

# The New Era

SWEET HOME • LEBANON • AND SURROUNDING COMMUNITIES

Serving East Linn County Since 1929

WEDNESDAY, MAY 27, 2026

VOL. 96, NO. 21 | \$2.00

## Memorial Day in East Linn County



Carolyn McDermed, center, and Randy Claasen of the Sweet Home Elks Lodge lay a wreath at the Veterans Memorial at Gilliland Cemetery in Sweet Home Monday during the annual Memorial Day service held there. At right, an attendee at Lebanon's ceremony, held at the I.O.O.F. Cemetery, salutes the flag as he holds a wreath. For more on Memorial Day, see our 55 Plus section on page 17. To see many more photos of the local events, visit [sweethomenews.com](http://sweethomenews.com) and [lebanonlocalnews.com](http://lebanonlocalnews.com).  
- Photos by Scott Swanson and Sarah Brown

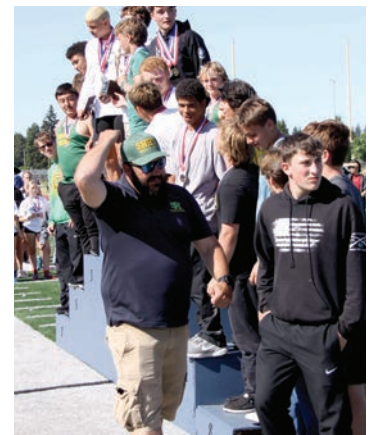
HOMETOWN  
NEWSPAPER OF  
SUSAN  
OLSEN

This Week's Top Stories



### Youth honored at Lebanon event

Lebanon Optimist Club held its 27th annual Junior Outstanding Youth Award ceremony. [Page 6](#)



### Huskies win district track title

Sweet Home's boys won their first district track and field championship since 2010. [Page 14](#)

## After tweaks, LCSD budget gets approval

By Scott Swanson  
*Of The New Era*

Lebanon Community School District Budget Committee members on Thursday, May 21, approved a \$99.4 million budget for 2026-27 after making some modifications to allow some \$2 million in cuts with less impact on athletics.

The actual General Fund, which is essentially the district's checkbook for day-to-day expenses, is \$66,203,232. The \$99.4 million figure represents all of the district's proposed spending for the upcoming fiscal year, including money saved for capital projects, debt service, savings and various other funds.

In their initial meeting on May 14, some committee members were visibly concerned about the cutting of the football program at Seven Oak Middle School and other cuts, particularly the removal of one dance

See LCSD Budget, Page 11

## County parks ready to roll after busy winter of windstorm cleanup efforts

By Alex Paul  
*Linn County Communications*

The Linn County Parks and Recreation Department had a busy winter, due in part to a major windstorm that downed many trees in Detroit-area campgrounds and Whitcomb County Park.

But with Memorial Day and the start of camping season at hand, campgrounds are ready to welcome guests now and in coming weeks, according to county Parks Director Stacey Whaley.

Whaley is gearing up for her fourth season leading a full-time staff of 17, which serves both Linn County and U.S. Forest Service campgrounds. Linn County has about 600 camping sites and the Forest Service has more than 600 sites.

"We did a lot of behind-the-scenes work over the winter," Whaley said. "We initiated a new reservation system and went live with a new website. We had to create everything from scratch for the reservation system and we had to transfer all the current reservations into the new system."

The Parks Department dou-



Cascadia Park is one of many that have seen upgrades during the past winter. - Linn County photo

bled its campsite offerings when it added the U.S. Forest Service campgrounds and with that move, there were some growing pains as that also required adding seasonal staffing - fulltime staffing

remains at 17, vehicles and maintenance equipment, such as leaf blowers and weed eaters.

Linn County's Parks Department - See County Parks, Page 22



# Obituaries

### Veryl Peters

March 8, 1941 - April 29, 2026

Veryl Peters, 85, peacefully passed April 29, 2026, in Keizer.

She was born on March 8, 1941, to Vernon and Viva (Hanes) Wollam in Moorefield, Neb. After moving from Nebraska, Veryl attended Lebanon schools, graduating from Lebanon High School in 1958.

Veryl married Ronald J. Lindsay in the spring of 1958, together they had four children: Barbra, Randy, Jodene and Susan. During these years Veryl helped tend to office duties in the Forest Station on the Little North Fork in Lyons-Mehama while raising a young, growing family. Veryl and Ron, during their 16 years of marriage, lived in many Oregon towns, including Sweet Home, Gates, and Lyons-Mehama, before divorcing in 1975, at which time Veryl moved to Stayton.



On Nov. 29, 1985, Veryl married Edward Peters of Sublimity, where they made their first home. Ed and Veryl lived in Sublimity and Salem over their 32 years of marriage. Edward passed on July 13, 2017.

Veryl worked for the State of Oregon Department of Human Services as a DHS lead and human resource coordinator for over 30 years, loving her job and those she worked beside. Her activities included: Santiam 9-holers Golf, Courthouse Club - Keizer water aerobics, and years of piano playing. After retiring Veryl and Ed traveled to many locations within the U.S.A. visiting relatives and natural wonders.

Veryl is preceded in death by her parents, brother Larry Wollam, son Randal Lindsay, husband Edward Peters, and daughter-in-law, Shelly Peters. She is survived by her children: Barbra (John) Griesenauer; Jodene (Jon) Huddleston; Susan (Wayne) Kizer; Jeffrey Peters; Janilyn (Don) Mallavia; Jennifer Peters; Jena Peters; sister: Alice Williams; 13 grand and nine great-grandchildren with three more on the way.

A friends and family memorial is being held at the Santiam Golf Club, Aumsville, on Friday, June 26, 2026, at 2 p.m., with a program starting at 2:30 p.m.

Contributions can be made to the Alzheimer's Association of Oregon and SW Washington, Alzheimer's Association, with dedication in Veryl L. Peters

*Paid Obituary*

### Sugar Adee

Dec. 6, 1957 - April 6, 2026

Sugar Candy Adee, 68, of Lebanon, passed away peacefully on April 6, 2026, in Corvallis, surrounded by her family.

She was born Dec. 6, 1957, in Washington to Jewel and Alvin Fifield.

Sugar cherished time with her family above all else. She found joy in baking, hosting family dinners, and bringing loved ones together. Music was also a special part of her life, with a particular love for Elvis.

During her early years, she lived in Washington and spent summers in Oregon, harvesting vegetables with her family. At the age of 11, she made Oregon her permanent home, where she built a life centered on family, love, and togetherness.

Candy is survived by her devoted husband of 43 years, Jim Adee; her daughters, Jennifer Casto, Amanda Cockrell, Melissa Origer, Samantha Schunk and Creole Adams; daughter-in-law Shelene Prater; brothers Harry and Jimmy Fifield; sister Geneva Mallang; as well as Keith and Carissa Logan. She also leaves behind 21 grandchildren and five great-grandchildren who will carry on her memory.

She was preceded in death by her sister, Clarissa Fifield; her brothers, Alvin "Buddy" Fifield and Charles Fifield; and her son, James "Jimbo" Prater.

A celebration of Candy's life will be held at 3 p.m. on June 13 at First Christian Church, 170 E Grant St., Lebanon.

*Paid Obituary*



### Douglas Stubbings

Dec. 18, 1982 - May 8, 2026

Douglas William Stubbings, 43, of Sweet Home passed away May 8, 2026.

He was born Dec. 18, 1982, to Teresa Lynn Adair and Ross William Stubbings in Lancaster, Calif.

Doug loved skateboarding, lifeguarding, kayaking and surfing. He graduated from Willamette High School and studied business at Santa Rosa Junior College.

While in Santa Rosa, CA,

he nurtured his passion for technical culinary precision and advanced his skills as a chef/line cook in high-volume, professional kitchens.

His family and countless friends will deeply miss his kind heart, infectious laughter, and loving nature.



Doug is survived by his mother and stepdad, Terry and Kerry Goodpaster; his second mom, Renee (John) Robles; and his former stepdad, Greg Darcy.

He was preceded in death by his father, Ross Stubbings; grandparents Bill and Dolores Adair, and Frank and Madeline Stubbings; his step-grandpa, Bob Cooper; and his uncle, Ray Adair.

Sweet Home Funeral Chapel is handling the arrangements.

## Death Notices

**Daniel LeRoy Ames, 56**, of Sweet Home, passed away May 18, 2026.

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

**Dennis Dee Morris, 75**, of Lebanon passed away May 20, 2026.

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

**Estelle True Sexton, 92**, of Sweet Home passed away May 15, 2026.

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

## Circuit Court

**Iris Onelia Alvarez-Perez de Arriaga, 46**, sentenced May 21 to 24 mos. bench probation, five days compensatory service in lieu of jail after pleading guilty to

assault IV. Dismissed: criminal mistreatment I.

**Rebecca Lynn Barber, 49**, charged May 20 with DUII (liquor).

**Todd Stephen Byrnes, 54**, charged May 12 with DUII.

**Justin Tyme Carr, 49**, sentenced May 12 to 36 mos. supervised probation and

a \$200 fine after pleading no contest to attempt to commit Class A felony - arson I. Dismissed: two counts of recklessly endangering another

person.

**Brien Keith Cockrell, 51**, sentenced May 8 to 10 days jail and 24 mos. supervised probation after pleading no contest to unauthorized use of a vehicle. In a separate case he was sentenced to the same jail time, but concurrent, after pleading no contest to unauthorized use of a vehicle.

**James Raymond Robert Collins, 27**, sentenced May 21 to 90 days jail concurrent with a separate case after pleading no contest to DV - assault IV. Dismissed: strangulation.

**Miguel Estrada Cortes, 68**, sentenced May 20 to 10 days compensatory service in lieu of jail, 20 days probation, 24 mos. bench probation and a \$100 fine after pleading no contest to attempt to commit Class C/ unclassified felony - unlawful use of a weapon. Dismissed: menacing, assault II.

**Dustin Kyle Coughran, 35**, charged May 7 with DV assault IV.

**Cristy Jane Cromwell, 44**, charged May 22 with unlawful possession of meth. Bail: \$10,000.

See Circuit Court, Page 3

Carnival ♦ Music ♦ Parade ♦ Vendors ♦ Shortcake ♦ Familyland

# LEBANON

## June 4-7, 2026

### CHEADLE LAKE PARK, LEBANON

KICK OFF SUMMER AT LEBANON'S SWEETEST TRADITIONS. WE'VE GOT THOSE CLASSIC VIBES AND FUN AROUND EVERY CORNER FOR ONE UNFORGETTABLE WEEKEND!

**Bryan Martin**  
FRIDAY, 6/5

**Brady Goss**  
SATURDAY, 6/6

**Roll On**  
SATURDAY, 6/6

MAIN STAGE ENTERTAINMENT INCLUDED WITH ADMISSION

Get your tickets & carnival wristbands online for discounts

Learn more online at: [www.lebanonstrawberryfest.com](http://www.lebanonstrawberryfest.com)



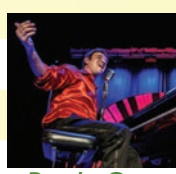
Carnival ♦ Music ♦ Parade ♦ Vendors ♦ Shortcake ♦ Familyland

June 4-7, 2026  
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Bryan Martin  
FRIDAY, 6/5



Brady Goss  
SATURDAY, 6/6



Roll On  
SATURDAY, 6/6

FIREWORKS  
SATURDAY  
NIGHT  
FOLLOWING  
THE  
CONCERT

MAIN STAGE ENTERTAINMENT INCLUDED WITH ADMISSION

Get your tickets & carnival wristbands online for discounts



Learn more online at: [www.lebanonstrawberryfest.com](http://www.lebanonstrawberryfest.com)

# Public Safety

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

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

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

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

## MAY 24

### SWEET HOME POLICE

2:45 a.m. - Michael James Mansell, 28, arrested on LMC warrant in probation violation case. Michael Scott DeLay arrested on AMC warrant for FTC in contempt case, LMC warrant for FTA in criminal citation case. Both cited and released. Both warned for improper bike lights.  
5:22 p.m. - Caller reported that male left area of 1500 block

Tamarack stating he was going to kill himself. SHPD contacted male who was taken to SLCH by medics on police officer hold because he had been involved in an earlier crash, investigated by OSP after trooper witnessed it, in 4000 block Main. Details on crash not immediately available.

7:48 p.m. - Caller reported wallet stolen from house in 1000 block 5th previous day.

8:33 p.m. - Caller reported that male whom she has restraining order against was at location in 2400 block Long, playing with kids with whom he was not supposed to be in contact. Officer took report for restraining order violation.

### LEBANON POLICE

9:07 a.m. - Theft reported at Safeway.

3:37 p.m. - Male and female were in port-a-potty near Booth Park. Male came out with his pants down, nude from waist down.

4:37 p.m. - Man cussed at kids inside McDonald's for being loud and their scooters left in walkway. Kids were disrespectful and also cussed at him. Kid threw cup of soda at man's car. Officer found both parties had acted in juvenile manner, with no positive outcome or lesson learned.

7:22 p.m. - Konner John Wood, 28, cited for DWS.

### LCSO/OSP

**SWEET HOME S. COUNTY**  
1:39 a.m. - Martin Meraz-Perez, 39, of Portland, arrested for criminal trespass I, SHMC warrant for FTA in theft case, and on AMC, LMC and Washington County warrants. 25000 block Hwy. 99, Halsey. Cited to appear in SHMC June 10. Report taken.  
11:23 a.m. - Sweet Home Fire,

deputies, responded to shed fire in 43400 block Ames Creek.

3:59 p.m. - Crash reported in 51300 block Quartzville, near Milepost 26. Jorge Aaron Villa, 28, of Albany, arrested for DUII, failure to perform duties of driver to injured persons, reckless driving, reckless endangering, assault III and DWS. One passenger transported with "serious, but non-life-threatening" injuries. Others treated by medics at the scene for minor injuries. Villa lodged at LCJ. Report taken.

5:24 p.m. - Caller reported adult hit child in face, 50100 block Hwy. 20, Cascadia. Investigation ongoing. Report taken.

7:21 p.m. - Deputy stopped driver for not wearing seatbelt. Driver's excuse was that she was "too fat" to wear it properly, and it was under her left arm. She was warned. Main/Hausman, Brownsville.

### LCSO/OSP LEBANON

9:41 a.m. - Deputies responded to burglary in vacant building 35100 block Brewster. Investigation ongoing. Report taken.

8:36 p.m. - Cody Tarbet, 23, of Lebanon, cited for speeding, 11-20 mph over limit, 37100 block Hwy. 266.

10:47 p.m. - Deputy checked suspicious vehicle parked near Lebanon Dam, 38400 block River Dr., discovered naked couple in back seat performing coitus. They were warned that this was not the place for these activities.

## MAY 23

### SWEET HOME POLICE

1:15 p.m. - Raymond Murray Harris cited for DWS after caller reported vehicle unable to maintain lane. Officer stopped vehicle, determined

driver was "distracted by his ice cream." Vehicle parked due to DWS cite. Main/53rd.

2:53 p.m. - Shawn Michael Gali arrested on LMC warrant for probation violation in theft case, 1600 block Long. Cited and released.

3:29 p.m. - James Alan Wood, arrested on LCCC warrant for FTA in meth possession case, cited for DWS, DU. 1400 block Main. Cited and released.

### LEBANON POLICE

12:19 a.m. - Neighbor pounded on door, said she woke him up, hit her in the face, 100 block E Elmore St. Brittany Nicole Elliott, 34, cited on LCCC warrant for FTA - criminal trespass II and LMC warrants for FTAs.

1:47 a.m. - Joshua James Morris, 56, taken into custody for DUII. Car towed.

1:28 p.m. - Juan Martinez Munoz, 64, taken into custody for DUII.

7:38 p.m. - Eddie Zarr, 46, cited on LMC warrant for FTA - trespass I.

### LCSO/OSP SWEET HOME S. COUNTY

12:02 a.m. - Heather Tressell, 40, of Crawfordsville, arrested on two FTA warrants after report of suspicious person in area of Hwy. 228/Courtney Creek, Brownsville. Cited and released. Report taken.

12:35 p.m. - Caller reported finding bones in wooded area in 27000 block Old Holley. Deputy responded, determined it was a deer - with hooves.

12:43 p.m. - Deputy located illegal camp in 49700 block Quartzville.

1:15 p.m. - Caller from area of Main/53rd reported she was hit by can thrown from vehicle.

1:44 p.m. - Athena Noble, 41,

See Public Safety, Page 8

## CIRCUIT COURT

From page 2

**Kevin Lee Cuomo, 30**, charged May 5 with criminal mischief I, criminal trespass II and three counts of menacing. Bail: \$10,000. In a separate case he is charged with criminal mischief I. Bail: \$5,000.

**Jayson Lee Denu, 34**, charged May 11 with DUII (liquor) and reckless driving.

**Jessica Ruth Devlin, 45**, charged May 11 with DUII (liquor) and reckless driving.

**Shannon Marie Duffy, 64**, charged May 18 with DUII

(liquor).

**Ashlee Lee Flanagan, 38**, sentenced May 13 to 10 days compensatory service in lieu of jail and 36 mos. supervised probation after pleading no contest to felon in possession of a firearm.

**Michael Duane France, 46**, sentenced May 13 to life revocation of a drivers license, 20 days jail, 10 days compensatory service, 24 mos. bench probation and \$2,255 in fines and fees after pleading guilty to DUII (liquor) with a .09% BAC. Dismissed: reckless driving, criminal DWS.

**Matanui Solomona Fulu, 63**, charged May 6 with DUII (liquor).

**Travis Michael Gates, 31**, charged May 18 with DV - attempted assault II, DV - strangulation, DV - coercion, DV - assault IV, recklessly endangering another person, and DUII (liquor). He posted 10% of a \$10,000 bail.

**Kleever Josue Hernandez-Aguilar, 21**, charged May 15 with DUII (liquor).

**Delores Eileen Higgins, 63**, sentenced April 30 to three years suspension of a drivers license, 10 days jail, 24 mos. bench probation and \$2,150 in fines after pleading guilty to DUII (liquor) with a .043% BAC and refusal to take a test for intoxicants. Dismissed: reckless driving, criminal driving while suspended.

**Marion Ray Hokland, 60**, sentenced May 8 to 10 mos. prison and two years post-prison supervision after pleading guilty to criminal DWS. **Christopher Paul Jayne, 36**,

charged May 6 with forgery I and criminal possession of a forged instrument I, to wit, counterfeit currency.

**Andrew Joel Leland, 39**, sentenced May 7 to one year suspension of a drivers license, 48 days jail, 18 mos. bench probation and \$2,255 in fines and fees after pleading guilty to DUII (liquor) with a .2% BAC. Dismissed: reckless driving.

**Colby Shawn Lyon, 23**, placed in diversion program after pleading no contest to DUII (liquor) with a .24% BAC.

**Erin Diane McDonald, 40**, charged May 6 with theft I.

**Brooke Madison Marie Miller, 23**, charged May 21 with criminal mischief I and criminal trespass I. Bail: \$5,000.

**Andrew Justin Moseley, 37**, charged May 12 with DUII (liquor), reckless driving, DWS and failure to install IID.

**Raymond Joseph Mullenix, 58**, charged May 11 with burglary II, conspiracy to

See Circuit Court, Page 10

## Comfortably Dumb

by Bruce Quast



"This engine is just ground-up pieces from other cars!"

## TEMPERATURES

DATE	HIGH	LOW	RAIN
5/19	70	39	0.00
5/20	70	45	0.00
5/21	80	46	0.00
5/22	79	44	0.00
5/23	76	45	0.00
5/24	79	43	0.00
5/25	79	47	0.14

## RAIN IN INCHES

Year to date: **10.56**  
5/28/25: **19.23**

## FORECAST

DATE	WEATHER	HIGH/LOW
5/28	Cloudy	74/50
5/29	Showers	61/43
5/30	Cloudy	65/41
5/31	Sunny	70/43
6/1	Sunny	79/48
6/2	Cloudy	85/51
6/3	Cloudy	79/50

## LAKE LEVELS

Foster **635.9**  
Green Peter **970.8**

**TODAY'S FIRE DANGER IS LOW**

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

## CROSSWORD KEY

Puzzle on page 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							
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

# Corrections

The report in the May 20 edition on the Linn County Commissioners' May 12 meeting should have stated that commissioners approved a two-year lease agreement with Bedrock Holdings Group for quarry space at the Haley Quarry, formerly the Wodtli Quarry, near Sweet Home. The quarry was purchased last year by members of the Haley family and has been renamed.

# From our Files



The final round of the second annual SHJH Chess Tournament in 1976 began with 28 participants and ended with the chess team taking the top four spots. They are, from left, Gary Hummer, Perry Sanelli, Bennie Conrad and Mark David.

**MAY 31, 1951**

Traffic in Sweet Home was rerouted off M Street on 10th and the Holley Road intersection to permit work on the Ames Creek bridge, destined to become a four-lane span to accommodate a widened highway. Storm sewers will also be placed, draining into Ames Creek or the existing storm sewer system.

Sewing machines buzzed and scissors clip-clipped in the home economic rooms of Sweet Home's Union High School as the JayceeEttes created brightly colored, beruffled skirts and matching accessories for the Frontier Days queen candidates.

Jack Taylor was named the Sweet Home high school's ping pong champion in the first annual ping pong tournament. Directed under faculty member Bill Johnson, he said the tournament proved "highly successful." Next year's winner will receive a round trip air flight from Langmack Field to Portland.

**MAY 27, 1976**

Sweet Home's school levy was clearly defeated by voters after unofficial counts showed residents voted it down 1,621 no against 1,185 yes. School levies for Lebanon, Scio, Stayton and Linn-Benton Community College were also defeated.

Keith Scofield, 23, was hired as activities coordinator for the Youth Center on Main Street. A special meeting will be held for the public to discuss future activities and services of the center. Scofield, who plays cello and bass for The Bond of Love (a singing group from Community Chapel) will perform imitations of jazz, bluegrass, flamenco, blues and classical music on his cello during the meeting.

A new manufactured home for Phillip Stafford was delivered this week in two sections at the corner of 9th and Oak Terrace. The 1,365 foot home is reported to be the largest manufactured home to be located in Sweet Home.

**MAY 30, 2001**

Eugene developer Dan Desler and Mallard Creek Golf Course owner Troy Cummins are completing property purchases to develop a new resort project along the South Santiam River. The seven- to 10-year project, the Resort at Salmon Run, is proposed along the river between Clark Mill Road and Wiley Creek Park. It will include a hotel, restaurant, bar, convention space and time share units. Desler also intends to site the Oregon Rivers Freshwater Museum and Interpretive Center in the project.

Sweet Home Christian School graduated its first class, which consisted of two graduates: Paul George Wyckhuysen and Fallon Nicole Baxter. Wyckhuysen said the two-year-old school was able to provide the help and attention he needed but couldn't get in public school. He is undecided on his career path, while Baxter will aim to become a legal secretary.

## Opinion A Memoir: Everyone has to Go

By Xander Eddings

Everyone knows the pain of losing someone.

The agonizing, harrowing, gut-wrenching pain as you watch a person drift away, leaving you feeling empty again. How your chest tightens whenever they're mentioned, and how you have a stone in your throat as soon as you're supposed to mention them yourself.

How you wish it would all end, and the blissful memories would melt away so we didn't have to reminisce on these untroubled, carefree moments and find ourselves burrowing further into the aching hurt in our minds. A gash so deep in your mentality, that you find yourself feeling the physical throb of a conceptual laceration.

I, too, have lived this excruciating pain, many times. The most notable being when I lost my great-grandfather.

He was a good man, a role model I often turn to as I make important decisions. I remember the sight of him in a hospital bed, set up in our TV room, his feet drawn towards the big window, opening his view to the vast forest that surrounds our house.

I remember not his exact

words, but I can paraphrase: "I am ready to go, and I am happy as long as I get this beautiful view and my beautiful family."

I did not hear this directly from him, I heard it from my grandma, his daughter.

I did not live there at the time, and I regret not being able to spend that much time with him during his last moments. We were not the closest; we didn't talk much and we didn't have much bonding experience, yet I still respected him. He had moved from East America, and met my Abuela, an immigrant from Mexico. They built a life together, built their own house and had children together in that very place, while he also became a father to my Abuela's children, who were not his own.

Even if he is not my grandmother's biological father, he was still there. For her, and for me. He is my grandfather in my heart and in my mind, all the way. He was such a large role model in all of our lives.

He had an amazing way of musical expression, and this heavily influenced my entire family. Almost every single one of my family members on that side can either sing or play an instrument.

I remember the first time

I visited him. He looked sick. Weak. I had never in my whole life perceived my great-grandfather to be weak. He had always been the kindest, bravest person I knew, even if we didn't talk much.

But there he was. His smooth voice rang in my ears, but I still find myself gradually forgetting the sound, wishing it was still present in my life.

He was tired, and I could tell. Everyone could tell. People kept telling me he'd be OK, and that I shouldn't worry. I believed them. I believed them and guess what I got. Hurt. I got hurt.

I'm angry. Angry at everyone. Angry at the world. I've always

been angry. It's my family's fault for lying and saying he'd be OK. It's the doctors' fault for not giving him the right meds. It's the priests' fault for not praying hard enough, or not blessing him well enough.

I have all these things running through my head when I write about this. I always jump to blame other people, but in the end it's no one's fault.

Death is a natural thing. A natural thing that not many can get used to. And some never forget. But people come, and they go. Though you may never get used to it, you will learn to live with it. Learn to accept it and stop blaming the people you perceive to be at fault.

Everyone loses people. It happens more often than you might think.

Next time, don't overthink it. Don't blame people. Don't wish to forget the moments you had with them. Just try your best to be okay with the thought of them gone, and then eventually, you will be OK.

Written in loving memory of my papa, David Vanderlip.

Xander Eddings, 14 at the time she wrote this, is completing the eighth grade at Sweet Home Junior High. She wrote this memoir about her great-grandfather, a former Sweet Home School Board member, for a creative writing class.

## Remembering the Cost of Freedom: A Memorial Day poem

By Satina Tolman

For many, Memorial Day now marks the start of summer days, Of crowded camps and barbecue smoke drifting through the haze.

Storefront windows flash their signs in bold and blinding red, "Mattress Sale!" the banners shout in letters brightly spread.

The highways fill with travelers, the lakes with laughing sound,

While rows of silent marble stones stand watch across the ground.

And somewhere there's a mother with trembling hands and glistening eyes

Who kneels beside a weathered grave and quietly breaks inside.

For some, this day means little more than one more day to rest, A long weekend of sunshine, shopping, and food enjoyed with friends.

But others walk through cemeteries in the early morning rain,

Still carrying the weight of war, and always living with its

pain.

Next to the graves of the fallen, they place flags and wreaths with care

For the brothers who once stood beside them who are no longer there.

Memorial Day belongs not only to the brave who paid freedom's cost,

But to every heart still grieving for the precious ones they lost.

The widows bring carnations and tears freely shed.

The fathers bring a token and silently bow their heads.

The children, they only know their loved ones

Through stories told to daughters and sons.

The soldiers who made it home alive do not rejoice this day.

They carry ghosts no time can heal and memories that ever stay.

One veteran once told me, with a voice both worn and thin, "At least they died for somethin'. I will die of somethin'."

And somehow in those few

small words a thousand sorrows lived,

The burden of surviving when your friends no longer did.

And every flower placed beside a grave is watered down with tears

By hearts that are still breaking after all these passing years.

Memorial Day was never meant for sales or crowded shores.

It's meant to make us stop and remember what this freedom cost before.

It was bought with folded flags placed in shaking hands to hold.

And with soldiers buried too soon, never allowed to grow old. So before you strike the match beneath another backyard flame,

Before the camping trip begins, remember why this day is named.

For every flag that waves beneath the wide and open sky Represents a hero who went to war and did not make it home alive.

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# Fire damages historic barn on SH's Airport Road

Fire damaged an historic barn near the intersection on Airport Road, between 49th and 50th avenues, adding to an already busy day for Sweet Home Fire and Ambulance District.

SHFAD reported that its personnel ran 15 calls for emergency service during a 14-hour period on one shift.

The barn fire call, to 4989 Airport, came at 4:33 p.m.

According to SHFAD, crews arrived to find the small barn in a field with the roof on fire and residents attempting to spray water onto the roof with a hose. The primary residence was approximately 100 feet away and in the path of a stiff downwind of the burning barn.

The first arriving unit, a command brush rig, was able to use its onboard water to keep the flames at bay as an engine connected to the last water hydrant on the east end of Airport, and a full crew went to work to knock down the fire.

Working both interior and exterior operations simulta-

neously, the engine company was able to extinguish the fire quickly and save as much of the contents of the barn as possible while preventing fire spread to the surrounding area.

The 100-year-old barn was in good condition and the majority of the damage was contained to the roof, with minor damage to the interior as the roof had begun to fall in.

According to SHFAD, the fire most likely started from a cast ember from a burn pile upwind, approximately 75 feet away. The afternoon winds had picked up and the roof construction was cedar shake, with years of moss growth that had dried with the past week of warm weather and steady winds.

Sweet Home police assisted with traffic control during the operation, as the hydrant supply line ran across Airport Road at the bottom of 50th Ave.

In anticipation of the Memorial Day Weekend, Sweet Home Fire had upstaffed by

adding a brush engine crew to the daily roster. This, "as well as the luck of having no other calls at the time," added to the success of a quick response and extinguishment for crews, SHFAD said in a news release.

According to a previous owner of the property, the Gilliland family once used the building as a toll house for travelers on the Santiam Wagon Trail. A hotel, which was torn down in the early 1900s, once stood on the site as well.

Only hours later Sweet Home had all ambulances on calls for service, a brush engine enroute to a fire in Cascadia, and an Albany medic unit responding to another call in the Sweet Home district as Lebanon Fire was also out of units running multiple calls.

SHFAD is cautioning the community to be "extra careful and pay close attention to any burning materials, as crews may be stretched thin, responding to all emergencies."



The roof of a barn burns Friday on Airport Road. See more photos of the fire and damage at [sweethomenews.com](http://sweethomenews.com).

- Photo by Scott Swanson

# Commissioners remember former colleague Wooten

Former Linn County Commissioner Cliff Wooten loved his family and the people of Linn County, Commissioners Roger Nyquist, Sherrie Sprenger and Will Tucker agreed at their weekly meeting Tuesday morning, May 19.

A moment of silence was observed during the board meeting honoring Wooten, who died May 12 at his home near Scio. Wooten unseated incumbent commissioner Catherine Skiens in the November 2000 election and served on the Board of Commissioners for eight years.

In his 2008 filing with the Secretary of State to run for state representative, Wooten noted that in addition to the Board of Commissioners, he had served on the Scio Mutual Telephone Association Board of Directors, the Linn County Fair Board, the Community Services Consortium Board, the Workforce Investment Board, the Community Action Advisory Committee and the Scio Flood Mitigation Committee.

In 2008, Wooten, a Republican, waged an unsuccessful campaign to unseat then State Rep. Sherrie Sprenger, who now serves on the Board of Commissioners. All three of the commissioners spoke highly of Wooten, who was known for wearing bib overalls as he led a mule in local parades.

Nyquist, the board chair, said Wooten's mantra was "we help people" and that attitude helped set the tone for the board ever since.

"He practiced that philosophy on a daily basis," Nyquist

said.

He added that Wooten "read everything and we learned there were a lot of mistakes made. Cliff would find them."

Tucker said he and Wooten had been friends since the 1970s and Tucker succeeded Wooten on the Board of Commissioners.

Tucker said that Wooten taught the martial arts of judo and jiu jitsu for many years and the two men often sparred with martial arts students at Oregon State. Wooten also coached Tucker's son when he competed at the junior national judo tournament.

"After I came on the board, he would come to the meetings and then visit with me afterwards. He had a strong belief in doing what is right," Tucker said.

Tucker called Wooten, "A good friend of Linn County."

Sprenger said Wooten was a devoted family man "who believed in Linn County. He loved his wife, Jean, and his family."

A celebration of life will be held from 1 to 4 p.m. on July 11 at the ZCBJ Hall, 38704 North Main Street, Scio.

### In other business the commissioners:

- Approved road closures on the following days and times to allow for the annual Best of the West Triathlon at Foster Reservoir: June 6: North River Drive, 6:45 a.m. to 4 p.m. and June 7 from 6:45 a.m. to 2 p.m.; and June 7, Quartzville Road, from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m.

- Approved a temporary part-time, one-year employ-



Cliff Wooten

ment agreement with Brad Kelley, a retired LCSO sergeant, to serve as a firearms instructor.

- Approved a Personal Services Contract with the Center for Developing Hope to provide services such as peer support team training and specialized counseling for law enforcement staff. The annual contract is for \$7,500.

- Approved a temporary, part-time, two-year employment agreements with retired undersheriff Paul Timm and former Albany Police Lt. Casey Dorland to conduct background investigations.

- Approved a temporary, part-time, one-year employment agreement with retired deputy Lori Frenzel as a civil clerk.

- Approved a lease agreement and a pharmacy services agreement with Genoa Healthcare LLC and Linn County Mental Health. Genoa will provide pharmacy



Cliff Wooten rides his mule during a parade.

- Linn County photo

services in a 680 square foot area at 445 3rd Avenue SW. Public Health Director Todd Noble said this agreement will help mental health clients access prescriptions and in bundled pill packets that make keeping track of their daily medicine intake more efficient.

- Approved a Family Connects Partnership agreement not to exceed \$12,720 for one year with Lincoln County. Linn County will provide nurse visiting to eligible families in Lincoln County.

- Were informed there were 55 births (23 girls and 32 boys) and 110 deaths (51 females and 58 males) in April. There were two suicides, both males.

- Learned that Environmental Health staff completed 53 food service inspections in April and 498 year-to-date.

- Approved an amendment

to an agreement with Protocol Services for 200 monthly prepaid mental health crisis calls at \$7,800 and an additional call rate of \$41.50 per call.

- Awarded a contract for the Cox Creek (Waverly) Drive bridge project to Legacy Contracting for \$2,441,679.20. Five bids were received and one bidder failed to supply all required documentation, resulting in the award going to the next lowest bidder.

- Approved an easement on Griggs Drive for the Bond Road-Griggs Drive Intersection Realignment Project. The easement is with Rachel Quihuis and Brad Larsen for \$1,066.

- Cancelled \$89,038.84 in delinquent personal property taxes for property that no longer exists and approved a one-year, \$169,244 contract with Helion Software for the Assessor's Office.

# Lebanon Legacy celebrates JOYA students

By Sarah Brown  
Of The New Era

Lights were low in the auditorium, allowing a blue and white glow emanating off the stage from letter cut-outs to highlight exactly the reason why parents and children were there.

"JOYA," it read.  
On Wednesday, May 20, the Lebanon Oregon Legacy Club (formerly known as the Lebanon Optimist Club) held its 27th annual Junior Outstanding Youth Award (JOYA) ceremony for 99 children of the Lebanon area.

"We're the only club in the country that does it," Legacy Club President Dale Hall said.

The award recognizes one student per school per month for, in short, being good.

The idea was planted by club member Joy Karo, who has since passed away.

"She wanted an award just for good kids. They don't have to be athletic. They don't have to be the brains," Hall said. "She just wanted them to be recognized for having a positive attitude, being helpful, kind, courteous - you know, all the good qualities that kinda get overlooked sometimes."

As emcee Randy Dobson began listing out the qualities of a JOYA student, kids in the audience from Green Acres and Cascade repeated each quality after him - an unexpected moment that seemed to make Dobson's heart swell a little bit.

JOYA students are, they all said, happy, kind, thoughtful, caring, helpful and hopeful, with giving hearts, creative minds and serving souls, and they contribute happiness, peace, productivity and safety.

Hall explained that most of the schools hold an assembly each month to formally hon-



City leaders shake hands with a Ralston Academy student who earned a JOYA award this year.

- Photo by Sarah Brown

or the student, while other schools may do it quarterly, or whatever works best for them. And since it's the teachers and staff who know their students best, then it is, of course, they who choose the honored student each month.

But it's near the end of the school year when the Legacy Club, like a mother hen, gathers all its little baby chicks together for one last hoorah. That was this night.

City leaders and representatives - City Manager Ron Whitlatch, School District Supt. Jennifer Meckley, City Council President Michelle Steinhebel, Police Chief Frank Stevenson and Lebanon Fire District Board Member Wyatt King - stood on the stage to congratulate each child. Sometimes they had to bend down to reach

the smaller hands for a handshake.

As each student was named, they crossed the stage, shook hands (or, if they were lucky, did a fist-bump) with the adults, and passed by the lighted JOYA marquee before descending the stairs and receiving a packet of SWAG.

Proud parents held their phone cameras high, and some of the kids seemed to lose their way back to their seats.

"I've been getting 'thank you's' from teachers about how much it means to the kids," Hall said about the monthly award. "For some of the kids, it's the best thing that's happened to them."

Hall remembered back to one of the more memorable times he presented the monthly JOYA award to a LHS

student, back when he was relatively new to the club.

"I announced the kid and it got thunderous in there," he said. "It was loud and I was lookin' around, and there was this kid on one of those (knee) scooters. The kid was just absolutely beaming, I wanna just say joy and love; he was just there and he was obviously disgustingly happy."

He was a special needs kid, someone whom every student at the high school apparently knew, given the applause he got. Determined, he used crutches to get onto the stage and receive his certificate.

"He was just beamin'! I kinda got emotional about it and I high-fived him," Hall said. "As a matter of fact, I didn't want to talk too long because I mighta broke down crying,

so I handed the microphone back as soon as I could and kinda left."

Then he called his wife. It was just that kind of moment.

"A year or two later, at the Rotary (Club), the princesses were there and one of them described that as one of her favorite moments in school."

Like those good memories, the honor stays with a JOYA recipient through their senior year in high school, because every kid who has won the award at any point in their lives is eligible to apply for the JOYA scholarship.

After 27 years, there must be quite a large number of Lebanon's JOYA kids spreading their wings across the world and, perhaps, even still here in Lebanon, to which Hall agreed, "I think they are all around us; we just don't know it."

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"Be still, and know that I am God. I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth!"  
**Psalm 46:10**

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# Lebanon pool board anticipates revenue, hopes for renovations

By Sarah Brown  
Of The New Era

During its initial Budget Committee and regular Board of Directors meeting, both held on May 18, the Lebanon Aquatic District focused on expectations for pool renovations and increased revenue sources including, possibly, charging SDC fees.

LAD presented a \$1.4 million proposed budget for the 2025-2026 fiscal year to the Budget Committee.

In her budget message, Aquatics Director Jill Smith said the district's budget has been simplified by moving all activity to the general fund, emphasizing "careful control of expenditures and strategic efforts to increase revenues."

The budget reflects an 11.67% increase over last year as the district anticipates increased program revenue, planned repairs and higher capital outlay for renovations and repairs.

The district's goals reflected in the budget include maintaining consistent staffing, quality and expanded programming, affordable recreation, long-term financial stability and making pool ren-

ovations possible, she said.

With a 24-cents per \$1,000 assessed value tax rate, the district expects to receive \$653,622 in tax support for the pool. Smith said they hope to increase revenue in concessions and merchandise, as well as an increase in lessons and donations.

The district cut costs in materials and services, and more than doubled its building repair and maintenance costs (from \$35,000 to \$60,000). For its capital outlay, the LAD increased its anticipated pool renovation costs from \$248,000 this year to \$435,165, and other equipment needs from \$12,000 this year to \$50,000.

Budget Committee Member Terry Cadigan asked if the board is trying to rearrange the budget in order to increase the pool renovation fund.

"We are going to do the best we can to do that," Smith said. "We are also looking at grants and, maybe, possible loans... We really are counting on increasing our revenue."

Board Director Darla Bulmer added that the renovation fund is inflated in order

to give them the flexibility to accomplish repairs, should it be possible to do so. She later briefly mentioned their goal is to make the pool self-sufficient so most of the tax revenue can be saved for future major expenses.

During the regular board meeting, Bulmer provided an update about plans to pursue some pool renovations this summer.

Since the Lebanon Community School District pulled its promise to help fund pool repairs due to a budget deficit, LAD found itself in a situation where it could lose the contracting bid already obtained through the school district, which means LAD would have to go through its own costly bid process and lose at least another year, Bulmer said, but the school district is trying to "smooth that over."

If they are able to pursue those expected repairs this year in late August, LAD would like to replace the drain and relocate it to the shower. This would also be helpful if the pool can add more lanes in the future.

Bulmer also informed the board she learned LAD quali-

fies to charge system development fees (SDC) for new development within the district. That means developers pay the fee for new construction, but existing homeowners do not.

"This has actual hope for us having a new revenue source," Bulmer said. "We had made the decision as a board not to go for a bond, not to increase the tax rate... We also looked at a few other options that are available to us; this is the only one that I can find that does not impact existing taxpayers in our district."

The board's ultimate hope, she said, is that general maintenance expenses would be paid from tax income, pool operations paid from program revenue, and expansion paid from SDCs.

Bulmer had already approached the city manager about the matter, hoping the city could help facilitate collection of the fees, to which he recommended she present the request to City Council.

"I need to go in front of City Council, which I had planned to do this month, but I wanted to make sure all of our board was aware of this before I

suddenly show up at the City Council," Bulmer said.

She answered a few concerns expressed by Board Director Ross Dewberry, including the need for sustainable revenue that can balance any expansion and, thus, increased costs of the pool.

"I completely agree," Bulmer said. "If we cannot come up with sustainable revenue, there's no point in expanding. But if we don't expand, we're gonna kill ourselves anyway because we can't fit anymore people in the water at some point."

The board approved a motion to form a SDC Fee Committee consisting of two board members, two staff members and two members of the public for the purpose of determining methodology and related matters for the proposed SDC fee.

In other business, the board tabled a discussion about changing Internet service providers, and Bulmer noted another potential revenue source from a grant through the Special Districts Association of Oregon.

## Sweet Home schools committee approves proposed 2026-27 budget

By Scott Swanson  
Of The New Era

Fresh off the news of the passage of the Sweet Home School District's \$40 million School Bond, district Budget Committee members on May 20 approved a \$93.6 million budget for 2026-27.

District Business Manager Kevin Strong emphasized that the actual spending level for the upcoming fiscal year, beginning July 1, is projected at \$63.6 million.

Strong had prepared two drafts of the proposed budget, one based on the success of the bond measure and the other in case it did not pass in the May 19 election, literally the day before the budget meeting.

Budget Committee members are the nine School Board members, Mike Adams (at large), Amanda Carter (Liberty), Chris Hiaasan (at large), Dale Keene (Sweet Home), Dustin Nichol (Holley), Rachel Maynard (At Large), Jenna Northern (Crawfordsville), Mary Speck (Foster) and Robert Webster (Cascadia), as well as Kevin Hill, Jason Redick and Mike Reynolds, all former board members. Northern was absent and Carter participated remotely.

Approval of the proposed budget was unanimous, and it will now go to the School Board for final approval on June 8.

Supt. Terry Martin thanked voters for passing the measure.

"This investment will allow

the district to improve school safety, update facilities and strengthen career preparation opportunities for Sweet Home students," he said in his budget message.

Martin noted that districts, statewide, are facing "a challenging financial environment."

"Daily, there are news reports regarding multi-million dollar shortfalls, layoffs, furlough days and program reductions. I am encouraged to report that Sweet Home's 2026-27 budget does not include cuts like those occurring elsewhere," Martin said.

The result, he said, is "largely a status-quo budget," though he cautioned that the district is "not immune from the same financial pressures affecting districts across Oregon. The gape between state funding and rising operational costs continues to narrow."

Summarizing some of the district's strategies, Martin said that Sweet Home has tried to keep its administration "lean," compared to other districts of similar or slightly larger size.

Sweet Home does not have an assistant superintendent, and existing staff cover multiple areas of responsibility, such as separate directors of human resources, executive operations, technology, communications and other departments.

"By limiting administrative overhead, we are able to direct more resources toward schools, classrooms and ser-

vices for students," Martin said.

Also, he said, the district is "working diligently" to maximize non-tax-revenue sources, such as investments.

"During the 2024-25 fiscal year, Sweet Home generated more investment earnings on a per-student basis than other school districts in the state," Martin reported.

Further, he said, budgeting is "conservative" and is planned into the future.

"We avoid using temporary resources to create permanent obligations," he said. "We review staffing, programs and operating costs on an ongoing basis and have tried to make gradual adjustments before financial challenges become more disruptive."

Martin said the focus "remains on helping students succeed."

"A status-quo budget does not mean the district is standing still."

He said Sweet Home is continuing to focus on early literacy, academic intervention, attendance and career-connected learning – all important "because they directly affect whether students are prepared for the next grade level, graduate on time and leave Sweet Home schools ready for college, career training, employment, military service or other postsecondary opportunities."

The proposed General Fund which is the primary

operating fund for the district and accounts for all revenues and day-to-day expenditures that are not required by law to be tracked in separate, specialized funds, is \$39,508,487, an increase from the \$38,744,351 General Fund for 2025-26. Spending in the approved budget proposal includes \$19,307,846 for instruction, and another \$15,516,047 for support services from the General Fund, which are also funded with additional spending of \$6,248,612 for instruction and \$3,007,184 for support services coming from the Special Revenue Fund.

Most of the other spending and funds in the budget are from grant money or are funds for savings and other district financial transactions.

Strong outlined some of the elements of the \$63.6 million in projected spending in the budget:

- \$12.3 million in first-year bond spending as the district plans to move quickly

to begin planned improvements to Sweet Home High School, particularly in meeting CTE needs, though he cautioned that administrators don't want to move too quickly.

"One of my goals will be that we design buildings that will serve Sweet Home students well into the next century," he said, adding that the quality – polished concrete floors versus vinyl tile that will need to be replaced, or metal roofs to match those already on the new sections of the high school, which also last longer, will depend on costs.

He said how fast the district starts spending money will also depend on interest rates.

- \$1.8 million to fund the district's nutrition program, which includes free breakfast and lunches for all students, as well as the summer lunch program and meals for the Fire School conducted by the

See SHSD Budget, Page 16

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## Events

The New Era publishes announcements of upcoming events at no charge, as space permits. Free and nonprofit events are prioritized, but free services or events offered by for-profit businesses will also be included as space permits. To submit an event, email information (description, location, date, time and any other necessary details, as well as contact information for questions) to news@sweethomenews.com at least two weeks prior to the event. Questions? Call (541) 367-2135 or send a message to the above email.

### ROLLIN' OLDIES CRUISE-IN PRE-STRAWBERRY FESTIVAL

The Rollin' Oldies Car Club invites car enthusiasts to join them for a pre-Strawberry Festival Cruise-In from 4-7 p.m. on Thursday, May 28, at Grocery Outlet, 2540 S Santiam Hwy., Lebanon.

Lots of classic cars and trucks from our part of the Willamette Valley will be on display. The club is "warming up" for the big parade on June 2.

### CHRISTMAS STORE BINGO AT SH LEGION

A bingo fundraiser for the 12th Annual Sweet Home Kids Free Christmas Store will be held from 5 to 8:30 p.m. Friday, May 29, at the Timber City American Legion, 109 W. Holley Road, Sweet Home.

Four cards are \$20. Every

bingo winner will receive a gift card from local businesses. There will be a concession stand and opportunity for drawings. All funds support the Annual Kids Free Christmas Store, where kids shop for free for their family. For more information, contact Nancy Patton at (541) 409-4276.

### SECOND ANNUAL LEBANON POWWOW

The second annual Lebanon Powwow will be held on Saturday, May 30, at Lebanon High School, 1700 S 5th St.

This is a family-friendly, drug- and alcohol-free cultural event that is free and open to the public.

The powwow is coordinated by Laurie Regalado through the Native American / Alaska Native Education Program. The purpose of the event is to celebrate and share Native culture, honor traditions, uplift Native youth, recognize elders and graduating seniors, and bring the broader community together in a respectful and educational way.

The event will include grand Entry and powwow dancing, drumming and singing, special dances - including tiny tots, cultural and educational components, and Native vendors offering handmade items, art and food. Several drum groups are expected to participate and the Ameyalmazatl Citaltonal Aztec Dancers are scheduled

to perform from 5 to 6 p.m. The Grand Ronde Color Guard is also scheduled to participate.

Vendor applications are being accepted. For an application, email naep.lebanonparents@gmail.com.

Additional details, including the full schedule, will be shared closer to the event date.

### FREE WILDFIRE DEFENSE WORKSHOP

Sweet Home Fire will host a free half-day workshop from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Saturday, May 30, at Sankey Park in Sweet Home.

As part of SHFAD's "Wildfire Ready Linn County" project, local fire professionals will teach residents what they can do to prepare their homes and families for wildfires. It will include discussion topics such as home hardening, defensible space around your home and evacuation preparedness, and will conclude with a hot dog feed and resource fair to connect residents with local resources.

Register online at forms.gle/iwqmfobHKs2oNHNk6 or contact Maddie Tutton at mtutton@sweethomefire.org.

### LEBANON GARDEN BEDS AVAILABLE

Porter Park Community Garden in Lebanon has 15 raised garden plots available for rent.

The Community Garden was

built by the city to give Lebanon residents a place to garden and promote a healthy community through fresh garden-grown produce and enjoy a community of gardeners.

Located at 2240 Porter St., the rental plot includes soil, compost, water, basic gardening tools to use on-site, and support from Master Gardener and Community Garden Coordinator Sheryl Casteen.

Impromptu garden classes or mentoring available upon request. Application documents can be found at LebanonOregon.gov/535/Porter-Park-Community-Garden, or send an email request to parksres@lebanonoregon.gov.

### YOUNG WOMEN'S FIRE ACADEMY

Lebanon Fire District brings back its annual free two-day Linn County Young Women's Fire Academy Saturday and Sunday, Aug. 22-23.

The academy, taught by women firefighters, is open to Oregon girls aged 14 to 19.

The YWFA is designed to be fun, challenging, entertaining and educational, including a range of classes encompassing skills such as fire suppression, emergency medical services, interviewing skills, climbing ladders, vehicle extrication, physical fitness, technical skills, teamwork and leadership skills, and more.

The application deadline is extended to June 1. To apply, visit LebanonFireOregon.gov/259/Linn-County-Young-Womens-Fire-Academy, or stop in at Station 31, 1050 W. Oak St., Lebanon, during business hours, M-F, 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

### SHHS BANDS TO PLAY END-OF-YEAR CONCERT

Sweet Home's high school, junior high and elementary bands will perform their end-of-the-year concert at 6:30 Tuesday, June 2, at the Sweet Home High School Auditorium, 1641 Long St.

Admission is free. The public is welcome.

### STRAWBERRY STANDARD FLOWER SHOW

The Lebanon Garden Club will host its annual Standard Flower Show in conjunction with the Lebanon Strawberry Festival on June 5-6 at Santiam Place Event Center, 139 S. Main St., Lebanon.

Anyone is welcome to submit their own flowers or flower designs free of charge. Entry cards and rule books are available at the Lebanon Chamber of Commerce, Lebanon Senior Center, Lebanon Library and Summit Ace Garden Center. Rule books can be emailed by request at LebanonGCOR@gmail.com

The community is welcome to see the flower show on Friday, June 5, from 12:30-4:30 p.m., and Saturday, June 6, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

## PUBLIC SAFETY

From page 3

of Foster, cited for DWS, DU and failure to register vehicle, as well as outstanding AMC warrant. 5400 block Hwy. 20. Report taken.

2:10 p.m. - Marcus Walter, 28, of Junction City, cited for no life jackets, warned for other violations while paddleboarding on Foster Lake, 43700 block North River. Report taken.

7:30 p.m. - LCSO responded to check on "spirited" conversation between property owner and Sweet Home Fire personnel over burning of field outside of burn hours in 42400 block North River.

7:51 p.m. - Camera reported stolen from area of North River/Foster Dam. Value \$50. LCSO/OSP Lebanon

5:31 a.m. - Caller reported suspicious vehicle, male

pointing rifle into field. LCSO responded, determined it was a turkey hunter.

### MAY 22 SWEET HOME POLICE

7:38 a.m. - Joshua Kealohanui Ben Leslie, 38, arrested for criminal trespass II after caller from Sweet Home High School, 1641 Long, reported suspicious person sleeping on campus. Cited and released.

8:07 a.m. - Caller reported vehicles drag racing in parking lot in 3000 block Main. Vehicles were gone when officer arrived.

9:28 a.m. - Anonymous caller reported that they had had "PTSD moment" and had shot family in 900 block Long. Police responded. Female at location was fine. Report taken for initiating false police report.

11:26 p.m. - Citizen visited SHPD to report she had been attacked by large dog in 900 block Elm. Officer

unable to locate dog owner. Investigation continuing.

1:26 p.m. - Joe Allen Wayne Wood, 36, arrested by Albany police on SHMC warrant for FTC in harassment case. Cited to appear June 10.

2:09 p.m. - Douglas Martin Powers, 70, arrested by LCSO on SHMC warrant for FTA in criminal driving case. Cited to appear June 10.

3:16 p.m. - Caller from BiMart, 1980 Main, reported theft. Officer took report for theft II, investigation continuing.

5:54 p.m. - Renee Ava Mathis, 60, cited for dog as public nuisance, SHPD, 1950 Main.

7:55 p.m. - Caller reported female "continuing to abandon her cats" in town, Safeway, 1540 Main. Officer responded, two kittens recovered, placed in foster care. Report taken for animal abandonment.

### LEBANON POLICE

9:38 a.m. - Travis Ambrose Feist, 38, cited for DWS, DU. Car towed.

9:50 a.m. - Jessica Lynn Wooldridge Ramsdell, 38, taken into custody on LMC warrant for FTA - theft II and AMC warrant for FTA - theft III.

1:56 p.m. - Gabriel Scott Latimer, 25, cited for no valid license.

3:29 p.m. - Rylee Jean Watts, 21, cited on LCCC warrant for FTA - unauthorized use of a vehicle.

8:53 p.m. - Jordan Smith Wesley, 42, cited for DWS.

11:13 p.m. - Juveniles stole Walmart package from porch, 800 block W D St. Loss: \$34.96.

### LCSO/OSP

SWEET HOME/S. COUNTY  
7:56 a.m. - Caller tried to start electric service in new home in 29200 block Pleasant Valley, learned an account had been opened in his name with outstanding balance. Investigation ongoing. Report taken for fraud.

12:34 p.m. - Caller reported someone doing burnouts on residential gravel driveway in 27800 block 18th Lane, causing damage. Report taken.

1:39 p.m. - Abandoned vehicle reported in 25000 block West Brush Creek. Tagged for removal on May 25.

1:50 p.m. - Madylen Jacob, 24, of Albany, cited for no life jacket, warned for other violations while paddleboarding on Foster

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**PUBLIC SAFETY**

From page 2

Lake. Juvenile, 17, of Salem, also cited and warned for same violations. 43700 block North River. Report taken.

3:52 p.m. - Deputies responded to address in 28900 block Hwy. 20 to speak to juvenile, 17, about threats made online. After investigation, according to LCSO, it was apparent that the juvenile "did not have the mental capacity, means or opportunity to commit the described crimes."

3:59 p.m. - Caller wanted deputy to check unknown substance that had arrived in the mail, 500 block Loucks Way, Brownsville. It was determined that the substance was crushed egg shell for caller's dog.

4:49 p.m. - Deputy, medics responded to motorcycle crash on private property, 35800 block Hwy. 228, Brownsville. No further details.

7:07 p.m. - Male warned for illegal camping on Campbell Global land in 50800 block Quartzville.

7:24 p.m. - Male and female warned for camping on BLM land in location without steel fire ring, 51200 block Quartzville.

7:34 p.m. - Deputy responded to Mckercher Park, 37800 block Hwy. 228, after juvenile

was hit by rock thrown by another juvenile. Incident was determined to be an accident. Injured juvenile was treated by medics at scene.

7:38 p.m. - Two males warned for illegal camping on Campbell Global land, 41200 block Quartzville.

8:02 p.m. - Deputy located loan account card in apparent vacant camp, 51100 block Quartzville. The person whose name was on the card did not recognize it. Apparently, someone using a different name was trying to establish an account to get a loan. Report taken for identity theft.

**LCSO/OSP LEBANON**

9:17 a.m. - Speeding vehicle reported in school zone in 32100 block Berlin. Deputy arrived within a minute but was unable to locate the suspect vehicle.

12:20 p.m. - Theft reported in 4100 block Santiam Hwy. Natural gas meter and regulator stolen off unoccupied residence. Report taken.

1:46 p.m. - LCSO performed welfare check on Meals on Wheels recipient after a "concerning" amount of food was left uneaten. 700 block Isabella. Individual was OK, just struggling to get around. Deputies assisted.

2:21 p.m. - Two-vehicle, rear-end, non-injury crash reported in area of Rock Hill/Stoltz Hill. Report taken.

8:03 p.m. - Deputies responded to landlord-tenant dispute in 30700 block Larson, in which landlord was allegedly overturning potted plants.

11:41 p.m. - Tryston Knight, 29, of Lebanon, arrested for DUII, reckless driving, eluding on foot, and trespassing, 37100 block Pony. Also cited for speeding, 80/40, and open container. Report taken.

**Lebanon man killed in crash near Redmond**

A Lebanon man was killed in a two-vehicle crash near Redmond on May 17.

Oregon State Police responded to the scene after receiving a report of the crash occurring on Highway 126 near milepost 107 in Deschutes County at 1:11 p.m.

The preliminary investigation indicated a green Chevrolet Silverado, operated by Lee Glenn Bernard, 63, of Lebanon, was traveling eastbound on Highway 126 near Redmond when it crossed into the westbound travel lane for an unknown reason.

A westbound blue Subaru Outback, operated by Scott Macleod Nicol, 77, of Redmond, attempted to avoid the Chevrolet, but the two vehicles collided head-on.

Bernard was pronounced deceased at the scene. His passenger, Sandra M. Kronour, 66, of Lebanon, was transported to an area hospital with serious injuries.

Nicol was transported to an area hospital with serious injuries.

The highway was impacted for approximately three hours during the on-scene investigation.

**MAY 21**

**SWEET HOME POLICE**

11:54 a.m. - David Ray Pierce, 23, arrested for sex abuse I, 3100 block Main. Lodged at LCJ.

12:05 p.m. - Amber Dawn Barton, 47, arrested on LMC warrant for probation violation in theft case, AMC warrant for FTC in probation violation case. Cited for DWS. 2000 block Long.

12:22 p.m. - April Denise Ferebee, 68, arrested by La Grande police on SHMC warrant for FTC in theft case. Cited to appear June 10.

1:32 p.m. - Caller reported receiving scam letter. Officer responded, info noted. Scam avoided. 1500 block Tamarack.

1:43 p.m. - Eric Greyhawk Hutskins Foster, 29, arrested for animal neglect II, animal abandonment, SHPD, 1950 Main. The case began at 12:45 p.m. the previous day (see below). Foster was arrested when he came to retrieve puppies. Cited and released.

2:26 p.m. - Overdose reported in 100 block 10th. Officer responded, male refused transport. Not deemed police officer hold candidate, family

was responding to look after him.

3:20 p.m. - Tall grass reported in 3100 block Juniper. Referred to code enforcement.

3:21 p.m. - Tall grass reported in 1300 block 9th. Referred to code enforcement.

3:22 p.m. - Caller reported tall grass in 1300 block Hawthorne. Referred to code enforcement.

**LEBANON POLICE**

4:33 a.m. - Subject walking around caller's house, knocking on windows, 000 block E Jadon Dr. Natasha

See Public Safety, Page 10

**Vehicle, bicyclist collide on Main in SH**



Personnel from Sweet Home Fire and Ambulance District and Sweet Home police respond to a collision between a vehicle and a bicyclist Wednesday afternoon, May 20, in front of Dairy Queen, 1364 Main St. The crash was reported at 4:26 p.m. According to police, a 2013 Lexus GX driven by Rhonda J. Rogers, 66, was exiting the drive-through at the restaurant in westbound traffic. Bicyclist Darrin Johnson, 61, was traveling eastbound on the sidewalk and Rogers did not see him. As she crossed the sidewalk to enter Main Street, she struck the bicyclist and rolled over the rear tire of the bicycle. No citations were issued, those involved exchanged information. Johnson was transported to the hospital by medics.

- Photo by Scott Swanson



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

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## PUBLIC SAFETY

From page 9

Nicole Betts, 33, taken into custody for trespass, cited on LCCC warrant for FTA - theft I and LMC warrant for contempt of court.

9:11 a.m. - High school staff reported student left class and tried jumping in front of moving car outside. Mom took him into custody.

11:38 a.m. - Jered Cate, 41, cited for cell phone use while driving.

12:51 p.m. - Nicole Namitz-Libra, 56, cited for FTOTCD.

1:06 p.m. - Luke Welch, 46, cited for FTOTCD.

1:55 p.m. - Jarrid Starks, 40, cited for DWS.

7:08 p.m. - Theft of person's wallet from women's bathroom at Walmart. Loss: \$80.

7:20 p.m. - Rogelio Bolles, 23, cited for DWS, DU.

8:32 p.m. - Shoplift reported at Walmart. Loss: \$100.

### LCSO/OSP

#### SWEET HOME/S. COUNTY

2:30 p.m. - Denya Rittman, 30, of Turner, cited for no life jacket, Foster Lake, 43700 block North River. Report taken.

3:12 p.m. - Larry Dennison, 74,

of Sweet Home, arrested for DUII and reckless endangering after he laid his motorcycle down in area of Hwy. 20/60th, after he discovered his front brake was not working. Cited for DWS, failure to use ignition interlock device. Report taken.

4:40 p.m. - Deputy located illegal camp, 43900 block North River. Investigation continuing.

5:10 p.m. - Deputy located litter dumped on U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in 43500 block North River Drive. Report taken for littering violation.

8:20 p.m. - Cristy Jane Cromwell, 45, arrested on SHMC warrants in two theft cases and trespassing case, and for felony meth possession, misdemeanor fentanyl possession. Kyle Elmer arrested on SHMC warrant for FTC in theft case and others, and for meth possession, Clark Mill/Hwy. 20. Both cited to appear June 10. Report taken.

10:57 p.m. - Male and female warned against illegal camping, North River/Foster Dam.

### LCSO/OSP LEBANON

9:13 a.m. - Eric Encinas, 47, of Lebanon, arrested on

two outstanding warrants, 32800 block Berlin. Cited and released. Report taken.

2:05 p.m. - Merrill Rediger, 64, of Albany, cited for FTOTCD, Middle Ridge/Rock Hill, Sodaville.

3:59 p.m. - Dustin Clarneau, 51, of Lebanon, arrested on outstanding warrant. 1200 block E. Grant. Lodged at LCJ. Report taken.

### MAY 20

#### SWEET HOME POLICE

10:49 a.m. - Caller reported break-in at O&M Point S Tire Factory, 4420 Main. Officer took report for theft I, burglary II, criminal misconduct II and possession of burglary tools. According to SHPD, suspect used bolt cutters to cut locks on bullpens and entered them, but nothing appeared to be missing.

12:23 p.m. - Prestin James Hugely, 42, arrested on SHMC warrants for FTA in trespassing and escape cases. 1100 block Long. Cited and released.

12:45 p.m. - Caller reported vehicle parked for long period of time in area of 16th/Cedar with two puppies in box in back. Officer responded, was unable to contact vehicle owner. Dogs placed in kennel.

Business card left on vehicle. 1:06 p.m. - Caller reported basketball hoop obstructing garbage cans in 2600 block Jefferson. Code enforcement officer spoke with homeowner, who stated his kids would move it when they got home from school.

2:04 p.m. - Joshua Kealohanui Ben Leslie, 38, arrested for criminal trespass II, 1400 block Nandina. Cited and released. 2:25 p.m. - Caller from Dollar General, 1937 Main, reported theft by three juveniles. Officer responded, unable to locate juveniles. Caller requested they be trespassed if identified.

2:35 p.m. - Marcus Wesley Hesson, 54, arrested after turning himself in at SHPD, 1950 Main, on SHMC warrant for FTA in resisting arrest case, Benton County Circuit Court warrant for FTC in resisting arrest/disorderly conduct/trespassing cases, and LCCC warrant for FTA in failing to register as a sexual offender case. Cited and released.

3:59 p.m. - Caller reported theft at Husky Field, 1012 22nd Ave. Officer took report for theft II. Chromebook missing. Approximate value \$500.

4:34 p.m. - Crash reported in area of Hwy. 228/Vista Lane. According to SHPD, a juvenile, 16, driving 2015 Toyota Yaris, was traveling westbound on Hwy. 228 (Holley Road) as Donald Gene Donovan, 71, driving a 2024 Dodge Ram pickup, was backing out of a residential driveway. No injuries or citations.

6:14 p.m. - Caller reported juvenile son "run over by a motorized scooter" at Sankey Park, 877 14th. Officer responded, juvenile had minor injuries and did not require transport.

### LEBANON POLICE

7:40 a.m. - Tire slashed, 700 block Azalea St.

9:18 a.m. - Phyllis Lynn Lefevers, 68, cited for speeding 37/20 school zone, 500 block Cascade Dr.

10:17 a.m. - Jasmine Nichole Warwick, 27, cited for DWS, failure to carry proof of insurance, speeding, LMC warrant for PV.

10:45 a.m. - Shaina Lynn Brown-Scott, 25, cited for cell phone use while driving.

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

## CIRCUIT COURT

From page 3

commit unauthorized use of a vehicle, and criminal mischief II. Bail: \$20,000.

**Kirk Daniel Murphy, 33**, sentenced May 14 to 10 days compensatory service in lieu of jail and 36 mos. bench probation after pleading no contest to recklessly endangering another person. Dismissed: unlawful use of a weapon.

**Cesar Javier Ortiz-Lopez, 21**, sentenced May 1 to three years suspension of a drivers license, 10 days jail concurrent

with another case, 24 mos. bench probation and \$3,000 in fines after pleading guilty to DUII (liquor) with a .13% BAC and criminal DWS. Dismissed: reckless driving, violation of IID condition, FTA.

**Eric Duane Peacock, 38**, sentenced May 1 to three years suspension of a drivers license, 60 days jail, 24 mos. bench probation and \$2,500 in fines after pleading guilty to DUII (liquor) with a .14% BAC and criminal DWS.

**Christopher Ace Perez, 32**, charged May 7 with two counts of sodomy I, unlawful sexual penetration I, private

indecent, using child in display of sexually explicit conduct, and endangering the welfare of a minor. Allegations involve a female under 12 years of age. He posted 10% of a \$200,000 bail.

**Shavell Ilia Peters, 36**, sentenced April 30 to 48 hours jail, five days compensatory service and two years bench probation after pleading guilty to assault IV. Dismissed: criminal mistreatment I.

**David Ray Pierce, 23**, charged May 22 with attempted sodomy I and three counts sexual abuse I. Allegations involve female under 12. Bail: \$50,000.

**Alan Scott Pritchard, 63**, charged May 18 with DUII (liquor), reckless driving and recklessly endangering another person.

**Sean Ever Robinson, 42**, sentenced May 8 to 30 days jail, 18 mos. supervised probation and \$300 in fines after pleading no contest to burglary II and FTA. Dismissed: theft III. In a separate case he was sentenced to an additional 30 days jail after pleading no contest to robbery III. Dismissed: harassment, theft II.

**Justin Don Rowan, 40**, charged May 15 with DUII (liquor) and reckless driving.

A charge against **Jason Andrew Christopher Daniel Scott, 39**, of unlawful possession of meth was dismissed with prejudice based upon plea negotiations.

**Joseph Lee Shores, 53**, charged May 15 with three counts of unlawful delivery of controlled substance to minors, three counts sodomy III, rape III, endangering the welfare of a minor, and custodial interference II. Allegations involve a child under 16. Bail:

\$50,000.

**David John Slack, 43**, sentenced May 19 to six months jail, 64 mos. prison, two years post-prison supervision after a jury verdict of guilty to two counts DV - strangulation and DV - assault IV. Dismissed: kidnapping I, two counts of criminal mischief II.

**Daniel Adam Stjern, 28**, charged May 9 with criminal trespass I, criminal mischief I and three counts of harassment.

**Deborah Lee Sullivan, 68**, charged May 7 with DUII and reckless driving.

**Johnathan Donald Teixeira, 22**, charged May 12 with DUII.

**Michael Ray Watkins, 44**, charged May 7 with substantial quantity unlawful possession of meth and DUII (controlled substances).

**Nicholas Trevor Wells, 34**, sentenced May 6 to 30 days jail, 36 mos. supervised probation after pleading guilty to burglary I and attempt to commit Class A misdemeanor - assault IV. Dismissed: burglary I, criminal mischief III.

**Shawn Tyler Zalewski, 27**, charged May 11 with theft I.

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We truly appreciate our readers and our businesses alike. Your support means the world to us! Thank you for being part of this journey.

**Scott & Miriam Swanson and The New Era Staff**



**LCSD BUDGET**

From page 1

coach position, questioning whether the proposed reductions were "equitable."

Supt. Jennifer Merkle and Steven Prosocki, director of finance for the district, went back to the drawing board to find ways to reduce the impact on athletics.

The committee is composed of all five School Board members - Melissa Baurer, Lorelee Engler, Mike Martin, Nichole Piland and Clyde Rood, and appointees William Barish, Jeff King, Roger Maurer, Anthony Morelos and Kelly Tucci. Rood participated remotely in the May 21 meeting.

Merkley noted that the previous meeting had ended "abruptly" due to time constraints, and said she had considered the feedback she'd gotten.

She proposed that the district reduce nine assistant coaches rather than the original 10, and that athletic fees for students not be raised.

Committee members at the May 14 meeting had raised concerns about "equity" between the cheer program coaching staff and dance after an initial proposal to cut one coaching position from dance.

Middle school football remains on the list of reductions.

Keeping the fees at the current level would cost \$25,000, Meckley said, with an additional \$5,000 to fund the dance coach position, totaling \$30,000.

Meckley further explained that the district budgets for an athletic trainer, which in recent years has been provided via contract by Beaver Sports Medicine, but that the district has decided to switch

See LCSD Budget, Page 16

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# Warriors end softball season: What could have been?

By Mike Warner  
For The New Era

The Warriors ended their softball season with a pair of losses, 11-1 at league-leading Dallas and at home to third-place South Albany, falling 17-5.

Lebanon ended the year 4-10 in the Mid-Willamette Conference and 7-17 overall, finishing up in sixth in league.

In the Dallas game, Lebanon managed only four hits; two by Hailey Myers and a single by Majesta Nida and a double by Bristol Hockema. Hockema pitched the entire game.

Against South Albany, the Warriors gave up eight runs in the first inning and were playing catch up the rest of the game. The Warriors got six hits and five runs but just couldn't cut into the Redhawk lead. Tatum Cole, Scarlett French and Majesta Nida all homered for the Warriors.

The season was difficult for a team used to success. The Warriors played for the state championship just two years ago.

The pitcher that year was then-sophomore Tatum Cole, who received numerous league accolades that year. Unfortunately, she incurred an injury to her right shoulder and was unable to pitch for the Warriors this year.

Two starters for the Warriors had limited experience in the

circle. With Cole on the bump, the year would very likely have ended much differently.

In any event, she still helped the team by playing a quality first base. She was also a solid batter with several home runs to her name.

Looking forward to next year, the Warriors return nine players including two freshmen, three sophomores and four juniors.

## Lebanon baseball ends year on hot note

Lebanon's baseball team finished its 2026 campaign with a home-and-home split with Crescent Valley to finish off a 7-4 run to end its season.

Both games last week were defensive struggles with the Warriors winning 4-2 at home Monday and Crescent Valley winning 3-0 on Wednesday in Corvallis.

Lebanon ended the season with a 9-9 record in league and 11-16 overall.

In the Monday game, senior Trenton Lewis pitched beautifully, giving up only three hits and no earned runs.

Trey Enright went 3 for 3 and Wyatt Jenkins, Jaidyn Von Ruden, Trenton Lewis and Niko Autry all recorded an RBI.

In the Wednesday game, the Crescent Valley pitching was dominating in what turned out to be a defensive battle. Jaidyn Von Ruden managed the only two hits recorded by



Annastazia Marshal gets set to tag South Albany's Shelby Smith as Kinnley Clark watches during their game last week. See more photos at lebanonlocalnews.com. - Cole Harnar photo

the Warriors. Preston Bryan was equally in control on the mound for the Warriors, giving up only three hits and three walks.

The Warriors started the year slowly losing 13 of their first 17 games but then jelled and finished on a much higher note.

"After Corvallis (April 20), we went 7-7," Coach Jeff Stolsig said. "A big spark for us offensively was inserting Cohen Vandiver in the leadoff spot. Cohen was on fire for a bit and really jump started the offense."

The team and individual batting averages reflect the change. The team batting average jumped to .326. Those last 14 games were spectacular offensively. Batting averages for key players included Brayden Fountain's .667; Von Ruden's .500; Enright's .449; Lewis' .394; Jenkins' .381; and Austin Turnidge's .306.

If the final 14 games were invigorating, the last 10 were even more so. The Warriors went 7-3 during that stretch, sweeping South Albany and Woodburn and splitting with West Albany, Silverton and

Crescent Valley.

Every phase of their game improved over the year. The batting averages increased, as did the fielding percentage which went from .858 to .916.

The team ERA dropped from 4.072 to 2.56 led by Lewis, whose ERA was just over 2.00. He recorded 77 strikeouts for the year. Not bad for someone maintaining a .346 batting average himself.

The Warriors return 10 players from this year's varsity and are already looking forward to next year.

# Eagles boys and girls both second at track districts

By Scott Swanson  
Of The New Era

East Linn's boys and girls both finished second in the Division 2 track championships, both behind Delphian.

The boys scored 83 points, behind Delphian's 164 and ahead of Regis (78) and Central Linn (74). The girls scored 131.5, behind Delphian (141) and ahead of Crosshill Christian (111) and Central Linn (75).

"Districts went really good," Coach Kellen Peters said. "We hoped to pull out a district title on the girls side, but we were 10 points short."

The girls qualified athletes for this week's state championship meet in nine events, and the boys in eight.

Lexy Kauffman was the lone district champion for the ELCA girls, winning both the 100 (12.83) and the 200 (26.57) and was second in the 400 (1:00.51).

Peters noted that the senior is the first athlete in East Linn school history to qualify for 16 events at state, four every year. Ryder Howard, Josh Rehart and June Cowan also qualified in four events each.

Ryder Howard, a sophomore, was a triple winner for the boys, in the high jump (6-1¼), the long jump in a PR of 22-5, and the triple jump in a PR of 44-3½, and sophomore Cole Pennington won the pole



East Linn's Jack Johnson and Harry Yanke-Knurowski, above, run the 1500 meters at the district championships. At right, Lexy Kauffman, left, and Kaylyn Kauffman compete in the 200, which Lexy Kauffman won. See more photos at sweethomenews.com and lebanonlocalnews.com. - Cole Harnar photos

vault in 11-3¾.

"Ryder broke the district meet record in the long jump and the triple jump," Peters said, noting that Elliot Nofziger was only East Linn athlete to win all three jumps as Howard did, and, the coach noted, "he's still only 15 years old."

In addition to the district titlists, state qualifiers for the boys were Hank Davidson, second in the discus (119-6, a personal best), Josh Rehart, second in the 400 (51.88) and third in the 200 (23.17, a PR), the 4x100 relay team of Beckham Kramer, Gabe Talleur,

Davidson and Rehart, who were second in 45.79; and Talleur, Jonah Magness, Rehart and Howard, were third in the 4x400 (3:34.98).

For the girls, June Cowan was second in the 100 hurdles in a PR of 15.42, which broke the meet record except that Delphian's Lily Olivares ran fast (15.36). Cowan was third in the 300 hurdles (49.56), and placed second in the long jump 16-2½, both also qualifying her for state.

Maci Modderman was second in the shot 32-9¾ and the discus 104-9, both qualifications.



The girls were second in the 4x100 relay, Kaylyn Kauffman, Avery Runyon, Cowan and Lexy Kauffman running 4:48.06, to qualify.

Other scorers for the boys were Magness, eighth in the 400 (55.32); Pennington, seventh in the 300 hurdles (46.45), Karter Nofziger, eighth in the javelin (137-3, a PR), Kramer, fifth in the pole vault 9-10; and Talleur, eighth in the triple jump in a personal best of 36-3½.

Other scorers for the girls

were Kaylyann Kauffman, sixth in the 100 (13.76) and eighth in the 200 (29.10); Erin Davey, eighth in the 400 (1:06.47, a personal best); Morgan Lalonde, third in the 3000 in a personal best 12.13.82 and fifth in the 1500 in a personal-best 5:29.08;

Hadassah Albert, fifth in the 3000 (12:13.82, a PR) and Bella Albert seventh in the 3000 (13.50.65).

Ella Stutzman was sixth in

See East Linn Track, Page 13

# Warriors qualify athletes in sprints, jumps for state track

By Scott Swanson  
Of The New Era

Lebanon's boys finished fifth and the girls sixth in the Mid-Willamette Conference district meet held May 20 and 20 at Corvallis High School.

"Everything pretty much went according to plan," said Assistant Coach Troy Walker, who focuses on sprints and jumps, which were well-represented in this year's state qualifications for the Warriors.

Six Lebanon individuals or teams qualified in as many events for state on the boys side and the girls qualified four athletes in three different events.

"We were pretty happy with everything," Walker said. "We don't have a lot of kids there, but we're excited about what kids we have."

District champions for Lebanon on the girls side were senior Heather Savedra in the javelin with a personal best of 123-4, and Addy Pickles was the district champion in the triple jump for the girls, jumping 35-8½, a season's best.

For the boys, Logan Large was first in the triple, jumping a personal-best 44-6. Cade Weber won the district title in the 400, running a personal best of 48.72.

The boys 4x400 team of Large, Rowan Jones, Bodhi Brown and Weber also won the district title, running 3:21.16.

"I'm excited for Logan and Rowan and Bodhi and Cade," Walker said, noting that he has worked with them since they were in the eighth grade.

In addition to the champions, state qualifiers for Lebanon were Brown, second in the 100 (10.68) and in the 200 (22.64), and the 4x100 team of Luke Johnson, Large, Weber and Brown, which was second in 42.38.

For the girls, Pickles also qualified for state in the long jump, making 16-11½, a personal best.

Ruby Vandenbos, who was second to Pickles in the triple jump by less than an inch with a PR of 35-7¾ after they battled back and forth for the lead during that competition, and Jane Brandt, who finished fifth in the triple with a PR of 33-5¼, also punched their ticket in that event for Hayward Field in Eugene, where the competition will be held this Friday and Saturday.



Bodhi Brown takes the baton from Cade Weber in the boys 4x100 relay. At right, Ruby Vandenbos triple jumps. See more photos at lebanonlocalnews.com. - Kristine Banker photos



"It's always fun to get all three of our kids in," Walker said. "It's a blessing; it doesn't happen all the time."

The boys scored 70 points, as Silverton won the boys competition with 171 points, nearly double second-place Corvallis' (96), with Dallas third (88) and Central fourth (87).

Crescent Valley and Dallas tied for the district title with 131.5 points each, with Silverton third (103), Corvallis fourth (88.5), South Albany fifth (67) and the Warriors finishing with 50.5 points.

Other scorers for the boys were Weber, third in the 200 (22.67) but just missing qualifying in that event.

Large was fourth in the long jump 20-7¼, about a foot and a quarter under his personal best. Walker said the long jump was supposed to be contested on Wednesday, but the board sank 3 inches and the pit had to be repaired, so it was moved to Friday, an hour and a half before the triple jump competition,

Walker said, which complicated things for athletes who were competing in both events.

Tyler Deckert was fourth in the triple in a PR of 40-4¾.

Other scorers for the girls were Pickles, fifth in the 400 (1:00.33) after running a personal best of 58.90 in the prelims, which placed her third.

The 4x400 relay team of Harper Pepperling, Peyton Vorderstrasse, Leslie Thayer and Jocilynn Durgeloh were sixth in 4:34.12

Molly Basting was seventh in the pole vault, clearing 8-5¼, and Vandenbos was seventh in the long jump (15-11¾).

Walker said the Warriors are ready to go, but the competition will be stiff.

The Intermountain Conference district finals had a strong tailwind, he said, which pushed athletes from those schools in the short sprints past Weber and others, who might have qualified.

"That's the nature of the beast," he said. "Bodhi will be battling for a spot in the finals. I'm guessing he finishes in the top five or so. It's exciting to watch these kids, whom I've been working with for five years."

The OSAA 5A state championships begin with track prelims and some field events Friday morning, May 28, at Hayward Field at the University of Oregon in Eugene. Visit osaa.org for specific schedules, including official entry lists. Finals for track and some field events are on Saturday.

## EAST LINN TRACK From page 12

the 100 hurdles (17.47), seventh in the 300 (54.78), and seventh in the triple jump in a personal best of 30-11. Madison Kauffman was seventh in 100 hurdles (18:18). Avery Runyon was eighth in the long jump 13-10¼.

Hadassah Albert, Davey, Bella Albert and Kaylyn Kauffman combined for sixth in the 4x400 really (4:48.06)

Allie Presley was fifth in the javelin in a personal best of 97-1, with Svetlana Manner was seventh in 95-1.

Tessa Salvage was fourth in the high jump, in a personal best of 4-9.

Svetlana Manner third in the pole vault (8-1½), Tatiana Manner was fifth (7-10¾) and Anna Henry sixth with a personal best of 7-8.

Lexy Kauffman tied for Athlete of the Meet on the girls side and was named Track Athlete of the Meet, while

Howard was Field Athlete of the Year and Pennington was named Track/Field Athlete of the Meet. Cowan was named Track/Field Athlete of the Year.


Peters said he thinks his boys and girls both have a chance of bringing home a team trophy from the state 2A Championships, which begin Thursday, with finals on Friday afternoon at Hayward Field at the University of Oregon in Eugene.

"I think we've got a good shot at getting a trophy if we do what we did at districts," he said. "Individually, I think Lexy can get top two or three in all three of her sprints."

"The girls 100 hurdles race is going to be crazy - there are so many good girls in that. I'm hoping that June can finish on top."

"On the boys side, Ryder can take the lead in all three jumps and hopefully, he can prove himself. Josh has a shot at getting top three in the 400."

## The *icebox* Performer Of The Week




This week's ICEBOX performer of the week goes to Donald, one of our awesome swing shift TIG welders and night shift lead.

Donald has been doing an incredible job balancing his own production while also taking the time to train two of our newer TIG welders. Leading by example, sharing his knowledge, and helping set the standard for the team.

Working swing shift means a lot of that hard work happens behind the scenes, but Donald's impact is felt throughout the shop, and leadership has definitely taken notice.

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



# Husky boys win first track and field title since 2010

By Scott Swanson  
*Of The New Era*

Sweet Home's boys made history Saturday, ending a 16-year dearth by winning the Oregon West Conference track and field district championship at Stayton High School.

It was Sweet Home's first district title since 2010, and this one was remarkably similar to that: A collective effort by the Huskies, with some out-of-the-box performances to cement the win.

The boys scored 165 points, ahead of Philomath (147), Cascade (142), Newport (91), Stayton (84) and North Marion (21).

The girls were fifth with 106.5 points, ahead of North Marion (4) and behind Philomath, the defending state champion, which won the district for the ninth straight year, with 161 points, ahead of Cascade (140.5), Stayton (118) and Newport (117).

"It felt good after, what, 16 years since our last district title," said Head Coach Nathan Whitfield, who was in his first year as an assistant coach in 2010. "First time since 2010 felt pretty awesome, to be able to do that and get back, as a team, to just doing well."

Sweet Home's boys are sending 10 qualifiers to state in eight events, while the girls' lone qualifier was senior Selah Wright, who was second in the javelin with a personal best of 115-09.

This will be her first trip to state.

District champions on the track for the boys, all state qualifiers, were senior Dylan Davis in the 400 (50.67), junior Ryker Burr in the 800 (2:02.77), both the boys 4x100 relay team of junior Landon Murry, sophomore Sam Barringer, Davis and freshman Brayden Driver (43.46, a school and meet record), and the 4x400 team of Driver, Burr, Murray and Davis (3:31.22).

Davis was named the boys track Athlete of the Meet.

In the field, junior Gavin Tyler won the district title in the shot with a personal best of 51-8¼.

Other state qualifiers for the boys were: Murry, second in the 100 (11.16 after running a personal-best 11.12 in prelims); Davis, second in the 200 (22.46, a PR); Driver, second in the 400 behind Davis (51.66, a PR) and second in the 300 hurdles (42.71, a PR); and Barringer, second in the high jump with a PR of 5-10½.

Driver was roughly sixth rounding the curve into home stretch, when he shifted into another gear and ran by the field, setting a personal best of nearly two seconds with that finish.

The boys' scoring came largely from the sprints, with finishes by Tyler in the shot and Barringer's high jump adding to the total.

In the distances, their youth showed as they produced some scorers, but no top finishers.

Additional scoring came in the 100 from Barringer (fourth, 11.35, a PR) and sophomore Mason Tyler (11.77).

Murray was third in the 200 behind Davis in a PR of 22.83, with senior Manual Rivera fifth (24.24). Rivera also finished fifth in the 400 (54.49).

Sophomore Acen Webber was eighth in the 800, behind Burr, in 2:14.59 after running a PR of 2:11.57 the previous day in prelims.

Freshman Elijah Rodriguez was eighth in the 3000 (10:08.11).

Junior Kaeson Walker was third in the 110 hurdles in a personal best of 16.15, ahead of Larsen, who got a bad start and finished seventh (17.05). Larson was third in the 300 hurdles, behind Driver, in a PR of 42.83.

In the discus, senior Cannon Klumph was sixth (117-0), and in the javelin, Tyler was fourth with a PR of 148-6, ahead of sophomore Ean Tackett in fifth (141-9).

In the long jump, Mason Tyler was fourth with a personal best of 20-5¼, and in the triple jump, Barringer finished third (39-8), with Walker fifth (39-1¼) and junior David Adderson eighth (34-5½).

In the pole vault, senior Elisha Scofield cleared a personal-best 10-8¼, with Larson fifth (10-2½) and Rodriguez eighth (9-8½).

Like the boys, the girls had a noticeable presence in the event finals, even if they didn't place high enough to qualify for state and score the points needed to compete with the leaders.

Senior Loralai Mark was fourth in the 100 (13.11, a personal best), and junior Brooke Elder was fifth in both the 100 (13.36) and the 200 (27.95, a personal best).

In the 800, sophomore Emma Whitton was third (2:35.88), followed by junior Noelle Helfrich in fourth (2:37.82) and freshman Casie Spencer fifth (2:39.98, a PR).

Senior McKenzie Miller was one spot away from qualifying for state in the 1500 (third in 5:07.06) and the 3000 (third in 11:31.57), with Whitton fourth in the 1500 (5:16.23).

Senior Delainie Pratt was seventh in the 100 hurdles (18.27) after posting a PR of 17.15 the previous day in prelims.

In the 300 hurdles, junior Amara Gonzales was sixth in a PR of 52.91.

In the 4x100 relay, the



Coach Nathan Whitfield, center, and his team celebrate after the boys won their first district track championship in 16 years. See more photos of the meet at sweethomenews.com.

- Photos by Scott Swanson

team of Elder, Pratt, junior Jayla Moore and Mark were third in 52.68.

The 4x400 team of Spencer, Helfrich, Elder and Miller finished fifth (4:27.81).

Wright was fifth in the shot (32-3¾), with sophomore Sydney Dominy eighth (29-1¼).

Dominy was fifth in the discus (93-0), with Wright sixth (91-9) and junior Maily Brewer seventh (90-3).

Dominy was seventh in the javelin, behind Wright, with a personal best of 80-10, with freshman Persephone Brookfield eighth (80-7, also a PR).

Gonzales and freshman Elizabeth Hankins tied for sixth in the high jump at 4-5, a personal best for Hankins, who was also seventh in the long jump (14-10½), behind Mark, who was fourth (4-5).

Gonzales finished sixth in the triple jump (29-9½), with sophomore Grace Gardner seventh (29-2½) and junior Miu Simmons eighth (29-1).

In the girls pole vault, the only Husky who cleared a height was freshman Kali Vogel, who cleared 6-6.

With the state meet starting Friday with some field events and track prelims for the 4A Division at Hayward Field at the University of Oregon in Eugene, Whitfield recalled the 2010 team, which went on to win the state title. Track and some field event finals are on Saturday.

"That team was pretty special," he said. "But this team, with this tough league and how tough state is this year, we'll see what happens."

"The guys, especially at districts, I think we scored in every event except for one and in a lot of those we were scoring two."

"So we did pretty well. We had a lot of people on the podium. It was a pretty fun weekend."



Kaeson Walker, left, and Nick Larsen, right, compete in the 110 hurdles, in which Walker finished third.



McKenzie Miller leads the field during the 1500.

# SHFAD budget jumps nearly 12%, due to variety of factors, chief says

By Scott Swanson  
Of The New Era

Sweet Home Fire and Ambulance District's Budget Committee approved a \$7,370,500 proposed General Fund budget for 2026-27 for the district at their annual meeting on Tuesday, May 19.

The budget will go on to the district Board of Directors on June 16 for final approval. All five directors - Charlene Adams, Larry Johnson, Dawn Mitchell, Jim Yon and Rob Younger, are part of the Budget Committee along with Brent Gaskey, Debbie Paul, Sasha Roebeck, Wally Shreves and Kevin Strong.

All were present for the approval vote, which was unanimous, though Gaskey arrived late.

Chief Nick Tyler summarized the budget, noting that the 11.77%, \$776,457 increase from 2025-26 reflects increased personnel costs and inflation, ongoing capital projects, "and continued investment into district reserves and emergency response capabilities."

Specifically, Tyler said, the budget "continues to prioritize operational readiness, firefighter safety, training, and apparatus reliability."

He said the district has experienced increased costs in personnel, dispatch services, equipment maintenance and operational supplies, which, he said, "continue to impact emergency service delivery throughout the fire service industry."

Tyler told the committee that the district is fully staffed, after the swearing in of Tanner Funk as a lieutenant, filling the one open position.

Tyler said the district has been "fairly responsible" in how it spends its money.

"We had almost \$1 million in expenses last year, but a lot of that was grant dollars," he said.

He said the district is in good shape, equipment-wise, for the time being, with two new ambulances set to be delivered this year, one expected in the next week.

Plus, SHFAD has two Type 6 brush engines on order, which are also expected "soon," he said.

"In the next three to five years, I don't see any major apparatus purchases necessary," he said.

Fire departments nationwide are struggling with funding issues, he said.

"Apparatus is not in a great state across the nation."

He said the fact that the district is well-stocked at present gives it time to plan for when it will need new apparatus.

"A new engine in 2026 costs \$1 million," he said, adding that a "more generic" engine might range from \$600,000 to \$700,000. "But we need to plan for seven figures. Not



Newly sworn-in members of Sweet Home Fire's Wildland Crew stand outside the main fire station. See many more photos of the event at [sweethomenews.com](http://sweethomenews.com) - Photo by Scott

having to purchase now gives us time to plan."

He said fire engines have "a certain life span" and the district has one that "we were thinking of surplus, but we decided to keep it. If something happened to one of our other engines, we'd rather have that than go buy someone else's headache."

Tyler and union representatives at the meeting reported that negotiations went well this year and union President Casey Topp said the new contract had been ratified by union members.

Tyler said the union is aware of the increased costs the district is facing, particularly for healthcare, and "now, in partnership with the union, we're going to try to figure out how to move forward and share some of those costs when they get to the point of breaking the district."

Strong, serving as committee chair, asked about the risk of budgeting for wildland firefighting activities in other regions of the state that may not happen.

Tyler responded that there is "risk," but noted that the district's wildland crew is also doing fuels mitigation work, and that last summer's fire situation was "light."

"We have plenty of work here, locally, to keep us busy," he said.

Strong also asked about SHFAD responses to Blue Pool, one which occurred recently, and other distant locations, noting that "the revenue may not be there."

Tyler acknowledged that "it's difficult," noting that a recent rescue operation at Blue Pool took staff away from the district for 10½ hours.

"On a day like that, what happens to the department?" Strong asked.

"It cuts our staff in half," Tyler replied.

He said other area agencies are struggling with staffing and finances, and "we're looking at doing some different things" in regard to Blue Pool responses.

He noted that the Linn County Sheriff's Office's Search and Rescue team "has

been doing a good job" and may be able to respond in the future to some calls that currently are handled by SHFAD.

Strong also asked about the district's fuel bills and budgeting.

Tyler said he projected fairly accurately last year on the fuels budget.

"I shook the magic eight-ball just right and we were right on track on fuel," he joked. He later told the committee that total was \$65,000, which he has increased to \$90,000 this year.

Johnson suggested that the school district, for which Strong is business manager, and SHFAD might be able to work together to get better rates on fuel by increasing volume.

"You could talk about negotiating a price for six months or a year, and lock it in," he suggested.

### Board Meeting Actions

Tyler swore in Tanner Funk as the district's new lieutenant and 12 members of this year's Wildland crew: Braxton Bilby, Luke Bloedel, Rusty Brand, Daniel Dodd, Cody Gustafson, Owen Kent, Bryce Koehne, Jack Lang, James O'Neal, Laird Pettner, Will Shippen and Sean Whalan. Three others were not present for the ceremony.

Board members also agreed to do a walk-through visit at the newly upgraded Station 23 in Crawfordsville at 4 p.m. on June 9.

### SHFAD Grant Applications

Battalion Chief Shannon Pettner reported on her efforts to gain seismic grant funding for upgrades to Station 24 in Cascadia, and an adjacent residence that will eventually house firefighters, similar to work that was done at the other three stations.

She said it would cost the district \$12,000 to write the grant and submit it, but that if SHFAD doesn't get it, they could keep submitting the same grant application.

Board members voted unanimously to go forward with the grant.

Pettner also reported that she's hoping the state will reinstate community wildfire risk reduction grants for

seasonal wildfire protection staffing.

She also said SHFAD is working on grants that would backfill reimbursement shortfalls from Medicare, Medicaid and other programs.

Plus, Pettner said, she's working on a grant that would provide an "EMT Basic" program to give up to 24 high-school students an opportunity to earn their EMT certification before graduation.

"There's a shortage of EMTs in Oregon," she said, adding that she hopes students who get certified "will want to go on."

She said she's also working on a grant that through ODOT for up to \$5 million in funding over three years to reduce accident fatalities by providing improved post-crash care capabilities. The program would provide "blood products," she said, to prevent victims dying of blood loss before they reach the hospital.

Tyler said the department is also working on a Community Paramedic program that would provide post-hospital

check-ups in the community.

He gave the example of a patient with a fever and pneumonia, whom medics transport to the hospital.

"We take them to the hospital to get antibiotics, because that's what you need for that," he said. "But then they don't get it filled or don't take it. We would provide followup."

Pettner noted that the program would also include crisis intervention and mental health.

She and Tyler cited the example of a patient who has had 10 visits from an ambulance over the past month for a diabetic issue.

"We're going out on these calls, but we're taking an ambulance," Tyler said, adding that such trips deplete the department's staffing. Plus, he added, there are "long lines" in urgent care, it may take "six or eight months" to see a doctor, and even for medics there are long waits at the hospital - "wall time," Tyler called it, because things are busy in the emergency room.

"A lot of times, the discharge instructions are rushed," he said, which contributes to confusion and lack of action on the part of patients.

Pettner also said SHFAD is looking to get an inflatable mattress that can lift patients on the floor, and a power steer chair, which "can take someone up stairs at the push of a button," rather than requiring a full ambulance crew, who risk back injuries trying to lift patients.

"A lot of times we get called for things that are never going to be a transport," she said. "Those are things we don't need an ambulance for if we have adequate equipment."

"Under-served is a big buzz word," Tyler concluded.

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## SHSD BUDGET

From page 7

- Oregon Department of Forestry and the U.S. Forest Service.
- \$2 million in pass-through funds for Sweet Home Charter School.
- \$2.9 million in Student Investment Account funds and High School Success funds to provide enhanced mental health services, expand Career and Technical Education (CTE) opportunities, eliminate pay-to-play fees, reduce class sizes and strengthen overall student support.
- \$800,000 budgeted as a placeholder in case the district is awarded additional grants between now and the end of the 2026-27 fiscal year.
- \$1.5 million in student activity funds for use by student organizations.
- \$600,000 for operations and maintenance costs for the community swimming pool.
- \$2.5 million for debt service on the district's outstanding general obligation bonds.
- \$2.4 million for debt service on the district's outstanding PERS pension bonds. In response to a question from Slater, Strong said the district is paying 30 cents to PERS for every payroll dollar employees get – and that is less than others are paying to backfill PERS after the state retirement fund's managers chose to make

investments that performed poorly in comparison to other options they could have chosen.

"Promises were made to people decades ago and not enough money was set aside decades ago to keep those promises, so we have to make that up now," he said, adding that he'd much rather divert those funds to kids' needs.

- \$2.3 million for student transportation services.
- \$300,000 for potential bus replacements.

Strong and Redick discussed the fuel outlook for the district, Redick predicting that fuel costs will remain high in the western United States due to the situation in the Middle East and the recent shutdowns of refineries in California.

"Energy prices are going to drop, but how much are they going to drop?" Redick asked.

Strong responded that the thought of purchasing electric vehicles "did cross my mind."

- \$2.2 million allocated through federal and state grant programs for designated funding purposes.
- \$1.6 million in Long Term Maintenance funds that are available for facility improvement projects if approved and directed by the School Board.
- \$30.1 million net of the ending fund balance, swimming pool, and student transportation operating costs for the General Fund, which supports

day-to-day operations and extra-curricular activities.

Martin told the committee the district is strongly considering offering online learning in the upcoming school year in response to interest from parents and the proliferation of online learning in other districts that suck dollars out of Sweet Home.

"This is not something we want to have a ton of," he said, noting that families have indicated interest due to medical needs "or whatever."

"When we, as a district, came out of COVID we had online, but we did not continue that because we wanted the kids to come back," he added.

In response to questions from the committee, he said online students would still count as district enrollees.

If online learning is added, it would require one additional staff position, Strong said.

Hiassen, a retired Sweet Home teacher and administrator, asked: "What would make this program better

than other programs? There are a lot of programs out there."

Martin responded that local online students would have the benefits of counseling, co-curricular activities, "all those things our families and students benefit from by being in our community, our schools."

In response to another question regarding the district's Planned Reserve Balance, money carried over from the previous year's budget that will be available for emergencies and can be used as a starter for the following year's budget.

Strong said the planned reserve for 2026-27 is at 9.1%, which, he acknowledged, is higher than it would have been in some years, say, coming out of the Great Recession, he said.

He said that having a strong reserve will help the district's credit rating and lower its interest costs, as well as providing cushion in an unstable economy.

Martin credited Strong's leadership to committee members as the meeting concluded, as well as Facili-

ties Director Josh Darwood's role in recent upgrades to schools, calling the recent renovations at Oak Heights Elementary, which were largely completed during one summer and by school staff and local contractors, "a concert."

"What we're looking at here is an orchestra," Martin said, in reference to the work that will be funded by the newly approved bond. "We are in on the beginning of the first piece of an orchestra. This is very high-level and Kevin does it very very well."

"This is a master class on budgeting. I would not be doing my duty if I did not recognize Kevin's expertise in this. He knows this in and out."

Strong responded by crediting School Board members who have repeatedly taken actions over the past two decades in response to his recommendations to improve the district's finances in such ways as creating side accounts to reduce the district's PERS obligations and making moves to lower bond payments for taxpayers.

## Voters approve Sweet Home measures; Jackola, Tibbetts sitting on big leads

Sweet Home's school bond measure is well ahead in voting results from the May 19 primary election reported Monday evening, May 25, as was Sweet Home's charter amendment measure.

Support for the school bond was 56.42% (2,882 votes) to 43.58% "no" votes (2,226).

Support for the amendments to Sweet Home's charter, which governs the city's structure, powers and municipal functions, was 56.01% of votes (1,425 to 43.99% (1,119) in opposition.

In the Republican race for the state Senate District 6 nomination for the Nov. 3 election, Jami Cate is locked in a tight race with Jack Tibbetts.

Tibbetts, a winery owner from the Cottage Grove area, led Cate, who gave up her House District 11 seat to run for the Senate, 51.03% (10,964 votes) to 44.23% (9,503), with Nicole De Graff of Mohawk third with 949 votes (4.42%).

In the Republican race for the House District 11 seat,

now occupied by Cate, Lebanon Mayor Ken Jackola had a significant lead over Sweet Home Councilwoman Angelita Sanchez, 56.93% (6,694 votes) to 42.80% (5,033).

Other results as of noon Wednesday:

A total of 82.92% of Oregon voters opposed Measure 120, which would have increased gas taxes and vehicle fees to raise money for the cash-strapped Oregon Department of Transportation. Supporting votes numbered 199,946, with 971,011 "no" votes.

The passage of the referendum overturns taxes and fees imposed by House Bill 3991, passed by the Legislature in a special session called by Gov. Tina Kotek immediately before Labor Day last year and signed into law by her on Nov. 9. Those included: a 6-cent gas tax increase, an increase to the electrical vehicle surcharge, a pay-by-mile fee program for electric and high-efficiency vehicles, and DMV vehicle registration fee increases.

In the Republican race for governor, Christine Drazan had 40.79% of the vote, over Ed Diehl (32.97%) and Chris Dudley (16.81%) and 12 other candidates who drew votes.

In the Republican race to face off with incumbent U.S. Sen. Jeff Merkley, who was a shoe-in (93.23% of votes) in the Democratic race, state Sen. David Brock Smith of Sandy (29.54%) led Jo Rae Perkins of Albany (27.08%) and businessman Brent Barker of Beaverton (23.29%) in a field of seven candidates.

In the Republican race to face incumbent Rep. Janelle Bynum, who was well ahead of Democratic challenger Zeva Rosenbaum of Salem with 82.14% of the vote, Deschutes County Commissioner Patti Adair led Jonathan Lockwood of Lebanon with 59.52% of the vote.

More votes are likely in coming days as absentee or mail-in ballots arrive at the County Elections Office. Final election results are certified 28 days following the election.

## 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.*

**PIE Charter School Board:** Mon., June 1, 6 p.m., at Sand Ridge Charter School, 100 Sand Ridge Ct., Lebanon.

**Sweet Home Planning Commission:** Thur., June 4, 6:30 p.m., at City Hall, 3225 Main St.

**Central Linn School Board:** Mon., June 8, 6 p.m., at Conference Room, 239 W 2nd St., Halsey.

**Sweet Home School Board:** Mon., June 8, 6:30 p.m., at 1920 Long St.

**Lebanon Fire District:** Tues., June 9, 5:30 p.m., at 1050 W. Oak St.

**Sweet Home City Council:** Tues., June 9, 6:30 p.m., at City Hall, 3225 Main St.

**Waterloo City Council:** Tues., June 9, 7 p.m., at 31140 1st St.

**Halsey City Council:** Tues., June 9, 7 p.m., at City Hall, 100 Halsey St.

**Lebanon City Council:** Wed., June 10, 6 p.m., at Lebanon Library, 55 Academy St.

**Lebanon School Board:** Thur., June 11, 6 p.m., at Lebanon Library, 55 Academy St.

**Lebanon Aquatic District:** Mon., June 15, 6 p.m., at Lebanon Pool, 1800 S 5th St.

**Sweet Home Fire Board:** Tue., June 16, 6:30 p.m., at 1099 Long St.

**Brownsville Fire Board:** Tue., June 16, 6:30 p.m., at 600 E Blakely.

**Sweet Home Park & Tree Committee:** Wed., June 17, 8:30 a.m. at City Hall, 3225 Main St.

**Lebanon Parks, Trees & Trails:** Wed., June 17, 2 p.m. at Lebanon Library, 55 Academy St.

**Lebanon Planning Commission:** Wed., June 17, 6 p.m. at Lebanon Library, 55 Academy

**Sweet Home Planning Commission:** Thur., June 18, 6:30 p.m. at City Hall, 3225 Main St.

**Sodaville City Council:** Thur., June 18, 7 p.m. at City Hall, 30723 Sodaville Road.

## LCSD BUDGET

From page 11

to a full-time staff position that will be advertised this summer.

She said \$50,000 has been budgeted for the position for 2026-27, and, as a licensed position in the district's collective bargaining agreement, it is required to be posted, which would actually total \$70,000.

Meckley noted that, as the trainer position can be difficult to fill, "if we don't get a qualified applicant, then we go to a contracted service."

A potential wrinkle, she said, is that Beaver Sports Medicine may not offer the service after next year, so that hurdle may need to be addressed.

The total cost to include those two items in the athletics budget would be

\$100,000, which would "need to come from somewhere else," she said.

That would require reducing one staff position at the high school, "because that's where enrollment makes the most sense" due to student enrollment, she said.

She said some of that amount could be reduced through attrition, due to \$50,000 that will be saved

# 55 Plus

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



## Memorial Day has deep meaning for veterans

By Satina Tolman  
For The New Era

For a holiday marked by backyard barbecues, camping trips and retail sales, the veterans of Sweet Home and Lebanon say Memorial Day carries a much heavier meaning.

"Memorial Day is for the guys who didn't come home," said Michael Black, a Sweet Home resident who served 21 years in the U.S. Marine Corps.

For Black and many other veterans, the holiday is not one of celebration, but remembrance. It is a solemn day dedicated to friends, brothers-in-arms and fellow service members who never returned home to their families.

"It's not for us," Black said. "It's for those who are gone, but not forgotten."

Landon Sumpter, a Lebanon resident who spent eight years on active duty in the U.S. Army and four in the Reserves, including five years stationed in Baumholder, Germany, served both before and after the fall of the Berlin Wall. He retired as a Staff Sgt. (E-6) after being honorably discharged.



David Brock plays "Amazing Grace" on the bagpipes at Sweet Home's Memorial Day service May 25 as bugler Ken Collins stands at attention. - Photo by Scott Swanson

"To me, personally, it's the day we get to pay our respects for the men and women of all of our armed forces that gave their lives to preserve the freedoms that we are able

enjoy every day," he said.

### Remembering the fallen

Observed annually on the last Monday in May, Memorial Day honors military personnel who died while serving

in the United States Armed Forces. Originally known as Decoration Day following the Civil War, the observance began as a way to decorate the graves of fallen soldiers with

flowers and flags.

Veterans interviewed said the distinction between Memorial Day and Veterans Day is often misunderstood.

"Memorial Day is a day for mourning. Veterans Day is a day for celebration," said Nick Ashworth, a retired Marine who served 23 years and is a Sweet Home resident.

John Kuhns, a Sweet Home resident and retired U.S. Air Force master sergeant who served 21 years, echoed that sentiment.

"Memorial Day is for all those who served and did not come back home. They gave their all," Kuhns said. "Veterans Day is a day to celebrate all those who did not give their all but were willing to."

Sumpter said he believes the meaning of Memorial Day has shifted over time.

"Yes, for many people who have never served or had family members who have served, it has definitely become just another three-day weekend."

For many veterans, however, the day is deeply personal.

Black, who enlisted in the Marines in 1984 directly out

Deep Meaning, Page 18

## Sidetracked by Two Heroes

By Roberta McKern

At East Linn Museum, we've started looking in the "General History of Oregon," written by Charles H. Carey, LLD and printed by Buford and Mort in 1971, to which we have referred in the past regarding the history of our area.

Actually, not much about our area is mentioned therein because our volume only goes up to the mid-1800s, but questions about Oregon's years before then can be answered.

Our curiosity involved the way the United States and Great Britain had joint occupancy on the northern border until the issue was decided in part because American settlers outnumbered British ones living near the Fort Vancouver vicinity

Fort Vancouver represented the Hudson's Bay Company of Canada, but the Americans formed a local government at Champoeg and the border between Canada and America was set at 49° latitude, not the 54° 40' on the map, as Americans had cried for with the slogan of "54°40' or Fight", without the fight in 1846.

So why joint occupancy for the earlier 1800s? Because of, really, procrastination. Following the Louisiana Purchase in 1803, the United States boundaries came

into question.

Spain still claimed the western areas of California, Texas, Colorado, New Mexico, and Arizona, for example.

Russia had crept south from Alaska to the 54th parallel and in the southeast, Spain continued to hold on to Florida.

So a commission was set up to agree to borders. To help clarify this, President James Monroe's Secretary of State John Quincy Adams stepped into the fray.

He aided the president by helping to compose the Monroe Doctrine, warning European countries not to try to set up new colonies in the Americas where the Spanish were losing their colonies to concepts of liberty, equality, and independence.

John Quincy Adams: Here was a name with resonance, but one we had not associated with Oregon history, and we were sidetracked.

As we know, John Quincy Adams was the son of our second president, John Adams — the first father-and-son duo before the Bushes. He grew up with the founding of the country.

His mother, Abigail, had wanted the Constitution to give women the right to vote. He'd spent many of his formative years in Europe,

where his father was seeking recognition of the United States and hoping for loans from the French and Dutch.

He'd seen the Battle of Bunker Hill with his mother and knew Revolutionary leaders George Washington and Thomas Jefferson.

He was educated and urbane and, in his photograph, he had the dour look of a New England conscience.

He lived up to this after his single term of office as president and served 11 years in Congress as a representative from Massachusetts, dying in 1848 in the Speaker's room after collapsing on the House floor two days earlier.

As a representative, he had argued against slavery to the point that he was censured and the subject was tabled and not to be spoken of. He foresaw the coming of the war over slavery and had at one time represented a handful of his Massachusetts constituents in threatening secession if the slavocracy of the South continued.

So the idea of secession in one way or another was already around in the 1840s. It later led, some two decades later, to the uncivil Civil War, South versus North.

As president, John Quincy Adams inherited the

vice-president from Hell in the form of General Andrew Jackson, who despised John Quincy Adams because he had been one of three candidates in the run-off of electoral votes which saw Adams victorious.

Jackson held that Adams had acted illegally. That, as a runner-up, he gained the vice-presidency (which was how it worked

in those days), satisfied Jackson not at all and he worked to replace John Quincy Adams by becoming our seventh president. The difference between John Quincy Adams and Andrew Jackson is what sidetracked our attention. Each represented a certain section of the country.

Sidetracked, Page 19

### JUNE 2026 Sweet Home Senior Center Wednesday Lunch Menu

June 3rd: Cheesy Ham and Potato Bake, Veggies, and Dessert

June 10th: Meatloaf, Mashed Potatoes with Gravy, Veggies, Salad, and Dessert

June 17th: Spaghetti, Salad, Garlic Bread, Veggie, and Dessert

June 24th: Pork Chops in Mushroom Gravy, Baked Potato, Veggies, and Dessert Supplied by Wiley Creek

**\$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

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## DEEP MEANING

From page 17

of high school, and was stationed at Camp Pendleton in California, retired as a gunnery sergeant after serving in the infantry for more than two decades.

He said he has lost "too many" friends in service to name.

"I don't like to talk about particular friends because it's personal," he said quietly.

Ashworth carries similar memories.

"People say we're the lucky ones," he said. "But I don't like that either because at least they died for something. We're going to die of something."

Both veterans said expressions of gratitude from civilians can feel complicated.

Black said he does not enjoy being thanked for his service.

"I volunteered, and we got paid to go fight bad guys," he said. "I don't like to be thanked for my service."

Ashworth said he understands the intention comes from a good place, but it still brings difficult memories to the surface.

"People are just trying to be nice," he said. "But it reminds me of all the friends I've lost. Too many to name."

### A quiet kind of grief

For many service members, Memorial Day is observed privately.

Ryan Matteson, quartermaster of Sweet Home VFW Post 3437 and a retired Navy veteran who worked in aviation electronics and radar jamming, said he spends Memorial Day quietly.

"The cemetery and home. That is all I do on Memorial Day," Matteson said. "I don't like to be around the public."

Matteson participates in cemetery honors despite lin-

gering health issues caused by injuries and repeated heat exposure during his military service.

"When people ask what I'm doing for Memorial Day, I tell them I'll be standing in the heat holding a 20-pound rifle for an hour," he said. "But that's not nearly as bad a sacrifice as other people made."

Even on mild days, Matteson said he struggles physically because of prior head injuries and multiple incidents of heatstroke suffered during his years in the Navy.

"But it's a small price to pay to give tribute to those who paid their all," he said.

Kuhns said Memorial Day has changed over the years and has become increasingly commercialized.

"Like Christmas, Memorial Day has become much more commercialized, and we've lost the meaning behind what we are supposed to be remembering," he said.

Still, he believes families can gather and enjoy traditions while honoring the purpose behind the holiday.

"It would be nice if, when you bring your family together, you just take a moment and say there are those who gave their lives so we can have this freedom," Kuhns said. "It doesn't take a lot to remember the purpose of the day."

Sumpter also emphasized what he believes civilians often misunderstand about the holiday.

"When there is even ONE member of the family in the military, the ENTIRE family is serving our country," he said.

Congress established a National Moment of Remembrance in 2000, encouraging Americans to pause for one minute at 3 p.m. local time on Memorial Day.

### Respect for sacrifice

Several veterans said see-

ing American flags displayed throughout town still carries emotional significance.

"When you've been gone for years overseas and you're fighting bad guys, you feel pride when you come home and see the American flag flying," Black said. "You feel pride."

Kuhns said the flag represents sacrifice.

"When I see the flags flying, I just give a moment of silence to think about those who gave their all, even the graves of American soldiers in foreign countries who gave their all for others to have freedom from oppression," he said.

Black said he appreciates the effort many Americans make to honor the holiday, even if they never personally knew anyone who served.

"I actually love it because they are respecting people they don't even know," he said. "They're showing appreciation for even just being here."

Veterans also emphasized that the sacrifices of military families are often overlooked.

Ashworth paid special tribute to the wives of fallen service members.

"The wives don't get enough respect during Memorial Day," he said. "They are the unsung heroes backing the soldiers at home."

He described the fear military spouses endure when word spreads that someone has been killed within a unit.

"The wives have to come together and support one another until they find out who it was," Ashworth said. "That just about destroys you; the not knowing."

Sumpter also stressed the weight carried by military families and what he wants people to remember about those who never came home.

"When those soldiers go off to active duty they leave behind spouses, children, siblings and parents. All who love and worry about them. Many are still teenagers. Oftentimes when military personnel are called to active duty in combat assignments, there is no guarantee of their safe return. They willingly sign their name on the dotted line and raise their hand and take an oath to defend the nation against all enemies, foreign and domestic. They do this of their own free will in order to preserve the freedoms that we are blessed to have in our country."

He believes Memorial Day should also recognize those families left behind.

Black agrees, "Memorial Day should be as much about the wives who lost their husbands as it is about the soldiers who were lost."

### Serving the community at home

Sweet Home and Lebanon are home to a significant vet-



Veteran Stan Gray lays a wreath at the Veterans Memorial at Gilliland Cemetery in Sweet Home. - Photo by Scott Swanson

eran population. According to U.S. Census Bureau data, 706 veterans live within Sweet Home city limits. Including surrounding rural communities within Sweet Home School District boundaries, that number rises to nearly 1,500 veterans.

Lebanon is home to an additional 1,352 veterans within city limits. According to census data, the concentration of veterans in the Sweet Home and Lebanon area is estimated to be roughly 20% higher than Oregon's statewide average veteran population.

Many continue serving long after leaving the military.

Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 3437 volunteers participate in local parades, place flags throughout town, maintain cemetery grounds, conduct Memorial Day services and teach flag etiquette in local schools. The organization also provides bikes to children, food baskets to families in need, supports military families and hosts community events throughout the year.

The VFW partners with the American Legion to conduct annual Memorial Day ceremonies at Gilliland and Crawfordsville cemeteries, complete with honor guards, wreath presentations and guest speakers.

Black and Ashworth said while military branches often tease and compete with one another, there is a deeper bond among veterans who understand loss.

"They served, and they've lost brothers, and there's re-

spect for that," Black said. "We're like a family. A family that loves to (heckle each other)."

Kuhns said he hopes younger generations understand military service is more than simply employment.

"So many have given their blood and even given their all to make this country strong and keep us free," he said. "It matters."

### Honoring the flag

Although Memorial Day has passed, local veterans say the spirit of remembrance should continue beyond a single weekend.

Matteson said the Sweet Home VFW accepts worn and tattered American flags for proper retirement ceremonies leading up to Flag Day on June 14.

"People put up new flags during Memorial Day weekend, and we ask them to bring us the old ones," Matteson said.

The VFW conducts an official flag retirement ceremony annually on Flag Day, respectfully retiring U.S., state and military flags according to established protocol. Last year, the organization retired 275 flags.

Residents may drop off worn flags at Sweet Home VFW Post 3437, located at 580 Main St.

For the veterans who gathered to share their memories, the message behind Memorial Day remains simple and deeply personal: remember those who never came home.

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Mon. - Fri. 8 a.m. - 6 p.m. | Saturday 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.

# 55 Plus

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## SIDETRACKED

From page 17

Adams was of the East Coast, with an eye toward Europe and internationalism, whereas Jackson was a westerner, with his vision formed by frontier experiences.

When Adams' father, John Adams, had been president of the United States and uncertain about whether holders of that office should be addressed as "your highness," an observer remarked that John Adams qualified as "his rotundity."

John Quincy Adams had known General George Washington. Andrew Jackson, as a general, had won the battle of New Orleans during the War of 1812, not knowing a treaty ending the war had just been decided at Ghent by John Quincy Adams and other negotiators.

Andrew Jackson won southeastern battles against Creeks and Seminoles and drew attention to the weakness of the Spanish and their hold on that area, facilitating the United States' securing of Florida.

Andrew Jackson enjoyed western amusements, such as cock fighting, horse racing, and an occasional duel.



This 1814 painting depicting the Signing of Treaty of Ghent, which ended the War of 1812, shows John Quincy Adams in the center negotiating with the British.

John Quincy Adams got up early every morning to write in his diary and, as president, he also liked to swim around dawn in the Potomac. Once, his boat sank, carrying with it most of his clothes and he had to make his way back to the presidential residence

cloaked mainly in embarrassment!

Jackson was flamboyant, a self-made man who counted slaves among his wealth. Adams was taught to respect duty and diligence.

Each believed in his vision of democracy, equality, and liberty for the United States.

We can go on thinking of the differences between John Quincy Adams and Andrew Jackson, but our nation has always been one of differences and mainly, respect.

One thing both men had in common during their political careers was support

for the westward expansion by the American populace. As the issue of slavery began to increasingly take prominence, should it be allowed?

In this, John Quincy Adams was on one side and Andrew Jackson was on the other — anti-slavery and pro-slavery respectively — but neither former president would live to see the outcome of the Civil War.

So, did John Quincy Adams play a big role in settling troubles with the U.S. movement into Oregon Country? Perhaps not, but if we want an American hero, in his quiet way he deserves to be listed. Jackson, we don't worry about!

As "bigger than life," he gains much more notoriety than John Quincy Adams maybe because he's often depicted in a military uniform. He remains a folk hero, popularly called "Old Hickory." He promoted the frontier and American expansion. Much has been written about him. Despite his long career as an up-holder of the Constitution, less has been noted about John Quincy Adams. But then, the art of a diplomat is to be heard...not seen.

## LCS D BUDGET

From page 16

when a staff member, whom she did not identify, goes from full- to part-time.

"By reducing another classified staff, we may be able to get this all balanced and make up this total of \$100,000," she added.

Those would be in addition to the "original cuts," she said.

Also, the district usually budgets about \$120,000 when seeking a full-time certified staff member "if we don't know where they are on the salary schedule," she said, acknowledging that the position is currently only budgeted for \$50,000, "so we would need another \$70,000."

If the position is not filled by posting it, the amount would revert to \$50,000, she said in response to a question from Piland.

"We won't know that until, potentially, the end of summer," she said. "So, we have to plan for it."

Melissa Baurer asked whether the district has ever reached out to Samaritan Health about the possibility of contracting with them for a trainer.

Rood recalled that when Western University opened in Lebanon, the district used interns from the school for athletic training, asking whether that was still pos-

sible.

Both he and Meckley said they were not entirely clear on the details of that arrangement.

In response to another question from the committee, Prosocki said he forecasts the future based on low-, middle- and "high-case" scenarios of enrollment declines.

Low case would be stable enrollment or a "relatively modest" decline, he said, "that could be addressed through normal attrition, operational efficiencies" and ongoing adjustments to budget line items. That impact could range from "zero to up to \$500,000 reduction in a future budget."

In a middle-case scenario, enrollment declines by another 100 students and "costs continue to rise at expected levels," which could result in more staff reductions and "operational adjustments similar to what districts across the state are experiencing," resulting in cuts of anywhere from \$1 million to \$3 million down the road.

In a high-case scenario, enrollment declines would exceed the district's projections, with "significant" spending costs due to inflation, contractual obligations or reduced state funding. That could result in much larger deficits that could force "more significant corrective action," forcing cuts

of \$3 million to \$5 million in a future budget, he said.

"If I were to guess, I think we are in the low- to mid-scenario," he said, adding that enrollment numbers on Oct. 1 are a good indicator of where things are going.

He noted that a \$378,000 anticipated state grant for summer school has been removed from the budget, after the district was denied it.

Both Prosocki and Meckley, clearly irritated, said they don't know why the district didn't get the grant.

"We applied using the same program we ran last year," Meckley said, explaining that the way the state scored applications changed. "But we had no feedback to say last year wasn't good. Some districts get a million, a hundred thousand.

"I have some feelings about it."

Barish, who is a local doctor, asked whether the district is "looking 10 years down the road," listing various challenges the district faces: climbing expenses, declining student numbers, and student shifts to charter and online schools.

"It seems like we're basically going to eat ourselves down to nothing," he said. "I think we need to be thinking about, maybe, a total reorganization of how we

approach public education.

"Obviously, that's not just our district; that's probably through the whole state or through the whole country. But it seems that if we just deal with this year by year, or biennium by biennium, we're just going to continue to just slowly nibble away at ourselves — like a rat, it's just gonna eat itself in defeat."

"I could not agree more," Meckley replied after a

wave of laughter from the meeting attendees. "That's so accurate of what it feels like in public education."

She said that she's involved in "constant advocacy" with her fellow superintendents, but there are many needs.

"It's like, of all of these 10 things we need, what are we going to focus on?" she said. "There's so many, even in our realm."

# A V A M E R E

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

## Public Notices

**TRUSTEE'S AMENDED NOTICE OF SALE**

Pursuant to ORS 86.705, et seq. and ORS 79.0601, et seq. (Amended to Correct a Scrivener's Error in the Legal Description)

Reference is made to a certain trust deed ("Trust Deed") made, executed and delivered by Kingdom Builders Investments, LLC an Oregon Limited Liability Company, as grantor, to First American Title Company of Oregon, as trustee, in favor of Hendrikus J. Bloemendaal and Nancy C. Bloemendaal Co-Trustees of the Bloemendaal Family Trust, dated August 28, 1992, as beneficiary, dated April 4, 2022, and recorded on April 4, 2022, as Recording No. 2022-06219, in the mortgage records of Linn County, Oregon.

The Trust Deed now covers the following described real property ("Property") situated in said county and state, to-wit:

Parcel 1, Partition Plat 2026-007, Linn County Oregon (Tax acct 243390).

Parcel 2, Partition Plat 2026-007, Linn County Oregon (Tax acct 950548).

Parcel 1, Partition Plat 2026-006, Linn County Oregon (Tax acct 244398).

There are defaults by the grantor or other person owing an obligation, the performance of which is secured by the Trust Deed, with respect to provisions therein which authorize sale in the event of default of such provision; the defaults for which foreclosure is made is grantor's failure to pay when due the following sums:

Arrearage in the sum of \$370,902.61 as of March 3, 2026, plus additional payments, property expenditures, taxes, liens, assessments, insurance, late fees, attorney's and trustee's fees and costs, and interest due at the time of reinstatement or sale.

By reason of said defaults, the beneficiary has declared all sums owing on the obligations secured by said Trust Deed immediately due and payable, said sums being the following, to-wit:

Payoff in the sum of \$370,902.61 as of March 3, 2026, plus taxes, liens, assessments, property expenditures, insurance, accruing interest, late fees, attorney's and trustee's fees and costs incurred by beneficiary or its assigns.

WHEREFORE, notice hereby is given that the undersigned trustee will on July 28, 2026, at the hour of 11:00 a.m., in accord with the standard of time established by ORS 187.110, at the following place: North Front Entrance of the Linn County Courthouse, 300 Fourth Avenue S.W., Albany, Oregon, sell at public auction to the highest bidder for cash the interest in the above-described Property, which the grantor had or had power to convey at the time of the execution by grantor of the said Trust Deed, together with any interest which the grantor or grantor's successors in interest acquired after the execution of the Trust Deed, to satisfy the obligations thereby secured and the costs and expenses of sale, including a reasonable charge by the trustee.

Notice is further given that any

## Public Notices

person named in ORS 86.778 has the right, at any time prior to five days before the date last set for the sale, to have this foreclosure proceeding dismissed and the Trust Deed reinstated by payment to the beneficiary of the entire amount then due (other than such portion of the principal as would not then be due had no default occurred) and by curing any other default complained of herein that is capable of being cured by tendering the performance required under the obligation or Trust Deed, and in addition to paying said sum or tendering the performance necessary to cure the default, by paying all costs and expenses actually incurred in enforcing the obligation and Trust Deed, together with trustee's and attorney's fees not exceeding the amounts provided by said ORS 86.778.

In construing this notice, the singular includes the plural, the word "grantor" includes any successor in interest to the grantor as well as any other person owing an obligation, the performance of which is secured by said Trust Deed, and the words "trustee" and "beneficiary" include their respective successors in interest, if any.

Without limiting the trustee's disclaimer of representations or warranties, Oregon law requires the trustee to state in this notice that some residential property sold at a trustee's sale may have been used in manufacturing methamphetamines, the chemical components of which are known to be toxic. Prospective purchasers of residential property should be aware of this potential danger before deciding to place a bid for this property at the trustee's sale.

The NOTICE TO RESIDENTIAL TENANTS, attached hereto as Exhibit A, is incorporated herein by reference. [Exhibit A, NOTICE TO RESIDENTIAL TENANTS, is not published pursuant to ORS 86.774(2)(b).]

DATED: March 12, 2026.

/s/ Eleanor A. DuBay

Eleanor A. DuBay, OSB #073755  
Authorized By:

Tomasi Bragar DuBay PC,  
Successor Trustee  
121 SW Morrison, Suite 1850  
Portland, OR 97204  
Phone: 503-894-9900; fax: 971-544-7236  
(5/13, 5/20, 5/27, 6/3)

Auction June 8th, 1982 Pace Arrow space 80 at Parco storage 1491 47th Ave. Sweet Home. Owner Andrea Higgs. Send Bid or for more information email Rental@parcorvandboat.com  
(5/20, 5/27)

**IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE STATE OF OREGON, FOR THE COUNTY OF LINN**

JUDY DINSFRIEND, an individual; and CHARLES DINSFRIEND, an individual, Plaintiffs, v. JAMIE L. DINSFRIEND, an individual; BRIAN DINSFRIEND, an individual; and ALL OTHERS, Defendants.

Case No.: 26CV17139

PUBLISHED SUMMONS

TO: Jamie L. Dinsfriend, Brian Dinsfriend, ALL OTHERS 39590 Crawfordsville Drive, Sweet Home, Oregon 97386  
IN THE NAME OF THE STATE OF OREGON: You are hereby

## Public Notices

required to appear and defend the Complaint filed against you in the above-entitled cause within 30 days from the date of service of this Summons on you. The matter at hand in this complaint is breach of contract, elder abuse, and ejection related to 39590 Crawfordsville Drive, Sweet Home, Oregon. If you fail to appear and defend, the Plaintiffs will apply to the court for the relief demanded in the Complaint.

**NOTICE TO DEFENDANT: READ THESE PAPERS CAREFULLY**

You must "appear" in this case, or the other side will win automatically. To appear, you must file with the court a legal paper called a motion or answer. The motion or answer must be given to the court clerk or administrator within 30 days of the date of first publication specified below along with the required filing fee. It must be in proper form and have proof of service on the Plaintiff's attorney, or if the Plaintiff does not have an attorney, proof of service on the Plaintiff.

The first date of publication was May 20, 2026.

If you have any questions, you should see a lawyer immediately. If you need help finding a lawyer, you may call the Oregon State Bar's Lawyer Referral Service at (503) 684-3763 or toll-free in Oregon at (800) 452-7636.

Dated: May 8, 2026 /s/ Blossom Van Kinkle  
Blossom Van Kinkle, OSB No. 231200

Attorney for Plaintiffs  
Attorney for Plaintiffs :  
Law Offices of Ivers & Miller, 317 First Avenue W.

Suite 302

P.O. Box 1033

Albany, Oregon 97321

541-928-5875;

fax 541-967-9730

blossom@ivers.law

(5/20, 5/27, 6/3, 6/10)

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

Mill Race Storage will hold a public auction on May 29, 2026, under ORS. 87.685-87.695 and sell property contained within the assigned unit of the parties listed below:

Mary Worsham unit # I019

Elizabeth Wright unit #D014,

Amanda Pagauga Unit # B010,

Units will be available on

Lockerfox.com on Friday May

29, 2026.

Purchases must be paid in full by

cash or money order at the time

of pickup at:

Mill Race Storage

550 NE Laredo Way

Lebanon, OR 97355

(5/20, 5/27)

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING**

**June 1st, 2026**

**Brownsville City Hall Council**

**Chambers**

The City of Brownsville will hold a public hearing before the Planning Commission on Monday, June 1st, 2026, to consider an application for a Variance in the Medium Density Residential Zone (MDR).

The hearing will be held at 7:00 p.m., in Brownsville City Hall, 255 N. Main Street, Council Chambers, on the date listed above. The Staff Report will be available for review at City Hall by 4:00 p.m., May 29th, 2026; a copy of the document may be

## Public Notices

obtained on that date for the cost of copying.

**NATURE OF PROPOSAL:**

Variance to minimum lot width standards in the Medium Density Residential zone, related to Map & Taxlot T.13S, R.02W, SEC. 31CA, TL 04700, 344 Kirk Avenue

**LOCATION:**

344 Kirk Avenue

13S02W31CA04700

Brownsville, OR 97327

**APPLICANT(S):**

Ben Swartzendruber

PO Box 485

Brownsville, OR 97327

**APPLICABLE CRITERIA:**

Brownsville Ordinances

15.40.040, 15.50.010-.030,

15.80.060, 15.115.030,

15.115.040, 15.85.050 & 15.130.

Issues which may provide the basis for an appeal to the Land Use Board of Appeals must be raised either in writing, as described below, or in oral testimony at the public hearing. Issues shall be raised with sufficient specificity to enable all parties to respond to the issue. Failure to do so preclude appeal of the City's decision to the Land Use Board of Appeals (LUBA) based on that issue.

Written comments may be submitted by mail to the City of Brownsville, Attention: Elizabeth Coleman, P.O. Box 188, Brownsville, OR 97327, fax to (541) 466-5118, or to City Hall at 255 N Main, and must be received by 4:00pm, May 28th, 2026. Copies of all materials relied upon by the applicant are available for review and may be obtained for the actual cost of photocopies and postage (if needed). Please contact Elizabeth Coleman with any questions at (541) 466-5666. (5/20, 5/27)

**NOTICE OF PENDING ADMINISTRATIVE DECISION AND REQUEST FOR COMMENT.**

The Sweet Home Planning and Building Department received an application for a Partition, and the Planning and Building Manager will decide on this request soon. The Department is now seeking your comments and suggestions.

REQUEST: The applicant is requesting to partition an approximately 6,000 square foot lot into two parcels, based on Senate Bill 458 adopted by the Oregon Legislature in 2021 and Sweet Home Municipal Code 17.72.40: Senate Bill 458 was adopted by the Oregon Legislature in 2021 as a follow-up to House Bill 2001 (which legalized middle housing in many cities throughout the state) and allows lot divisions for middle housing that enable them to be sold or owned individually. Proposed Parcel 1 shall be approximately 3,000 square feet. Proposed Parcel 2 shall be approximately 3,000 square feet. The proposed partition shall divide the existing duplex, per the development standards of the Oregon Specialty Code and applicable Middle Housing Land Use Regulations. The subject property is in the Residential Low Density (R-1) zone.

APPLICANT: A-Team Services, c/o Andy.

OWNER: A-Team Services.

FILE NUMBER: P26-05.

## Public Notices

PROPERTY LOCATION: 1710/1720 Cedar Street, Sweet Home, Oregon 97386; Identified on Linn County Assessor's Map as 13S01E31DD Tax Lot 07000.

REVIEW AND DECISION CRITERIA: Sweet Home Municipal Code (SHMC) Sections: 17.10, 17.72.040, 17.98, and 17.124.

STAFF CONTACT: Angela Clegg

Phone: (541) 818-8029

Email: aclegg@sweethomeor.gov.

DATE MAILED: May 21, 2026.

Comments must be received no later than: 5:00 PM on June 10, 2026. Written comments may be submitted to the Planning and Building Department at 3225 Main Street, Sweet Home, Oregon 97386 or to the staff contact listed above. Please include reference to the file number in the subject line of your comments. Notice of the decision on this application will only be mailed to the applicant, property owner, those who provided written comments on the proposal, and those who requested a copy of the decision. The failure of an issue to be raised in writing within the specified time frame, or failure to provide sufficient specificity to afford the decision maker an opportunity to respond to the issue, precludes appeal to the Land Use Board of Appeals based on that issue.

A copy of the application and all documents and evidence relied upon by the applicant and applicable criteria are available for inspection at no cost and a copy will be provided at reasonable cost. A copy of the staff report will be available for inspection at no cost when it is complete, and a copy will be provided at reasonable cost. You may contact the Community and Economic Development Department at 3225 Main Street, Sweet Home, Oregon 97386; Phone: (541) 818-8029 (5/27)

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE STATE OF OREGON FOR THE COUNTY OF LINN IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF DONNA JEAN EVENDEN, deceased, Case No. 26PB04096

**NOTICE TO INTERESTED**

**PERSONS**

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

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

Dated May 27, 2026.

Peggy Hampton, Personal Representative. Jessica K. Meyer, OSB #053242 Jessica K. Meyer Law LLC, 80 E. Maple St., Lebanon OR 97355

(5/27)

**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)

**Items for Sale**

For Sale: 1972 triumph tiger motorcycle 4 speed 19,000 miles original; 1960 El Camino parts car; 4000 watt generator 220V/110V/12V; 1970s Peugeot racing bicycle 541-926-8894. (5/06 - 5/27)

**1611 King James Bible**

**Interested in the 1611 King James Holy Bible?**  
Take a look at kjbm.org. Authentic 1611 facsimile, Gothic font, softcover. Questions or local showing: text/call Lebanon 541-401-5654 / Phoenix: 661-373-5378.

**Generator for Sale**

8000W Generac portable generator new battery with charger. Cash Only \$475 541-258-2007. (5/20 - 5/27)

**RV & Boat Storage**

RV and Boat Storage spaces for rent. \$75/ month. Lebanon. Easy access to Highway 20. Fully fenced, electric gate, 40 ft. spaces. Someone does live on the lot for extra security. 541-451-0248. Texting is best. (5/06 - 5/27)

**Logging Truck for Hire**

Self loader logging truck for hire 541-971-7656 (5/20 - 6/10)

FORM OR-ED-1

NOTICE OF BUDGET HEARING

A public meeting of the SweetHome School District School Board will be held on June 8, 2026 at 6:30 pm at 1920 Long Street, Sweet Home, OR. The purpose of this meeting is to discuss the budget for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2026 as approved by the Sweet Home School District Budget Committee. A summary of the budget is presented below. A copy of the budget may be inspected or obtained online at [www.sweethome.k12.or.us/departments/business](http://www.sweethome.k12.or.us/departments/business). This budget is for an annual budget period. This budget was prepared on a basis of accounting that is the same as the preceding year.

Contact: Kevin Strong Phone: 541-367-7122 Email: kevin.strong@shsd55or.gov

FINANCIAL SUMMARY - RESOURCES

TOTAL OF ALL FUNDS	Actual Amount Last Year 2024-25	Adopted Budget This Year 2025-26	Approved Budget Next Year 2026-27
Beginning Fund Balance	\$23,487,297	\$22,745,000	\$21,190,000
Current Yr Property Taxes, other than Local Option Taxes	7,739,205	7,875,000	8,205,000
Current Year Local Option Property Taxes	334,795	335,000	350,000
Other Revenue from Local Sources	5,487,312	4,302,000	4,900,000
Revenue from Intermediate Sources	106,268	125,000	125,000
Revenue from State Sources	29,782,583	29,587,112	42,334,014
Revenue from Federal Sources	2,833,418	2,705,000	3,165,944
Interfund Transfers	1,707,500	1,107,500	1,107,500
All Other Budget Resources (Bond Proceeds)			12,252,000
<b>Total Resources</b>	<b>\$71,478,378</b>	<b>\$68,781,612</b>	<b>\$93,629,458</b>

FINANCIAL SUMMARY - REQUIREMENTS BY OBJECT CLASSIFICATION

Salaries	\$18,773,122	\$19,970,364	\$20,361,348
Other Associated Payroll Costs	9,214,986	12,004,769	12,320,713
Purchased Services	5,046,586	6,777,269	7,345,646
Supplies & Materials	3,736,782	4,565,479	4,700,626
Capital Outlay	2,798,869	925,000	14,812,000
Other Objects (except debt service & interfund transfers)	711,397	2,788,080	901,799
Debt Service*	4,124,754	4,276,982	4,397,925
Interfund Transfers*	1,707,500	1,107,500	1,107,500
Operating Contingency	0	15,678,152	26,339,826
Unappropriated Ending Fund Balance & Reserves	25,364,382	688,018	1,342,075
<b>Total Requirements</b>	<b>\$71,478,378</b>	<b>\$68,781,613</b>	<b>\$93,629,458</b>

FINANCIAL SUMMARY - REQUIREMENTS AND FULL-TIME EQUIVALENT EMPLOYEES (FTE) BY FUNCTION

1000 Instruction	\$19,957,397	\$25,149,326	\$25,556,458
FTE	210	214	210
2000 Support Services	15,489,546	17,380,444	18,528,221
FTE	105	104	100
3000 Enterprise & Community Service	1,968,144	2,301,191	2,355,453
FTE	16	16	16
4000 Facility Acquisition & Construction	2,866,655	200,000	14,002,000
FTE			
5000 Other Uses	0	2,000,000	0
5100 Debt Service*	4,124,754	4,276,982	4,397,925
5200 Interfund Transfers*	1,707,500	1,107,500	1,107,500
6000 Contingency	0	15,678,152	26,339,826
7000 Unappropriated Ending Fund Balance	25,364,382	688,018	1,342,075
<b>Total Requirements</b>	<b>\$71,478,378</b>	<b>\$68,781,613</b>	<b>\$93,629,458</b>
<b>Total FTE</b>	<b>331</b>	<b>334</b>	<b>326</b>

\* not included in total 5000 Other Uses. To be appropriated separately from other 5000 expenditures.

STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN ACTIVITIES and SOURCES OF FINANCING \*\*

Total revenues and requirements are projected to increase in the upcoming fiscal year primarily due to bond proceeds, state grant revenue and planned expenditures related to a voter approved May 2026 bond. Besides the bond, revenues and expenditures are expected to remain relatively stable from the current year to the next.

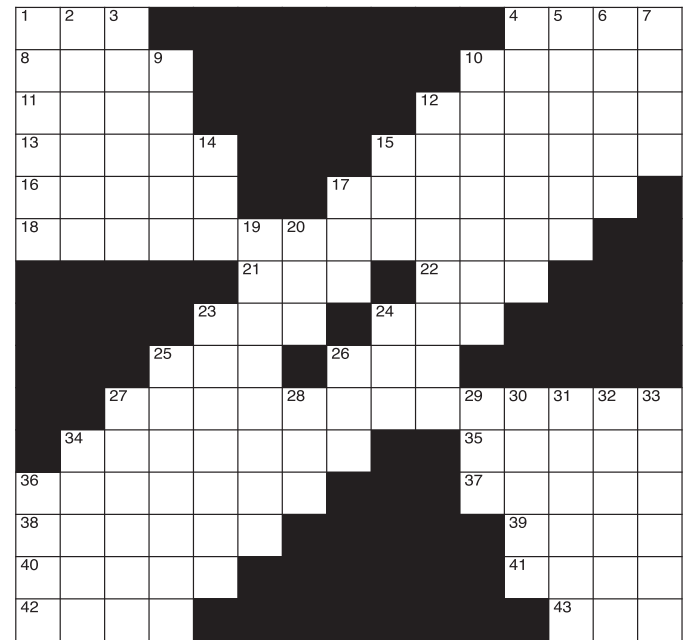
PROPERTY TAX LEVIES

	Rate or Amt Imposed	Rate or Amt Imposed	Rate or Amt Approved
Permanent Rate Levy (Rate Limit \$5.0057 per \$1,000)	\$5.0057 per \$1,000	\$5.0057 per \$1,000	\$5.0057 per \$1,000
Local Option Levy	\$0.30 per \$1,000	\$0.30 per \$1,000	\$0.30 per \$1,000
Levy For General Obligation Bonds	\$1,881,000	\$1,937,000	\$1,995,000

STATEMENT OF INDEBTEDNESS

LONG TERM DEBT	Estimated Debt Outstanding on July 1	Estimated Debt Authorized, But Not Incurred on July 1
General Obligation Bonds	\$4,605,000	\$40,000,000
Other Bonds	\$3,415,000	
Other Borrowings		
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$8,020,000</b>	<b>\$40,000,000</b>

**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**

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

Level: Advanced

**COUNTY PARKS**

From page 1

ment now is responsible for 56 park sites, 1,875 acres of park lands, 1,213 campsites, Clear Lake Resort (16 cabins, four yurts and a restaurant), the Linn County Historical Museum, the Moyer House, spread out over four reservoirs and five lakes.

This season, the Parks Department has added Trail Bridge Campground, which was closed for almost a decade while improvements were made to the hydropower system on the McKenzie River.

In a presentation during the recent 2026-27 county Budget Hearings, Whaley noted the following events of the past year:

- Modern cabin upgrades and fire suppression at Clear Lake Resort.
- Generator replacement at Clear Lake.
- Cabin floor replacement and new wastewater tanks installed at River Bend.
- Culvert replacement at Yukwah Campground (USFS).
- Road repair at House Rock Campground (USFS).
- Addition of a Munson Landing Craft donated by the Oregon State Marine Board.
- December windstorm



The new campground at Trail Bridge.

- Linn County photo

damage and clean-up.

- Addition of Starlink satellite system at Clear Lake. Cabins now have Wi-Fi capability.
- Improvements to the modern cabins at Clear Lake, including new flooring, lighting and mattresses.
- Addition of Smart TVs.
- Addition of a new 30-foot ADA-approved yurt at Clear Lake. It is the largest yurt in the parks system and will in-

clude an indoor restroom and small kitchen. It will be on one level only, including a deck area and access to parking. The yurt was partially funded by a grant from Travel Oregon.

Although the December storm sent debris, limbs and trees tumbling, the only structural damage it caused was the corner of one restroom, Whaley said. There also was infrastructure damage to wa-

ter lines caused by ground spikes from falling trees.

"Fortunately, it missed our yurts and cabins," Whaley said. "It hit the Detroit area and Whitcomb Creek the hardest. There is still clean-up to do, but the parks are safe for use. It set us back two or three months."

Whaley said the waste dump station that opened last spring off the north end of

24th Avenue in Sweet Home has seen good usage.

"With four lanes, there is plenty of room and quick service," she said.

The Linn County Road Department will be in charge of improvements on North River Drive this summer and the entrance to Lewis Creek Park will be modified during that time. Whaley said the entrance gate will be moved inward, allowing parking space for people who would like to use the park for walking or taking their dogs out for a trek.

Linn County Parks will all be operating by Memorial Day, but Whaley said people should go to the parks website to check on campgrounds that are at higher elevations. Their opening dates are determined in part by snow levels.

"The new campground at Trail Bridge will be first-come, first-served from May 1-14 and then all sites will be reservable," Whaley said.

The annual Parks and Recreation Guide, published in cooperation with The New Era, is expected to be published and on-line by Memorial Day. It will be available online on the Parks and Recreation Department website at [www.linncounty.or.gov/parksrec](http://www.linncounty.or.gov/parksrec).

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# Run/walk across America leads through Sweet Home

By Scott Swanson  
Of The New Era

Noah Coughlan doesn't really stand out as he walks through Sweet Home on Friday, May 22.

Wearing a small backpack and a brimmed cap, he strides purposefully along the Main Street sidewalk, heading west.

Some days he's running, but this is Day 217 of his fifth run across the United States.

He's tired. He has a brace on one knee and his ankle is wrapped.

"You walk on the left side of the road for 15,000 miles, things start to fall apart," he said as he took a water break on the side of the road at the intersection of Pleasant Valley and Main Street, where a reporter found him.

Normally, he'd be pushing a jogging stroller with an American flag mounted on it, but today the flag's in his backpack. He's headed for Newport, where he plans to arrive, weather permitting, on Memorial Day weekend.

Rain is not his friend when he's walking along the sides of highways. Neither are narrow shoulders, like the ones he's just followed down the mountain into Sweet Home.

"I'm almost 4,750 miles in, a 5,500 total projected," Coughlan said. "I didn't feel like pushing the jogger stroller through the hills any more."

So, why is he here?

This is his fifth run/walk across the United States and Oregon is the 48th state he's crossed. He plans to traverse Alaska, then fly to Hawaii, where he plans to complete his journey through the 50th state - literally - on July 4, 2026, the Semiquincentennial anniversary of the United States.

Coughlan's runs have all

been for causes, but along the way he's also realized he has a chance to make history and promote solidarity.

This also is his last, he says.

His first was in 2011, the Run for Research, which took him from San Diego, Calif., along the southern border states to Jacksonville, Fla. The goal of that 2,500 mile, spanning 132 days was to raise awareness for Batten disease, a rare fatal genetic disorder that affects the nervous system, from which two of his friends suffered.

In 2013 he did Run for Research II, again to raise awareness for Batten with a 3,100-mile, 107-day cross-country trek from Half Moon Bay, Calif., to Boston, Mass.

Run for Rare, his third, took place in 2015, 3000 miles from New York City to San Diego, dipping through the states between the ones he'd already traversed in his first two crossings. The goal this time was to honor the 30 million Americans with rare diseases.

His fourth, Run for Revival: A Tribute to the American Soldier, took him 3,600 miles from Blaine, Wash., on a southeast diagonal, through northern states that he hadn't yet traversed, to Fort Lauderdale, Fla. That one was for World War II veterans, "because they're declining rapidly; there's not so many of them," he said.

In 2020 he took on a 600-mile run across Ireland, where he has dual citizenship, from Cobh to Downings to Galway to Dublin, spanning 32 days to honor the 700,000 Irish with rare diseases, and support The Children's National Ambulance Service.

This last trip started last Oct. 18. He ran through Kan-

sas, then South Carolina and North Carolina, states he'd missed in previous crossings, before heading to Maine to begin the home stretch - across the northern states to Oregon, picking up all the rest he's missed thus far.

"It's a chance to make history, to be the third person ever to cross all 50 states on foot," said Coughlan, 42.

"I want to do it in an honorable fashion, do it in a historic fashion. The whole thing's called 'Run for America.' It's more of an observation of our very existence as Americans, as opposed to doing something with any political agenda.

"I didn't intend to do all 50 states when I first set out my first round. It was just very humble beginnings; I wanted to help some kids with a rare brain disease for my church in Northern California."

In 2018 he moved from Vacaville, on the north edge of the Bay Area, to Nashville, Tenn. typically works as a bartender between his cross-country journeys. He's not married.

Coughlan said he played typical sports - football, basketball, baseball in high school. He wasn't much of a runner until he decided to go cross-country, he said.

His trip through Oregon has been tough, he said, and he got concerned about safety, running along the shoulder of Highway 20 through the Cascades. That's when he decided to put the jogging stroller away for a while and rely on his support crew - last week it was his cousin, driving a rental car.

"Two hundred and fifty miles of the Great Basin? Coming from Nyssa? It's pretty dead out there. And then, all of a sudden, you have



Noah Coughlan pauses during his fifth run/walk across America, this one slated to end in Hawaii on July 4.

- Photo by Scott Swanson

mountains. And all it takes is one bad move, and you're a bug on a windshield. Yep. Yep. Hence, the safety reason. So sometimes it's best to go without the jogger. So now that I have some support finally here, I said, 'I'm just walking.'"

If all goes well, he'll be in Hawaii by the Fourth, because this run is really about being a patriot.

He carries the flag for that reason, though, he acknowledged, he's realized it also provides a bit of a safety factor because it gets people's attention.

"You start to realize the flag

has a lot more meaning than me and you," Coughlan said. "It's bigger than me and you, right? It's bigger than any one person."

He's had lots of media attention and he's had police escorts, though he moved through Sweet Home unnoticed until a reader who'd seen Coughlan's social media posts alerted the newspaper.

"The intention of the run is to highlight the American people," he said. "It's not political in any way. It has nothing to do with political parties. There's no huge brands. It's just me."

## Sodaville mayor announces resignation, moving out of city

By Sarah Brown  
Of The New Era

During the Sodaville City Council on Thursday, May 21, Mayor Brian Lewis announced next month's meeting will be his last.

The announcement comes as his property in Sodaville is in the process of being sold and he prepares to move to another nearby city. Sodaville's charter states any councilor or mayor must reside within the city.

The council will hold a meeting in the near future to discuss next steps.

"You've done a great job," resident Ray Jackman told Lewis. "You really have. I hate to see you go."

Lewis said he hates to leave, but circumstances regarding his property led to the decision.

"As much as I love Sodaville and I've enjoyed everything that we've done, we

have to do what's right for us," he said.

Lewis' term as mayor would end December 31, 2026.

### Seeking signage

Resident and community liaison Peggy Bishop said she spoke to residents from the city of Lebanon who told her they pitched in to purchase a solar-powered speed limit flashing sign for their community.

Bishop asked if Sodaville could work on getting a grant to buy one for the city's 25 mph zone.

This brought on a discussion among the council about signs in Sodaville. Public Works Director J D Burns reminded Bishop that the county recently told them there cannot be any more signs in Sodaville due to "sign pollution." Councilor Joseph Parsons noted the county recently installed two signs nearby.

Mayor Brian Lewis said the county had tested traffic in the city and said it was "way too safe," therefore not warranting the need for the county to contribute half the cost of a new sign.

"And we also don't have enough deaths," he added.

Bishop and Parsons said they would go talk to a county commissioner about the matter.

### In other business:

- City Administrator/Recorder Molly McGuire reported the city continues to work on ousting a trespassing RV-dweller who remains parked on city property. Complaints lodged by city residents will help with the case.

- The city installed a handle bar outside the main office for safety.

- Burns reported water loss at 15% last month, Well 2 is back online after replacing parts, and Well 5 is "bare-

ly" online - as is common around this time of year.

- Burns reported state departments are asking about conducting monthly tests of residual chlorine in the water system, and will also be testing for PFOS on May 27 as part of a nationwide push to test all water systems for what is called "forever chemicals."

Oregon reports indicate only more industrialized areas may be contaminated, but largely not so much so in rural areas. In Lebanon, the city's water supply is considered safe, but private well users in the area bordered by Mary Street to the north, D Street to the south, Hiatt Street to the east, and 10th Street to the west should consider having their water tested due to historic industrial activity in the downtown area.

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# East Linn boys win first-ever trophy in state golf; Knurowski seventh

East Linn Christian's boys won their first-ever OSAA trophy in golf last week, finishing fourth out of 12 teams in the 3A/2A/1A State Golf Tournament May 17-18 at Tokatee Golf Club in Blue River.

The Eagles shot 345-338 over the two days to finish with 683. Bandon won the team title (312-309-621), followed by Banks (321-331-652), Valley Catholic (340-331-671), ELCA, and Blanchet (337-356-693) and Trinity Lutheran (344-349-393), who tied for fifth.

"The guys really battled at Tokatee," Coach Jayce Boyd said. "It was firm and fast and a bit unlike anything else we played all year. Not a single golfer quit on their process and swing at any point in their round and we are really proud of them for that."

"We beat Blanchet for the first time in probably close to 20 years at a tournament that matters. I'm not sure if they see us as a rival, but we sure see them as one."

His players, all sophomores, "all had great attitudes and represented Christ well to their competitors, too, which is the most important part for us as a team," Boyd said.

Grady Knurowski led the Eagles with a seventh-place individual finish, shooting a 4-over 76 on both days to score 152.

Dailey Kirkpatrick shot 90-86-176 to finish 34th, Wyatt Smothers was 39th (90-89-179), and Liam Medford finished 44th (89-93-182).

Parker Caddick shot a 100 on the first day, and was replaced by Anderson Kropf, who shot 87 on Day 2.

"We had a score cap for our golfers at state and Parker had a rough day and exceeded it, so we put Anderson in there to give him a shot and it paid off," Boyd explained. "He played really well and showed a lot of grit over those 18 holes. Hopefully, it lights a fire in both of them to play a lot and improve this summer."

Sevren Quinn of Bandon was the individual champion, shooting 3-under 71-70-141.

## Huskies 11th in first state golf appearance as team since 2018

Sweet Home's boys finished ninth in a field of 11 teams at the 4A State Golf Tournament May 17-18 at Emerald Valley Golf Club in Creswell.

Marist won the team title, shooting 309-324-633 over the two days. Pendleton was second (340-322-662), followed by Cascade in third (342-339-681), followed by Marshfield (361-327-688), St. Helens (347-352-699), Madras (352-343-705), La Grande (355-351-706),



Lebanon's Sam Tunstill putts on the third hole in the 5A state golf championships held at Tokatee. - Marc Rose photo



Trent Harvey lines up a putt during the 4A golf championships at Emerald Valley. See many more photos at sweethomenews.com. - Julie Harvey photo

Seaside (365-347-712) and Sweet Home (366-371-737). Estacada (377-374-351) and Mazama (403-409-812) rounded out the team scoring.

Junior Trent Harvey led the Huskies, finishing 13th as an individual, shooting 83-85-168. Sophomore Evan Malabago shot 94-92-186, sophomore Henry Gainer 95-95-190, senior Lynkin Royer 94-99-193 and sophomore Blayne Schuster 102-102-204 for Sweet Home.

Xanh Quang of Seaside was the individual champion, shooting 6-over 75-75-150.

State was "fun," Harvey said, though he noted that Emerald Valley was not a preferred course for his team.

"I feel like we kind of all under-performed, definitely. I think there were some nerves. I think if it was a different golf course, we would have performed pretty well. But all in all, I think it was a great experience."

He said his team enjoyed the by-the-book feel of the tournament's organization.

"It was definitely different, having an event run by OSAA. It was just much more professional - not in a bad way, but it was just different having it run by an organization."

Harvey, who is by far the most experienced player on the team, said this has been a good year for the Huskies.

"The season, as a whole, was great," he said. "We made it to state with soph-



East Linn Christian's golfers display their first trophy ever after placing fourth in the 3A/2A/1A state golf championships. - East Linn Christian photo

omores who were on JV last year. I expect that they will have the same amount of participation in the off-season that they did last year.

"It was a great experience for all of us, especially, having a younger team, getting them state experience early."

"We had two who were brand new to competitive golf and they performed out of their shoes."

## Lebanon's Tunstill finishes in top third of 5A state

Lebanon senior Sam Tunstill, playing as an individual for the Warriors, finished 17th in the 5A Boys State Golf Tournament May 17-18, also at Tokatee.

Tunstill shot a four-over 76 on the first day, then followed that up with an 82 on Day 2 to finish with 158.

"Sam finished 17th out of

60 golfers at state and represented his school well," Coach Marc Rose said.

Summit won the team title, shooting 301-293-594, followed by Corvallis (309-315-624), Canby (305-321-626) and Thurston (324-320-644). Crescent Valley (338-330-668) was sixth in the field of eight teams.

Sophomore Connor Holden of Canby was the individual champion, shooting 1-under 68-75-143.

For Lebanon, Tunstill finished in second place in the league regular-season standings, which gave him an automatic qualifier for one of the Mid-Willamette Conference's two individual slots at state.

He started the season by finishing seventh and ninth in his first two tour-

naments, then won back-to-back matches and completed the regular season with a top-three finish in the final league match at the OGA Golf Course in Woodburn prior to districts.

"Sam's mental game improved greatly this season and that helped show that he is among the best golfers in the state," Rose said. "He never let one bad shot or bad hole derail his round. Sam could always find a way to scramble around the course and hit those difficult shots when he needed to."

"He handled the pressure of competitive golf very well."

Tunstill plans to attend Bushnell University in the fall and compete on the men's golf team.