back to the track,” noting that they estimate that Willamette brings some \$4 million into the Lebanon community each summer, to gas stations, hotels, stores and restaurants. Plus, the track splits 50/50 winnings with local schools and the Veterans Home, he said.

The opening night lineup drew a near-capacity crowd, Penfold said.

The main grandstands, which seat 3,323, were nearly full and there were “a few hundred” more in the area behind Turn 1, as well as pits filled to capacity to watch Tanner and the other winners: Clay Debban in Limited Late Models; Bricen James in Modifieds; Shane Phillips in Street Stocks; and Matt Bangle in Hornets.

“If Saturday night was any indication of how the season is going to go, we are going to be successful,” Penfold said. “It was a large crowd.”

Speedway racing typically takes place each Saturday night through September, with occasional events on Sundays. Learn more at www.willamettespeedway.com.

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.

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.

Commissioners OK outdoor assembly permit for hazelnut event

By Alex Paul
Linn County Communications

At a public hearing held after their regular board meeting on Tuesday, April 21, Linn County Commissioners Roger Nyquist, Sherrie Sprenger and Will Tucker approved a Level 3A Outdoor Assembly Permit for a one-day Nut Growers Society Summer Tour.

The event will be held on Aug. 5 on 98 acres of Third Knight Farms, owned by James Lee III that is zoned Exclusive Farm Use.

The property is approximately 3.78 miles east of the city of Tangent and 1.95 miles east of the intersection of Hwy. 34 and Interstate 5.

Christine Roth, executive

director of the Oregon Hazelnut Commission and the Nut Growers Society, said the field day caters to growers, processors and machinery providers only. It is not a public event.

The event may host as many as 800 individuals. According to the Planning & Building Department's staff report, last year's summer tour was held on a nut farm near Dayton.

Roth said Oregon has a long history of growing hazelnuts – also called filberts – with the Nut Growers Society founded in 1915.

Participants will enter the farm off Goltra Road. Emergency vehicles will use Hwy. 34 for entrance and egress.

There was no public opposition to the permit request Tuesday and Associ-

ate Planner Julia Fox said the Planning & Building Department did not previously receive any comments in opposition to the permit request.

In other business the commissioners:

- Opened bids for the North River Drive Improvement Project. The bids will be evaluated by the Road Department staff and a winning bid will be brought back to the board for final approval. Bids were: North Santiam Paving, \$2,247,650; River Bend Construction, \$2,339,239; Knife River, \$2,718,238.14; Wildish Construction, \$2,796,343.72.

- Opened bids for the North River Drive Public Access Improvement Project. The bids will be evaluated by the Road Depart-

ment staff and a winning bid will be brought back to the board for final approval. Bids were: River Bend Construction, \$963,845.47; North Santiam Paving, \$992,088; Knife River, \$1,021,117.42; Wildish Construction, \$1,034,461.86.

- Were told by Dr. Adam Brady that there were 42 births – 20 girls and 22 boys – and 129 deaths – 63 females and 66 males – in the county in March. There were three suicides, all females.

- Extended a lease to provide office space for the Ball Metal Beverage Container Corporation in the Wheelhouse office complex at 421 Water Ave. in downtown Albany for three additional months.

- Approved amending the

Linn County Planning Commission Bylaws and Operating Procedures to include new state revisions and to change the starting time of Planning Commission meetings from 7 p.m. to 6 p.m.

- Approved a lease agreement for use of the Courthouse Diner by the Mad Platter Café.

- Appointed Kerry Johnson of Scio to the Linn County Budget Committee.

- Announced that the 2026-27 Linn County Budget Hearings would begin at 9:30 a.m. on Monday, April 27, at the Linn County Fair & Expo Center. The meetings are open to the public. A schedule of hearings is posted at www.linncounty.gov/media/47991.

Election season picks up momentum with first public forum

Linda Ziedrich of the League of Women Voters, center, introduces state Senate and House candidates, from left, Ivan Maluski, Ken Jackola, Patrick Starnes, Sierrah Williams and Jack Tibbetts, who participated in a forum open to the public, hosted by the League and the Lebanon Rotary Club Tuesday, April 21, at the United Methodist Church in Lebanon. A video of the forum can be seen at www.facebook.com/LeagueOfWomenVotersOfLinnCountyOregon.



– League of Women Voters photo

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

Sunday Service 11am
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 Bible Study
10 am Sundays.

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541-818-0022

 **St. Helen**
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www.sweethomecatholicchurch.com

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

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

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

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10:30 a.m. Children's Church

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 **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



Sweet Home Elks Lodge #1972 is proud to announce our new 2026/27 officers: Steve Schuld - Exalted Ruler, Carolyn McDermed - Leading Knight, David Kem - Loyal Knight, Travis Mason - Lecturing Knight, Robin Sherer - Secretary, Jennifer Castaneda - Treasurer, Matthew Bechtel - Esquire, Stephen Groce - Tiler, Deena Bechtel - Chaplain, Ahren Kruegel - Inner Guard, Bonnie McCollum - Trustee, Corinda Stubbs - Trustee, Travis Dunbar - Trustee, Duane Winslow - Trustee, Bob Ryan - Trustee

Lebanon seeks grant to expand public library

The City of Lebanon is inviting comments on a grant it intends to apply for in order to expand the Lebanon Public Library.

The city is eligible to apply for a 2026 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) from Business Oregon, which would provide funding for public facilities and housing improvements, primarily for persons with low and moderate incomes.

The city intends to apply for the grant to add approximately 1,200 square feet to the public library at 55 Academy St. The addition will expand the children's area and provide dedicated space for Storytimes, STEM programs, crafts, book clubs and other youth activities. It is estimated that the project will benefit at least 66,156 persons, of whom 59.6% are low- or moderate-income.

A public hearing will be held by the Lebanon City Council at 6 p.m. on Wednesday, May 13, at the City of Lebanon Public Library, 55 Academy St. The hearing gives the City Council an opportunity to obtain citizen views about the project, but also to respond to questions and comments about community development and housing needs, especially the

needs of low- and moderate-income persons, as well as other needs in the community that might be assisted with a CDBG project.

The location of the hearing is accessible to persons with disabilities. Those needing special accommodations to attend or participate may contact Julie Fisher at 541-258-4264.

Written comments are also welcome and must be received by 5 p.m. on Tuesday, May 12, at 925 Main St., Lebanon, Oregon, 97355. Both oral and written comments will be considered by the Lebanon City Council in deciding whether to apply.

Approximately \$11 million will be awarded to Oregon non-metropolitan cities and counties in 2026. The maximum grant that a city or county can receive is \$1.5 million. CDBG funds come from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development.

More information about Oregon CDBGs, the proposed project and records about the city's past use of the grant funds is available for public review at City Hall, 925 Main St., Lebanon during regular office hours. Advance notice is requested.

Board wants to increase annual savings for Lebanon Pool needs

By Sarah Brown
Of The New Era

The Lebanon Aquatic District touched on financial matters during its April 20 meeting.

The board approved a resolution dissolving the Swim Club fund in order to simplify budgeting.

Executive Director Jill Smith said she'd like to dissolve the Swim Club fund in the budget and move it all into the General Fund.

"It's not going to change anything in the Swim Club, but it will just be easier for the accountant to allocate things," Smith said.

The resolution dissolving the fund states it was originally formed "for the purpose of supporting the Lebanon Community Swim Club," and "the Board of Directors has determined that the purpose of the fund has been fulfilled, is no longer necessary, or is otherwise no longer aligned with the operational or financial means of the district."

Concerning renovation plans, Board Chair Kim Kendall said, "The school money has disappeared and we won't be able to use that for the renovation, so we're looking for alternative funding sources."

Board member Darla Bulmer said they had made a request for quotes from sub-contractors, and so far the

school has received a quote for repair of the drain. She expects to be able to talk more about it at the next meeting.

Board member Jereme Guenther told the board they have historically saved about \$50,000 a year for savings.

"That is way too little," he said. "We need, at bare minimum, \$100,000 a year if we're gonna be doing our repairs budgets."

He believes they could get that savings up to as much as \$140,000 a year after a loan is paid off, he said. Even after immediate-need repairs or renovations are done, it's still a number he wants to see continually saved.

"We need to be saving this money year over year for 10 years to reach a large pool of money for the next big bill," Guenther said.

Bulmer noted the district currently budgets approximately \$35,000 a year for maintenance - separate from renovation savings - which should continue to be sufficient once they are out of older equipment.

"Our problem has been we can never get away from the Band-Aids and the fixes and the delays," she said.

Guenther reiterated the \$100,000-\$140,000 needs to be saved, and not spent, "or we're going to go under."

In other business:

• Smith reported the swim lesson spots are full. Staff are

considering holding a "swim clinic" day for all skill levels during summer.

• Smith reported a handicap chair was installed in the girls locker room, and other minor repairs have been made.

• The board held discussions with Matt Reed, of PEAK internet, regarding the possibility of signing up for their Internet and phone services, and sponsorship.

• Guenther reported the payroll has not decreased, despite losing a roughly full-time position, so he will look deeper into why that is the case.

• Robert Waterhouse, of Friends of Lebanon Pool, gave an update on the Splash for Cash fundraiser. The board clarified the need to be careful that pool staff do not get involved in asking for donations, for legal reasons. Also, Kendall asked for clarification on the purpose of the funds raised, as she read in one place it was for renovation projects, but the fliers list specific purchases. Waterhouse said that in addition to the renovation project, they are looking into ways to encourage more pool users, which might include buying swim passes or offering scholarships.

• Kendall reported Terry Cadigan will replace Susan Williamson on the Budget Committee.

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Fun and Games at Lacombe



Photos by Sarah Brown

The Lacombe Parent Teacher Club held its Spring Carnival fundraiser on Saturday, April 25, at the school. Kids were treated to life-sized games of Kerplunk, Tetris and billiard golf. In other parts of the gym, children played cupcake walk, ring toss, cornhole and limbo. An oversized balloon provided an opportunity for kids to stumble around the room as they bounced it in the air, while other children waited patiently to receive a balloon animal or get their face painted. The cafeteria offered respite with food, drinks and a silent auction. Proceeds benefit school needs and the eighth grade trip to Washington, D.C. at top, Ivy True, 6, at right, tries her hand in a life-sized game of billiard golf. Above left, children fill a container full of balls for another game of Kerplunk. Above right students work together on a balancing act of Tetris. At left, Kolby Holt flexes backward in a game of limbo.

PUBLIC SAFETY From page 3

SHMC warrants for FTA in contempt, escape and theft cases, LMC warrant for FTA in criminal citation case, and LCCC warrant in fentanyl possession case. 18th/Vine. Cited and released.

8:05 p.m. - Caller reported elderly male who appeared lost in 5400 block Main. Officer responded, male requested ride to SHPD.

LEBANON POLICE

2:47 a.m. - Leeroy Travis Freeman, 60, cited on LMC warrant for PV. Johnny Ray Mowdy, 61, cited on LMC warrant for FTA.

12:13 p.m. - Subject said she was overcharged at Subway. Employee confirmed it, prepared to refund what was overcharged, but subject got aggressive and was asked to leave.

12:15 p.m. - Ricky Allen Aldrich, 44, cited on LMC warrant for PV. 2:54 p.m. - Fraud reported when victim clicked on link in a Facebook marketplace post and gave scammer access to his computer, who accessed banking info. Loss: \$5,000.

4:41 p.m. - Safeway employee stopped theft \$62 in items from subject who then threatened his life.

6:45 p.m. - Dennis Hamilton Borden, 44, cited on LMC warrant for PV and LJC warrant for criminal trespass II.

9:18 p.m. - McKennon Daves Prentiss, 29, cited for DU.

9:51 p.m. - Raymond Lyle Tressel, 30, cited on LCCC warrant for FTA - possession of meth.

LCSO/OSP SWEET HOME/S. COUNTY

2:37 p.m. - Assault reported in Sunnyside County Park, 44900 block Quartzville, between two acquaintances. Victim declined to cooperate with investigation.

4:01 p.m. - Driver warned for displaying two different license plates, 27900 block Hwy. 20.

6:42 p.m. - Crash reported in 23700 block Brush Creek. Debra Edmonson, 67, of Springfield, cited for DU. Injuries reported. Report taken.

LCSO/OSP LEBANON

2:08 a.m. - Andrea Harper, 41, of Sweet Home, cited on Benton County Circuit Court warrant, cited for DWS and DU, 4600 block Santiam Hwy. Report taken.

2:09 a.m. - Kyle Hagle, 16, of Lebanon, cited for DU, failure to register vehicle, 000 block Dewey.

3:20 a.m. - David Bond, 21, of Lebanon, cited for operating vehicle without privileges, 100 block E. Oak.

10:19 a.m. - Kally Rydz, 52, of Crabtree, arrested for DWS, cited for speeding, no DU. 35200 block Cold Springs. Report taken.

11:14 p.m. - Ted Maddux, 52, of Lebanon, cited for DU, failure to register vehicle, 700 block E. Grant. Vehicle towed. Report taken.

APRIL 24

SWEET HOME POLICE

4:27 a.m. - Kevin Lee Cuomo, 30, arrested by Lebanon police on SHMC warrants for FTA in criminal misconduct, trespassing and theft cases. Cited to appear May 22.

4:52 a.m. - Miguel Alfredo Gutierrez, 47, arrested by Cottage Grove police on SHMC warrant for FTA in giving false information to police officer case. Cited to appear May 27.

8:29 a.m. - Caller reported burning trash in 1200 block 46th. Officer responded, contacted female, who was warned about code violation.

12:03 p.m. - Caller reported burglary in 1900 block 19th. Home was involved in a structure fire last fall and victim believes someone is entering through the openings that were caused by the fire. Officer responded, report taken for burglary II, theft II. Investigation continuing. Victim working on a list of stolen items.

1:08 pm. - Caller reported someone entered their home in 800 block 27th when they weren't home. Officer responded, info noted.

2:38 p.m. - Dustin Kyle Westling, 39, arrested in Marion County on SHMC for FTC in DWS case. 9:02 p.m. - Natasha Ellison, 26, cited for DU, warned for multiple violations, after traffic stop prompted by alleged FTOTCD in 1800 block Main.

9:47 p.m. - Christopher Michael Lindner, 53, arrested on AMC warrant for FTC in contempt case, SHPD temporary shelter, 1950 Main. Cited and released.

11:30 p.m. - Diana Lynn Hall, 69, arrested on LCCC warrant for contempt of court, LMC warrant for probation violation in theft case, 12th/Long. Cited and released.

11:36 pm. - Caller reported male in 1200 block 41st yelling outside. Officer responded, male was trespassed.

LEBANON POLICE

2:07 a.m. - Cameron James Clayton Babb, 25, cited on LMC warrant for contempt of court.

3:52 a.m. - Kevin Lee Cuomo, 30, cited on SHMC warrants for FTAs - criminal mischief II, criminal trespass II, theft II.

10:52 a.m. - Paint thrown on truck during the night, 100 block Camellia Dr.

1:25 p.m. - Mutilated cat found in someone's yard, 1400 block Filbert St.

3:48 p.m. - Driver following emergency vehicle too close, appeared to be swerving, made sexual gestures to officer. Juvenile cited for following too closely.

6:31 p.m. - Juvenile reporting he is suicidal, taken into custody with probable cause when police saw him punch dad. Charged with attempted assault IV. Report taken.

LCSO/OSP SWEET HOME/S. COUNTY

8:15 p.m. - Jackie Stutz, 49, of Brownsville, arrested for criminal trespass II following report of armed disturbance in 1000 block Pine. Report taken.

9:07 p.m. - Caller reported theft from vehicle in 300 block Kirk. Juveniles suspected, according to LCSO, but no arrests made immediately. Investigation ongoing. Loss valued at \$200. Report taken.

LCSO/OSP LEBANON

11:09 a.m. - Crash reported in 32900 block Brewster. Single vehicle. Amber Mulligan, 32, of Lebanon, cited for driving without license. No injuries reported. Report taken.

See Public Safety, Page 11

Sports Round-up

It's been a tough run so far for Lebanon's baseball and softball teams, as both sat in seventh place in the Mid-Willamette Conference coming into this week, after facing some of the league's top teams.

WARRIOR BASEBALL FACE LEAGUE TOP TEAMS

The Warriors played three baseball games last week, a home-and-home with league-leader Corvallis on Monday, April 20, and Wednesday, and a road game at Dallas Friday, April 24.

Corvallis is undefeated and leading the league 7-0. Dallas is close behind in third place with 6-1. The Warriors took their lumps.

The first Corvallis game was a very well-played, closely contested game with excellent pitching and defense on both sides.

Trenton Lewis threw a five-hitter at the Spartans and the Warriors turned a classic Von Runden-to-Vandiver-to-King double play.

Unfortunately, the Spartans threw a four-hitter at Lebanon's batters, and the hosts managed to score a lone run in the bottom of the seventh to win 1-0.

Coach Jeff Stolsig was very impressed.

"This was a great game," he said. "It was a tremendous pitching performance by Trenton Lewis." The second game, on Lebanon's home diamond, was all in the Spartans' favor.

They threw a two-hitter at the Warriors.

Corvallis managed only seven hits but worked nine walks, leaving Lebanon with a 13-1 loss.

At Dallas, the Warriors fell 11-5.

Lebanon outthit its hosts 9-6, but gave up 10 walks.

"We outplayed Dallas in many categories," Stolsig said. "We played pretty good defense and we swung the bats well. We have a couple things to clean up and we will be a very good squad."

Jaidyn Von Ruden, Cohen Vandiver and Lewis each collected two hits for the Warriors.

This week, the Warriors host Dallas on Monday, April 27, and have a home-and-home with South Albany on Wednesday and Friday.

- Mike Warner

HUSKIES BEAT DEFENDING LEAGUE BASEBALL CHAMP

Sweet Home opened its Oregon West Conference campaign last week, losing a series with defending champion Philomath 2-1 - a big change from last year, when the Huskies lost all three games by a combined score of 56-5.

In the first game, Sweet Home started off hot, taking a 3-2 lead into the bottom of the third. After giving up a double, the Huskies gave up multiple free bases, walking five batters and hitting another.

Along with solid hitting Philomath was able to rattle off 10 runs in the inning and end

the game due to mercy rule.

Game 2, on Thursday at Philomath, was a big difference.

Luke Rosa pitched all seven innings, throwing a season-high 97 pitches, with 61 going for strikes. He and the Huskies defense only allowed seven hits and three runs, keeping the Warriors to just one run for the first six innings, then allowing just two in the seventh.

The game was very close; the Huskies were up by one going into the top of the fifth, where Sweet Home scored two more to make the game, 4-1.

The Huskies then broke open the game with four runs in the top of the seventh, Philomath responded with two runs, but it was too little too late.

Kyle Zajic led the team with three hits, two of them doubles, and three runs. Three Huskies had two RBIs each: Connor Northern, Rosa and Damon Lawrence, who delivered a triple.

As a team they had 10 total hits, with two sacrifice flies and seven RBIs.

This was the Huskies' first game with zero errors

The Huskies struggled again in Game 3, with four Sweet Home pitchers making appearances on the mound, walking a total of 10 batters in the 16-6 loss.

Zajic started on the mound, and things were going well, with the Huskies defense keeping Philomath scoreless through two innings.

In the top of the third Philomath started to get some momentum with two singles but another good tag at the plate by Jake Smith kept the Warriors from getting a score. After another single, though, AJ Altishin hit a home run to even the score at three runs apiece.

Sweet Home was able to score after a single from Eddie Taylor brought Tregon Francis home to stay on top 4-3.

But things went downhill after that, as a combination of walks, a hit batter gave the

visitors some traction and a 8-4 lead coming into the bottom of the fourth.

Caleb Babcock, last year's 4A Player of the Year and First Team All-State left-hander, took over on the mound then for the visitors.

It wasn't over yet, as Luke Rosa banded a fastball over the centerfield scoreboard to put the Huskies back in it, 8-6, but back to back innings of poor defense and now stalemated offense allowed the Warriors to score four more runs in each of the fifth and sixth frames to once again end the contest on the mercy rule.

In the second week of league play, Sweet Home hosts Cascade on Monday and Thursday, with a visit to the Cougars Wednesday.

- Keeghan Gittins

WARRIOR SOFTBALL FACE TOUGH LEAGUE COMPETITION

The Warriors finished last week 1-2 after a close win at home against Crescent Valley, sandwiched by a 1-9 loss at West Albany on Monday, April 20, and an 18-8 defeat at Silverton Friday. Silverton and West Albany are second and third in the league, respectively, coming into this week.

West Albany was a tough test for Lebanon. The Bulldogs jumped on the Warriors early, scoring five runs in the bottom of the first inning. The Bulldog pitcher throttled the Warrior hitters holding them to just two hits and one run.

The Warrior defense was much better the rest of the game. But, Albany added insurance runs in the fourth and sixth for the 9-1 win.

The Crescent Valley game was much more in Lebanon's favor. The Warriors outscored the Raiders 11-10.

The Warriors plated single runs in the first and fourth innings to take the lead. Crescent Valley, held scoreless until the fifth inning, exploded for nine runs in that frame. That

might have signaled Lebanon's demise, but not so fast.

The Warriors rallied for a big inning themselves scoring six runs in the bottom of the sixth to cut the lead to one. Warrior pitching held Crescent Valley scoreless in the top of the seventh and the Lebanon bats scored two runs in the bottom of the seventh to take the win.

Lebanon bats were much more active in this game. Going 11-34, and drawing seven walks. Tatum Cole went 2-5 with a home run and a double. Scarlett French also recorded two hits including a double. Majestah Nida also recorded two hits.

On Friday, the Warriors outthit the Foxes 9-7, but had four errors and gave up 14 walks as Silverton got away with an 18-8 win.

Bright spots for the Warrior offense included Cole, who went 1-3 with another home run and three RBIs. Hailey Myers and Taelyn Whitney each collected two hits for the Warriors.

This coming week, Lebanon has only two games, hosting Dallas on Monday and traveling to South Albany on Wednesday, April 29.

- Mike Warner

LEBANON BOYS TENNIS

Lebanon's boys won two matches against West Albany April 23 in a 5-2 team loss that included three doubles matches.

Micah Zderad defeated the Bulldogs' Gage Penselin 6-3, 6-2 in the No. 1 singles match and Colton Parrish downed Javier Soto 7-5, 6-3 at No. 4. At No. 2 singles, Ryan Robinson took West Albany's Alek Milburn the distance before falling 4-6, 6-4, 6-3.

Zderad, playing No. 1 singles, was the only winner for Lebanon against Corvallis in a 7-1 team loss on April 21, beating Kellen Reeve 6-3, 6-0.

The Warriors had two other matches that were battles, both Hunter Jacobsen (7-5,

6-3) in the No. 2 singles match Robinson at No. 4 (6-3, 7-5), keeping the scores close in their matches.

"The big bright spot from those two matches were Micah Zderad getting a win in both matches in two sets each," Coach Jacob Butler said. "He is our No. 1 singles player, who has been playing well the last couple weeks and is positioning himself well for a district run. We are hoping that he can even get seeded fourth going into the district bracket."

LEBANON GIRLS TENNIS

Lebanon tied West Albany 4-4 on April 23, winning all four of its singles matches.

Alison Frey won the No. 1 match 6-1, 6-3, Hailey Destowet won No. 2 6-4, 4-6, Gwyn Wheeler won the No. 3 match 7-6 (2), 6-4, and Anne Workman took the No. 4 match 6-2, 6-2.

Against Corvallis on April 21, Frey was the only winner for the Warriors in a 7-1 team loss, beating Cosette Torres Torres 7-5, 6-2 in the No. 1 singles match. Hailey Destowet gave the Spartans' Callie Bennett a fight in the No. 2 match, but lost 6-3, 7-5.

LEBANON BOYS GOLF

Sam Tunstill shot a one-over 73 to win a Mid-Willamette Conference tournament hosted by Lebanon at Mallard Creek on Monday, April 20, leading the Warriors to a fourth-place finish in a field of nine teams.

Lebanon finished with a 320, behind Corvallis (309), West Albany (314) and Crescent Valley (319).

Corvallis' Thomas Mendoza finished two strokes behind Tunstill for second, with a 74.

Austin George finished as the Warriors' second-lowest scorer with an 80, followed by Jaden Offutt (83), Tanner Lee (84) and Joey Squires (97). Jeremiah Emerson was seeded sixth for the Warriors,

See Sports Roundup, Page 22



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Huskies, Eagles make marks at Meet of Champions

By Scott Swanson
Of The New Era

Top track and field athletes from 4A Division and smaller schools converged Saturday, April 25, for the Meet of Champions, which gave some local athletes the opportunity to test themselves against those they likely will see at state this year.

"In some events I think we might have seen tougher competition than we'll see at the state meet," said Sweet Home Coach Nathan Whitfield, who together with Cascade Coach Molly Gehley, organized the meet, which is held annually and for which all participants must qualify.

"I think meet went really well," Whitfield said. "All I heard was positive. When you have a meet like this, things are going to go wrong, but for the most part it went pretty well without a hitch."

Sweet Home's boys were third with 62 points in the field of 31 teams, behind 3A Division Blanchet Catholic (82) and Philomath (69.5). East Linn Christian's boys finished with 24 points, in a tie for ninth with Knappa, which was last fall's 2A/1A state cross-country winner, and had six qualifiers in the boys 3000 and three in the 1500 on Saturday.

Sweet Home's boys team of Landon Murry, Sam Barringer, Dilan Davis and freshman Brayden Driver won the 4x100



Above, Sweet Home's Jayla Moore, left, hands off to Loralai Mark in the girls 4x100 relay at the Meet of Champions, while East Linn Christian's June Cowan does the same to Lexi Kauffman. Above, center, ELCA's Ryder Howard competes in the long jump. Above, right, Elijah Rodriguez runs the 3000 while, right, Amara Gonzalez jumps to a personal best in the triple jump. See more meet photos at sweethomenews.com.



Photos by Scott Swanson

relay in 44.25, and Driver, Murray and Davis teamed with Ryker Burr to win the 4x400 in 3:34.88.

East Linn sophomore Ryder Howard won the high jump with a leap of 6-4.

Davis was second in the 200 (23.28) and the 400 (51.87) with the Eagles' Josh Rehart right behind him, placing third in the 200 (23.28) and fourth in the 400 (52.45).

Sweet Home's Murry was fourth in the 100 (11.36) and

in the 200, behind Rehart, in 23.47, both PR's for Murry.

On the girls side, East Linn was seventh with 35 points, behind Delphian and Sisters, which tied for fifth with 43. Banks won the girls team competition with 60 points, followed by Junction City (47) and Dayton and Tillamook, which tied for third with 45. Sweet Home's girls were 19th out of 26 teams with 17.33.

June Cowan won the 100 hurdles for East Linn in 16.18

and Lexy Kauffman was second in the 200 (26.60) and third in the 400 (1:00.14).

For Sweet Home's girls, McKenzie Miller was fourth in the 1500 (5:06.72) and the 3000 (11:20.11).

Some particularly outstanding efforts, Whitfield noted, were freshman Elijah Rodriguez's run in the 3000, in which a last-minute scratch opened up an opportunity for him to run - except he hadn't come dressed to compete. Rodriguez had literally five minutes to borrow some spikes and a jersey, and ran to a roughly 17-second PR in 9:54.55, which was 15th in a field of 21 runners spread over two heats.

Similarly, sophomore Acen Webber was a last-minute addition to the 800, for which his best time of 2:13.70 was just outside the qualifiers. But another scratch opened a spot for him in the fastest heat, in which he ran by himself for

much of the race, trailing the pack by about 10 seconds. He finished in 2:12.60, 17th in the field of 24 qualifiers.

Whitfield noted that Sweet Home had 18 placewinners, after basically doubling the number of qualifiers the Huskies had last year.

"Our goal is to always get better," he said. "The level of competition (at the meet) was higher this year too. It was tougher to get in."

See complete local Meet of Champions results and more track news with this story at sweethomenews.com.



Sweet Home's Brayden Driver, left, waits for the baton from Dillan Davis on their way to a win in the boys 4x100.



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PUBLIC SAFETY

From page 8

11:36 a.m. - Caller requested extra patrol after arrow was found on wooded part of private property in 28900 block Sodaville Mountain Home.

12:08 p.m. - Caller reported suspicious vehicle parked at storage facility, 5500 block Santiam Hwy. Vehicle stolen in 2023 was returned to owner.

2:30 pm. - Caller reported being asked to pay in advance for purchase of cows to two different Venmo accounts. Neither was seller's. Caller arrived to pick up cows and there were none. 38000 block River Dr. Report taken for fraud.

7:32 p.m. - Assault reported in 37600 block River Rd. Report taken for assault IV. Suspect not located.

10:07 p.m. - Republic Services trash can reported stolen from 1200 block Cascade. Report taken.

APRIL 23

SWEET HOME POLICE

12:05 a.m. - Stephanie Irene Starkweather arrested on SHMC warrants for FTA in two theft cases and trespass case, and AMC warrant for FTA in theft case. 1300 block Long. Cited and released.

8:42 a.m. - Caller reported their vehicle was hit during the previous night in 200 block 10th. Officer responded, report taken for hit and run.

12:15 p.m. - Caller from Sweet Home Junior High reported juvenile at school in possession of vape. Officer responded, juvenile was counselled and parents notified. Item was confiscated.

12:53 p.m. - Caller from 3100 block Main reported travel trailer stolen from location. Officer responded, report taken for unauthorized entry into motor vehicle. Described as tandem-axle 2019 Forest River, Heritage Glen, cream color with dark gray graphics. The person reporting left it at the location for the bank to repossess but believes it was stolen prior to the bank repossessing.

See Public Safety, Page 22

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ELCA's Knurowski shoots 72 to win home golf tournament at Mallard

By Scott Swanson
Of The New Era

East Linn Christian's Grady Knurowski finished on top of the competition as an individual Tuesday, April 21, as the Eagles hosted a dozen other schools in their only home golf competition of the year, at Mallard Creek.

The Eagles actually fielded two teams in the varsity competition, which tied for sixth overall at 366 each. Over 100 golfers from 13 schools competed in the varsity tournament.

Blanchet won the team title, shooting 320, followed by Santiam Christian (330), Pleasant Hill (344) Salem Academy (349) and Regis (353).

Knurowski, a sophomore, led one of the ELCA teams, delivering an even-par 72 to finish as the top individual in the match, ahead of team winner Blanchet's (320) Dominick Hauge, who was second with 75, and Kaden Orizotti, third with 78.

"Grady has been playing really well all year," Coach Jayce Boyd said. "It will be a scary day for the rest of the league when everything clicks at once for him."

Parker Caddick finished sixth overall for the Eagles with 80, followed by Liam Medford (90), Greyson Martin (124) and Zeke Wells (133). All but Wells, a freshman, are sophomores.

Anderson Kropf led the second group, finishing 16th with an 86, with Wyatt Smothers finishing 23rd with 90. Rounding out the team score were Casey May and Dailey Kirkpatrick, each with 95, with senior Randy Holmes shooting a 110. The other four for East Linn are all sophomores.

It was Craddick's first time breaking 90 in a tournament, Boyd said, noting that it was a good day overall for the Eagles.

Kropf's finish was his sec-



East Linn's Grady Knurowski drives out of some tall rough on his way to an individual win in the Eagles' home tournament last week. See more photos at [sweethomenews.com / lebanonlocalnews.com](http://sweethomenews.com/lebanonlocalnews.com).

- Photo by Scott Swanson

ond personal best in a row in a tournament, after shooting 89 at Shadow Hills the week before - his first time breaking 90.

"We had 10 of our 12 golfers put up or tie a personal best for tournament play," he said. "We have really been working on scoring around the greens and keeping things in control as we manage our way around the course at practice and it seems like they are reaping the rewards of it."

"With such a young team, developing the physical skills is important, but growing mental resilience through drills that challenge us and put us under pressure is just as important."

In a nine-hole JV match, which included players from most of the schools in the var-

sity tournament, Seven Ream finished with 59, which was his first time breaking 60, Boyd noted, and Lincoln Boyer shot a third-straight personal best.

"Even our guys that didn't play well had a lot of potential in their round and I look forward to what they can do once they clean things up a little bit," Boyd said of his team, of which 11 of his 13 players are underclassmen, nine of them sophomores.

"For such a young group of guys with so little overall tournament experience, they are doing fantastic. I am really proud of their efforts on the course, but I am even more proud of their attitudes and how they represent Christ to their fellow competitors."



ELCA's Asher Taylor, center, takes a throw from Casey May, left, in a rundown against Central Linn. See more photos at [sweethomenews.com / lebanonlocalnews.com](http://sweethomenews.com/lebanonlocalnews.com).

- Cole Harnar photo

Eagles finish 2-1 in baseball series with Central Linn

East Linn's baseball team split its series with Central Linn last week, winning a home game on Tuesday, April 21, 2-1, then losing the opener of a double-header on the road 8-2, before winning the nightcap 9-3.

Tuesday's game was tight all the way, the Eagles scoring a run in both the fourth and fifth innings off hits by Chase Fenerty and Casey May, the only two ELCA had for the game.

Central Linn scored its single run in the top of the sixth, off May, who had relieved Fenerty on the mound in the fifth.

Fenerty got the win, striking out six of the 16 batters he faced and walking two.

On the road Friday in Halsey, in the first game of the doubleheader, the hosts got on the scoreboard first with a run in the third, then added three more in the fourth and four in the bottom of the fifth.

Jacob Helms, on the mound for the Cobras, kept things under control for the

home team, striking out 13 and walking five, while keeping a no-hitter going until he was relieved in the seventh.

The Eagles cut the lead to 4-1 in the top of the fifth, but the single run they scored in the seventh didn't do it as Central Linn came out on top 8-2.

Asher Taylor and Nolan Hooper scored East Linn's runs.

The second game of the doubleheader was a different story.

May worked six innings on the mound for East Linn, holding the hosts to three hits before being relieved by Taylor in the seventh inning, who took over with a nine-run lead.

Central Linn scored three off Taylor but he was able to get out of the inning for the 9-3 win.

The Eagles had scored all nine of their runs by the time Taylor entered as pitcher, off five hits and a multiplicity of stolen bases, six by Fen-

See ELCA Baseball, Page 22

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Lebanon's boys win Rob Allen Invitational team title

Lebanon's boys outscored five other 5A and 6A schools, as well as small schools Kennedy and La Pine at their annual Rob Allen Invitational at Heath Stadium Friday evening, April 24.

Lebanon's boys scored 137 points, ahead of Dallas (98), North Salem (86), Bend (80), South Salem (72), La Pine (28), South Albany (14) and Kennedy (10).

Lebanon was third on the girls side with 93 points, behind Dallas (122) and Bend (119) and ahead of North Salem (70), South Salem (50), La Pine (45), Kennedy (22) and South Albany (2).

Bodhi Brown, Luke Johnson and Cade Weber dominated the short sprints, Brown taking first in the 100 (11.29) and the 200 (22.39), with Johnson second in the 100 (11.33) and Weber second in the 200 (22.47) as well as winning the 400 (50.02).

The three combined with Logan Large to win the 4x100 relay in 43.21, and Large, Brown, Weber and Rowan Jones won the 4x400 in 3:24.99.

Large was the winner in the triple jump in a season's-best 42-8 for the senior, and he also placed third in the long jump in a personal best 21-3½.

For the girls, Addy Pickles won the 400 in a season's

best 1:00.35, Heather Savedra won the javelin with a throw of 106-1 and Ruby Vandebos won the triple jump with a season's-best leap of 35-1, ahead of Pickles, who was second with 33-9¾.

Pickles was third in the long jump in a season's best 16-10½, ahead of Jane Brandt, who finished with a leap of 16-5¼.

Also finishing in scoring position for the girls were Brandt, third in the 100 (13.25), freshman Harper Pepperling, fourth in the 200 (27.72) ahead of Brandt, who was seventh in 28.31, a personal best. Pepperling was fifth in the 400 behind Pickles in 1:03.85.

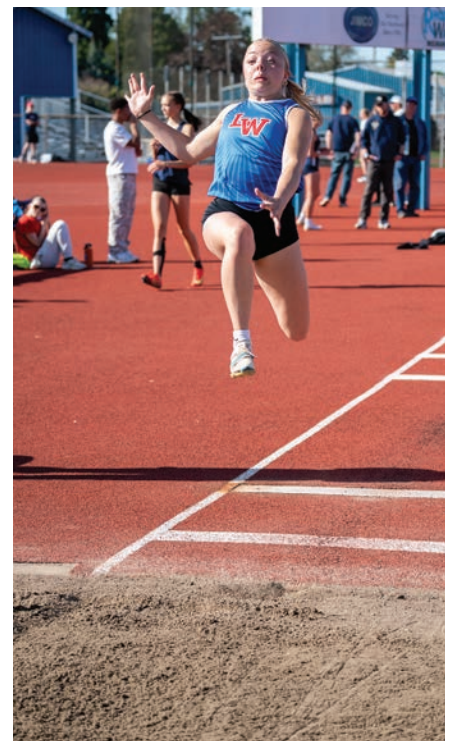
In the 800, Jocilynn Durgeloh (2:45.65) and Peyton Vorderstrass (5:48.12) went seven-eight for the Warriors, and Durgeloh was seventh in the 1500 (5:31.17).

Savedra was eighth in the 100 hurdles (19.09).

Vandebos, Brandt, Pepperling and Pickles teamed up to place fourth in the 4x400 in 4:26.01.

In the field, Raquel Biggs was third in the shot (27-7¼), ahead of Maliha Mowdy in fourth (27-2, a PR).

Zoey Beskow was third in the discus in a personal-best 79-8, ahead of Evangeline Graves in fifth (76-10). Harmony Villafana-Garcia was



Logan Large, above, leads the crowd in the 4x100 relay, which the Warriors won. At right, Addy Pickles competes in the long jump. See more Lebanon results and photos with this story at lebanonlocalnews.com

- Cole Harnar photo

third in the javelin behind Savedra, throwing 97-10.

In the jumps, Molly Basting was sixth in the pole vault (8-0) and seventh in the high jump (4-6), both PR's.

For the boys, other scorers on the track were Jones, fifth in the 400 (54.31), freshman Xavier Macedo, fourth in the 1500 (4:29.29), and David Brandt in the 3000 (10:13.28).

Tyler Deckert was third in the 110 hurdles (17.40, a personal best) and fourth in the 300 hurdles 44.54, ahead of freshman Brody Hensley, fifth in the 110's (18.51) and seventh in the 300's in a PR of 45.47.

In the field, Dylan Juntunen was third in the shot in a personal-best 41-9¾, and Brandt finished fourth in the

javelin (136-5).

Freshmen Jayden Nunez (5-4) and Cody Cruz (5-2) went three-four in the high jump and Gunner Harris was second in the pole vault (11-6), ahead of Michael Klutz in sixth (10-6), both season's bests.

The meet was limited to

See Lebanon Track, Page 22

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Republican Candidates for State House District 11

Ken Jackola, 58, of Lebanon

Contact: ken@votekenjackola.com
Family: Shellie Jackola, spouse
How long have you resided in the district? 55 Years

Education: Oregon State University, bachelor of science in agricultural science; U.S. Army, Sergeant Major Academy; Lebanon Union High School



Professional Background/Work Experience: Director - Special Projects, Albany & Eastern Railroad Company; Vice President, Albany & Eastern Railroad Company; Vice President, Rick Franklin Corporation; Owner, J.A. Trucking; Command Sergeant Major, U.S. Army and Oregon Army National Guard

Political Experience/Affiliations: Mayor, City of Lebanon

Angelita 'Angel' Sanchez, 46, of Sweet Home

Contact: angelitafororegon@gmail.com

Family: Three adult children, daughter of Joe and Renita (Sanchez) Cohen.

How long have you resided in the district? I was born and raised in Oregon. I'm fourth-generation Sweet Home, and seventh-generation in district.

Education: Linn Benton Community College

Professional Background/Work Experience: For the last 10 years, I've



been a small business owner. I have my CCB license, certified residential and commercial. I'm a CDL license holder and truck driver. I'm also a public servant. Most recently, I worked last summer as a wildland firefighter. For the last five years I have been serving as a Sweet Home city councilor and I'm also a legislative assistant in the Oregon Senate.

Political Experience/Affiliations: Lifelong Republican. I have been elected to many leadership roles within the Republican Party: vice chair of Linn County Republicans, vice chair of Oregon Republican Party CD 5 and chair of Oregon Republican Party Election committee. I was elected to represent Oregon Republicans at the RNC and one of eight presidential electors. I am a founding member and spokesperson of Timber Unity, where I helped

lead the fight against cap-and-trade. I serve on the Sweet Home City Council and have been actively involved in state-level policy through my work in the Legislature and grassroots advocacy. Additionally, I led the opposition against Statewide Rank Choice voting and defeated it. I am your local Linn County plaintiff in the lawsuits for the No Gas Tax Referendum. I am also a local captain for The No Tax Clawback referendum. I am a member of various local Chambers of Commerce, Oregon Women for Agriculture, Association of Oregon Loggers, and the NRA.

Other Community Involvement/Affiliations: One of my favorite things is gleaned. I have been harvesting produce that would otherwise go to waste, with an organization called Salem Harvest. We donate what we harvest to local food banks.

Republican Candidates for State Senate District 6

Jami Cate, 39, of Lebanon

Contact: www.jamicate.com / info@jamicate.com

Family: Parents Ginger and (late) Jim Cate, Godkids Vale (6) and Holt (4)

How long have you resided in the district? All my life.

Education: Oregon State University, Bachelor of Science, Crop and Soil Science, Summa Cum Laude



Professional Background/Work Experience: State Representative and fifth-generation Linn County farmer

Nicole De Graff, 52, of Marcola

Contact: www.Nicolefororegon.com

Family: Husband, three kids

How long in district? 11 years

Education: Attended Willamette Uni-

versity, University of Oregon

Professional Background/Work Experience: Cattle rancher, real estate, marketing

Political Experience/Affiliations: School board director, Republican

Other Community Involvement/Affiliations: Springfield Education Foundation



Jack Tibbetts, 36, of Cottage Grove

Contact: (541) 649-2369

Family: Ali Tibbetts (wife), Casey and Luke Tibbetts (children), Penny and Nick Tibbetts (parents).

How long in district? Five years; owned a working ranch in the district for seven.

Education: College - bachelor's degree

Professional Background/Work Experience: Farmer and business owner. I have also been employed in the trades (welder), government, non-profits, and emergency response.

Taken together, I believe this gives me the most wide-ranging experience in this race, with significant experience in many sectors. This gives me a unique ability to see what is positive and negative about all of them and a depth of knowledge I will be able to draw upon when making decisions. These experiences will ensure I make common-sense decisions, which I believe is so badly needed in Salem right now.

Political Experience/Affiliations: Republican; Lane County Planning Commissioner. I have prior elected government experience as well that



I left, which I believe exemplifies a true willingness to serve people over maintaining power and influence. I served on a city council in Santa Rosa, Calif., when I was 25 years old. But after five years of service, I resigned, because I was becoming more and more conservative with age, and my constituents were predominantly left-leaning. I believe it is our job to represent our constituents, and to do that best, your values need to be in alignment. I think many politicians would have compromised on their personal morals and beliefs to maintain a seat of power. I did not. I stepped back, focused on my family, moved my family to Oregon to be closer to our family and our roots, and I started an ag business so I could raise my children in agriculture, so they could benefit from all of the values that go with it.

Other Community Involvement/Affiliations: Cottage Grove Downtown Events Committee.

Here's a round-up of what else will be on local ballots

This year's primary election, which ends May 19, includes local competitive races among Republicans for the Oregon State House of Representatives District 11 seat and the Oregon State Senate District 6 seat. Ballots are being mailed to voters beginning April 29.

Those candidates are included in specific question-and-answer reports in this election section. They are, listed in alphabetical order, Jami Cate, Nicole De Graff and Jack Tibbetts for the Senate seat, and Ken Jackola and Angelita Sanchez for the House seat, which is being vacated by Cate in her quest for the Senate seat.

Also on some local ballots are Democrat Ivan Maluski of Scio, running unopposed for the House seat, and Democrat Sierrah (Owen) Williams of Sweet Home, running unopposed for the Senate seat. Independent Patrick Starnes of Browns-

ville, running for the Senate as well, is not appearing on the primary ballot because he is a third-party candidate. He will be on the November ballot, along with the winners of the Republican and Democratic primaries.

Republican incumbent Will Tucker is running unopposed for Position 1 on the Linn County Board of Commissioners. Democrat Theodore (TJ) Hiner Jr., of Sweet Home, a wildland firefighter, is running as a Democrat.

Thirteen Republicans are running for governor, including Christine Drazen, who lost by four percentage points to now-Gov. Tina Kotek in the 2022 election, with third-party candidate Betsy Johnson in that race; Stayton state Rep. Ed Diehl, who led the Gas Tax referendum drive which resulted in Measure 120; and Chris Dudley, the former Portland Trailblazer who ran for governor in 2010, narrowly los-

ing to John Kitzhaber. Kotek, a Democrat, has nine challengers for the nomination.

See Oregon Journalism Project coverage of the governor's race at www.sweethomenews.com/category/ojp. There is no paywall to read OJP stories.

Two Democrats and two Republicans are on the ballot for the 5th District seat in the U.S. House of Representatives, which represents most of Linn County: incumbent Janelle Bynum and challenger Zeva Rosenbaum, a Salem-based communications manager, on the Democratic ballot and Deschutes County Commissioner Patti Adair and Jonathan Lockwood of Lebanon, a public relations candidate and law student.

The only statewide measure on this ballot is Measure 120, which asks voters whether they support a 6-cent-per-gallon increase in fuel taxes, the nearly dou-

bling of vehicle registration fees, and an increase of passenger vehicle title fees from \$77 to \$216. Half the revenue from the tax would be distributed to ODOT, with the remainder going to counties (30%) and cities (20%) for road construction and maintenance.

In addition, this primary ballot will include two measures to be decided by Sweet Home voters: changes to the Sweet Home city charter, which dictates how the city government operates, and a proposed \$40 million bond measure for the Sweet Home School District which, if passed by voters, would qualify the district for a guaranteed \$12.252 million in state funding.

Sweet Home School Bond Measure 22-214

The \$40 million bond measure would essentially extend the current bond, which voters approved in 2017, with

no increase to what property owners are already paying on that bond.

Revenue from the bond, together with the nearly \$12.3 million from an Oregon School Capital Improvement Matching Program (OS-CIM), would pay for safety upgrades at all the district's schools, including updated emergency communication and lockdown systems, according to plans being formulated by district officials.

District Business Manager Kevin Strong told School Board members earlier this year that the bond would be "structured to maintain the existing tax rate, very similar to what we did in 2017, when the community passed the bond for the Junior High School and, in fact, since then, due to growth in assessed values, the actual tax rate has declined.

The bond would maintain

House District 11 Seat Questions and Answers

1. Why do you want to be our state representative?

Ken Jackola: As the mayor of Lebanon, I quickly learned our legislative body in Salem did not understand how their policies affected cities.

I want to change that! By providing a rural perspective during the policy-making process, I will be able to craft policies which represent our district and our way of life.

Linn County is NOT Portland, Eugene or Bend. We believe in self-determination for our citizens and communities. I will protect our rural way of life and the very things that define our Oregon heritage.

Angelita Sanchez: I'm running for State Representative because I've lived the consequences of bad policy and I've already stepped up to fight back. My husband lost his CDL due to federal over-regulation. He did everything required to get it back, including surgery, and passed away just 10 days later. That experience altered my life forever.

Since then, I've taken that pain and turned it into action, standing up for working people, small businesses, and rural communities that are too often ignored. I've already been doing the work locally and at the state level.

I see this opportunity as an extension of that, just in a different capacity.

2. What are the biggest issues facing Oregon and, if elected, what do you intend to do about them?

Sanchez: Sadly, Oregon is failing in every way. The biggest issues facing Oregon are affordability, overregulation, failing public education and the anti-business climate.

There is also a huge disconnect between Salem and rural communities.

Families are struggling with rising fuel costs, housing shortages, and limited access to healthcare. At the same time, industries like agriculture, timber, and trucking are being regulated into extinction.

I've already been part of pushing back, fighting cap-and-trade, opposing the gas tax, and advocating for policies that support seniors and working families. In the House, I will focus on reducing unnecessary regulations, lowering costs, strengthening local economies, and restoring accountability in government.

Last session Sen. Cedric Hayden drafted a piece of legislation called SJR 1, a senior property tax freeze. We did get a public hearing, but I will bring it back when elected, and continue until we get it passed.

Jackola: We are facing an ever-growing divide between our urban centers and rural Oregon. Because of the under-representation of rural values and lifestyles in Salem, our district is consistently challenged with an imbalance with urban areas in economic development and resources, environmental regulations (land use and water rights restrictions), and critical district infrastructure development (water and wastewater treatment).

Because of the state driven economy and urban policy making employed by our current governor and supermajority, rural Oregon and our district are at a disadvantage.

If elected, I will fight for a rebalancing of the state budget that reprioritizes rural spending for critical rural infrastructure, wetland mitigation policy reform, and environmental regulation exceptions for rural Oregon. These economic drivers will position rural Oregon for consistent growth, positive development and level the playing field so that we can compete and survive.

3. Oregon's legislature faced a strained state budget in its short session earlier this year. What do you think of how legislators handled that issue this year and what do you think is the best and/or most workable solution(s) for Oregon's revenue situation? How should the state be spending/not spending its money?

Jackola: Oregon anti-business stance is destroying our economic base. Currently, Mercatus Center at George Mason University rates Oregon at 47th in business friendliness and seventh in most-regulated.

We must rebuild our business base by repeling the corporate activity tax, initiate wetland mitigation policy reform and examine deregulating our business environment so that companies and investors find Oregon a place where they can develop and prosper.

Sanchez: Oregon doesn't have a revenue problem, we have a priorities and accountability problem. Despite high levels of spending, we're not seeing results in core areas like education, public safety, or infrastructure.

Too often, many legislators respond by looking for new ways to increase costs on Oregonians instead of evaluating how existing funds are being used. That approach isn't sustainable.

We need to refocus on outcomes, not programs. That means auditing spending, cutting waste, and prioritizing essential services. Before asking

taxpayers for more, the state needs to demonstrate it can responsibly manage what it already has.

4. Oregon state officials have taken a hard line against many of the Trump Administration's policies through lawsuits and other means on issues such as immigration, elections, environmental policies, tariffs, Department of Education data and more. In this space you obviously will not be able to detail each of these and others, but how do you feel about these tactics and, if you support or oppose any particular ones, why?

Sanchez: The 10th Amendment is clear: Powers not delegated to the federal government belong to the states and the people. That principle matters, and there are times when states should push back on federal overreach, like when I did against the Army Corp of Engineers and our Green Peter drawdown.

But what we're seeing in Oregon is not consistent. State leadership will invoke the Constitution to challenge federal authority in some cases, while at the same time expanding state overreach on its own citizens, businesses, and industries.

That inconsistency is the problem.

I support pushing back when the federal government exceeds its authority. But I do not support using lawsuits as a political tool while ignoring the same constitutional limits at the state level.

If we're going to stand on the Constitution, we need to apply it consistently, protecting Oregonians from overreach at every level of government.

Jackola: I do not agree with this tactic. Collaborating with our federal partners is vital. Removing ourselves from the conversation on any issue equates to zero input from Oregon as it pertains to constitutional and federally regulated functions.

Of course, there are exceptions to this opinion, but 52 lawsuits and \$3.1 million dollars is excessive and demonstrates our reliance on federal programs and funding.

5. What do you think Oregon's priorities should be in funding transportation? Why?

Jackola: With the current budget gap in our transportation funding, the state of Oregon should focus on maintenance and preservation of our current road system.

Just as in business and our family's budgets, we must sometimes adjust our wants

to meet what is required. The state of Oregon must understand that there is not an endless amount of revenue and that it must be actively managed during unstable periods.

Sanchez: The priority should be maintaining and improving the current infrastructure people rely on every day, especially in rural Oregon. That is a core function which includes highways, bridges, and freight corridors that support working families, agriculture and trucking.

I've been actively pushing back on the gas tax because it increases costs on working Oregonians without guaranteeing results. We've seen that more funding doesn't lead to better outcomes.

Transportation funding needs to be tied to accountability. If people are being asked to pay more, they deserve to see where that money is going and what it's fixing. When it's not going to core functions and special bureaucratic interest instead, we have a problem.

In Sweet Home, I came up with the idea of implementing a pavement preservation program. I think that's a good first start when it comes to ODOT reprioritization.

6. By almost every metric, Oregon's education system does not rank well compared to the rest of the nation. To what do you attribute this decline and how can it be fixed?

Sanchez: Oregon made a major structural change over a decade ago by placing the responsibility for public education under the governor, who now serves as the superintendent of public instruction. That means there is a clear line of accountability at the top.

Despite that, outcomes have continued to decline. We've increased funding, but we're not seeing improvements in literacy, graduation rates, or overall student success.

To fix this, we need a change in leadership that refocuses on core academic excellence and parental involvement, and more school choice.

Jackola: I attribute the decline to the removal of operational authority by our local school boards through over-regulation by state legislators and agencies.

Additionally, the current schooling model is outdated and is in need of reform. With the advent of AI, distant learning, charter schools, and other technologies, we must revisit it so that we can provide the highest standards of learning for our future generations.

7. Housing availability/affordability and homelessness

are another issue that few would likely argue are not a concern. What solutions do you propose, at least generally to address these problems?

Jackola: The first step to solving any issue is to find the root causes. As for these subjects, the root causes are right in front of us. Over-regulation and their associated cost, state-driven economy, and wetland mitigation cost are the main drivers affecting housing availability/affordability.

Revising our stance and finding workable solutions on the listed root causes will unleash housing development not seen since the years after World War II.

Observing the chronic homelessness issue across the state, I have concluded that the main root causes are alcohol/drug addiction and an ever-growing mental illness epidemic.

Reprioritizing state resources to address these is important; however, the first step is to re-establish a proactive attitude by educating our younger generations about the dangers of these substances. Drug and alcohol prevention education is vital in the success of our future generations.

Currently, Oregon's approach is to fix the person after the addiction is established and has consumed them. This is not acceptable!

Sanchez: In Sweet Home, we didn't just talk about homelessness, we took community action.

We helped develop a managed shelter and resource facility in partnership with local nonprofits and private businesses, creating a place where people can go instead of living unsheltered. That facility provides structure, access to services, and a pathway toward stability, plus it has helped the downtown corridor with viability.

We also declared a state of emergency to bring resources to the issue, recognizing that homelessness is not just a social issue, it's a public health and safety issue that requires real coordination and response.

What we've learned is this: You cannot solve homelessness with one approach. And being homeless is not a "one-size-fits-all" situation.

We need more accountability and expectations, not just open-ended programs. We also need more Rural Behavioral Health and Drug Treatment wrap around services.

At the same time, we have to address affordability at the root; lack of family wage jobs,

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HOUSE Q&A

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rising costs and overregulation for building, and mental health and addiction policies that make it nearly impossible to get out of this cycle.

This issue requires both compassion and realism. We need to help people get back on their feet but we also need to protect the safety, health, and livability of our rural communities.

I've worked on this at the local level, and I will bring that same practical, results-driven approach to the state House of Representatives.

8. Many opinions have been offered to explain the success of the gas tax referendum effort. How would you explain what happened and what, if anything, do you think it means for Oregon politics in the near future?

Sanchez: As a legislative assistant to Sen. Cedric Hayden, I was there and I watched it happen.

Tina Kotek tried to pass a roughly \$14 billion tax transportation package in the 2025 session and it died.

She then forced a special session to pass it again. Votes were delayed due to legislators being on hospice and hospitalized, and the pressure

to secure votes was obvious. A deciding vote came when a Republican said yes and switched parties, which completely enraged people.

There were also leadership decisions inside the Capitol during those sessions that made it clear, this was going to be pushed through.

Oregonians watched all of this happen too. They were fed up. That's why the referendum effort succeeded. This wasn't just about a gas tax, it was about blatant disregard of the will of the people, trust, accountability, and all of us feeling like our voices were being ignored.

I do believe that more referendums will happen in the future until the majority party understands that we the people are tapped out. We are not getting a return on our investment and until we do, enough is enough.

Jackola: What happened?

First, the declaration of an emergency was unfounded and was merely a political maneuver by the Democratic caucus to prevent unfriendly optics during the general election in November 2026.

Having Democratic candidates' names appearing on the same ballot as the referendum was viewed by many in the Democratic caucus as damaging to their success at the ballot box.

Let us be clear: "There was

no emergency."

Second, historical voter turnout data provided by the Oregon Secretary of State, Elections Division accurately illustrates the difference in voter turnout. During primary elections in 2024, voter turnout was calculated at 35.80%, this is in stark contrast to the general elections of the same year which measured turnout over 75%.

Political maneuvers such as this can only be concluded as an attempt at voter suppression. The Oregon Democratic Party platform, outlined in Article 8 under the "accurate and secure elections" section of the document, states a mandate to eliminate voter suppression. I confidently submit that action did not satisfy their own mandate and contradicts it in the strongest terms.

Lastly, the integrity of the referendum process is at risk when obvious political maneuvers, such as SB1599, were conducted. The Oregon voter must trust the process. This maneuver destroyed this trust. We must adhere to a consistent application of our business of government.

9. It's no secret that Oregon's legislature is strongly weighed toward one party. Legislators in the minority - Republicans - have complained that their colleagues representing the su-

permajority across the aisle often ignore and strong-arm them. How would you describe the situation you see in the Capitol and, if elected, how would you proceed in the role you find yourself, especially in regard to working with the opposition?

Jackola: My first priority will always be District 11. While working with the Republican house caucus, Senate partners, and even with opposition on occasion, I will always adhere to my personal standard of retaining and returning value to District 11, but I will never compromise my integrity or character to achieve this standard.

Sanchez: Again, I know all about this. I've been working in the building for years. There is an imbalance, and minority voices are often sidelined. But the job is still to represent your constituents effectively, regardless of that reality.

I will stand firm on my principles, but I also understand the importance of being effective. That means building relationships where possible and pushing back where necessary. I have already built those relationships and have respect from many elected officials on both sides.

Acting in non-partisan capacity as a city councilor, I've already done that at the lo-

cal level, standing my ground while still getting results for the entire community. That's how I will approach the Legislature, firm in my convictions but willing to work with anyone who's willing to work together.

10. Why should voters check the box next to your name on the ballot? What sets you apart from other candidates in this race in your ability to serve this district?

Sanchez: What sets me apart is that this valley is my legacy. My roots run deep, and I am fiercely protective of this district because of my heritage. I don't just talk about these issues, I'm bringing proven solutions and results. My candidacy is not about what I promise to do; it's about what I've already done and what I can be trusted to continue doing. I will be a strong voice and the fighter you need in Salem. I'm asking for your vote in the May Primary.

Jackola: As your state representative, I will bring to the state capital an understanding of rural challenges, real-world experience, and executive leadership. These attributes provide me with the background to fight for District 11 in a deliberate and effective manner.

State Senate District 6 Questions and Answers

1. Why do you want to be our local state senator?

Jami Cate: I first ran for office as a way to fight for people like me, and communities like mine. I was tired of watching the progressive ideology of Portland extremists being forced on rural Oregon, and our freedoms and way of life eroded year after year.

After six years serving in the Oregon House, I'm running for Senate to use the experience I've gained to serve even more constituents and communities.

There has been tremendous turnover among Senate Republicans due to Measure 113, making it important for incoming members to have the experience necessary to hit the ground running from Day 1.

Nicole De Graff: I'm running because rural communities like ours are being overlooked while Salem makes decisions that don't fit how we live.

I've served locally, I've seen where systems break down, and I'm not afraid to solve problems. We need someone who will show up, push back when needed and focus on results.

Jack Tibbetts: Having been in elected office before, I never thought I would do it again. But

I am fed up. I am angry with how our state is being run.

I am disheartened by the fact that we have lost 35,000 jobs in the last 15 months. I am saddened by the fact that the best we have to offer our kids is a public school system ranked 47th in the nation with an 81% graduation rate. I am frustrated by the fact that the solutions that keep rolling out of Salem are more taxes.

I want to be our next state senator because I want to do the work. I want to do a deep dive into our \$30 billion budget and discern what we need and what we don't. I want to identify savings for the programs we want, and cut the programs we don't need as much anymore.

If I do a really good job, I want to cut taxes so employers and people stop fleeing the state for Idaho and Texas, taking the jobs with them that my kids might have one day filled had they not left.

I also want to be responsive to my constituents and be their voice. I am not running to win myself a Senate office. I am running to diligently and actively serve in their Senate office.

I am still young. I still have a lot of energy left in me, and I want to use that energy to fight for the people of the Sixth Senate District.

2. What are the biggest issues facing Oregon and, if elected, what do you intend to do about them?

Tibbetts: First, stop new taxes. Instead, sort through the state's \$30 billion budget to identify savings for pressing needs. We need to cut what we don't need and use that money to fund what we do need.

People are struggling right now, and taxes add to their financial burden. We also need to audit our state agencies, which should be a bipartisan issue.

Second, convert the state's existing \$780 million flash-in-the-pan affordable housing development subsidies into a revolving silent second down-payment assistance program, which will turn renters into homeowners, building equity and generational wealth for their families, as opposed to subsidizing NGO affordable housing developers.

Over time, this money will be paid back to the taxpayer, which can be used to cut taxes, or fund other needs (such as road maintenance) and prevent new taxes.

Third, develop policies with business leaders that attract and retain employers in the state to prevent more jobs from

being lost in this state. One thing we can do administratively - right away - is to make changes to the state's Habitat Conservation Plan to allow for more streamlined and efficient timber harvesting, which has historically funded our schools and roads, but has declined significantly over the past 40 years.

(See more on this at Tibbettsfororegon.com under the "issues" tab.)

Cate: Oregon isn't just Portland, and yet time and again, the Majority tries to force one-size-fits-all policies on rural Oregon that treat us like we're all Portland. Over-regulation, over-taxation, and erosions of our freedoms because the Majority finds them offensive. So many of these policies are rooted in the ignorance that life is different in rural Oregon than it is in Portland, but so many others aim at giving more and more control to an ever-ballooning government.

I have worked hard to build relationships with colleagues across the aisle in order to share the real impacts of these policies on our rural communities, industries, and way of life.

The cost of living in an echo chamber is governance that fails to work for the people,

and it is easy to ignore voices that don't come from real people you have relationships with who are willing to be a voice of dissent.

De Graff: Cost of living, housing, education outcomes and accountability.

Connect spending to outcomes; supporting local jobs-agriculture, timber, small business these are not just urban priorities. Making sure state agencies work for people not the other way around

3. Oregon's legislature faced a strained state budget in its short session earlier this year. What do you think of how legislators handled that issue this year and what do you think is the best and/or most workable solution(s) for Oregon's revenue situation? How should the state be spending/not spending its money?

De Graff: The legislature avoided tough decisions and kept growing government without clear results. The CAT tax is still costing business, while enrollment and outcomes are down.

Disconnecting us from HR1 does little to help businesses

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SENATE Q&A

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thrive. I will push to audit programs and stop funding what isn't working. Let's start by being honest about long-term costs, instead of short-term fixes.

Cate: Oregon doesn't have a revenue problem, it has a spending problem. The state budget has nearly doubled in a decade, and Oregonians have had enough. When you're budgeting for your family, you know the difference between a "want" and a "need," but leadership in Salem sees every idealistic policy idea as a need, and Oregonians as "petulant children" if we don't want to pay more in taxes to afford it all.

Our budgeting process shouldn't assume a continued service level, but should work on a zero-balance budgeting system - forcing agencies to justify every dollar they hope to receive.

We should also fully fund critical services first, rather than paying more for illegals' health care than we do in state troopers - ensuring Oregon has the same number of troopers on the road as we did when our state population was half this size.

Tibbetts: I think we should be appalled by the legislature's handling of the short session. Namely, how Democrats rushed the gas tax and played games with the issue to avoid giving the voters the time to repeal it.

It was poor-form politics. Our state's budget is \$30 billion. That is a lot of money. We need to spend a session just sifting through that budget, agency by agency, line by line, and cutting things we may not want or need as much to fund the pressing things we do.

We also need to conduct robust auditing of our state agencies, using outside auditors from another state to help us identify waste, abuse, and savings.

It has been decades since Oregon has done that, and it's about time!

4. Oregon state officials have taken a hard line against many of the Trump Administration's policies through lawsuits and other means on issues such as immigration, elections, environmental policies, tariffs, Department of Education data and more. In this space you obviously will not be able to detail each of these and others, but how do you feel about these tactics and, if you support or oppose any particular ones, why?

Cate: The Majority wasted an incredible amount of time during this year's Short Session introducing more than

a dozen bills that do little beyond serve as an opportunity to virtue signal against President Trump for hours on the House and Senate floors.

Legislators even admitted that some of those bills were only in anticipation of possible retaliation from the federal government - not in response to anything that was actually taking place.

We have very real problems facing Oregonians, caused by decades of one-party rule. Treating President Trump as a scapegoat is just a poor attempt to deflect from those failures and the misguided solutions being pushed that throwing more money at the problems will finally solve them.

Oregon should stop wasting resources fighting President Trump, and start taking some pages out of his playbook.

De Graff: I'll support action when it clearly protects Oregonians, but I won't support spending taxpayer money on lawsuits just to make a statement.

Results matter more than headlines and ideology. Being one of the only states to not opt in to the \$1,700 education tax credit for families to choose their education choice is a mistake.

Tibbetts: I oppose these tactics completely. Decoupling from federal taxes is foolish and costs taxpayers more. Not cooperating with ICE means we don't have a seat at the table, nor the ability to have local law enforcement communicate with the public.

I think we need to remember our elected president is our leader, our commander-in-chief, whether we voted for him or not. Similarly, our laws are our laws, whether we like them or not.

When the people are no longer in alignment with the president or the laws, we have a process for changing them. But to obstruct, or to pick what laws to follow, while disobeying others, like we are doing now on immigration, sets a dangerous precedent.

5. What do you think Oregon's priorities should be in funding transportation? Why?

Tibbetts: Roads. We are a state of automobiles. Mass transit never pencils and always requires robust subsidies. The only place mass transit is justified is in the Portland Metro area and Eugene/Springfield.

Cate: Oregon's roadways are an incredibly valuable resource, and they need to be maintained to not only allow for ease of travel for residents and goods, but also to maximize the lifespan of the infrastructure we've invested in.

Our bridges are on the brink of disaster - and current budgeting only allows for a 1,000-year replacement schedule. Yet ODOT themselves produced a list of over \$800 million in expenses that don't align with their core mission.

It's time we refocus on the basics, maintain the roadways we have, get real leadership that doesn't make billion-dollar budgeting miscalculations, and cut the fat. We don't need more dollars in this agency. We need to stop spending on things like DEI programs and maintaining empty office buildings.

De Graff: Maintenance. Somehow, it became political theater where voter suppression is occurring, and that's not good. Rural communities depend on reliable roads for work, school and emergency services.

Pet urban projects shouldn't come at the expense of basic infrastructure in the rest of the state nor disproportionately affect rural communities.

6. By almost every metric, Oregon's education system does not rank well compared to the rest of the nation. To what do you attribute this decline and how can it be fixed?

De Graff: As a school board member I see issues and areas of improvement but no more so than watching layers of bureaucracy and years of inaction not bring results.

Focus on reading, math and career readiness. Require teacher prep programs to mandate science of reading. Give schools flexibility but require results and require science of reading and provide resources across the state the way Mississippi did.

We are top-10 in spending and not top-10 for results. Make sure funding actually reaches classrooms

Tibbetts: Our education system is ranked 47th in the nation with a shameful 81% graduation rate.

We spend twice as much per student than our neighboring state of Idaho. We need to get back to the universal basics of teaching reading, writing, arithmetic, physical education, and career-technical education. We need to stop introducing party politics into the classroom, because we have.

This notion that we have tampons in boys' bathrooms is real. To some, this may be trivial and inconsequential but, to many parents, it is egregious, and it is representative of how off-the-rails policymaking around education has become.

I believe policies like this are why we are seeing a large number of parents pull their children out of public school, opting instead for private school, homeschool, or online learn-

ing. This results in a significant funding loss for public schools, causing them to lay off teachers and seek additional taxes from the taxpayer to be sustained at baseline functions.

It puts us in a doom cycle to continually sustain a financially failing system. Parental choice in where they send their kids to school is also something this state needs to allow, because it will show policymakers and parents how the most in-demand schools are operating, providing failing schools with examples of success.

Competition is good, and our schools are perhaps the most uncompetitive systems in Oregon.

Cate: People are quick to blame the elimination of any real graduation standards, but the truth is, Oregon's education system was already broken and failing too many of our students before the pandemic.

If you listen to Gov. Kotek, we just need to spend more per student, but while our school funding formula short-changes most of our rural schools, we still spend more per pupil than most schools in the nation - but rank near dead last for most of our elementary level proficiencies.

We need to strip back all the extra requirements we've put on schools, allow them to focus their teaching time on core subjects, get politics out of the classroom, and restore order in the classrooms by allowing teachers to remove disruptive students.

This isn't a problem we can spend our way out of.

7. Housing availability/affordability and homelessness are another issue that few would likely argue are not a concern. What solutions do you propose, at least generally (since we don't have pages and pages of space here) to address these problems?

Cate: While the state has mandated a lot of policies that aim to promote more housing development at the cost of local control, the truth is the communities that need housing the worst are the ones that still drag their heels to issue permits to allow any housing to be built whatsoever.

Combined with the environmental activists fighting against any community which actually constructs housing - making it take decades to expand urban growth boundaries and causing available land to be uneconomical to build on, it's no surprise we're in a housing crisis!

But most of our homeless aren't living on the streets because they lack affordable housing. They're here because we let drugs get rampant, and we spend more than most any state providing freebies and services. But it isn't com-

passion to just let them die of overdoses in our streets, and erode the safety of our communities.

DeGraff: Cut layered regulations that delay building, especially in rural areas. Why open up urban growth boundaries for housing if the legislature passes requirements that are not in line with reality? If the permitting process takes more time than the actual build, maybe there is a problem.

Support local solutions, not one-size-fits-all mandates. Portland-level systems in small towns like Sweet Home are not the answer. Invest in treatment beds and accountability alongside shelter.

Tibbetts: As I stated above, I think we need to use the existing \$780 million in the state's budget for rental housing construction to be used for helping people become homeowners in the form of a silent second loan program that repays the taxpayer, as opposed to developer subsidies.

This also helps people build equity and generational wealth.

On homelessness, we need to repeal Measure 110, which legalized drugs, and give cities back the power to enforce camping bans. We also need to do away with low-barrier housing and shelter.

I say this, not because I am callous, but because, as someone who once worked as the executive director of St. Vincent de Paul, I know all too well that behind every person in taxpayer-funded housing or shelter who is not taking steps to get off drugs, get a job, and be productive, are thousands of people behind him, literally left out in the cold, waiting for that same opportunity.

The compassionate thing to do would be to make sure those ready for the hand up are provided the opportunity, not left out in the cold because we are continually giving hand-outs, and that is what Oregon's low-barrier policy is doing.

8. Many opinions have been offered to explain the success of the gas tax referendum effort. How would you explain what happened and what, if anything, do you think it means for Oregon politics in the near future?

Tibbetts: The explanation is simple: After the inflationary period we just went through, people are cash-strapped, and they don't want, nor can they afford, more taxes.

I was a signature gatherer for that effort, and I had Republicans, Independents, and Democrats alike coming up to sign the petition.

That should be a clear message to Gov. Kotek and legislative Democrats that people

See Senate Q&A, Page 18

- 2026 VOTERS GUIDE -

SENATE Q&A

From page 17

have had enough, and they expect their legislators to sharpen their pencils and live within the \$30 billion budget we have.

If elected, I will use the power of the office to continue leading, or supporting, referendums on taxes the Democrats keep passing, so that the people can rightfully decide.

Cate: Oregonians were already hurting financially, so it was no surprise that people were angry about another cash-grab attempt by our Legislature. We have historically been very successful at challenging new taxes with referendums, and overturning them on our ballot, but the gas tax resonated even more because of the utter insanity leading up to it - a billion-dollar budgeting error by ODOT, then a push for the largest tax increase in Oregon history, members being retaliated on in Salem for not supporting it, and finally a special session to shove through a smaller tax when it had been such a disaster in long session.

Oregonians made their voice known that they opposed this, and the Majority's

failure to listen drove people out en masse to sign petitions.

Every time Oregonians rise up because the Majority fail to listen, is a step closer to the Majority losing that status.

DeGraff: It showed voters are frustrated with rising costs and don't trust how money is being spent. Government priorities are not in alignment with taxpayer expectations.

9. It's no secret that Oregon's legislature is strongly weighed toward one party. Legislators in the minority - Republicans - have complained that their colleagues representing the supermajority across the aisle often ignore and strong-arm them. How would you describe the situation you see in the Capitol and, if elected, how would you proceed in the role you find yourself, especially in regard to working with the opposition?

De Graff: It is ideologically driven. I will work with colleagues on practical solutions.

I will push back when rural communities are ignored or legislation is short-sighted. I will focus on outcomes, not party politics.

Tibbetts: As a Republican, I am going into this job eyes wide open about what little I can accomplish inside the building - and any Republican who says otherwise is full of it.

However, where I believe I can make a difference is outside the building. I want to use the influence and access of the office to put measures on the ballot to bring decision making directly to the voters.

Cate: "Ignoring" and "strong-arming" are apt descriptions, but the biggest thing I see at play among the Majority is the lack of freedom for their members to honor the will of their districts.

Leadership has incredible tools to force members to toe the line on unpopular policy or literally be out of a job. "Floor Managers" will be sent to pressure any key vote that may be wavering, and only "swing" seats are protected from having to take "bad" votes, making it harder to hold the Majority accountable at the ballot box for their failed policies.

It's a challenging environment to work in, but it all comes down to cultivating relationships - especially with members across the political

aisle. That is what allows you to advance policy where you can, and generate enough doubt to have a chance to kill bad policy ideas.

10. Why should voters check the box next to your name on the ballot? What sets you apart from other candidates in this race in your ability to serve this district?

Cate: I'm the only candidate in this race who has actually done the job of legislating, meaning I'm the only one who can work effectively for our citizens from Day 1. There is a steep learning curve with this job, and experience matters in getting results for our communities.

My voting record has also consistently ranked me as one of the most conservative members in the Legislature - meaning you can trust that my commitment to our conservative values isn't just empty lip service, but the type of representation you can truly count on.

De Graff: I am thoughtful and engaged. I'm the only candidate here actively governing in this space right now. What I see is a system that's

not working and students are paying the price. We need stability, accountability and a focus on what actually improves outcomes. A legislator who shows up is the bare minimum and right now there is a lack of consistency there.

Tibbetts: If people want an accessible, hard-working, values-driven conservative, then I am the best choice.

My political journey was different, but evolved. In my youth, I was a Democrat, but many life experiences have shaped me into the most conservative person in this race. I would argue that two of the best Republican leaders this country has ever seen are Donald Trump and Ronald Reagan - both of whom were Democrats before they became Republicans.

There's something about going through that change that helps you clearly see the value of conservative principles.

Well, if elected, I promise to fight like Trump and do so with the decorum of Reagan. If that appeals to people, I hope they will give me the opportunity to prove it by working hard and fighting for them.

ROUNDUP

From page 14

the current tax rate, which is \$1.45 per \$1,000 of assessed property value, approved by the 2017 voters; prioritize classroom and learning facility upgrades at the high school; create schools that are "durable" and "long-lasting;" and leverage grant money to reduce local costs.

City Charter Changes Measure 22-215

The Sweet Home City

Council earlier this year referred city charter amendments, crafted by a Charter Review Committee over the past year, to voters for final approval.

The charter is a foundational legal document that acts as a municipal constitution for Sweet Home, outlining how the city operates, its structure, powers, and procedures.

The charter defines the roles of local officials, the form of government, and

must be adopted or amended through voter-approved referendums such as this one.

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

Many changes to the charter include basic housekeeping in the form of how things

are worded, but more notable changes include council vacancies, unexcused absences, council ethics, length of position for a manager pro tem.

More specifically, the revamped charter awaiting voter approval:

Changes formatting to improve readability and modernize language.

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

Removes a requirement that city officers other than the city manager be bonded, which was contingent on separate ordinances (current Section 7).

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

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

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

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

If the incumbent ceases to reside within city limits.

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

Requires vacancies in elected offices in the first half of the term to be first offered to the two next highest vote-getters in the previous election before appointing anyone else (new Section 4.2).

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

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

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

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

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

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

Removes a requirement to post ordinances in three or more places within the city for 10 days after passage (new Section 7.3).

TIME TO TRIM!

WEEDS, GRASS, BLACKBERRIES AND MORE MUST BE TRIMMED:

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

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

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

55 Plus

55 Plus Section is sponsored by: The Oaks at Lebanon. 541-764-8156



In praise of the obsolete – and an icon or two

By Roberta McKern

Even at the East Linn Museum, with spring comes optimism.

A spate of visitors will arrive to appreciate a collection of goods from the past reflecting the times and interests of those who formed the museum's history.

As volunteers will tell them, the objects on display reflect for the most part the possessions and interests of those who provided our early history. Without the formation of the museum, many pieces would have been consigned to oblivion.

As it is, the museum has been compared to a grandfather's basement or garage if the grandfather were a saver. The foundation of the museum's collections was once stored in Lois Rice's basement. Such description has the ring of truth, although the oldest artifacts dating back to the 1850s reflect eight generations or so of those who lived here.

As the often-repeated legend of the museum goes, Lois Rice lived in a big house with a basement in the Holley-Crawfordsville area where the ground was too soggy for many to want a basement. Lois voluntarily offered storage room in hers.

Eventually, this led to the museum's growing collection. When the museum was founded around 1976, others contributed, including Don Menear, the Weddles, Mosses, Hamiltons, Robinetts, and more Rices. These "make-do" contributions allowed more expansion of the museum.

The East Linn Museum will celebrate its 75th anniversary this year!

As we stroll through the buildings, we come across the cherished and the discarded. That's what happens with history. Some times are good enough to be remembered, but there are others everyone would like to forget.

Whether actual objects have been collected and hoarded or whether they've come from junk heaps washed over by rivers, they inspire speculation.

A "make-do" saw in the logging section represents the latter category. Found, we're reminded, on a gravel bar, it was made from a broken length of crosscut saw with a large horseshoe welded at the broader end to make an ingenious handle.

It serves as a reminder of Justin Philpott's claim that if an object was broken, he could fix it at his blacksmith's shop in Holley. And if he couldn't fix it, he could make a new one.

On the other hand, the daguerreotypes of some who

came here by way of the Oregon Trail, including Zealey Blufield Moss as a teenager, cannot be "made again" nor can the large photographs of other early family members displayed on the walls of the main room.

We like the Zealey Blufield Moss depiction because he can be seen as a young man who acted as a scout when coming West with a wagon train, in a tintype in a display case and nearby, on the back wall, as an older gentleman in a photo reading a newspaper through heavy spectacles.

We all know well that all living things have a limited lifespan. But the obsolescence we're looking at rare objects left behind like daguerreotypes and changing technologies of photography opening other ways of seeing the past.

Which brings to mind one museum icon: the linotype machine in the back annex. It is big, too big to have been brought in through the back door, a block of dark metal with a keypad.

Both it and the cast iron logging camp stove across the way were built into the annex when the museum had a chance to expand in the days of local popularity. The back door wall entraps them.

Most volunteers ignore the name of the Linotype which translates to "line of type," the apt description. Some volunteers call it a press as if it is the only way information was printed. It is a fantastic machine, but it is not a printer.

Its purpose in Sweet Home was to assist in the production of the local The New Era newspaper, still a much appreciated one. This very intricate machine is a marvel that actually casts lines of type from a lead alloy in its system. Linotypes replaced printer's devils, who were usually young men setting type by hand and backwards, regarding legibility so letters would appear correct in the printed form.

Linotypes dominated newspaper production from the late 1800s but faded by the 21st century when, according to Wikipedia. By 2023 they were no longer manufactured. By then, The New Era machine had come to rest in the museum. The Linotype machine was itself replaced by a compugraphic machine, a rapid camera operated by the qwert keyboard, then came desktop computers, in 1986 to The New Era. Typesetting and newspaper production processes today are very different technologies.

Some of us may recall visiting a local newspaper decades ago as the member of a Girl Scout group and watching the woman who operated the Li-

notype give a demonstration, her pudgy fingers with flashing rings playing rapidly over the keys. Then we saw the single lines of type the machines produced. Actually, it was a technological wonder and one of the most complicated machines we were likely to run into before computers took center stage, but we did not know to be impressed.

The museum has many objects which have become dead in usefulness, like various electric light bulbs, the car wrench collection, as well as one of car jacks, and an assemblage of axes, crosscut saws, and other pieces used in logging.

Its often-mentioned collection of chainsaws also hangs from the ceiling there, and considering changes in logging, we looked at Wikipedia. Actually, for years we wondered about chainsaws, and at last a question has been answered.

In the United States one-man chainsaws became increasingly used in the woods after 1950. We were once told by a logger how he started falling trees in the woods by working with his father on a two-man chainsaw when he was in his teens.

As he got older and stronger, his father left him to use the saw on his own. A couple

of two-man saws can be discovered half-hidden under backroom shelves, saws for use in virgin timber to fall extra big trees even after the arrival of one-man saws.

According to Wikipedia, the earliest chainsaws used jewelry style chain links and were diminutive, designed to be used by medical surgeons to cut through bone in amputation of limbs in the late 18th century.

Permutations later, chain saws for use in the woods were developed in Germany prior to World War II, the Stihl Company being a producer.

Although the museum has its examples of two-man saws, it was the one-man chainsaws with bars about a yard long, like those hanging from the ceiling, which changed logging and sped up the harvesting of old-growth timber here during the second half of the 20th century when logging dominated the East Linn area.

Times have changed; so have chainsaws, as their use in creating the sculpture of the two loggers in front of the museum indicate. True, loggers used a crosscut saw and stood on springboards, reflecting the museum's collection of tools before chainsaws became dominant and were cannily used to carve such statuary.

In association with memories of the East Linn area's past, two ghostly recordings can be heard. A brief tape in the logging area has sounds of work in the woods involving chainsaws, voices of loggers, and the toots from the whistle punk, one, two, three and all clear following the whump of a felled tree.

The other, in the main room, has the late Joe Fallon explaining how the whistle from a midwestern river's steamboat ended up summoning the workers to the old Santiam Sawmill. It includes the sound of the whistle itself.

We value these obsolete examples of the past, which give us something more to respect what once was. If we tend to mention certain things often like chainsaws and the Terracone's steamboat whistle, it is because they are impressive.

Each visitor can find his or her own objects of praise in the museum.

Volunteers are needed, which also allows a viewer to find his or her own amusement. So visiting a few hours of speculation once a month can stimulate the mind and will help keep the museum as a valuable source of creative thought alive.

May 2026

Sweet Home Senior Center

Wednesday Lunch Menu

May 6th: Baked Pasta with meaty marinara sauce, topped with cheese, Vegetable, Salad, and Dessert

May 13th: Pot Roast with Potatoes and Carrots, Vegetable, Cornbread and Dessert

May 20th: Traeger Smoked Pulled Pork, Baked Beans, Coleslaw, Dessert by Wiley Creek Community

May 27th: Spinach and Mushroom Lasagna, Vegetable, Salad, and Dessert

\$6 Dine In, \$7.50 Take Out

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

Please note: If you plan to pick up more than 3 take out lunches, please call at least a day ahead to ensure we have enough to fulfill all orders. 541-367-4775

55 Plus

55 Plus Section is sponsored by: The Oaks at Lebanon. 541-764-8156



Rod Sell finds retirement trail in building real ones

By Scott Swanson
Of The New Era

Rod Sell has always enjoyed the outdoors – cycling, hiking, that sort of thing. But as he retired as manager of Lebanon's city Maintenance Division, he'd realized that he needed to plan for the future, including his.

That's roughly how Sell, 72, got involved in Build Lebanon Trails, which helped start and for which he's become a prominent leader and spokesman since the non-profit group was founded in 2005.

Sell didn't grow up in Lebanon, but he's always been a local off and on since childhood. He spent his early school year in Albany but attended junior high and high school in Sweet Home, graduating from Sweet Home High School.

After that he lived all over Oregon, he says.

"I went where the work was, construction primarily."

In the 1980s, construction work was becoming hard to find and Sell landed a job with the city of Corvallis. Four years later, he applied for a job with the City of Lebanon, which was taking over the local water system from Consumers Power.

That launched a 22-year career with the city, as Sell rose from entry-level to management.

As maintenance supervisor, he was responsible for upkeep of the streets, sewers, water systems and library – and parks.

"Back in the day there were some parks in Lebanon, but they needed a lot," he recalled, noting that they lacked irrigation and restrooms, for starters. He got permission

from up the ladder to go to work on those problems and started finding success in applying for grants.

"We were very successful," he said of that quest. "Then I started looking at what else was needed."

Sell was already a road cyclist, but he and Lebanon's public works director at the time, who was a local mountain rescue unit member, found a common interest in mountain climbing.

"I hooked up with him and we started climbing local mountains."

That got him thinking about how Lebanon needed local trails.

"I'd been going to trails seminars," he said, adding that the city also commissioned a survey during that time in which respondents picked local walking-distance trail availability as a major preference.

"That started the ball rolling," Sell said. "We knew the demand was there."

Personally, he said, "between hiking and mountain climbing I'd gotten a passion for hiking in the community. I'm going to age out. I'd love to have these trails."

The first step, Sell said, was to put together a trails master plan. He and others surveyed the city to determine preferable locations for possible trail development.

The city was able to get a grant to retain Mark Swenson of the University of Oregon's Resource Assistance for Rural Environments (RARE) program. Swenson moved to Lebanon and lived here for two years as he developed the plan, which has driven the development of approximately 13 miles of trails, with



Rod Sell, center, speaks at a Build Lebanon Trails event last year.

- File Photo

a goal of 50.

"It's a living document, still in use today," Sell said. "If you have the support of the community, if you have that guiding document, you have justification. It's not just you wanting the trail."

The trail development effort began with a trails committee as a subcommittee of Lebanon's Parks Committee, then morphed into the independent Build Lebanon Trails, which gained non-profit status.

"It became pretty obvious to everyone that we needed to have our own group, to go after our own goals," Sell said.

BLT is not a membership organization. It has a board of directors, which Sell described as a "working board – every single person on that board has a passion; they all

contribute because they want to, not because they have to."

Most of the participants are at or nearing retirement age, he said. They're dedicated.

Last week, when Sell returned a reporter's phone call, he had just returned from installing benches at River Park, where the city had completed a path that was part of the master plan.

Sell said BLT volunteers are busy. They have planted more than 400 trees along newly constructed trails, most recently 40 at Marks Slough and River Park.

"We're going to start watering those," Sell said, noting that various work groups like to adopt names, like "Bucket Brigade." Those volunteers will hand-carry two five-gallon buckets per tree during watering, which will last

three years for each tree.

"Then they're on their own," Sell said. "The number of trees (being cared for) doesn't change much because we keep planting new trees."

BLT has installed 52 benches, with more coming. Plus, the Lebanon Rotary Club has funded doggie bag stations that BLT also has installed.

Sell, who led BLT for well over a decade before stepping down as president, although he's still a leader, said it's hard to put a number on the exact number of volunteers involved.

"Different people like to do different things," he said, adding that the organization has a website and sends out emails to alert volunteers of opportunities. BLT puts significant effort into outreach and public information efforts.

For the River Park bench installation, "we didn't even advertise and we had people show up," he said.

It's satisfying work, he said, and the group has gained trust by delivering results, which helps BLT's fundraising efforts and grant requests. Success has come through determination and working together, he said.

"You don't have to have a lot of education, a lot of money, a lot of status," Sell said. "If you have passion, you can find likeminded people who want to contribute to the community."

"It's a great thing to give back and create a trail. There's nothing like going out to a place with blackberries and brambles all over it, and walk through it the first time and decide you you want to build a trail.

"Then you do it."

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Public Notices

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.

Public Notices

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)

Doggy Day & Night Care

Doggy Day & Night Care in Foster. More grass, less concrete . Where your pups can part of our pack. 541-619-5050 (4/15 - 4/29)

For Sale

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)

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)

Wanted Motorhome

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

A public meeting of the Board of Directors will be held on May 12, 2026 at 5:30 pm at 1050 W Oak Street, Lebanon, Oregon. The purpose of this meeting is to discuss the budget for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2026 as approved by the Lebanon Fire District Budget Committee. A summary of the budget is presented below. A copy of the budget may be inspected or obtained at 1050 W Oak Street, Lebanon, OR between the hours of 8:00 am, and 4:30 pm, or online at www.lebanonfireoregon.gov. This budget is for an annual budget period. This budget was prepared on a basis of of accounting that is the same as the preceding year.

Contact	Telephone Number	E-mail
John Tacy, Fire Chief	(541) 451-1901	info@lebanonfireoregon.gov

FINANCIAL SUMMARY - RESOURCES

TOTAL OF ALL FUNDS	Actual Amounts	Adopted Budget	Approved Budget
	Prev Year 2024/2025	This Year 2025/2026	Next Year 2026/2027
1. Beginning Fund Balance/Net Working Capital	4,942,050	3,920,128	4,250,768
2. Fees, Licenses, Permits, Fines, Assessments & Other Service Charges	3,494,001	3,584,058	3,734,390
3. Federal, State & all Other Grants, Gifts, Allocations & Donations	13,407	300	301,148
4. Revenue from Bonds & Other Debt	940,388	1,010,452	1,033,341
5. Interfund Transfers/Internal Service Reimbursements	621,502	666,747	544,634
6. All Other Resources Except Current Year Property Taxes	614,472	503,387	332,000
7. Current Year Property Taxes Estimated to be Received	5,518,729	5,694,931	5,798,798
8. Total Resources —add lines 1 through 7	16,144,549	15,380,003	15,995,078

FINANCIAL SUMMARY - REQUIREMENT BY OBJECT CLASSIFICATION

	Actual Amounts	Adopted Budget	Approved Budget
	2024/2025	2025/2026	2026/2027
9. Personnel Services	7,774,313	7,605,431	8,279,046
10. Materials and Services	2,051,985	2,390,593	2,442,251
11. Capital Outlay	728,094	1,412,050	1,579,825
12. Debt Service	990,333	1,010,447	1,033,336
13. Interfund Transfers	621,502	666,747	544,634
14. Contingencies	-	300,000	500,000
15. Special Payments	136,503	930,000	920,000
16. Unappropriated Ending Balance and Reserved for Future Expenditure	3,841,819	1,064,735	695,987
17. Total Requirements —add lines 9 through 16	16,144,549	15,380,003	15,995,078

FINANCIAL SUMMARY - REQUIREMENTS AND FULL-TIME EQUIVALENT EMPLOYEES (FTE) BY ORGANIZATION UNIT OR PROGRAM*

Name of Organization Unit or Program	FTE for Unit or Program	2024/2025	2025/2026	2026/2027
Name: Suppression	4,339,036	3,900,125	4,220,572	
FTE	16.25	16.75	16.75	
Name: Fire & Life Safety	475,750	458,258	773,655	
FTE	2.00	2.00	3.54	
Name: Legislative	42,105	61,410	119,950	
FTE	-	-	-	
Name: Finance and Administration	668,986	676,694	732,123	
FTE	1.75	1.45	1.45	
Name: Maintenance	423,855	410,385	422,010	
FTE	-	-	-	
Name: Training	314,150	256,879	336,028	
FTE	1.00	0.70	1.00	
Name: Volunteer	440,208	226,463	212,929	
FTE	1.00	-	-	
Name: Lebanon Ambulance	3,850,302	4,255,804	4,281,024	
FTE	19.00	17.10	15.80	
Name: Non-Allocated to Program	1,748,338	5,133,985	4,896,787	
FTE	-	-	-	
Total Requirements Total	16,144,549	15,380,003	15,995,078	
FTE	41.00	38.00	38.54	

STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN ACTIVITIES AND SOURCES OF FINANCING*

The LFD switched our accounting method from modified cash basis to cash basis beginning FY 2025/2026 to improve our financial reporting. This will allow for more informed decision-making and strategic planning. The cash basis method simplifies our accounting process, reducing the complexity and potential for errors associated with the modified cash-basis.

PROPERTY TAX LEVIES

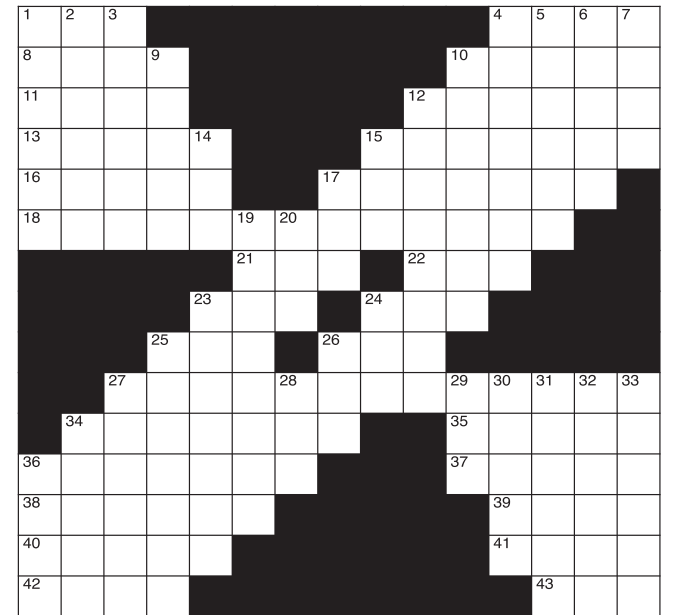
	Rate or Amount Imposed	Rate or Amount Imposed	Rate or Amount Imposed
Permanent Rate Levy.....(Rate Limit \$2.26 per \$1000)	2.26	2.26	2.26
Local Option Levy.....	-	-	-
Levy for General Obligation Bonds.....	990,333	1,010,447	1,033,336

STATEMENT OF INDEBTEDNESS

Long Term Debt	Estimated Debt Outstanding on July 1	Estimated Debt Authorized but not incurred on July 1
General Obligation Bonds.....	15,063,500	
Other Bonds.....	360,000	
Other Borrowings		

*If more space is needed to complete any section of this form, use the space below or add sheets.

CROSSWORD



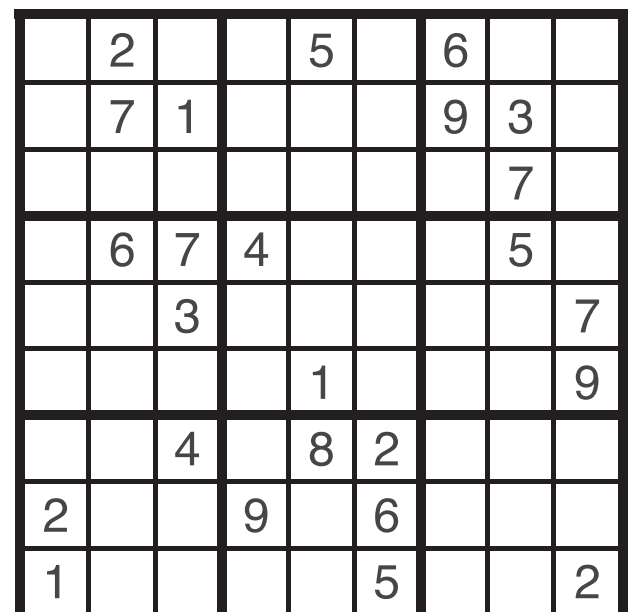
CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Female deer
- 4. Unfashionable people
- 8. Entranceway
- 10. Courteous
- 11. Level
- 12. Deli meat
- 13. Details
- 15. Stole
- 16. A genus of bee
- 17. Expressed as digits
- 18. Your child's daughter
- 21. ___ and flow
- 22. Small amount
- 23. Revolutions per minute
- 24. Criticize
- 25. Snake-like fish
- 26. Cooling mechanism
- 27. Inquiry
- 34. Engage in political activity
- 35. The lowest adult male singing voice
- 36. Endings
- 37. Irises
- 38. The highest parts
- 39. Kimono sashes
- 40. Bewilders
- 41. Mentally healthy
- 42. Used to traverse snow
- 43. Inflamed

CLUES DOWN

- 1. Adventurous
- 2. Deliverer of speeches
- 3. Skin condition
- 4. Widened
- 5. James Cameron film
- 6. The 3rd letter of the Hebrew alphabet
- 7. Moved along a surface
- 9. Pharmacological agent
- 10. Charity
- 12. Seeing someone famous
- 14. Not happy
- 15. Farm animal
- 17. Give a nickname to
- 19. Uses up
- 20. Type of missile (abbr.)
- 23. Criticizes
- 24. Midwife
- 25. Entwined
- 26. Supervises interstate commerce
- 27. A way to convert
- 28. Female sibling
- 29. TV network
- 30. Tropical Asian plant
- 31. Line on a map
- 32. Denotes songbirds
- 33. Made publicly known
- 34. He devised mud cleats for football
- 36. Trends

SUDOKU



Level: Advanced

SPORTS ROUNDUP

From page 9

so couldn't score for the team, but finished with a 97.

Lebanon played Monday, April 27, at the OGA course in Woodburn in its final match before districts on May 11-12, which will be hosted by the Warriors at Mallard Creek.

LEBANON GIRLS GOLF

The Warriors played their fourth MWC match of the season Monday, April 20, at Trysting Tree in Corvallis, finishing seventh in a field of eight scoring teams.

Lebanon finished with a 435. Crescent Valley, led by individual winner Anna Rivers, who shot seven-over 78, finished with 349. Woodburn was second (391) and West Albany third (393).

Sophomore Sierra Miller led the Warriors with a 98, with Sierra Miller finishing with 100, Bailey Lester 110, Kari Collins with 127 and Carmen Johnson with 128.

The girls played Monday, April

27, in their own tournament at Mallard Creek, their final regular-season match of the year. They will host the MWC tournament May 11-12 at Mallard Creek.

SWEET HOME BOYS GOLF

Trent Harvey shot an 80 to place third and pace the Huskies to a third-place team finish in a Oregon West League golf match at Langdon Farms hosted by North Marion Monday, April 20.

Henry Gainer finished with a 93, followed by Evan Malabago (95), Lynkin Royer (101) and Blayne Schuster (102).

The Huskies played Monday, April 27, at Cross Creek and will finish their regular-season match schedule May 4 at Diamond Woods. Districts are May 11-12 at Tokatee.

SWEET HOME GIRLS GOLF

Sweet Home's girls were eighth in a field of nine teams Wednesday, April 22, at Bar Run in Roseburg, hosted by North Bend.

The Huskies were matched against some of the best small schools in the region, along with 5A Division Silverton and North Eugene.

Sweet Home finished with a 437, led by Tori Victor, who was 12th overall with a 98. Isabella Wagner finished with a 109. Taelyn Coleman and Lynmikka Damag both with 115, and Eleanor Larsen with 123.

Salem Academy won with a 309, led by Ellie Gladow, who shot a one-over 71 to win the individual honors. North Bend was second (372), followed by Silverton (397) and North Eugene (401).

In a nine-hole junior varsity 4A/3A/2A/1a Special District 3 match Monday, April 20, at Santiam Golf Club, hosted by Stayton, the Huskies placed second.

Freshman Ava Murry led the Huskies with a 59, with fellow freshman Caira Erspamer right behind with 60. Kylie Melkvik finished with 71 and Aiaih Duran 72.



Owen King awaits the throw to first as Central Linn's Alonzo Silva-Ortiz gets to the bag. See more game photos at sweethomenews.com/lebanonlocalnews.com.

—Cole Harnar photo

LEBANON TRACK

From page 13

two scoring entries per event per team, but Eadon Marshall placed sixth, even though he didn't get credit for it, with a long jump of 19-11¼, ahead of Dickerson, who scored at that position with a jump of 19-4. Dickerson was also third in the triple jump (38-11¼).

Lebanon and Crescent Valley at Corvallis Tuesday, April 21

In a three-way meet with Mid-Willamette Conference rivals Crescent Valley and Corvallis Tuesday, April 21, Lebanon finished third on both the boys and girls sides, as the Warriors prepped for their invitational on Friday.

Winners for the boys varsity were Bodhi Brown in the 100 (11.45) and the 200 (22.43), David Brandt in the javelin (133-10), Gunner Harris in the pole vault (10-6), and Zachary Dickerson in the triple jump (39-2).

Scorers on the track for the Warriors were Luke Johnson, fifth in the 100 (11.74), Cade Weber, eighth in the 100 (11.92) and fourth in the 200 (22.81), Logan Taylor, sixth in the 200 (23.92, a PR), Brandt fifth (2:17.90) and Jackson

Simmons sixth (2:20.46, a PR) in the 800; Xavier Macedo fourth in the 1500 (4:25.71) and the 3000 (10:02.20) — both PR's.

The team of freshmen Cody Cruz and Brody Hensley and sophomores Zachary Dickerson and Eadon Marshall third in the 4x100 (44.98), and the team of freshmen Simmons and Jakin Lee, sophomore Cash Davis and Harris, a senior, fifth in the 4x400 (4:29.10).

In the field, Dylan Juntunen was fourth in the shot (37-10) and third in the discus (117-6, a PR), Jaxon Christopherson was eighth in the shot (33-0½) and John Rokitka seventh in the discus (87-2). Christopherson was fifth in the javelin (112-2) with Gabriel Manner sixth (104-3).

Michael Kluttz was second in the pole vault (10-0), while Logan Taylor set a PR of 19-5 to place fourth in the long jump, followed by Eadon Marshall in fifth (19-4) and Dickerson sixth in 19-3. Steven Searles was second in the triple in 33-0.

Girls varsity winners were Heather Savedra in the javelin (97-5) and Ruby Vandebos in the triple jump.

Scorers for the girls were Jocilynn Durgeloh, fourth in the 800 (2:40.72), followed by

Peyton Vorderstrasse in sixth (2:45.15, a PR) and Zoey Beskow in eighth (3:27.60, a PR).

Savedra was third in the 100 hurdles in 18:56, and Libby Pointer was third in a personal best of 55.23 in the 300 hurdles, followed by Leslie Thayer in sixth (56.96).

The team of Diana Sanchez, Danica Jimenez, Alyssa Zhiltsov and Thayer were third in the 4x100 (54.70) and Vorderstrasse, Hannah Pool, Grace Murray and Harmony Villafana-Garcia were third in the 4x400 in 5:16.36.

Raquel Biggs was fifth in the shot (25-8), with Evangeline Graves seventh (22-10) and Leslie Thayer eighth (22-2¾).

In the discus, Evangeline Graves was fifth (75-5), Zoey Beskow sixth (73-4) and Teryn Gandy seventh (63-10).

Harmony Villafana-Garci was second in the javelin (95-3), with Beskow eighth (64-5).

Pointer was fifth in the high jump (4-4) and Thayer was fourth in the pole vault (7-6).

In the long jump, Addy Pickles was second (16-4½), followed by Harper Pepperling in fifth (15-7) and Jane Brandt seventh in 15-1½.

Pickles was second in the triple jump (33-7), with Brtandt seventh (29-0½).

PUBLIC SAFETY

From page 11

2:18 p.m. - Diana Lynn Delaney, 63, arrested after she turned herself in at SHPD, 1950 Main, on LCCC warrant for FTA in contempt of court case. Cited and released.

5:11 p.m. - Caller reported juveniles riding "something motorized" in Northside Park, 1712 11th Ave.

8:11 p.m. - Cody Allen Bowman, 36, arrested on SHMC warrants for FTA in two theft cases and two trespassing cases, 1200 block Long. Cited and released.

8:50 p.m. - Caller reported juveniles in Sankey Park,

877 14th. Officer responded, contacted juveniles, who were advised of park hours. Parent picked them up.

9:24 p.m. - Caller from Dollar Tree reported theft from store, 2414 Main. Male to be trespassed if located.

Lebanon Police

9:11 a.m. - Theft of bike reported, 300 block Boulder Falls Dr.

10:32 p.m. - Erik S. Mulrooney, 36, cited for DWS.

10:46 p.m. - Earl E. Moffet, 34, cited on LCCC warrant for FTA - assault IV.

11:20 p.m. - Cory Howard Tharp, 31, cited for DWS.

LCSO/OSP Sweet Home/S. County

3:01 a.m. - Chance Holley, 26, of Sweet Home, cited for DU, Main/Clark Mill.

8:48 a.m. - Deputy located garbage dumped on side of road, 46900 block Quartzville. Report taken for littering.

10:12 a.m. - Caller reported vehicle stolen, 700 block Amelia, Brownsville. Investigation ongoing.

According to LCSO, victim had an odd interaction when they asked a stranger walking by to drive the victim to town, in their own 2017 Jeep Wrangler. The stranger agreed

ELCA BASEBALL

From page 12

erty alone, with seven other Eagles also notching one or more steals.

Fenerty led the team at the plate, going 2-4, including a double, and Hooper also had a two-bagger.

Up next for the Eagles, tied for fourth in Special District 3 with Santiam at 5-6 going into this week, is third-place Monroe (10-2) on the road Tuesday, followed by home games on Thursday and Saturday. There are three more weeks left of league play in District 3.

Eagle softball continues undefeated

East Linn's softball team came into this week tied with Regis in first place in 2A/1A Special District 3, both teams undefeated in league play.

The Eagles continued their winning ways last week at Central Linn, defeating the Cobras 9-5 at home Tuesday, April 21, then taking to the road for a pair of double-header wins in Halsey on Friday, 8-1 and 19-7.

The Tuesday game actually saw ELCA in a usual position: trailing after the first inning, as the hosts came out firing with Lily Diaz leading things off with a home run and Hannah Travis doubled for the Cobras to score four runs.

But the Eagles worked their way into the lead over the next three innings, scoring one each in the bottom of the first and second, whereupon Josie Davidson drove in two runs of East Linn's three runs in the third to give them a 5-4 lead.

Central Linn scored one

more in the top of the fourth, but the Eagles answered with two more and never looked back, scoring single runs in the fifth and sixth to end with the 9-5 win.

Davidson (2-4), Abby Mitchell (2-2), Ally Hatch (2-3) and Madison Adams (2-3) delivered East Linn's eight hits, while Liv Kropf stuck out five, allowing one walk and six hits for the win.

Things were different in the opener on Friday. After exchanging single runs in the first, East Linn scored in every inning, including four in the third and seven in the sixth to run away with a 19-7 win.

Adams went 4-5 at the plate, two of them doubles, for the Eagles, who got two hits each from Kropf, Eva Pimm (one a double), Macy Rehnberg (two doubles) and Meeya Rehnberg (two doubles) for a total of 18. Kropf earned the win, finishing with two strikeouts.

Hatch led ELCA in steals with four for the game, with Adams adding three to their total of 13.

East Linn got things going right away in Game 2, scoring two in the top of the first, adding on more in the fourth and three in the sixth before the hosts scored a single run in the bottom of the sixth to get on the scoreboard. The Eagles finished things off with two runs in the seventh.

Mitchell and Davidson both delivered doubles and Kropf contributed two of the Eagles' six stolen bases.

Up next is Monroe, third in the league coming into this week at 9-3. ELCA will play there on Tuesday, April 28, then will host home games on Thursday and Saturday, both at 4 p.m.

Blooms and Brews at Sankey Park



Sweet Home celebrated Arbor Day, above, Saturday, April 21, with the inaugural Blooms and Brews Festival at Sankey Park. The event included a wide variety of vendors selling plants and flowers, baked goods, beverages and food offered by local restaurant Casa de Reyes. OSU Extension and the Sweet Home Beautification Committee also had booths at the event. Above right, Crystal Dodson introduces the members of the Sportsman's Holiday Junior Court. At right, Paula Metz and Angela Ross speak with a vendor about his lilacs at one of the booths. See more photos at sweethomenews.com.

Photos by Miriam Swanson

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Father-daughter duo share their art talents in SH City Hall gallery

By Satina Tolman
For The New Era

The newest installment of the SHOCASE Art Exhibit at Sweet Home City Hall features the talents of a father-and-daughter duo.

The art show of Pam Ogden and Lane Clem is on display through May 31 in the hallways at City Hall, 3225 Main St. The exhibit is free to view during City Hall hours, Monday through Thursday from 7 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

Ogden has lived in Sweet Home for 30 years with her husband, Jason, now the city's police chief and city manager, and their six children, all of whom she has homeschooled.

She works with a variety of art mediums and also enjoys building model houses, writing memoirs and painting portraits. Several of her watercolor portraits are on display at City Hall.

Art has been a passion for Ogden since childhood, she said. As a child, she even built a scale model of a real 1920s farmhouse, complete with historical furniture.

Faces are her favorite subject. She is drawn to the realism of expressions and said hair, clothing and background are less important to her.

"I just want to show the expressions on the faces," she said. "I have always wanted to illustrate a children's book for that reason. I want to show the expression and details of the face, but the rest of the body can be kind of abstract."

Ogden has several watercolor portraits showcased in the exhibit, including one of her neighbor Judy and another of her grandmother, Opal. She also has a line drawing of her daughter embracing a family friend whom they consider an adopted grandfather, capturing a moment of emotional affection.

Among her works is a striking

portrait of Victor Hugo, in which she captures deep expression in the author's eyes.

"I love Victor Hugo," Ogden said. "My kids and I were obsessed with 'Les Misérables,' all the productions of it, but especially the unabridged giant brick book." She said she relied on blurry black-and-white images from history and had to imagine what he might have looked like up close.

She also painted one of her favorite composers, Claude Debussy, inspired by her oldest daughter, who frequently plays his music.

Despite her own talent, Ogden was initially reluctant to participate in the exhibit because she wanted the spotlight to focus on her father.

"I thought it really should be my dad's show," she said. However, the two are quick to praise each other with evident pride.

Clem began pursuing watercolor more seriously in 1983 while working at First Interstate Bank in Beaverton. He started by painting portraits of co-workers' children. He has no formal training and said his talent comes from "sweat and determination."

As a child, Clem was fascinated with automobiles, especially classic models. He dreamed of collecting and restoring them, but the expense did not align with his financial goals. Through watercolor, he found he could paint them and "own" his favorite classics as artwork. He has since been commissioned by people nationwide to paint antique and classic cars.

His work has appeared in several shows over the years, including displays at the Village Gallery of Art in Beaverton and in the display window of the Portland Justice Center. "It has grown a lot more than I ever anticipated or planned," Clem said of his artistic career.

Clem has one oil painting in



Father-daughter artists Lane Clem and Pam Ogden hold some of their work, currently on display at the Sweet Home City Hall Art Gallery. — Satina Tolman photo

the exhibit.

"I struggled with it and decided I don't like to do oil painting, so it is the last one I ever did," he said.

He also has wood-carved artwork on display, including a clock designed to resemble a giant wristwatch and an antique sewing machine clock he made as a gift for his wife, Marie, who quilts.

The couple have been married 60 years and have three children and 10 grandchildren. Clem has also crafted wooden toy tools with work-

ing hinges and parts, including a socket wrench with interchangeable sockets.

One watercolor painting depicts a scene in Julian, Calif., a small town in the mountains east of San Diego.

"I saw that truck parked there, and I really wanted that truck," he said. "I didn't care about the stores or anything, but I loved that truck. So I painted the truck, and the background kind of just went with it."

Other works include a canal street in Venice, Italy, and Hearst Castle in California.

Many of Clem's remaining pieces feature classic cars.

"All my life, I have been fascinated with cars," he said. "If I were very rich and had all the money I wanted, I would have bought cars all over the place. ... So I figured if I paint them, it's almost like I have them." Clem also made the wooden frames used in the exhibit and cut all the mats himself.

Clem and his wife are square dancers. The Oregon Federation of Square Dance Clubs issued a challenge to design the cover for its 2021 directory, and one of Clem's pieces on display was selected. He later donated the painting for auction, where it sold for \$600 and was loaned back for the exhibit.

His favorite painting is one he gifted to his grandson, Ivan Ogden. A close look reveals reflections of people in the polished side of a 1960 red Thunderbird.

The first car Clem ever painted is also included. He

recalled seeing a black 1950 Ford for sale for \$75 when he was in high school. Unable to afford it, he painted it instead. "So I got my car, but I can't drive it," he said. His daughter added, "You don't have to maintain it, though."

Among Ogden's portraits sits Clem's only portrait in the exhibit, which is his grandson Henry, playing baseball.

Clem hopes viewers feel nostalgia when they see his work. He wants his paintings of old cars and familiar places to spark memories.

Of her father, Ogden said, "He can pretty much do anything. He builds and refinishes furniture, knits, paints, draws, sings, dances, calls square dances, plays the piano and organ, and will tackle almost any home repair. He's definitely multi-gifted."

Clem said his daughter has "always been very creative and artistic" and grew up in a home that encouraged creativity. He recalled she was "very young" when she decorated her bedroom by drawing a forest on the walls and ceiling. "I didn't have permission to do that either," Ogden said. Clem added, "We didn't discourage her, though."

Lee Roscoe-Bragg, art curator for the SHOCASE City Hall Art Exhibits, praised the duo. "I love it. It is so great with all the variety," Roscoe-Bragg said.

Artists interested in being featured by SHOCASE can learn more at sweethomeshocase.org or on the organization's Facebook page.

The *ICEBOX* Performer Of The Week



This week's ICEBOX performer of the week goes to Buddy, our amazing Inventory Specialist.

Buddy is always willing to step in wherever he's needed and consistently brings a positive attitude to the team. He not only works hard, but often goes above and beyond, always looking for ways to help manage and reduce inventory costs.

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

