

The New Era

SWEET HOME • LEBANON • AND SURROUNDING COMMUNITIES

Serving East Linn County Since 1929

WEDNESDAY, MAY 6, 2026

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Lebanon's Boys & Girls Club celebrates 50 years

By Sarah Brown
Of The New Era

The Boys and Girls Club of the Greater Santiam celebrated its 50th anniversary of Lebanon's foundation during its "A Night of Stars" annual benefit auction and dinner on Saturday, May 2.

Wayne Rieskamp, the last remaining originator of what became the Lebanon Boys & Girls Club, attended the event, seated in the center of the club's gym with other club VIPs.

The story goes that in 1975 four men – Rieskamp, Jim McDaniel, Tom Davis and Willie Walsh – were enjoying a simple cup of coffee at a restaurant together when a shared concern arose: the need for a safe, positive place where kids in the community could gather together, and grow in hope and belonging, with an equal chance for success.

From that conversation grew a vision that soon took shape, first in the form of

sports teams into an organization operating out of a modified restroom and, eventually, into the club facility we know of today, expanding also into Sweet Home.

First on the menu was football for boys. But, Rieskamp said, they knew they needed to bring girls into the fold too, so they later started a girls softball program. From there, more sports began getting integrated into the club.

Meanwhile, the City of Lebanon gave the thumbs up for the Lebanon Boys and Girls Club to renovate the restroom at Century Park into a 2,400-square-foot club space.

"We really struggled in the initial years," Rieskamp said. "We almost went under."

The founders paid the organization's bills out of their own pockets so the kids

See B&G Club, Page 2



Wayne and Mary Rieskamp, cornerstones of the Lebanon Boys & Girls Club, celebrate the organization's 50th anniversary on May 2. - Boys & Girls Club photo

HOMETOWN
NEWSPAPER OF
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This Week's Top Stories



East Linn Softball

Despite a tough series against Monroe that saw their 12-game winning streak end, the Eagles remain No. 3 in their league.

Page 12



Medical Students Offer Health Care

Western University medical students hold rural health fair.

Page 11

Wildfire Safety Open House provides tips for public

By Satina Tolman
For The New Era

A free Wildfire Safety Open House, hosted April 30 by Pacific Power at the Lebanon Chamber of Commerce, offering residents information on wildfire preparedness, power reliability and emergency planning ahead of what experts say could be a higher-risk fire season.

The come-and-go event allowed community members to meet with Pacific Power's wildfire safety and prevention teams, connect with local public safety partners and ask customer service questions via video calls while enjoying light refreshments.

Power Outages Explained

A key concern raised by attendees was the potential for power outages during wildfire season. Drew Marine, a Pacific Power communica-

tions specialist, said confusion often arises between two types of outages.

"What there is often a common confusion about is the difference between a public safety power shutoff and outages due to our enhanced safety settings," Marine said.

Public safety power shutoffs are planned, preventative outages used during extreme weather conditions such as high winds and dry fuels. Marine said the company aims to notify customers 24 to 48 hours in advance, when possible, and to provide updates throughout the outage.

"When we deem the weather is not in our favor, we can alert the public and say we are planning on doing an outage," Marine said. "In those situations, it can be unpre-

See Fire Safety, Page 6



Representatives of Pacific Power and various public safety agencies chat with members of the public at the Wildfire Safety Open House. - Satina Tolman photo

SH woman killed in crash on Hwy. 20; 2nd driver arrested

A Sweet Home woman was killed in a two-vehicle crash Saturday evening, May 2, on Hwy. 20 near Santiam Terrace.

Lebanon Fire District and Oregon State Police responded to the crash at 5:44 p.m. near milepost 21, between Lebanon and Sweet Home.

According to OSP, which is investigating the incident,

witnesses said a white Jeep Wrangler was being driven recklessly in the westbound lanes. The Jeep crossed into the eastbound lane and struck a black Kia Forte head-on.

The operator of the Kia, Karen Gail Ramirez, 69, of Sweet Home, was ejected from the vehicle and died at the scene.

The driver of the Jeep, Mariah Darlene Lopez, 30, of Sweet Home, was transported to a hospital with minor injuries. She was arrested for second-degree manslaughter and later charged by the district attorney with criminally negligent homicide. Her bail was set at \$25,000.

Investigators ask witnesses

to the crash or those who observed the driving behavior of the involved vehicles (a white Jeep Wrangler with a black hardtop and aftermarket wheels and a black Kia Forte) prior to the crash to contact OSP dispatch at 800-442-0776 or call *OSP (*677) from a mobile phone. Reference case number SP26-142871.



Obituaries

Dolores Armstrong

Feb. 6, 1934 - April 29, 2026

Dolores "Dee" Armstrong, 92, of Sweet Home passed away April 29, 2026.



She was born Feb. 6, 1934, to Charlotte Doris (Steinbach) and Howard Ernest Lucas in Leavenworth, Wash.

She graduated from Lebanon Union High School in 1952.

Dee married Dean Armstrong on July 8, 1955, and has lived in Sweet Home since. She worked in the cafeteria at Sweet Home High School. She attended the Church of Christ.

Dee enjoyed fishing, snowmobiling, camping, hiking and canning food. She liked to collect Depression glass. She also loved to go on trips to the coast with her school girlfriends.

She is survived by her husband of 70 years, Dean Armstrong of Sweet Home; her children, Mark (Kim) Armstrong of Foster, Teena (Rich) Dunker of Phoenix, Ariz., Brian Armstrong of Lebanon, and Deana (Kurt) Davis of Lebanon; six grandchildren; five great-grandchildren; and her brother Glenn Lucas of Salem.

She was preceded in death by her sister, Terry Reitz; and brother Warren Lucas.

A memorial service will be

at 11 a.m. Saturday, May 9, at Sweet Home Funeral Chapel. Sweet Home Funeral Chapel is handling the arrangements.

Linda Bennett

Jan. 6, 1963 - April 28, 2026

Linda Roseanna Bennett, 63, of Sweet Home, passed away April 28, 2026.



She was born Jan. 6, 1963, to Alta Mae (Copsey) and Ronald Edward Cospser in Santa Ana, Calif.

She was originally from Southern California. Linda married David Bennett in 1982 and moved to Lake

Havasu City, Ariz., in 1987. They moved to Sweet Home in 2000.

Linda attended Mohave Community College and worked many various jobs, including accounting, sales and as an electronics technician at White's Electronics.

She enjoyed traveling and vacationed all over the United States and Mexico. She loved spending time with family and friends. Linda also loved doing crafts, painting rocks with her grandchildren.

She is survived by her husband, David L. Bennett; her daughter, Carrie Foxx; and her two beloved grandchildren, all of Sweet Home.

A celebration of life will be

at a later date.

Sweet Home Funeral Chapel is handling the arrangements.

Death Notices

Rebecca Ann Morgan, 77, of Sweet Home passed away April 17, 2026.

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

Karen Gail Ramirez, 69, of Sweet Home, passed away May 2, 2026.

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

B&G CLUB

From page 1

in Lebanon could remain planted in the growing club.

When club membership reached 1,000, a capital campaign was launched in March 1989 to construct a 20,000-square-foot building at the vacant lot across from Century Park. They asked for \$300,000 cash and \$250,000 of in-kind services.

Ground-breaking for the current facility took place in June 1990. Today, the Boys & Girls Club of the Greater Santiam continues providing youth recreational athletics, as well as after-school programs, workforce training, Kids Club, a preschool and a nutrition program.

Article clippings and photographs from the earliest days of the club now line the walls of the lobby at the Lebanon facility, and the original sign from the 1970s



Visitors look over silent auction items in the multi-purpose room at the Lebanon Boys & Girls Club facility.

— Photo by Sarah Brown

greet visitors from the reception counter.

Considering how far the club has come in 50 years, Rieskamp said he was "just really excited because for the last 10 years now we've been financially stable," which includes an endowment of a couple million dollars.

The club operates on a budget of more than \$2 mil-

lion per year. The cost per day to serve one child is \$50, monthly facility operational costs are \$3,500, and 42% of its kids are on financial assistance.

After 50 years, from a vision born out of a cup of coffee to the "golden jubilee" celebration, Rieskamp said he is ready to resign from the club's Board of Directors.

Events

SUPPORT LEBANON POOL FUNDRAISER

The Friends of Lebanon Pool will host its second annual Splash for Cash fundraiser from May 3-9.

Patrons of the Lebanon Community Pool are being recruited to set goals for swimming laps or other pool exercise activities (water walking and water aerobics). For example, one patron pledged to swim 60 laps in an hour. The swimmers will collect pledges from family, friends and acquaintances to donate to the Friends of Lebanon Pool when the participants have met their goals.

Proceeds from the fundraiser will support current programs, expand pool use to new groups, and help fund future repairs and improvements at the Lebanon Community Pool. Friends of Lebanon Pool is a 501c3 charitable organization, and all donations are tax deductible.

Swimmers interested in participating can register at the pool or online at FriendsOfLebanonPool.com/events. For more information,

call Robert Waterhouse at 541-619-2125.

DAY OF PRAYER MAY 7 IN SWEET HOME

Sweet Home churches will hold National Day of Prayer activities Thursday, May 7, with gatherings at local public agencies, culminating with an evening worship service.

Gatherings for prayer are:

7:30 a.m. at Sweet Home School District's Administration Building, 1920 Long St., led by Pastor Colton Emmert.

10 a.m. at Sweet Home Chamber of Commerce, 1575 Main St., led by Pastor George Medellin.

2 p.m. at Sweet Home City Hall, 3225 Main St., led by Pastor Kurt Schnabel.

5 p.m. at Sweet Home Police Station, 1950 Main St., led by Pastor Chris Clayton.

7 p.m. Worship and Praise service at Mount Calvary Baptist Church, 1042 Pleasant Valley Road.

Prayer focuses through the day include education; business and the economy; military and law enforcement; local and national government; arts, entertainment and media; family; and church.

SAMARITAN BEHAVIORAL HEALTH RIBBON CUTTING

Samaritan Behavioral Health & Recovery Clinic invites the public to its grand opening and ribbon cutting ceremony from 3:30-6 p.m. on Thursday, May 7, at 100 Mullins Dr., Suite C1, Lebanon. The ribbon cutting is at 4 p.m.

Visitors can tour the clinic, meet the care teams and learn more about their comprehensive, integrated services. Light desserts and refreshments will be provided.

The clinic provides personalized care through residential and outpatient treatment, peer support and skill-building programs that empower individuals. The clinic serves adults with serious mental illness, substance use disorders and complex medical conditions.

Care teams work closely with patients as partners in their care and collaborate with community organizations to provide holistic support.

THE NEW ERA

on the road...



The New Era went with Tiwana Feuerbacher on a trip to Boston, where she ran the Boston Marathon, finishing in 3:42:56. She was joined in Boston by her sister, fiancé and running partner, where they spent four days visiting Fenway Park and went to the Boston Tea Party Museum.

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TAKING A TRIP?

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

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

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



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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 4

SWEET HOME POLICE

5:04 a.m. - Caller reported fire behind SHPD temporary shelter, 1950 Main. Officer responded, contacted male who put fire out and was sternly warned against that behavior.

6:53 a.m. - Caller reported male sleeping on property at Valley View Logging, 1288 46th. Officer responded, contacted female, who was to be moving along.

LEBANON POLICE

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

LCSO/OSP SWEET HOME/S. COUNTY

LCSO/OSP LEBANON

12:03 a.m. - James Tidwell, 67, of Lebanon, cited for DWS, DU, Santiam Hwy./Airport.

MAY 3

SWEET HOME POLICE

12:31 a.m. - Ryan Matthew Rickman, 44, arrested on SHMC warrant for FTA in trespass case, SHPD, 1950 Main. Cited and released.

12:04 p.m. - Brittany Nicole Peterson, 31, arrested for theft II after caller from BiMart, 1980 Main, reported female shoplifting at store. Approximate value \$166.72. Cited and released.

1:40 p.m. - Caller reported excessive noise in 4800 block Nandina. Officer responded, contacted young adults who were practicing for their band. They were advised of complaint and said they would be stopping shortly.

3:14 p.m. - Danny John Kleiven, 68, arrested for theft III after caller from BiMart, 1980 Main, reported male shoplifting at store. Cited and released.

8:41 p.m. - Jesse Tenbusch, 31, cited for riding without motorcycle endorsement, DU, Main/Wiley Creek.

LEBANON POLICE

9:28 a.m. - Report taken for criminal mischief for broken window at Hollywood Studio.

9:39 a.m. - Drivers on mini bike and moped trespassing on private property, 3300 block Snow Peak Pl. Caller confronted them, they cussed at him, flipped him off.

11:31 a.m. - Caller reported female taking \$20 from someone else's purse. Dana Janene Norris, 41, cited for theft III and LMC warrant for PV - DWS. Report taken.

3:08 p.m. - Brother and sister fighting. Lindy Hostetter taken into custody, transported to LCJ.

3:36 p.m. - Gaylynn Estep cited for trespassing and LMC warrant for FTA - theft II, trespass I.

3:42 p.m. - Gaylynn Wagner, 55, cited on SHMC warrant for theft III.

6:05 p.m. - Caller reported unknown male entered her house, asked for drugs and hit her, 200 block S Main St. Surveillance turned over to police. Under investigation.

6:50 p.m. - Two-car crash, S Main/W Oak Sts. Cecilia L. Ortega-Barlow, 28, cited for failure to obey traffic control device.

9:27 p.m. - Inmate attempted to hang himself with a shirt. Subject transported to hospital for evaluation.

LCSO/OSP SWEET HOME S. COUNTY

10:49 a.m. - Gunnar Johnson, 19, of California, cited for speeding, 75/55, Hwy. 20/Dew.

10:05 p.m. - OSP, LCSO responded to domestic disturbance in 27600 block Hwy. 20. Further details unavailable.

10:07 p.m. - Connor McMullen, 21, cited for DWS, failure to use ignition interlock device, Hwy. 20/Clark Mill.

1:16 p.m. - Kelling Rosillo, 43, of Halsey, arrested for DUII after report of reckless driver in 200 block W. Park, Brownsville. Report taken.

3:05 p.m. - LCSO, Sweet Home Fire responded to 44500 block Quartzville to report of someone possibly needing assistance at Foster Reservoir. No one needing assistance was located.

5:56 p.m. - Theft reported at Dollar General, 100 block S. Main, Brownsville. \$129.55 worth of items stolen were ultimately recovered. Report taken.

9:12 p.m. - Yasmine Ramos, 27, of California, cited for FTOTCD, 2nd/American, Halsey.

9:31 p.m. - Angel Wilson, 24, cited for DWS, DU, 47300 block Quartzville.

LCSO/OSP LEBANON

1:39 a.m. - Caleb Rusk, 53, of Lebanon, cited for DWS, DU, Grant/Booth Lane.

1:52 a.m. - Darin Hill, 50, of Waterloo, cited on warrant, Berlin/Brewster. Report taken.

4:34 a.m. - Justin Dill, 30, of Lebanon, cited for DWS, DU and on warrant, 000 block Oak. Report taken.

4:56 a.m. - Steven Ballweber, 37, of Lebanon, arrested on warrants, Taylor/Porter. Report taken.

10:14 a.m. - Christopher Walter, 45, of Lebanon, arrested for violating restraining order, 31100 block Kay. Report taken.

12:25 p.m. - Assault reported in 2000 block Franklin. Male

reportedly assaulted another male while trying to steal from him. Investigation ongoing. Report taken.

12:37 p.m. - Driver, whose name was omitted from Sheriff's log, cited for speeding, 85/55, Hwy. 20/Santiam Terrace.

1:52 p.m. - Crash reported in 32500 block Denny School. Two-car, rear-ender. Both vehicles driven from scene. Timothy Fries, 40, of Sweet Home, cited for DU, following too close. Report taken.

MAY 2

SWEET HOME POLICE

1:46 a.m. - Caller reported someone walking around only in underwear, 18th/Tamarack. Officer responded, contacted male who was running. No concerns.

2:35 a.m. - Joshua Stephen Porter arrested by LCSO on SHMC warrant for FTA in disorderly conduct case. Cited to appear May 27.

11:20 a.m. - Crash reported in area of Main/Clark Mill. Officer responded. Damage "very minor," estimated at under \$2,500. Drivers exchanged information.

12:43 p.m. - Caller reported that car swerved at kids riding bikes in bike lane in area of Long/38th. Officer responded, contacted driver, who stated that kids had swerved toward him and he stopped to counsel them.

7:57 p.m. - Bryce Lee Martinez, 24, arrested on LJC warrant in DUII case, SHPD, 1950 Main. Cited and released.

LEBANON POLICE

1:59 a.m. - Two couples that were friends met at a bar. One couple who are swingers seemed to have the impression they were going home together with the other couple. Swinger female touched non-swinger male, offending his non-swinger wife. Both couples began shoving and punching each other. Couples warned for disorderly conduct.

10:36 a.m. - Male approached female in her car at Safeway and told her there was a duck under her car. He persistently tried to get her to exit her car and got frustrated she wouldn't. When she pulled away, there was no duck.

Comfortably Dumb

by Bruce Quast



"Hey Mom! I just took a leak in the produce department!"

TEMPERATURES

DATE	HIGH	LOW	RAIN
4/28	61	44	0.00
4/29	65	36	0.00
4/30	75	37	0.00
5/1	70	48	0.00
5/2	66	48	0.00
5/3	82	44	0.00
5/4	71	51	0.00

RAIN IN INCHES

Year to date: **10.30**
5/7/25: **18.59**

FORECAST

DATE	WEATHER	HIGH/LOW
5/7	Sunny	76/49
5/8	Sunny	70/48
5/9	Cloudy	76/48
5/10	Sunny	80/50
5/11	Cloudy	80/50
5/12	Cloudy	77/49
5/13	Cloudy	74/47

LAKE LEVELS

Foster **614.7**
Green Peter **987.6**

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

CROSSWORD KEY

Puzzle on page 17

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						
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									D	A	Z	E	S					S	A	N	E	
									S	L	E	D							R	E	D	

SUDOKU KEY

Puzzle on page 17

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

Circuit Court

Nathan Lee Ammon, 34, charged April 28 with DUII (liquor) and reckless driving.

Jeffery Mitchell Aultman, 43, charged April 24 with failure to report as a sex offender.

Kristina Larizza Boswell, 40, sentenced April 23 to 18 mos. prison, 24 mos. post-prison supervision and a \$200 fine after pleading no contest to supplying contraband.

Kagen Joe Cowart, 22, charged May 4 with attempted assault II, menacing, recklessly endangering another person and reckless driving. Bail set at \$5,000.

Adrianna Davis, 27, sentenced April 23 to three days jail, 10 days compensatory service in lieu of jail, 24 mos.

supervised probation and \$200 in fines after pleading no contest to DV - assault IV and DV - recklessly endangering another person.

Kenneth Ray Faulconer, 32, charged April 25 with two counts of failure to report as a sex offender.

Mark Martin Fox, 58, charged May 4 with two counts of failure to report as a sex offender.

Syndelle Grace Nicole Garber, 20, charged April 28 with DUII (liquor).

Christopher Paul Jayne, 37, charged April 8 with manslaughter I, relating to the death of Steven David Willert. Bail set at \$100,000.

Charges against David Mark Jones, 58, of DUII and reckless driving dismissed

without prejudice. Court records indicate a "significant medical event" has permanently impacted his mental faculties.

Steven Allen Jones, 36, charged April 29 with unlawful possession of fentanyl. He posted 10% of a \$20,000 bail.

Johnny Ray Mowdy, 61, charged April 29 with three counts of failure to report as a sex offender.

Jeffrey Todd Nelson, 59, charged May 1 with DV - strangulation and two counts of DV - assault IV. He posted 10% of a \$20,000 bail.

Angela Diane Schuster, 47, charged May 1 with DUII (liquor), reckless driving, criminal mischief II and failure to perform duties of

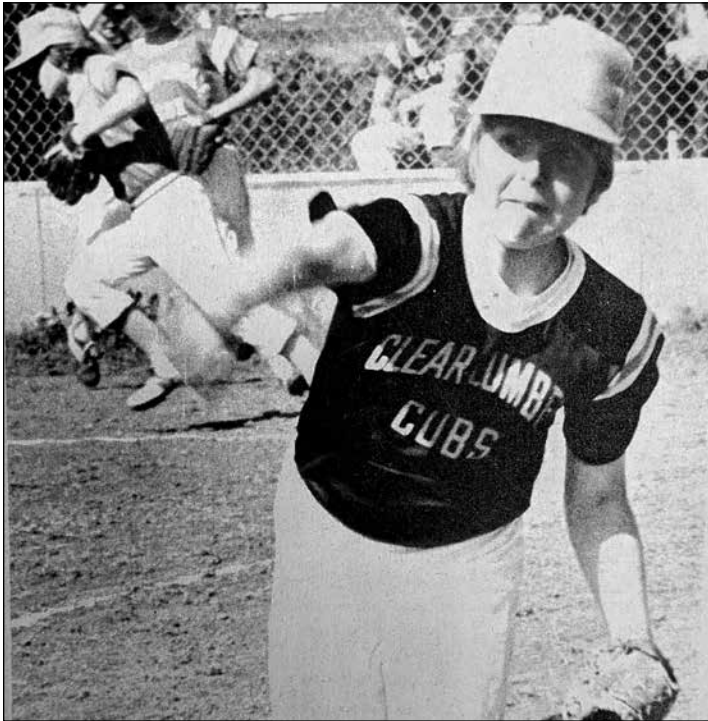
driver - property damage.

Theodore Eugene Shinnall, 48, charged April 28 with failure to report as a sex offender, unlawful possession of meth, DWS and DU.

Jacob David Siefarth, 30, charged May 4 with unlawful use of a weapon, menacing, pointing firearm at another, criminal mischief I and disorderly conduct II. Bail set at \$25,000.

Isabella Reann Wynn, 23, sentenced April 30 to 240 hours jail and 18 mos. supervised probation after pleading no contest to burglary II. Dismissed: two counts of FTA I. In a separate case, she was sentenced to an additional 20 days jail after pleading no contest to supplying contraband.

From our Files



Pat Shockey, pitcher for the Clear Lumber Cubs, warms up before the game against the Boise Cascade Sox in 1976.

MAY 10, 1951

Sweet Home grade schools will join with the high school for the annual May Day program, which includes a court ruled by Queen Donna Casebolt. It will feature musical programs, a grade school track meet, displays of projects done in school, a band concert, a picture show, tumbling presentations, a May Pole dance and a recessional.

Oak Heights grade school boys dominated the finals of the VFW-sponsored East Linn Marble Tournament, giving them the opportunity to participate in the state finals in Portland. Gerald Gregory, Archie Vibbard, Ancil Honeywell and Douglas Seiber will head to the finals for a chance to move on to nationals. Seiber placed fifth in state last year.

MAY 6, 1976

Marlene Sisemore was

crowned Mayfest queen during the May Day "Summer Breeze" festivities at Sweet Home High School. Rima Robertson, Dan McCubbins and the Husky stage band performed at the assembly. Other activities included a bike marathon, chariot race, track race, dance and carnival.

City Council accepted the Park Board's recommendation to purchase 4.5 acres of land next to Sankey Park at a cost of \$20,000 and trade off three other lots owned on Cedar Street. The board recommended the extra land be used for a ball field, additional parking and a better trail system along Ames Creek.

MAY 9, 2001

Israel Helfrich and Kara Watkins were named May King and Queen during the high school's May Day festivities, which included week-long competitions between the classes. The week ends in a

track meet with an obstacle course, chariot race and Jell-O wrestling.

The Sweet Home Fire and Ambulance District told Cascadia residents it considered multiple sites before settling on a decision on where to put a new substation. It will be located next to Canyon Creek, near Triple T. Cascade Timber Consulting donated the land for the new substation.

Police Sgt. George Dominy and dispatcher Lisa Davis received the Medal of Valor for their actions in the attempted murder of officer Vic Clodfelter. The victim was shot by Michael Peverieri during a standoff at the gunman's house. Dominy rushed to the scene and put himself in the line of fire to find Clodfelter injured near his car. Meanwhile, Davis, who was on the phone with Peverieri, did her best to keep him calm during the situation.

Letters to the Editor

Republicans voice support for school replacement bond measure

Editor:

The Linn County Republican Party conducted a survey of Precinct Committee Persons (PCPs) residing within the Sweet Home School District, with results indicating overwhelming support for the district's upcoming replacement bond measure.

Local PCPs emphasized the importance of distinguishing between locally controlled replacement funding that maintains current tax rates and broad, statewide tax increases.

This bond is a replacement measure, meaning it does not increase the current tax rate. Instead, it continues existing funding while addressing critical infrastructure needs within the district. Approval of the bond would also secure approximately \$12.25 million in grant funding, which would otherwise be directed to other communities if the measure fails.

"This bond lets us replace the High School's old flat roofed buildings, and greatly improve campus security without raising taxes. At the same time, it brings in over \$12 million that would

otherwise go to another district. Keeping our tax rate the same while fixing real needs and keeping those dollars in Sweet Home is the right call," said Milt Moran, former SHSD school board member and community advocate.

At the same time, the Oregon Republican Party (ORP) has taken a 'Vote No' position on Measure 120, the statewide transportation tax referendum. The measure was passed on a largely party-line basis after failing to advance during the regular session and being taken up in a special session. It was subsequently referred to the ballot following strong public opposition and a successful citizen signature effort.

The Linn County GOP contributed significantly to that effort, gathering nearly 14,000 signatures so voters can decide the issue directly.

"Measure 120 is exactly the kind of large, top-down tax increase that Oregonians have pushed back on. Voters deserve the final say. I appreciate the Sweet Home PCPs recognizing the stark difference between those kinds of taxes and a locally controlled, no-increase school bond that fixes real problems and keeps

money here at home," said Jon Wright, Chair of Linn County GOP.

Voters are encouraged to review both measures carefully, consider the perspective of local PCPs within the district, and participate in the upcoming election.

Vote YES on the Sweet Home School District replacement bond.

Vote NO on Measure 120.

Jon Wright
Chair Linn County GOP

School bond passage 'Imperative' for SH

Editor:

The passage of the 2026 Sweet Home School District Bond Measure 22-214 is imperative to provide a much safer Sweet Home High School.

We know that eventually those old buildings will have to be replaced. Current security at our high school is very low. There are way too many entrances that are not secure that expose classrooms and other spaces, putting students and teachers at risk.

Passing this bond measure now will bring in \$12,252,000 from a state of Oregon grant; however we must pass this bond to qualify to receive the grant. Let's not kick the can down the road. Let's approve this bond.

The school board and district staff have done a great job maintaining the long-term Maintenance Fund as well as implementing money saving refinancing of our retiring current bond. Passing this new bond will maintain our current tax rates and bring in the state grant funding.

We want a Safe and Healthy environment for our students and teachers.

Cascade Timber Consulting, Inc., is the largest taxpayer in our school district. We

fully support a YES VOTE for ballot measure 22-214.

Milt Moran, President
Cascade Timber Consulting, Inc.
Sweet Home

City charter changes deserve 'yes' vote

Editor:

Voters will have an opportunity to vote for a revised and updated Sweet Home City Charter in the May 19 Primary Election.

A committee was appointed by the mayor early in 2025. Periodically, a committee is appointed to go over the current charter and make recommendations to City Council for possible improvements, updates, and/or changes to some practices. The last time the charter was updated or changed was 2015.

The committee spent many hours and several months deliberating on language and proposed changes. After the committee finished their work, their recommendations were sent to City Council members, who studied and discussed the proposed changes.

Several of the committee's recommendations were approved by the City Council and are now on the ballot for approval by voters in the May election.

The amendment to the charter can't be enacted unless approved by the voters.

Here are a few of the proposed changes that I think will resonate with citizens:

If a vacancy occurs in an elected office, such as mayor or City Council, during the first half of their term, the new charter would require that vacancy to be filled by the next highest vote-getter in the previous election, instead of being chosen by the City Council. This new process gives weight to the voice and

will of the voters when filling vacancies.

The new charter would create an absolute right for citizens to speak via a public comment period at regular City Council meetings. Old charter language is silent on the subject. Currently, the council determines IF there will be a comment period for citizens, as no charter rule has required it before.

New charter language would require at least four "yes" votes to make land-use decisions, increase utility rates, enact emergency ordinance provisions or hire or fire people in appointed positions. No longer could three affirmative votes decide such issues. It would also establish a lower "emergency quorum" in the event that there were several simultaneous vacancies on the City Council that needed to be filled by appointment.

It would also add a section on ethics and meeting attendance requirements. It would change the effective date of term of office to the first of January.

Many of the changes to the new charter are housekeeping changes and provide language modernization and a more readable and searchable format for the charter. There are also clarifications as to who may sign checks, when ordinances must be signed and routine issues of that nature, and it clarifies the composition of City Council to "six councilors and a mayor."

You can find the Proposed Revised Charter on the City of Sweet Home web page. It has its own quick link "Charter" icon at the lower right corner of the home page.

I served on the committee along with five other citizens with varied backgrounds (in-

See Letters, Page 5

THE
NEW ERA
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SWEET HOME, OR EST. 1929

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Editorial: Time to sift through campaigning, check boxes

By Scott Swanson
Publisher

My first real exposure to contentious political campaigning came when I was a young reporter for a community newspaper in another part of the country.

Our longtime local congressman had, most people on both sides of the political aisle seemed to agree, served the district well. He'd been re-elected multiple times.

Shortly after I joined that newspaper staff, the primary election rolled around and a challenger appeared: a multi-millionaire who had decided to get into politics.

Suddenly we were watching a barrage of television commercials tearing down the local congressman and promoting the challenger. After a few weeks of this, I started becoming concerned because I knew a lot of what was being said in the commercials was innuendo - not really outright lies, but definitely leaving a false impression. These were high-dollar productions and it's an understatement to say they portrayed the incumbent in an extremely negative light.

My editor and I discussed the situation - it was far beyond the normal mudslinging that occurs in contentious campaigns. We decided I should do a story on what the campaign had become, digging into some of the facts that were being twisted to make the sitting congressman look like a loser. I went ahead and put a story together, which ran.

Notably, the large daily that covered our entire region also ran a very similar story, which appeared almost exactly when ours did. Apparently, I wasn't the only one bothered by these commercials.

The rich guy won. Elections, particularly the ones for higher offices, are very often an exercise in manipulation of facts and strategic moves intended to besmirch opponents and raise a candidate's stock with voters. It's the vote that counts in the

final tally, and the dark reality is that many politicians do whatever it takes to get yours. If that involves simplistic, inherently false quick-and-dirty slogans to get our attention and put the thoughts in our heads they want us to think, the doubts they want us to feel, so be it.

That makes it hard for us voters. How are we supposed to know whom we're really voting for when all this obfuscation is taking place?

Note: There's a difference between negative campaigning and "dirty tricks." Dirty tricks are usually based on complete lies, doctored videos/photos/recordings - the tools for lying are commonplace now in our wild west of social media and saturation self-promotion.

Alternatively, negative campaign strategies are generally based on true facts, often information that's in the public record, which might turn voters off on a candidate. It might be offensive and annoying, but it's - at least technically - true. You're given what they want you to know, usually without context, with shading that they intend to convince you.

We have some very competitive primary races this year, particularly between Republicans aiming to win our local state House and Senate seats.

Negative campaigning comes with the territory in competitive races. If you have a candidate you like, you might feel some outrage when you see attacks on your chosen one, but that's the nature of the game. We're geared to respond to insults - implied or real, mudslinging and distortions of the facts, and candidates know it. And since they're there to win, no matter how fervently they might swear they're going to run a nice, clean campaign, it generally ain't so. Negativity works, as illustrated by our opening tale. Candidates often have well-researched data identifying the most promising fears they can exploit, which hot-button issues they can

play to get our attention. So where does that leave you as a voter? It's tricky, trying to figure out what's true and what's not, how we should really feel and what we should believe, when we see that stuff. Who's the real deal? Who's telling the truth?

Frankly, I'd love to delve deep into some of the candidates we're seeing, try to find out who they really are, but, speaking very frankly, the grim reality for newspapers these days is that the staffing levels we're able to afford make it a challenge just to cover all the other community events, government, schools, sports, cops and day-to-day activities readers want or need to know about.

As I've said before, every advertiser, every subscriber who jumps on board contributes to our ability to cover news - and that's straight talk.

But you don't have to be a journalist to do research. You can:

Look at the candidate's website for his or her platform, then look beyond the candidate's website. Google their name and try to find legitimate sources that tell you about this person and what they stand for.

Check out that quote, that vote. The internet provides us with information resources that were barely wild imaginations when I was that young reporter. We barely had computers to type on. You can look up that vote, that quote. Put it in context.

Talk to people in the community whose views might align with yours and whom you respect - promise confidentiality, if necessary, and ask them whom they support and why.

Read the newspaper, watch the forums posted online. Those cards you're getting in the mail from candidates generally are more "hit-and-run" than in-depth explanations of the candidate's own stance or criticism of opponents'. The cardboard may give you

a starting point, but there are ways to go deeper.

* * * * *

So, now that the ballots are actually in the mail, let's talk measures.

Sweet Home voters are seeing two ballot measures, one asking for approval of the rewrite of the city charter, and the other a \$40 million bond measure asking them to extend the current bond, approved in 2017, in exchange for nearly \$12.3 million in Oregon School Capital Improvement Matching Program (OS-CIM) funding. That's roughly 30% of the outlay - like agreeing to borrow \$100 to get a \$30 rewards check.

I've written enough about taxes that it should be clear that I'm not usually an advocate for new ones. But this is a very good deal for Sweet Home residents and it's not new - it's an extension (for another 30 years) of what they already pay, currently scheduled to mature in 2029, rather than an increase.

It's worth considering that Sweet Home district officials, Business Manager Kevin Strong in particular, have demonstrated significant prowess in handling the past bonds approved by voters, Strong on a number of occasions finding ways to shorten the term to maturity of previous bonds.

Public schools are exactly that: public. We pay for them regardless of whether we have kids attending them, and ultimately, the community is responsible for their condition.

Sweet Home High School has genuine security issues -

some 40 of them, to be specific. It lacks facilities for a growing CTE program. It needs some serious restructuring. It needs to improve its transportation patterns.

But the biggest issue is that security: In today's world, what was acceptable, safety-wise, in 1934 is no longer OK. Plus, some of those buildings, even to the untrained eye, have outlived their usefulness and need to be gone.

Strong and others have stated that this bond, together with that extra \$12.3 million, would bring all of Sweet Home's schools to the point that they should be good for current voters' lifetimes and beyond.

Sweet Home could certainly "kick the can down the road," to use a phrase that's been popping up in neighboring Lebanon. There, as has been reported in this newspaper, that is exactly what has happened - described as such by school officials themselves.

And now the school district, already facing major budget cuts, is also looking at roughly \$100 million of needed repairs to school facilities that aren't even as old as those in Sweet Home for which this money is intended.

Pay now or pay later (a lot more, as Lebanon has learned). Either way is painful, but now will be a lot cheaper than later, and it's not dumping that responsibility on the next generations - if the facilities last that long.

The city charter measure is an easy choice: Do you agree with the changes or not? Enough said.

LETTERS From page 4

cluding Angie Yon, Mike Reynolds, Jeff Parker, Lisa Gourley and City Council member Josh Thorstad). City Attorney Blair Larsen and Deputy City Manager Cecily Pretty attended most meetings to offer their insight and expertise to operational and legal issues as we worked through the Charter.

I hope you will join me in voting YES on the Sweet Home City Charter Amendment.

Gary Jarvis
Sweet Home

Sanchez right choice for Oregon forests

Editor:
I support and endorse Angelita Sanchez for State Representative House District 11.

She has led the fight to reopen our forests and save them from catastrophic fires.

I have been a professional forester in Oregon for over 50 years. I know our woods and watersheds. They can and should be the backbone of our economy, again. Angelita understands how important for-

est stewardship is to Oregon and Oregonians. Help rescue our future by restoring our forests. Vote for Angelita Sanchez.

Mike Dubrasich
Forester
Founder of SOS Forests
Lebanon



Upcoming City Meetings

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

- Sweet Home Planning Commission:** Thur., May 7, 6:30 p.m., at City Hall, 3225 Main St.
- Central Linn School Board:** Mon., May 11, 6 p.m., at Conference Room, 239 W 2nd St., Halsey.
- Sweet Home School Board:** Mon., May 11, 6:30 p.m., at 1920 Long St.
- Lebanon Fire District:** Tues., May 12, 5:30 p.m., at 1050 W. Oak St.
- Sweet Home City Council:** Tues., May 12, 6:30 p.m., at City Hall, 3225 Main St.
- Waterloo City Council:** Tues., May 12, 7 p.m., at 31140 1st St.
- Lebanon City Council:** Wed., May 13, 6 p.m., at Lebanon Library, 55 Academy St.
- Lebanon School Board:** Thur., May 14, 6 p.m., at Lebanon Library, 55 Academy St.
- Lebanon Aquatic District:** Mon., May 18, 6 p.m., at Lebanon Pool, 1800 S 5th St.
- Sweet Home Fire Board:** Tue., May 19, 6:30 p.m., at 1099 Long St.
- Sweet Home Park & Tree Committee:** Wed., May 20, 8:30 a.m. at City Hall, 3225 Main St.
- Lebanon Parks, Trees & Trails:** Wed., May 20, 2 p.m. at Lebanon Library, 55 Academy St.
- Lebanon Planning Commission:** Wed., May 20, 6 p.m. at Lebanon Library, 55 Academy
- Sweet Home Planning Commission:** Thur., May 21, 6:30 p.m. at City Hall, 3225 Main St.
- Sodaville City Council:** Thur., May 21, 7 p.m. at City Hall, 30723 Sodaville Road.
- Sweet Home City Council:** Tue., May 26, 6:30 p.m. at City Hall, 3225 Main St.

FIRE SAFETY

From page 1

dictable, so we like to give people updates as necessary and as we can."

Enhanced safety settings, by contrast, are built into equipment in high-risk fire areas and can automatically shut off power within fractions of a second if interference is detected.

"That can be anything from debris to a squirrel or anything that can cause a spark," Marine said. "In the case of an outage due to enhanced safety settings, we actually have to have a crew go out there and physically inspect the line and make sure it is safe to turn the power back on."

Marine said public safety shutoffs are relatively rare.

"We actually haven't had a public safety power shutoff where we intentionally shut off the power as a planned operation since 2022, so it is not a typical or frequent thing we do," she said. "Enhanced safety settings is something people may experience more if they are in a high-risk fire area."

Wildfire Monitoring

Pacific Power also highlighted its Wildfire Intelligence Center in Medford, which opened last year. Staffed mostly by former firefighting professionals, the center monitors wildfire activity across the region to inform operational decisions.

"We want to make sure our first responders are safe, can get near their equipment, and we are not adding on to any of those fires," Marine said.

How to Prepare

Linn County Emergency Management Coordinator Jackie Nerski said preparation at home is one of the most important steps residents can take.

"For us it is making sure you're prepared at home. Do you have an outage kit?

Do you have an evacuation plan?" Nerski asked.

Nerski also emphasized the importance of planning ahead for those who rely on electricity for medical needs and notifying Pacific Power in advance.

Customers with medical needs, such as medications requiring refrigeration or devices like respirators, are encouraged to contact Pacific Power and provide a medical certificate so their accounts can be flagged.

"There are multiple things we can do if someone is power dependent," Nerski said. "If they let us know that they are medical certificate customers and what needs they have, we will then flag their account and we can give them advanced notification."

Nerski said those customers may receive additional call notifications in the event of a public safety power shutoff, giving them extra time to prepare. She added that Pacific Power also offers assistance programs, including a backup generator rebate for qualifying customers.

Officials emphasized the importance of keeping contact information on their Pacific Power account up to date to receive outage alerts and emergency notifications.

Stay Informed

Residents are also encouraged to follow local public safety agencies on social media, prepare emergency "go-bags" with essentials such as food, water and medications, and sign up for local alert systems, including Linn-Benton ALERT.

According to data from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, Oregon's snowpack is at 29% of normal, tying with 2015 for the worst level since 1981. The low snowpack and dry conditions are expected to increase wildfire risk this year.

Sweet Home Police Chief and City Manager Jason Og-



A Pacific Power representative, left, chats with a visitor during the event.

- Satina Tolman photo

den recommended using technology to stay informed.

"I have found the phone app called Watch Duty is very informative," Ogden said. "Watch Duty is a real-time wildfire app that shows live fire activity, evacuations, and conditions using verified updates from firefighters and experts so you can know exactly what's happening near you."

Evacuation/Livestock Safety

Emergency officials advise residents to know multiple evacuation routes, plan for

pets and livestock and prepare early rather than waiting until conditions worsen.

For farmers and ranchers, early evacuation of livestock is critical. Options include coordinating with neighbors, using pre-arranged transport and utilizing facilities such as the Linn County Fair and Expo Center, which may serve as a shelter during emergencies.

If evacuation is not possible, officials recommend moving animals to cleared or irrigated areas, ensuring access to water that does not

rely on electricity and leaving gates open so animals can move away from danger.

Community Response, Training

The Linn County Sheriff's Office Community Emergency Response Team, or CERT, a volunteer-run program, also participated in the event, offering information on training opportunities in disaster preparedness, fire safety and emergency response.

"After the disaster, you have to take care of yourself first because if you can't take

See Fire Safety, Page 14

CHURCH DIRECTORY


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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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 Pastor Machiel Greyling

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Oregon, local, school attendance up slightly, analysis shows

By Khushboo Rathore and James Neff

Oregon Journalism Project

After years in the lowest ranks of school attendance in the nation, Oregon schools have shown a bit of progress.

An Oregon Journalism Project analysis of recent data shows regular statewide attendance in the first half of the school year rose to 70.6%, an increase of 3 percentage points over the previous year. The results are viewable at https://www.datawrapper.de/_/xTEh6/.

Even so, nearly a third of Oregon students were still chronically absent, meaning they missed at least 10% of school days, or about two days a month.

The state's attendance has ranked among the nation's worst for the past decade, according to FutureEd, a policy think tank at Georgetown University. For the 2024-25 school year, for example, only Alaska and the District of Columbia had worse rates of chronic absenteeism. Oregon's recent 33.5% far surpassed the na-

tional average of 22%.

Historically, the Oregon Department of Education hasn't shared attendance reports until months after the school year ends. (Rhode Island, on the other hand, tracks attendance daily and shares results on a dashboard, allowing users to track chronic absenteeism much as investors follow key economic indicators.)

To set a higher standard of transparency, OJP obtained 2025-26 attendance data via public records requests to create a first-of-its-kind searchable database.

With this tracker, Oregonians can see how consistently students attended school from August to December 2025 and compare those rates to the year before. You can search by school name or sort by enrollment, county, or change in attendance rate.

Regular school attendance, defined as attending 90% or more of school days, is paramount to Oregon's academic success—especially for early literacy. Oregon's fourth grade reading scores rank last in the nation, ad-

justed for demographics, according to an Urban Institute analysis.

In addition to the tracker, OJP also analyzed underlying data behind the attendance rates and emerged with several findings.

- While Oregon still has among the worst attendance rates in the U.S., this year the rate has gone up:

2023-24: 67.9%

2024-25: 67.6%

2025-26: 70.6%

In east Linn County, between August and December of last year, Sweet Home Junior High School's attendance improved the most from the 2024-25 school year among the three district schools listed in the tracker (Sweet Home High School, SHJH and Sweet Home Charter School), a 5.1% increase to 66% for an enrollment of 353 students. SHHS (748 students) improved by 1.3% to 52.8% during those months and the Charter School (148 students) dropped by 4.1% to 72.3%.

Lebanon High School, the only Lebanon school listed in the tracker, improved by

3.5% to 53.2% for an enrollment of 1,159.

- Attendance increased across the board for all student groups. Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islanders had the highest gain, 4 percentage points. Hispanic students went up 2.8 points while Black students saw the lowest gain, 1.6 points. Still, all students of color, except Asian students, had lower attendance rates than the student population as a whole.

- Individual schools with the largest gains in regular attendance year over year include: Lincoln School of Early Learning in Coos County (up 37.3%); Dufur School in Wasco County (up 32.9%); Oregon Family School in Harney County (up 20.5%); Centennial Elementary in Linn County (up 20.9%); and Roosevelt Elementary in Klamath County (up 20.2%).

- A school with one of the biggest drops in attendance was Powers High School in Coos County. And the Jewell School District in Clatsop County had the sharpest drop for an entire district,

from 78.9% to 35.5%.

Earlier this year, the Oregon Legislature passed a law that requires the state to share attendance data more frequently—four times a year. The first report is expected in the fall.

Until that happens, OJP will continue to update its statewide Attendance Tracker.

NOTE: 1,282 schools in Oregon are listed in the database. A few schools did not report attendance data to the state for this time period. If ODE listed the percentage of regular attenders as ">95%" (greater than 95%), we adjusted those rates to 95% for presentation, clarity and analysis.

See more OJP coverage of Oregon's educational situation at www.sweethome-news.com/category/ojp/. If you are a student, parent, teacher or former teacher, school administrator or policymaker with ideas on how to fix Oregon's schools, OJP wants to hear from you. Share your thoughts and how to reach you at bit.ly/ojpeducation.

Commissioners get report from Juvenile Department director

By Alex Paul

Linn County Communications

In March, the Linn-Benton Juvenile Department held 23 young people from Linn County, six from Benton County, two from Marion County and one from Lincoln County, Director Torri Lynn told the Board of Commissioners at their April 28 meeting.

The average length of stay for Linn County youth was 8.08 days; 4.14 days for Benton County youth; 13 days for the one Lincoln County youth; and 2.50 days for Marion County's two young people.

There were 60 referrals in March and there are 185 young people in the Probation Unit. Of those, 31 are considered high-risk.

The intervention specialist is working with 144 youth and the victim advocate made 114 contacts.

The eight-member Tier I work crew completed 133.5 hours of community service in 13 project days compared to 10 youth completing 202 hours of community service during the same time in 2025.

Some 23 young people in the Tier II work crew completed 528.25 hours of community service in 19 days, compared to 29 youth completing 662.5 hours in 2025.

The Community Wildfire Risk Reduction program saw five youth complete 78.25 hours of service.

In other business the commissioner:

- Approved an intergov-

ernmental agreement for \$124,787.50 for two years between the Parks Department and the Oregon State Marine Board. Linn County Parks will maintain and operate facilities to provide boater access at boat ramps. These funds come from boater registrations and directly affect access for the public. Linn County operates and maintains 20 sites under this program.

- Approved a low bid of \$2,247,650 from North Santiam Paving for the North River Drive Improvement Project. This will be funded by the Western Federal Lands Access Program on a 90% reimbursement basis, including engineering and construction.

- Approved a bid of \$992,088 from North Santiam Paving for the North River Drive Public Access Improvement Project. The low bidder among four companies was River Bend Construction Inc., but it was not a registered plan holder, which negated its bid.

- Received the Community Services Consortium's annual report presented by Executive Director Ryan Vogt. The consortium is a public, nonprofit community action agency serving Linn, Benton, and Lincoln counties, focusing on combating poverty by providing services such as housing support, utility bill assistance, and weatherization for low-income individuals.

Vogt reported that 1,371 individuals received housing and homeless services; some 1,077 were prevented from evictions; 5,709 received utility assistance and 93 households received weatherization and no heat services. Linn Benton Food Share provided more than 73,000 food boxes and distributed more than 5 million pounds of food.

- Were told by Accounting Officer Bill Palmer that department heads and elected officials continue to hold the line on spending. Palmer said that as of the end of March, three-quarters of

the way through the 2025-26 Fiscal Year, General Fund overall actual spending was 64.2% of its budget. General Fund spending a year ago was 62.3%. Road fund spending was 32.7% compared to 36.6% a year ago and the 4-year Law Enforcement Levy is at 51.6% compared to 52.3%. The Health Fund is at 37.2% compared to 38.7%.

- Approved a contract amendment with Telmate/Viapath to provide communications services for jail inmates. Some rates are going down. For example, phone calls will go from 21 cents

per minute to 11 cents per minute.

- Approved new classifications and job descriptions for the Parks Construction and Maintenance Worker I, II and III positions and updated the Parks Business Manager Position.

- Continued a Public Hearing that began on April 14, approving an application for a Level 3A Outdoor Assembly Permit from Pacific Northwest Pirate Nation. Port Nassau will be a five-day event to be held on Allen Lane southwest of Albany.

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Sports Roundup

WARRIORS BASEBALL HEATS UP

Lebanon went 2-1 last week in baseball, dropping a close 9-8 decision at home to Dallas on Monday, April 27, but then exploding against South Albany, 21-4 on the road Wednesday and 11-1 at home Friday.

Coach Jeff Stolsig's prediction that the team would improve going forward looks on point.

The Warriors went into this week 4-6 in Mid-Willamette Conference play, tied for fifth with Silverton at 4-6. Corvallis and Central were tied for the league lead at 10-0 each, and West Albany and Dallas were in third, tied at 8-2.

Lebanon had a very good game offensively against Dallas, recording 11 hits. Cohen Vandiver and Austin Turnidge each collected three hits for the Warriors. Cole Gerig and Jaidyn Von Ruden had two each. Vandiver, Gerig and Turnidge each had doubles. Lebanon had a solid lead for most of the game but Dallas scored six runs in the top of the seventh and Lebanon was unable to add a tying run.

The Warriors' bats came out big-time against South Albany. The Warriors recorded 19 hits in the first game and 12 in the second.

Lebanon scored early and often, so neither game was particularly close.

In the Wednesday game, Trey Enright, Wyatt Jenkins and Turnidge had three hits. Cohen Vandiver, Von Ruden and Preston Bryan each had two. Of those hits, Trey Enright and Niko Autry had triples and Jaidyn Von Ruden and Wyatt Jenkins had doubles.

Owen Wodtli pitched the entire game allowing four hits, three earned runs and striking out seven.

In the Friday game, the score was not so lopsided, but the Warrior bats still affected great impact on the game. Von Ruden and Trenton Lewis each had three hits. Enright and Jenkins had two hits.

The long ball was a factor in this game as Turnidge and Lewis

each belted home runs.

Bryan went the entire game on the mound, holding the RedHawks to four hits and just one earned run and striking out four.

The quality of opposition on the schedule continues to be a challenge for the Warriors with roughly two weeks left in the season, though they have a home-and-home with Woodburn, which came into this week 1-9 in MWC play, but will host West Albany on Friday.

After the Bulldogs, whom Lebanon will play on the road Monday, May 11, they have home-and-homes with Silverton and Crescent Valley, which gives them opportunities to move up in the league standings as the season winds down.

– Mike Warner

LEBANON SOFTBALL CONTINUES TO BATTLE

Lebanon's softball team had it rough last week, with an 11-1 loss Monday at home to No. 2 Dallas, the league leader, and then a 4-3 heart-breaker to South Albany.

Dallas jumped on the Warriors with six runs in the first inning, two in the second and two more in the third. Lebanon managed just three hits, two by Hailey Myers. Dallas had nine hits and six walks.

The Wednesday game against South Albany was considerably more competitive.

The Warriors stayed close the entire game. South scored two in the first and fourth innings to take a 4-1 lead.

Lebanon scored single runs in the top of the fifth and sixth to close the lead to just one, but the Warriors were not able to plate another run in the seventh.

Five Warriors had hits including two by Jalynn Wilson. Wilson, Scarlett French and Anastazia Marshall each had doubles.

Bristol Hockema pitched the entire game striking out four and allowing only one earned run.

This week the Warriors, 1-6 in MWC play, 4-13 overall, again have only two games. They hosted Central on Monday, May 4, and then travel to Corvallis

(3-5 coming into this week) on Friday.

– Mike Warner

HUSKIES GO 2-1 IN SOFTBALL

Sweet Home softball put together a strong showing last week, finishing 2-1 and highlighted by a dominant 16-0 win over No. 20 Philomath.

The Huskies opened with a narrow 6-5 victory over North Marion, using a balanced offensive effort to secure the win.

Sweet Home tallied 14 hits, with multiple players contributing throughout the lineup. Aaliyah Brown and Katriona Harris each recorded three hits, while Kylie Silacci, Emma Rosa, and Ava Newberry added two hits apiece.

Addison Vannice helped lead the offense, scoring two runs and driving in another, as the Huskies did just enough to hold off North Marion in a close finish.

Sweet Home followed with a 6-3 loss to Stayton, where offensive struggles and defensive miscues proved costly. The Huskies were limited to six hits and struck out 11 times.

Brown led the way offensively with two hits and two RBIs, while Trinity Victor added two hits. Despite getting runners on base, Sweet Home was unable to consistently string together productive at-bats.

"I think we need to have good at bats from the start of the game," Coach Emily Marchbanks said. "I also think that we need to eliminate defensive errors (especially ones that cascade into unearned runs)."

The Huskies bounced back in a big way against Philomath, delivering their most complete performance of the week in a 16-0 shutout.

"It feels good to see the work the girls have been putting in pay off," Marchbanks said.

Sweet Home came out aggressive at the plate, scoring early and often while taking advantage of disciplined at-bats. The Huskies finished with 11 hits and six walks, while striking out just twice.

Emma Rosa led the way with

three hits and two RBIs, while Harris, Victor, and Hannahe Sieminski each recorded two hits. Brown added a hit, two runs, and an RBI, as nearly every player contributed offensively.

"Philomath had a different pitcher throw than the pitcher that threw against us last time we played them," Marchbanks said. "She was easier for our team to hit. I do feel like the girls did a much better job of jumping on the other team's pitcher right away instead of waiting so long to have good at-bats."

The difference from earlier matchups with Philomath was evident, as the Huskies capitalized early rather than waiting to adjust.

"Philomath had a different pitcher throw than the pitcher that threw against us last time we played them," Marchbanks said. "She was easier for our team to hit, I do feel like the girls did a much better job of jumping on the other team's pitcher right away instead of waiting so long to have good at bats."

With the strong response, Sweet Home showed both resilience and potential, but the focus now shifts to maintaining consistency against top teams.

The Huskies, 3-3 in Oregon West Conference play coming into this week, 9-8 overall, will look to build off the momentum as they face No. 8 Cascade, undefeated in OWP coming into the game, at home on Monday. The Huskies then travel to Newport Wednesday, before hosting North Marion Thursday.

– Keeghan Gittins

TENNIS: LADY WARRIORS TIE

Lebanon's girls tied Central on the road 3-3 Tuesday, April 28, then fell 8-0 to Crescent Valley at home on Thursday, April 30.

Crescent Valley showed why it is one of the top teams in the state, as the Raiders largely dominated both the singles and doubles matches. The Warriors' No. 1 doubles team of Greta Abbott and Daniela Sanchez-Guzman had the most success on the day, winning three games in a 6-1, 6-2 loss.

Lebanon had a better day Tuesday, winning two singles and one doubles match.

Alison Frey defeated Chelsea Bowman 6-4, 6-4 in the No. 1 singles match, and Hailey Destowet won her No. 2 singles match 6-3, 6-3 for the Warriors.

In the No. 1 doubles match, Abbott and Sanchez-Guzman won 6-3, 6-2.

Jane Gonzalez and Payton Voight put up a fight in the No. 3 doubles match with Central's Keiko Zellner and Hannah Smith, winning the first set 6-4, but falling 6-0 in the second and then losing 7-5 in the third set.

The girls finish their regular season Tuesday, May 5, at South Albany.

– Staff

LEBANON BOYS TENNIS

The Warriors struggled in an 8-0 loss to Crescent Valley on the road Thursday, April 30, but did better in a 7-1 win over Central at home Tuesday, April 28.

Lebanon won two singles and swept the doubles against the Panthers.

Micah Zderad won in No. 1

singles (6-0, 6-3) and Daniel Doerzapf won the No. 3 match 6-3, 6-1.

In doubles, Benjamin Clinger and Joshua Allydice won the No. 1 doubles match 6-3, 6-0, with the No. 2 doubles team of Landyn Whitney and Silas Fitchett, and No. 3 doubles players Hunter Jacobsen and Ryan Robinson getting default wins.

The boys host South Albany Tuesday, May 5, to end their regular season.

Districts are May 13-15 at Timberhill Tennis Club in Corvallis. Lebanon has 12 players that will compete in districts; seeding will be announced Friday, May 8.

"Going into seeding and districts we have a couple (of players who) are playing decent right now," Coach Jacob Butler said. "Micah Zderad is playing pretty good right now and looks like he could be a contender. We also have a couple doubles teams that, with the right draw, can get into Day 2 of districts and maybe get an upset."

– Staff

SWEET HOME BOYS GOLF

Trent Harvey led Sweet Home's boys with a 10-over 82 Wednesday, April 29, at the Oregon 4A State Preview Wednesday, April 29, at Emerald Valley Golf Club in Creswell.

The Huskies shot a team score of 381 to finish 12th out of 15 teams in the event, which drew some of the top schools in the 4A Division, as well as Columbia River of Vancouver, Wash., which won the event with 319.

Marist was second (324), followed by St. Helens (343), Pendleton (346) and Cascade (457).

Evan Malabago finished with a 98, followed by Henry Gainer (99), Lynkin Royer (102) and Blayne Schuster (116).

Up next for the Huskies is the district tournament May 11-12 at Tokatee in McKenzie Bridge.

– Staff

SWEET HOME GIRLS GOLF

Sweet Home's girls finished sixth among six scoring teams on a rough day at Salishan in Lincoln City, in which even top 4A/3A/2A/1A golfers struggled, few shooting under 100 for the round.

Isabella Wagner led the Huskies with a 112, followed by Lynmikka Damag (122), Tori Victor (129), Taelyn Coleman (141) and Eleanor Larsen (146).

Only Santiam Christian's Emory Langeliers (85) and Akira White (88), and Blanchet's Hallie Beyer (96), normally near-par golfers, finished under 100.

Sweet Home hosted the Special District 3 district tournament Monday and Tuesday, May 4-5, of this week.

– Staff

LEBANON BOYS GOLF

Lebanon's boys finished sixth out of nine scoring teams in an MWC match Monday, May 27, at the OGA Golf Course in Woodburn.

The Warriors shot 351 to best South Albany (356). Corvallis won with 325, followed by Crescent Valley and Silverton (332), and West Albany and Dallas (337).

See Sports Roundup, Page 9

The family of Glen Sawyer

Would like to extend their heartfelt thanks for the kindness, compassion and support shown during this time of loss.

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With sincerest appreciation and gratitude
Marilyn, Steen, Cameron & Family

SPORTS ROUNDUP
From page 8

Sam Tunstall shot a seven-over 79 to lead Lebanon, followed by Joey Squires (83), Tanner Lee (93), Austin George (96) and Jaden Offutt (147).

The boys will host the MWC district tournament Monday and Tuesday, May 11-12, at Mallard Creek.

- Staff

EAST LINN BOYS GOLF

East Linn's boys finished fifth out of 10 scoring teams Monday, April 27, at McNary Golf Club in Keizer, hosted by Blanchet.

Parker Caddick led the Eagles with an 89 after Grady Knurowski had to withdraw from the competition after nine holes.

Anderson Kropf and Liam Medford both shot 95, and Wyatt Smothers finished with a 99, as ELCA scored 378 as a team. Pleasant Hill won the tournament with 338, followed by Santiam Christian (359), Salem Academy (361) and Regis (364).

The Eagles are scheduled to play in the Blue River State Preview Thursday, May 7, with districts on May 11 at Glendenen Beach.

- Staff

EAST LINN HOME TRACK

East Linn's girls took the team win and the boys were second in the Eagles' only high school track meet of the season Thursday, April 30.

The girls finished with 142 points to beat Delphian (110), Toledo (42), Santiam (22) and Monroe (19).

The boys were second with 78 points behind Delphian (120.5) and ahead of Monroe (57), Santiam (39.5) and Toledo (14).

Lexy Kauffman led the girls with wins in the 100 (13.02) and 200 (26.13), both season's bests, along with a leg on East Linn's winning 4x400 team that also included Erin Davey, Kaylyn Kauffman and June Cowan.

Cowan won the 100 hurdles in a season's-best 10.06 and was second in the 300 hurdles (51.82).

Also winning for the Eagles

See Sports Roundup, Page 10

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Warriors rounding into track form, showing promise

By Scott Swanson
Of The New Era

Lebanon's boys and girls both scored team wins over McKay and Woodburn Wednesday, April 29, in the Warriors' last home meet of the season.

The boys finished with 111.5 points, outscoring Woodburn (51.5) and McKay (26), while the girls, led by three first-place finishes by Addy Pickles, finished with 108 points, over McKay (54) and Woodburn (23).

"I like where we're at," said Coach Troy Walker. "The kids are rounding into form."

On the boys side, winners for the Warriors on the track were Bodhi Brown in the 100 (11.50), Cade Weber in the 200 (22.76), freshman Xavier Macedo in the 3000 (10:02.52), Tyler Deckert in the 300 hurdles (44.37) and the relay teams of Eadon Marshall, Logan Large, Weber and Brown in the 4x100 (43.94) and Large, Rowan Jones, Brown and Weber in the 4x400 (3:34.20).

In the field, Dylan Juntunen had a big day, winning won the shot with a personal best of 42-0¼, and the discus with another PR of 126-11½; David Brandt won the javelin (137-2), Michael Klutz the pole vault (10-0) and Large in the long jump (21-10½, a PR) and the triple jump (41-0½). Brown, jumping in the junior varsity long jump, won that with a personal best of 21-8½, nearly 2 feet over his previous best, in his first outing in that event this year.

Walker said Brown, a senior, hadn't jumped since last year.

"He was a jumper for me early on, then he started focusing more on sprints," Walker said, noting that Brown was injured while jumping a season ago. He'd recently expressed interest in

trying it again, the coach said.

That jump put Brown No. 4 in the state 5A rankings, immediately behind Large.

"Logan Large is jumping out of his mind right now," Walker said, noting that Large scratched "by an inch" on a massive leap of "22-6, 22-7" during last week's meet.

On the track for the girls, Pickles won the 100 in 13.06 and the 200 in 26.86, both season's bests, and Jocilynn Durgeloh topped the field in the 1500 in 5:29.60.

Winners in the field for the girls were Evangeline Graves in the discus with a personal best of 85-1½, Heather Savedra in the javelin (110-11), Molly Basting in the high jump (4-4), and Pickles in the long jump (16-4) and triple jump (34-10).

Behind Brown and Weber, who was also second in the 100 (11.66), the boys got some big scores out of the short sprints.

In the 100, Jack Whitacre was third in 11.89 and Zachary Dickerson fourth (12.02), both personal bests; with Marshall fifth (12.05) and Cody Cruz eighth (12.41) to round out Lebanon's scorers.

In the 200, Whitacre was second (23.86), Marshall third (24.23) and Jones fourth (24.24), all PRs.

Logan Taylor was second in the 400 (53.31), followed by Tyson Trask (58.56) in sixth and Jordan Tharp seventh (59.11), all PRs. Jackson Simmons was fourth in the 1500 (4:47.58).

Lebanon's "B" 4x100 team of Axel Bradbury, Aaron Bradbury, Michael Foubert and Giovanni Hodson finished sixth in 4:44.28.

In the shot, Grady Cox was third (37-4½) and Jaxon Christopherson was fourth (37-4), a personal best. John Roktka was third in the discus (102-4½) and Gunner

Barnes was fifth (96-7), both personal bests. Jaxon Christopherson was third in the javelin (120-10), ahead of Gabriel Manner in fourth (120-7), both PRs.

Cruz finished second in the high jump (5-2) and Marshall was second in the long jump (19-9½), with Dickerson fourth with an 18-1 in the varsity competition. In the JV long jump, the Warriors swept the top seven spots: Deckert second with 18-8½ (a PR), Whitacre third (18-7½, a PR), and Logan Taylor fourth in 18-4½, Steven Searles fifth (17-3, a PR), Cody Cruz sixth (17-1, a PR), and Brody Hensley seventh (16-10), all which would have placed in the varsity competition.

In the triple, Deckert was second (39-2, a PR) and Dickerson third (37-5).

Scorers for the girls on the track included 100 finishers Jane Brandt third in 13.51, Harper Pepperling fourth in 13.67, Ruby Vandebos, fifth in 13.89, and Alyssa Shiltsov, sixth in a PR of 13.92.

Pepperling was second in the 200 (27.63, a PR), Brandt third in 28.01, a PR, and Zhiltsov fourth in 28.97, a PR.

Freshman Danica Teague was third in the 400 (1:14.33) and Grace Murray, also a freshman, was fifth (1:16.19, a PR).

In the 800, Vorderstrasse was second in 2:47.12, with freshman Hannah Pool third in 3:05.17.

Freshmen Daphne Graves (6:46.30) and Ava Mills (6:58.33, a PR) were third and fourth in the 1500 and Mills was sixth in the 3000 (15:01.08), also a PR.

Freshman Libby Pointer was second in the 100 hurdles (19:15) and the 300 hurdles (54.14), both personal bests. Savedra was third in the 100 hurdles (19:34) and Ariahna Durgeloh was fifth

(21:20). Basting was fourth in the 300 Hurdles in 54.58 and Durgeloh seventh in 1:01.28, both PRs.

The 4x400 relay team of Vorderstrasse, Pool, Thayer and Murray were third in 4:59.50.

Maliha Mowdy was fourth in the varsity shot with a throw of 26-4½, literally a quarter-inch ahead of Leslie Thayer in fifth (25-4½) and Raquel Biggs, sixth in 25-1½.

In the junior varsity shot, Graves finished first with a personal best of 27-8½ and Teryn Gandy was second with 26-0¾, also a PR.

Gandy was third in the varsity discus with a PR of 76-1, and Zoey Beskow was fourth (74-5½).

Mowdy finished second in the javelin behind Savedra (86-0, a PR) and Harmony Villfana-Garcia was third (84-7).

Pointer was second in the high jump (4-2), and Basting was second (8-0) and Thayer was third (8-0, a PR) in the pole vault.

In the long jump and triple, Vandebos was second behind Pickles in 16-3 and 34-5½ respectively. Brandt was third in the long jump in 16-1. Estes was third in the triple jump (29-9), while Brandt jumped 30-2 to win

the junior varsity triple.

"That's a battle between Jane and Harper in the long jump," Walker said.

Pickles brings state experience and Savedra is ranked fifth in the javelin this week, but the girls aren't loaded in terms of potential for state thus far, and that has been exacerbated by an injury to sophomore Brooklyn Hensley, who was a likely scorer in the 100 hurdles and a big contributor in the short relay, Walker said.

"We have such high-level kids that are there - Vandebos, Addy. The key kids are peaking at the right time, but we just don't have a lot of kids moving into that area right now. The younger kids are still learning."

The boys are showing potential for state qualifiers, with Brown, Large, Weber, Jones and younger athletes, such as Johnson, Walker said.

Nonetheless, he said, "We have such a great group of kids. They're going to compete for some podium spots at state."

Lebanon travels to Central Tuesday, May 5, to face the hosts and Dallas, then will compete Friday, May 8 at the Garden City Invitational on the Silverton Middle School campus.

SPORTS ROUNDUP

From page 9

was Maci Modderman in the discus, scoring a personal best with a throw of 104-6, and finishing second in the shot, also with a PR, of 34-1.

Winners for the boys were Jonah Magness in the 800 (2:14.19), the 4x400 relay team of Magness, Josh Rehart, Gabe Talleur and Ryder Howard (3:37.67), Howard in the high jump (5-11) and the long jump (21-2, a personal best), and Hank Davidson in the pole vault (11-3).

For the girls, Svetlana Manner won the pole vault, clearing 7-9, and was third in the javelin (91-0) behind Allie Presley, second with 91-5.

Ella Stutzman was second in the triple jump (29-8, a PR) and Avery Runyon was third (28-0).

In the distances, Presley was second in the 800 (3:00.50) with Anna Henry third (3:11.39), while

Morgan Lalonde was second in the 1500 (5:49.63) and Bella Albert finished second in the 3000 (13:02.86).

On the boys side, other top finishers were Rehart, second in the 100 (11.79) and 200 (23.33), both personal bests, with Howard third in the 200 (23.77, also a PR).

Jack Johnson was second in the 800, behind Magness, in a PR of 2:28.15.

Davidson, Talleur, Beckham Kramer and Magness combined for second in the 4x100 (46.71).

Davidson was third in the discus (110-10) and Kramer was second in the pole vault in a PR of 9-9.

Up next for East Linn is the Jim Mucken Memorial Invitational Friday, May 8, at Blanchet.

- Staff

EAST LINN BASEBALL

The Eagles had a tough time last week in a home-and-home series with No. 3-ranked Monroe, and being at home wasn't an advantage as they lost 7-1 on the road, then both home games on Thursday and Saturday by the same 11-0 score.

East Linn couldn't slow the Dragons, its pitching staff giving up nine hits in the first game, 10 in the second and nine in the third, while managing just two hits of its own in the first game, from Blake Burns and Marshall Darwood, one in the second from Asher Taylor and one in the third, from Casey May.

The Eagles entered this week 5-9 in Special District 3 play, 8-9 overall, and sitting sixth in the league. This week they travel to Culver on Tuesday, May 5, then host the Bulldogs for a double-header Friday, May 8.

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Medical students offer services in annual health care fair

By Sarah Brown
Of The New Era

Lebanon was home to the second annual Rural Health Care Equity Fair, which was held Saturday, May 2, by students of the Western University of Health Science Lebanon campuses.

The event brings basic health screenings and other resources to an area that doesn't see a lot of access to healthcare provision.

"The students really wanted to bring on a community event to provide healthcare for the community, which is something that the school has wanted to do for years and years, but it takes a lot of motivation and a lot of energy and a lot of time commitment," said Western University's Gina Miller, supervising physician for the students.

"The most important priority for us was ensuring that everything was provided for free today," she said.

When Miller, herself, was a student at Oregon Health & Science University, she started a health fair in 2006, which is still ongoing for 18 years now. When Lebanon's medical students learned about her efforts, they asked her to help them bring something similar to this community, she said.

It was medical student Tiffany Tran who really got the ball off the ground when she took on the task of forming the fair in Lebanon these past two years.

"It was a big ask," she said. "We had never done this before, no one ever figured out where to put it, what to have."

According to Tran, with a background in public and community health, as well as eight years of organizing health fairs, coming to Lebanon from southern California was a different experience.

"I was shocked that there were not a lot of resources for people living here to go and see (what I call) 'gap' healthcare," Tran said.

Although she intends to specialize in family medicine, her ultimate goal is to help change how healthcare is structured in the U.S. Tran actually has a background in political science and biology, to start.

"I thought I wanted to go into law to change healthcare on the legal side," she said. "But in shadowing a lot of lawyers, I realized that the change I want to see in healthcare cannot be done from a legal standpoint. It needs to be done as someone who has the knowledge but is also within the field to change it."

And so she moves toward a medical career, starting with an education at COMP-NW in Lebanon.

This particular event in

Lebanon marks the 57th health fair Tran has organized in her lifetime.

Still, there was a lot to learn by starting one from scratch in Lebanon, and the first one last year was not as well-attended as this year.

"I'm really ecstatic to see so many people turn out," she said of this year.

The annual fair, held at The River Center, provided an opportunity for the public to receive free sports physicals for students, nutrition and exercise education, child development services, and screenings for general health, blood pressure, glucose and balance.

Also available was osteo-

pathic manipulative treatment (OMT), which is essentially manipulation of the body to help improve infection and muscle recovery.

Local community organizations, such as Family Tree Relief Nursery, Lebanon Mental Health Alliance, Samaritan Health, East Linn Community Clinic, Practical Application Labs and others also showed up to share their services.

Tran said it was important for her that, while the school gives a lot to the students, the students give a lot back to the community.

"This is an opportunity for us to say thanks for letting us be a part of your community," Tran said.



Tiffany Tran, at right, asks a walk-in "patient" if he is interested in a general health screening or osteopathic manipulative treatment during the second annual Rural Health Care Equity Fair at The River Center on May 2. - Photo by Sarah Brown

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Eagles' unbeaten softball streak ends against Monroe

East Linn's softball team's 12-game winning streak ended last week with three losses to No. 9 Monroe.

The first game, on Tuesday, April 28, featured a late charge by the Eagles, but it was too little too late as the hosts built a 7-0 lead in the first two innings and held on for a 9-6 win.

Ally Hatch went 3-4 at the plate for East Linn and Madison Adams and Meeya Rehnberg both had two hits in four at-bats as the Eagles rolled up 13 hits, but although Monroe only had 12, they were timely, including a line-drive triple to center field by Madison Holman in the second to score two runners.

Game 2 was tighter, with East Linn leading 7-0 after two innings. The Eagles stretched that lead to 12-7 in the bottom of the fifth, but then Monroe's batters went to work, cracking two doubles to help them close the gap by five runs to 12-10 going into the bottom of the sixth.

The Dragons took advantage of ELCA mistakes and their bats really came alive in the top of the seventh, exiting the inning with three doubles and four singles – and an 18-12 lead, which proved to be the final score.

In the third game, Monroe built its lead consistently, inning by inning, leading 3-0 after the second inning, and adding four more runs in the

third for a 7-0 lead.

Abby Mitchell got the Eagles on the scoreboard in the bottom of the fourth, scoring on a wild pitch, but a triple from Josi Davidson didn't pay off as the next batter grounded out to end the inning.

Leading 8-1 going into the top of the seventh, the Dragons took advantage of five hit batters as Alivia Kropf left the circle and was replaced, first by Mitchell and then by Macy Rehnberg. and two walks, plus a triple from Kylie Eastridge early on, to finish with a 19-1 lead.

East Linn wasn't giving up: Ally Hatch led off with a double and was scored by Davidson, after which Eva Pimm doubled to score Davidson. Meeya Rehnberg singled to score Pimm, but that ended the Eagles' offensive output and the game at 19-4.

The Dragons finished with 14 hits, to six for East Linn, two of them from Davidson.

With two weeks left in the season, East Linn, 11-3 in league and 13-4 overall coming into this week, travels to Culver (6-9, 7-11) Tuesday, May 5, then plays a doubleheader against the Bulldogs on Friday, May 8.

The Eagles are solidly in third in Special District 3, and wins over Culver would clinch that ranking. Regis led the league at 15-0 this week, with Monroe second (12-3).



East Linn's Josi Davidson takes a pick-off throw as Monroe's Paola Cisneros scurries back to the bag Saturday. See more game photos at sweethomenews.com/lebanonlocalnews.com.

- Cole Harnar photo

Hunters urged to bone up on changes

With the May 15 deadline approaching, ODFW is reminding hunters to apply early for 2026 controlled deer hunts and to carefully review changes to Eastern Oregon deer hunts.

With the transition from Wildlife Management Units to Deer Hunt Areas in eastern Oregon, hunters who wait until the last minute may find themselves overwhelmed by unfamiliar boundaries, new naming systems, and updated tag structures.

"This is a big change, and we want hunters to feel con-

fident when they apply," said Brian Wolfer, ODFW deputy administrator, Wildlife Division. "The best thing hunters can do is start reviewing the new hunt areas now rather than waiting until May 15."

To help deer hunters make their hunt choice, ODFW has provided resources at myodfw.com/articles/eastern-oregon-deer-hunts. The webpage includes an interactive map, hunt transition guide where you can enter an old hunt number to find the new hunt area, and an instructional video to support

preparation for the upcoming season.

More about deer hunt changes:

Beginning this fall, all Eastern Oregon deer hunts are organized around 22 newly identified mule deer herd ranges, replacing the WMU system that has been in place since the 1950s. These new hunt areas are designed to better reflect how deer move across the landscape throughout the year, improving population monitoring

See Hunters, Page 13



Lebanon's Sierra Miller takes a chip shot during last week's match at Mallard Creek. See more photos from the match at lebanonlocalnews.com.

- Cole Harnar photo

Lebanon girls wind down golf season; Miller on to districts

Sierra Miller led the Warriors with a 91 as they hosted the Mid-Willamette Conference teams in a match at Mallard Creek Monday, April 27.

Crescent Valley finished first among the seven scoring teams with 384, with Dorvalis second (412) and Silverton third (424). Lebanon was seventh with 470.

Sophie Culbertson and Bailey Lester both shot 121, Kapri Collins finished with 137 and Carmen Johnson had a 138.

The girls will host the MWC district meet Monday and Tuesday, May 11-12, at

Mallard Creek.

Miller, a junior who has been part of the program since Coach Bart Baldwin took it over three years ago, has qualified for the district tournament and will play at Mallard Creek, Baldwin said.

"Her game is shaping up really well right now, late this season," the coach said. "If she gets off the tee box consistently, her short game is as good as anybody else's in the district."

"I'm looking forward to seeing what scores she will post next week."

- Scott Swanson

The **ICEBOX** Performer Of The Week



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

Tyler has been making a real impact in the shop, and it hasn't gone unnoticed. Multiple team members have taken the time to recognize how hard he's working and the difference he's making.

He supports many departments across the shop, and his hard work, dedication, and attention to detail are a great example of what we strive for here at Radiator Supply House.

Thank you, Tyler, for everything you bring to the team. We appreciate you!



Huskies drop Cascade baseball series in 3 tight games

By Keeghan Gittins
For The New Era

Sweet Home's baseball team lost its series last week against Cascade, 2-1. All three games were decided in the final innings.

The opening game remained close through much of the contest, with the score sitting at 4-3 through six innings. The Cougars broke things open in the seventh, scoring four runs, while the Huskies were unable to answer, resulting in an 8-3 loss.

The second game proved to be the turning point of the series, as Sweet Home suffered a collapse in an extra-inning defeat despite out-hitting Cascade 14-9 and committing just one error compared to Cascade's four.

The Huskies built a 5-1 lead heading into the bottom of the sixth inning, but Cascade responded with three runs to cut into the deficit.

Sweet Home's offense stalled, as a line out followed by a double play ended their opportunity to extend the lead.

On the mound, Luke Rosa entered in the seventh to close things out. After allowing a walk and a single, he recorded a strikeout, but an error allowed Cascade to tie the game at 5-5. A line out sent the contest into extra innings.

In the top of the eighth, the Huskies put runners on second and third but were unable to capitalize, as a fly, and ground out kept them scoreless. In the bottom half, Rosa walked the first batter before Brayden McClure entered in relief, hitting the next batter and allowing a single. Conner Northern was then brought in, but with the bases loaded, he walked the next batter, ending the game 6-5.

Northern led the Huskies offensively with three hits and three RBIs. Kyler Bondesen, Kyle Zajic and Tregon Francis each recorded a double, while Damon Lawrence added three stolen bases. Six different pitchers took the mound for Sweet Home, with Mason Rosa throwing

four innings, allowing one hit and one run, while walking five. Zajic gave up five hits and three runs in one inning, and Colton Lindsey threw just four pitches in his appearance.

"Even though Colten didn't throw many pitches he did what we needed him to do and got us out of a jam..." said Teter.

In Game 3, Sweet Home bounced back to take the series finale despite Cascade collecting 11 hits off Luke Rosa over seven innings. Strong infield play and multiple executed pickoff traps limited Cascade to four runs.

Offensively, the Huskies totaled five hits but capitalized on smart baserunning, Rosa was able to steal home. The team overall scored five runs. Bondesen led the team with two hits, while both McClure and Rosa recorded doubles.

"That was a designed play that we practice and have had in place for a while," Teter said. "It doesn't always work, but obviously, it went our way in that moment."

The game-winning tag-out at third was made by Bondesen, a sophomore who has had a newfound role on the team.

"Kyler had a great week," Teter said. "We put him at third this week to see how he did. He struggled a bit in the field but his bat came up clutch in multiple situations."

"It was awesome to see him step up and be successful. The bunt he laid down in Game 3 was beautiful. He's one of the most skilled bunters on the team and I was pumped when he was able to showcase that in a big moment."

Across the series, tight games ultimately went against the Huskies until the finale.

"We keep coming back to wanting to be on the big stage in those moments," Teter said. "Late in tight games we can shrink and shut down, or want to be the guy that breaks the game open. I think early in the week we weren't wanting those moments, but when



Sweet Home first baseman Conner Northern awaits the ball on a pickoff attempt as a Cascade runner dives for the bag. See more game photos at sweethomenews.com.

- Keeghan Gittins photo

Game 3 rolled around there was a shift and we had some guys come up clutch."

Zajic's struggles on the mound were also a factor in the series.

"Kyle had an off week on the mound, which I know got to him a bit," the coach said. "He's a very talented athlete and hasn't had to encounter a lot of failure, but I think this will be beneficial in the long run."

"Baseball is a game of failure and it isn't fair for us to assume we're going to be perfect all the time. What matters is how we bounce back from those moments of failure."

Pitching changes throughout the second game reflected both strategy and circumstance.

"In an extra inning game like that, that may happen. Macen started off great for us. We gave up some free bases which we try to avoid, but after Macen came out we had to do some shifting around," Teter said.

"When we had a couple guys go in late in the game, it was a Hail Mary situation."

Free bases also played a role throughout the series.

"It was more so pitchers missing their spots," he said. "We have struggled a bit on the mound the last couple weeks, but we have done great on the mound for a majority of the season. Baseball players go through slumps, and we're hoping we're back to our normal

selves on the mound this week."

Despite the series loss, the Huskies remain focused on moving forward.

"We feel good going into the Newport series," Teter

said. "Our backs are against the wall with our end of the year goals, and we have done well so far this year in those situations. I'm excited to see how they perform and compete."

HUNTERS From page 12

and harvest management.

Extensive research using GPS-collared deer has shown that the WMUs did not accurately reflect deer behavior. For example, many deer spend summer and early fall (when they are harvested) in different WMUs than during winter (when they are counted by ODFW).

This change brings a new naming system and new boundaries to the 100 Series Buck Deer and 600 Series Antlerless Deer hunts. Overall, there is a 9% reduction in available deer tags, reflecting

current buck ratios and population estimates. Tag numbers could fluctuate over the next few years as hunters and ODFW adapt to these new hunt areas. Hunters will also see updated landowner preference tag formulas and separate hunts for mule deer and white-tailed deer in some areas of northeast Oregon where both species occur.

Key Changes Hunters Need to Know:

- New Hunt Area System: Eastern Oregon deer WMUs are being replaced by Deer Hunt Areas aligned with herd ranges.
- New Naming Format:

Deer Hunt Areas and hunt names will use codes like NE01 or CR101R instead of traditional WMU names and numbers.

- Larger Hunt Areas: A few new areas are significantly larger, offering more flexibility during wildfire or pressure events.

- Tag Adjustments: A 9% reduction in Eastern Oregon deer tags for 2026; numbers may fluctuate in coming years.

- Preference Points: There are no changes to the Preference Points system. Points carry over but draw outcomes may be less predictable during the transition.

Linn County's proposed \$299M budget slated for June adoption

By Alex Paul
Linn County Communications

After three days of presentations by elected officials and department heads, the Linn County Budget Committee approved a proposed budget of \$299,208,722 on April 30.

The current FY 2025-2026 operating budget is \$287.2 million.

The budget will not become official until formally adopted by the Linn County Board of Commissioners at a meeting in June.

Kerry Johnson chaired this year's Budget Committee and Rex Watson was vice-chair. Fellow community member was Dustin Welters and the committee was rounded out by Commissioners Roger Nyquist, Sherrie Sprenger and Will Tucker.

In the annual Budget Message presented on day one of the hearings, it was noted that the goal was "maintaining and improving services to Linn County citizens."

The budget was based in part on a projected property valuation growth of 3.5%, which would provide an es-

timated net total of \$16.9 million in revenue to the General Fund and approximately \$59 million for the Law Enforcement Fund, an increase of about \$800,000 and \$3 million over the current budget year. Other revenues are primarily from dedicated pass-through funds, such as for the Health Department and Road Department.

Personnel costs are expected to increase about 6% due to Cost of Living Adjustments in salaries as well as increases for payroll and insurance costs.

The budget reflects a decrease of 2.27 personnel for a total of 757.47 FTE staffing.

The following funds were approved by the committee:
General Fund: \$57,661,254;
Road Fund: \$53,606,262;
Fair Fund: \$860,000;
Law Library: \$347,326;
General Grants Fund: \$18,827,915;
Bicycle and Pedestrian Fund: \$896,076;
Corner Preservation Fund: \$430,394;
Law Enforcement Levy: \$58,987,584;
Historical Fund: \$50,680;

County Forest Park Fund: \$1,561,500;
Health Fund: \$97,568,588;
County School Fund: \$1,966,100;
Internal Service Fund: \$6,445,043.

Total: \$299,208,722.
Permanent Tax Rate: \$1.2736 per \$1,000 of property valuation.

Law Enforcement Levy: \$3.08 per \$1,000 of property tax valuation.

4-H and Extension Service District

The 4-H and Extension Service District Budget Committee, chaired by Audrey Raschein, also approved its 2026-27 proposed budget. It is scheduled for adoption by the Board of Commissioners at a meeting to be held in June.

The approved budget is \$967,823.

The funds will be used to pay for salaries, \$390,285; other payroll expenses, \$223,540; student and intermittent salaries, \$25,000; and services and supplies, \$102,548.

The permanent tax rate was set at seven cents per \$1,000 of property tax valuation.



This bridge over Marks Slough is slated for repairs May 11.

Tennessee Road bridge repairs to start May 11

Repairs to a local bridge over Marks Slough on Tennessee Road will begin on Monday, May 11, according to the Linn County Road Department staff.

The Road Department anticipates completing the repairs within two weeks. The bridge will be closed to traffic for the duration of the project. Repairs consist of replacing two wooden caps and two headwalls. Upon completion of the repairs the bridge will be open to two lanes of traffic.

Last year, after reviewing recent bridge inspection reports, bridge engineers identified the need to shift traffic off a section of the bridge.

This allowed the bridge to remain open to traffic until repairs could be completed. Bridges are routinely inspected to ensure they are safe for travel. Bridge engineers review those inspections to determine if any action is needed.

To see the full list of bridge repairs planned in 2026, visit the Linn County Road Department's website at: www.linncountyor.gov/media/54291.

Information on planned road closures can be found at www.linncountyor.gov/roads/page/road-closures-and-notices.

FIRE SAFETY

From page 6

care of yourself, you can't help anyone else," said Paul Thompson, a volunteer trainer. "So it's ourselves, our families, our immediate neighborhood and then we branch out from there."

Thompson encouraged residents to get to know their neighbors, understand the resources around them and consider what they can offer in an emergency.

"Do you have medical per-

sonnel in your neighborhood, an IT person, people who are good with tools?" he said.

He said immediate neighborhoods often become the first line of support during a disaster, as emergency responders may not be able to reach every area right away.

CERT offers training twice a year and can provide additional sessions for groups of 10 or more. More information is available on the Linn County Sheriff's Office website.

Protecting Your Home

Local officials also stressed

the importance of home preparedness, including creating defensible space by clearing vegetation at least 30 feet from structures and maintaining roofs and gutters.

"Clearing away debris around your home, cleaning off any pine needles off the roof, or cleaning up the gutters will all help," said Ben Dudik, Pacific Power vegetation manager. "It will take time, but each project will help reduce your home's risk to damage or loss because of wildfire."

Looking Ahead

Sweet Home Fire Chief Nick Tyler said early preparation will be especially important this year, particularly for communities like Sweet Home that border forestland.

"Here in Sweet Home, we live right up against the wildland — that's part of what makes this place special — but it also means wildfire preparedness is everyone's responsibility," Tyler said.

He emphasized that small, proactive steps around the home can make a significant

difference, especially given how wildfires behave in the area.

"In our area, embers can travel well ahead of the fire — so what's right around your home matters most," Tyler said.

Tyler also encouraged residents to take advantage of local resources designed to help reduce risk.

"The Sweet Home Fire and Ambulance District also offers a Home Assessment Program," he said. "Our personnel can come out, walk your property with you, and provide practical, site-specific recommendations to improve defensible space and reduce wildfire risk. It's a simple step that can make a big difference, and we strongly encourage residents to take advantage of it."

He said changing conditions this year make early preparation critical.

"Sweet Home is no stranger to wildfire risk," Tyler said. "The difference this year is how early things could dry out. The best thing our community can do right now is prepare early — because when a fire starts, it's too late to catch up."

Residents can sign up for outage alerts, view outage maps and find preparedness resources through Pacific Power, as well as access local alert systems and emergency information through city and county agencies.



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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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Samaritan merger with MultiCare expected to provide more expertise

By Sarah Brown
Of The New Era

Sy Johnson, CEO of Samaritan Valley Hospitals in Albany, Corvallis and Lebanon, gave an overview of how Samaritan's affiliation with MultiCare Health System will provide more services to the valley during a lunch forum hosted by the Lebanon Chamber of Commerce on April 24.

"I think this scale that we're connecting to and the expertise we're connecting to gives me confidence that over the coming decades we'll be positioned to make sure that what you get is what you should get," he said.

Samaritan Health Services applied to the Washington-based organization last November, and is currently in a period of review by the state, during which time the public can weigh-in to the state with questions and comments.

As such, Samaritan is in a state of limbo as it waits to learn whether it will be accepted into the locally governed nonprofit that can provide Samaritan's patients access to better services and expertise, Johnson said.

With healthcare in increasing demand across the country – more hospital admissions, more doctors visits, more drugs prescribed, more imaging scans – patients are in need of a lot of services that they want access to, he said.

"They want it quickly and they want it without a lot of cost," he said. "Samaritan is part of the country's infrastructure trying to make sure we're doing all we can to deliver that – how do we make sure that you have access to everything you need as quickly and easily and cheaply as possible? And so that's a big lift."



Sy Johnson, of Samaritan, talks about the expertise he believes MultiCare Health System will bring to the table once the state approves their affiliation. - Photo by Sarah Brown

As Samaritan looks at itself, looks at how things in the country are changing, considers the scope and scale and all the implications, "that whole conversation has led to this discussion about the affiliation with MultiCare."

It comes down to access to expertise, Johnson said.

In order to be confident Samaritan is providing access to all the best possible services needed, then expertise is needed in multiple areas, he said. That includes staying on top of what's at the forefront of medical care and oncology, how to fund it, what's going on in AI, how technology is changing, and what's going on in Washington, DC, and Salem that's impacting all that.

"All these many complex factors, you need a lot of people who have a lot of deep expertise to manage all that and incorporate all that and make sure that at the end of the day, when you're delivering care to bedside or in a doctor's office or virtually in

some other way, that's the best possible care that it can be with the resources that exist across all of that spectrum," he said.

And that's something that is hard to do on Samaritan's scale, but connecting to an organization such as MultiCare can maximize the potential. Johnson said MultiCare has a "deeper pool of talent and the funding to support that to be in all those places and to know all those things all in real time, all year long, year after year."

As Samaritan waits for an answer from the state, executives are confident it will be approved, he said. If, or when, it is approved, the next step is the transaction between the two healthcare systems, "and then we're live."

The first thing Johnson wanted listeners to understand is that Samaritan expects to provide continuity – nothing will be disrupted.

"That means we continue to run all the hospitals that we run. That means we con-

tinue to run all the programs that we run, cardiovascular care, trauma services, oncology services, critical access, hospitals, primary care, outpatient surgery, all the things you know about, they'll continue. You won't see a change in any of those things after close."

The second thing to expect is increased opportunity.

"There are opportunities to increase the value of the care that we deliver, to do a better job of it, to do it at a lower cost," he said.

And also aligning around access and market needs, as it is understood that Samaritan patients may have trouble accessing primary care services, Johnson said.

"In general, we know we have opportunity to increase access, and we need to increase access, and we see ways that we can do that, leveraging some of the capabilities and some of the ways that we know MultiCare has done that in other communities that we have not done

in Samaritan before," he said. "Now we think we can bring some of that here, and that will help all of us get access to things that we need more easily, and maybe it'll be a better price point."

And finally, Samaritan expects to provide improved care models through its merger with MultiCare, which would involve having leaders at the forefront of the range of diseases who can provide expertise in the changing landscape of healthcare.

"What that means for us is that we'll have access to more expertise when we include all of MultiCare's experts than we have when we only include our own, and that will only make us stronger. It won't dramatically change any of our services, because we're already doing that, but I think as we move forward, we'll be able to stay current and stay as close to the forefront as possible all the time."

The merger will make Samaritan the first Oregon-based health system for MultiCare. And Johnson believes Samaritan benefits MultiCare with its knowledge and experience with medical education, "figuring out how we can expand programs and help train more physicians and providers across the region."

By sharing expertise and access between the two healthcare systems, Johnson said patients should be able to expect better care, which is what Samaritan is all about.

"Samaritan cares about health and healthcare for everybody across the whole continuum," he said. "We take all of it seriously and want to do the best we can possibly do for everybody across the valley and all the way to the coast."



Q: What are the worst drinks for my teeth?

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

1. Soda: Two of the most harmful things for our teeth are sugar and acid, and carbonated beverages are full of both! The teeth literally start dissolving under the attack of acid, leading to cavities.

2. Sports Drinks: Like soda, they are often full of sugar and are highly acidic. One study showed that lemon-lime Gatorade dissolved more tooth enamel than any other drink, including Coke.

3. Fruit Juice: After reading to this point, you probably know what this is on the list. Juice has lots of sugar and acid too. While it could be considered a healthy option, most fitness experts will advise you not to drink you calories. Eat the entire fruit instead and enjoy the health benefits of the fiber.

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

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

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

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

Sweet Home budget introduced, small business seeks respite

By Sarah Brown
Of The New Era

The City of Sweet Home presented its proposed budget for the 2026-2027 fiscal year during the first Budget Committee meeting on Wednesday, April 29.

In his budget message, Budget Officer Jason Ogden said the proposed \$43.9 million budget was developed in alignment with the City Council goals for the next fiscal year. The goals are organized around five focus areas: desirable community, efficient government, infrastructure, essential services, and economic strength.

"This year's goals reflect a continued shift from planning toward implementation of key projects and investments," he said.

Some of those goals include restoration of Weddle Bridge, pedestrian improvements along Mountain View Road, development of Quarry Park, advancement of the Willow-Yucca Local Improvement District, updates to the wastewater treatment plant, and funding for the Commercial Exterior Improvement Program.

Ogden noted the \$7.84 million General Fund is seeing a "modest increase" of about \$127,000, reflecting "stable operations" and "increased activity" in capital, enterprise

and project-specific funds.

Still, as Finance Director Matt Brown pointed out, overall department expenditures are increasing about 4% due mainly to cost of living increases, as well as insurance and retirement increases.

Small business seeks respite from council

Prior to the Budget Committee meeting, the City Council held its regular meeting on Tuesday, April 28, during which time they approved the authorization to temporarily close down Long Street between 15th and 22nd avenues for a special parade.

Sweet Home High School will present its first May Day Parade at 1:15 p.m. on Friday, May 15. The closure is expected to last approximately 30 minutes.

Also during the meeting, Jamee Millard addressed the council about what she called "administrative targeting and over-regulation" concerning her business, Dad Bod Detailing.

According to Millard, the city complained about her signage last year when she operated out of her home, and they complained again after her business moved into a commercial building on Main Street.

She said the complaint was factually incorrect, as "they were asking for a sign to be

permitted to a sign that already existed" at her current location, and another complaint about a sandwich board and inflatable, despite the fact, she said, that these forms of signage are "everywhere" in the downtown area.

The city also directed Millard's business to install an industrial-grade water-catchment system, but the Department of Environmental Quality informed her that she qualifies for an exemption, she said. Still, the city "ignores" the exemption and is requiring her to move forward with an expensive overhaul.

Millard left her letter of concern with the City Council for further consideration. Her husband, Chris Millard, also approached the council with similar concerns, stating the city is "actively working against the very businesses that sustain this community."

He said city staff consistently harass the business and have not even tried talking to them face to face, and despite hosting fundraisers for local youth and nonprofits, Dad Bod will now have to close its doors on June 30.

"We are asking the council to intervene where your staff has failed," Chris told the council. "Lift the restrictive hauling requirements and allow us to operate under our original eco-friendly model."

City Manager Jason Ogden told the council the city cannot overlook code violations, including DEQ requirements on stormwater drainage.

"We're committed to working with them to make sure that their business is successful," Ogden said. "I can assure you that we are not singling them out, we're not targeting them."

Ogden later told The New Era that the city has been working with the business over a number of months to address permitting, land use and stormwater requirements related to their operations.

The main issue is wash water entering the storm system, which ultimately flows to local waterways, he said. That type of discharge is regulated at the state level to protect water quality.

Once it was confirmed that wash water was entering the storm system, the DEQ became involved as the regulatory authority. City staff coordinated with DEQ and worked with the business to provide clear options for getting into compliance, including containment and proper disposal of wash water.

"While certain limited activities may qualify for exemptions under DEQ rules, typical day-to-day commercial car wash operations do not," Ogden said. "While a

stop work order is one of the tools available to us when violations occur, we always try to work in good faith with businesses to allow them to remain open while pursuing resolutions, as we have in this case."

Ogden said the city has tried working with the business while also following laws that protect infrastructure and waterways, and the city applies the requirements equally to all similar businesses.

"We're continuing to work toward a solution that allows the business to operate in compliance," he said.

In other business:

- Mayor Susan Coleman recognized Christian Romero, a freshman who is trying to volunteer 1,000 hours before he graduates high school. So far he has volunteered 450 hours. "I just want to say thank you," she told Romero. "Your investment into the community is an example to all the adults in the room and how much you want this community to improve and participate."

- Councilor Ken Bronson highlighted that Samaritan Health provides nutrition and diabetic education on Fridays at the Sweet Home clinic at 1289 49th Avenue. Contact Heidi Womack for more information at 541-451-6313.

Wildfire grant coordinator announces free homeowner course

By Sarah Brown
Of The New Era

Following the hiring of a grant coordinator, Sweet Home Fire and Ambulance District announced its kick-off event from funds delivered by the CWDG grant.

Maddie Tutton was recently hired by SHFAD as a coordinator for the Community Wildfire Defense Grant (CWDG),

which has delivered more than \$8 million to the county for wildfire prevention.

Born in Newport Beach, Calif., Tutton said she "traded the coast for the Pacific Northwest" in order to attend the University of Washington where she "discovered a deep appreciation for forests."

Tutton graduated with a Bachelor of Science in Environmental Studies and Re-

source Management, then began her career as a seasonal wildland firefighter based in Eugene where she "developed a strong passion" for fire management.

Between seasons, she planted trees in New Jersey, then served as a Forestry Fellow with the Sierra Nevada Alliance, coordinating reforestation efforts across the Sierra Nevada.

It was in that role that she collaborated with public, private and nonprofit partners, including CAL FIRE, the U.S. Forest Service, Southern California Edison and private landowners.

Following her fellowship, she joined Sierra Pacific Industries as a Reforestation Specialist and worked on prescribed fire, fuels mitigation and reforestation projects in the South Sierras.

Last year, Tutton returned to Oregon for another season on a hand crew, continuing to build her experience in wildland fire.

"While I remain passionate about fire, my greatest commitment is to prevention - protecting forests, ecosystems and communities from the increasing threat of wildfire," she said.

With new funds coming into Linn County from the CWDG, wildfire preparedness efforts are ramping up.

The \$8.7 million grant pro-

vided through the USDA Forest Service Community Wildfire Defense Grant (CWDG) program funds a five-year project, "Wildfire Ready Linn County," led by the Sweet Home Fire and Ambulance District.

The project is a partnership between SHFAD, Lebanon Fire District, Oregon Department of Forestry, South Santiam Watershed Council, Calapooia Watershed Council and Linn County Juvenile Department, with support from OSU Extension's Fire Program, Linn County's Planning Department, Linn County's Emergency Management Department and Oregon State Fire Marshal.

The collaborative effort aims to create more fire-adapted communities, reduce hazardous fuels and increase wildfire preparedness by:

- Creating more fire-adapted communities - Building long-term capacity through a shared fuels project database, an ODF community wildfire forester position, and expanded property assessments.

- Reducing hazardous fuels - Funding professional and youth crews to complete free defensible space work around at-risk residences and offering free community chipper days.

- Increasing wildfire preparedness - Hosting community wildfire preparedness

events, delivering K-12 fire education to nearly 1,000 students annually, and supporting neighborhood-level wildfire preparedness efforts.

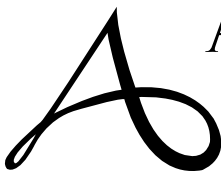
The goal is to complete more than 850 home assessments, treat 325 properties for defensible space and educate thousands of Linn County residents on wildfire preparedness.

"With this collaborative approach, we are laying the foundation in creating a more wildfire-resilient Linn County," Tutton said.

SHFAD is kicking off its work with a free workshop this month to help homeowners through its "Wildfire Ready Linn County" program. They will host a free half-day workshop from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Saturday, May 30, at Sankey Park to 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/iwqmofbHKs2oNHNk6 or contact Maddie Tutton at mtutton@sweethomefireor.gov.




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Public Notices

NOTICE OF BUDGET COMMITTEE MEETING

A public meeting of the Budget Committee of the Sweet Home Fire and Ambulance District, Linn County, State of Oregon, to discuss the budget for the fiscal year July 1, 2026 to June 30, 2027, will be held at Station 21, 1099 Long St., Sweet Home, Oregon 97386. The meeting will take place on May 19, 2026 at 6:30 o'clock p.m. The purpose of this meeting is to receive the budget message and to receive comment from the public on the budget. This is a public meeting where deliberation of the Budget Committee will take place. Any person may appear at the meeting to discuss the proposed programs with the Budget Committee. A copy of the budget document may be inspected or obtained on or after May 19, 2026 at 1099 Long Street, Sweet Home, Oregon 97386, between the hours of 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. Nick Tyler, Fire Chief, Sweet Home Fire and Ambulance District. (5/6)

**Sweet Home Police Department
1950 Main St., Sweet Home, OR
97386
(541) 367-5181**

Notice of intent to dispose of property under ORS 98.245

The Sweet Home Police Department has in its physical possession the unclaimed personal property described below. If you have any ownership interest in any of the unclaimed property, you must file a claim with the Sweet Home Police Department within 30 days from the date of publication of this notice or you will lose interest in that property. You may file a claim that presents proof satisfactory that you are the lawful owner or security interest holder of the property. The unclaimed property may be donated to a nonprofit organization or another government agency; retained for use by the City of Sweet Home; destroyed; or sold at public auction through govdeals.com, ebay.com or Facebook at any time after the 30-day period expires, May 6-June 5, 2026 (PP 26-02):

Phones, ammunition, vest, wallet and ID for Earl Dodge, cigarettes, hooks, lighters, keys, lpsy package, knives, bicycles, wallet and cards for Andrew Jones, baseball cap, debit card for Travis Wiener, backpack, clothing, metal pipes, charging cables, hammock, HDMI cables, pay sub for Meagan Turner, debit card for Thai Wells, ID for Michael Turnbull, tools, clock, tire pump, photos, tarp. (5/6)

Sale of Abandoned Manufactured Home: One (1) 1980 BENDIX manufactured dwelling, Plate number X175060, Home identification number 236512, Manufacturer's serial number(s) SE3648A, with contents (if any) has been abandoned by Gena K. Sellers. Said property is located at 5050 Columbus St SE, Spc 218, Albany, OR 97321. Said dwelling shall be sold by private bidding, with sealed bids, and "as is" (there is no warranty relating to title, possession, quiet enjoyment or the like). Bids must be for a specific stated dollar figure and must be delivered to

Public Notices

Columbus Greens MHP at 5050 Columbus St. SE, #41, Albany, OR 97322 no later than 10am on the 18th day of May, 2026. Upon confirmation of the winning bid, the purchaser must promptly tender full payment in secured funds, only; money order, wire transfer, or cashiers' check and promptly remove the dwelling from the manufactured home park unless a storage agreement can be promptly negotiated between the successful bidder and the Park. Future owner occupancy of the dwelling onsite would require successful application for tenancy, screening, and entry into a written rental agreement, none of which will be considered until after the sale is complete. This auction may be cancelled at any time prior to the start of bidding without notice. For additional information, or to ask questions, please contact Crystal Mathews at 541-928-5163. (5/6 - 5/13)

NOTICE OF ONLINE AUCTION

A SQUARED STORAGE 1294 44th Ave. Sweet Home, OR 97386 Online bidding at www.storageauctions.com, auction ends 05/21/2026 at 11:00 a.m. Paul Donaldson, unit 111 & Chris Lawrence, unit 220. (5/6 - 5/13)

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE STATE OF OREGON FOR THE COUNTY OF LINN IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF VICKY FAYE GIBSON, deceased, Case No. 26PB03742

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 6, 2026.

Edward Grant Gibson, Personal Representative. Jessica K. Meyer, OSB #053242

Jessica K. Meyer Law LLC, 80 E. Maple St., Lebanon OR 97355 (5/6)

RV & Boat Storage

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

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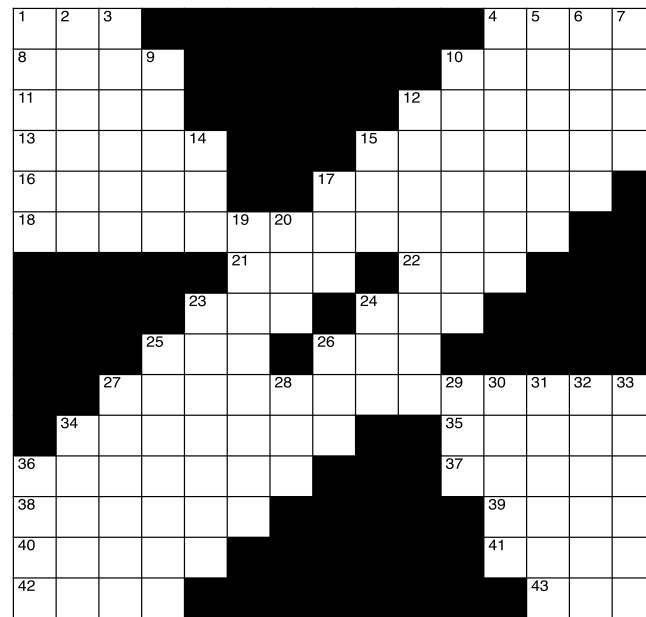
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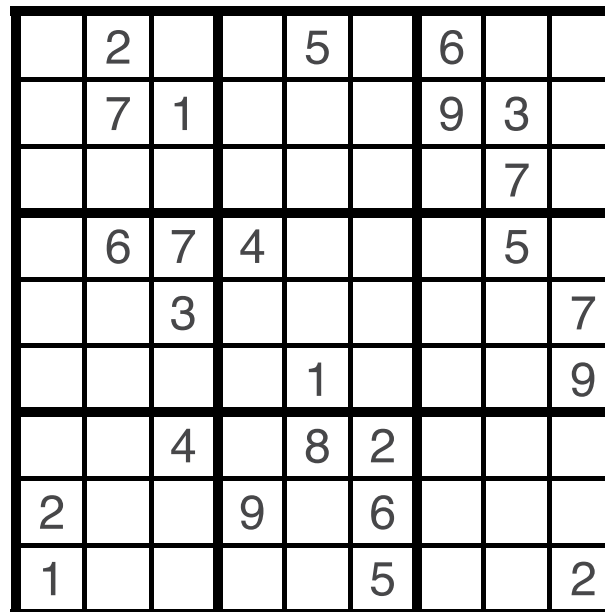
CLUES ACROSS

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

CLUES DOWN

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

SUDOKU



Level: Advanced

Free wildlife forage seed giveaway May 9

Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife and the Oregon Hunters Association will give away free wildlife forage seed to landowners at E.E. Wilson Wildlife Area near Corvallis on Saturday, May 9.

The giveaway coincides with OHA's Youth Field Day, for which limited spots are available.

Seed Giveaway: More than 500 bags of free seed will be available, with each bag covering at least two acres of wildlife habitat. Landowners are encouraged to contact Wildlife Area Manager Shawn Woods at shawn.k.woods@odfw.oregon.gov to reserve seed in advance. Remaining bags will be distributed on a first-come, first-served basis while supplies last.

Seed pickup begins at 7 a.m. at E.E. Wilson Wildlife Area, 29555 Camp Adair Road. The seed is provided at no cost, thanks to contributions from OHA and Turf Merchants, Inc.

The mix is a cool season blend of species that attract watchable wildlife, game birds, and mammals. It contains grains, grasses, legumes,

and brassica that provide critical food sources for animals during fall, winter, and early spring in places where native forage is lacking or has deteriorated. It is designed to be used on a wide range of revegetation sites, pre-formulated based on seeds per square foot, species establishment and final mixture diversity upon maturation. It is ideal for project sites not requiring continual maintenance.

OHA Mid-Willamette Chapter Youth Field Day:

The Youth Field Day takes place from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. and is open to kids ages 11-17. Spots are limited (only 30 available). Participants will learn dog handling, shotgun skills, archery skills, and how to field dress a deer.

Registration is free and lunch will be provided for participants and chaperones. Register at oregonhunters.org/mid-willamette-youth-day.

For more information contact John Tacke at (541) 231-8165 or email oha.mid.willamette@gmail.com.



Locally Fresh at Tractor Supply

Lebanon's Tractor Supply store has become the newest location for a farmer's market. The company's first local event was held in the parking lot on Sunday, May 3, featuring vendors for plants, honey and other goods. "This is a great opportunity for members of our community to support local farmers while also getting to enjoy deliciously fresh food," said Alannah Castro, manager of the Lebanon store. "As a company, we believe in fostering community relationships while supporting the rural lifestyle, and this event allows us to do just that." The market will be held on the first Sunday of every month from spring through summer from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. See more photos at sweethomenews.com / lebanonlocalnews.com.

Photo by Sarah Brown

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Sweet Home, Lebanon wrestlers place at state championships

Sweet Home wrestler Cody Sieminski finished 3rd in freestyle at the U.S. Open National Championships April 22-26 in Las Vegas.

Sieminski, who's finishing his freshman year at Sweet Home High School, beat Jaxon Sanchez of Titan Mercury Wrestling Club of San Marino, Calif., 11-9 to become the 1st placer at Under-16 for Sweet Home, Coach Steve Thorpe said.

"He's wrestling really well right now," Thorpe said.

This was the most successful year ever for Sweet Home at multiple events, Thorpe said - at the Oregon Wrestling Association state Freestyle and Greco championships, as well as coming away with medals from other major regional competitions.

Sieminski won both the 113-pound state 16-and-under freestyle and Greco titles, while Bailey Chafin won the girls juniors 125-pound freestyle title and Alizeah Weikel the juniors 120-pound girls Greco state championship.

At the Northwest Regionals during Spring Break in Centralia, Wash., Jesse Landtroop was second in juniors 132 freestyle, Chafin finished third in juniors freestyle at 125 pounds, Sieminski was fourth at 16-and-Under 113 pounds in freestyle, and Riley Vaughan was fifth in Greco in



Sweet Home Mat Club and high school wrestlers show off their hardware from state and other regional competitions.

juniors 126.

At the Reno Worlds April 9-12, Chafin was second at U18 125, Ava Gaspard was fourth at U15 124, Wiley Farris was fifth at U15 88, Sieminski was fifth at U18 126, Vaughan was sixth at U18 126 and Madi Looney was seventh at U18 147.

"We put in more work this spring, the kids wrestled more matches and trained more than I've ever had - all ages," said Thorpe, whose high school wrestlers won the state folkstyle title this year. "That just proves we're not satisfied."

He credited the youth and

his assistant coaches, and parents, along with the kids for the success.

"It's pretty inspiring right now. We have our Santiam Wrestling Camp and Fargo (nationals). There's still opportunities for so many kids.

"And when you've got a target on your back, you can't be complacent."

Lebanon High School and Lebanon Wrestling Club also had winners at the OWA state championships.

Seth Wynn won the Juniors Triple Crown (folkstyle/free-

style/Greco state titles) at 165 pounds, Harrison Smith won the U16 Triple Crown at 176, and Colt Swanson won the U12 Triple Crown at 135 pounds.

Here are winners and medalists from each competition:

Freestyle and Greco Roman State Finals Held April 17-19 at Deschutes County Fairgrounds

SHHS Boys

Martin Chelstad, 16U 190, 5th Place Greco; Dillan Davis, Juniors 150, 5th Place Freestyle; Zach Davis, 16U 150, 6th FS; Braden Eggers, 16U 190, 2nd Greco, 4th FS; Ryder Farris, 16U 94, 2nd Greco, 3rd FS; Tytus Hardee,

Juniors 132, 4th FS, 6th Greco; Dylan Hartsook, 16U 215, 2nd Greco, 3rd FS; Cody Sieminski, 16U 113, 1st FS, 1st Greco; Riley Vaughn, Juniors 132, 6th FS; Jasper Victor, 16U 150, 3rd FS, 4th Greco; Kyle Zajic, Juniors 175, 3rd FS, 5th Greco.

SHHS Girls

Eturynyti Allison, Juniors 170, 6th Greco; Bailey Chafin, Juniors 125, 1st FS; Madi Looney, Juniors 145, 5th FS; Natasha Marin, 16U 110, 5th Greco; Lyla Ventura, 16U 110, 2nd Greco; Alizeah Weikel, Juniors 120, 1st Greco, 2nd FS; Cassidy Zajic, 16U 110, 3rd FS, 4th

See Wrestling, Page 20

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For more endorsements or information, go to angelitasanchez.com

VOTE FOR ANGELITA SANCHEZ MAY 19TH

County marks Mental Health Awareness

Linn County Mental Health is recognizing May as Mental Health Awareness Month, highlighting the importance of mental health and the availability of local services to support community members.

Mental health is a key part of overall health and well-being. Linn County Mental Health provides services to individuals and families across the county, including outpatient treatment, psychiatric services, crisis response, community-based supports, and early intervention services.

"Mental Health Awareness Month is an important opportunity to remind our community that help is available and that no one has to face challenges alone," said Sandy Minta, PsyD, Program Manager of Linn County Mental Health. "We see every day that with the right



Sandy Minta is Linn County's Mental Health program manager - **Linn County photo**

support, recovery is possible and people can move forward with hope."

Residents are encouraged to take simple steps this month to support mental health, including checking in

on friends and family, learning about available resources, and seeking help when needed.

"There is hope and there is help," Minta said. "When we stay connected and support one another, we build a stronger and healthier Linn County."

Linn County Health Services staff will participate at the following events:

- Parent/Guardian Night at Lebanon High School, May 5;**
- Peace Festival (and Mother's Day) in Lebanon, May 9;**
- LBCC Spring Fest, May 12;**
- LBCC Pride Event, May 26;**
- Sources of Strength Fair, May 27; and Linn Benton Lincoln ESD Resource Fair, June 4.**

For more information about Linn County Mental Health services, visit www.linncountyhealth.org/services/mental-health.

Individuals in crisis can call or text 988 for immediate support.



Splash for Cash

Friends of Lebanon Pool kicked off its second annual Splash for Cash fundraiser on Sunday, May 3, this year making it a week-long event instead of one day. Friends and supporters of the pool participate by setting goals to swim laps or do other pool exercise activities and collect donation pledges for their efforts. Proceeds from the fundraiser will support current programs, expand pool use to new groups, and help fund future repairs and improvements at the Lebanon Community Pool. Friends of Lebanon Pool is a 501c3 charitable organization, and all donations are tax-deductible. For more information, visit FriendsofLebanonPool.com/events.

- Photo by Sarah Brown

WRESTLING

From page 19

Greco.

Lebanon High School

Seth Wynn, Juniors 165, 1st FS, 1st Greco; **Zech Halsey**, Juniors 175, 4th Greco, 5th FS.

Lebanon Mat Club

Hunter Anderson, 3rd Greco/ 4th FS; **Alora Hicky**, 5th FS, 5th Greco;

Lucian Hicky, 3rd FS, 3rd Greco; **Eric McBeth**, 2nd FS, 3rd Greco; **Charlotte Smith**, 2nd FS; **Franklin Smith**, 6th Greco; **Harrison Smith**, U16 175, 1st FS, 1st Greco; **Walter Smith**, 3rd Greco/4th FS; **Colt Swanson**, 1st FS, 1st Greco.

Sweet Home Mat Club Boys Results

Isaiah Cruz, 12U 108, 3rd FS, 3rd Greco; **Kartor Davis**, 12U 67, 4th Greco, 6th FS; **Sawyer Davis**, 10U

53, 6th FS; **Walker Farris**, 12U 58, 3rd FS, 3rd Greco; **Wiley Farris**, 14U 88, 5th FS, 5th Greco; **Miles Hart**, 8U 45, 2nd Greco, 3rd FS; **Ezra Rosa**, 12U 70, 3rd Greco, 4th FS; **Jaxson Slayter**, 14U 92, 4th Greco; **Fletcher Utter**, 12U 92, 3rd Greco, 4th FS.

Girls Results

Raylene Allison, 16U 105, 3rd FS, 3rd Greco; **Ava Gaspard**, 14U 125, 2nd FS.

MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS MONTH

Promoting education and reducing stigma around mental health, encouraging seeking help when needed, and promoting wellness.

Practice self-care: Taking time to care for yourself, whether it's through exercise, hobbies, or other activities, can help reduce stress and improve your overall well-being.

Connect with others: Spending time with friends and loved ones can provide emotional support and help combat feelings of isolation and loneliness.

Seek help when needed: If you are experiencing mental health issues, don't hesitate to seek help from a mental health professional.

Manage stress: Learning to manage stress through relaxation techniques, time management, and other coping strategies can help improve mental health and reduce the risk of developing mental health conditions.

Have questions or concerns?

Contact Linn County Mental Health 1-541-967-3866 or 1-800-304-7468. Resources are also available in Lebanon at 1-541-5932 or 1-888-451-2631. Or visit www.linncountyhealth.org/mh for more information. If you have thoughts of harming yourself or others, seek help immediately. Call the Linn County Mental Health Crises team at 1-541-967-3866 or 1-800-304-7468.

Or dial 911 for emergency services.

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