

The New Era

SWEET HOME • LEBANON • AND SURROUNDING COMMUNITIES

Serving East Linn County Since 1929

WEDNESDAY, JULY 8, 2026

VOL. 96, NO. 27 | \$2.00

Honoring the Day of Our Birth



Participants in the Sweet Home American Legion's "Two and a Half Miles for Two and a Half Centuries," above, walk past the bunting-decorated Rio Theatre on the Fourth of July. At left, spectators enjoy a brief fireworks show capping Lebanon's Fourth celebration. See more photos on page 12.

Lebanon Police bid adieu to long-time officer

The Lebanon Police Department bid farewell to one of its own as Evidence Property and Code Enforcement Officer Kevin Buchheit made a formal entry into his retirement on Wednesday, June 24, with a celebratory party among fellow officers and staff, as well as family.

Buchheit began his career at LPD 30 years ago as a part-time parking enforcement officer. In a press release, staff reported it was his strong work ethic, professionalism and dedication that earned him a promotion to the position of evidence property officer.

In 2005, Buchheit was additionally assigned city code enforcement responsibilities, "a role in which he quickly excelled."

The department identified him as "instrumental in developing and refining the department's evidence and code enforcement procedures. It became clear early on that he possessed the unique ability to successfully manage these dual responsibilities while elevating both programs to an exceptional standard."

In recognition of his out-

standing service, Buchheit was nominated for the Mayor's Extra Mile Award in 2016 and received the Distinguished Service Award in 2024.

It was further stated in the press release that "Kevin has been a tremendous asset not only to the Lebanon Police Department, but also to the City of Lebanon as a whole. Whether enforcing city ordinances, managing the department's evidence and property systems, or assisting others whenever needed, he consistently demonstrated professionalism, reliability and integrity."

"Kevin never complained, always completed his work with diligence, and approached every challenge with a positive, can-do attitude."

"His dedication to the Lebanon Police Department, his commitment to maintaining the highest standards in evidence and property management, and his unwavering support of the law enforcement profession are truly commendable."

"Kevin, you have earned the respect, admiration and gratitude of both those you



Kevin Buchheit holds a plaque recognizing him for 30 years of service in the Lebanon Police Department.

- City of Lebanon photo

served and those who had the privilege of serving alongside you. Your hard work, professionalism and consistent efforts throughout the years have left a lasting impact on this organization.

The LPD honored Buchheit with a plaque of appreciation, adding that the programs, procedures and standards he helped build will continue to benefit the department for years to come.

HOMETOWN
NEWSPAPER OF
DIANA
TOLLE

This Week's Top Stories



Wildfire Defense Coordinator

Maddie Tutton has come a long way from growing up at the beach to coordinating East Linn County wildfire defense efforts. [Page 20](#)



Linn County Tree Farmers of Year

It has been a long journey for Larry and Nancy Mauter. Read all about it.

[Page 6](#)



Obituaries

Lori (Evenson) Samuels June 16, 1959 - June 13, 2026

Lori Kay (Evenson) Samuels passed away peacefully, surrounded by her husband and children, on June 13, 2026, after a long and courageous battle with Parkinson's disease.

She was 66 years old.

Lori was born on June 16, 1959, in Veblen, S.D., to Oscar "Scotty" Evenson and Arlene Evenson. She spent her early childhood in Rosholt, S.D., where she developed a deep appreciation for family, hard work, and community.

During her middle school years, Lori and her family moved to Sweet Home, where she completed her education and began building the life she would come to cherish.

She graduated from Sweet Home High School with the Class of 1977. Lori moved away from Sweet Home in the late 1970's, but moved back several times to live with her parents.

Proud of her Norwegian and Swedish heritage, Lori often reflected the quiet strength, resilience, and determination she inherited from her parents. Those qualities would serve her throughout her life and especially during her courageous health battles.

She worked as a bookkeeper for the State of Oregon, The Corvallis Clinic, and Diagnostic Imaging of Salem. She also worked as a teach-



er's aide for the Salem-Keizer School District, where she enjoyed supporting students and educators.

Yet, among all her accomplishments, the role she treasured most was being a mother and raising her three children.

On Aug. 14, 1994, Lori married the love of her life, Jeff Samuels. Together, they built a life centered on family, faith in one another, laughter and unconditional love.

As the wife of an Oregon State Police trooper, Lori created a home filled with warmth, encouragement, humor, and unwavering support. Her family knew her as their strongest advocate, biggest cheerleader, and steady source of comfort.

Lori was the proud mother of Jesse Samuels (30), Brooke Samuels (29) and Luke Samuels (27). Family was the center of her life and the source of her greatest joy.

Nothing made her happier than spending time with those she loved and creating lasting memories together.

Lori loved life and embraced it with energy, enthusiasm, and a sense of adventure. She shared many of her favorite activities with her family, including running, hiking, biking, and skiing, and family trips to Central Oregon and the Oregon Coast-Cannon Beach was a special place for her.

Whether on a mountain trail, a beach, a ski slope, or a family outing, Lori found joy in being active and spending time with those she loved.

A true warrior, Lori courageously battled Parkinson's

disease for more than 15 years.

Along the way, she also overcame multiple cancers, facing each challenge with extraordinary strength, determination, and grace. She refused to let her diagnosis define her.

As part of her Parkinson's therapy, Lori took up boxing and approached each workout with the same perseverance that carried her through every obstacle. Her resilience inspired her family, friends, caregivers, and everyone fortunate enough to know her.

Lori had a gift for bringing people together. She loved baking for family and friends, and her kitchen was often the heart of gatherings, celebrations, and holiday traditions. She enjoyed traveling and treasured the memories she made exploring new places with family and friends.

Music was one of Lori's greatest joys. She loved attending concerts and listening to her favorite songs, especially the music of the 1970s. She also loved to dance and could often be found moving to the music with a smile on her face. Her family affectionately nicknamed her "Dancing Queen," a title she wore proudly and one that perfectly captured her fun-loving spirit and zest for life.

Despite the many challenges she faced, Lori maintained her remarkable ability to laugh, smile, and find joy in life's everyday moments. Her strength as a woman, wife, mother, daughter, sister, and friend was evident

in everything she did. She met adversity with courage and optimism, teaching those around her invaluable lessons about perseverance, grace, and the power of a positive spirit.

Lori was preceded in death by her father, Oscar "Scotty" Evenson, in 2018; her sister, Holly Evenson, in 2022; and her mother, Arlene Evenson, in 2023.

She is survived by her devoted husband of nearly 32 years, Jeff Samuels; her children, Jesse, Brooke, and Luke Samuels; her sisters, Julie Vollmer and Carolee Evenson; her brother, Scott Evenson; and many extended family members, lifelong friends, and loved ones who will miss her deeply.

Lori's legacy is one of love, devotion, perseverance, kindness, and joy. She will be remembered for the warmth she brought to every room, the meals she lovingly prepared, the adventures she shared, the music she danced to, and the unwavering love she gave to her fami-

ly. Her ability to laugh, smile, and remain strong through life's greatest challenges is a testament to the legacy she leaves behind.

Though her physical presence is gone, her spirit lives on in the countless lives she touched and in the family she cherished above all else. She will be forever loved, forever remembered, and forever missed.

Instead of flowers, the family encourages memorial contributions to organizations supporting Parkinson's disease research and patient care in Lori's honor, including:

- PD Rebel Project (non-profit connected with Rebel Fit Club's Rock Steady Boxing Program for those fighting Parkinson's) www.pdrebelproject.org.

- Parkinson's Resources of Oregon <https://www.parkinsonsresources.org>.

- Brian Grant Foundation www.briangrant.org.

- The Michael J. Fox Foundation www.michaeljfox.org.

Donna Hickey

Dec. 22, 1937 - June 30, 2026

Donna Joan Hickey, 88, of Sweet Home passed away June 30, 2026.

She was born Dec. 22, 1937, in Lusk, Wyo., to Maude L. (Riley) and Forrest R. Kobbe.

Donna lived many places when she was younger, including Wyoming, Minnesota and Eugene. She moved to Seattle in 1967, then to Hamilton, Mont., in 1989.

In 2006, her family packed up and moved to Sweet Home, where she lived until her death.

Donna married James Jerome Hickey in Billings, Mont., on Nov. 17, 1956.

She was a homemaker, but

also worked at times as a restaurant server, hospital worker and a retail cashier. She was a member of St. Helen Catholic Church. She loved ceramics, crocheting, leatherworking and making blankets.

Donna is survived by four children, Mary Kisman (Dave) of Boise, Idaho, Teresa Kloehn (Ronald) of Eugene, James Hickey (Pattie) of Sweet Home, and Richard Hickey of Lynnwood, Wash.;

See Obituaries, Page 3



THE NEW ERA on the road...



The New Era went with the Webe Walkabout Women's Masters Walking Team to the Cascade Lakes Relay in Central Oregon. The team consisted of, from left, Lynn Stimson (team captain), Tracy Burrige, Barbara Haute, Donna Poirier, Sue Northern, Nancy Ashlock, Jessica Wilcox and Carolyn McDermed. The team completed the 95.1-mile walk in 24 hours 59 minutes, hoofing it from the Diamond Lake Resort along Cascades Highway via Mt. Bachelor to the finish line in Bend. Their team took first place in their age group (although, full disclosure here, they were the sole competitors in the Women's Master Division).

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TAKING A TRIP?

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

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

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

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OBITUARIES

From page 2

sister Wyoma Wagner of Elmira; 11 grandchildren, 18 great-grandchildren, four great-great-grandchildren, and several nieces and nephews. She was preceded in death by her husband, James J. Hickey (2022); parents; sister Dixie Kechter (2003); and brother Jack Kobbe (2008).

Viewing will be at 10 a.m. Thursday, July 9, at St. Helen Catholic Church. Rosary will follow at 10:30 a.m., with a funeral Mass at 11 a.m. Placement at Gilliland Cemetery will be at a later date.

Sweet Home Funeral Chapel is handling the arrangements.

Gerald Leest

May 26, 1937 - June 26, 2026

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

He was born May 26, 1937, to Henrietta (De Jong) and Lawrence N. Leest in Gresh-

am.

Gerald and his family moved to the Sweet Home area when he was 12 and he lived in Sweet Home for the majority of his life. He worked from the bottom up in the logging industry, retiring from G & H Logging in 2003.

What mattered most to Gerald was his family and friends. He always made time to spend with them. He loved maintaining his property. Many fond memories were made while fishing, crabbing and traveling in their RV.

Gerald is survived by his wife, Carol Leest of Sweet Home; children Sandra Updegrave (Frank) of Sweet Home, Dina Black (Frank) of Sweet Home, and Kim Wessel (Darren) of Omak, Wash.; seven grandchildren; and 15



great-grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Lawrence (1982) and Henrietta (1983); stepson Randy Cline (2020); and all eight of his siblings: Nellie, Don, Evelyn, Arie, Harriet, Frances, Betty and Hank.

Sweet Home Funeral Chapel is handling the arrangements.

Death Notices

Madeline Joyce Barnes, 82, of Brownsville, passed away July 4, 2026.

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

Marie A. "Toni" Dickerson, 66, of Albany, formerly of Sweet Home, passed away June 28, 2026.

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

Eugene Leslie Jungwirth,

87, of Sweet Home, passed away June 30, 2026.

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

Roberta H. Porria, 91, of Sweet Home, passed away July 5, 2026.

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

Judith Ann Schmidt, 83, of Sweet Home passed away July 3, 2026.

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

Phillip Otto Slater, 79, of Independence, formerly of Sweet Home, passed away July 6, 2026.

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

Comfortably Dumb by Bruce Quast



Live at the Whiskey a Yo-yo

TEMPERATURES

DATE	HIGH	LOW	RAIN
6/30	69	47	0.00
7/1	72	53	0.00
7/2	77	44	0.00
7/3	84	52	0.00
7/4	82	52	0.00
7/5	85	51	0.00
7/6	88	52	0.00

RAIN IN INCHES

Year to date: **11.17**
7/2/25: **19.24**

FORECAST

DATE	WEATHER	HIGH/LOW
7/9	Sunny	84/51
7/10	Sunny	83/53
7/11	Cloudy	79/51
7/12	Cloudy	86/54
7/13	Cloudy	90/56
7/14	Sunny	91/58
7/15	Sunny	91/57

LAKE LEVELS

Foster **635.7**
Green Peter **950.8**

TODAY'S FIRE DANGER IS MODERATE

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

CROSSWORD KEY

Puzzle on page 15



SUDOKU KEY

Puzzle on page 15

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

Public Safety

- Information herein is sourced from law enforcement and fire agencies. Details, which may not always be available in time for our weekly publication, are updated on our website as information becomes available. - Addresses noted generally denote the location of the incident or arrest, occasionally indicating the origin of the call. - Our reporting of an individual's arrest or citation for a crime does not imply guilt. Determination of guilt can only be established through legal proceedings in court. We commit significant effort to following through as cases move through the judicial process. A Roman numeral indicates the degree of a charge: theft I (first-degree theft).

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

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

JULY 5

SWEET HOME POLICE

8:18 a.m. - Faron Walter Kennedy, 61, arrested on LCC warrants for FTA in theft case,

reckless driving/DWS/multiple criminal citations case; LCJC warrant in cutting/transport of forest products case; AMC warrant FTA in trespassing case probation violation; LMC warrant for FTA in criminal citation case. Also cited for DWS. 43000 block Wiley Creek. Cited and released. Vehicle towed.

6:11 p.m. - Tyler David Reddington arrested for disorderly conduct after report of fight between two males at The Point, 6305 Main. Cited and released.

6:48 p.m. - Caller from 1200 block Linden Court reported neighbor knocked on her door, then started yelling and cursing at her. Officer contacted both parties, who were trespassed from each other's homes. Issue apparently centered on children in neighborhood. Parties advised of Neighbor to Neighbor confidential mediation program offered by Community Dispute Resolution Center in Linn County.

7:48 p.m. - Earl Ryan Dodge arrested for harassment, criminal trespass II, after caller reported that male who had been trespassed from Spoletto's, 4804 Main, had returned and was causing a scene. Male eventually left but, according to caller, walked into roadway and was nearly hit by

car. 8:39 p.m. - Caller reported female in Police Department driveway, 1950 Main, who appeared to be trying to start a fire in bushes. Officer contacted female, who stated she was burning her own property. She was counseled on her actions. Officer did not find evidence of criminal activity.

LEBANON POLICE

3:32 p.m. - Braiden James Vallee, 18, taken into custody for assault IV. Report taken.

4:51 p.m. - Patient at hospital tried to leave, was convinced to stay, but then she "karate

kicked" staff. She was strapped to bed, spit on staff.

6:11 p.m. - Black 2014 Dodge Charger reported stolen, 100 block S 5th St.

7:48 p.m. - Fanny pack stolen with air pods out of Sweet Home. Air pods pinged at location, found in bushes, 300 block Sand Ridge Ct.

10:26 p.m. - Subjects "jumped" by group that has a "beef" with them, and kitten in one victim's bag fell out and was kicked by group member. Investigation ongoing.

LCSO/OSP SWEET HOME/S.

See Public Safety, Page 9

Theft costs SHHS track program \$10,000-plus

Burglars stole more than \$10,000 worth of equipment from a storage shed at Husky Field in Sweet Home Saturday night, June 27, police and track Head Coach Nathan Whitfield said.

Whitfield said the thieves cut a lock on the shed, located near the finish line at the Sweet Home High School track at 1012 22nd Ave., and stole a wide variety of electronic equipment - laptop computers, walkie talkies

and handsets, and a hand timing system, along with a starter's pistol.

Although some of the items were older, he said replacing them will cost about \$13,000.

"They took all the electronics they could take," he said.

Cameras at the site showed two individuals, who apparently used a bolt cutter to get in, he said.

Police took a report for burglary II, criminal mischief and aggravated theft I.

Circuit Court

Sonny Allen Agrelius, 29, charged June 30 with failure to report as a sex offender.

Logan James Beebe, 20, charged July 2 with criminal mistreatment I, obtaining execution of documents by deception, and aggravated theft I - by deception.

Kasie Beth Bidwell, 40, charged June 30 with unauthorized use of a vehicle, possession of a stolen vehicle and theft I.

Ryan Lee Earl, 42, sentenced June 25 to 20 days jail, 10 days

compensatory service in lieu of jail, three years supervised probation and \$300 in fines after pleading no contest to DV - coercion and DV - menacing. Dismissed: assault IV.

Jason Wayne Gray, 55, charged June 30 with DV - strangulation and DV - assault IV. He posted 10% of a \$20,000 bail.

Hunter Ryan Hahn, 23, charged June 30 with DUII (liquor).

Jeremy James S. Jesinghaus, 35, charged July 6 with DUII (liquor), harassment, attempted

strangulation and disorderly conduct II.

Travis Blake Lanz, 42, charged June 7 with theft I and assault IV.

David Michael Pugh, 68, charged July 1 with unlawful cutting and transport of special forest products, theft II and possession of stolen vehicle.

Alexandra June Richardson, 31, sentenced June 24 to 30 days jail and 36 mos. supervised probation after pleading no contest to unlawful possession

of fentanyl. Dismissed: FTA I.

Christopher Thomas Richey, 39, sentenced June 30 to 13 mos. prison, 24 mos. post-prison supervision and a \$200 fine after pleading guilty to attempt to commit a Class B felony - Sexual Abuse I. Dismissed: sexual abuse I.

Hollie Rose Rood, 40, charged July 2 with criminal mistreatment I, obtaining execution of documents by deception, and aggravated theft I by deception.

From our Files



Cutting ribbon at the East Linn Museum in 1976 is Lois Rice. Other principal persons in the museum's opening are Don and Velma Menear, at left, and Corean Morgan, right.

JULY 12, 1951

Sweet Home's water situation got worse when an overworked water pump gave up under the strain of constant high-speed operation. The main 500 horsepower river pump quit and was offline for 10 hours during repairs. Sound trucks cautioned residents not to water their lawns or gardens and reduce water usage in general until the reservoir could refill.

Banke's Super Market and The New Era will sponsor a Frontier Days "Kids' Auto Race" fashioned along the lines of the famous soap box derby. The race will be at the 14th Avenue hill beside the city park.

JULY 8, 1976

Tomco Inc. plans to pay its employees in new \$2 bills this week, planned to coincide with the bicentennial activities in the country.

As a demonstration of the impact Tomco has on the city's economy, owner Amos Horner asks his employees to use the money to pay for local bills, groceries, gas and other local purchases.

Bob Waibel, Sweet Home's ace competitive logger, will be a bicentennial performer in Washington, D.C. He was hired by the Smithsonian Institute to put on logging exhibitions with other Oregon loggers on the lawn between Lincoln Memorial and Washington Monument.

JULY 11, 2001

Sweet Home's Planning Commission will consider the revocation of Country Star RV Park's conditional use permit, and recommended City Council direct a citation for the business failing to meet a deadline for a condition on the permit, which was failing to complete required restroom facilities on time. In

another action, Detta Duncan accused the commission chair of bias concerning Linn County Affordable Housing's Brookside Development for low- to moderate-income seniors, disabled and other homebuyers when he said it is difficult to find housing for his disabled son.

Sweet Home area parks were packed during the Fourth of July weekend, with Lewis Park drawing more people than usual. Cars were parked a quarter mile up the road on both sides from Lewis Park. The Thistle Creek boat ramp had cars parked all over the bank.

Thomas Lewison, 14, placed 13th at a statewide hunting competition in Marcola, earning himself a place to represent Oregon at Nationals in New Mexico this month. Lewison qualified as the fifth junior, ages 14 and under, in the NRA's Youth Hunter Education Challenge.

Letters to the Editor

Hurt doesn't have to be the last word

Editor:

I've noticed something about our current generation - many of us have been taught to center our struggles so much that we sometimes begin to identify with them more than we grow beyond them.

It's not that people are weak; it's that we've been encouraged to stay in a place of hurt instead of being shown how to move through it. This isn't about blaming anyone - it's about recognizing that while our pain is valid, it doesn't have to define us. We are capable of more than just surviving our circumstances.

I grew up in the South during a time when families often handled painful situations by pretending they didn't exist. When my life fell apart, my own family turned away from me.

Being disowned by the people who were supposed to love you unconditionally leaves a wound that's hard to describe. It wasn't just homelessness that hurt - it was believing I didn't belong anywhere.

There were nights when I wondered if anyone would ever

want me again. It's a feeling I wouldn't wish on anyone.

But somewhere along the way, I made a decision. I could let those experiences define me, or I could build a different life.

So I went back to school. I earned a career. I bought a house. Today, I'm happier than I've ever been. That doesn't mean I've forgotten.

I remember the fear, the loneliness, the hunger, and the rejection. I remember what it felt like to believe I had been thrown away. Those memories are still with me, but they no longer control me.

That's why I believe our past should teach us, not imprison us. Trauma is real. Abuse is real. Homelessness is real. The pain doesn't disappear just because we decide to be strong. But strength is choosing to keep moving forward anyway.

I don't share my story to say everyone should recover exactly the way I did. I share it because I want people to know that a painful past doesn't have to be the end of the story. There is another chapter if you're willing to keep writing it.

Janelle Burford
Lebanon

Does he have guts to do right thing?

Editor:

Last night I was sitting across from the business offices in the 400 block of Main Street (Hwy. 20), watching all the fireworks going off in the various neighborhoods.

It was almost 10:30 p.m. and there were still quite a few of them. I was sitting on a wooden stool on the sidewalk, looking towards Thriftway, when I heard a noise to my right.

Two bicycles were headed toward me at high speed. The first passed me so close I had to turn my knees to the left. The second threw out his leg, hooked the stool with his foot, and sent me crashing to the ground.

He yelled, "I dumped her, Dude!" They laughed as

they raced down the hill and out of sight.

I have no broken bones, but the pain I feel in my body and soul is unbelievable. Why would anyone do that to another person?

I am asking here that anyone, who might hear this man talking about this or bragging on social media, show him this letter.

How would you feel if someone did that to your mother or grandmother? I don't understand why so many people today are so mean and callous.

I don't want to press charges. I don't want any money. What I want is to see if this man has the guts to meet me in front of The New Era office and apologize.

It won't heal my pain, but it would give me hope for all

our futures.

Nitzi Ostermiller
Sweet Home

McKern's piece on horses elicits memories

Editor:

I always enjoy Roberta McKern's stories. Her piece in the July 1 edition, about horses, reminded me of a pair of books I read from our library, "1491" and "1492."

I found them fascinating... what the western hemisphere was like a long time ago, then so many fast changes after Columbus' arrival.

Trading went both directions, west to east (Europe) as well as east to west... including animals as well as vegetables and grains.

Joan Scofield
Sweet Home

Editorial: 250th one-of-a-kind celebration

By Scott Swanson
Publisher

As a journalist in a small community where "everybody knows your name," covering events often means being a participant.

Last Saturday, that was a pretty affirming experience.

I can't say I was as prepared as I would have liked to have been to celebrate America's 250th. I've been listening to (for me) a lot of discussion of the history of the Declaration of Independence and last week we published some pieces that, I thought, did a good job of bringing out important things we should be thinking about, which many of us take for granted. Those would be concepts like the human dignity promoted by the Declaration's assertion of the fact that all human beings are created equal, and that we have been blessed

by the wisdom of those who crafted the documents that have given us a nation that has lasted for 250 years - when even some of them wondered if it would survive more than a few.

I don't have space here to go into all the principles that provided the foundations for the Declaration and, later, the Constitution and the Bill of Rights. The fact that the 250th birthday of the latter won't come until 2040 makes it clear that they took their time to get it right.

I will say that in our helter-skelter world of creature comforts and amusements and technology and all the other things we find to distract us, the concepts that built this nature can easily get lost in the shuffle.

Back to participation: I wasn't sure what we-all were going to experience on Sat-

urday, but I knew that a lot of people had put time and effort into planning some substantive celebrations. That turned out to be the case, and I was only sorry I couldn't be in more than one place at once.

I was privileged - and I use that word deliberately, not flippantly, to be part of the Sweet Home American Legion's "Two and a Half Miles for Two and a Half Centuries" walk.

If you've been reading our paper recently, you know that the local Post 133 is rebuilding in multiple ways, having acquired the former Fir Lawn Lutheran Church building as its headquarters after it was heavily damaged by an arsonist. They're also working to build their membership.

See Editorial, Page 5

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

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EDITORIAL

From page 4

The walk was a fund-raiser, but it really was a true exercise in patriotism. More than 100 people showed up for the event, and it was fun – especially with the enthusiastic honking from passing motorists throughout the stroll. I'm a runner and I thought about jogging it, but that wouldn't have been the way to go. I was glad I walked with that group.

They're talking about doing it again, maybe making it an annual event, and I hope they do – with double and triple the participation.

In Lebanon, organizers put together a top-notch program at Cheadle Lake Park, giving visitors a chance to try

out the newly paved parking lot, for starters. Gone was the wagon drag through the gravel. Gone was the dust. It was a good start to the night.

Hundreds of people had a great time, with music from Tom Mask and Taken by the Sky, a Fleetwood Mac tribute band that played a lot of the great hits.

The event benefited the Alzheimer's Association, and Emcee Jenni Grove, of The Oaks at Lebanon retirement community, delivered a very compelling appeal, based on her personal experiences in dealing with the disease. I personally came away with increased appreciation of the need to support not only research into cures, but the demands of providing and enhancing care and sup-

port for all those affected by Alzheimer's, not just the patients.

Lebanon's fireworks show didn't go as planned, thanks to "technical difficulties" that delayed the start for 50 minutes and then resulted in a rather hit-and-miss display. I know the organizers had really invested in that show, so it was disappointing to, well, see that go up in smoke (OK, sorry for that bad pun).

Down the road in Sweet Home, Ron Carter, who pretty much singlehandedly has revived the town's fireworks tradition that kind of faltered following COVID, put on a great show over the pond at Icebox Radiator Supply, which has generously provided the venue for the last couple of years.

I'm reminded that we don't always control the circumstances, which is why the fact that we celebrated our nation's 250th year is in itself a blessing.

Increasingly, we're hearing how other ideas of how government – socialism or even communism, which both have proved to be disasters elsewhere, are gaining popularity in our country.

Many Americans today don't know their history, or have truncated views of our past.

We certainly have had plenty of issues in America, some very shameful. But we've also been greatly blessed with a form of government that has created a society that, even with our flaws, has apparently great-

ly impressed the visitors who've come to the World Cup.

In some recent commentary on the semiquincentennial, I saw this quote from Charles Carroll of Carrollton (Maryland), the final survivor of those who signed the Declaration of Independence:

"I do hereby recommend to the present and future generations the principles of that important document as the best earthly inheritance their ancestors could bequeath to them and pray that the civil and religious liberties they have secured to my country may be perpetuated to the remotest posterity and extended to the whole family of man."

Well put.

Events

CLOTHING DONATIONS REQUESTED IN LEBANON

Avamere of Lebanon is looking for donations for a BOO-tique they will hold for residents in October.

They seek donations of gently used clothing, shoes, accessories, purses, costume jewelry, hangers, shopping bags, clothing racks or rolling garment racks, and holiday-themed clothing.

Staff want to provide a fun (free) shopping experience to help their residents feel confident and comfortable while giving them the joy of shopping for themselves and boost their holiday spirit.

Donations can be dropped off from 1-3 p.m. on July 20-24 at the facility, 350 S 8th St. in Lebanon. There will be a barrel for donations in the front lobby.

LEBANON CITY COUNCIL FILING

The position of mayor and three city council positions will be on the Nov. 3 General Election ballot. City council positions are four-year terms; the mayor serves a two-year term.

The deadline to file as a candidate ends at 4 p.m. on Friday, July 31. City officials with terms expiring Dec. 31, 2026:

Mayor of Lebanon – Currently held by Kenneth Jackola
 Councilor Ward I (Oak Creek Precinct) – Currently held by Marcellus Angellford
 Councilor Ward II (Pioneer Precinct) – Currently held by Dave Workman

Councilor Ward III (Santiam Precinct) – Currently held by Michelle Steinhelb

To qualify for candidacy, you must be a qualified elector, have resided in the City of Lebanon for six months immediately preceding the election on Nov. 3, are not an immediate family member of a city employee or seated elected officer, and live in the ward for which you are a candidate.

For more information, visit LebanonOregon.gov/wardmap-interactive. For questions, contact City Recorder Julie Fisher at (541) 258-4905 or email Jfisher@lebanonoregon.gov.

PEO BERRY SALE IN SWEET HOME

Sweet Home's PEO Chapter DD

is selling freshly picked, flash-frozen berries to raise money for educational scholarships, loans and grants to women in the community.

Blueberries and thornless Columbia Star blackberries are available in nine-pound buckets for \$30 each. Order by July 9 by calling or texting Nancy at (541) 912-6579. Pickup will be in the parking lot behind the Rio Theater in Sweet Home from 9 to 9:30 a.m. on Aug. 22.

ACTIVITIES AT THE HEALING GARDENS

Lebanon Community Hospital Foundation invites people to enjoy the hospital's Japanese healing gardens through several upcoming opportunities. To register, or for more information, contact Brandy O'Bannon at bobannon@samhealth.org. Or register online at samhealth.org/LebanonHealingGardens.

July 10, Aug. 14 and Sept. 18 at 10 a.m. – Garden Tour: One-hour guided garden tour, starting at the koi pond gazebo, Boulder Falls Event Center. Learn about the garden's history, design and care while exploring both gardens. No registration required.

July 13, Aug. 17 and Sept. 24 at 5 p.m. – Stroll for Well-Being: An independent walking and journaling program designed to support mindful reflection. Journals provided during orientation session.

July 18 from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. – Family Day: (11-12:30) - Children 6-12 are invited to this "storigami" experience to learn traditional Japanese paper folding while listening to a story read by paper artist Yuki Martin. (1-3) - Parents and children can enjoy a garden bingo activity and art project for glass plant stakes. (1-4) - Bonsai

expert Lee Cheate will lead a private bonsai class for adults 18 and over; small fee required for take-home bonsai.

ICE CREAM SOCIAL AT THE MUSEUM

The East Linn Museum will host an ice cream social from 12-2 p.m. after the grand parade on Saturday, July 11, at 746 Long St.

Free ice cream cones, games for kids and adults, coloring and sidewalk chalk, and free museum tours. Donations for the museum appreciated.

LEBANON TRAILS WORK DAY

Build Lebanon Trails will have a work day from 9-11 a.m. on Saturday, July 11, at Riverview Park. Volunteers will remove weeds and debris, and sweep the trail. Loaner tools and work gloves are available onsite. Wear appropriate clothing and shoes. Arrive a little before 9 a.m. for instructions and signing in.

SWEET HOME SCHOOL BOARD TO SET GOALS

The Sweet Home School Board will hold a work session from 3 to 6 p.m. on Monday, July 13, in the Sweet Home School District Board Room at 1920 Long St. Board members will discuss goal-setting with guidance from Oregon School Boards Association personnel.

The public is welcome to attend.

AFTER 5 CONNECTIONS DINNER, PROGRAM

After 5 Connections – a gathering for women – will host a "Happy Birthday America" picnic and program from 6-8 p.m. on Tuesday, July 14, at 700 E. Sherman St., Lebanon. Men welcomed, too.

Guest speaker will be Shirley Mozena, of Vancouver, Wash., a former teacher, mountain

climber and world traveler. An author of several books, her new book is the true story of how the father and mother of a young child experienced the worst nightmare that parents would ever have to face. Shirley and her husband currently serve as facilitators of their local Grief Share program.

Dave Dickson, a retired history teacher, is the night's special feature presenter, who will talk about the growth, development and some key events that shaped the United States during the last 250 years.

Dan McLucas, musician and soloist of Lebanon, will brighten up the picnic with his dazzling ukulele playing and singing.

Cost for dinner is \$23; credit cards cannot be accepted. To RSVP, contact Sherri at 541-258-6414, or Nancy at 541-259-1396 or by email at NancyPinzino@comcast.net. Please contact if you have to cancel your reservation.

SUMMER MOVIES AT SANKEY PARK IN SH

The Sweet Home Public Library will host Movies in the Park from 7:30-10:30 p.m. on the following days at Sankey Park, 847 14th

Ave. Free to the public, snacks included.

July 17 – Hoppers

Aug. 14 – National Treasure

CHRISTMAS IN JULY

Mrs. Claus and the Elves will host "Christmas in July" from 2-6 p.m. on Saturday, July 18, at the American Legion, 109 W Holley Rd., Sweet Home.

The free family event will have hot dogs, gingerbread house decorating, cookie decorating, a North Pole knockdown, hidden elf game, teen photo scavenger hunt, toy donation bin, silent auction, kids activities, and door prizes.

Santa and Mrs. Claus will be available to greet children with candy canes and small stuffies.

LCSWA TO HOLD TOUR AT FUN FOREST

Antique logging equipment will be on display during a tree farm tour July 18 sponsored by the Linn County Small Woodlands Association.

The award-winning Fun Forest is the site for the annual LCSWA Summer picnic. Jim Cota and Mike Melcher will host the event, scheduled from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., at the Fun Forest Barn on Upper Berlin Drive.

Lebanon tree farmers recognized for 30 years of work

By Scott Swanson
Of The New Era

When Larry and Nancy Mauter got married in 1992, they decided they wanted to have a plan for retirement – something different.

Larry was a newspaper editor at the Telegram-Tribune daily in San Luis Obispo, Calif., at the time. He met Nancy when he suffered an injury and visited her physical therapy practice.

Although San Luis Obispo, where Cal Poly State University is located, is considered one of the more desirable locations to live in in the Golden State with its “Mediterranean” climate, they wanted something “greener,” Nancy said.

“We wanted to be in a forest environment.”

Larry said they considered “different things – not necessarily a business.”

“We looked at starting a trout farm, fish farming, and that was way too complicated.

“We looked at Christmas trees, also pretty complicated,” especially since they were still living and working in SLO.

“So then we started looking at timber property,” he said. After searching in Oregon and Washington, they found an approximately 15-acre mixed-forest parcel on Bellinger Scale Road, near Mallard Creek Golf Course.

That was a plus, since Larry also liked to golf.

“I saw the plans for the golf course two years before it was built, right? I said, ‘OK, well, there’s another factor.’”

They did the deal and bought the land in 1997, making the 850-mile trip a few times a year to stay in a fifth-wheeler and work on the south-facing property, which had been logged and had not yet been replanted,



Nancy and Larry Mauter stand on their tree farm in Lebanon, where they have been honored as the county's Outstanding Tree Farmers of the Year.

– Photos by Scott Swanson

Larry said.

Larry, who has a double major in journalism and environmental studies, said that the internet was just starting to take off in the 1990s, so he was able to access Oregon State University Extension Service information on the computer.

“I kind of self-educated myself.”

When they finally moved to Lebanon, in 2015, after Larry finished his working career with seven years at Hearst Castle, north of SLO, they built a small, comfortable house and settled down to

grow trees.

Thirty years later, they’ve been named the 2026 Linn County Outstanding Tree Farmer of the Year by the Linn County Small Woodlands Association.

“They don’t have a real big tree farm, but they’ve done an exceptional job with it, especially controlling all the noxious weeds,” said Jim Merzenich, LCSWA president and one of the early Tree Farmer of the Year honorees. “Nancy has the pollinator garden and they’re kind of emphasizing that. It’s just well taken care of.”



Larry Mauter surveys his forest, which includes a wide variety of species, during a tour of the property.

Linn County is one of five Small Woodlands chapters in Oregon that name a Tree Farmer of the Year, and a state selection team will visit each honoree’s woodland this summer, Merzenich and Larry Mauter said. A recognition luncheon will be held in November, where the state Tree Farmer of the Year will be named.

Getting to this point has been a long process for the Mauters, a lot of it just learning about trees.

“There were some challenges,” Nancy said, adding that the distance between SLO and their tree farm did not work in their favor, statistically.

“I read a study once looking at what are the reforestation rates in terms of closeness to your forest. You know, one to five miles – success. When they got out to the 800 mark, it was like ‘Don’t count on it.’”

The weather didn’t help, at least initially. That first year, 1997, they replanted in what turned out to be a hot, dry El Niño year and that – especially the southwestern exposure to blazing sun – didn’t help their young trees.

“They got cooked,” Larry

said.

They did a replant two years later, this time with a lot of Willamette Valley ponderosa pines, which were better suited to the conditions.

Another challenge has been the soil. The best ground is near the base of the property, along Bellinger Scale, rising 200 feet to the top of the property, he said. “Up the hill it’s mostly cobble.”

“We have a very diverse forest property,” he said. “We’ve got a mixed age and a mixed stand. We’ve got about 30 varieties of trees on the property, so it is forest property rather than a typical plantation farm.”

Merzenich said their land, which once comprised the south end of the Udell property, is “volcanic ground.”

The soil looks like it’s in Sisters, Oregon. It’s remarkable what they’ve done with it, the success they’ve had with Douglas fir and cedar.”

Over the years, the Mauters have both been very involved in LCSWA. Larry was one of the creators of the Robert H. Mealey memorial at Sunny-

See Tree Farmers, Page 7

CHURCH DIRECTORY

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Do all things without grumbling or disputing, that you may be blameless and innocent, children of God without blemish in the midst of a crooked and twisted generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world. **Philippians 2:14-15**

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Chocolatier reworking historic building after structural collapse

By Sarah Brown
Of The New Era

A colorful display of purple, red and white lay strewn across the ground like a Jackson Pollock art project made from brick, stucco and paint.

This was no art project but, rather, the remains of an old building in Lebanon originally built in the 1930s.

Much of the building blocks for what is currently the Victorian Chocolate company were torn down on Tuesday, June 30, due to structural damage sustained a year ago when a storm took out some of the roofing.

Actually, the back part of the building – an addition built in the 1980s with cinderblock – was the location of the roof collapse last year, but it led to the revelation that the original 1930s structure made with hollow clay tiles and some wooden beams was nearly “disintegrated” in different places.

Owner Kelly Reetz’s original plan was to re-gird the roof as well as the older walls, but as plans progressed with engineers and city officials, Reetz said he realized it would be more economical and safer to rebuild the entire 1930s portion of the building.

So the walls came tumbling down.



Workers make final preparations before tearing down the front wall of Victorian Chocolate Company. – Kelly Reetz photo

Reetz is salvaging timber beams and antique clay bricks that didn’t break during the tear-down, picking them out from the rubble one by one and setting them off to the side. Though he’s not sure yet what it will be, Reetz’s desire is to build something from the old bricks in an effort to keep some of the history that originated from the building’s original proprietor, Fred Musgrave.

“That was the toughest thing to come to grips with, not to lose all the history,” he said.

The renovation will end

up costing three times what Reetz originally estimated, but he expressed gratitude to the community that has supported him with words and financial support. He said there was no insurance on the building because the costs had skyrocketed.

Last year, he estimated he’d need \$125,000 to fix the building, but the rebuild is now looking to be about \$250,000 to \$300,000. A GoFundMe campaign set up on his behalf raised \$6,300, and the 40&8 veterans organization pledged another \$10,000.



Reetz collects intact antique clay tiles to be used for a later project. – Photo by Sarah Brown

Reetz is crossing his fingers to have his candy shop re-opened by Christmas. The GoFundMe fundrais-

er can be found at <https://www.gofundme.com/f/victorian-chocolate-company-needs-our-help>



LCSWA members and visitors tour the Mauters’ tree farm in June.

– LCSWA photo

TREE FARMERS

From page 6

side Park, a demonstration forest featuring 60 Willamette Valley Ponderosa pines and a memorial information kiosk. LCSWA members maintain the grove. They’ve also been very active in the LCSWA Seedling Sale and on the Scholarship Committee.

Larry has also been a board member for the organization and has handled much of the publicity, including writing articles that appear regularly in The New Era.

They’ve put in a lot of work on the property, which now

is covered by a wide range of conifer species and hardwoods. Bluebird boxes line the hillside along the trails,

and Larry said they have a wide range of wildlife on the property.

The Mauters hosted a tour

of some 45 visitors, including some family members, of the property June 20. Even that was an educational experience.

“I was asking a lot of questions,” Larry said. “How would you have handled this; or ‘What should we be doing?’ I got a lot of good responses.”

They showed off the forest and Nancy’s pollinator garden, which is a recent project.

Nancy said the property finally looks “healthy.”

“Everybody says it’s very

healthy, whereas before it wasn’t healthy.

“It’s a really nice forest now. It’s looking good.”

Merzenich credited the Mauters with taking on a daunting project as retirees.

“They wanted to physically do something, get involved some place,” he said. “They didn’t want to live in a retirement community.

“Every tree farmer, big or small, has a story to tell other tree farmers and I thought they have a really good story.”

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Linn County Fair opens July 16 with wide range of fun

By Alex Paul

Linn County Communications

The 2026 Linn County Fair starts Thursday, July 16, and runs through Saturday, July 18, at the Fair & Expo Center, 3800 Knox Butte Road East.

To view complete information about this year's fair, see the Fair program in this week's newspaper or visit <https://www.linncounty.gov/commissioners/page/2026-linn-county-fair-special-section> to find information on everything from 4-H and FFA livestock shows to special events such as Senior Bingo and the annual Senior Ice Cream Social on opening day.

"This year's fair offers something for everyone," said Fair & Expo Center Manager Kris Barnes. "Explore the incredible accomplishments of our 4-H and FFA youth exhibitors, enjoy thrilling carnival rides, indulge in your favorite fair foods, shop from local vendors, experience interactive exhibits and take part in outstanding live entertainment throughout the fairgrounds."

As usual, this year's fair will feature daily main stage entertainment at 8:30 p.m. starting off with Frankie Ballard on July 16, Montgomery Gentry featuring Eddie Montgomery on July 17 and the Band Perry on July 18.



Opening acts will be McKayla Marie on Thursday, Skinny Lyzrd on Friday and Kurt VanMeter on Saturday. Opening acts take the stage at 7 p.m.

The concerts are free with paid admission, although reserved seating is available at: www.linncountyfair.com.

Daily admission for adults is \$10, but kids 12 and under are admitted free thanks to Boshart Trucking. Complete information can be found at www.linncountyfair.com/prices/hours.

Thursday, July 16 is Senior and Military Day sponsored by Coastal Farm & Ranch. Seniors and members of the military with an official ID are admitted free.

Friday, July 17 is Family

Day, sponsored by ATI.

Saturday, July 18 is Health Day, sponsored by Samaritan Health Services.

The always-popular FamilyLand will be open from 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. daily.

There will always be something fun to do with Mac the Flexbot, Puzzle Mania, the Silver Starlets, Eric Haines the one-man band, Molly's Musical Adventure, the Butterfly Encounter, face painting and Hillia Queen of the Rings.

A complete schedule of daily events can be found at <https://www.linncountyfair.com/schedules>.

Davis Carnival rides and midway games will offer fun for all ages from 11 a.m. until midnight and don't forget to

fuel up with the many food vendors in the courtyard, offering everything tasty from sugary elephant ears to mounds of fries and giant corn dogs.

Rodeo fans will enjoy the Hell on Hooves Rodeo that starts at 6 p.m. on Thursday in the Calapooia Arena. It is free with paid admission.

Wild 'n' Woolly Mutton Bustin' action gets under way at 6 p.m. Friday, July 17, in the Calapooia Arena.

New this year, the Open Class Department is hosting an Oregon Authors Table in the Arts, Crafts and Hobbies Department.

USA Today bestselling author Whitney Dineen will be one of our featured authors. Whitney is an award-winning author known for her humor, heartwarming stories, and unforgettable characters. Her books have entertained readers across the country, earning her a loyal following and bestselling status.

Stop by the Oregon Authors Table during the Linn County Fair, July 16-18, 2026, to meet Whitney, learn about her books, and celebrate the creativity and talent of Oregon authors.

Don't forget about Senior Bingo at 11 a.m. on Thursday in the Willamette Building, and at 12:30 p.m. on Thursday, Linn County Commis-

sioners Roger Nyquist, Sherrie Sprenger and Will Tucker, will be dishing up ice cream for seniors in the Sponsors Pavilion.

You can also enjoy daily entertainment in the Expo Center stage including Jeff Martin Magic, Starr Studios Company Dancers and the Legacy Dance Project.

Don't forget the Linn County 4-H and FFA Fair gets underway on Monday, July 13, and will wrap up on Saturday, July 18 with the annual Youth Livestock Auction in the Calapooia Arena. Registration starts at 9 a.m., lunch will be served at 11 a.m. and auction action starts at noon.

General admission is \$9 online and \$10 at the gate for adults 13 and up, with children 12 and under free. Seniors 60 and older are \$7 online and \$8 at the gate. Parking is \$5 daily, with no re-entry. Season passes for adults are \$22, \$18 for seniors.

Tickets for 4-H and FFA participants are \$15 and must be purchased at the Expo Fair Office; proof of 4-H participation is required. Season parking for 4H and FFA, which includes daily in-and-out privileges, is \$12.

Carnival ride ticket prices are: Single ride ticket, \$8; Five-ride ticket, \$35; All-day ride wristband, \$42.

County commissioners say goodbye to longtime budget officer

By Alex Paul

Linn County Communications

At their June 23 meeting Linn County Commissioners Roger Nyquist, Sherrie Sprenger and Will Tucker, recognized Michelle Hawkins for her 26 years as the county budget officer.

New Chief Financial Officer Jennifer Stanaway will take over as the county budget officer on July 1. Hawkins will continue as county treasurer until her retirement at the end of October.

Hawkins completed 26 years as budget officer - also serving as assistant budget officer for several years - and will have served 31 years with the county upon her retirement.

Board Chair Nyquist said the county has greatly streamlined the annual budget process during Hawkins' tenure. When he was first elected to the board, budgeting could take more than two weeks and included some big cuts in waning hours to balance things out. Today, the annual budget hearings are held over four days.

Nyquist said that the process has improved because county staff - both department heads and elected officials - work as a team. He added that Hawkins has created a process that provides budget guidance several



Michelle Hawkins, left, is honored by county supervisors, from left, Roger Nyquist, Sherrie Sprenger and Will Tucker as she closes out 26 years as the Linn County's budget officer.

months ahead of the hearings and that includes providing budget makers with long-term financial guidance. Nyquist also praised Hawkins for her work assisting local businesses during the Covid 19 pandemic and with assisting families who were displaced by the Labor Day fires in the Santiam Canyon in September 2020.

He noted that Linn County provided grants to local businesses that were struggling financially due to the shutdowns imposed during the Covid 19 pandemic. Hawkins worked with local chambers of commerce to gather the names of businesses in need and disburse grants quickly.

That funding kept many

small businesses alive, Nyquist said.

Hawkins did the same thing to help families affected by the Lionshead/Beachie Creek fires that ravaged the north canyon area.

Linn County residents and businesses donated tens of thousands of dollars to help their neighbors and within 24 hours, Hawkins was distributing checks.

"A family could make an application one day and have a check the next day," Nyquist said.

Hawkins said that for more than a week, she crisscrossed Linn and Marion counties, paying for motel rooms to house families.

Tucker thanked Hawkins

for her support of military families and for spearheading the move away from cash or check only payments in county offices. Linn County residents can now use credit cards for many of their transactions.

Sprenger said she had many questions when she was first elected to local office, but Hawkins was always willing to answer them.

"She has an orange binder that explains why we do things in a certain way," Sprenger said.

The commissioners also adopted the last budget under Hawkins' guidance, totaling \$298,773,964 for the 2026-2027 Fiscal Year. The General Fund tax rate will be

\$1.2736 per \$1,000 of property valuation. The Law Enforcement Levy will be for \$3.08 per \$1,000 property valuation.

The commissioners did not meet June 30.

In other business on June 23, the commissioners:

- Approved an amendment to extend a Special Use Permit for the Linn County Parks & Recreation to operate 26 Forest Service campgrounds in the Willamette National Forest from five years to 30 years.

- Were told there were 21 Linn County youths held at the Detention Center in May. The average length of stay was 7.83 days. There also were eight youths from Benton County held for 8.5 days and one youth from Lincoln County held for four days. There were 49 referrals in May and there are 198 young people in the Probation Unit. The victims advocate made 116 contacts.

- Adjourned the regular board meeting and convened the 4-H and Extension Service District Board. A 2026-27 budget of \$967,823 was approved. The tax rate will be seven cents per \$1,000 of property valuation.

- Updated and approved the county fees schedule for FY 2026-27.

PUBLIC SAFETY

From page 3

COUNTY

8:25 a.m. - Deputy contacted suicidal male in 34800 block Northernwood, Brownsville, who was cooperative. Deputy provided courtesy ride to SLCH.

1:20 p.m. - Sherry Banham, 49, of Brownsville, arrested for assault IV following report of domestic disturbance in 300 block W. Bishop, Brownsville. Lodged at LCJ. Report taken.

2:25 p.m. - Three teens - two 16-year-olds and a 17-year-old, from Sweet Home and Scio, cited for no personal flotation device, Foster Lake, 43700 block North River. Report taken.

4:16 p.m. - Four vehicles ticketed for parking violations, Calkins Boat Ramp, 44500 block Quartzville.

5:24 p.m. - Caller reported scam after attempting to purchase puppy off Facebook, 800 block River, Brownsville. Report taken for fraud.

5:44 p.m. - Christina Casey, 53, of Lebanon, cited for speeding, 85/55, 28600 block Hwy. 20.
6:42 p.m. - Multiple vehicles ticketed while parked in No Parking zone near ville Bridge in 43600 block North River.

7:14 p.m. - Purse reported stolen from vehicle in area of McDowell Creek/Pleasant Valley. Investigation ongoing. Report taken.

LCSSO/OSP LEBANON

3:07 a.m. - Linda Lovato, 67, cited for speeding, 50/25, Airport/Airway.

4:08 a.m. - Shannon Tilley, 59, of Lebanon, cited for failure to carry proof of insurance, warned for operating unsafe vehicle, Hwy. 34/Goltra.

8:50 a.m. - Downed tree reported in area of 4th/Gross, Waterloo. Community members rallied to take care of it.

2:48 p.m. - Sean Kirchoff, 48, of Sweet Home, cited for FTOTCD, 1900 S. Main St.

2:48 p.m. - Shain Hersey, 50, of Lebanon, arrested on warrant, 200 block Taylor. Report taken.

See Public Safety, Page 13



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Cut the Gut car cruise arrives in Sweet Home Friday

Registration is open for the ninth Annual Icebox Cut the Gut Car Cruise, taking place in downtown Sweet Home on Friday, July 10.

Hosted by the Sweet Home Chamber of Commerce and Visitors Center, this event welcomes all makes, models, and years of vehicles.

Participants who purchase a \$25 Registration Passport will enjoy access to 19 official checkpoints located throughout Sweet Home. At each checkpoint, participants can collect passport stamps while enjoying games, activities, giveaways, and swag.

This year's event features a \$500 cash grand prize and additional raffle prizes donated by Sweet Home Chamber member businesses.

Registered participants who complete and submit their passport or raffle entry at the end of the evening will be eligible for the prize drawings.

Each Registration Passport includes:

- Official 2026 commemorative Cut the Gut Passport.
- Access to all 19 official checkpoints.
- Sponsor swag and registration bag goodies.
- A commemorative 2026 Foundry Tag for the first 300 registered participants.
- Eligibility for raffle prizes, including the \$500 cash



drawing.

• Participants may also purchase official event merchandise during registration, including standard T-shirts, hoodies, women's fitted T-shirts and tank tops, hats, and commemorative tumblers.

"We're excited to welcome both returning participants and first-time cruisers to Sweet Home for another fun

evening," said Lagea Mull, chamber executive director.

"The Registration Passport makes the event interactive by encouraging participants to explore the community, visit local businesses and organizations, and enjoy everything our checkpoint hosts have planned. It's a fun way to experience Sweet Home while supporting the businesses and volunteers who

make this event possible."

Online registration is available through Wednesday, July 8, at CutTheGutCruise.com. In-person registration is offered at the Sweet Home Chamber of Commerce, 1575 Main Street, during regular business hours while passports remain available. If passports are still available after online and in-person registration closes, partic-

ipants may register at the event check-in table starting at 5 p.m. on Friday.

Cruising begins at 6 p.m. in downtown Sweet Home. The event will take place rain or shine.

For additional information or to register, visit CutTheGutCruise.com or contact the Sweet Home Chamber of Commerce and Visitors Center at (541) 367-6186.

ICEBOX CUT THE GUT CAR CRUISE

WIN \$500 CASH!

6 PM - 9 PM

FRIDAY, JULY 10TH

DOWNTOWN SWEET HOME, OREGON

SCENIC CRUISE ★ COOL CARS ★ GOOD TIMES!

REGISTER IN PERSON!
Sweet Home Chamber Office
1575 Main Street
Sweet Home, OR

\$25 Registration includes:

- Official 2026 Icebox Cut the Gut Passport
- Access to all 19 official checkpoints
- Commemorative 2026 Foundry Tag*
- Sponsor swag
- Eligibility for raffle prizes, including a chance to WIN \$500 CASH!

QR CODE

REGISTER IN PERSON!
Sweet Home Chamber Office
1575 Main Street
Sweet Home, OR

During normal business hours

Sponsored by: **Icebox**, **RSH**, **BUCK'S ROOFING**, **East Linn**, **Cascade Timber Consulting, Inc**

Questions? Call or Text 541-367-6186

Registered participants with a completed and submitted event passport are eligible for raffle prizes.

SPORTSMAN'S HOLIDAY Parade

★ LEGACY OF LIBERTY ★

HONORING OUR PAST. ★ CELEBRATING OUR FREEDOM. ★ INSPIRING OUR FUTURE.

SATURDAY JULY 11 2026

11:00 AM

DOWNTOWN SWEET HOME, OREGON

★ ROUTE: MAIN STREET TO LONG STREET ★

REGISTRATION FEE: \$10+

Register online by scanning the QR code or visiting SweetHomeChamber.com.

In-Person Registration:
Sweet Home Chamber of Commerce
1575 Main Street, Sweet Home, OR 97386

Questions? Call 541-367-6186

SPORTSMAN'S HOLIDAY BREAKFAST
Sat & Sun, July 11 & 12
8:00 AM - 11:00 AM
Elks Lodge

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

★ ★ OUR LEGACY. THEIR FUTURE. ★ ★

Friday, July 10 6:00 PM - 9:00 PM

Cut the Gut Cruise features business checkpoints from one end of Sweet Home to the other. At each stop, participants will have their passports stamped for a chance to win a raffle prize. Participants are encouraged to bring their best rides to show off, and spectators are encouraged to sit along the route to watch the show.

Sponsors: Icebox Performance by RSH, Buck's Sanitary Service, East Linn Roofing, Tony & Shelly Larson Family Foundation, Cascade Timber Consulting

See story on page 10 for more details!

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The Wendi Melcher Team

CUT THE GUT



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East Linn County celebrates America's birthday



Participants in the "Two and a Half Miles for Two and a Half Centuries," above, line up for a photo outside the American Legion Post before starting their walk, below, left, on Saturday morning, July 4. Below center, Taken by the Sky, a Fleetwood Mac tribute band, performs at Lebanon's celebration. At right, fireworks reflect off the pond at Icebox Radiator Supply during Sweet Home's Fourth of July show Saturday night. See more photos at sweethomenews.com and lebanonlocalnews.com.

- Photos by Scott Swanson



- Kristine Banker photo

Celebrate
JESUS
Festival

**2 DAY EVENT
 JULY 25-26,
 2026**

SATURDAY, JULY 25TH 12-8PM

- FREE FOOD AND GAMES
- BOUNCE HOUSES
- CARNIVAL BOOTHS
- RAFFLE PRIZES

GOOD NEWS:

- GUEST SPEAKER: DEREK ADER

LIVE MUSIC FEATURING:

- RUSS
- MARC AND BETSY
- ARCA DE SALVACIÓN
- BARABEL
- KID ROSE & PROPHETIQ
- CHSN WILL
- PRAISE IN 3D

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SUNDAY JULY 26, 2026 AT 10AM
 HUSKY FIELD 1012 22ND AVE, SWEET HOME

GUEST SPEAKER: ISAAC HOVET

WORSHIP PROVIDED BY: PRAISE IN 3D

SANKEY PARK 877 14TH AVE SWEET HOME

WWW.CELEBRATEJESUSFESTIVAL.ORG

Garden Center to become space to grow young minds, community events

By Sarah Brown
Of The New Era

The City of Sweet Home is purchasing another corner of Long Street and 13th Avenue to benefit its library and add to the city's vision of "Festival Street."

The City Council approved the purchase of what has been known as the "Garden Center" for \$85,000 during its regular meeting on June 23.

The .13-acre parcel at 1211 Long St., next to Lucky's Deli, is a fenced-in and covered open area formerly associated with the Santiam Feed building, which was purchased by the city in 2024.

"Over the last several months, staff has been exploring opportunities to support future library programming and downtown revitalization efforts," City Manager Jason Ogden told the council. "The property, adjacent to other city-owned property, is in the downtown core and presents an opportunity to expand public space in a very strategic location."

According to Library Director Megan Dazey, the "Garden Center" will be paid for from the library's capital budget, from money that was donated to the library from the sale of a piece of property in Colorado. The cost for the "Garden Center" property uses up about 10% of the donation received from the Colorado-based do-



The "Garden Center" on the corner of Long Street and 13th Avenue will be purchased by the City of Sweet Home for library and community use. **Photo by Sarah Brown**

nation.

"None of it will be taxpayer money," she emphasized.

The corner space would primarily be used for outdoor library programming and other community events, Ogden said.

Dazey told The New Era she hopes the space can be ready for use by the end of summer, adding that the library has some "great ideas" for its fall programs that could take place in the space.

"The library has limited space for some activities; this site would provide additional programs, gatherings and public use," Ogden said. "The

property would also complement the city's planned 'Festival Street' concept and help create a connection between the library and city-owned property and future downtown improvements."

The idea for "Festival Street" originated out of a downtown streetscape plan designed in 2021 by an architecture firm. The idea builds up the 13th Avenue block between Long and Main streets as a place to hold community events.

"The big idea or goal is to transform 13th Avenue into this kind of flexible, multi-purpose space that serves as not only a functional



An AI-generated image provides a general idea of how Library Director Megan Dazey envisions designing the "Garden Center" into a space for library programs and community events. **Image provided by Megan Dazey**

street, but also a hub for community events like, say, farmers markets or festivals or outdoor gatherings," Ogden told the City Council in 2025.

Ogden said staff would remove the existing structure from the "Garden Center" site and make some basic site improvements for community use "while evaluating longer-term opportunities for the property."

More specifically, Library Director Megan Dazey told The New Era she was inspired by an outdoor space in the Auchmuty Courtyard at the University of Newcastle in

Australia, which features colorful shade sails and artificial turf, and would like to implement a similar idea in the "Garden Center."

In other business, the council:

- Heard from members of the Lyons of Oregon club, who encouraged residents of Sweet Home to form its own Lyons Club, stating members provide valuable community services and support.

- Repealed and amended "outdated" city ordinances concerning bicycle dealers, social games, taxicabs and second-hand dealers.

PUBLIC SAFETY

From page 9

9:19 p.m. - Brady Hayes, 22, of Damascus, arrested for DUII, reckless driving, 29800 block Santiam Hwy. Report taken.

JULY 4

SWEET HOME POLICE

2:11 a.m. - Michael James Burkhart, 44, arrested by Albany police on SHMC warrant for FTA in theft III case. Cited to appear July 22.

7:30 a.m. - Andrew Edwin Amundson, 37, arrested on LCCC warrant for FTA in meth possession case, LCJC warrant for probation violation, SHMC warrant for FTC in resisting arrest case, 1600 block Long. Drug paraphernalia seized. Cited and released.

9:21 a.m. - Eric Kane Anderson-Linares, 30, arrested on SHMC warrant for probation violation in DU case, cited for no valid operator's license and improper display of tags, milepost 25, Hwy. 20.

11:15 a.m. - Aaron Ira Fetter, 30, arrested for menacing in Safeway parking lot, 1540 Main. According to SHPD, Fetter and Christopher Kennedy (53) were involved in a verbal argument in the Safeway parking lot. Kennedy had yelled at Fetter as Fetter was walking out of the store. According to police, at some point Fetter reportedly asked something that Kennedy took as a threat, and, according to Kennedy and a witness, he made a reaching motion towards his hip. Kennedy wished to press charges. Based on statements,

the officer found probable cause to arrest Fetter on the charge of menacing. Fetter was transported to SHPD, booked and cited to appear in Municipal Court.

11:41 a.m. - Caller reported multiple cars blocking 24th Ave. entrance to Old Mill site and multiple people standing on railroad tracks. A drift competition was taking place on the Mill Drift Track. Officer responded, and advised people to move.

6:56 p.m. - Caller reported bumper and glass all over roadway in 4500 block Main. Officer responded, large debris was removed.

7:51 p.m. - Nicole Lee Strahan cited for DU, failure to renew registration, Dollar Tree, 2414 Main.

8:34 p.m. - Cody Allen Bowman arrested on SHMC warrants for FTA in two theft cases, FTA in trespass case, and LCJC warrant for contempt of court. 10th/Long. Cited and released.

9:05 p.m. and following - Multiple callers reported illegal fireworks throughout city. Officers were unable to locate actual perpetrators in most cases. One group of individuals, in 1200 block 1st, was contacted and advised of laws.

10:59 p.m. - Connor Ray McMullen cited for DWS, failure to install ignition interlock device. 7-Eleven, 2405 Main.

10:59 a.m. - George Mark Allen arrested on LMC warrant for

contempt of court, 2400 block Main. Cited and released.


LEBANON POLICE

3:46 a.m. - Jordan Thomas Nixon, 26, cited on LMC warrant for FTA - no driver's license and LCCC warrant for PV - burglary II.

5:13 a.m. - Subject on electric bike with bike trailer cut hole in fireworks tent, stole at least \$300 in fireworks.


6:13 a.m. - Subject sleeping in Bob Smith Park, his loose

See Public Safety, Page 14



DIAL-A-BUS

CURB TO CURB IN SWEET HOME
MON-FRI 7 AM - 4 PM
CALL TO SCHEDULE
OFFICE HOURS 8-4



SWEET HOME IN TOWN TRANSIT

MON-SAT 9 AM - 4 PM
SHOP LOCAL- 4 TRIPS A DAY
THROUGH TOWN

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.

We are currently working on some service changes and have surveys out on the In-Town Transit. If you ride this route, formerly known as The Shopper, please give us your feedback. Thank you!

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Lebanon alumna to intern with Smithsonian

Michelle Kyle, a 2017 graduate of Lebanon High School and current student at Oregon State University, earned a spot in the First Interstate Bank Smithsonian Internship program.

First Interstate Bank and the Smithsonian Institution partnered together, providing summer internship opportunities for students in 10 states. The first Smithsonian Rural Initiative offers college students from rural communities the opportunity to participate in a paid 10-week summer internship at the Smithsonian Institution in Washington, D.C.

Interns are placed across a wide range of fields at the Smithsonian's 21 museums, research centers, offices and the National Zoo. Kyle will be working with the Smithsonian Environmental Research Center.

"Opportunity should not be limited by geography," said Amberly Pahut, executive director of the First Interstate BancSystem Foundation. "Partnering with the Smithsonian to support its Rural Initiative allows us to open doors for talented students from rural communi-

ties who may not otherwise have access to experiences like a Washington, D.C. internship."

Each intern receives a \$7,000 stipend and round-trip airfare to Washington, D.C. The opportunity affords them networking opportunities and additional enrichment programming for each student's career development.

"We're grateful to First Interstate Bank for helping expand access to Smithsonian internships for students from rural communities," said Andy Mink, director of Rural Initiatives at the Smithsonian Institution. "This first cohort brings remarkable talent and perspective, and we're proud to support their growth through hands-on experience, collaboration and mentorship."

"These internships not only provide students expanded opportunities for professional development but empower them to bring what they learn back home," Pahut explained. "This helps strengthen our communities and inspire others to see what's possible."

Chips 'n' Splinters variety to highlight patriotic local talent

By Satina Tolman
For The New Era

Patriotic music, hometown talent, familiar songs, and a celebration of America's enduring spirit will take center stage Thursday evening, July 9, as the Sportsman's Holiday Entertainment Show presents "Chips 'n' Splinters - Sing of America's Legacy of Liberty!"

The community is invited to the free show at 7 p.m. Thursday in the Sweet Home High School Auditorium, 1641 Long Street, for an evening of uplifting entertainment sponsored by SHOCASE.

"It looks like it will turn out to be a great show, and I think the audience will have a good time!" said event organizer Shirley Austin.

The annual production promises to be both heartfelt and entertaining, featuring an inspiring lineup of local performers celebrating the music that has united generations of Americans. From

stirring patriotic anthems to beloved classics that honor the nation's history, the program is designed to evoke pride, gratitude, and a shared appreciation for the freedoms that define the American experience.

Audience members won't just be spectators; they'll become part of the celebration during a spirited sing-along featuring many of America's best-known and most cherished songs.

The event will also spotlight the Sportsman's Holiday Royal Court, following the coronation on the previous evening.

The Junior Court will open the program by leading the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance, while attendees will be introduced to the 2026 Sportsman's Holiday Queen and her court, who will also take the stage during the performance.

A cast of local talent, emceed by veteran entertainer Ward Christman, will include Amanda Wilde, winner of

the 2025 SHOCASE Show-down Talent Competition; multi-award-winning vocalist Cathy Scheele and her son Jackson; Jeremiah Steagall; Sonya Newberry; and others who will bring America's musical heritage to life.

Special guest appearances by Benjamin Franklin, Uncle Sam, and the Statue of Liberty are sure to delight audience members of all ages.

Early arrivals will receive a few patriotic keepsakes while supplies last.

The first 100 attendees will receive an American flag-themed fan to help stay cool, along with a commemorative lapel pin honoring America's 250th birthday celebration. Children will also receive patriotic temporary tattoo stickers.

Whether you're a lifelong patriot, a fan of live music, or simply looking for a memorable evening with family and friends, Chips 'n' Splinters offers something for everyone.

Sweet Home's Manna Meals to become separate from SHEM

Sweet Home Emergency Ministries has announced a change for the Manna Meals program.

In a statement issued last week, SHEM leaders said Manna Meals will continue to operate, but as a separate organization.

Manna Meals has operated as a SHEM program for more than 20 years, providing more than 140,000 meals to Sweet Home community members, SHEM Board Member Cindy Rice said in a statement.

"The decision follows a period of ongoing operational evolution within the program," she said, noting that Manna Meals, which is located at Sweet Home United Methodist Church, 845 6th Ave., is a separate location, nearly half a mile away, from SHEM's headquarters and food pantry at 1115 Long St.

"Coordination of admin-

istrative and operational responsibilities has become increasingly complex," Rice said.

"In addition, policies, procedures, documentation, and reporting requirements within the Oregon Food Bank and Linn Benton Food Share network have continued to evolve, contributing to increased administrative responsibilities for volunteers and organizational leadership."

Rice said church leaders have agreed to carry the program forward as an independent community ministry and will serve a free meal each Wednesday at 5 p.m.

"The Manna Meals program has been an important part of SHEM's ministry for more than 20 years, and we are grateful to everyone who has contributed to its success," Rice said, speaking on

behalf of the SHEM Board of Directors. "Although this marks the end of SHEM's stewardship of the program, we are pleased that Manna Meals will continue serving the community under the leadership of the United Methodist Church."

SHEM and Manna Meals, along with other community service efforts in Sweet Home, have struggled due to declining availability of volunteers; many of those already involved in those efforts are aging.

"SHEM remains committed to serving those experiencing food insecurity through its food pantry and other programs," Rice said. "We are grateful for the continued support of our community and look forward to working alongside our partners to meet the needs of our neighbors."

Upcoming City Meetings

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

Lebanon City Council: Wed., July 8, 6 p.m., at Lebanon Library, 55 Academy St.

Lebanon School Board: Thur., July 9, 6 p.m., at Lebanon Library, 55 Academy St.

Lebanon Aquatic District: Mon., July 13, 6 p.m., at Lebanon Pool, 1800 S 5th St.

Sweet Home School Board Work Session: Mon., July 13, 3-6 p.m., at 1920 Long St.

Sweet Home School Board: Mon., July 13, 6:30 p.m., at 1920 Long St.

Lebanon Fire District: Tues., July 14, 5:30 p.m., at 1050 W. Oak St.

Central Linn School Board: Mon., July 14, 6 p.m., at Conference Room, 239 W 2nd St., Halsey.

Sweet Home City Council: Tues., July 14, 6:30 p.m., at City Hall, 3225 Main St.

Waterloo City Council: Tues., July 14, 7 p.m., at 31140 1st St.

Halsey City Council: Tues., July 14, 7 p.m., at City Hall, 100 Halsey St.

Lebanon Parks, Trees & Trails: Wed., July 15, 2 p.m. at Lebanon Library, 55 Academy St.

Lebanon Planning Commission: Wed., July 15, 6 p.m. at Lebanon Library, 55 Academy

Sweet Home Planning Commission: Thur., July 16, 6:30 p.m. at City Hall, 3225 Main St.

Sodaville City Council: Thur., July 16, 7 p.m. at City Hall, 30723 Sodaville Road.

Sweet Home Park & Tree Committee: Tue., July 21, 4 p.m. at City Hall, 3225 Main St.

Sweet Home Fire Board: Tue., July 21, 6:30 p.m., at 1099 Long St.

Brownsville Fire Board: Tue., July 21, 6:30 p.m., at 600 E Blakely.

Sweet Home City Council: Tue., July 28, 6:30 p.m. at City Hall, 3225 Main St.

Brownsville City Council: Tue., July 28, 7 p.m., at City Hall, 255 N Main St.

Sweet Home Community Health Committee: Wed., July 29, 4 p.m., at City Hall, 3225 Main St.

PUBLIC SAFETY

From page 13

pants have fallen down, butt exposed.

8:14 a.m. - Car involved in pursuit last night located behind Lebanon hospital, impounded. Report taken.

11:47 a.m. - Rachael Mae Grimes, 38, cited on LMC warrant for PV. K9 used to located wanted felon in her motel room. No one there, but stolen items were found.

1:08 p.m. - Someone cut

caller's carport tent with knife. Loss/Damage: \$100.

1:28 p.m. - Theft of doorbell camera, 300 block S Main St. Loss: \$125.

2:25 p.m. - Anthony Whitebird, 40, cited on AMC warrant for FTA - theft II.

3:09 p.m. - Owen Daniel Mercier, 29, cited on LMC warrant for PV - assault IV.

5:49 p.m. - Three people fighting at homeless camp over who gave them an STD.

7:28 p.m. - Two-car crash, S Williams/E Oak St. Juvenile

cited for FTOTCD.

10:00 p.m. - Fight broke out over a parking complaint between neighboring houses, 300 block W Jadon Dr. One fell, head hit car, bleeding.

LCISO/OSP SWEET HOME/S. COUNTY

9:10 a.m. - Caller complained about vehicles waiting to get into Lewis Creek Park blocking roadway in 44400 block North River. By time deputy arrived, park had opened and vehicles

See Public Safety, Page 15

Public Notices

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. (7/8, 7/15)

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-36666, Hwy 34, Lebanon OR 97355 on **July 31st, 2026 at 10:00 am:** Dunlap, Zach DL11; Corrales, Oscar CC33; Leon, Alisha CC30; Lyttle, Brooke EL39; Packard, Glen F31; Samson, Carrie CC55; Ward, Deborah AR47; Wright, Nikki DC100. (7/8, 7/15)

Farm Estate Sale

Farm Estate Sale - July 17-18 | 9:00 AM-5:00 PM Location: 38357 Crawfordville Dr.

Something for everyone! Fencing, tools, show cattle supplies, leather halters, vintage glassware, linens, furniture, treadmill, Traeger, feed pans, rabbit cages, old and new canning jars, regular and electric pressure canners. (7/8, 7/15)

PUBLIC SAFETY From page 14

had been cleared. Park was completely full when deputy patrolled at 11:36 a.m.
 2:51 p.m. - Three vehicles ticketed for parking in boat trailer parking without boat trailers at Calkins Boat Ramp, 44500 block Quartzville.
 3:01 p.m. - Caller reported theft of iPhone, hot wheels car, 26300 block Old Holley.
 3:15 p.m. - Theodore Shinall, 48, of Sweet Home, cited for DWS, DU and failure to renew registration, 44400 block Calapooia. Vehicle towed. Report taken.
 4:42 p.m. - Samuel Fowler, 22, of Eugene, cited for speeding, 55/35, 600 block N. Main, Brownsville.
 5:08 p.m. - Deputy located fire at illegal camp near Rocky Top, 49700 block Quartzville. Campers were "highly intoxicated." They were advised to put fire out immediately and move to legal camping spot in the morning.
 5:19 p.m. - Vehicle burglary reported in area of North River/Sunnyside. Report taken.
 5:50 p.m. - Vehicle burglary reported at Bates Bridge, 40800 block McDowell Creek. \$225 stolen from vehicle. Investigation ongoing. Report taken.
 6:23 p.m. - Deputies responded to report of disturbance at Calkins Boat Ramp, 44500 block Quartzville. Jeremy Jesinghaus, 35, of Aumsville, arrested for assault IV, attempted strangulation,

1611 King James Bible

Interested in the 1611 King James Holy Bible?

Take a look at kjbm.org. Authentic 1611 facsimile, Gothic font, softcover. Questions or local showing: text/call Lebanon 541-401-5654 / Phoenix: 661-373-5378.

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 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 10,000 lb Warn Winch. Hardtop and Clear Lidz Style panoramic style top. Lots of Extras 541-905-1051. \$20,000. (7/1)

Statewide Notices

SERVICES: DIVORCE \$130. Complete preparation. Includes children, custody, support, property and bills division. No court appearances. Divorced in 1-5 weeks possible. 503-772-5295. www.paralegalalternatives.com legalalt@msn.com.

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disorderly conduct, DUII (alcohol) and reckless driving. Lodged at LCJ. Report taken.
 7:11 p.m. - Vehicle burglary reported in 44400 block North River. Amp and subwoofer valued at \$750 stolen.
 8:23 p.m. - Deputy prevented individual from driving away from Shea Point park while intoxicated, 6300 block Hwy. 20. Sober friend responded to do the driving.
 10:11 p.m. - Daniel Sappington, 30, of Sweet Home, cited for violating fireworks restrictions after allegedly lighting off fireworks on BLM land, 51100 block Quartzville.
 10:54 p.m. - Caller reported people setting off fireworks on Green Peter Dam, 45000 block Quartzville. Deputies were unable to respond in time to arrest them.
 11:35 p.m. - Multiple calls in Halsey reporting illegal fireworks, but deputy was unable to locate them.
 11:43 p.m. - Deputies responded to report of fender bender in 200 block Pioneer Park, Brownsville. No damage was evident on either vehicle and caller was not associated with either vehicle. Everyone released from scene.
LCSO/OSP LEBANON
 9:27 a.m. - Caller reported raccoon attack on adult male who had gotten too close to mother raccoon and her babies, 36600 block Edgemont. According to LCSO, the raccoon bite did not break victim's skin.
 11:46 a.m. - Rachael Grimes, 38, of Lebanon, arrested for

Statewide Notices

text, starting at just \$20/month. For more information, call 1-855-504-6496.

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DWS and warrant, 800 block Park. Vehicle towed. Report taken.
 12:33 p.m. - Daryn Hill Jr., 32, of Lebanon, cited for warrant, 000 block W. Elmore. Report taken.

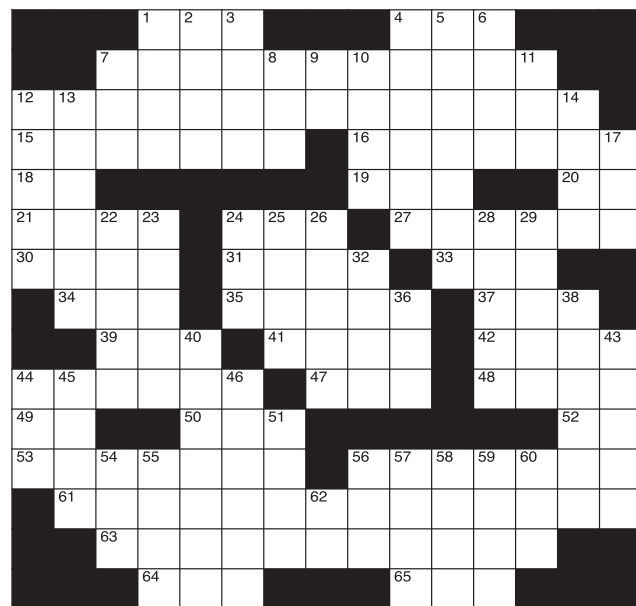
JULY 3

SWEET HOME POLICE

10:21 a.m. - Kaitlin Chandra Lagene Lay, 30, arrested on LMC warrant for FTA in DWS case. Sweet Home High School, 1641 Long. Cited and released.
 12:26 p.m. - Samantha Marie Dietz, 43, arrested on SHMC warrant for FTC in disorderly conduct case, SHPD, 1950 Main. Also arrested on LCCC warrant for contempt of court in disorderly conduct case. Lodged at LCJ.
 3:16 p.m. - Erica Danielle Padilla, 37, arrested by Albany police on SHMC warrant for FTA in failure to perform duties of a driver case. Cited to appear July 22.
 6:48 p.m. - Caller reported multiple vehicles parked in area of Evergreen/Pine, causing traffic hazards. Officer contacted female, who arranged to move vehicle.
 8:26 p.m. - Caller reported neighbor taking photos, stepping in front of vehicles in 1200 block 49th. Officer contacted male, who appeared to be experiencing mental health issues. He was advised of the complaint and of options.
 9:33 p.m. - Caller from 800 block 4th reported belligerent female who had come onto property and was causing a

See Public Safety, Page 18

CROSSWORD



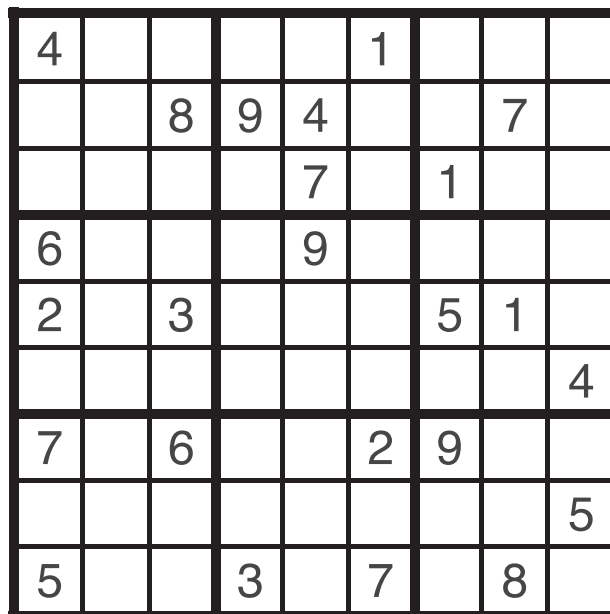
CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Measurement (abbr.)
- 4. Returned material authorization (abbr.)
- 7. Sorting
- 12. Attribute
- 15. Poked holes in
- 16. Angers
- 18. Doc
- 19. MLB journeyman pitcher Dillon
- 20. Not don't
- 21. Snubs someone
- 24. Where kids bathe
- 27. One might be in distress
- 30. Chair
- 31. Music industry honors (abbr.)
- 33. Dash
- 34. Owed
- 35. Caucasian language
- 37. One thousand (Span.)
- 39. Musical style drum and bass
- 41. Evergreen trees native to warm climates
- 42. Begin ___: start fresh
- 44. Marshy outlets
- 47. A chicken lays one
- 48. Yemen's largest city
- 49. Conversion rate
- 50. Single Lens Reflex
- 52. Atlanta rapper
- 53. Reduce the importance of
- 56. Faces of buildings
- 61. Something achieved
- 63. Distribute again
- 64. Tooth caregiver
- 65. 007's creator

CLUES DOWN

- 1. Skater Lipinski
- 2. Data
- 3. Single step
- 4. Destroyed financially
- 5. Fail to interpret correctly
- 6. Fava d' ___: tree found in Brazil
- 7. Vehicle
- 8. Limited
- 9. Old English
- 10. Aussie golfer Norman
- 11. Job
- 12. Loose-fitting undergarments
- 13. Protected by balancing
- 14. Give up
- 17. Fifth note of a major scale
- 22. Extravagantly bright
- 23. Takes dictation
- 24. 19th letter of Greek alphabet
- 25. Rounded knob (biology)
- 26. French philosopher Pierre
- 28. Mothers
- 29. Dardic ethnic group
- 32. Supports the rudder
- 36. An ugly evil-looking old woman
- 38. Of a fasting time
- 40. Filled with passengers
- 43. Below the ribs and above the hips
- 44. Binary-coded decimal
- 45. 51 is a famous one
- 46. Goes into a funk
- 51. Chief O'Hara actor
- 54. Videocassette recorder
- 55. Scored perfectly
- 56. Type of tree
- 57. ___ Spumante (Italian wine)
- 58. Popular commercial "pet"
- 59. Supreme god of Ancient Egyptians
- 60. Room in a home
- 62. ___ and behold

SUDOKU



Level: Advanced

Real Estate Sold

Following are Lebanon, Sweet Home, and Brownsville, Halsey area real estate transactions recorded with the county during late May to June 2026. These are not properties for sale, and some transactions may represent a change in ownership within a family or corporation. Properties are listed by address, property/residence size and purchase price:

3140 Quail Pl., Lebanon; 1798 sq.ft., three bedroom, 2 1/2 bathroom, built in 1991; 0.15 acres; \$426,500.
31666 5th St., Lebanon; 1056 sq.ft., three bedroom, one bathroom, built in 1969; 4.82 acres; \$480,000.
2241 Kalmia St., Sweet Home; 1008 sq.ft., three bedroom, one bathroom, built in 1975; 0.17 acres; \$333,000.
4473 Highway 20, Sweet Home; 1116 sq.ft., three bedroom, one bathroom, built in 1946; 0.26 acres; \$165,000.
24 Cedar Dr., Lebanon; 1502 sq.ft., three bedroom, 1 1/2 bathroom, built in 1959; 0.24 acres; \$405,000.
36535 Kirk Dr., Brownsville; 1427 sq.ft., additional details not listed; built in 1860; 10 acres; \$596,000.
678 5th Ave., Sweet Home; 1800 sq.ft., four bedroom, two bathroom, built in 1971; 0.33 acres; \$439,900.
42531 Upper Calapooia Dr., Sweet Home; 792 sq.ft., one bedroom, one bathroom, built in 1997; 5 acres; \$415,000.
2646 Arlene Ave., Lebanon; 1320 sq.ft., three bedroom, two bathroom, built in 1967; 0.4 acres; \$390,000.
109 Isabella St., Lebanon; 1326 sq.ft., two bedroom, one bathroom, built in 1910; 0.13 acres; \$283,250.
1077 10th St., Lebanon; 1212 sq.ft., three bedroom, two bathroom, built in 2000; 0.13 acres; \$349,000.
2586 Promise Way., Lebanon; 1660 sq.ft., three bedroom, 2

1/2 bathroom, built in 2025; 0.08 acres; \$356,900.
2735 9th St., Lebanon; 1008 sq.ft., three bedroom, one bathroom, built in 1979; 0.19 acres; \$329,900.
25035 Brush Creek Rd., Sweet Home; 1168 sq.ft., three bedroom, two bathroom, built in 1920; 5.65 acres; \$515,000.
38159 Weirich Dr., Lebanon; 1756 sq.ft., three bedroom, one bathroom, built in 1956; 3.9 acres; \$539,900.
40159 Highway 228, Sweet Home; 1404 sq.ft., three bedroom, two bathroom, built in 1997; 0.88 acres; \$398,000.
1780 Grape Ct., Sweet Home; 1364 sq.ft., three bedroom, two bathroom, built in 2002; 0.22 acres; \$345,000.
28360 Sodaville Mtn Home Rd., Lebanon; 1330 sq.ft., two bedroom, one bathroom, built in 1984; 37.84 acres; \$518,000.
155 Rose St., Lebanon; 768 sq.ft., two bedroom, one bathroom, built in 1930; 0.08 acres; \$319,500.
3303 Long St., Sweet Home; 1420 sq.ft., four bedroom, one bathroom, built in 1890; 0.33 acres; \$339,000.
178 Washburn St., Brownsville; 1936 sq.ft., two bedroom, one bathroom, built in 1961; 0.51 acres; \$465,000.
617 Kay Ave., Brownsville; 1008 sq.ft., three bedroom, one bathroom, built in 1975; 0.21 acres; \$325,000.
38725 Green Dr., Lebanon; 1986 sq.ft., two bedroom, two bathroom, built in 1978; 0.71 acres; \$665,000.
993 42nd Ave., Sweet Home; 1792 sq.ft., three bedroom, one bathroom, built in 1930; 1.94 acres; \$300,000.
993 42nd Ave., Sweet Home; 1792 sq.ft., three bedroom, one bathroom, built in 1930; 1.94 acres; \$300,000.
1141 32nd Ct., Sweet Home; 1476 sq.ft., three bedroom, two bathroom, built in 2002; 0.18 acres; \$350,000.
1184 29th Ave., Sweet Home;

1119 sq.ft., three bedroom, 1 1/2 bathroom, built in 1979; 0.17 acres; \$345,000.
154 Cleveland St., Lebanon; 1172 sq.ft., two bedroom, 1 1/2 bathroom, built in 1920; 0.22 acres; \$432,000.
31780 Eastway St., Lebanon; 1914 sq.ft., three bedroom, two bathroom, built in 2007; 1 acres; \$547,000.
320 Juniper St., Sweet Home; 652 sq.ft., two bedroom, one bathroom, built in 1955; 0.1 acres; \$211,415.
1417 47th Ave., Sweet Home; 1248 sq.ft., three bedroom, two bathroom, built in 1994; 0.22 acres; \$349,900.
4020 Santiam Hwy., Lebanon; 880 sq.ft., two bedroom, one bathroom, built in 1947; 0.83 acres; \$369,900.
225 21st Ave., Sweet Home; 1480 sq.ft., three bedroom, two bathroom, built in 1938; 0.43 acres; \$356,500.
28780 Santiam Hwy., Sweet Home; 1088 sq.ft., three bedroom, one bathroom, built in 1940; 0.26 acres; \$318,000.
46 Grace St., Lebanon; 1825 sq.ft., three bedroom, 2 1/2 bathroom, built in 2007; 0.12 acres; \$433,500.
2440 2nd St., Lebanon; 1068 sq.ft., three bedroom, one bathroom, built in 1974; 0.18 acres; \$358,000.
289 3rd St., Lebanon; 1261 sq.ft., three bedroom, one bathroom, built in 1900; 0.23 acres; \$254,000.
3325 Quail Pl., Lebanon; 1730 sq.ft., three bedroom, two bathroom, built in 1992; 0.22 acres; \$410,000.
27969 Meridian Heights Lp., Sweet Home; 1187 sq.ft., three bedroom, 2 1/2 bathroom, built in 1976; 0.9 acres; \$380,000.
4581 Kalmia St., Sweet Home; 2674 sq.ft., three bedroom, three bathroom, built in 2021; 0.74 acres; \$599,000.
183 Williams St., Lebanon; 1399 sq.ft., three bedroom, 2 1/2 bathroom, built in 2019; 0.06 acres; \$299,900.
2466 Kokanee Way., Lebanon;

1752 sq.ft., three bedroom, 2 1/2 bathroom, built in 2016; 0.11 acres; \$450,000.
711 Grant St., Lebanon; 720 sq.ft., two bedroom, one bathroom, built in 1952; 0.18 acres; \$170,000.
2464 Primrose St., Lebanon; 1102 sq.ft., two bedroom, one bathroom, built in 1949; 0.11 acres; \$185,000.
2661 12th St., Lebanon; 1202 sq.ft., three bedroom, 1 1/2 bathroom, built in 1979; 0.14 acres; \$369,000.
780 4th St., Halsey; 1502 sq.ft., three bedroom, two bathroom, built in 1974; 0.23 acres; \$360,000.
240 7th St., Lebanon; 910 sq.ft., two bedroom, one bathroom, built in 1950; 0.14 acres; \$250,000.
612 Kay Ave., Brownsville; 1152 sq.ft., two bedroom, one bathroom, built in 1982; 0.28 acres; \$365,000.
40690 McDowell Creek Dr., Lebanon; 1937 sq.ft., three bedroom, two bathroom, built in 1966; 2.12 acres; \$650,000.
1096 43rd Ave., Sweet Home; 984 sq.ft., two bedroom, one bathroom, built in 1942; 0.82 acres; \$150,000.
1750 2nd St., Lebanon; 2001 sq.ft., two bedroom, two bathroom, built in 1976; 0.7 acres; \$560,000.
901 Vine St., Lebanon; 1520 sq.ft., three bedroom, two bathroom, built in 2018; 0.2 acres; \$420,000.
1304 Hawthorne St., Sweet Home; 1204 sq.ft., three bedroom, two bathroom, built in 1944; 0.13 acres; \$323,500.
2825 Fir Ct., Sweet Home; 1370 sq.ft., three bedroom, two bathroom, built in 1995; 0.17 acres; \$372,000.
1435 Elm St., Sweet Home; 1484 sq.ft., three bedroom, two bathroom, built in 1974; 0.18 acres; \$324,900.
1132 2nd Ave., Sweet Home; 932 sq.ft., two bedroom, one bathroom, built in 1940; 0.23 acres; \$200,000.
30626 Santiam Hwy, Lebanon;

2128 sq.ft., three bedroom, 1 1/2 bathroom, built in 1955; 0.61 acres; \$206,000.
2573 Kalmia St., Sweet Home; 1400 sq.ft., three bedroom, one bathroom, built in 1950; 0.15 acres; \$305,000.
1646 Fir St., Sweet Home; 1125 sq.ft., two bedroom, one bathroom, built in 1946; 0.14 acres; \$145,000.
46 Grace St., Lebanon; 1825 sq.ft., three bedroom, 2 1/2 bathroom, built in 2007; 0.12 acres; \$435,000.
160 Oak Lp., Lebanon; 1895 sq.ft., four bedroom, 2 1/2 bathroom, built in 1967; 0.46 acres; \$550,000.
2736 12th St., Lebanon; 970 sq.ft., three bedroom, two bathroom, built in 1995; 0.14 acres; \$312,600.
361 Jadon Dr., Lebanon; 1250 sq.ft., three bedroom, two bathroom, built in 2011; 0.14 acres; \$410,000.
37274 Fawn Dr., Lebanon; 1912 sq.ft., three bedroom, two bathroom, built in 1997; 7 acres; \$785,000.
1305 2nd St., Lebanon; 1232 sq.ft., three bedroom, 1 1/2 bathroom, built in 1949; 0.12 acres; \$345,000.
1160 Cedar St., Sweet Home; 1820 sq.ft., three bedroom, two bathroom, built in 1970; 0.28 acres; \$330,000.
4721 Long St., Sweet Home; 2140 sq.ft., three bedroom, two bathroom, built in 1940; 0.47 acres; \$100,000.
66 8th St., Lebanon; 1612 sq.ft., four bedroom, 2 1/2 bathroom, built in 2019; 0.07 acres; \$348,000.
1923 Long St., Sweet Home; 938 sq.ft., two bedroom, one bathroom, built in 1936; 0.24 acres; \$167,000.
40121 Lcomb Dr., Lebanon; 1430 sq.ft., four bedroom, two bathroom, built in 1945; 1 acres; \$245,000.
1775 Park Dr., Lebanon; 1690 sq.ft., three bedroom, 1 1/2 bathroom, built in 1955; 0.25 acres; \$425,000.

See Real Estate, Page 17



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REAL ESTATE

From page 16

3623 Green River Rd., Sweet Home; 1816 sq.ft., three bedroom, 2 1/2 bathroom, built in 2025; 0.09 acres; \$305,000.
3434 Bald Eagle Dr., Lebanon; 1953 sq.ft., four bedroom, two bathroom, built in 2013; 0.14 acres; \$445,000.
25710 Brush Creek Rd., Sweet Home; 1004 sq.ft., three bedroom, one bathroom, built in 1966; 0.88 acres; \$325,000.
35001 Northernwood Dr., Brownsville; 2651 sq.ft., three bedroom, 2 1/2 bathroom, built in 2011; 4.71 acres; \$852,500.
1335 1st Ave., Sweet Home; 1056 sq.ft., three bedroom, one bathroom, built in 1969; 0.24 acres; \$379,000.
32888 Lake Creek Dr., Halsey; 1258 sq.ft., three bedroom, one bathroom, built in 1870; 7.39 acres; \$125,000.
29920 Bartels Creek Dr., Lebanon; 1522 sq.ft., three bedroom, two bathroom, built in 1996; 2.5 acres; \$532,000.
27118 Rowell Hill Rd., Sweet Home; 1458 sq.ft., five bedroom, three bathroom, built in 2007; 6.21 acres; \$250,000.
86 2nd St., Halsey; 1028 sq.ft., three bedroom, one bathroom, built in 1979; 0.18 acres; \$349,900.
1225 Filbert St., Lebanon; 1056 sq.ft., three bedroom, one bathroom, built in 1973;

0.16 acres; \$347,000.
2799 12th St., Lebanon; 1527 sq.ft., four bedroom, two bathroom, built in 1998; 0.15 acres; \$388,000.
42430 Ames Creek Rd., Sweet Home; 1742 sq.ft., two bedroom, two bathroom, built in 1946; 0.92 acres; \$475,000.
37502 Agate Dr., Lebanon; 1900 sq.ft., two bedroom, two bathroom, built in 2015; 2.5 acres; \$655,000.
1088 38th Ave., Sweet Home; 1640 sq.ft., four bedroom, two bathroom, built in 2025; 0.25 acres; \$400,000.
2728 8th St., Lebanon; 1008 sq.ft., three bedroom, one bathroom, built in 1978; 0.2 acres; \$379,900.
29460 Peoria Rd., Halsey; 1485 sq.ft., two bedroom, two bathroom, built in 1971; 0.44 acres; \$565,000.
28383 Pleasant Valley Rd., Sweet Home; 1918 sq.ft., three bedroom, two bathroom, built in 1980; 11.5 acres; \$640,000.
1454 Westwood Ln., Sweet Home; 1134 sq.ft., three bedroom, one bathroom, built in 1958; 0.17 acres; \$332,000.
1708 Fir St., Sweet Home; 1430 sq.ft., three bedroom, 2 1/2 bathroom, built in 2007; 0.14 acres; \$365,000.
24911 Gap Rd., Brownsville; 2414 sq.ft., two bedroom, 2 1/2 bathroom, built in 2002; 6.61 acres; \$825,180.
1298 Kees St., Lebanon; 1588

sq.ft., three bedroom, 2 1/2 bathroom, built in 2003; 0.18 acres; \$375,000.
370 Joy St., Lebanon; 1623 sq.ft., three bedroom, two bathroom, built in 2016; 0.15 acres; \$439,500.
2598 Promise Way, Lebanon; 1678 sq.ft., three bedroom, 2 1/2 bathroom, built in 2025; 0.08 acres; \$364,500.
495 Angelee Ct., Lebanon; 1512 sq.ft., four bedroom, 1 1/2 bathroom, built in 1981; 0.15 acres; \$393,900.
40544 McDowell Creek Dr., Lebanon; 1728 sq.ft., three bedroom, two bathroom, built in 1925; 6.44 acres; \$635,000.
3113 Long St., Sweet Home; 2404 sq.ft., three bedroom, three bathroom, built in 1937; 0.43 acres; \$415,000.
30271 Horseshoe Lp., Lebanon; 1056 sq.ft., additional details not listed; built in 1974; 6.08 acres; \$447,000.
37969 Courtney Creek Dr., Brownsville; 3372 sq.ft., four bedroom, three bathroom, built in 1984; 7.69 acres; \$824,000.
41294 Keel Mountain North Dr., Lebanon; 924 sq.ft., three bedroom, two bathroom, built in 1975; 15.08 acres; \$400,000.
2411 6th St., Lebanon; 1144 sq.ft., two bedroom, one bathroom, built in 1950; 0.15 acres; \$140,000.
3130 Chuckar Ln., Lebanon; 1518 sq.ft., three bedroom, two bathroom, built in 1999; 0.14

acres; \$345,000.
2629 9th St., Lebanon; 1480 sq.ft., three bedroom, two bathroom, built in 1977; 0.22 acres; \$405,000.
35247 Ede Rd., Lebanon; 1600 sq.ft., two bedroom, one bathroom, built in 1930; 2.5 acres; \$522,000.
472 E St., Lebanon; 1265 sq.ft., three bedroom, one bathroom, built in 1952; 0.19 acres; \$355,000.
780 Mountain River Dr., Lebanon; 2416 sq.ft., three bedroom, 2 1/2 bathroom, built in 1998; 0.19 acres; \$477,500.
515 Angelee Ct., Lebanon; 1232 sq.ft., three bedroom, two bathroom, built in 1993; 0.15 acres; \$374,500.
725 Lebanite Dr., Lebanon; 1673 sq.ft., three bedroom, 1 1/2 bathroom, built in 1958; 0.64 acres; \$500,000.
35676 Oak View Dr., Brownsville; 4400 sq.ft., five bedroom, 3 1/2 bathroom, built in 1998; 6.65 acres; \$887,900.
3208 Foxglove St., Lebanon; 1124 sq.ft., three bedroom, two bathroom, built in 1977; 0.18 acres; \$325,000.
28826 Berlin Rd., Sweet Home; 1344 sq.ft., three bedroom, two bathroom, built in 1985; 2.5 acres; \$490,000.
370 B St., Lebanon; 1118 sq.ft., three bedroom, two bathroom, built in 1947; 0.19 acres; \$277,000.
3627 Green River Rd., Sweet

Home; 1394 sq.ft., three bedroom, two bathroom, built in 2025; 0.19 acres; \$310,000.
36060 Cold Springs Rd., Lebanon; 1439 sq.ft., three bedroom, two bathroom, built in 1920; 17.32 acres; \$264,052.
1720 9th Ave., Sweet Home; 1459 sq.ft., three bedroom, two bathroom, built in 2019; 0.83 acres; \$590,000.
711 Main St., Brownsville; 1560 sq.ft., two bedroom, one bathroom, built in 1860; 0.23 acres; \$313,000.
1185 Franklin St., Lebanon; 1120 sq.ft., two bedroom, two bathroom, built in 1940; 0.19 acres; \$350,000.
37676 Kathleen Ct., Lebanon; 2983 sq.ft., three bedroom, 2 1/2 bathroom, built in 2000; 5.01 acres; \$1,030,000.
40787 Snow Peak Dr., Lebanon; 3420 sq.ft., six bedroom, three bathroom, built in 1930; 4.94 acres; \$640,000.
42307 North River Dr., Sweet Home; 1314 sq.ft., three bedroom, one bathroom, built in 1949; 2.47 acres; \$250,000.
4552 Live Oak St., Sweet Home; 2028 sq.ft., three bedroom, three bathroom, built in 2016; 0.14 acres; \$455,000.
231 Jennings St., Lebanon; 1552 sq.ft., three bedroom, one bathroom, built in 1948; 0.16 acres; \$335,000.

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Local athletes medal at Nike Nationals track championship

Lebanon's Cade Weber and Logan Large both medaled at the Nike Outdoor Nationals and USATF U20 track and field championships held June 18-22 at Hayward Field at the University of Oregon.

Weber, who finished his senior year by winning the state 5A championship in the 400 a month earlier, ran 48.92 to finish third in the Emerging Elite 400 at the meet, which included many of the top young athletes from throughout the nation. His time was two-tenths of a second off the personal best of 48.72 he posted in winning in the Mid-Willamette Conference district meet this year.

The winner of Weber's race was Sullivan Riley of AP Ranch, Texas (48.15).

Large, who is headed to Linfield, where he plans to compete in football and track, finished fifth in the Emerging Elite triple jump, with a personal-best 46-2¼, more than 8 inches over his previous best, set in winning that event at the district meet.

Bodhi Brown, also a Lebanon graduate, was 46th in Emerging Elite 100 (10.97), about a 10th of a second off the 10.86 PR he set at districts. Brown, who is headed to Oregon Institute of Technology, was 48th in the 200 in 22.46 after running a PR of



Lebanon's 4x100 relay team members, from left, Luke Johnson, Bodhi Brown, Cade Weber and Logan Large, and, at right, in center, Sweet Home's Braden Driver, along with East Linn Christian's Ryder Howard, were local competitors at the Nike Outdoor Nationals/USATF U20 national championships.

21.29 at state.

Large, Weber and Brown combined with Luke Johnson, to take 13th out of 30 teams in the 4x100 in 42.52, just short of the 42.38 they ran at the district meet.

Sweet Home's Brayden Driver and East Linn Christian's Ryder Howard also competed in the Nationals.

Driver finished 27th out

of the 61 competitors in the freshman 400 in 52.26. The winner was Ronald Copeland-Carter of G1 Track and Field of Moreno Valley, Calif., who ran 48.99.

Howard, also a freshman, was 19th in the high jump with a leap of 6-2¾, well under his PR of 6-5, and 57th in the triple jump with 39-2¼ - his PR is 44-3½.



PUBLIC SAFETY

From page 15

disturbance. Officer contacted female, who was trespassed.

11:07 p.m. - Sarah Penland, 44, arrested for DUII, reckless driving after caller reported vehicle speeding and swerving on highway entering town on Hwy. 228 at Fern Ridge. Also cited for failure to maintain lane, failure to install ignition interlock device. Cited and released.

LEBANON POLICE

9:41 a.m. - Fatima Escobar, 40, cited for criminal trespass II. Report taken.

11:18 a.m. - Juvenile cited for cell phone use.

11:38 a.m. - Robert Martin Dunn, 52, cited for cell phone use.

11:54 a.m. - Christopher Andrew Hoff, 50, cited for cell phone use.

3:55 p.m. - Haley Marie Brittain, 23, cited on AMC warrant for FTA - theft II.

7:07 p.m. - Subject hitting caller's car with his car, 000 block Sand Ridge Ct. Officer told suspect out of car but he refused. Taser deployed, poor connection. Suspect took off in vehicle. Car chase through town at speeds of 60 MPH, and 90 MPH on Brewster Rd., then up to 112 MPH, passes unsafely. Pursuit terminated. OSP continued chase through Linn County.

9:43 p.m. - Officer followed illegal fireworks calls all over town. Found evidence of mortars, roman candles,

aerials; warned some users of illegal fireworks.

LCSO/OSP SWEET HOME/S. COUNTY

8:58 a.m. - Aidan Gates, 22, of Lebanon, cited for improper display of registration stickers, 1400 block Main.

10:09 a.m. - LCSO provided traffic control for vehicle parked in center lane of 29000 block Hwy. 20 after propane tank fell over in trunk.

10:31 a.m. - Theft reported from business in 300 block N. Main, Brownsville. Flags valued at \$180 missing. Report taken.

1:14 p.m. - John Teel, 28, of Hillsboro, cited for not having enough lifejackets, warned for other violations while boating on Green Peter, 47300 block Quartzville. Report taken.

2:00 p.m. - Deputies issued citations to nine vehicles parked in boat trailer parking without boat trailers at Calkins Boat Ramp, 44500 block Quartzville. (Several people with boat trailers expressed appreciation, according to Sheriff's log.)

3:02 p.m. - Deputy performed welfare check on elderly man in 26800 block Gap, Brownsville. Elderly male and "numerous cats" all seemed to be in good condition.

3:44 p.m. - Jennifer Robblee, 40, of Salem, cited for not having fire extinguisher, warned for other violations while boating on Foster Lake. Logan Rash, 24, of Lebanon, also cited for no fire extinguisher. 44900 block Quartzville. Report taken.

6:42 and following - Ongoing family dispute in 800 block W. 5th, Halsey, required two visits from LCSO.

11:48 p.m. - James Reynolds, 41, of Corvallis, arrested for criminal trespass II after deputies responded to report of trespasser in 26300 block Old Holley. Reynolds lodged at LCJ. Report taken.

LCSO/OSP LEBANON

12:08 p.m. - Heather Robles, 56, of Lebanon, cited for FTOTCD, Hwy. 226/Fish Hatchery.

3:41 p.m. - Mathew Ryan, 39, of Lebanon, cited for DU, arrested on Marion County warrant, 200 block W. Rose. Report taken.

9:52 p.m. - Ricky Wilson, 59, of Lebanon, cited for DWS, 1500 block S. Main St.

JULY 2

SWEET HOME POLICE

8:58 a.m. - Caller reported parent, who wasn't supposed to have contact with children, had taken them from location in 4700 block Long. Officer contacted caller, DHS, children were returned. Info documented.

9:30 a.m. - Caller from Chevron, 1306 Main, reported fake bill had been passed previous night. Officer responded, contacted parties involved and situation was resolved. Info noted, property lodged at SHPD.

12:43 p.m. - Caller reported female dancing in area of Main/Pleasant Valley. Officer contacted female, who was on sidewalk and was experiencing mental issues, according to

SHPD. She declined assistance. 1:12 p.m. - Caller reported adult having inappropriate conversations with minor, 4600 block Airport Lane. Officer contacted adult, who was warned for telephonic harassment.

1:37 p.m. - Caller at Safeway, 1540 Main, reported dog in vehicle at location with windows halfway up in the heat. Officer located dog, who did not appear to be in distress. Owner was counseled.

2:52 p.m. - Caller reported juveniles on high school track, 1012 22nd, riding electric scooters and throwing sand. Officer contacted juvenile who was advised of complaint and told to stay off track. Guardian was advised.

3:35 p.m. - Caller reported motor home parked on Ironwood between 6th and 7th for more than a week. Officer responded, located motorhome, which was to be removed July 3.

4:48 p.m. - Regina Marie Frier, 55, arrested by Corvallis police on SHMC warrant for FTA in case involving placing offensive substance in water/highway/property. Cited to appear July 22.

LEBANON POLICE

8:26 a.m. - Car windows broken out, 2800 block Willow Dr.

8:51 a.m. - Amber Lorelle Eiquihua, 37, cited for DWS and LMC warrant for contempt - DWS.

10:07 a.m. - Elderly woman asked for help transporting and installing air conditioner.

Officer arranged transportation assistance, officer and city staff helped install it.

10:31 a.m. - Jayden M. Plaza, 22, cited for cell phone use.

10:55 a.m. - Dawnae Nichole Guillot, 29, cited on LCSO warrant for FTC - reckless driving.

10:55 a.m. - "Gang" graffiti reported, blue paint, 1400 block Franklin St.

11:08 a.m. - Car spray painted, possible swastika symbol, 100 block W Sherman St.

1:33 p.m. - Alcohol stolen by juvenile boys at 7-11. Loss: \$12. 1:58 p.m. - Trespassed subject refusing to leave, bothering employees, 1200 block S Main St. Floyd Ross, 51, taken into custody.

2:15 p.m. - T-shirt with bones in it was dug up in yard, turned out to be dog bones.

3:11 p.m. - Floyd Ross, 54, arrested for shoving officer and urinating in public. Report taken.

4:45 p.m. - Someone drilled out locks on vacant house, replaced with dead bolts, 200 block W Cedar Dr.

5:04 p.m. - Case Miller, 20, cited for no seat belt.

7:57 p.m. - Connor Provstgaard, 37, cited on LMC warrant for FTA - DWS and AMC warrant for FTA - theft II.

9:07 p.m. - Report taken for theft of wallet left on market counter. Loss: \$700 cash.

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



Participants in this year's boys Santiam Wrestling Camp fill the mats at Sweet Home High School for a group photo. - Tiffany Sieminski photo

25th annual Santiam Wrestling Camp draws 170 boys to SHHS

Sweet Home High School hosted its 25th annual Santiam Wrestling Camp for boys June 26-29 and, this week, for girls July 6-9 at the high school.

The boys camp attracted 170 wrestlers from all over the state, ranging from first-year beginners to multi-state champions and All-Americans. It is directed by Sweet Home Coach Steve Thorpe and Mike Simons of Thurston.

"The kids who are building their skills can see what those who have already attained their goals are doing to get better," Thorpe said.

He noted that the camp attracts some of the top teams in Oregon, including Tillamook and Banks and Thurston.

It's a launching pad for Sweet Home wrestlers Jessie Landtroop, Cody Sieminski and Jasper Victor, who are all heading to the Junior Nationals in Fargo, N.D. July 10-18.

Thorpe credited the school district administration and staffers with making the camp "a success."

"I'm very fortunate to be where I'm at," he said. "(Supt.)

Terry Martin, (Business Manager) Kevin Strong, (Principal) Ralph Brown and (SHHS Head Custodian) Darren Schultz all

make sure things happen for us. And the cafeteria staff - the complaint is that the food is 'too good.'"

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The *Icebox* Performer Of The Week

This week's ICEBOX performer of the week goes to our extremely talented Digital Marketing Specialist, Ryan. Ryan joined our team 6 months ago, and in that short time, he has already made a huge impact, not only on our social media channels, but on the culture here at Radiator Supply House.

Recently, Ryan completed a deep data analysis comparing our social media viewership and engagement from his first 6 months with the same 6-month period from the previous year. The results were incredible. In that short amount of time, he has tripled our views and engagement across all of our social media channels. That kind of growth matters. It helps more people see the culture we are so proud of here at RSH, and it has also helped generate quality leads and sales.

On a daily basis, Ryan is creating posts, reels, photos, and videos that are on another level of professionalism. His eye for quality photography, videography, and video editing is second to none, and we are extremely blessed to have that level of talent on our marketing team.

Thank you, Ryan, for all of your hard work, creativity, and dedication to your craft. It definitely does not go unnoticed.

New coordinator manages local wildlife defense activities

By Brandon Cominsky
Of The New Era

Growing up less than a mile away from the beaches of Southern California, Maddie Tutton has really switched her lifestyle, trading waves for a career in Oregon's mountain forests.

Tutton was hired in April as the Community Wildfire Defense Grant Coordinator, based at Sweet Home Fire and Ambulance District.

Her presence in Sweet Home is a result of an \$8.7 million grant awarded last fall to Sweet Home Fire and other local districts by the U.S. Forest Service. The funding includes staffing for wildfire defense, equipment and Tutton's position.

Her role is to oversee the program and manage the USFS grant.

She will help East Linn County residents stay educated about the dangers of wildfires and wildfire mitigation through education, defensible space planning, and specialized fuel reduction projects. This position draws on years of her experience in wildfire suppression, forest restoration, and natural resource management, but her path into this role was anything but ordinary.

After growing up in Newport Beach, Calif., Tutton began her education at the University of Washington with hopes of becoming an engineer. However, after three years in the university's engineering program, she realized that what she had originally envisioned for herself was not where her passion was leading her.

"I wanted to be outside more," Tutton said.

Eventually, she changed her major to environmental science and resource management, trading engineering courses for a career com-



Maddie Tutton, here in Sweet Home Fire District's main station, is responsible for administering much of a U.S. Forest Service grant to East Linn County communities for wildfire protection efforts.

-- Maddie Tutton photos

binning multiple disciplines, including science, conservation, and hands-on work. And outside the classroom, Tutton often found herself spending just as much time outdoors for fun.

Tutton was a member of the University of Washington's sailing team, traveled throughout the Pacific Northwest for regattas, and camped outdoors for her own enjoyment.

"We sailed in rain, hail, snow, and pretty much everything," she said. "I even capsized in the snow once," she said.

However, after graduating, she still wasn't sure exactly what career she wanted to pursue. Then a friend suggested she spend the summer on a wildland firefighting hand crew based in Eugene. What began as a temporary summer job quickly became the next step in her career.

"I was hooked after my first fire," Tutton said.

For two fire seasons, Tutton had the opportunity to

work on several hand crews across the West, constructing numerous firelines and helping protect communities threatened by wildfires. That experience gave her a long look into the importance of managing forests before disasters occur.

"You learn really quickly that everyone depends on each other," she said. "Every person has a role, and every role matters."

After two seasons, Tutton shifted her focus from emergency response to recovery as a whole.

She later accepted a role in a forest restoration project in California, where she had the opportunity to supervise numerous tree-planting crews, restore wildfire burn scars, and take on the super-niche task of scaling pine trees to collect cones that could provide seeds for future forests.

That work in California gave her a different perspective on wildfires and shifted her mindset from just responding to them to helping forests recover. While fire-



Maddie Tutton wears wildland firefighting gear while working on a wildland project. She stands overlooking a mountain in the background.

fighting focused on the urgency of the moment, restoration required patience.

"It takes years for a forest to recover," she said. "You're thinking about what it's going to look like decades from now."

These roles and experiences now shape and impact the work she does here in Sweet Home.

As Community Wildfire Defense Grant coordinator, Tutton works with homeowners, contractors, and even partner agencies to reduce wildfire risk before fire season begins.

She also coordinates spe-

cialized grant-funded wildfire mitigation projects, helps residents create defensible space around their homes and properties, and even connects landowners with numerous resources to make their properties more resilient to wildfires.

Rather than responding to emergencies, Tutton spends much of her day talking with people about practical steps they can take to protect what matters most to them, their homes.

"I really enjoy working directly with people and helping them understand what they can do to protect their homes," she said. "Everybody's property is different, so it's about finding solutions that work for them."

Often, those conversations begin with simple recommendations, including removing vegetation near structures, creating defensible space against wildfires, or minimizing hazardous fuels. But she emphasized that these small changes can have lasting impacts, improve homeowners' chances of surviving wildfires and protecting their properties, and give firefighters a safer work environment.

Looking back, she sees a clear connection between the decision she made in college and the work she does today. Leaving engineering wasn't about abandoning one career; it was about finding one that matched who she was.

"I wanted to be somewhere I could make a difference," Tutton said.

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