

Live exercise tests new firefighters' skills

By Brandon Cominsky
Of The New Era

The forest just north of Foster Lake came alive Friday, June 26, as 200 wildland firefighters completed their final day of training for the 2026 Mid-Willamette Valley Interagency Wildland Fire School.

Hosted annually by the Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF), this five-day academy brought together approximately 200 firefighters to prepare for Oregon's 2026 wildfire season.

For the recruits, it marked the completion of five days of training designed to prepare them for the realities of Oregon's wildfire season. For ODF, the exercise reflected the agency's broader mission of building a well-trained wildfire suppression force capable of protecting lives, communities, and more than 16 million acres of forestland while prioritizing firefighter safety.

"The live fire exercise provides a valuable training experience working in smoke, hiking through uneven terrain, and working closely with crew



Firefighters work at a live fire exercise Friday, June 26, to cap off the five-day Mid-Willamette Valley Interagency Wildland Fire School. — Photo by Brandon Cominsky

members to dig fireline," said Craig Pettinger, incident commander for the Mid-Willamette Valley Interagency Fire School and ODF's Sweet Home Unit forester, in an ODF release sent on June 22. "These are all things they'll experience this season as wildland

firefighters," Throughout the exercise, held southeast of Foster Lake, rookie recruits had the opportunity to work alongside experienced wildland firefighters as they put their week of training into practice. According to the ODF press release,

"firefighter safety remained the foundation of the exercise, with instructors emphasizing the proper use of protective equipment, the safe operation of tools, and maintaining awareness of potential haz-

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Lebanon council hashes out funds to gain grant for city's library

By Sarah Brown
Of The New Era

In an effort to increase its odds of winning a grant for the expansion of the Lebanon Public Library, the City Council committed funds toward a matching amount during a special meeting on Wednesday, June 24.

City Manager Ron Whitlatch explained the city planned to apply for a Community Development Block Grant that would pay for an expansion in the library's children's area, but staff learned the grant will likely not provide as much funding as originally expected.

The city presented four options for the council to consider concerning the matter, which were: use the \$514,000 proceeds from the sale of the Santiam Travel Station as a match offer; use some of the Travel Station funds and some from the Library Trust to make a \$500,000 match; use \$250,000 from the Library Trust as a match; or

See Leb Council, Page 19

Impasse between agencies, Dad Bod owners results in closure

By Scott Swanson
Of The New Era

Chris Millard stood in the parking lot of what arguably was one of the most successful start-ups in recent Sweet Home history: Dad Bod Detailing.

He was clearly disgusted, as had been evidenced by his complaints on Facebook about ongoing difficulties he said he was experiencing with government authorities.

He has blamed governmental impasse as the biggest obstacle that forced him to close down his car detailing business at the end of May.

Millard, who had moved to Sweet Home in August of 2023 from Stayton with his wife Jamee and son Austin, said he was "semi-retired" when he decided to do auto detailing in his driveway at 1901 Long St., directly across from the Sweet Home School District offices.

He opened on Sept. 1, 2024, a small operation under a white pop-up canopy in his driveway



Chris Millard stands beneath his Dad Bod Detailing sign on his lot before he closed in May. — Photo by Scott Swanson

"It was a hobby," he said. "Two to three cars a week, that's what it was supposed to be."

It didn't stay that way. The community welcomed his services and before long he had to hire help to keep up with the volume.

"The federal agencies started bringing their vehicles," Millard said. "We have all four federal agencies in this town"

A large car dealership contacted him about doing work for them, he said.

In April of 2025, according to city records, in response to a complaint about the business operations in the residential neighborhood, city staff visited the site and informed the Millards that they needed proper permitting, since their residence

See Dad Bod, Page 5

HOMETOWN
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This Week's Top Stories



INSIDE: Time to Celebrate

Check out our Fourth of July section highlighting local Semiquincentennial events, with some thoughtful commentary on we've gotten to Year 250. Pages 9-15



The Flamingos?

Water aerobics class at Sweet Home Community Pool is about more than just exercise. Page 17



Obituaries

Jason Beedle

August 1, 1976 – June 14, 2026

Jason Beedle, 49, passed away on June 14, 2026, in Sweet Home.

He was born on Aug. 1, 1976, in Ellensburg, Wash., to Ed and Sue Beedle.

Jason moved with his family to Bandon at the age of 5, where he was raised and spent his formative years. He attended Bandon schools and graduated from Bandon High School in 1995.

During his school years, Jason was actively involved in sports, participating in wrestling, baseball, and football. He was also a proud member of 4-H and served as an altar boy at Holy Trinity Catholic Church.

Following high school, Jason attended the College of the Redwoods in Eureka, Calif., where he played football for the Corsairs. During this time, he formed many lifelong friendships that he cherished throughout his life.

After college, Jason moved to South Dakota, where he worked on several cattle ranches. His passion for ranching led him to Montana, where he managed a ranch before eventually returning to Oregon. He later made his home in Sweet Home, where he worked as a forklift operator for Weyerhaeuser.

Jason had a deep appreciation for the outdoors and loved spending time fishing, crabbing, and mushroom hunting. Above all, he valued time with his family and friends. In recent years, he especially enjoyed volunteering at the Sweet Home Jamboree each summer, where he contributed with enthusiasm and dedication.

Jason is survived by his parents, Ed and Sue Beedle of Sweet Home; his siblings, Jessica (Sam), Tonya (Robert), and Kevin (Michelle); and his beloved nieces and nephews, Jaelynn, Judson, Ryan, Dyllon, Kylee, Kai, and Lily.

A celebration of life will be held on Saturday, Aug. 1, in Sweet Home, which would have marked Jason's 50th birthday. Additional details will be shared at a later date.

Sweet Home Funeral Chapel is handling the arrangements.



Dorothy Hildebrand

Aug. 1, 1935 - June 24, 2026

Dorothy Ann Hildebrand, 90, of Sweet Home passed away on June 24, 2026.

She was born on Aug. 1, 1935, to Leona B. (Brockschink) and Lonzo W. James in Seymour, Texas.

As a child, she moved a lot. She met her first husband in Potter Valley, Calif., then raised her family in Redwood Valley, Calif. In 1977, she moved to Sweet Home and married Jack Hildebrand in 1987.

Dorothy worked at Lebanon Hospital as a cook until her retirement. She was active in her church all her life. In her free time she enjoyed sewing, reading and trivia game shows.

She is survived by her children, Mark Casebier,



Steve Casebier, Yvonne Weir, Beverly Wehde and Julia Martin; six grandchildren; and five great-grandchildren. She was preceded in death by her husband, Jack Hildebrand, and brother John James.

A celebration of life will be at 11 a.m. Tuesday, July 7, at Freedom Hill Church in Sweet Home.

Sweet Home Funeral Chapel is handling the arrangements.

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

Gerald John Leest, 89, of Sweet Home passed away June 26, 2026.

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

Freddie Jane Meyers, 96, of Sweet Home, passed away Jan. 12, 2026.

A celebration of life will be from noon to 3 p.m. Saturday, July 11, at Sweet Home Evangelical Church Activity Center.

Any donations can be made to the Alzheimer's Association at www.alz.org.

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

Death Notices

Guy Thomas Bowman, 71, of Sweet Home, passed away June 26, 2026.

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

Devin M. Buys, 29, of Albany passed away June 19, 2026.

Sweet Home Funeral

SH School Board finalizes bond

By Scott Swanson
Of The New Era

Sweet Home School Board members, in a special meeting Monday, June 22, declared the results of the May 19 election in which voters passed a \$40 million gener-

al obligation bond to fund school renovations.

In a brief online meeting, members - with the exception of Amanda Carter, who was absent, approved a resolution to declare the results of the election in which 56.39% of voters supported the request (see accompanying story on this page reporting final election results).

By state law, the school board serves as the "district elections authority" and when county election officials finish tabulating ballots, signature verification, and audits, they deliver the official abstract of votes to the school board. The school board is then required to meet, canvas those abstracts, and formally pass a resolution to declare the results.

Passage of the bond gives the school an additional \$12.25 million from a matching grant from the state.

The money will be used for safety upgrades to the high school, which currently has approximately 40 points of entry to classrooms and other facilities from nearby streets, along with building replacements, career-technical training facilities and other upgrades to district facilities.

The board also approved the resignation of Zech Brown, forestry teacher at the high school for the past four years, who wrote in a resignation letter that he has decided to pursue a career as a firefighter with the Oregon Department of Forestry.

Board members also unanimously approved the sale of a sawmill at the high school.

Supt. Terry Martin explained that the Mobile Dimension Saw unit, manufactured by Mobile MFG Co. of Troutdale, is one of two possessed by the high school and, with two blades, "is a little more complex" than the other one.

"We have a working sawmill," he told the board. "We are going to attempt to sell it to recoup some money from it and, ideally, it would go that way. If not, it would go the way of property that we surplus out."

The board also learned that the high school band is planning an overnight trip to Newport for band camp.

Martin said he wanted the board to be aware of that, since in recent years, the band camp trips have been single-day events.

WEDDLE FUNERAL SERVICE PRESENTS

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Letters to the Editor

Results of May 19 election are telling

Editor:
The results of the May 19 election told us more than all of the polls and news reports.

Record-breaking turnout in many counties was driven by the referendum on gas taxes and fees, and general angst with a state that continues losing ground under Gov. Kotek's reign.

The referendum sent a shock wave across the state after volunteers collected over 250,000 signatures in just three weeks.

Linn County played a big role in the effort. The refer-

endum was placed on the ballot as Measure 120. It was rejected by a whopping 82% of the voters. The success of the referendum made a big statement to government officials and political candidates. We are taxed out and maxed out.

It's not difficult to see that residents and business owners cannot afford the wasteful ways and lack of accountability that got us here. We are suffering, and that makes other issues worse. Frustrated people are susceptible to depression and drug abuse.

Blaming it all on the federal government or the pres-

ident is a ruse. Most of our pain has been created by the current leadership of Oregon.

Reinforcing the election message was the nomination of Jack Tibbetts to replace outgoing Senator Cedric Hayden. Tibbetts' primary win resulted from his deep commitment to understanding our situation, providing solutions, and outworking his opponent, Jamie Cate.

Tibbetts is a man of action. His hard work in the campaign earned the trust of the majority.

Like Hayden, Jack is one who will stand by his word and honor his promises, if

elected.

The campaign season included some dark personal attacks in "hit pieces" on Tibbetts and Angelita Sanchez. That led to unnecessary drama and attacks on Facebook, some of it fed by a city councilor.

I hope future Linn County voters rebel against unsupported attacks, especially the ones that include a candidate's family members. We are better than that.

I shared these reflections during the public comment period of the June 23 Sweet Home City Council meeting. Afterwards, I realized I hadn't mentioned the passage of

the Sweet Home School improvement bond measure. Unlike what we've seen before, the money has been carefully earmarked and will be accounted for. The district must come through, and everyone knows it.

The November election is coming. The races for governor and the legislature will be hard-fought. Most voters I talk with are supporting candidates who will be careful with our money and reduce the costly involvement of government in our lives.

Be sure to vote!

Les Poole
Sweet Home

PUBLIC SAFETY

From page 3

Parole Board warrant for parole violation, 1400 block Nandina. Lodged at LCJ.

7:42 p.m. - Caller reported people camping along railroad tracks off 1400 block Nandina. Officer contacted, trespassed individuals from neighboring property.

LEBANON POLICE

9:57 a.m. - Evealena Mayre Tate, 27, cited on AMC warrant for contempt and LMC warrant for contempt - DWS.

10:52 a.m. - Subject smashed someone's bong in front of their children. Elizabeth Lynn Chandler, 28, taken into custody, cited on AMC warrant for FTA - PV contempt.

2:59 p.m. - Dominic Wooten, 33, cited for DWS and DU.

LCSO/OSP SWEET HOME/S. COUNTY

11:40 a.m. - Crash reported in 36000 block Hwy. 228. OSP, LCSO responded. Non-injury. Further details not immediately available.

6:34 p.m. - Deputy spoke with individual about items stolen from their vehicle, 200 block W. Park, Brownsville.

LCSO/OSP LEBANON

4:22 p.m. - Deputy warned male

driver for failure to maintain lane after he got stuck on muddy shoulder in 36900 block Middle Ridge.

4:34 p.m. - Deputy warned motorist for parking in front of the Bartles Creek 400 gate while hiking. 36700 block Middle Ridge.

5:27 p.m. - Criminal mischief reported in 800 block Northpoint Loop, Brownsville, involving delivery driver. Further details not immediately available. Report taken.

JUNE 26

SWEET HOME POLICE

6:18 a.m. - Christina Ann Miser arrested on Linn County Sheriff's Office probable cause warrants for burglary II and criminal trespass II following report of disturbance in 1500 block Tamarack. Lodged at LCJ.

8:32 a.m. - Caller reported female sleeping on sidewalk in 1100 block Main. Officer contacted female, who moved along.

11:12 a.m. - Tyler Steagall, 27, cited on Albany police warrant for FTC in unlawful possession of firearm case, SHPD parking lot, 1950 Main, after officer spotted Steagall in the area. Cited and released.

12:26 p.m. - Tecumseh Hugh Thompson, 53, cited for DU,

1100 block 23rd.

1:07 p.m. - Jennifer Dee Russell arrested on LCJC warrant for failure to carry and present license, cited for DWS, 27th/Juniper.

3:31 p.m. - Caller reported daughter was last known to be at location with boyfriend, but her whereabouts now unknown. 925 Long. Officer responded, report taken for missing person. Alerts sent to Oregon, Idaho.

3:42 p.m. - SHPD conducted death investigation in 2400 block Long. Report taken.

5:31 p.m. - Caller reported male moving sand from horseshoe pit at Northside Park, 1712 11th, into his truck. Officer responded, contacted male, who returned sand to pit.

5:31 p.m. - Hunter Ariel Ringheimer, 32, arrested on SHMC warrants for FTA in contempt of court, theft and escape cases, and LCCC warrant for FTA in fentanyl possession case. 1700 block 11th. Cited and released.

LEBANON POLICE

8:59 a.m. - Elida Hiraiz Vigil-Toscano, 39, cited for speeding 41/25.

10:07 a.m. - Tiffani B. Baker, 50, cited for speeding.

10:32 a.m. - Kenneth D. Lafayette, 58, cited for cell



Oregon State Police responded to a single non-injury crash involving a grey CMV on US-20 near milepost 26 on Tuesday, June 23. According to OSP, shortly after 4 p.m. a small white sedan cut off a tractor-trailer rig, causing the truck to veer to the right, ending up in the ditch with the trailer laying on its right side. AA towing wreckers responded to self-right the trailer.

- Photo by Miriam Swanson

phone use.

10:52 a.m. - Joshua R. Sanders, 39, cited for fail to use seatbelt.

11:05 a.m. - Gregory Pecock, 35, cited for improper display and speeding 35/25.

11:40 a.m. - Peyton Jacob Frazier, 25, cited for cell phone use.

11:49 a.m. - Kyle Robert Smith, 39, cited for speeding 53/35.

12:15 p.m. - Brandon Pelky, 46, cited for fail to carry insurance.

1:02 p.m. - Assisted LCSO to take Joshua James Webb, 48, into custody. He was considered potential career criminal, was found hiding in grass behind a shop, has multiple warrants.

1:33 p.m. - Marshall Thompson, 46, cited on AMC warrant for FTC - contempt of court.

2:27 p.m. - Craig Maynard, 18, cited for fail to use seatbelt and fail to carry insurance.

2:54 p.m. - Unidentified subject cited for throwing burning material from a car.

3:14 p.m. - Two males arguing near Dollar Tree because one was too close to the other's cats.

4:44 p.m. - Kelvin Attebery, 37, cited on LMC warrant for PV - DWS, taken into custody on AMC warrant for FTA - DWS.

5:30 p.m. - Complaint about driver coal-rolling his truck every time protestors are at Academy Square.

9:46 p.m. - Theft of electric scooter from Walmart. Loss: \$169.

LCSO/OSP SWEET HOME/S. COUNTY

12:33 a.m. - Burglary reported in 47600 block Cascadia Dr. Suspect left before deputy arrived. Investigation ongoing. Report taken.

10:37 a.m. - Purse reported stolen out of vehicle, 43200 block North River. Investigation ongoing. Report taken.

See Public Safety, Page 23

The ICEBOX Performer Of The Week



This week's ICEBOX performer of the week goes to Rick, one of our seasoned TIG welders.

Rick not only gets the job done in his own booth, but he's always willing to step in and help when a teammate needs a hand. Last week, he took time away from his own work to help one of our newer TIG welders through a difficult build.

That willingness to share his experience, support the team, and put quality first is what keeps production moving and our standards high.

Thank you, Rick, for all of your hard work, craftsmanship, and dedication to the team. We appreciate you!



Foster Lake RV Resort is located in the foothills of the Cascade mountain range. We offer nightly, weekly & monthly RV reservations.

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From our Files



Lois Rice, who is recognized as the founder of the new East Linn Museum, fits into the decor with her old-time attire as she relaxes in an antique rocking chair while enjoying the "view" in an old viewfinder when the museum opened in 1976.

JULY 5, 1951

No local holiday celebrations marked the Fourth of July in the past nine years in Sweet Home. In 1946, three grade school boys sold fireworks outside city limits, which is now illegal. The mayor began allowance of fireworks in 1948. In 1949, sparks from a firecracker were thought to have caused the total destruction by fire of the Santiam Feed store warehouse at 11th and L streets. A free fireworks display was in front of Raleigh's grocery when a stand was ignited by a carelessly thrown firecracker.

Sweet Home Jaycees were ordered to wear at least one day's growth of whiskers for their next meeting, an edict determined necessary to get a headstart on the Frontier Days tradition. Full beards, Van Dykes, mutachios, etc. will be the order of the day for all males until the city event next month. "Sissy cards" will be sold to those who cannot or

will not forget the razor for a month.

JULY 1, 1976

Jerry Wooley, volunteer firefighter for 25 years and assistant chief for 15, was named fire chief this week. He succeeds Ivan Hoy, who was a member of the original volunteer fire department when it formed in 1939, and served as chief for 24 years.

The opening of the East Linn Museum was dedicated in a ceremony with Amos Horner as guest speaker. The effort to form the museum began in 1972 when Lois Rice offered her historical items as a memorial to the pioneers of the Sweet Home area. In 1973 the Area Beautification Committee held a meeting to form a museum society. The rest is history.

JULY 4, 2001

SHFAD's fire chief is concerned more than usual

about fireworks this year. Late season rains made grass grow, and now windy, dry conditions are causing that grass to dry. Some fires last year were caused by fireworks.

Master Gardener Bud Liberatore said beautification of Sweet Home's median strips are progressing. Watering timers are ordered, mulch will be spread and lamp posts will be added soon. He said the reason past median planting project failed because no one was able to care for the plants.

Dan Dee Sales owner Jack Legg Jr. pitched an idea protecting both the trout fishery at Foster Reservoir and juvenile winter steelhead to ODFW and NMFS. He proposed stocking the lake with 10-inch trout and increasing the minimum size anglers may keep to 10 inches for wild and hatchery trout as an alternative to proposed restrictions on wild juvenile and adult steelhead.

DAD BOD

From page 1

was zoned residential.

Millard says the complaint centered on their sign, but he said he couldn't find a "public record of that."

Due to "workload and being short-staffed," the city did not follow up for three months past that deadline, according to city documents provided to The New Era.

"Dad Bod Detailing did not move, nor did they contact staff or submit a Home Occupation Permit," city staffers wrote in a chronology of the case, which summarized rather voluminous documentation from the case obtained by The New Era.

During that period, Millard said, local Realtor Sherri Gregory offered to allow Dad Bod to rent the former DanDee Sales building at 610 Main St. He said Gregory offered to install a garage door on the former store building and "they pulled a permit, they had a contractor come out here, and I get a call, 'Hey Chris, it's ready to go.' So I start using it."

According to the city's chronology, the renovations were being done without permits and no "change of occupancy" application had been submitted for the change from retail to a car wash business, so a city building official issued a stop-work order at the new location.

The Millards visited City Hall to discuss the situation and city staff said they would lift the stop order if the Millards got a permit for the construction that was taking place. The permit was issued on Aug. 19, 2025, according to the city.

On Sept. 2, roughly two weeks later, city staff met with Jamee Millard to discuss requirements for operating a car wash at the location, in-

cluding "building permits, signage, a change of occupancy, plumbing permits, and storm-water/runoff requirements.

Although concerns about signs are not detailed heavily in city documents, Chris Millard said he felt like he got a lot of flak from staff about his signs, including a temporary banner that he installed over the DanDee sign, which remained at the location.

"Apparently, it was ragged," he said of his banner. "It was brand new but it was ragged."

He said he saw lots of banners as he drove through town "and I'd just moved in."

Also, he said, city staff also complained about the inflatable figure he positioned on top of the building as an attention-getter.

"It was a 10-foot-tall inflatable and they were afraid it would fall over."

On Oct. 14 of last year, city staff sent the Millards a letter, signed by Planning and Building Manager Angela Clegg, stating that the city had not heard from them since the September meeting. The letter also outlined city code requirements: "The carwash runoff must be directed to the city's sewer system through a baffled tank system, oil/water separator, or similar approved method, or you must obtain the appropriate discharge permit from DEQ."

The letter also noted that the Millards' temporary sign "secured with bungee cords" needed to be replaced by a permanent sign and that they needed to submit proper permit applications for the change of occupancy and the sewer requirements.

According to the city chronology, the Millards responded that they were working with the state Department of Environmental Quality on necessary permits.

Chris Millard told The New Era that his wife had had ex-

perience working with the DEQ as a former Oregon state employee; he declined to specify what her position was with the state.

He said they tried to work with the DEQ to solve issues posed by runoff of water from the new location.

City Manager Jason Ogden later told The New Era that when the city determined the runoff water from the car wash operations was entering the storm system, the DEQ "became involved as the regulatory authority."

"City staff have coordinated with DEQ and worked with the business to provide clear options for getting into compliance, including containment and proper disposal of wash water," he said.

On Dec. 4, 2025, the city says, staff sent another letter "noting that no permits or DEQ documentation had been received," noting in its chronology that "staff did not issue a stop work order, nor did they involve code enforcement. The business was not interrupted at any time."

On Dec. 15, the city received an email from the Millards detailing a list of issues they were working with the DEQ on.

On Jan. 26 of this year, the Millards sent an email stating they were planning to have a plumber and DEQ on the site in February.

On March 17, according to the chronology, "city staff asked Dad Bod who their DEQ contact was and relayed the provided information back to DEQ. Staff also informed Dad Bod that DEQ still had no record of prior contact. DEQ notified Dad Bod of a storm-water violation." That entry in the chronology also indicates that city staff were attempting to connect DEQ officials with the Millards.

Over the next two weeks, DEQ and the city and the Mil-

lards communicated back and forth on problems identified by the DEQ that were caused by Dad Bod's operations and possible solutions.

Problems identified by DEQ included the use of biodegradable soap that "is still harmful to aquatic life," according to city documents, which also noted that DEQ recommended that the Millards consider a "containment system to capture and dispose of wash water to the sanitary sewer."

The city noted that if the wash water were "fully contained and does not enter the storm system," a DEQ permit would not be required.

City staff also noted that ODOT needed to approve "any work affecting the storm drain" on Main Street.

The Millards submitted a proposed plan and diagram, and DEQ sent city staff an example site plan and checklist for proper car wash drainage. The city then, on April 2, provided the Dad Bod operators with a detailed list of responses to their plan and required actions, which included a wash pad containment mat to "fully contain wastewater - no runoff to street or property at any time," use of "properly sized" hoses, a storage tank and a grease trap for the line

into the storage tank, along with various inspections and other requirements necessary for the operation.

The Millards reported on April 13, in response to an inquiry from the city, that they expected the containment measures to be installed by April 15; then, on April 14, they submitted revised plans.

In early June Chris Millard told The New Era he had purchased a mat - for \$3,500 - to contain the runoff water, plus a \$168 fee to use it.

He said he used the mat for a week, adding that the requirement to capture the runoff in tanks was egregious.

"We run through 881,000 gallons of water a month," he said, adding that he would have to have the captured water hauled away in 275-gallon tanks.

"To be able to do all the water that we have, we'd need 3,250 of these drained a month," he said. "That would cost us \$441,000 a month. You think I can afford that?"

He also said he worked with NewPIG, a Pennsylvania company that specializes in drain filters for oil, sediment and other contaminants in runoff water to install a filter to catch unwanted elements in the

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Honor Rolls

EAST LINN CHRISTIAN ACADEMY

Following are East Linn Christian Academy's Spring Semester Honor Roll students, as reported by the school.

Seniors 4.00 - Isabella Albert, Brison Edwards, Chase Fenerty, Ally Hatch, Randy Holmes, Bailey Kramer, Tati Manner, Aleena Mitchell, Owen Nofziger, Baine Pool, Asher Taylor.

Seniors 3.50-3.99 - Hannah Beckham, Isaiah Blount, Lexy Kauffman, Joshua Rehart, Macy Rehnberg, Angus Smith, Audrey Smith.

Juniors 4.00 - Erin Davey, Allison Gilliam, Anna Henry, Avery Runyon, Ian Schlabach, Maya Van Dyke, Kai Wallace.

Juniors 3.50-3.99 - Abby Garber, Audrey Garber, Noah Medellin, Allison Presley, Tessa Salvage.

Sophomores 4.00 - Madi Coleman, Madison Kauffman, Dailey Kirkpatrick, Liam Medford.

Sophomores 3.50-3.99 - Madison Adams, Savannah Baker, Charli Burns, Parker Caddick, Carter Geib, Rachel Hatch, Kaylyn Kauffman, Grady Knurowski, Casey May, Karter Nofziger, Anderson Kropf, Cole Pennington, Ella Stutzman.

Freshmen 4.00 - Njoki Githura, Ian Miller, Ezekiel Wells.

Freshmen 3.50-3.99 - Hadassah Albert, Lily Boschee, Ava Mitchell, Eva Kellogg, Morgan Lalonde, Harry Yanke.

Eighth Grade 4.00 - Isabelle Brubaker, Tanu Githura, Jada Kauffman, Ari Kirkpatrick, Ava Leverich, Erika Pape, Levi Puentes, Kylie Schrock, Cora Teschner, Westin Alesby, Cora Wolgamott.

Eighth Grade 3.50-3.99 - Boaz Angellford, Ryan Baker, Lucas Davey, Kylie Freeman, Wesley Geib, Jonah King, Peyton May, Christopher Means, Nate Ream, Clyde Ruckert, Ean Waid.

Seventh Grade 4.00 - Grayson Kropf.

Seventh Grade 3.50-3.99 - Bo Burns, Elsa Kellogg, Faith McKinney, Claire Miller, JJ Manner, Eric Miller, Titus Schlabach, JR Smith.

Sixth Grade 4.00 - Liesl Davey, Katelyn Gilliam, Emma Hoefler, Cora King, Kellen Kirkpatrick, Lucas Kosaka, Gibson Kropf, Hadley Schildan.

Sixth Grade 3.50- 3.99 - Selah Angellford, Makenna Miller, Ellie Moss, Adi Ream, Sadie Smith, Hattie Tocher.

LEBANON HIGH SCHOOL

Following are spring Honor Roll students, as reported by Lebanon High School. Students must have earned a GPA of 3.5 or higher for the semester and earned a minimum of 2.5 credits on the LHS campus to qualify for Honor Roll.

Seniors 4.00 - Niko Autry, Xavier Bledsoe, Mady Bradshaw, David Brandt, Bodhi Brown, Will Brown, Tatum Cole, Collin Connaghan, Aniston Cooperrider, Emily Curtis, Felix Davis, Hailey Destowet, Daryna Dumanovska, Emma Estes, Caspian Garvin, Austin George, Yamileth Gonzalez Vazquez, Jayden Hare, Trenton Hartman, Chase Herb, Avery Howell, Logan Large, Sami Lovely, Sparkles Marsh, Isabella Milam, Alyx Mills, Peyton Mitchell, Dallen Myler, Owen Nelmark, Ryan Park, Lawrence Parker, Addy Pickles, Carson Quigley, Ki Rash, Eliana Smith, Jayden Stewart, Weston Tenbusch, Tessa Thompson, Ruby Vandembos, Payton Voight, Peyton

Vorderstrasse, Alex Walnum, Helix Watkins, Cade Weber, Gwyn Wheeler, Landyn Whitney, Jalynn Wilson, Anne Workman, Ellora Wright.

Seniors 3.50-3.99 - Greta Abbott, Wyatt Aldrich, Omar Amador-Lopez, Brandon Barela-Ramos, Boston Borgmann, Deegan Borrueel, Aubree Collins, Kherington Cook, Kaedence Cummings, Emily Davis, Mayte Diaz-

Sanchez, Troy Ebbs, Walker Erickson, Jaxon Fair, Silas Fitchett, Tenaya Garcia, Alex Grubaugh, Alley Gutierrez, Treigon Haselip, Brady Heimbuch, Damion Howell, Hunter Jacobsen, Wyatt Jenkins, Rowan Jones, Hudson Kassler,

Avery Lindsay, Delaney Lindsay, Aaliyah Marker, Kaden Marvin, Nathan Millus, Gracie Moran, Jazmine Robertson, Kael Robinson, Ryan Robinson, Sebastian Sharp, Scott Shearer, Peyton Stewart, Logan Taylor, Austin Turnidge, Jess Veitenheimer, Mari Waite, Matt Weisner, Jasmine Wooden.

Juniors 4.00 - Avarie Anderson, Aimee Andrews, Izzy Argo, Ismael Benitez, Sadie Cruz, Daniel Doerzapf, Macie Ellis, Chloe Francis, Scarlett French, Alison Frey, Sarah Froman, Riley Gay, Dariana Gutierrez, Kyla Hamner, Reagan Heim, Maddalinn Howard, Sierra Miller, Amy Nguyen, Inez O'Driscoll, Leahetta Presley, Braden Pruet, Laylah Rosenthal, Yago Ruano Perez, Diana Sanchez, Heather Savedra, Abbie Schafer, Elliot Simmons, Joey Squires, Aubrey Stewart, Tyson Trask, McKenna Villarreal, Sophia Vitali, Jack Whitacre, Melanie Wilder.

Juniors 3.50-3.99 - Marcos Aguilar Jr, Addi Baldwin, Kaleb Bond, Kevin Camacho, Cruz Compean-Silva, Grady Cox, Tylie Dalebout, Ella Forrest, Brayden Fountain, Cole Gerig, Makai Godfrey, Makayla Gonda, Eva Graves, James Hairston, Bailey Harris, Kaidence Holcomb, Carmen Johnson, Annabelle Kisselburgh, Alex Kolling, Hector Magana, Avery Medonich, Ava Neuhaus, Lucy O'Driscoll, Dipper O'Farrell, Daniela Ponce, Taiya Privratsky, Aubree Rankin, Raymond Romero, Heidi Schrader, Brenna Smith, Taylor Sparks, Kiely Warner, Owen Wodtli, Gwen Zorko.

Sophomores 4.00 - Jane

Brandt, Tessa Caudle, Renea Christiansen, Kinnley Clark, Ruby Coldiron, Sophie Culbertson, Kayla Daniels, Brooklyn Davis, Zachary Dickerson, Treyton Enright, Brooke Fountain, Sandy Franco, Teryn Gandy, Natalie Gerig, Elizabeth Goodwin, Hailey Gutierrez, Gavin Harris, Hailey Hasenyager, Brooklynn Hensley, Cara Judy, Addison Keene, MacKenzie Lawrence, Adriana Magana Macias, Raiden McCollum, Liam McWayne, Daira Melgar, Addison Nichol, Ayiannah Noffsinger, Ivanna Ortiz, Valeria Ortiz, Laura Padilla, LaToya Pineda, Monica Ramirez, Emma Ross, Zeegan Sciscioli, Kendall Sowa, Lake Tucci, Finn Vandembos, Alec Weber, Alex Wright.

Sophomores 3.50-3.99 - Bella Adamson, Devanie Aldrich, Logan Alexander, Joshua Allydice, Anne Betterton, Laura Bigelow, Raquel Biggs, Angelina Castillo, Jaxon Christopherson, Dylan Cox, Lylah Cox, Elizabeth Crittenden, Cash Davis, Trace Ferschweiler, Marley Filips, Brody Fitzgerald, Jankarlos Gonzalez, Bryce Hansen, Penelope Haselip, Cade Hunt, Hayden Jones, Alexis Lindsay, Nicholas McLoed, Zac McQuistan, Abby Merrick, Kenley Mortensen, Jack Nelson, Sierra Nunes, Maxwell Petermen, Dorothy Ross, Kylee Ryan, Brexton Sand, Zoey Savage, Madalyn Sears, Brookelynn Sim, Erika Stephens, Faith Strauss, Jesse Taylor, Mia Turner, Sofia Vargas, Cassidy Whelan, Emma Wright.

Freshmen 4.00 - Ash Arnould, Nuala Attebery, Lucas Barnes, Matthew Barnett, Chloe Beyer, Larissa Bond, Alayna Bostian, Dahlia Brennen, Gabby Breshears, Cooper Burian, Bella Cifuentes, Hailey Cleveland, Amelia Collins, Kapri Collins, Zoey Cude, Christian Curtis, Aria Esparza, Annabelle Fleming, Bella Foubert, Daphne Graves,

Trinity Howland, Kyle Johnson, Reese King, Xavier Macedo, Sofia Mason, Miko Mattison, Liam Maurer, Evelyn Meek, Carmen Mejia, Chase Nelson, Emily Nelson, Andrew Nguyen, Rylie Noonchester, Mia Pete, Taelyn Poff, Payten Rhiley, Robert Robertson Jr, Jackson Simmons, Eliana Smith, Charlotte Stevens, Enrique Tellez, Sophia Thayer, Rylie Trask, Tayzia Walker, Samantha Walsh, Chloe Walters, Enarra-Marie Wikner, Kayden Williams, James Wright.

Freshmen 3.50-3.99 - Rylan Albion, August Barnes, Lucas Berge, Louie Bishop, Luke Briles, Mason Byram, Kara Calubad, Parker Comstock, Cody Cruz, David Cunningham, Veda Gerig, Kodi Hall, Dylan Hayes-Kammer, Julia Hearn, Bristol Hockema, Lilly Hutsell, Carter Johnson, Carson Kolling, Katy Kolling, Jakin Lee, Gabriel Manner, Evan Milburn, Ava Mills, Emerson Myers, Journee Nebergall, Ava Newton-Cochran, Kasey Parker, Colton Parrish, Abram Plagmann, Samuel Ramsdell, Zane Schlundt, Chessa Sloan, Isabelle Spain, Jered Spencer, Isabella Studer, Miller Swanson, Victoria Taggart, Danica Teague, Jordan Tharp, Isolde Whitehead, Olivia Williamson.

SWEET HOME HIGH SCHOOL

Following are students named to Sweet Home High School's spring Honor Roll, as reported by the school. These students earned GPA's of 3.50 or higher, but the list supplied by the high school did not clearly designate those who finished with 4.00 or above and those who did not, so we are listing them together.

Seniors - Alonna L. Baker, Ellie Chiaffino, Dillan C. Davis, Ashley R. Duncan, Levi S. Ensley, Charm Flowers, Keeghan A. Gittins, Ayden M. Goble, Lukiss P. Grover, Quintell L. Hall, Katriona M.

See Honor Roll, Page 8

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Isa. 40. 12. of heaven.
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Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Philippians 4:6-7

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SWEET HOME OR

DAD BOD
From page 5

runoff water. He said worked four months with the company, "trying to get the right one, getting them to make us one that works good."

"The city called DEQ on me. The city has not once come out to check my water, to test it."

We even offered to put a filter on top of the drain, right under the grate, and we were told, 'No, you don't need to do that.'

"The city doesn't care. They only care about the road to here, this way, he said, pointing to the curb. The rest is ODOT."

On April 16, the Millards applied for a plumbing permit and scheduled an inspection for April 20, also stating, according to the city chronology, that "they planned to move their business over the summer and were seeking a temporary solution."

According to the chronology, "Mrs. Millard told the building permit tech at the city counter that they were behind on task list items and closing the business due to an illness she was diagnosed with."

On April 20, two city staffers visited the Dad Bod operations site to verify the temporary containment system which, according to the city chronology, "initially failed, requiring alternative measures and about an hour of staff time."

"Dad Bod filmed part of the inspection and posted it on Facebook claiming DEQ had approved them and that the city was wasting taxpayer dollars," a The system was eventually made functional enough to wash one vehicle at a time, and the permit was approved with the condition that permanent containment must be installed if they do not move as stated."

At that point, Chris Millard began posting on Facebook, blaming the city for inhibiting his ability to do business.

On April 28, both Millards appeared at the City Council meeting and addressed the council about what Jamee Millard called "administrative targeting and over-regulation" concerning her business.

Millard complained about the city's concerns about Dad Bod's signage, in particular that staff complained about the business's sandwich signs which, she noted, are "everywhere" in the downtown area.. She also claimed that the city was ignoring an "exemption" for which, she said at the meeting, the DEQ had told them their business qualified.

Chris Millard told the council that 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 would be closing on June 30.

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

He also noted that "administrative red tape" has real-world consequences, resulting in empty buildings and lost business.

"Because of the restrictive hauling plan forced upon us, we have had to turn away over 50 community members in the last week alone," he said. "These are 50 citizens who wanted to support local business and were told 'no' because of city-imposed handicaps."

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

Later, he told The New Era in written comments dated April 30, "while certain limited activities may qualify for exemptions under DEQ rules, typical day-to-day commercial car wash operations do not."

"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."

"Throughout this process, the city has tried to work with the business to find a path forward while also protecting public infrastructure and local waterways. We apply these requirements consistently to all businesses operating under similar conditions."

Chris Millard said Mayor Susan Coleman said she wanted to discuss the issue with Ogden and the Millards, but "she could not get us

scheduled before she went out of town."

Instead, he said, they met with Ogden and council President Pro Tem Josh Thorstad, which, he said, was disappointing.

"They had a week to prepare for it and there was supposed to be an agenda 'to review the concerns you've raised, to go through applicable city and state requirements, clear up any misunderstandings and discuss any possible next steps,'" he said, adding he was reading that message off his phone - "which is what we wanted to do."

He said the city officials appeared, to him, to be unaware "of what the agenda was going to be" and the meeting turned out to be a waste of "45 minutes of my day and my wife's day."

"They were just telling us no, we're wrong. That's all they did for the whole 45 minutes."

Ogden, responding to a query regarding Millard's comments about the meeting, said the purpose was "simply to better understand his concerns and hear his perspective. It was not intended to be a formal review of the city's documentation or an appeal of the code enforcement process."

He said they spent most of the meeting listening to Millard's complaints about the city's handling of the situation.

"While we asked questions and discussed his concerns, it became clear that we had fundamentally different views regarding the city's responsibilities and the applicable requirements."

He said that, although Millard "may have been disappointed" with the results of the meeting, "I believe it accomplished its intended purpose by giving him the opportunity to fully explain his concerns and allowing us to hear them directly."

Chris Millard said the city

wanted him to hook up to the city sewer, but he did not want to pay "\$50,000" to do that because he didn't own the building.

He told The New Era before they shut the operation down that "the DEQ cleared us on our filtration - everything. We're good to go. The city has not, for what reason we do not know."

The day after the council meeting, city staff sent an email to DEQ asking for clarifications on statements made by the Millards during the City Council meeting. DEQ returned an email stating they will send a letter to staff.

Ranei Nomura, Water Quality Program manager for the DEQ Western Region based in Salem, responded on April 29.

She said that Dad Bod was "not exempt from DEQ regulation."

She said that DEQ concerns about the operation included:

Biodegradable soap or detergents that are toxic to aquatic life: "There is no such thing as a soap or detergent that is safe for our waterways. Soaps and detergents that are 'biodegradable' mean they do not persist in the environment, but they require oxygen to degrade. The degradation process deprives aquatic life of that oxygen. Also, soapy water is not safe for humans to drink or irrigate over sensitive crops and many Oregonians still get their water from nearby creeks and streams."

She said that car washes hosted by Dad Bod did not require a permit "because they are generally considered too small to have an impact," but added that if such activity is determined to "negatively impact waterways," a "costly" permit would be necessary - about \$18,000 for the application fee and \$5,000 annually, as well as "additional costs to provide treatment to the wash water to make it safe to discharge."

Businesses, however,

Nomura added, "are not treated the same as charitable activities because they are stationary and can cause long-term impacts."


"They may be exempt from DEQ permitting, but only if they: 1) wash no more than seven (7) vehicles a week; and 2) do not use chemicals, soap detergents, steam, or heated water."

Nomura also said that cities routinely require pre-treatment of waste water to remove solids and prevent oily discharges from getting into their sewer systems, which could harm their sewage treatment plants.

In an internal memo dated May 12, Ogden said the city's "primary issue in this situation involves wash water entering the stormwater system. Unlike sanitary sewer systems, stormwater systems discharge directly into local waterways without treatment."

"Because of that, wash water containing soaps, detergents, oils, or other contaminants is regulated at the state level through the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality, or DEQ, to protect water quality and aquatic habitat."


Also in the memo, he denied that the city was singling out Dad Bod. "These requirements are not unique to one business, Ogden wrote. "Similar stormwater, drainage, pretreatment, and permitting standards apply to a variety of operations throughout the community, including commercial car washes, vehicle and equipment washing activities, industrial operations, logging-related businesses, and even certain Public Works activities. The City applies these requirements consistently based on the nature of the activity and the applicable regulatory standards."



The Sweet Home Senior Center will be closed on and July 3rd. The Linn Shuttle, Sweet Home In-Town Transit and the Dial-A-Bus will NOT be operating on July 3rd & 4th.

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HONOR ROLL
From page 6

Harris, Elizabeth Heimsoth, Serenity I. Herrera, Cannon L. Klumph, Eleanor C. Larsen, Loralai O. Mark, Ruby G. McKinnon, Kylie M. Melkvik, McKenzie M. Miller, Levi C. Millsap, Anabelle G. Morris, Ava K. Nash, Aubrey J. Newberry, Delainie R. Pratt, Luke E. Rosa, Elisha I. Scofield, Natalie K. Spencer, Trevvor L. Starkey, Andrew A. Tolman, Trinity J. Victor, Wagner, Isabella G. Wagner, Selah L. Wright.

Juniors - Logan M. Anderson, Xander D. Blom, Mailey A. Brewer, Aaliyah E. Brown, Ryker A. Burr, Obadiah J. Christman, Kandace M. Claunch, Khrystoffor B. Domingo, Aivaih R. Duran, Caden J. Foley, Haylee M. Fortune, Aria E. Gardner, Kaidence D. Greer, Ella S. Haggis, Kellen B. Hartsook, Trent G. Harvey, Austyn R. Hogan, Ryan James, Mary J. Johnson, Kaitlyn M. Kennedy, Bradyn J. McClure, Daniel N. McCubbins, Raylynn D. Meyers, Mae V. Munganga, Madalyn L. Murray, Landon R. Murry, Eddie Newell, McKenzie P. Olheiser, Jesse J. Perkett, Gage R. Pettner, Olivia G. Saveskie, Louis A. Scott, Hannah M. Sieminski, Miu A. Simmons, Michelle Slayton, Alexis E. Starkey, Cael G. Stevenson, Mikey E. Stiles,

Gavin D. Tyler, Noah J. Valdez, Victoria M. Victor, Talitha E. Watkins, Khloe R. Wood, Kyle D. Zajic.

Sophomores - Tiffany Jane I. Abarcar, Eli C. Adams, Samuel D. Barringer, Kyler R. Bondesen, Ethan J. Bonneville, Hailey L. Borromeo, Yadira Casas, Madison R. Ciullo, Taelyn L. Coleman, Andru J. Collings, Chance K. Corey, Elijah J. Cruz, Lynnikka H. Damag, Autumn J. Dieterich, Sydney L. Dominy, Ziarra R. Duncan, Michael C. Eggers, Dymin Flowers, Oakley L. Freitag, Henry P. Gainer, Kora M. Gutierrez, Dylan W. Hartsook, Brandon W. Hernandez, Rebecca D. Hindman, Breanna N. Jamison, Jesse R. Jernigan, Brooklyn M. Kallai, Evan D. Knight, Damon M. Lawrence, Arlin M. Lynn, Evan W. Malabago, Natasha D. Marin, Joshua D. Meglen, Sakura S. Miller, Conner L. Northern, Ava E. Padua, Kaianu Ragudo, Red T. Ramsdell, Wesley G. Raynor, Bella M. Rico, Emmalin J. Rosa, Taylee J. Rosa, Khloe R. Sautel, Russell L. Schroeder, Kaylee M. Silacci, Steven A. Singree, Jake C. Smith, Ameliah R. Spinney, Jillian P. Stafford, Mariah R. Stevens, Olivia I. Sullens, Conner L. Thomas, Fiona C. Thompson, Kadence R. Thompson, Mason N. Tyler, Lyla J. Ventura, Jasper J. Victor, Dinah F. Watkins.

Freshmen - Luke J. Adams,

Erin D. Aiello, Silas J. Baker, Jaxon D. Burke, Laycee B. Carter, Riley J. Cauldwell, Miranda Cheldstad, Zed N. Christman, Ryder R. Cummings, Sadie A. Dalton, Kerra A. Darcey, Loki S. Davis, Allison L. Dennull, Gavin M. Duran, Kaleb M. Fortune, Brytin D. Greer, Pyper M. Hall, Elizabeth D. Hankins, Adam Hanson, Eveline M. Harris, Madison L. Jeppsen, Baylee D. Kimball, Sydney T. Lamb, Julia I. Landtroop, Alexis P. Lee, Colten T. Lindsey, Nayeli H. Lund, Addison M. Lynn, Ayden A. Marin, Kayla L. Matthews, Nevaeh A. Mize, Blake M. Murray, Ava S. Murry, Maddy M. Nelson, Ryder S. Oakley, Hudson J. Ogden, Ivan M. Pelcher, Hunter S. Porter, Elijah E. Rodriguez, Christian J. Romero, Macen D. Rosa, Kevin D. Ross, Zoey M. Rust, Halen T. Salvador, Devon M. Sharp, Lukas R. Shultz, Cody D. Sieminski, Jocelyn M. Simmons, Teagan M. Slimp, Amaya M. Smith, Tayler Q. Sullivan, Talon G. Temple, Shasta S. Tenbusch, Savannah D. Thompson, Bentley Uhly, Marshall J. Van Dijk, Brennen J. Scyoc, Kali M. Vogel, Marcus T. Warthen.

SWEET HOME JUNIOR HIGH
Following are Sweet Home Junior High students who have been named to the spring quarter Honor Roll, as

reported by the school.

Eighth Grade 4.00 - Sawyer G. Anderson, Logan V. Ayala, Ellie Banks, Brooklyn J. Bondesen, Addy R. Bonneville, Noah R. Boyd, Lucille C. Corig, Leroy D. Dargis, Aldon J. Darrow, Emma M. Davis, Amber A. Dieterich, Brooke L. Doyle, Erynn N. Foley, Miles W. Gallegos, Farrah K. Gonzalez, Payton A. Goodfriend, Elaina M. Hartness, Aubree R. Hegge, Maddie R. Hegge, Sierra L. Jones, Jodi T. Jorgensen, Kiley R. Kuzma, Emily G. May, Quinn N. Padua, Tempest N. Tweed, Anistyn R. Weikel, Kate P. Ydia

Eighth Grade 3.50 - 3.99 - Brianna J. Allison, Raylene L. Allison, Emma R. Anderson, Khloe A. Arce, Joselyn B. Barnes, Cody A. Budd, Shauntai R. Calkins, Rileigh B. Chase, Jake M. Clark, Hayden O. Crowley, Nevin M. Eversull, Kenzie R. Ferebee, Annabelle J. Falconer, Wiley L. Farris, Devyn L. Foley, Luz M. Garcia, Hattie S. Gay, Natalie N. Godell, Meah B. Haggard, Skylar E. Hanson, Kaleb Hastings, Gabe C. Hayes, Konnor C. Homenyk, Jaxon L. Huenergardt, Timber L. Jensen, Ty A. Jewell, Nathaniel T. Johnson, Chloe D. Killmaster, Noah D. Lynn, Natalie K. McCool, Brody L. Menge, Sayuri H. Miller, Saphyre D. Newell, Addysin Osinga, Breyonna L. Payne, Layla A. Powell, Renae E.

Renek, Lauren N. Rice, Ellie G. Rosa, Kaydence H. Rowe, Brooke D. Silacci, Aidian M. Slimp, Lincoln D. Towery, Lael B. Watkins, Scott N. Westfall, Harrison F. Wolfard, Jayelyn J. Wurl.


Seventh Grade 4.00 - Hailey M. Baker, Ginger R. Baldwin, Hayden J. Delong, Allison M. Hankins, Oliver L. Lindsey, Anneliese E. MacKenzie, Davynne D. McAfee, Cameron L. Smith, Sophia Sullens, Tanner M. Tenbusch, Natalie J. Towery.

Seventh Grade 3.50 - 3.99 - Novaleigh G. Adams, Madeline M. Aguilar-Mota, Emily M. Bagg, Maleika A. Barno, Lilly R. Basl, Autumn R. Bryant, Amelia A. Bruce, Sailor S. Burr, Cynthia L. Campbell, Natalie J. Cartwright, Kylee M. Crawford, Lynfel Franzcysse A. Damag, Willow M. Debrie, Carter C. Duffitt, Miguel A. Estrada, Veneta U. Garcia, Alexia K. Hanson, Ryker S. Huenergardt, Hollie M. Jernigan, Kinzlee L. King, Brighton L. Landauer, Kellen S. Landis, Miles K. Lawrence, Isabella L. Martinez Abraham, Josiah X. Monks, Audrey A. Neal, Brooklynn Payne, Ryker L. Parr, Brooke A. Parsons, Addison B. Peterson, Daniel L. Porria, Preston L. Preston, Charlie J. Radley, Teegan Ragudo, Toby L. Reed, Chloe A. Roberts, Paydon R.

See Honor Roll, Page 19

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IN CONGRESS, JULY 4, 1776.

The unanimous Declaration of the thirteen united States of America,

When in the course of human events, it becomes necessary for one people to dissolve the political bands which have connected them with another, and to assume among the powers of the earth, the separate and equal station to which the Laws of Nature, and of Nature's God entitle them, a decent respect to the opinions of mankind requires that they should declare the causes which impel them to the separation. We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness. — That to secure these rights, Governments are instituted among Men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed. — And whenever any Form of Government becomes destructive of these ends, it is the Right of the People to alter or to abolish it, and to institute new Government, laying its foundation on such Principles, and organizing its powers in such form, as to them shall seem most likely to effect their Safety and Happiness. Prudence, indeed, will dictate that Governments long established should not be changed for light and transient causes; and accordingly all experience hath shewn, that mankind are more disposed to suffer, while evils are sufferable, than to right themselves by abolishing the forms to which they are accustomed. But when a long train of abuses and usurpations, pursuing invariably the same Object, evinces a design to reduce them to absolute Tyranny, it is their right, it is their duty, to throw off such Government, and to provide new Guards for their future security. — Such has been the patient Sufferance of these Colonies, that they have now to a brave and manly spirit, they have united to a Declaration of the thirteen united States of America, that they are united to a Declaration of the thirteen united States of America.

Local Semiquincentennial celebrations planned

So... How to celebrate the Big One - America's 250th?

Fourth of July events in Linn County range from a serious reading of the Declaration of Independence, the document that got us started down this road, to more traditional celebrations of the nighttime extravaganza variety.

Here is a list of some of those events:

Declaration of Independence Reading

Members of the public of all ages are invited to celebrate the nation's 250th birthday with a

reading of the Declaration of Independence at 5:30 p.m. on Friday, July 3, on the north steps of the Linn County Courthouse, 300 SW 4th Ave., Albany.

The event, "We Hold These Truths: A Public Reading of our Founding Document," is sponsored by the Mid-Willamette Valley Alliance of Braver Angels, a nationwide group dedicated to political depolarization.

The reading is expected to take about 30 minutes.

A similar event will be held at 10 a.m. the same day on the steps of the Corvallis City Hall.

A free public discussion about the Declaration of Independence is planned for 6 p.m. on Thursday, July 9, at the Fireside Room at Linn-Benton Community College in Albany.



A Walk to Remember

Sweet Home American Legion Post 133 will hold a Two and a Half Miles for Two and a Half Centuries from 10 a.m. to noon Saturday, July 4, at 109 W. Holley Road.

The walk "to celebrate America's 250 years of independence, service and freedom" will honor the nation's past veterans, support today's veterans and "help build a stronger future."

Registration is \$25 per participant and includes a commemorative event T-shirt, as supplies last, and an all-American lunch.

Veterans who join the American Legion will re-

ceive free registration.

Register early at www.sweethomechamber.com/events/eventcalendar and click on the event

For more information, contact Donna Poirier at (541) 401-2513.

Fireworks and Concert in Lebanon

The Freedom Festival at Cheadle Lake Park in Lebanon on the evening of July 4 will feature a "high-energy" live concert and community gathering at the park.

Gates open at 4 p.m., with fireworks scheduled at 10 p.m.

Admission is free; parking is \$10 per vehicle (cash and Venmo are accepted).

Live music will be provided by Tom Mask from 5 to 6:30 p.m., followed by Taken By The Sky, a Fleetwood Mac tribute band, from 7:30 to 10 p.m.

Food and drinks will be available from Corn Dog Company of Salem, Conversion Brewing, Donut Queen, Kona Ice, Pono Bowl, Tacos La Familia and Ugly Dough Pizza.

Bring blankets, lawn chairs, etc.

A portion of proceeds will benefit the Alzheimer's Association, supporting research, awareness and families impacted by Alzheimer's.

On a related note, Santiam Excursion Trains has a Star Spangled Banner

holiday train ride that will provide a scenic, crowd-free view of the fireworks show.

July 4 Fireworks Return in Sweet Home

Sweet Home will hold its Icebox Celebration fireworks show Saturday night, July 4, at Radiator Supply House's grounds, 1460 47th Ave.

Admission is free. Parking is by donation, with proceeds going to the Sweet Home High School cheer team.

Gates open at 8 p.m. with the fireworks starting at 10 p.m. No early entries.

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The meaning of 'All men are created equal'

By Lewis Waha

America turns 250 this year.

That's not counting from Lexington and Concord in 1775. Or from Britain recognizing our independence in 1783. Nor from our Constitution's drafting in 1789.

Rather, we're counting from the signing of the Declaration of Independence in 1776.

It could hardly be more fitting than celebrating the Declaration's role in shaping our national character. We rightly esteem the words penned two and a half centuries ago: "We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness."

We can say much about these self-evident truths. The first has guided our national life for the better. In 1863, President Abraham Lincoln commemorated the fallen at Gettysburg by way of that truth. As he put it, our Founders "brought forth" a new nation, "dedicated to the proposition that all men are created equal."

A century later, Martin Luther King, Jr. again invoked that same truth. In his "I Have a Dream" speech, King expressed the hope that "this nation will rise up and live out the true meaning of its creed ... that all men are created equal."

There's a solid through-line from the Declaration to the Gettysburg Address and to King's speech. It's America's championing the God-given reality of human dignity. Whereas some dismiss dignity as sentimental fluff, and others count it a useful fiction, Americans understand human dignity as self-evident truth.

Christians, in particular, understand human dignity as due to all human beings bearing the image of God. It's a natural inference from the Declaration of Independence to the book of Genesis. All men being "created equal" and "endowed by their Creator" evokes the moment when God said, "Let us



make man in our image."

Although rooted in the Bible, this equality can be universally understood.

It's not the equality of outcome that Marxists try to impose by force. Rather, it's an equality of rank, or status.

Plato and Aristotle believed that only some human beings were by nature capable of being free. In early modern Europe, nobles enjoyed their rank by virtue of their blood.

But the Declaration established that all "men" possess the same rank of freedom God created us for. Thus, Americans could not be held in subservience to the British. And blacks could not be held in subservience to whites. Truly, all human beings should be recognized by the content of their character, not their national origin or the color of their skin.

So, celebrating that all men are created equal should be a no-brainer. But some of America's political leaders will have a hard time doing so this year. None more so than U.S. Sen. Eric Schmitt, who

cast an alternative vision for America in a speech last year.

The senator dismissed that "all men are created equal" as an "abstract and vaguely defined proposition." In other words, what has long held immense meaning for millions of Americans, the senator sees as meaningless.

The senator has his rationale. It's not just self-evident truth, but all of America's founding ideals that are a problem. In his view, they've been despoiled by an existential enemy. As the senator tells it, "[T]he Left took these principles and drained them of all underlying substance, turning the American tradition into a deracinated ideological creed."

Disappointingly, Sen. Schmitt isn't even interested in "taking back" America's ideals. All because the Left, by some imagined preternatural power, has irreversibly drained those ideals of substance. Instead, the senator now champions a new founding in the name of Christianity and the West. It's a purportedly more tangible

includes winning friends abroad. We led the world in defeating Nazism and Japanese imperialism in World War II.

In the Cold War, we armed, encouraged, and fought alongside those whom President Ronald Reagan called "freedom fighters." Together, we thwarted the conquering ambitions of Soviet-led communism.

So, as we celebrate 250 years together as a free nation, we face a choice.

We could, like some of our misguided politicians, renounce the vision of our Founders and the concrete legacy of championing human dignity. Or we could celebrate and renew the truth of human dignity that is inextricable from our national identity.

For posterity's sake, let's choose the latter.

- Lewis Waha is a freelance writer and contributor to the Institute for Faith and Freedom at Grove City College in Pennsylvania. He focuses particularly on the intersection of faith, public policy and society.

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The Unanimous Declaration of the 13 United States of America

Editor's note: This is a fairly faithful edition of the original Declaration of Independence, written (except for our added bullet points). Grammar rules were a little more flexible in 1776.

**Drafted by
Thomas Jefferson**

When in the Course of human events, it becomes necessary for one people to dissolve the political bands which have connected them with another, and to assume among the powers of the earth, the separate and equal station to which the Laws of Nature and of Nature's God entitle them, a decent respect to the opinions of mankind requires that they should declare the causes which impel them to the separation.

We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness.

That to secure these rights, Governments are instituted among Men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed, That whenever any Form of Government becomes destructive of these ends, it is the Right of the People to alter or to abolish it, and to institute new Government, laying its foundation on such principles and organizing its powers in such form, as



This painting, by American painter and military officer John Trumbull, depicts the introduction of the first draft of the Declaration of Independence to the Second Continental Congress. In the painting (the 12- by 18-foot original hangs in the U.S. Capitol Rotunda) Thomas Jefferson, in the red vest, is handing the document to John Hancock, president of the Congress.

to them shall seem most likely to effect their Safety and Happiness.

Prudence, indeed, will dictate that Governments long established should not be changed for light and transient causes; and accordingly all experience hath shewn, that mankind are more disposed to suffer, while evils are sufferable, than to right themselves by abolishing the forms to which they are accustomed. But when a long train of abuses and usurpations, pursuing in-

variably the same Object evinces a design to reduce them under absolute Despotism, it is their right, it is their duty, to throw off such Government, and to provide new Guards for their future security.

Such has been the patient sufferance of these Colonies; and such is now the necessity which constrains them to alter their former Systems of Government. The history of the present King of Great Britain is a history of repeated injuries and usur-

pations, all having in direct object the establishment of an absolute Tyranny over these States. To prove this, let Facts be submitted to a candid world.

- He has refused his Assent to Laws, the most wholesome and necessary for the public good.

- He has forbidden his Governors to pass Laws of immediate and pressing importance, unless suspended in their operation till his Assent should be obtained; and when so suspended, he has utterly ne-

glected to attend to them.

- He has refused to pass other Laws for the accommodation of large districts of people, unless those people would relinquish the right of Representation in the Legislature, a right inestimable to them and formidable to tyrants only.

- He has called together legislative bodies at places unusual, uncomfortable, and distant from the depository of their public Records, for the sole purpose of fatiguing them into compliance with his mea-

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sures.

- He has dissolved Representative Houses repeatedly, for opposing with manly firmness his invasions on the rights of the people.

- He has refused for a long time, after such dissolutions, to cause others to be elected; whereby the Legislative powers, incapable of Annihilation, have returned to the People at large for their exercise; the State remaining in the mean time exposed to all the dangers of invasion from without, and convulsions within.

- He has endeavoured to prevent the population of these States; for that purpose obstructing the Laws for Naturalization of Foreigners; refusing to pass others to encourage their migrations hither, and raising the conditions of new Appropriations of Lands.

- He has obstructed the Administration of Justice, by refusing his Assent to Laws for establishing Judiciary powers.

- He has made Judges dependent on his Will alone, for the tenure of their offices, and the amount and payment of their salaries.

- He has erected a multitude of New Offices, and sent hither swarms of Officers to harrass our people, and eat out their substance.

- He has kept among us, in times of peace, Standing Armies without the Consent of our legislatures.

- He has affected to render the Military independent of and superior to the



King George III, here pictured in a portrait by Mather Brown in 1790, was accused by colonists of taxing them without giving them an opportunity to represent themselves, suspending self-government, deploying troops amidst the civilian population, and generally making life miserable for them.

Civil power.

- He has combined with others to subject us to a jurisdiction foreign to our constitution, and unacknowledged by our laws; giving his Assent to their Acts of pretended Legislation:

- For Quartering large bodies of armed troops among us:

- For protecting them, by a mock Trial, from punishment for any Murders which they should commit on the Inhabitants of these

States:

- For cutting off our Trade with all parts of the world:

- For imposing Taxes on us without our Consent:

- For depriving us in many cases, of the benefits of Trial by Jury:

- For transporting us beyond Seas to be tried for pretended offences

- For abolishing the free System of English Laws in a neighbouring Province, establishing therein an Arbitrary government, and

enlarging its Boundaries so as to render it at once an example and fit instrument for introducing the same absolute rule into these Colonies:

- For taking away our Charters, abolishing our most valuable Laws, and altering fundamentally the Forms of our Governments:

- For suspending our own Legislatures, and declaring themselves invested with power to legislate for us in all cases whatsoever.

- He has abdicated Government here, by declaring us out of his Protection and waging War against us.

- He has plundered our seas, ravaged our Coasts, burnt our towns, and destroyed the lives of our people.

- He is at this time transporting large Armies of foreign Mercenaries to compleat the works of death, desolation and tyranny, already begun with circumstances of Cruelty & perfidy scarcely paralleled in the most barbarous ages, and totally unworthy the Head of a civilized nation.

- He has constrained our fellow Citizens taken Captive on the high Seas to bear Arms against their Country, to become the executioners of their friends and Brethren, or to fall themselves by their Hands.

- He has excited domestic insurrections amongst us, and has endeavoured to bring on the inhabitants of our frontiers, the merciless Indian Savages, whose known rule of warfare, is an undistinguished destruction of all ages, sexes

and conditions.

In every stage of these Oppressions We have Petitioned for Redress in the most humble terms: Our repeated Petitions have been answered only by repeated injury. A Prince whose character is thus marked by every act which may define a Tyrant, is unfit to be the ruler of a free people.

Nor have We been wanting in attentions to our Brittish brethren. We have warned them from time to time of attempts by their legislature to extend an unwarrantable jurisdiction over us.

We have reminded them of the circumstances of our emigration and settlement here.

We have appealed to their native justice and magnanimity, and we have conjured them by the ties of our common kindred to disavow these usurpations, which, would inevitably interrupt our connections and correspondence. They too have been deaf to the voice of justice and of consanguinity. We must, therefore, acquiesce in the necessity, which denounces our Separation, and hold them, as we hold the rest of mankind, Enemies in War, in Peace Friends.

We, therefore, the Representatives of the united States of America, in General Congress, Assembled, appealing to the Supreme Judge of the world for the rectitude of our intentions, do, in the Name, and by Authority of the good Peo-

See Declaration, Page 16

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Freedom has a cost, as many veterans are well aware

For 250 years, the courage, resilience, and strength of service members and their families have shaped the country and secured the promise of freedom - past, present, and future. Whether they're Army, Navy, Marines, Air Force, Coast Guard, or Space Force, they share the same commitment and contribution to American strength.

For many veterans and service members, joining the military is more than a calling - it's a legacy.

"From the Revolution through now, I had somebody in my family serving," said Army veteran Mark Lalli. "I have my great-grandfather's dog tags from World War I. My maternal grandfather did seven invasions in the Pacific, and my paternal grandfather served in Europe."

This is just one story of millions that underscores how service members and their loved ones have made America's 250th anniversary of independence possible. However, these contributions often come at

a personal cost that many warriors contend with in and out of uniform.

"From one generation to the next, warriors have answered the call to defend our freedoms," said WWP CEO Lt. Gen. (Ret.) Walt Piatt. "It's our duty to ensure they're never left to carry the cost of that service alone."

Visible and invisible wounds

Thirteen months after the 9/11 attacks, Lalli joined the U.S. Army to honor his family's military heritage and desire to protect his country. He eventually became a Black Hawk crew chief, serving as a mechanic and combat

gunner. During a training exercise in Italy, Lalli's military service was cut short when his helicopter crashed, killing six of the soldiers on board and leaving Lalli with severe injuries. Returning to civilian life, he faced uncertainty, physical challenges, post-traumatic stress disorder, and a loss of the close bonds he had relied on.

Supporting and empow-



Mark Lalli, who was injured during Army service after 9/11, gets help from the Wounded Warrior Project. - BPT photo

ering service members, their families, and caregivers is a shared responsibility that reflects the values that define America. Lalli's challenges aren't uncommon. According to the WWP Warrior Survey:

- 76% of warriors report that pain interferes moderately or severely with their enjoyment of life.
- 63% of warriors reported symptoms of one or more mental health conditions, including PTSD.
- 79% of warriors report that they sometimes or often feel isolated, and 72% feel they lack companionship.

These seen and unseen wounds create barriers for service members to thrive. However, organizations and individuals have stepped up to support the ongoing and evolving care needs of veterans, service members, and their loved ones.

Supporting a brighter future for service members

Lalli's path to healing and support started when he got connected with WWP.

"I first met Wounded Warrior Project when an outreach coordinator came

to visit me in the hospital," Lalli said. "He showed me that it's not the end and inspired me to believe that anything is still possible."

By participating in WWP programs and events, like Soldier Ride - a multiday adaptive cycling event - Lalli recovered a sense of community, confidence, and hope.

"Being on Soldier Ride brings back the camaraderie and tribe mentality that we had in the military," Lalli recalled. "It's how the environment and being together help each of us bring out the best in one another. It has helped me reignite my drive and has helped me work harder at being the best father, husband, and friend I can be to those around me."

This is just one example of how WWP supports veterans, service members, and their families across every stage of life and service. The nonprofit strives to help warriors rebuild connections, regain confidence, and move forward after their military service. To that end, WWP programs are designed to meet warriors where they are.

For some, like Lalli, that means connecting veterans with community after isolation. For others, it can mean help navigating mental health challenges, support for improving physical well-being, or resources to strengthen family support.

This important work ensures that warriors past and present have what they need - not just to get by, but to truly thrive. WWP remains committed to that mission for years to come.

How you can help warriors thrive for a lifetime

As the U.S. celebrates 250 years of freedom, it's time to give back to those who have served, are serving, and will continue to serve to protect that freedom. Supporting and empowering service members, their families, and caregivers is a shared responsibility that reflects the values that define America.

"Wounded Warrior Project stands by our nation's heroes no matter what - keeping the promise to bring every warrior home, mind, body, and soul," Piatt said. "Caring for those who sacrificed to protect us is a privilege and responsibility we all share."

To learn more about how you can be part of the next 250 years of strength, resilience, and service and support the nation's warriors today and always, visit WoundedWarriorProject.org/250Anniversary and WoundedWarriorProject.org/Donate.

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250 years OF FREEDOM

American Dream lives on after 250 years

By Jason R. Edwards

Two hundred and fifty. The Semiquincentennial.

Twelve score and 10 years ago, our forefathers brought forth upon this continent a nation dedicated to the proposition that all men are created equal and endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights, and that among these are Life, Liberty, and the Pursuit of Happiness.

By 1931, although the economy was mired in the greatest financial crisis of the country's history, historian James Truslow Adams coined the celebratory term the "American Dream." His phrase was not a lament of some bygone past, but instead a reminder that the "American Dream," the pursuit of happiness, is not a materialistic promise of economic prosperity but instead a metaphysical recognition of the importance of each individual's soul and the country's commitment to protect the liberty of all its citizens to pursue their God-given callings.

For Adams, the true dream, if properly understood, could thrive even in the midst of the nation's worst fiscal crisis, but would die if misunderstood as a mere guarantee of financial comfort and ease.

Perhaps today it is tempting to cynically dismiss politicians' words celebrating the American Dream, especially when the media floods us with critics denouncing the country. And yet, as Teddy Roosevelt famously argued, it is not the critic that matters. If you want to know if the American Dream lives, you must look to the common man who is "in the arena."

Regrettably, in 2026, nearly half of Americans think the American Dream is dead. However, these disturbing results would seem to reflect Adams' fear that the dream is misunderstood. Perhaps even more directly, such cynicism reflects a denigration of gratitude and a disturbing trend to view blessings as entitlements.

After all, even if one were to define the American Dream in purely material terms, 21st century



Americans are stunningly fortunate. Education is a tremendous predictor of upward economic mobility, and free universal schooling has been established for over a century. In 1940, a mere 5% of Americans obtained a bachelor's degree, while that number hovers near 40% today, with rates for younger generations dramatically increasing over recent decades.

Likewise, the nation's poverty rate has plummeted for decades. In the 1950s and 1960s, frequently a quarter to even almost a third of families were considered living

in poverty, whereas that number typically hovers around 10% in contemporary years. Perhaps even more significant is the real purchasing power of households. According to Pew Research, middle-class median household income increased 60% from \$66,400 in 1970 to \$106,100 in 2022 (in 2023 dollars), while lower-income households saw 55% growth. Indeed, the American Enterprise Institute just released data in 2026 showing the fastest growing and largest demographic in the United States is the upper middle class.

Homeownership, a standard component of living the American Dream – despite recent challenges – has risen from 43% in 1940 to 62% in 1960, and nearly 70% in the 21st century.

The ultimate conclusion then is Americans are misperceiving their actual circumstances. The dream is still being fulfilled materially, but needs to be better recognized metaphysically. At 250, we are too distracted chasing after doodads and gizmos. We disincarnate ourselves in a fake electronic world of the interwebs. We talk only of rights and entitlements, never of responsi-

bility and duty.

John F. Kennedy was correct. Quit asking what the country can do for you.

Instead, ask what you can do for your country. It turns out that what you can do for your country is exactly what is best for you. Go to church. Have a family. Work hard. Build community.

Those are the things that will bring true satisfaction in life. That is, effectively pursuing happiness.

That is living the real American Dream.

– Jason Edwards is an associate professor of education and history at Grove City College.

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DECLARATION

From page 13

ple of these Colonies, solemnly publish and declare, That these United Colonies are, and of Right ought to be Free and Independent States; that they are Absolved from all Allegiance to the British Crown, and that all political connection between them and the State of Great Britain, is and ought to be totally dissolved; and that as Free and Independent States, they have full Power to levy War, conclude Peace, contract Alliances, establish Commerce, and to do all other Acts and Things which Independent States may of right do.

And for the support of this Declaration, with a

firm reliance on the protection of divine Providence, we mutually pledge to each other our Lives, our Fortunes and our sacred Honor.

Signed by the following representatives of the 13 colonies:

Georgia

Button Gwinnett
Lyman Hall
George Walton

North Carolina

William Hooper
Joseph Hewes
John Penn

South Carolina

Edward Rutledge
Thomas Heyward, Jr.
Thomas Lynch, Jr.
Arthur Middleton

Maryland

Samuel Chase
William Paca

Thomas Stone
Charles Carroll of Carrollton

Virginia

George Wythe
Richard Henry Lee
Thomas Jefferson
Benjamin Harrison
Thomas Nelson, Jr.
Francis Lightfoot Lee

Carter Braxton

Pennsylvania

Robert Morris
Benjamin Rush
Benjamin Franklin

John Morton

George Clymer

James Smith

George Taylor

James Wilson

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Delaware

Caesar Rodney

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Lewis Morris

New Jersey

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John Witherspoon

Francis Hopkinson

John Hart

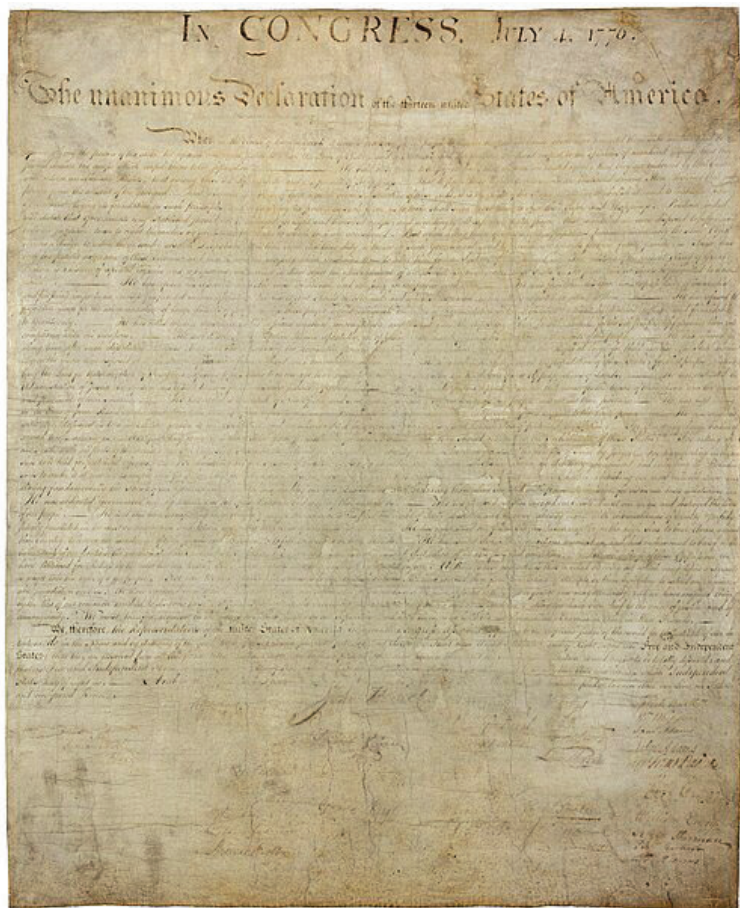
Abraham Clark

New Hampshire

Josiah Bartlett

Matthew Thornton

William Whipple



This signed copy of the Declaration, engrossed by Timothy Matlack in July 1776, is badly faded and is now displayed in the rotunda at the National Archives in Washington D.C.

Massachusetts

Samuel Adams

John Adams

John Hancock

Robert Treat Paine

Elbridge Gerry

Rhode Island

Stephen Hopkins

William Ellery

Connecticut

Roger Sherman

Samuel Huntington

William Williams

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'Flamingos' instructor loves teaching water aerobics at pool

By Satina Tolman
For The New Era

When a flock of pink flamingos marches down Main Street during this year's Sportsman Holiday Parade, spectators may see a cheerful group promoting the Sweet Home Community Pool.

What they may not see is the story behind the feathers.

For 65-year-old Susie Moore, who leads one of the pool's water aerobics classes, the flamingo has become a symbol of her story: one of perseverance, recovery and community following a stroke that changed her life three years ago.

For the past three years, Moore has volunteered as a water aerobics instructor at the Sweet Home Community Pool, teaching classes three mornings a week.

"I just love the pool," she said.

That love was tested in May 2023 when Moore suffered a stroke less than a year after moving to Sweet Home. The stroke left her with weakness, blurred vision, speech difficulties, walking difficulties and limited movement in one arm.

Many people might have stepped away from teaching. Moore chose to return.

"I love them and they love me, and it's all right," she said of her students. "We just kept going together."

Speaking was difficult at first. Instead of leading classes as she had before, Moore relied on simple verbal cues and demonstrations while participants followed along.

"They just watched me," she said with a laugh.

Not long after her stroke, Moore was back in the pool.

"I told the lifeguards, 'Just keep an eye on me, just in case,'" she recalled.

While physical therapy played an important role in her recovery, Moore believes movement itself has been one of her greatest tools for healing.

"That's the best thing, to keep moving," she said. "It hurts. It hurts a lot. But you must keep moving."

Today, Moore occasionally uses a cane or walker for stability, but she remains grateful she continued pushing herself through the difficult months following her stroke.

The water provided something she could not find elsewhere.

"I can do things in the water that I cannot do on land," she said. "It's freeing."

Recovery, she said, involves more than physical rehabilitation.

Because the stroke affected her vision and made reading and writing more challeng-



Susie Moore and her water aerobics class enjoy a monthly lunch get-together at The Point. - Susie Moore photo

ing, Moore began exercising her mind through crossword puzzles, Sudoku, coloring and audio Bible studies.

"I might be slow and methodical, but that's what I have to do," she said.

She also believes social connection is essential, especially for older adults.

"It's so easy to become a hermit," Moore said. "Get out of the house. Go to church. Take a class. Get involved."

Her support network includes her three children, nearly eight grandchildren, fellow water aerobics participants and a weekly prayer group.

"Older people need to be connected," she said.

Faith has remained central throughout her recovery.

"Christ is my healer," Moore said. "I believe that I am healing and healed."

Although she continues to face challenges, her outlook remains hopeful.

"One day I believe I'll be completely restored," she said. "But even if not, my faith is still very important to me."

Moore also encourages others facing health setbacks to advocate for themselves and remain engaged in their recovery.

"Don't give up," she said. "Be proactive."

The friendships formed through water aerobics eventually gave the group an unexpected identity.

During one balance exercise, participants stand on one leg like a flamingo. Before long, class members began calling themselves "The Flamingos." The nickname stuck.

This year the group of friends plans to appear in the Sportsman Holiday Parade as the Pink Flamingos to promote both the community pool and active living.

The pink flamingo represents more than a balance exercise or a parade costume.

Female flamingos often

lose much of their vibrant pink coloring while raising their young. The energy required to care for others temporarily depletes the pigments that give them their signature color. Over time, as they regain their strength and begin caring for themselves again, their bright pink feathers return.

Moore sees a reflection of her own journey in that image.

After her stroke, she lost many of the activities that had shaped her identity. An artist, swimmer, choreographer and longtime caregiver, she suddenly found herself unable to do many of the things she loved.

"It was really hard," she said. "You realize your identity is more than what you can do because all of that can be taken away."

Like the flamingo slowly regaining its color, Moore gradually rebuilt her life by focusing on physical activity, mental engagement, meaningful relationships and faith. While her recovery continues, she said she has rediscovered joy, purpose and parts of herself she feared were gone.

Now she hopes her story encourages others facing their own challenges.

Whether someone is recovering from a stroke, managing a chronic health condition or simply looking for a way to stay active, Moore offers the same advice she follows every day.

"Love yourself by being physically active, keeping your mind sharp, being social, serving others and loving God," she said.

Then, with a smile, she adds a simple invitation:

"Get moving."

And if a flock of pink flamingos passes by during this year's parade, Moore hopes people will do more than wave. She hopes they remember that healing, like recovery, often begins with taking one step forward.



Susie Moore teaches her water aerobics class at Sweet Home Community Pool. - Photos by Scott Swanson



JULY 2026 Sweet Home Senior Center Wednesday Lunch Menu

July 1st: Hamburger steaks in gravy, Potatoes Au Gratin, veggies and dessert

July 8th: Chicken Enchiladas, Rice, Salad, and Dessert

July 15th: Hamburger Stroganoff, veggies, Bread, and dessert provided by Wiley Creek

July 22nd: Garlic Parmesan Chicken, Pasta, Veggie, and Salad

July 29th: Breakfast: Scrambled eggs, Bacon or Ham, Hashbrowns, Biscuits and Gravy, Peach turnovers.

\$6 DINE IN, \$7.50 TAKE OUT

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

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

|55 Plus

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



Pondering horse history at East Linn Museum

By Roberta McKern

While venturing into the East Linn Museum, what we see among the artifacts can pique associations.

This is true in the mezzanine, where ranching and stock-raising equipment is displayed along with logging, carpentry, blacksmithing, and other tools. We see branding irons, saddles, a hand-braided leather lariat made by Holley's legendary blacksmith Justin Philpot, a pair of orange angora chaps, saddles including two side saddles for the ladies, bridles, and more horse tack.

For those of us who haven't much ventured into days of the "old west" farther than Zane Grey novels and Saturday matinee movies back when we were young enough to play rustlers and cowboys, the worn articles displayed inspire speculation abetted by Wikipedia and the diaries of Lewis and Clark. A large ox yoke located nearby brings thoughts of the Oregon Trail. Was that saddle used by young Bluford Moss or one of the Weddle boys riding as scouts for the wagon trains bringing them west? Was that lightweight McClellan saddle designed by the Civil War General George McClellan?

Why not check an old Sears Roebuck catalog? Accordingly, we discover this basic saddle could be had for \$3.70 in 1893, but the general remained un-mentioned.

Visible stirrups bring thoughts of ancient history and Attila's Huns, which lead to visions of horse and wagon migrations and the Oregon Trail and before its blazing, the journey from St. Louis to the Oregon Coast by

Meriwether Lewis and William Clark, which stimulated the idea of Manifest Destiny among the admirers of Jefferson's Louisiana Purchase.

At the core of these speculations stand the horse and a couple of lines from a lullaby, "Blacks and Bays, Dapples and Grays, all the pretty little horses."

In reality, as we travel around the museum we don't see many pictures of horses.

By 1976, when the museum was founded, the horse was thoroughly replaced by the automobile. However, the story of the horse in America goes back farther than we might think, millions of years in fact, something many of us have forgotten about.

Modern scientists believe the horse actually evolved in America at one time, being about the size of a dog, with five-toed feet.

The explorer William Clark found an early fossil after his return from his Oregon journey when he visited a salt lick and recovered fossilized leg bones (possibly he recognized what they were from eating horses on his overland journey when rations got low).

He sent what he found to Thomas Jefferson, who had encouraged Lewis and Clark to collect flora and fauna and other specimens they might encounter including information about native Americans, stimulating Clark's scientific interests.

It took a little longer for scientists to get involved mainly because the knowledge regarding geology, paleobotany, and paleozoology had to be developed which it did rapidly in the 1800s spurred forward by Darwin and Wallace's

writings on evolution. The horse fossil record seemed to clearly support the theory of change over long periods of time.

At any rate, early horses left their bones on what became the Great Plains across which the Oregon Trail meandered according to supplies or water and grass needed by livestock imported from Europe; horses, cattle, and oxen. As a domesticate, the horse had made quite a journey.

Like American Indians, horses crossed the land bridge created in the Bering Strait when the Ice Age locked up so much water in glaciation that the sea levels dropped. It's now thought horses, as well as humans and other animals, made several crossings over the land bridge.

Humans came to the New World. Horses went to the Old, leaving behind a decreasing population faced with such megafaunas as mammoths, mastodons, giant bison, and other good-sized creatures.

Were they eaten by the human sojourners from Siberia who would populate the American north and south and in-between? Did they die of climate change? Or did meteorites create massive fires adding to volcanic destruction?

Whatever happened, the big critters succumbed. Then about 5,000 years ago on the steppes of Mongolia, the horse was being domesticated and turned into a beast of burden. Other animals, like cattle, swine, sheep, and goats were also being moved more into the human orbit. With the invention of the wheel, humans harnessing

horses and oxen to wagons increased their mobility and ability to maraud, murder, and migrate!

So, here come the Huns. Nomadic pastoralists, they traveled in wagons and drove their livestock along with them. They also terrorized their neighbors.

They have been credited with inventing the stirrup. It allowed them to develop a highly efficient cavalry because the Hun could ride a horse while using his knees to guide it, leaving both arms to shoot arrows from a strong composite bow.

Their famous leader, Attila, managed to extort a pay-off when he attacked the Byzantines, but Pope Leo I talked him into removing his armies without sacking Rome. Possibly, there was disease in Rome.

The Huns went west, but pestilence stalked them. Attila died soon after and the Huns faded into history, leaving the Germanic tribes, which had hustled to avoid the Huns behind them to sack Rome in 455 AD and hasten the end of the Roman Empire.

We don't think of our pioneers as acting like the Huns as they pushed across the Great Plains, but they sought a kind of plunder gained in "free land." Horses, of course, traveled along with them and they met opposition from horse-riding Indians.

How could this be if the horse had gone extinct in the new world during the Ice Age?

Europeans starting with Columbus introduced a lot of things into the Americas including horses. As the first to set up colonies in the Amer-

icas, along with Portugal, the Spanish re-introduced the horse along with sheep, goats, and cattle.

On the plains, escaping horses and cattle thrived. It did not take the plains Indians long to see the horse's domestic value. Before the coming of the Spanish, Indians had depended on dogs and women to be pack animals and move camps, because they often lived near river valleys in winter, moving to hunting camps to harvest game in the late spring.

From the time of Columbus and Spanish colonies, particularly in our Southwest, the horse was thoroughly adopted by the plains Indians.

Hence, in around 300 years, many native Americans had changed their way of hunting and many aspects of their lives out of respect for the horse.

This enabled Lewis and Clark on the "Voyage of Discovery" to obtain horses from the Shoshone, with the help of Sacajawea, when they needed help on their way to the Pacific. Much of their travel was by boat, since it was expected that the Missouri River might lead them to a Northwest sea route and the Pacific - which, of course, proved to be untrue.

Fortunately at their hungry, they contacted Indian tribes willing to trade roots like camas, salmon, and dogs and horses to them. Seeing horses as wealth, Indian groups could control herds numbering in the hundreds.

As settlers from the east discovered, native Americans often targeted running stock as a favorite way of marauding whether against other Indians, the Spanish, and other European settlers.

French, English, Dutch, and Swedish colonists who founded our country also introduced European stock into the Americas as well as the Spanish.

Settlers on the Oregon Trail set off from Independence, Mo., in the spring when the prairie grasses stretched green before them. One theory now holds that an especially abundant supply of grass may have set off migratory urges of horse dependent migrants like the Huns, too.

At our museum, the display of horse associated paraphernalia should remind us of what better part of history we owe to the horse.

Thanks to humans, horses have had a world-wide impact respected for their utility and companionship. Many of us talk to our cars as we would to a horse, although saying "whoa" to a Tin Lizzie is not effective!

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LEB COUNCIL

From page 1

apply for the grant without a match offer.

"I know in the scoring criteria in the grant, the more match money you have, the better scoring points you get," Whitlatch said. "There's still no guarantee that we're even gonna be successful in the grant or even if we're going to get enough grant to match what we have in order to build the project."

Councilor Dave Workman preferred to split a match offer of \$500,000 (or less) between library funds and the Travel Station sale, stating he believes it's better if the city save some of the sale proceeds in case something unexpected comes up.

Councilor Michelle Steinhebel said she could support that option, although she'd most prefer to use the full Travel Station proceeds because she's "a fan of using one-time funds for one-time expenditures" and the sale of the Travel Station resulted in the City Council taking up library space.

Steinhebel reminded Workman the city already has a 17.1% contingency fund budgeted for those things that unexpectedly come up.

"But a contingency is a contingency," Workman replied. "It's for something unforeseen, and we don't know what's unforeseen. So taking from the contingency and not adding to it a little bit seems a little shortsighted. There's worse things that could happen than to have something happen to the library. There's worse things in our city, we

are on the edge on a lot of things, and that's just how I feel about stuff."

Library Director Kendra Antila said the CDBG's maximum possible award available would be \$1.5 million, but Whitlatch added the city really doesn't know how the decision-makers would decide to split their overall pot between other applicants.

If the city is ultimately underfunded for the library expansion project, staff would likely recommend the council not accept the grant.

"It has to come back to (the council) to approve the grant, and at that time, if we've got enough money compiled between match and the grant to move the project forward, then we would recommend moving forward," Whitlatch said.

Mayor Ken Jackola told the council he believes the value of the money from the sale is best preserved by investing all of it into the tangible asset of the library.

Councilor David McClain noted the public's perception, stating the public's likely response would be along the lines of, "well they got some money and now they just can't wait to spend it."

"When we passed that \$18 water fee, there was talk that when the city gets caught up and things stable out, we will drop that fee," McClain said. "Well, there hasn't been one mention of that now that the city's doing better and we have extra money."

Antila clarified that if the city matched \$500,000 from the sale of the travel station, she would expect to use up to \$200,000 from the Library Trust to cover cost overruns

and/or replace the patio space.

Ultimately, the council unanimously approved a motion made by Councilor Jeremy Salvage to commit \$300,000 from the sale proceeds toward the match for the grant.

In other business, the council:

- Approved a transfer of appropriations, which Finance Director Brandon Neish referred to as an "end-of-year cleanup," which came out of contingency funds.

- Authorized supplemental budgets for a grant received for a wetlands delineation study and additional state transit funding for LINX.

- Operating as the Urban Renewal Agency, authorized transfer of appropriations for the North Gateway URD for staff payroll and consulting services.

- Discussed and approved replacing the city's multiple software platforms with a centralized Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) system from OpenGov. Councilor Workman noted it's "a line item that's pretty expensive" to the budget, so he would hope to see some accounting of how it ultimately saved money and time.

- Workman mentioned talk around town about "a kid terrorizing people at Columbus Park" on an e-bike, and asked about addressing laws concerning motorized bikes and scooters. City Attorney Tré Kennedy noted state law on the issue is that battery-powered vehicles are prohibited on sidewalks, but the city might be able to regulate local laws concerning multiuse paths.

HONOR ROLL

From page 8

Roberts, Brayden M. Rowe, Gage T. Sanders, Jackson R. Sands, Zoey E. Stark, Kael K. Stewart, Jackson T. Sutton, Kymber M. Vollstedt, Carson J. Wallis, Malekei J. Warthen, Bianca F. White, Glorianna T. White, Adi R. Wilson, Addison M. Wineteer.

LINN-BENTON COMMUNITY COLLEGE

The following students at Linn-Benton Community College earned a grade point average of 3.5 or higher for 12 or more graded credits during spring term, March 2026 to June 2026. These do not include pass/no pass or incomplete credits.

LEBANON

Aiden Abbott, Dallas Akers, Peter Baker, Brooklyn Barnes, Porter Barnes, Jake Begaye, Adriana Benito Chompa, Ashlynn Bjorklund, Eliana Blount, Mariah Bradley, Kaitlyn Broughton, Sailor Brubaker, Valerie Castellano, Lily Chandler, Rachel Costa, Josh Cowart, Porter Dair, Phoebe Denbo, Aidyn Diodato, Evan Diviney, Emily Dowswell, Iain Duncan, Kaz Dunn, Chase Ellis, Alex Epperson, Whitney Falwell, Gunner Fenerty,

Tanner Ferschweiler, Julie Fischer, Hailey Foss, Georgia Francis, Patrick Franco, Lilah Gandy, Nathaniel Gee, Nathan Gibbs, Matthew Halaj, Logan Hopkins, Grace Housing, Alicia Hunt, Joseph Johnson, Nico Kutch, Matthew Livezey, Trevor Mcguirk, Megan Mclemore, Jerricho Mendez, Porter Mhoon-Coatney, Samantha Millerbis, Laci Mitchell, Gustavo Morales, Lindsey Ness, Loretta Newton-Mendenhall, Kalen Nielsen, Dominique Ortega, Elsy Prado Mendoza, Jocelyn Ramirez, Brittany Rinkin, Luke Rose, Aaliyah Ruggiero, Gabe Schlabach, Izabel Scott, Connor Smith, Christy Spier, Hope Stanearth, Brandon Strom, Ethan Stumbough, Trevor Szczepanek, Iseabel Thomson, Micheal Timmons, Mady Vandiver, Albert Vinson, Paige Warren, Daje White, Daphne White, Colton Whittier.

SWEET HOME

Bre Bittner, PJ Castro, Rebekah Cook, Misty Cunningham, Christian Dominy, Kaydence Egner, Dustin Hague, Carter Hay, Jamie Hermans, Huston Holly, Clarice Lugo, Dakota Melkvik, Stacey Nader, Laylend Peterson, Rebekah Peterson, Rafael Ramos, Cade Sawyer, Gavin Sherling-Marvin, Abigail Stone.

OTHER LOCAL HONOREES

Marjorie Emerson, of Lebanon, was named to the Spokane Community College Honor Roll for Winter quarter 2026. Students on the honor roll earned a GPA of 3.0 or above.

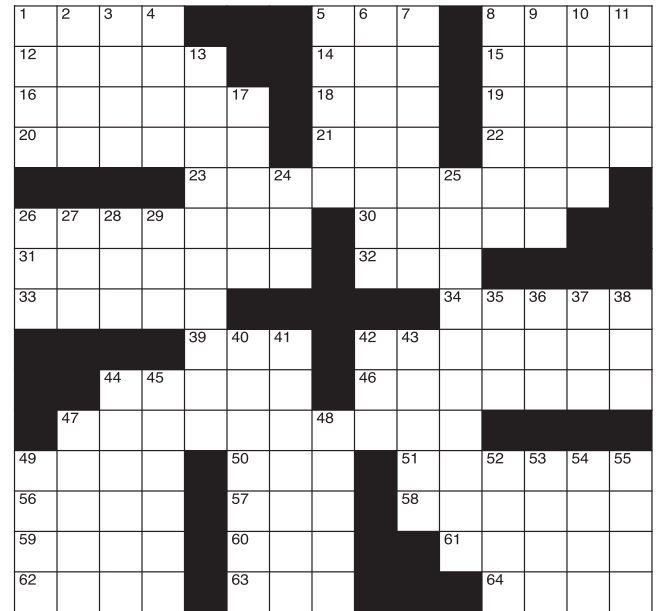
Alexander Obeji of Lebanon was named to Southern New Hampshire University's Spring 2026 Dean's List.

Full-time undergraduate students who have earned a minimum grade-point average of 3.500 to 3.699 for the reporting term are named to the Dean's List.

Full-time status is achieved by earning 12 credits over each 16-week term or paired 8-week terms grouped in fall, winter/spring, and summer.

On June 6, Oregon Charter Academy celebrated the class of 2026 at the Oregon State Fairgrounds in Salem. Of the 341 graduating students, three are from Sweet Home. **Keira Johnson** (Keira received cumulative honor roll recognition) and **Gunner Penix**. The third student did not sign a media release, so was not listed for The New Era.

CROSSWORD



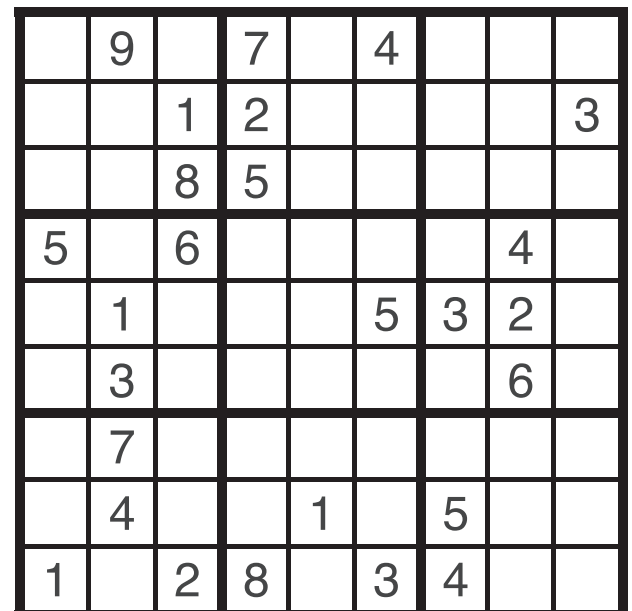
CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Make ale
- 5. Residue
- 8. Female parent
- 12. Succulent plants
- 14. OJ's judge
- 15. Czech river
- 16. Embarrassing predicament
- 18. NHL legend Bobby
- 19. Sunfish
- 20. One who acclaims
- 21. On the __: running away
- 22. Oklahoma's "Wheat Capital"
- 23. The Golden State
- 26. Merrymake
- 30. Siberian nomads
- 31. Pock-marked
- 32. Baleen whale
- 33. Leaf-footed bug genus
- 34. Treasure
- 39. Tanzanian shilling
- 42. Changed
- 44. Intestinal pouches
- 46. Walked in a celebratory way
- 47. South American mountain chain
- 49. Jai __, sport
- 50. Consumed
- 51. Firm
- 56. Pubs
- 57. Leafy drink
- 58. Cured
- 59. Northern wind of France
- 60. Tax collector
- 61. Respite from the sun
- 62. American spy Aldrich
- 63. Central Standard Time
- 64. Myanmar ethnic group

CLUES DOWN

- 1. Crush
- 2. Razorbill genus
- 3. "Full House" actress Loughlin
- 4. Bluish green
- 5. Garlic mayonnaise
- 6. Attacks repeatedly
- 7. Secretion
- 8. Special instance
- 9. A handsome youth loved by Aphrodite
- 10. Tree genus in the mahogany family
- 11. Israeli city
- 13. Formed a theory
- 17. Remove
- 24. Type of light
- 25. Repeats
- 26. Certified public accountant
- 27. River in eastern France
- 28. Returned material authorization (abbr.)
- 29. Special __: military group
- 35. Ribonucleic acid
- 36. Not even
- 37. Power transmission belt
- 38. Doctor of Education
- 40. Type of nerve
- 41. Types of tops
- 42. Large primate
- 43. Flooded, low-lying land
- 44. Gritty
- 45. Gets up
- 47. Stake
- 48. Not the most
- 49. Swedish rock group
- 52. Expresses pleasure
- 53. Expression of boredom
- 54. Queen of Sparta
- 55. Where Adam and Eve were placed at the Creation

SUDOKU



Level: Advanced

Public Notices

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF OREGON, COUNTY OF LINN, Case No. 26CV25699, Mark Baumgartner ("Plaintiff") v. S. B. Sawyer, and his successors, heirs, and assigns, and All Other Persons or Parties unknown claiming any right, title lien, or interest in real property described in the Complaint, (together "Defendants"). To Defendants: SUMMONS BY PUBLICATION: You are hereby required to appear and answer the complaint filed against you in the above-entitled cause within thirty (30) days from the date of the first publication of this summons. In case of your failure to do so, Plaintiff will apply for court relief demanded therein. SUMMARY OF CASE THEREIN: This is an action for Quiet Title for real property described as: Beginning at a point which is the intersection of the west line of the tract of land hereafter mentioned with the south line of the county road and from which point the northeast corner of the southeast quarter of the southeast quarter of Section 14, Township 14, South of Range One West of the Willamette Meridian bears North 0° 05' East 19.8 feet and thence South 89° 54' East 164.9 feet to said corner; Thence South 0° 05' West along the west line of the tract of land aforesaid a distance of 100.2 feet to a point that is 20.0 feet southerly from when measured at right angles to the center line of the spur track survey; thence southeasterly parallel with the center line of said spur track survey and distant 20.0 feet southwesterly therefrom along the arc of a curve to the right having a radius of 553.69 feet, a distance of 262.2 feet through an angle of 27° 08' to a point on the southwest line of the Oregon Electric Railway Company's right of way, a tangent to above described curve at its intersection with the west line of the tract of land aforesaid bears South 81° 18' East; thence northwesterly along the southwest line of the Oregon Electric Railway Company's right of way along the arc of a curve to the left having a radius of 2814.9 feet, a distance of 259.4 feet through an angle of 5° 16' to a point on the south line of the county road, a tangent to last above described curve at its point of beginning bears North 39° 58' West; Thence North 89° 19' West along the south line of the county road a distance of 69.0 feet to the point of beginning, and containing an area of 0.41 acres, more or less, in Linn County, Oregon; and being a parcel of land located within that certain tract of land conveyed to Allen G. McQueen by Clara and C. R. Davis by warranty deed dated August 18, 1922, and recorded August 31, 1922 on page 454 of book 124, Deed Records of Linn County, Oregon. Plaintiff claims adverse possession and quieting title in his favor and enjoining Defendants from asserting any estate, title, or interest in the property. Plaintiff is seeking a Judgment declaring him owner in fee simple, and entitled to possession thereof, free of any estate, title, claim, lien or interest of Defendants. NOTICE TO DEFENDANTS: READ THESE PAPERS CAREFULLY: You must "appear" in this case or the other side will win automatically.

Public Notices

To "appear" you must file with the court a legal paper called a "motion", "answer" or "response". The "motion", "answer" or "response" must be given to the court clerk or administrator within 30 days along with the required filing fee. It must be in proper form and have proof of service on the Plaintiff's attorney. This summons is published by order of Linn County Circuit Court made and entered on May 29, 2026, directing publication of this summons once each week for four consecutive weeks in a newspaper published and in general circulation in Linn County, Oregon. Date of first publication June 10, 2026. Date of last publication July 1, 2026. If you need help in finding an attorney, you may contact the Oregon State Bar's Lawyer Referral Service online at www.oregonstatebar.org or by calling (503) 684-3763 (in the Portland metropolitan area) or toll-free elsewhere in Oregon at (800) 452-7636. Joel D. Kalberer, OSB #013120, Plaintiff's Attorney, P.O. Box 667, Albany, Oregon 97321; (541) 926-2255; jdk@wtlegal.com. (6/10, 6/17, 6/24, 7/1)

PURSUANT TO ORS CHAPTER 87

Notice is hereby given that the following vehicle will be sold, for cash to the highest bidder, on 7/9/2026.

The sale will be held at 10:00am by INSANE CUSTOMS LLC 45900 W LYONS CITY MILL LYONS, OR 2013 VOLKS GOLF TDI VIN = WVWNM7AJ2DW131802 Amount due on lien \$6925.00 Reputed owner(s) SCALF, TESHIA LAVONNE OREGON COMMUNITY CREDIT UNION TESHIA WRIGHT (6/24, 7/1)

NOTICE OF LIEN SALE CONTENTS OF STORAGE ARE MISC HOUSEHOLD ITEMS Unit C1 Joe Lawrence Unit B6 Matt Graber Auction ends July 10th, 2026 @10am on www.bid13.com AMES CREEK STORAGE 898 MAIN STREET SWEET HOME, 97386 541-367-4727 www.amescreekstorage.com (6/24, 7/1)

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE STATE OF OREGON FOR THE COUNTY OF BENTON PROBATE DEPARTMENT

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF CIJI ELIZABETH HODGES, deceased.

Case No.: 26PB05306 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 them to the undersigned Personal Representative in care of the undersigned attorney at: 319 Sixth Street SW, Albany, OR 97321 within four months after the date of the publication of this notice, as stated below, or such claims may be barred.

All persons whose rights may be affected by the proceedings in this estate may obtain additional information from the records of the Court, the Personal

Public Notices

Representative, or the attorney for the Personal Representative. DATED and first published July 1, 2026

Personal Representative CINDY L. HODGES 120 NW Green Acres Lane Albany, OR 97321 DAVID B. BECKHAM 319 Sixth Avenue SW Albany, OR 97321 OSB No. 740300 (7/1)

NOTICE OF ELECTION FOR DISTRICT DIRECTORS OF THE LINN SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Notice is hereby given that on November 3, 2026, an election will be held for the purpose of electing board director(s) to the following positions for the Linn Soil and Water Conservation District:

Positions: Zone 1, 4 years; Zone 3, 4 years; At-Large 2, 4 years Zone boundaries, eligibility requirements, and copies of the required elections forms may be obtained at the SWCD Office located at 33935 Hwy. 99E, Suite C, Tangent, OR 97389.

Election forms and information may also be found at: https://oda.direct/SWCD-elections. Each candidate must file a "Declaration of Candidacy" and a "Petition for Nomination Signature Sheet" with the Oregon

Public Notices

Department of Agriculture, Natural Resources Program Area, Grants Administrative Officer. The filing deadline is 5:00 p.m. on August 25, 2026. The last day to file for an elected incumbent district candidate seeking re-election to the same office is 5:00 p.m. August 18, 2026. (7/1)

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

Public Notices

time after the 30-day period expires, July 1-July 31, 2026 (PP 26-04):

Revolver, sleeping bag, slippers, blanket, headphones, backpacks, clothing, blankets, jeans, jackets, bicycles, keys, athletic watch, drone, knives, rocks, flashlight, lighters, paper, vaping devices, cigarettes, chair, cart, sleeping bag, debit card for timothy Fries, laptop and school work for Shiloh Bliege. (7/1)

Notice of sale of personal property under Landlords Possessory Lien.

Personal property left in the following units have been seized for non-payment of rent and will be sold at The Storage Depot, 2887 SW Ferry St Albany, OR 97322 on July 30, 2026 at 12:00 pm. Anthony Gallegos K3007, Gretchen Groesbeck F0629 & F0625, Chloe Haase J2079, Katie Lindsey K3052, Alisyn Murphy J2012, Kelli Prather K3017, Debra Tilley J2019, Amanda Turcott F0633, Kristina Robb K3059. (7/1, 7/8)

For Sale

For Sale: 1989 Reinell 1/10 Model 185 Chev. V6 and Yamaha 9.9 Kicker Motor. See to appreciate 541-905-1051 \$2,500.

For Sale: Fifth Wheel: 2012

FORM LB-1

NOTICE OF BUDGET HEARING

A public meeting of the Sweet Home Fire & Ambulance District will be held on June 16, 2026 at 6:30 o'clock pm at Station 21, 1099 Long Street, Sweet Home, Oregon. The purpose of this meeting is to discuss the budget for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2026 as approved by the Sweet Home Fire & Ambulance District Budget Committee. A summary of the budget is presented below. A copy of the budget may be inspected or obtained at 1099 Long Street, Sweet Home, Oregon, between the hours of 9:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. or online at sweethomefireor.gov. This budget is for an annual budget period. This budget was prepared on a basis of accounting that is the same as the preceding year.

Contact: Nick Tyler, Fire Chief Telephone: 541-367-5882 Email: ntyler@sweethomefireor.gov

Table with 4 columns: Item, Actual Amount 2024-2025, Adopted Budget This Year 2025-2026, Approved Budget Next Year 2026-2027. Rows include Beginning Fund Balance, Fees, Grants, Revenue, and Total Resources.

Table with 4 columns: Item, Actual Amount 2024-2025, Adopted Budget This Year 2025-2026, Approved Budget Next Year 2026-2027. Rows include Personnel Services, Materials, Capital Outlay, Debt Service, and Total Requirements.

Table with 4 columns: Name of Organizational Unit or Program, FTE for that unit or program, 2024-2025, 2025-2026, 2026-2027. Rows include Administrative Division, Ambulance Division, Fire Division, Grant Fund, and Total Requirements.

Table with 4 columns: Rate or Amount Imposed, 2024-2025, Rate or Amount Imposed This Year 2025-2026, Rate or Amount Approved Next Year 2026-2027. Rows include Permanent Rate Levy, Local Option Levy, and Levy For General Obligation Bonds.

Table with 3 columns: LONG TERM DEBT, Estimated Debt Outstanding on July 1, Estimated Debt Authorized, But Not Incurred on July 1. Rows include General Obligation Bonds, Other Bonds, Other Borrowings, and Total.

For Sale

Montana Special Hickory Edition Model 3150. Well cared for. Onan 3,000 Watt Generator, New Cover and Automatic Slide Hitch. \$25,000. 541-905-1051.

For Sale: 2013 Jeep Wrangler Sahara. New Platinum 10,000lb Warn Winch. Hardtop and Clear Lidz Style panoramic style top. Lots of Extras 541-905-1051. \$ 20,000. (7/1)

Statewide Notices

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SERVICES: Get a break on your taxes! Donate your car, truck, or SUV to assist the blind and visually impaired. Arrange a swift, no-cost vehicle pickup and secure a generous tax credit for 2026. Call Heritage for the Blind Today at 1-844-533-9173 today!

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WILDLAND

From page 1

ards.”

However, for former Sweet Home High School forestry teacher and now wildland firefighter Zech Brown, the live exercise he feels is about providing wildland firefighters with a foundation they can build upon throughout their careers.

“The goals for today are just to help them improve their skills or learn these skills so they can be successful in their careers,” said Brown, who resigned after four years at the high school to join ODF. “Whether it’s one season, or 20, 30, or even 40 years, today’s exercise is about building the foundation so they can help save Oregon.”

For Brown, one of the greatest strengths of the annual fire school is the unique opportunity for firefighters to train alongside people they may work closely with during this fire season.

“If you go to a wildfire, you’re going to have forest service, private crews, structural, we’re going to have everyone,” he said. “Being able to work with people that you’re not familiar with, it just helps.”

Brown’s comments reflected and echoed one of the central goals emphasized by ODF.

“Safety is paramount in every aspect of wildland firefighting, and it begins with our training exercises,” Pet-



Firefighter trainees work at the practice burn south of Foster Lake. See more photos at sweethomenews.com and lebanonlocalnews.com. — Photo by Brandon Cominsky

tinger said. “Working together in a collaborative training setting improves communication and builds effective relationships for all agencies to draw upon during fire season.”

This training comes as fire officials continue to prepare for what could be another busy wildfire season.

During a media briefing held just before the live fire exercise, ODF’s Santiam Unit permanent forest officer Kyle Koonce said current fuel conditions are already concerning despite recent rainfall, warning that the recent rain should not be viewed as the end of the fire season.

“Our fuel conditions are mid-July-ish right now,”

Koonce said. “The rain will help moderate that a bit, but we’ve already seen fires in the Detroit area, up in the Molalla area, and across the state.”

“This is not a season-ending event by any means,” he said. “This gives us time to rehab the equipment and our firefighters, finish training, and be ready for the next one”.

He urged residents to do their part to reduce preventable wildfires and stay prepared for this wildfire season.

“We can handle the lightning that happens naturally, Koonce said. “Its the human-caused fires that we really want to tamp down and make sure those do not get out of control”.

While firefighters spent the week developing their technical skills, ODF officials also emphasized the importance of preparing them for long-term careers in the profession. Bob Arnsmeier, Southern Oregon Area Training Coordinator for ODF, highlighted that connecting with new wildland firefighters throughout the week was one of the most rewarding parts of the academy for him personally.

“I receive a lot of questions about my career path and how I got to where I was,” he said. “It made me feel good that the young firefighters are already thinking about how they can reach that next level and be successful in their careers,”

Overall, the importance of training events such as the Mid-Willamette Valley Interagency Wildland Fire School is reflected in ODF’s Protection Division Training Policy. According to the policy, ODF protects more than 16 million acres of forestland across Oregon, and maintaining a well-trained wildfire suppression force is essential to protecting forest resources while prioritizing safety. The policy also explains that ODF provides and seeks training opportunities to ensure a high level of qualified personnel performance in wildfire suppression and management.

Brown credited his background as a former teacher with helping him mentor brand-new firefighters entering the 2026 wildfire season.

“Being able to have that teaching background has been really helpful,” he said. “Being able to talk to the kids that are just getting started in this and breaking it down to where it makes sense for them has been a really helpful skill to have.”

For those considering careers in forestry or wildland firefighting, Brown strongly encourages them to remain open to learning throughout their careers.

“Keep your ears open and learn as much as you possibly can,” he said. “Learn from everybody, it does not matter if they have been on the crew for two years or 40. They all have something for you to learn.”

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WEEKEND EVENTS & ACTIVITIES

- QUEEN'S CORONATION** Wed, July 8 7:00 PM Community Chapel
- CHIPS-N-SPLINTERS** Thu, July 9 7:00 PM Sweet Home High School Auditorium
- ICEBOX CUT THE GUT CRUISE** Fri, July 10 6:00 PM - 9:00 PM
- SWEET HOME COMMUNITY YARD SALE** July 10 & 11
- LOGGER OLYMPICS** Sat, July 11 1:00 PM Outdoor Event Center

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PUBLIC SAFETY

From page 4

12:15 p.m. - Boat broken into at Sunnyside Campground, 44900 block Quartzville. Investigation ongoing. Report taken.

2:50 p.m. - Jill Jones, 86, of Brownsville, cited for speeding, 82/55, failure to carry proof of insurance, Gap/Northernwood, Brownsville.

6:11 p.m. - Driver, 32, who was not clearly identified in LCSO log, cited for speeding, 74/55, 28700 block Santiam Hwy. Entry to be updated when information is available.

LCSO/OSP LEBANON

1:58 a.m. - Shyanne Church, 28, of Lebanon, arrested for harassment, trespassed from property following domestic disturbance in 2100 block S. 7th. Report taken.

9:57 a.m. - Caller reported turkey and vehicle collided, 2000 block Franklin. Further details unavailable.

10:48 a.m. - hit and run reported in 41300 block Upper Berlin. Believed to have occurred between evening of June 24 and morning of June 25. Roughly \$1,500 damage done to fence. Investigation ongoing. Report taken.

12:59 p.m. - Joshua Webb, 48, of Lebanon, arrested on outstanding warrants, 2100 block S. 7th. Lodged at LCJ. Report taken.

3:28 p.m. - Anthony Middleton, 63, of Lebanon, cited on warrant, 500 block Weldwood. Report taken.

4:45 p.m. - Caller reported

neighbor going through another neighbor's mailbox in 29800 block Fairview. Deputy was unable to contact suspect, but it was determined that no mail appeared to have been stolen. Information documented.

6:49 p.m. - Driver, 20, who was not clearly identified in LCSO log, cited for speeding, 74/55, 29800 block Santiam Hwy. Entry to be updated when information is available.

7:18 p.m. - Driver, 22, who was not clearly identified in LCSO log, cited for DWS, 30300 block Santiam Hwy. Entry to be updated when information is available.

9:00 p.m. - Ashley Barger, 36, of Lebanon, arrested on outstanding warrant, Berlin/Brewster. Cited and released. Report taken.

JUNE 25

SWEET HOME POLICE

2:11 a.m. - Caller reported juveniles out after curfew in 400 block Holley. Officer responded, counseled caller for improper use of 911 and curfew violation.

8:53 a.m. - Caller from 4000 block Clark Mill reported males in driveway, one of them undressing. Officer responded and males moved along. Caller was advised of options, should further issues arise.

11:24 a.m. - Raymond Lyle Tressel arrested by Lebanon police on SHMC warrant for FTC in vehicle burglary case. Cited to appear July 22.

See more and updated Public Safety reports at sweethomenews.com or lebanonlocalnews.com.

Three injured in Highway 20 crash in Lebanon



Police and rescue workers work at the scene of a two-car crash Saturday evening, June 27, at the intersection of Highway 20 and Weirich Road in Lebanon. According to Oregon State Police, a Nissan Murano SUV driven by Robert Wayne Myers, 85, of Lebanon, was traveling west just after 6:30 p.m. on the highway when a Toyota Prius operated by Victoria Regina Jenkins, 82, of Lebanon, made a left turn towards Weirich Drive, in front of the Nissan, which struck the Prius. Both drivers, along with a passenger, Diana Lynn Hall, 69, of Sweet Home, were transported to the hospital. A police report did not indicate which vehicle Hall was riding in. Jenkins was cited for dangerous left turn. Both vehicles were towed. See more photos at lebanonlocalnews.com.

Photos by Miriam Swanson



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