

Unified team gives all players a shot in basketball

By Scott Swanson
Lebanon Local

A Lebanon player dribbles determinedly down the basketball court as opponents run up to swat at the ball.

She pulls up under her team's basket and takes a shot, which flies in a nice, smooth arc – right into the mesh. Two points for the Warriors.

This game, in Sweet Home, is a typical high school basketball game in many ways. There's a big, enthusiastic crowd. Referees in striped shirts. Cheerleaders line the far sideline across from the benches, which are full of athletes wearing the two schools' uniforms. There's a mascot.

But there are differences as well. One player is in a motorized wheelchair. He "dribbles" by rolling down the court, a teammate riding on the back of the chair to make sure it goes where it is supposed to, with the ball in a plastic tub attached to the machine. When they arrive in the key, in front of



Photo by Scott Swanson

Jordan Gohl, center, takes a shot for the Warriors against Sweet Home in a recent Unified basketball game.

their basket, the teammate takes the shot.

These are members of Lebanon High School's Unified team, a combination of varsity basketball players and special-needs students who play a six-game schedule this season.

They also play two tour-

naments, each including approximately three games.

"I think it's amazing, because we get our special education students and our general education students – everyone is just working together," said team coach Sheridan Echternach, a special education teacher who

has been at the high school for three years and took over the Unified team this year.

Echternach, who played basketball herself until an injury ended her career, said she loves the program.

"It's just a really nice thing

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Message in bottle unravels curious tale

By Sarah Brown
Lebanon Local

There's a 75-year-old story about a message in a bottle that may have yielded the finder as much as \$6 million. Just weeks ago, that urban legend found its way to Lebanon after a thrift shopper purchased an old glass bottle for 99 cents.

"I thought, 'Little ol' Lebanon? Really?' Coming and finding something like this; I thought it's so fun," said Karen Singleton, who found a message in the bottle.

Singleton was at Super Thrift when she saw a beautiful green glass bottle tucked behind some items on a shelf that kept catching her eye.

"I go thrifting a lot," she said. "I went in there one day and I kept walking past and I kept seeing this jar. I could tell something was in it, but I didn't pick it up at first."

She finally reached for the corked bottle and, upon pick-

See Curious Tale, Page 5



Meet the 2025 Strawberry Festival Court

Photo courtesy of Lebanon Strawberry Festival Court

The Lebanon Strawberry Festival Association has announced this year's Strawberry Festival Court. Princesses, from left, Kylee Thurman, Hannah Savedra, Emily Gerig, Brooklyn Barnes and Kiera Noble.

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OBITUARIES

Leonard Seadore
Feb. 25, 1941 - Jan. 3, 2025

Leonard Duane Seadore, 83, of Lebanon, passed away Jan. 3, 2025.



He was born Feb. 25, 1941, to Henry and Mary (Esterly) Seadore in Billings, Montana.

Leonard moved to Oregon from Nebraska in 1949. He attended schools in Corvallis. After graduation he joined the Army in 1960 and served for three years. He was stationed in Korea and was awarded a good conduct metal.

When he returned from the Army he lived in Roseburg, where he worked at a plywood mill. Leonard moved to Portland to work at PIE Trucking as a billing clerk. He also worked as a billing clerk at other companies until his retirement.

In 2019 he finally settled in Lebanon.

He enjoyed collecting clocks, working on computers and loved snow skiing.

Leonard is survived by his sister, Madeline Blatchley and her husband Dwight of Lebanon; nieces, nephews and lifelong friends Clint and Linda Borden.

He was preceded in death by his father, Henry Seadore (1955) and mother Mary Seadore (2018).

A memorial will be at 11 am, Saturday, Feb. 8, 2025, at Lebanon First Assembly of God, 726 W. Oak St., Lebanon.

Sweet Home Funeral Chapel is handling the arrangements.

Brian Adam Pape
Aug. 26, 1979 - Dec. 18, 2024

Brian Adam Pape of Portland, passed away on December 18, 2024 at the age of 45.



Brian grew up on his family's farm in Crabtree. He was an active 4-H member for nine years, serving many volunteer roles and even representing Linn County as a State 4-H Ambassador. After graduating from South Albany High School in 1998, Brian went on to attend Linn-Benton Community College and Oregon State University. He graduated from OSU with his Master of Business Administration. Upon graduation, he moved to Portland where he worked as a Certified Public Accountant, recently owning his own company.

Brian loved the outdoors, hiking and hunting. He had a passion for travelling, especially with his daughter Siena (Rory). He will be remembered for his love of family, practicality and logic, quick wit, eye for art/nature's beauty, and sense of adventure.

He is survived by his daughter Siena (Rory) Elizabeth Pape of Portland; parents Patti and David Pape of Crabtree; brother Jason Pape of Lebanon; sister Becky Czmowski of Lebanon; and nieces Erika

Pape and Maddie Czmowski, both of Lebanon.

Memories, photos, or notes can be shared on his memorial page: www.dignitymemorial.com/obituaries/beaverton-or/brian-pape-12138041

Dorothy Lee Page
Dec. 27, 1922 - Jan. 26, 2025

Dorothy Lee (Bohle) Page was born on Dec. 27, 1922, in the home of her parents, Edwin and Ora Bohle in Lebanon. She attended the old South School, Queen Anne Grade School, and graduated from Lebanon High School in 1940.



Dorothy and her sister, Charlotte, played several instruments and tap danced for many community events during their childhood.

Dorothy attended Oregon State College for two years, returning home to be the bookkeeper for the Bohle Creamery Company during World War II. While at Oregon State, she was a member of the Alpha Chi Omega sorority. She was chosen both her freshman and sophomore years for the Sarah H. Waldo Award of Outstanding Students.

On Sept. 5, 1942, she married Lawrence Page, a teacher and coach at Lebanon High School. They had two children, Carol Thorburn of Long Beach, Calif., and Larry Page of Sunnyvale, Calif. Dorothy

and her husband "Bud Page" were involved in Lebanon High School activities for 40 years where Bud Page was principal for 23 years. Their names now head the "Bud and Dorothy Page Alumni Hall of Fame" where outstanding Lebanon High graduates are inducted each year.

Dorothy has been a lifelong member of the First Presbyterian Church and served there as a deacon and elder for several terms. She began playing the organ at her church at the age of 16 and continued playing both the organ and the piano for nearly 80 years. She played for her first wedding ceremony at the age of 14.

She held memberships in the Lebanon Junior Women's Club, Hospital Auxiliary, PEO Sisterhood, Order of Eastern Star, Oregon State Mother's Club, the Lebanon Study Club, Present Day, and served on the Lebanon Library Board as treasurer. She also volunteered as a cook at the Lebanon Soup Kitchen for several years.

Dorothy was honored in March of 2016 at the Lebanon Distinguished Service Awards Banquet as Senior First Citizen for her many years of community service. She was inducted into the Bud and Dorothy Page LHS Alumni Hall of Fame in 2015 for Lifetime Recognition.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Bud Page, and her first grandson, Tony Leonnig. She is survived by her daughter, Carol Thorburn (Michael); her son, Larry Page (Lynne); three grandsons: Jeff

Leonnig (Kaycee), Carson Page (Vanessa), and Dr. Brady Page (fiancée Dr. Rebecca Hammond); six great-grandchildren: Paige Parker (Quinten), Luke Leonnig (fiancée Samantha Stanley), Natalie Leonnig, and Chloe, Charlotte, and Sadie Page.

Dorothy's strong faith, love for her family and friends, and her dedication to the community were an inspiration to all that knew her. She enjoyed music, traveling, reading, cheering on the Oregon State Beavers, and her various social clubs. Her biggest pride and joy were her grandchildren and great-grandchildren. Her smile and sense of humor brightened everyone's days. She made a huge impact on so many lives and will live on in the hearts of all who knew and loved her.

A private burial service was held Feb. 1, 2025. There will be a public Celebration of Life in the Spring. More details to follow.

Dorothy believed deeply in the importance of providing educational opportunities for others. She requested that any donations in her honor be made to the following organizations:

Lebanon Schools Foundation, Memo: Bud & Dorothy Page Leadership Scholarship, mail to Lebanon Schools Foundation, PO BOX 2052, Lebanon, OR 97355; P.E.O. Educational Loan Fund (ELF), Memo: In memory of Dorothy Page, mail to P.E.O. Executive Office, Treasurers Department, 3700 Grand Ave., Des Moines, IA 50312.

EVENTS

Lebanon chorus seeks singers

The Lebanon Community Chorus is seeking singers as it starts its 2025 schedule.

Rehearsals have started at the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints in Lebanon.

The Lebanon Community Chorus is an unauditioned, mixed-voice chorus often accompanied by piano. All voices are welcome. Participants should be able to carry a tune, enjoy singing, and can cooperate in a musical environment with others.

The chorus' spring concert will be April 27. Director is Terence Madlangbayan and the accompanist is Bill Langdon.

For more information, visit lebanoncommunitychorus.org.

Library to hold Author Fair

Friends of the Lebanon Public Library will host its second annual Author Fair,

from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Saturday, Feb. 22, at the Lebanon Senior Center, 80 Tangent St.

This year, Friends expects to have 12 speakers and more than 40 authors, providing a wide variety of genres including children's and young adult, historical fiction, romance, mystery/thriller, sci-fi and fantasy, memoir, Oregon history, and more.

Attendees will have the chance to meet the authors, buy their books and merchandise; attend workshops, readings, and talks; connect with writers; and celebrate the literary talent in Oregon.

The Teen Advisory Group will also be there selling baked goods and snacks to raise money for teen programs at the library, while 3 Potato More's food truck will be available for lunch options.

Please bring cash; some authors and the bake sale do not accept card payments.

Registration for authors to

have a table is full, but to get on the waitlist, visit www.lebanonlibraryfriends.org/author-fair. Proceeds from author tables benefit the Lebanon Public Library.

Porter Park Garden Openings

Porter Park Community Garden has 10 raised garden plots available for rent in the 2025 gardening year.

The Community Garden, located at 2240 Porter St. (Russell Drive and Porter Street), was built by the city to give Lebanon residents a place to garden and promote a healthy community through fresh garden-grown produce.

A rental plot includes soil, compost, water, basic gardening tools to use on site and support from Master Gardener and Community Garden Coordinator Sheryl Casteen. Impromptu garden classes or mentoring available upon request.

Rental plots fill up fast. Ap-

plication documents can be found on the city's website at LebanonOregon.gov/535/Porter-Park-Community-Garden, or by emailing a request to parksres@ci.lebanon.or.us.

Seed Swap

Santiam Food Alliance will host "Seedy Tuesday" at 6 p.m. on Tuesday, Feb. 25, at the Lebanon Public Library, 55 Academy St.

This is an opportunity to swap seeds with other plant enthusiasts. Bring seeds or plants to share, or just bring yourself. Bring envelopes and a pen, any seeds you want to share, as well as well-wrapped plants, tubers and bulbs. There will be a presentation on gardens as pollinator habitats, a Master Gardeners' advice table and an information table staffed by the Lebanon Garden Club.

Seedy Tuesday is a project of the Santiam Food Alliance, with co-sponsorship by the Lebanon Public Library, the

Lebanon Garden Club and Linn County Master Gardeners.

DSA awards night Feb. 28

The Chamber of Commerce will hold its Distinguished Service Awards Gala starting at 5:30 p.m. Friday, Feb. 28, at the Boulder Falls Event Center, 605 Mullins Dr.

The event will honor exceptional individuals, businesses and organizations that have shown dedication to the community, exemplary service, and community leadership.

Heavy hors d'oeuvres will be served and a no-host bar will be available. The program will begin at 7 p.m.

Cost is \$70 per person. Tickets are available at the Chamber of Commerce, 1040 S. Park St.

Learn about pollinators

The 11th annual BEEvent

See Events, Page 4

PUBLIC SAFETY

Information for the Public Safety report in The Lebanon Local is sourced from local law enforcement and fire agencies. Incident details, which may not always be available from agencies in time for publication in our weekly paper edition, could be updated online as information becomes available. Addresses provided generally denote the location of the incident or arrest, occasionally indicating the origin of the call. It is crucial to emphasize that 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.

Feb. 13

1:04 a.m. - Officer responded to domestic disturbance, 300 block Sand Ridge Ct.
4:01 a.m. - Kimberly Gomez, 56, and Bobby Gomez,

61, both of Lebanon, cited for first-degree criminal trespass after deputies spotted them on property from which they had been trespassed in 40100 block Lacombe Dr.
8:17 a.m. - Timothy Middleton, 66, cited for failure to carry insurance, 1700 block S Main St.
9:01 a.m. - Caller reported a four-wheeler being driven on the road, 2400 block Stoltz Hill Rd. Officer could not locate the driver.
9:06 a.m. - Nicole Barber, 38, cited for driving while suspended and driving uninsured, 1100 block S Main St.
9:48 a.m. - First responders administered two doses of Narcan to a male at Ralston Park. Subject woke up and was transported to hospital.
11:13 a.m. - Shawn Brown, 53, cited for driving uninsured, 100 block S 5th St.
11:37 a.m. - Caller reported possible neglect of dog inside

house while owners are away, 700 block E Ash St. A family member was able to enter the house and found the dog had not been let outside and there was no food available.
12:51 p.m. - Subject identified only as Robb taken into custody for allegedly breaking into a car at Valley Auto Sales. Report taken.
1:03 p.m. - Caller reported she is missing her checks and adult pull-ups.
3:29 p.m. - Officer responded to domestic disturbance, 000 block Park St.
Feb. 12
12:22 a.m. - Officer responded to domestic disturbance, 300 block Boulder Falls Dr.
12:36 a.m. - Officer responded to domestic disturbance, 700 block N 5th St.
1:20 a.m. - Officer responded to domestic disturbance, 500 block Weldwood Dr.
8:32 a.m. - Caller report-

ed intoxicated male twisted her arm and tried to take her phone, 500 block W Ash St. Subject taken into custody.
9:25 a.m. - Caller reported neighbor entering house through attic; gloves and charger cord missing. Officer noted attic entrance somewhat stuck from paint and insulation; no signs of entry. Caller admitted memory loss issues, misplaces items; said every home she lived in was burglarized. Caller later reported she found her items.
12:59 p.m. - Caller reported male growling at people walking by, S Main/W Grant Sts.
7:05 p.m. - Christopher Allen Thaxton, 39, cited for driving while suspended and no insurance, 800 block Village Lp.
7:14 p.m. - Austin Riley Robb, 22, of Lebanon, arrested on warrant. Cited and released, provided courtesy ride. Berlin/Bellinger Scale

roads. Report taken.
8:28 p.m. - Caller reported male getting physical with La Mota employees and tried to break into back room, appears intoxicated or high. Jason James Marquez, 30, charged with disorderly conduct.
9:20 p.m. - Connor Provstgaard, 36, of Lebanon, cited on warrant, 32900 block Berlin Rd. Report taken.
9:48 p.m. - Callers reported male banging on door and yelling, 100 block E Elmore St. Jason James Marquez, 30, charged with disorderly conduct.
Feb. 11
4:20 a.m. - Caller reported people getting in and out of a car, and turning it on and off, W Rose/S 7th Sts. Officer contacted two females who were sleeping in the car and turning it on for warmth.
12:44 p.m. - Officer re-

See Public Safety, Page 13

CIRCUIT COURT

All information presented herein is obtained from publicly available Oregon court and law enforcement records. The Oregon Public Records Law, as detailed in the Attorney General's Public Records and Meeting Manual, allows public access to these records. Every individual named or referenced is presumed innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.

Warrants are out on the following individuals: Misael Alvarez-Ramirez, Omar Edgar Arroyo, Elias Nicolas Azar, Kiah Brooke Bearden-Coxen, Jonathan Edward Betar, Teresa Elaine Buchanan, Christian James

Coleman, Austin Shane Conner, Steven Michael Cooley, Nicholas Orval Duncan Jr, Donald Kay Flanigan Jr, Selina Renee Ford-Blackburn, Melissa Nicole Fox, Steven Edward Grimm, Aaron Thomas Halvorson, Robert Edwin Hoskinson, Bruce Clifton Kelly, Faron Walter Kennedy, Caden Jason Scotty King, Brent Jay Klient, Andrew Donald LeGore, Mikel Vincent Lizama, Christopher James Lloyd, John Andrew Mance, Patrick Lee McNees, Cassandra Deann Moeung, Keoni Martin Murray, Jeremy Scott Rowan, Rosemary O. Saviour, Donald Shane Simmons, Brandi Lynn Trelstad, Russell Dale Truedson, Rose-

mary Natasi Turnwall, Wyatt Linn Vaughan, Donald Ray Watkins, Darnell T. Wells, Troy Steven Williamson, Jessica Ashley Wynne
Xavier Alexandre Aguilar, 24, was charged Jan. 19, 2023, with four counts of first-degree sexual abuse and two counts of first-degree sodomy. The charges indicate allegations involving three females between 12 and 14 years old. He posted 10% of a \$150,000 bail in January 2024. On Jan. 22, Aguilar was sentenced to 75 months with the Oregon Dept. of Corrections and 10 years (minus time served) post prison supervision after pleading no contest to

three counts of first-degree sexual abuse. The fourth count of first-degree sexual abuse and two counts of sodomy were dismissed.
Kelvin Edwin Attebery, 35, was sentenced Jan. 10 to 90 days suspension of a driver's license, 10 days jail, 18 months supervised probation and a \$200 fine after pleading no contest to fleeing or attempting to elude a police officer. A second count of the same charge was dismissed.
Timothy Isaiah Baldwin, 42, was sentenced Jan. 31 to 10 days compensatory service in lieu of jail, 18 months bench probation and a \$100 fine after pleading no con-

test to harassment. A charge of fourth-degree assault was dismissed.
Joyce Marie Cavazos, 52, was sentenced Jan. 16 to 10 days jail and 36 months supervised probation after pleading no contest to first-degree criminal mistreatment.
Travis Lee Clarkson, 37, was charged Feb. 13 with domestic violence fourth-degree assault and second-degree criminal mischief.
Christian James Coleman, 26, was charged Jan. 14 with fleeing or attempting to elude a police officer, reckless driving and criminal

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DIAL-A-BUS

CURB TO CURB IN SWEET HOME

MON-FRI 7 AM - 4 PM

CALL TO SCHEDULE

OFFICE HOURS 8-4



SWEET HOME SHOPPER

MON-SAT 9 AM - 4 PM

SHOP LOCAL- 4 TRIPS A DAY

THROUGH TOWN

LEBANON:

WALMART

LBCC

PARK & OAK

ALBANY:

LBCC MAIN CAMPUS

TRAIN STATION

HERITAGE MALL

DOWNTOWN

SAT ONLY: KOHL'S & WINCO

SWEET HOME:

FOSTER

SH CITY HALL

HOY'S HARDWARE

13TH & KALMIA

SHEA POINT

LEBANON:

WALMART

LBCC

PARK & OAK

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LBCC MAIN CAMPUS

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DOWNTOWN

SAT ONLY: KOHL'S & WINCO

SWEET HOME:

FOSTER

SH CITY HALL

HOY'S HARDWARE

13TH & KALMIA

SHEA POINT

LEBANON:

WALMART

LBCC

PARK & OAK

ALBANY:

LBCC MAIN CAMPUS

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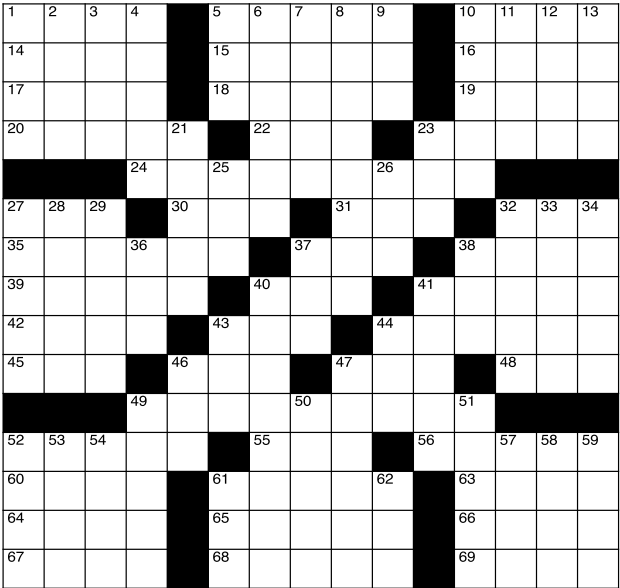
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HOY'S HARDWARE

1

CROSSWORD



CLUES ACROSS

1. Type of ion

5. ___ N' Bake

10. At all times

14. ___ Triad: fictional cult

15. Spiked revolving disk

16. Swiss river

17. Bleat

18. Finnish lake

19. Spanish cubist Juan

20. Consumer

22. No seats available

23. Arrive

24. Upstate NY city

27. Team's best pitcher

30. Follows sigma

31. Consume

32. Congressman

35. Spider's territory

37. Conclusion

38. Female parent

39. Instruments

40. ___-bo: exercise
41. Jewish spiritual leader

42. Oil cartel

43. In support of

44. More creepy

45. Color of blood

46. '___ death do us part

47. Radio finder (abbr.)

48. Promotions

49. Songs

52. Tony winner Daisy

55. Not just "play"

56. Affected with rabies

60. Formal group of like-minded people

61. Hold valuables

63. Male admirer

64. Actress Lucy

65. Prevents the fermentation of

66. Furniture

67. Long, winding ridge

68. Cover with drops

69. Major European river

CLUES DOWN

1. Greek goddess of youth

2. Early kingdom in Syria

3. Fortifying ditch

4. Walk into

5. Island state ___ Lanka

6. Japan's most populous island

7. Mindful of

8. Fuel

9. NY Giants' Manning

10. Very willing

11. Linear unit

12. Guitarist Clapton

13. Semitic letter

21. Habitual repetitions

23. Soak

25. Taxi

26. Small amount

27. A theatrical performer

28. 2-door car

29. ___ and flowed

32. Arabic female name

33. Implant within
34. Groups of two

36. College athletic conference

37. Body part

38. Disfigure

40. Accept

41. Allude to

43. Type of tree

44. Doctor of Education

46. Pearl Jam's first album

47. Flower cluster

49. Heavy cavalry sword

50. Arabian Peninsula desert

51. Marten

52. Type of sound

53. Expression of grief

54. Liberian tribal people

57. Wizards' shooting guard Bradley

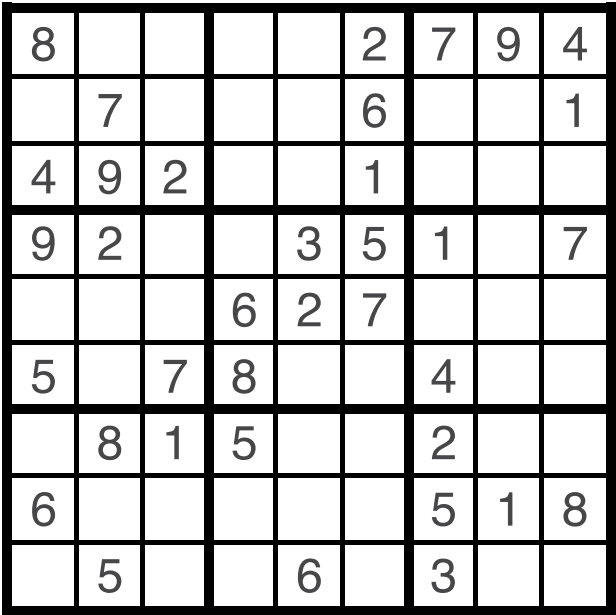
58. Metrical foot

59. Mislead knowingly

61. Sino-Soviet block (abbr.)

62. Midway between south and southwest

SUDOKU



Level: Beginner

OPINION

By Scott Swanson
Editor

Lebanon Fire District's budget woes aren't really news, but they deserve increased attention from the community because they could affect all of us very directly.

The district is one of the oldest in Oregon – it marked its 140th year in 2024. Such longevity indicates that the district has served the community reliably and that it has had support from the people it serves.

And that's what's going to be key now, during a difficult season. As reported on page 7, LFD is reporting a nearly \$1 million shortfall between its revenue and its costs, which is a significant problem not only for the organization and its employees, but for the rest of us.

That's because it's Lebanon's fire district.

The reasons why LFD, which not long ago was in good financial shape, finds itself in this predicament are complicated and there's not space here to flesh them out.

Fire Chief Joseph Rodondi told Lebanon Local that in the last decade LFD call volume has increased 45%, with a 200% increase in "call overlap" (more than one call happening at the same time), causing average response times to increase by three minutes, 23 seconds.

According to the district's statement issued last week, detailing some of these issues, two-thirds of its calls involve call overlap, which means medics or firefighters

aren't getting to emergencies as quickly because the district is short-staffed.

Complicating this situation is the fact that LFD recently opened a brand new 25,000-square-foot main fire station, which took five years to complete after passage of a 26-year \$16 million bond. Unfortunately, COVID and sky-rocketing construction costs complicated that project; the end result was delayed and "value engineered" to adjust to those complications.

The timing was not ideal, no matter how you look at it, and when the district came to voters in 2024, asking for a levy to fund six additional firefighters (an approximately 14% staff increase), which would have returned staffing to pre-COVID levels, two-thirds of residents who voted turned down the request.

Safety costs money, but voters apparently didn't like the idea of paying 75 cents per \$1,000 assessed value (approximately \$150-300 per year, based on a home valued between \$200,000 and \$400,000) to fund additional staff for the fire department.

At the local level, fire departments are secondary only to police in providing the most basic responsibility of government: protection. Water, sewer and other local services are helpful, but if you believe Thomas Hobbes, protection is the No. 1 reason why we have government.

And that includes fire and medical help when we need it. One only has to look at the recent disaster in Southern

California to recognize the importance of having these services adequately staffed and funded.

That said, there are limits to what we can afford to pay, and the district has pledged to find ways to control its spending, economize on staff, find new revenue sources and spread the cost-cutting across the board in view of economizing.

Economy is a virtue in public agencies, so the district should be applauded as it finds way to streamline its operations and cut its costs, which is imperative.

However, budget woes for the people whose job it is to aid us in time of need can obviously have a dire effect on all of us. This isn't just a pothole in the road or a trashy neighbor who hasn't been called on the carpet. This could be the difference between the medics arriving in five or eight-plus minutes, which is a long wait when we've found Grandma on the floor, struggling to breathe.

That's why this isn't just a problem facing the LFD administration and its board members and its staff. This is all of our problem, because the Lebanon Fire District is all of us. Voters' reluctance to further invest in the district might be understandable, given recent history, but we'd better start thinking about what it's going to take to solve this problem before it bites all of us.

EVENTS

From page 2
Pollinator Conference will be held March 1, at the Linn County Expo Center, 3700 Knox Butte Road E, in Albany.

This year's speakers include: Abigail Lechner of U.C. Davis, who will speak on "The Houdini Fly: Management Best Practices;" Nina Miller, of the Oregon State University Garden Ecology Lab., who will speak on "The Hover Fly: Predaceous Pollinator?"; Dr. Silvia Rondon director of OSU's Integrated Pest Management

Center, who will speak on Integrating Pest Management in our Daily Gardening Practices;" Linn County Master Gardener Rene Miller, who will speak on "Native Mason Bees;" and Dr. Gail Langellotto, director of OSU's Garden Ecology whose topic will be "An Update from the Garden Ecology Lab."

The event will give participants a chance to learn more about how to support pollinators for a sustainable future, and get updated information from experts' focused

research, which they can apply to their property. A Q&A session will be held after each speaker.

Mason bee kits and other native bee supplies will be available for purchase, as well as Willamette Valley-raised cocoons. Also in attendance will be local vendors and related non-profits.

Sunshine Industries fundraiser March 1

Sunshine Industries will hold its annual fundraising dinner from 5 to 8 p.m. Saturday, March 1, at 1333 Clark Mill Road in Sweet Home.

The event will include raffle prizes, a silent auction, dinner and a bar serving beer and wine.

Sunshine Industries provides a social and work environment for adults with developmental disabilities and serves a wide client base throughout east Linn County.

For more information, call 541.367.2765.

See Events, Page 7

The New Era

LEBANON LOCAL

A LOCALLY OWNED NEWSPAPER

LEBANONLOCALNEWS.COM

OFFICE: 1313 Main St., Sweet Home, Oregon

PHONE: 541-367-2136 FAX: 541-367-2137

WHO WE ARE:

Sarah Brown, Staff Writer - sarah@lebanonlocalnews.com

Chelly Bouferrache, Staff Writer - chelly@lebanonlocalnews.com

Miriam Swanson, Ad Representative - miriam@lebanonlocalnews.com

Scott Swanson, Publisher - scott@lebanonlocalnews.com

SUBSCRIPTIONS: Monthly - \$2.99 Annual - \$32.99

NEWS QUESTIONS / TIPS - news@lebanonlocalnews.com

New council member takes seat at Sodaville

By Sarah Brown
Lebanon Local

One returning city council member, one new council member and a returning mayor were sworn in during the Jan. 16 City Council meeting in Sodaville.

Councilor Adina Olivares and Mayor Brian Lewis were voted in for another term, but newcomer Caleb Gay accepted a write-in nomination from voters. He will fill in the seat vacated by Jeff Hensley, who did not run for another term this year.

Gay, 38, moved to Sodaville from Lebanon in 2013. He spent 14 years in the military before medically retiring from the National Guard in 2018. He's been with the Forest Service since 2012 and is now the administrative officer of the Pacific Northwest research laboratory at Oregon State University.

This will be his first time serving in local government. Gay said he looks forward to learning how things operate in the local government and seeing how he can help.

In other business:

- Resident Gary Bennett asked if there are any plans

for road repair. Public Works Director J D Burns said the city is looking at laying gravel on Fisher, Park and Maple streets. City Administrator/Recorder Molly McGuire told him they'll aim to get that project done by Spring.

- McGuire told the council that staff met with Rep. Jami Cate and legislative assistant Connor Booth, who informed them they will try to expedite the city's request for water rights for Well Six.

- Burns reported the city stopped trucking water in from Lebanon in late December. Also, the sensor in the water tank has been repaired.

- Councilors Olivares and Joseph Parsons shared their ideas for how water rates should be charged. Parsons would like to keep the base rate at \$47 but lower the amount from 2,500 gallons to 2,000 gallons. He would change the tier levels to 2,000 gallon intervals, increasing each tier by an additional \$10, and there would not be rate changes during water restrictions. Olivares would like to keep a base rate for 2,500 gallons, and then sim-

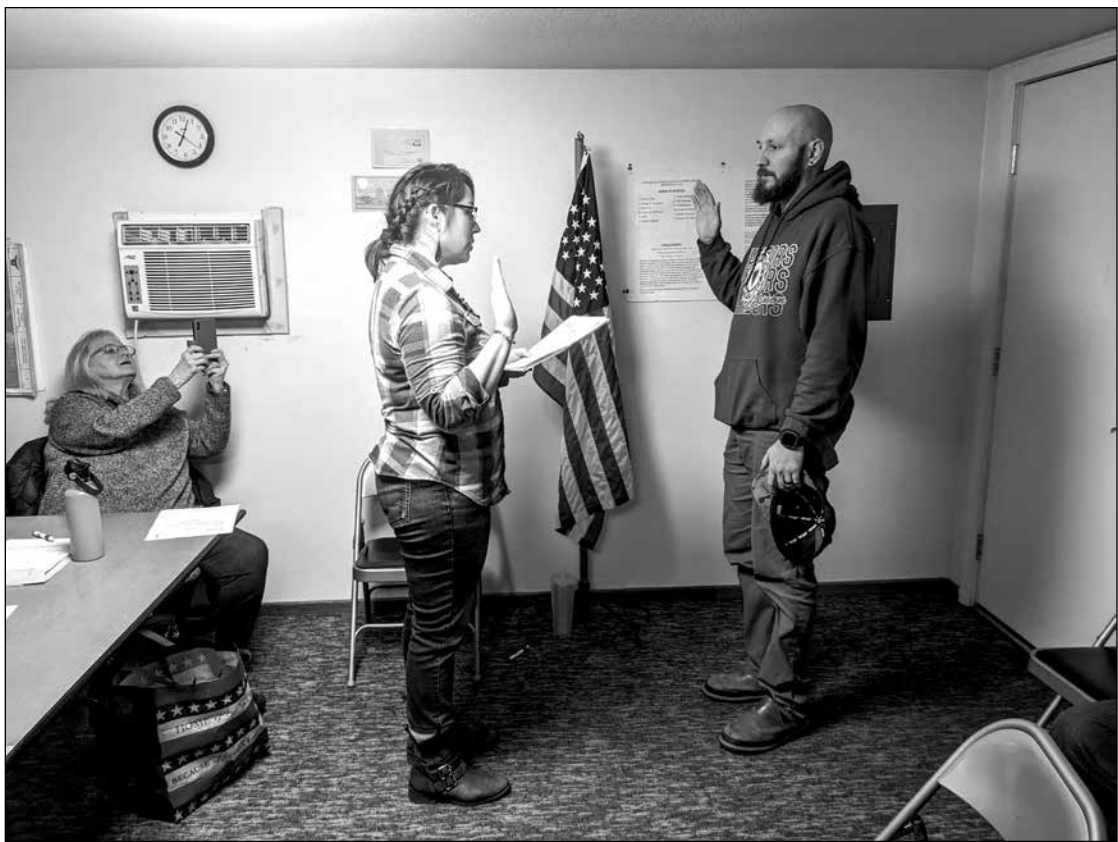


Photo by Sarah Brown

City Administrator/Recorder Molly McGuire, left, swears in newcomer Caleb Gay for a seat as city councilor.

plify the process by charging per gallon used over that (for example, four cents, and nine cents during restrictions). Her main concern is that the city

charge residents what the city is being charged for trucked-in water. Given that water is a finite resource in Sodaville, Olivares questioned whether

placing a cap per house would be a good idea. City staff are trying to get more community input for how to try to solve the water problem.

CURIOUS TALE

From page 1

ing it up, noticed papers shifting inside. Her immediate reaction was "Ooooh!"

Singleton then joked to herself, "Curiosity killed the cat... but I'm a dog lover."

Ninety-nine cents seemed like a fair price to pay to discover what was inside and, at the least, she would have a beautiful bottle to look at. Even an employee and people next to her in line found the bottle curious and speculated whether it could be a will or love letter inside.

After paying for her treasures, Singleton went straight home so she could figure out how to get the message in the bottle out of its glass walls.

"It was just a tiny little cork, but there was no way to get it out," she said. "As soon as I pulled it out, it just disintegrated."

On the bottom of the bottle are the words "Duraglas" along with a diamond symbol surrounding the letter I. After a little research, Singleton believes the bottle might have once held, perhaps, beer out of Germany. More inquiry reveals the bottle might be from the early- to mid-century.

Setting aside the little cork pieces, Singleton then worked on pulling out the rolled up pieces of paper and unraveling them.

Her first thought was, "Oh, it's on kid paper."

Newspapers in 1949 reported the story of 55-year-old Jack J. Wurm, a maitre d'hotel (restaurant worker) who literally stumbled on a brown whiskey bottle on a beach in San Francisco and found within it what appeared to be a handwritten will.

It read, "To avoid all confusion I leave my entire estate to the lucky person who finds this bottle and to my attorney, Barry Cohen, share and share alike. Daisy Alexander - June 20, 1937."

Given that it was written on a scrap of rough brown wrapping paper, Wurm decided it was probably a college kid's prank. Some months later, however, a friend told him there might be legitimacy to the will. That's because Daisy Alexander - who had no children of her own - was an heiress to the Singer Sewing Machine family and was worth \$12 million at her death in 1939.

It was reported that Alexander was an eccentric woman who had "a curious interest in floating communications around in a bottle," according to her lawyer, Barry Cohen. He also reported he had written multiple wills for her over the years, but not a single copy could be found after she died.

Some 75 years later, a thrift

shopper in Lebanon unraveled a piece of paper and read the words contained thereon.

"I get the papers out and literally my face - I was like a kid in a candy store. I really was," she said.

It read, "To the lucky person who finds this bottle I leave my entire estate to be divided equally with my lawyer Barry Cohen. Daisy Singer Alexander February 1st 1937 London, England."

Singleton said she is coming out of a "rough few years" after battling cancer and becoming "medically retired."

Last year she began leaving miniature Jesus figurines around town for fun and inspiration, and as conversation pieces.

Having found this message in a bottle, she questioned whether this was God's way of answering her prayers. Then she unraveled three smaller pieces of paper that were also in the bottle.

On them were written messages "from God," declaring he delights in the finder and the finder has eternal life through Jesus. The words made her cry.

"I was like, 'OK, this is a sign.' I walked past this bottle three times and now you're (God) answering these prayers in the most oddest way," she said. "But at the same point I'm like, this is pretty cool for the little town of Lebanon.



Photo by Scott Swanson

Singleton shows the handwritten "will" found in a green bottle she purchased from a thrift store.

Even if it's a bunch of kids doing it, it's fun."

Singleton used to work for an attorney who does wills, so she said she might settle the question by reaching out to her.

"I'm half tempted to actually ask her to do some background searching for me, to see if she can find anything, because you never know. You hear about things like this. I mean, I'd have a heart attack if

somebody said, 'Yeah, you're \$12 million richer,'" she said with a laugh.

It appears Wurm never received his half of Alexander's estate, and that, in fact, her niece and nephew ended up with the money on a probate.

"Obviously it's a fluke," Singleton said about her message in a bottle, "but could you imagine if it was real and you're sittin' on \$12 million?"

Chickens, park use fee waivers top of council discussions

By Sarah Brown
Lebanon Local

Chickens and park use fee waivers were the top of discussions among city councilors during their meeting on Feb. 12.

More chickens, please

Residents Wyatt King and Steven Patterson requested that the City Council consider modifying Ordinance 6.16.010 (sections A2 and A4) to allow an increase in the number of chickens a household can have.

The current ordinance allows one hen per 2,000 square feet lot, with a maximum of six chickens. King would like the ordinance to be amended to allow one hen per 1,000 square feet with a maximum of 10. He also recommended the addition of a condition for reasonable care to be taken to deter and avoid pests.

King asserts that this modification would allow Lebanon residents to access affordable, healthy, trustworthy food by producing their own eggs.

"It will help our community to be more resilient and more self-reliant if there's ever a hardship," he said.

He mentioned the health benefits of eggs and noted that baby chicks are difficult to find right now, suggesting a demand for chickens.

"Egg prices are going up, everything's going up, and keeping people fed is a concern of families and institutions," he said.

"Increasing the number of chickens also increases our community resilience. We know that hardships will happen. There will be supply chain issues, pandemics, the looming Cascadia Subduction quake. If we've learned anything from

the pandemic, it's that we should be prepared and not wait to react to disaster."

For those who might be irresponsible as chicken owners – allowing unclean conditions that encourage rodents and other pests, King recommended wording to require "reasonable care" would give law enforcement teeth to act when necessary.

Patterson added that being allowed 10 chickens would help families rotate in new baby chicks as the older ones (two years and older) age out and produce fewer eggs.

City Manager Ron Whitlatch said currently residents can apply for a permit if they want to own more than six chickens, but neighbors have to agree on the request. Councilor Michelle Steinhebel said there have not been any complaints about chickens in a number of years. She asked staff to provide a report on the topic to further inform their decision.

Fee waiver request

The council also spent quite some time discussing requests for fee waivers by nonprofits using city facilities. More specifically, Build Lebanon Trails is preparing for its annual Fun Run and Kids Dash fundraiser at Cheadle Lake Park and asked for a fee waiver for park use.

The use of the park comes with a \$1,750 fee, which helps cover electrical, water and maintenance costs. The city denied BLT's request for a fee waiver at Cheadle Lake Park, due to the cost to the city.

Whitlatch asked if the council would like to put a policy in place that would essentially define and limit or stop the number of waiver requests the city receives.



Photo by Sarah Brown

City Council hear a request from Wyatt King regarding a chicken ordinance.

In February 2022, then-City Manager Nancy Brewer brought the same question to the council. As spring approaches, the city begins receiving requests for park use and fee waivers from organizations running their annual events in city parks.

At the time in 2022, organizations usually brought their request straight to the City Council. Brewer asked if the council would prefer the requests instead be brought to city staff for approval.

"A lot of these are groups that have come multiple times and had council multiple times give them free access," she told the council on Feb. 9, 2022.

The council agreed to create a policy allowing city staff to make the decision.

At this recent meeting, Councilor David McClain said he'd like to see a standard policy established that applies to everybody. Councilor Dave Workman agreed.

"My conflict here is that I'm a big supporter of BLT, but I would be a hypocrite to sit here and say we should do that for one organization after what I supported in the past," Work-

man said. "I get doing it one-off, but there has to be some kind of standard so that there's not favoritism or bias because of who's asking."

Steinhebel noted that the city's tourism grants are provided to organizations through the Lebanon Chamber of Commerce "so we don't receive these requests."

"We didn't want these decisions to come to us each time, which is why we entrusted the chamber with making those decisions," Steinhebel said.

McClain added that, after looking through the city's budget, he better understood the costs to the city for use of parks and trails, and felt – although it's high – \$1,750 was a reasonable price. Of the roughly \$250,000 in motel taxes collected, BLT got \$25,000 of that last year (Lebanon Downtown Association got \$30,000 and the Chamber of Commerce got \$75,000).

BLT has a long history of building trails in the city and handing them over to the City of Lebanon. Although BLT does a "fantastic job" that benefits the city as a whole, the city ultimately becomes responsible

for more and more upkeep of these parks, McClain said.

BLT does provide \$20,000 a year for trail maintenance during the summer.

McClain questioned whether some of the motel tax could help fund park and recreation costs because it could be considered a tourism use.

BLT President Rod Sell told the council that his nonprofit is different from others because it essentially builds infrastructure for free, but he understood the council's decision.

Ultimately, councilors agreed it's best to create a policy that helps avoid favoritism when granting waivers. City staff will draft up some ideas and bring them to council in the future.

In other business

- The council heard from Andy and Marilyn Belcher, who asked for an emergency system that would allow residents to be notified of warnings and evacuation routes should a disaster, such as a sweeping fire, come about.

- Whitlatch announced staff are considering visiting Washington, D.C., in April for "Water Week." This would help staff reach out to other water districts and Congressional delegates, and lobby for current infrastructure needs and the Green Peter drawdown.

Council heard a yearly report from Community Development Director Kelly Hart. She noted the city processed 45 planning applications in 2023 as well as 2024, but the latter year's applications were for smaller projects and, thus, reduction in building permit valuations. However, the city processed "the largest subdivision that the city has had in over 20 years."

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Lebanon Fire District looks to cut costs amid budget constraints

Lebanon Fire District is facing a structural budget shortfall of \$858,450 for Fiscal Year 2025-26, the district reported last week in a statement circulated to the community.

That deficit differs from cyclical deficits caused by temporary economic downturns in that it “reflects a persistent gap between expenditures and revenue,” LFD’s statement said.

“Without corrective actions, reserve fund balances will continue to decline, impacting cash flow and the ability to fund essential capital purchases, including fire apparatus, ambulances and life-saving equipment.”

LFD, which was established in 1884, has evolved into a “dynamic all-hazards organization, seamlessly integrating career firefighters and dedicated volunteers.”

The district has 43 skilled career personnel and 55 volunteers, and operates five stations, two staffed full-time and three supported by volunteers only.

Geographically, LFD covers 134 square miles fire for protection area encompassing 30,000 residents, and it oversees 419 square miles in

an ambulance service area that provides emergency medical care to 40,000 people across Lebanon, parts of Scio, Brownsville and unincorporated areas of Linn County.

As is the case with other special districts across Oregon, LFD faces “a widening gap between revenue and expenses, making it increasingly difficult to maintain services at current levels,” it said in the statement, adding that its primary revenue sources – property taxes and ambulance service fees – are not enough “to keep pace with rising costs, inflation and increased service demands.”

Funding Limitations

“A significant challenge for LFD and other special districts is the revenue restrictions imposed by Oregon’s tax structure,” the statement said.

“Measures 5 and 50, enacted in the 1990s, placed strict limits on property tax revenue growth, preventing fire districts from keeping up with the increasing costs of emergency response services.

“These measures cap property tax rates and re-

strict annual growth, even as population increases and call volumes surge.”

Also, ambulance services fees, which have been a “crucial revenue source” for the district, are not sufficient to cover expenses.

“With LFD responding to over 6,700 calls annually – including 4,097 overlapping calls (more than one call happening at the same time) – staffing shortages and resource constraints are increasingly evident. Nighttime calls, which accounted for 2,281 incidents in 2022, contribute to longer response times and further exacerbate burnout and retention challenges.”

Adding to these problems, the district cannot tap into “critical federal funding streams” such as the CARES Act, the American Rescue Plan Act, and settlements such as the Opioid Class Action Lawsuit, because special districts like LFD are not recognized as government agencies under the U.S. Code.

“These acts are intended to augment the fiscal impacts to emergency responders who are tasked with responding to crises,” the dis-

trict’s statement said. “While municipalities and counties have received substantial federal aid, fire districts must operate without these essential financial resources, placing further strain on already tight budgets.”

Budget Strategies

To address this shortfall, the district is implementing a series of strategic budget reduction measures that reduce services to achieve long-term financial stability. These strategies include:

- **Spending Controls:** Prioritizing “Need to Have” versus “Nice to Have” expenses.
- **Staffing Adjustments:** Further staffing reductions throughout the organization.
- **Operational Restructuring:** Balancing reductions across tax-based fire services and fee-based ambulance services.
- **Revenue Exploration:** Investigating new revenue sources to reduce reliance on traditional funding streams.

“These initiatives reflect a strategic approach to financial management, aiming to stabilize the district’s budget amidst challenges in providing critical emergency ser-

vices,” the LFD statement said.

For more details on the budget and reduction strategies, see the staff report titled FY25/26 Budget Reduction and Organizational Restructure at bit.ly/Board-Documents, or email info@lebanonfire.com for more information.

‘Unwavering Commitment’

The statement concluded: “Despite these challenges, the Lebanon Fire District remains unwavering in its commitment to serving the community.

“Firefighters, paramedics and volunteers continue to work tirelessly to provide high-quality emergency response and ensure public safety. While financial constraints present obstacles, LFD is actively pursuing solutions, including advocating for legislative changes, seeking grant opportunities, and exploring operational efficiencies to maintain critical services.

“The district takes immense pride in protecting the lives and property of those it serves. Amidst upcoming challenges, LFD will strive to answer the call, keeping the safety of the Lebanon community as its highest priority.”

EVENTS

From page 4

Genealogical Society Meeting

The Lebanon Genealogical Society will meet at 12:30 p.m. on Friday, March 7, at the Lebanon Library, 55 Academy St.

These meetings are free to the public. Keith Menk will speak about his family history, sharing special stories that his sister found while doing her genealogical work. Keith has spoken to this group in the past on being a soldier and doctor during his time at Civil War re-enactments.

For more information, contact Linda at 541.570.1797.

Cheadle Lake Trail Walk

Build Lebanon Trails will host a Cheadle Lake Trail Walk from 9-11 a.m. on Saturday, March 8, starting at Cheadle Lake Park, 37941 Weirich Dr.

Join others for a walk on the Cheadle Lake trails while hearing details about the trails and what BLT is planning. Whisper devices are used for easily hearing the hike leader’s voice. For more information, visit BuildLebanonTrails.com.

Auction to raise funds for kids’ trip

Seven Oak Middle School students will hold an auction

from 6 to 8 p.m. Saturday, March 15, to raise funds for a history trip they are planning to Washington D.C. and New York City later this year.

The event will be at the school, 550 Cascade Drive. It will include dessert and silent auctions featuring gift baskets, certificates, art cakes, pies and more. Cash and checks will be accepted.

For more information, contact the school at (541) 451-8416.

Nonprofit summit

The second annual Willamette Valley Nonprofit Summit will be held from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Monday, March 17, at Hope Church Albany, 2817 Santiam Hwy SE, Albany.

Nonprofit employees and board members are invited to the summit – a business conference designed specifically for nonprofits. The event features two keynote speakers, multiple breakout sessions and networking.

Cost is \$30 per person, and includes membership as well as a continental breakfast, coffee and lunch. Register online at <https://www.etix.com/ticket/online/> and search for “Willamette Valley Summit.”

Auditions for Shakespeare

Rogue Valley Shakespeare Company will have open call

auditions for its fourth annual season from 6:30-9 p.m. on Tuesday, March 18, and Wednesday, March 19, at the Grants Pass Vitality Center, 234 SW L St., Grants Pass.

This year’s Shakespeare in the Vines season will include productions of “Hamlet” and “The Comedy of Errors” performed June 6-28 at Walport Family Cellars. Many of the season’s roles are still open and available. Prepared monologues are not required, but will be accepted prior to cold readings from the scripts of the plays. Rehearsals begin March 31.

Both productions will be performed in true repertory and most actors will be cast in both productions. There are also openings for those with talents behind the scenes, such as designers, technicians, stagehands and more. Those interested in joining the production team can attend the auditions or reach out by email at RVShakespeare@gmail.com.

Additional information is available at roguevalleyshakespeare.com.

Farmers markets on Thursdays

Weekly winter farmers markets will be held Thursdays from 2 to 6 p.m. through

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How an 80-year-old and 10-year-old wrote a book together

By Sarah Brown
Lebanon Local

The distance between a friend and a stranger is only a smile apart, and age should be of no consequence. Two area residents prove that point with their story of how, together, they wrote a story.

Jim Corley, 80, of Sweet Home, and Ezekiel Wixson, 10, of Lebanon, met in 2022 while they were “booth buddies” at a Christmas bazaar.

Ezekiel’s mother, Heidi, was selling her wares while her son had his own little setup of dried herbs, greeting cards, origami and bookmarks. Next to them, Corley was selling one of his books, “Harley the Redneck Shepherd,” a short, humorous story about the birth of Jesus.

After getting to know each other, Corley gave Ezekiel a copy of his book and “we became friends,” Ezekiel said.

And as often happens with friends, Ezekiel invited Corley to watch him perform in a Christmas play at his grandfather’s church. Corley accepted the invitation. A year later, the scenario repeated itself. The two, by chance, became booth neighbors at a different Christmas bazaar



Jim Corley, at left, and Ezekiel Wixson show their book collaboration, “Harley and the Melvins Meet the Wise Guys.”

and, again, Corley accepted an invitation to watch Ezekiel perform in a Christmas play.

That following summer, Ezekiel gifted Corley with a Scribner pen, which he used to sign his book for the young boy. The octogenarian then learned that Ezekiel was spending the summer reading a lot of books.

Heidi Wixson explained that Ezekiel had a hard time reading during his first

through third grades, which he attended through Oregon Connections Academy, an online home-school program, but his third/fourth grade teacher, Carrie Gamache, worked with him a lot.

“I really think that teacher played a huge role in his academic success,” she said. “He’s worked really hard to now be able to read, but also really enjoys reading.”

Ezekiel added, “Yeah, I re-

ally like reading,” noting that the Sugar Creek Gang series is one of his favorite adventure mysteries to read.

Upon hearing how much reading the young boy was doing, Corley asked when he was going to start writing his own books, and suggested that they could write something together. Immediately Ezekiel knew what it should be about: another “Harley the Redneck Shepherd” story

called “Harley and the Not so Very Wise Men.”

While Corley essentially wrote the story (and shortened the title), it was the precocious boy who offered up the premise of the book, reviewed it and offered suggestions, and wrote the last paragraph himself.

“It was fun,” Ezekiel said of the experience.

Between writing, reviewing and editing, it took only a couple months to complete the 20-page story, self-published through Amazon. As Corley explained about the process, he pulled out \$4 and tossed it on the table toward Ezekiel.

“We’re sharing the royalties 50-50,” Corley said, adding that a copy had sold on Amazon and the \$4 was Ezekiel’s split. Heidi informed him that it was, in fact, Gamache who purchased that book on Amazon.

The book, “Harley and the Melvins Meet the Wise Guys,” follows Harley and his brothers, Melvin and Melvin, as they meet three wise men who came to visit Jesus on his first birthday, and learn about

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Coach Sheridan Echternach, left, applauds during player introductions.

UNIFIED

From page 1

to see that unified team and everyone just feels included,” she said. “Everyone gets a chance to feel like they are contributing to the team.”

Principal Craig Swanson said the Unified team’s home games have drawn large crowds.

“There’s been great attendance from the student body and staff,” he said.

Lebanon has had a Unified team for several years, Athletic Director Kraig Hoene said. So do many other Mid-Valley schools.

“I think a lot of these kids have the ability to be in-

involved in something,” Hoene said, noting that there is real athletic talent among the special education students.

This year’s Warriors team is “massive” compared to last year’s, Echternach said. This year’s Warriors number some 30 players, about a third of them regular varsity basketball players, who don’t take shots but assist in getting the ball to their teammates when necessary.

The growth in the program is because “everyone loved it last year,” Echternach said.

Practices often take place during classes, which allows more players to participate, she said.



Lebanon and Sweet Home players gather for a group photo after the game.

“They were like, ‘Oh, we love this. So our team just got big real quick.’”

Some of the disabled athletes have “shocked” her with their ability on the court, Echternach said.

“They are amazing athletes.”

Typically, she said, the team is made up of three “players” and two “partners” who are on the floor together.

Parents, some of whose kids have been involved in the program for multiple years, “love coming to the games,” she said.

“I think the most exciting part for them is coming to watch their athletes play.

They’re great advocates for their students. They have great ideas all the time.

“They’re always letting me know, ‘Oh, this is how it was last year.’ I’m like, ‘Oh, that makes sense.’ So they’re great resources as well. They also know their athletes super well.”

She said she enjoys seeing “how excited all the students get” to participate.

“We try to make sure everyone has a chance to make a basket, everyone has a chance to dribble the ball down.”

The Warriors will play in a regional tournament on Saturday, Feb. 22, at Oregon State University, and then

will host their final home game on Wednesday, Feb. 26, scheduled for 6 p.m. at press time.

Hoene said he enjoys the enthusiasm he sees from other students for the Unified team.

“Our student body does a great job of making it special for them,” he said. “Our cheerleaders usually show up and a lot of times we get the band there for their games.”

“It’s fun to have the community rally behind them, support them. It’s a great atmosphere. It really is.”

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Sleep Trailer being tested in three-month trial

By Sarah Brown
Lebanon Local

Two years after an initial test of the Sleep Trailer, Crossroads Communities is once again hosting the temporary shelter for a second trial run.

Crossroads Communities ran the program for one week in 2023, but this year they are testing it for three months in Lebanon before taking it to other counties for three-month trials.

Just as temperatures were about to drop to below freezing, Crossroads Communities invited houseless individuals on Jan. 6 to find rest (and warmth) in the Sleep Trailer, which sits in the River Center parking lot off Market Street.

Having already pioneered their first run with a Sleep Trailer, staff at Crossroads had an idea of what to expect and already had a system in place. Although managed on a first-come, first-serve basis, Executive Director Michael Couch explained that those who stay a previous night have first rights to stay the next night.

The structure is made up of eight separate sleeping units big enough for one adult and one pet or child, which lock from the inside. Each unit is coated with truck bed liner paint and a drain for easy cleaning, includes heating and cooling, and is equipped with a pallet base and a sleeping pad, as well as blankets or sleeping bags if needed.

"Tenants" check in each night at 4 p.m. and check out each morning at 8 a.m. Each person must agree to more than 20 rules of order, including no use or possession of illegal drugs, no use of fires or gas and electric units, cleanliness, no violence, maintaining quiet hours at night and assuming responsibility for their pods.

"It is possible to set up an arrangement for people to be safely sheltered for a period of time, as long as it's managed," Couch said. "If we check people in and we check people out, we keep an eye on the site, (then) we don't have huge piles of trash here. We want to be able to make sure that wherever we get something set up, that we're respectful of the people that are letting us use the site."

Jason Christensen, of Salem, built the Sleep Trailer with a vision of organizations and government agencies purchasing his portable shelter for their needs – which, he noted, could also include shelter for wildland fire crews or families during natural disasters.

The concept originated

about 10 years ago when Christensen asked himself why his community didn't have anything better for the people sleeping under business overhangs. He looked at tiny homes, pallet shelters and capsule hotels before taking out a loan to build his modified version of what he learned.

"This is really designed to help the individuals that don't wanna be in that situation anymore," he said.

With his first prototype completed in August 2021, the next step was to find a customer to buy into the idea – be it a person, nonprofit organization, city or county. Crossroads was the first to host the initial pilot "proof of concept" program for Christensen's trailer.

During February 2023, Crossroads ran a week-long test with the trailer in the parking lot at First Christian Church, reporting as many as 30 people lined up to stay a night on the first day.

Crossroads founder KJ Ullfers said their intention was to provide a temporary sheltering space "so they don't die on the streets" while in the process of moving toward a better situation. If they found the initial trial run to prove itself useful, Crossroads would consider purchasing a trailer to continue the program in Lebanon.

But now they find themselves managing a year-long trial run in multiple counties, thanks to a grant from Inter-Community Health Network CCO.

"It's all about health, right?," Christensen said. "So the idea was, when people get a good night's sleep and have a stable place to stay, mental health increases, your physical health increases; like all these health benefits can come from just having a safe, warm place to stay at night consistently."

George Girard, who started staying at the Sleep Trailer in January, can attest to that. He lost housing when he was "down on his luck" about a year ago, and has been sleeping in his cramped truck since then. In so doing, poor circulation and other health problems have begun to manifest themselves, which he blames as the reason why he lost his most recent job.

But the Sleep Trailer gives Girard an opportunity to sleep in a warm, secure location and stretch his legs out, he said, noting that the pod is "pretty comfortable."

"He's moving so much better now," Ullfers said. "His legs



Photos by Sarah Brown

Staff clean out units while "tenant" George Girard, at right, finishes checking out for the day.

get so swollen up because of circulatory issues, and now he's able to move around a lot better and do things."

Girard is on his way to securing his own apartment through Crossroads' housing program, but he wants the community to know that many homeless people are discriminated against.

"Sure, there's a small handful that do things that are wrong, but not all homeless people are like that," he said.

Christensen smiles at the beauty of his design.

"It's enough to get people safe and stable, but not enough where they want to live the rest of their life there," he said. "Once you start feeling safe and secure and you're getting a full night's sleep, then you start thinking, 'What's next?'"

Working with Crossroads has been "incredible," Christensen said.

"When I started this thing, I literally had nothing. I was just, like, 'this has to freaking happen.' I don't know how, I don't know where. I just built it with no guarantees of anything," he said.

Through a series of connections, Christensen met with Crossroads, which not only focuses on permanent housing, but also had many connections and resources to help him get to the next steps in his vision for the Sleep Trailer.

Within the first two weeks of operating the Sleep Trailer at River Center, Crossroads was able to find housing for two of its tenants. The couple, who are unnamed, had been unhoused for one year when they took to the Sleep Trailer and completed all the necessary work with Crossroads to

get into an apartment.

Couch shared about another family staying at the Sleep Trailer. A father and his two sons had been living out of an SUV for about a year before securing nightly rest in their own Sleep Trailer units. After a few weeks, one of the sons secured a job interview, and the family is working through Crossroads' housing program.

Each evening, staff assist with check-in. A volunteer from the Lebanon Soup Kitchen delivers food three days a week, and breakfast is available every Monday at the River Center. In the morning, Crossroads staff make sure tenants check out and perform unit cleaning when necessary.

"We have some minor critiques about things and ways that can be improved, but

that's the whole point for this pilot; it's to try to see what's needed," Couch said.

Some of their ideas include ADA-accessible units and units with adjoining doors so couples and parents with children can access each other.

In April, Crossroads will move the trailer to Lincoln County where another organization has expressed interest in trying the program out.

Ullfers has said that – for Crossroads at least – the Sleep Trailer wouldn't be intended as a permanent solution to a problem; just a stepping stone.

"Our focus is helping people move forward," Couch said. "We're not gonna push people, we're not gonna pull people, but we'll walk beside them."

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Supt.: School District taking ‘wait and see’ approach to Trump Administration moves

By Scott Swanson
Lebanon Local

Lebanon School District officials told School Board members that they’re adopting a “wait and see” approach as they watch the Trump Administration’s moves to scrutinize U.S. Department of Education operations.

Responding to questions from the board at their Thursday, Feb. 13 meeting, Supt. Jennifer Meckley said she is receiving regular updates from “many different avenues” such as the Coalition of Oregon School Administrators, the American Association of Superintendents, Oregon School Board Association and others.

“I feel like we’re getting a lot of information and it’s a lot of good information,” Meckley told the board, which met remotely due to weather concerns.

“Executive orders do not create new laws, change existing ones or provide legally binding rules for schools,” she reminded board members. Instead, they direct federal agencies on how the president wants them to enforce current laws.

“Without action from Congress or the courts, many of the executive orders cannot

directly change legal requirements for school districts.

“So schools do not need to immediately alter their policies or practices based on executive orders alone,” which, she added, “is important for School Board members to consider, as policy adoption is one of your three big responsibilities.”

She and Board Chair Tom Oliver said the district will need to “watch how this plays out.”

Meckley said professional organizations are advising that districts not immediately change policies or make any other fast moves.

Oliver reminded his fellow trustees that the district is much more closely “bound” to state law than it is to federal regulations.

Meckley acknowledged that “there’s a lot of talk about this, there’s a lot of concern about federal dollars that go to school.”

Lawmakers need to be reminded about “where those dollars go,” she said.

“Decisions are made a lot of time by people who don’t understand the impact in the classroom.”

Board Member Melissa Baurer asked whether the district was seeing any hold-

ups on grant money.

District Chief Operations Officer William Lewis said the district “has not been notified that any grants are being held up.”

He credited Business Director Steven Prososki with putting the district in a “good position,” financially.

“I think we are in a good spot,” Lewis said. “The federal grants that we have are low risk for any challenges. I think our risk is low. The federal grants they’re looking are not things we’re associated with.”

“The short answer is we’ll see what happens,” Oliver said.

Also during the Feb. 13 meeting, board members also received an audit report for the district from Pauly Rogers and Co. of Tigard. The report, for the 2023-24 fiscal year ending June 30, 2024, did not identify any financial issues.

Oliver said the report was “the most boring I’ve read in my eight years on the board,” which, he added, was a positive.

Ignoring PERS liability, Oliver said, “the numbers look pretty good.”

He responded similarly when Prososki reported that the district was “on target” to meet its budget.

“Nice and boring,” Oliver said.

Security Retrofits for Schools

Board members unanimously approved a request by Lewis to exempt the district from competitive bidding requirements normally employed in engaging contractors as the district prepares to launch its Schools Safety and Security Upgrade Project.

Lewis asked the board to approve a Request for Proposal (RFP) method of selecting a contractor, which, he said in a written proposal, could mean one or more contractors, depending on the district’s needs.

The Upgrade Project will include exterior door access controls, mass notification and communication systems, and expanded video surveillance, according to a proposal Lewis provided the board. It would focus on upgrades rather than replacements, he said.

Lewis said using the RFP process would save the district money because it would encompass more than just dollar amounts.

“We’re retrofitting 1950s and ‘60s schools with modern security technology,” Lewis said. “The complexity

of this project, the need for seamless integration, and the requirement for minimal disruption to school operations, makes the traditional low-bid process less suitable. And when I say ‘less suitable,’ I’m talking more expensive.”

He said that the age of the facilities increases the likelihood that changeovers – variations to plans that were used in calculating bid amounts – which often add significant costs to building projects as contractors have to solve problems that arise.

“There are many unforeseen challenges that will require changeovers,” Lewis said, citing the example of trying to retrofit a door installed in the 1950s. “I would rather have five changeovers than 50.”

In his written proposal, Lewis said the alternative method would provide the ability to “address complexities, enhance cost control and reduce risk to the district.”

“Let’s get the contractor on board and go through it with him, addressing the needs of the district,” he told board members, noting that the decision in choosing a contractor would be “based on all factors, not just dollars.”

“We’re trying to make this as competitive as possible. This just protects the district due to the complexity of the project.”

Welcome Center Report

Sandy Trevino, who directs the district’s Welcome Center, gave board members a presentation on the department, which last year assisted 922 students with a wide variety of needs ranging from homelessness to assistance with sports or academic fees.

This year’s total, roughly two-thirds of the way through the school year, is 678, Trevino reported.

Welcome Center staff members Julie Campbell, Stephanie Herb, Mindy Hoeckle, Keely Lane, Julie Miller and Yesenia Rodriguez, are commonly known as “Magic Workers,” provide food and clothing and other necessities, case coordination, community connections, and advocacy, as well as serving as a crisis response team, she said.

They serve students in need, Latino students, students considered homeless under the McKinney-Vento act, and who need comprehensive case management.

McKinney-Vento students, which numbered 285 last year and are up to 196 so far this year, are those shar-

ing housing with family or friends; who live in a hotel/motel, a camping situation or an RV, or in a shelter; in substandard housing that may lack water, heat or power, or a building not designed for sleeping; migratory families; and those not in physical custody of a parent or legal guardian.

Trevino noted that anyone can refer a student from the Welcome Center page located on the district’s website or, for staff, through a link in the district shortcuts folder.

She said twice a month a Youth Services Team of representatives from various organizations serving youth works collaboratively to provide services and reduce barriers to allow families to access “creative solutions.”

The team holds a variety of events during the year, including: a school supplies and backpack drive for 400 students this year; kindergarten health screening (148 students); a coat drive (365 students) donated by Entek; Thanksgiving food baskets for 218 families, prepared by Entek and local churches; lining up some 50 sponsors who provide holiday gifts that went to 194 youths; and conducting a Sources of Strength Wellness Fair, put on by more than 80 different organizations, which drew more than 400 people.

Some 20 local companies and organizations have partnered with the Welcome Center to make it all happen, Trevino said.

“We really couldn’t provide for our families without these people,” she said. “I know this community is known as the ‘Town that Friendliness Built’ and I think that is really shown by our department.”

Restraint/Seclusion Report

Board members heard a report from Meckley on the number of incidents involving special education students the district has experienced in recent years. Meckley reported that five students required restraint in the 2023-24 school year, and four required seclusions - a decrease from the previous year, in which five required restraints and 40 seclusions, the latter number which Meckley said was primarily due to one student, and significantly less than 2017-18, in which there were 51 restraints and 19 seclusion situations.

Class Size/Case Load Report

Meckley delivered a report

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EVENTS

From page 7

March 27 at Santiam Place Event Center, 139 S. Main St., Lebanon.

For more information on how to participate, contact Belinda at 541.418.2603 or shldfarmersmarket@gmail.com.

Rock and Mineral Show March 29-30

The 75th Annual Sweet Home Rock and Mineral Show will be held Saturday and Sunday, March 29-30, at Sweet Home High School, 1641 Long St.

This year's theme will be "Knock on Wood."

The event, hosted by the Sweet Home Rock and Mineral Club, includes raffles and door prizes, lots of rock and mineral displays, vendors, demonstrations, food and plenty of accessible parking.

Admission is \$1 for adults and teens; children 12 and under are free when accompanied by an adult.

For more information on how to participate, call 541.451.2740, 541.451.1577, or email ela4rocks@gmail.com.

Stage directors needed for 2025

Mid-Valley Productions, a non-profit live performing art and events company that aims to bring cultural, educational, and entertaining experiences

to the community seeks directors for its 2025 season.

Last year MVP hosted 10 events, ranging from theatrical productions to documentary screenings to concerts at Russell Tripp Performance Center on the Linn-Benton Community College Albany campus.

For more information, email mvp@midvalleyproductions.org by March 31.

BLT Fun Run and Kids Dash

Build Lebanon Trails will host its annual Fun Run/Walk and Kids Dash from 8-11 a.m. on Saturday, May 3, at Cheadle Lake Park.

BLT is seeking sponsorships for this fundraiser event. More information about being a sponsor or participating in the event can be found at <https://buildlebanontrails.com/clr/>.

Powwow planned in Lebanon

The first annual Willamette Valley Powwow will be held from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. on Saturday, May 31, at the Boulder Falls Event Center, 605 Mullins St.

Visit for traditional and contest dancing, drumming and singing, as well as Native arts and crafts, and food vendors. For more information, contact Laurie at Laurie.Regalado@lebanon.k12.or.us.

Commissioners approve new software for Lebanon Justice Court

Commissioners Roger Nyquist, Sherrie Sprenger and Will Tucker unanimously approved the purchase of new software for the Linn County Justice Court housed in Lebanon, during their Tuesday morning, Feb. 11, meeting of the Linn County Board of Commissioners.

Judge Jessica Meyer told the commissioners the current computer program is more than 20 years old, antiquated and cumbersome. She said the new system will reduce the amount of time staff must spend performing tasks manually and repeatedly.

Meyer said the new software from Tyler Technologies will allow the Justice Court to go paperless and automate many facets of the court's procedures.

There will be a one-time fee of \$91,845, which is what Meyer asked the commissioners to cover. The annual fee of \$44,958, will be built into the Justice Court's upcoming 2025-26 budget. The first payment will be due in August 2025.

"This is the same program



Photo courtesy of Linn County

Judge Jessica Meyer speaks to commissioners.

that I use in my work with the Albany Municipal Court," Meyer said. "This will provide exponential time savings."

Tucker asked about the migration of current data into

the new system and Meyer said the data should be easy to transfer, since several other courts have made similar transitions with the same program.

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SCHOOL BOARD

From page 10

to the board on class sizes and case management loads for special education and speech pathology personnel, which is a requirement of the collective bargaining agreement with the district's licensed staff.

The biannual report, to be presented to the board and the president of the teachers union in October and February of each year, is required to include the actual student-to-teacher class sizes ratios, and the case management of specialists.

If School Board members determine that the class size recommendations cannot be met for reasons beyond their control, then the superintendent must meet with union leaders to discuss and problem-solve.

In a written memo to the board, Meckley listed strategies that are being used to "support teachers that have classes above the recommended cap."

Those strategies largely consist of extra prep time and instructional assistant support for teachers at the grade schools and middle school, extra supports and paperwork days for speech language pathologists and special education teachers,

and schedule changes to balance class size issues at the high school.

Meckley reported that, among the elementary schools, the biggest challenges are four classes that are at or over the recommended cap at Hamilton Creek and Lacomb, and three (all third-grade classes) over the cap at Riverview. Caps are 24 or more students for grades K-3, and 26 or more for 4-5.

"We have some pockets," Meckley acknowledged.

At Seven Oak Middle School, 30 classes are at or over the 30-or-more student cap, and 14 are at the high school, where the cap is 32 or more students. At both the high school and middle school, physical education classes are the biggest single category in which caps are exceeded.

Special education and speech class sizes, which have lower caps, were in excess at Cascades, Green Acres, Riverview, Hamilton Creek/Lacomb, Seven Oak and the high school.

Counselors at Riverview and Seven Oak were over their caps.

Meckley said the large classes at the middle school tend to be elective and health classes, and district leaders anticipated last fall that there might be larger

numbers than desired in some of those classes.

Board Chair Tom Oliver said Hamilton Creek appeared to him to be the biggest trouble spot.

Meckley said the principals and teachers at Hamilton Creek and Lacomb have to decide whether to combine grades or keep classes to one grade.

Oliver noted that, due to open enrollment policy changes, numbers at Hamilton Creek, where open enrollment has swelled the student population, "may be reduced over time, now that the policy has been changed."

She said it is challenging to recruit special education teachers and noted that special education numbers may always be over the cap.

Oliver said that other districts are experiencing similar challenges.

District Operations Report

Lewis told the board that the district applied in January for its second seismic rehabilitation grant program and will learn in May whether it will receive more funds, which would go to work focused on the main gym area at Seven Oak Middle School.

The district has completed a \$2.4 million seismic retrofit to the LHS main gym with funds from the first grant it was awarded. The upgrade funds helped pay for a new roof, windows and HVAC system upgrades, he said.

Lewis said work on the warehouse is almost complete and a fire hydrant was installed in early February.

Lewis also told board members that schools are

battling a new Oregon law that bans the sale of fluorescent lightbulbs as of Jan. 1 of this year. He said he intends to testify in Salem in favor of a bill proposed in the state House, HB2307, which would exempt until Jan. 2, 2030, lamps purchased by a school district from the prohibition on the sale of certain fluorescent lamps.

"As you can imagine, this is a significant change for all school districts in Oregon," Lewis said, adding that Lebanon schools currently use fluorescent bulbs and that the necessary retrofits would be costly – and the state is not providing funding for such a change.

"These simple bulb replacements are not a long-term solution for any school district," Lewis said. "Over time, the district light fixtures will need to be replaced by a licensed electrician to support the new LED light infrastructure. This change impacts thousands and thousands of lights across the district."

Oliver acknowledged that "it's a big lift to replace those," but suggested that the investment might pay off quickly in reduced power costs. "We have been very spoiled by cheap electricity in the Northwest for a long time," he said. "That's changing, due to a variety of factors. Pressure on wildfire mitigation and other factors are going to drive rates."

Lewis agreed that there would be benefits to using LED, but "the issue is not whether it was a good idea. The issue was the crazy timeline that was put on

this."

In other action, the board:

- Unanimously approved a 10-year lease extension with the Lebanon Aquatic District for use of the high school pool. The district owns the pool, which is used by the Aquatic District, which is supported by a levy.

- Approved an evaluation process for Meckley, which will include a self-evaluation, an evaluation based on Oregon School Board Association standards, a survey for board members and administrators, and one for all staff members.

Meckley said she would aim to get her self-evaluation by the end of the month.

Board members said they liked the idea of having all the staff take the survey if they wanted to.

- Unanimously approved required policy updates. Meckley said concerns voiced by Board Member Clyde Rood in the January meeting had yet to be fully worked out, so she suggested that the board approve the policies, which is a legal requirement, and then could discuss those items later.

Meckley announced January's Apple Award winners, who were: Nancy (Webb) Whaley, dean of students at Hamilton Creek; Mark Smith, who leads the Jr. ROTC program at the high school; and Grace Rieke, a first-grade teacher at Riverview.

Apple Award winners "exemplify the dedication, passion and commitment that make our schools exceptional," she said.

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From page 8

the true spirit of giving.

"There's some humor in it, there's some of the biblical story," Corley said.

When asked what age group the book would be suitable for, the pair had to take a minute to think about it.

"Little, little kids might think it's boring at first because it doesn't get as exciting and funny as quick," Ezekiel said. "When I tried to read it, my little brother (5 years old), he sorta got bored."

In the end, Corley decided the story is probably good for all ages over 8 years old.

When asked whether Ezekiel had more stories he wanted to write, the answer was affirmative.

"Me and Mr. Corley are actually collaborating on that."

It will be another Harley book, but coming from the perspective of the Melvins. Ezekiel provided a sneak peek that the brothers think



Photo by Sarah Brown

Ezekiel Wixson, 10, signs a copy of his book while co-author Jim Corley, at left, waits to do the same

Harley is too controlling, and hinted that the idea might come from Ezekiel's own personal experience with four brothers.

As a fifth-grader who's already created products to sell and now has his first co-authored book complete, it seemed like a good time

to ask what he wants to be when he grows up, but, alas, he doesn't know yet. Corley joked he will be a wise guy.

"He has an entrepreneurial bent and he's very creative," Corley said. "So if his career isn't being a content creator, I can imagine him being a business whiz, easily."

PUBLIC SAFETY

From page 3

sponded to call about subjects' property blocking the walkway at Ralston Park.

1:47 p.m. - Officer responded to domestic disturbance, 300 block Sand Ridge Ct.

2:33 p.m. - Miguel Estrada Cortes, 67, of Lebanon, arrested for second-degree attempted assault, unlawful use of a weapon, and menacing, 300 block Center St. According to Sheriff's Office, Cortes was intoxicated and got into an argument with a victim in the street. Cortes brandished a knife during the verbal confrontation but no one was injured, according to LCSO.

Lodged at Linn County Jail. Report taken.

3:01 p.m. - Caller reported juveniles smoking marijuana from a soda can, 500 block F St.

4:21 p.m. - Officer responded to concerns about harassment.

4:49 p.m. - Caller reported dispute over custody.

5:56 p.m. - Caller reported assault after he refused to hand over his girlfriend's dog to her and her son, near Walgreens. He said he took a swing first, fell on his head and wrapped up the son's leg before the son hit him.

9:27 p.m. - Jeremiah James Haynes, 46, of Crabtree, cited for failure to carry proof

of insurance, Grant St./Chestnut Ct.

Feb. 10

5:55 a.m. - Kyra Enovijas, 18, of Albany, cited for speeding, Hwy. 34/Denny School Rd.

9:01 a.m. - Caller reported female laying in the road, W Airport Rd./S 5th St. Officer spoke with female who's frustrated trying to stay warm living on streets.

9:02 a.m. - Sarah Kalina cited on a Lebanon Municipal Court warrant.

9:23 a.m. - Caller said they heard voices in attic during visits to a house in 2019, 1200 block Ashwood Ct. New family living there now, but wonders if it was a trafficking situation.

12:47 p.m. - Joseph Rocky Rodriguez, 40, cited for driving uninsured, 1700 block S 5th St.

1:16 p.m. - Coby Emmitt, 30, of Lebanon, arrested on two warrants. Cited and released. 34500 block Pine-wood Lane. Report taken.

2:24 p.m. - Caller reported two females putting items in purses at Grocery Outlet. Shawn Romay Wixon, 65, cited on a Sweet Home Municipal Court warrant for contempt of court third-degree theft. Officer found items in Wixon's purse; she said it was

an accident. Subjects paid for items and left. Females trespassed from store.

2:58 p.m. - Shawn Romay Wixon, 65, cited for driving while suspended and driving uninsured, 500 block Market St.

2:38 p.m. - Caller reported juveniles spending all day during the week in parking lot of church near high school. Alleges they listen to loud music, do cookies and do drugs. Juveniles left when officer approached.

3:47 p.m. - Tina Adell Walters-Pruitt, 50, cited on a Lebanon Municipal Court warrant for contempt of court.

6:18 p.m. - Burglary reported in 40100 block Lacombe Dr. Report taken.

7:27 p.m. - Caller reported harassment from family member who was fired and blames him for it.

7:58 p.m. - Zachary M.

Johnson, 31, of Lebanon, arrested on Lebanon Municipal Court Warrant. Cited and released. 2700 block Railroad St. Report taken.

8:41 p.m. - Caller reported she was walking at Cheadle Lake when male on bike ran up to her from behind, grabbed her by hips and shoulders, and yelled "You aren't going to get away from me b-." When he saw her face, he apologized and said he thought she was his wife. White male described as stinky with large bags under eyes, black beard and long dark greasy hair.

11:17 p.m. - Caller reported intoxicated boyfriend grabbed her and threatened to shoot police if she called them, 1000 block S 4th St. Female locked his loaded shotgun and asked for assistance from police.

Lebanon man arrested for beating dog to death

A Lebanon man was arrested after Linn County Sheriff's Office received a report of a dog killed inside a residence.

LCSO dispatch received the call shortly after 4:30 p.m. on Jan. 23 from the caretaker of a residence in the 1600 block of S 9th Street. According to LCSO, the caretaker reported the dog was in the house for security measures because the homeowner had recently passed away.

The caretaker suspected the homeowner's son, Michael Healy, 36, of Lebanon, was involved and reported Healy leaving the property moments before reporting

the incident. Healy went to the Lebanon Police Department to report being attacked by the dog and then returned to the scene where deputies contacted him.

LCSO reported that Healy, who did not live at the location, entered the house and struck the dog several times using a golf club, causing its death. Healy reported being attacked by the dog, but had no injuries and provided additional statements leading to his arrest.

Healy was transported to the Linn County Jail where he was lodged on charges of first degree aggravated animal abuse.



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REAL ESTATE SOLD

Following are Lebanon, Sweet Home, and Brownsville area real estate transactions recorded with the county during late January and February 2025. 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:

1243 B 47th Ave., Sweet Home; 1,488 sq.ft., one story, two-bedroom, one-bath Built in 1947; 0.44 acres; \$100,000.

760 Airport Rd., Lebanon; 1,352 sq.ft., one story, three-bedroom, one-bath Built in 1947; 0.32 acres; \$200,000.

2713 Long St., Sweet

Home; 2,183 sq.ft., one story with attic, four-bedroom, two-bath Built in 1949; 0.3 acres; \$27,495.

2798 12th St., Lebanon; 1,076 sq.ft., one story, three-bedroom, 1 ½ bath Built in 1997; 0.14 acres; \$375,000.

1033 10th St., Lebanon; 1,204 sq.ft., one story, three-bedroom, two-bath Built in 2000; 0.12 acres; \$365,000.

34323 Santiam Hwy., Lebanon; 2,568 sq.ft., one story with basement, three-bedroom, two-bath Built in 1970; 24.25 acres; \$600,000.

41998 Marks Ridge Dr., Sweet Home; 1,296 sq.ft., double wide mobile home,

three-bedroom, two-bath Built in 1977; 5.32 acres; \$400,000.

2424 Main St., Sweet Home; additional details not listed; 0.98 acres; \$2,100,000.

9154th Ave., Sweet Home; additional details not listed; 0.17 acres; \$260,000.

28597 Santiam Hwy., Sweet Home; 1,340 sq.ft., one story with attic, three-bedroom, one-bath Built in 1945; 7.41 acres; \$470,000.

42361 Upper Berlin Dr., Lebanon; additional details not listed; three-bedroom, two-bath 65.35 acres; \$1,320,000.

1830 Tamarack St., Sweet

Home; 1,818 sq.ft., one story with attic, three-bedroom, two-bath Built in 1935; 0.38 acres; \$375,000.

1016 Pine St., Brownsville; 616 sq.ft., one story, two-bedroom, one-bath Built in 1908; 0.11 acres; \$143,000.

30209 Fairview Rd., Lebanon; additional details not listed; 43.5 acres; \$420,000.

1092 Robbins Way., Lebanon; 2,202 sq.ft., two story, three-bedroom, 2 ½ bath Built in 2017; 0.16 acres; \$572,000.

1804 Vine St., Sweet Home; 991 sq.ft., one story, two-bedroom, one-bath Built in 1930; 0.28 acres; \$291,000.

1216 Laurel Ct., Sweet Home; 1,200 sq.ft., one story, three-bedroom, two-bath Built in 2004; 0.14 acres; \$335,000.

2405 Long St., Sweet Home; 1,510 sq.ft., two story, four-bedroom, one-bath Built in 1950; 0.13 acres; \$290,500.

410 7th St., Lebanon; 936 sq.ft., one story, two-bedroom, one-bath Built in 1947; 0.18 acres; \$260,000.

3243 Highway 20, Sweet Home; additional details not listed; 1.72 acres; \$600,000.

137 8th Ave., Sweet Home; 832 sq.ft., one story, two-bedroom, one-bath Built in 1946; 0.26 acres; \$299,000.

1443 Fern Ln., Sweet Home; 1,782 sq.ft., one story, three-bedroom, two-bath Built in 2019; 0.3 acres; \$460,000.

253 2nd St., Lebanon; 1,200 sq.ft., one story, three-bedroom, one-bath Built in 1955; 0.22 acres; \$330,000.

25121 Springer Rd., Sweet Home; 985 sq.ft., one story, two-bedroom, one-bath Built in 1950; 1.5 acres; \$225,000.

36743 Bourbon Ridge Ln., Lebanon; 2,354 sq.ft., one story with attic, three-bedroom, two-bath Built in 2023; 2.16 acres; \$765,000.

37314 Scott Dr., Lebanon; 2,346 sq.ft., two story, Six-bedroom, 4 ½ bath Built in 1979; 2.92 acres; \$400,000.



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\$1600	2	2	1078
RENT	BED	BATH	SQ.FT.

FOR RENT - 1900 S 2ND ST A204
LEBANON

Welcome to our spacious 3-bedroom, 2-bathroom apartment located in Lebanon. This second-story unit features a range, fridge, dishwasher, wall AC unit, washer/dryer hookups, microwave, garbage disposal, and a covered patio. With plenty of space for all your needs.

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\$1850	3	2	1177
RENT	BED	BATH	SQ.FT.



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CIRCUIT COURT

From page 3

nal driving while suspended or revoked.

Christopher Justin Converse, 34, was sentenced Jan. 6 to 90 days jail and a \$100 fine after pleading no contest to identity theft and second-degree theft. Charges of second-degree forgery, and mail theft or receipt of stolen mail were dismissed.

Austin Brian Devine, 28, was sentenced Feb. 7 to 20 days jail and 24 months supervised probation for failure to report as a sex offender. Two additional counts of the same charge and a charge of failure to appear were dismissed.

Rose Joann Ellison, 45, was placed in the diversion program after pleading no contest to DUII (controlled substances).

Alexander McKenzie Fenn, 28, was sentenced Jan. 30 to 12 days compensatory service in lieu of jail, 24 months bench probation and \$4,776.89 in restitution after pleading no contest to first-degree criminal mischief and five counts of second-degree criminal mischief. Six additional counts of second-degree criminal mischief were dismissed.

Stephanie Louise Hadley, 51, was charged Jan. 30 with failure to report as a sex offender and giving false information to a peace officer in connection with a citation or warrant.

Zachary Scott Hales, 46, was found not guilty by a jury on charges of DUII (liquor), reckless driving and second-degree criminal mischief on Feb. 7.

Michael John Healy, 36, was charged Jan. 24 with

first-degree aggravated animal abuse. Bail was set at \$10,000. In a separate case, Healy was charged with DUII (liquor and/or controlled substances) and recklessly endangering another person.

Shain Nicholas Hersey, 49, was sentenced Dec. 23 to life revocation of a driver's license, 55 days jail, 36 months bench probation, and \$2,255 in fines and fees after pleading no contest to DUII (controlled substances) and failure to appear.

Joseph Clyde Hugus, 73, was sentenced Jan. 24 to 168 hours jail and 36 months supervised probation after pleading no contest to unlawful use of a weapon. A menacing charge was dismissed.

Anthony Ryan Johnson, 22, was charged Jan. 17 with DUII (liquor).

Caden Jason Scotty King, 27, was charged Feb. 8 with failure to perform the duties of a driver to injured persons.

Phillip Lam, 54, was charged Jan. 21 with unlawful manufacture of marijuana and unlawful possession of marijuana. Charges allege Lam manufactured more than 64 plants, more than 32 ounces of solid, and/or more than 144 ounces of liquid or extract, and additionally had factors that indicated a commercial drug offense. He posted 10% of a \$75,000 bail.

Elizabeth Marie Martin, 41, was charged Jan. 23 with first-degree burglary, second-degree theft, theft of services and third-degree criminal mischief. Bail was set at \$10,000.

Christopher Jonathon Mertz, 31, was placed in the diversion program af-

ter pleading guilty to DUII (liquor). He was also sentenced Jan. 13 to five days compensatory service in lieu of jail, 14 months bench probation and \$200 in fines after pleading guilty to two counts of recklessly endangering another person. A second DUII (liquor) charge and a reckless driving charge were dismissed.

Jeremy Allen Moore, 47, was sentenced Jan. 31 to 30 days jail, six months with the Oregon Dept. of Corrections and \$300 in fines after pleading no contest to fleeing or attempting to elude, second-degree animal abuse and failure to appear. Dismissed charges: reckless driving, fleeing or attempting to elude, failure to appear. In a separate case, he was sentenced to 13 months with the Oregon Dept. of Corrections, 24 months post-prison supervision and a \$200 fine after pleading no contest to failure to report as a sex offender.

Johnny Ray Mowdy, 60, was sentenced Jan. 21 to 15 days jail and a \$100 fine after pleading guilty to failure to report as a sex offender. A second count of the same charge was dismissed.

Sex abuse charges against **John Roger Mullner Jr.**, 61, were dismissed with prejudice on Jan. 21 because he has passed away.

Jan Mohammand Noorani, 55, was placed in the diversion program after pleading guilty to DUII (alcohol) with a .16% BAC.

Luis Ortiz-Reyes, 38, was cited Jan. 27 for speeding 106/65 on I-5 and failure to install an IID device.

Dustin James Phares, 42, was charged Feb. 5 with first-degree criminal trespass and unlawful posses-

sion of methamphetamine. Bail was set at \$10,000.

Bronson Garrett Putney, 29, was charged Dec. 26 with two counts of harassment, first-degree criminal mischief, unlawful entry into a motor vehicle, third-degree theft, unlawful possession of methamphetamine and carrying a concealed weapon. In a separate case, he was charged Jan. 14 with first-degree burglary, interference with making a report and second-degree criminal mischief. Bail was set at \$20,000.

On Feb. 3, he was sentenced in the first case to 20 days jail, 36 months supervised probation and a \$100 fine after pleading no contest to the harassment and unlawful possession of methamphetamine; the other charges were dismissed. In the second case he was sentenced to 20 days jail (concurrent to previously imposed sentences), 36 months supervised probation and a \$200 fine after pleading no contest to first-degree burglary and second-degree criminal mischief; the "interference" charge was dismissed.

Keely Scott Reynolds, 46, was sentenced Jan. 24 to 30 months with the Oregon Dept. of Corrections, three years post-prison supervision and a \$200 fine after pleading no contest to delivery of methamphetamine within 1,000 feet of a school. A second count of the same charge and a charge of felon in possession of a restricted weapon were dismissed.

Jesse Dale Roberts, 70, was placed in the diversion program after pleading guilty to DUII (liquor) with a .222% BAC.

Arthur Diego Romero,

51, was charged Jan. 15 with DUII (liquor).

Loren Eugene Schulze, 69, was charged Feb. 3 with failure to report as a sex offender.

Casyah Taelour Thomas, 29, was charged Jan. 21 with second-degree burglary. Bail was set at \$15,000.

Delbert Joe Tunnell II, 50, was sentenced Jan. 23 to five days compensatory service in lieu of jail after pleading no contest to first-degree failure to appear. The original charge was a Class C felony, but it was reduced to a misdemeanor.

Wyatt Linn Vaughan, 21, was charged Jan. 15 with DUII (controlled substances).

Joseph J. Warren, 56, was charged Jan. 17 with unlawful use of a weapon, menacing and pointing a firearm at another.

Walter Wesley Windom, 73, was charged Feb. 7 with failure to report as a sex offender.

Exzavier Jamar Wright, 25, was sentenced Feb. 12 to 60 days jail, 36 months supervised probation and \$300 in fines after pleading no contest to domestic violence fourth-degree assault and tampering with a witness. Charges of coercion and attempt to commit a Class C/Unclassified felony were dismissed.

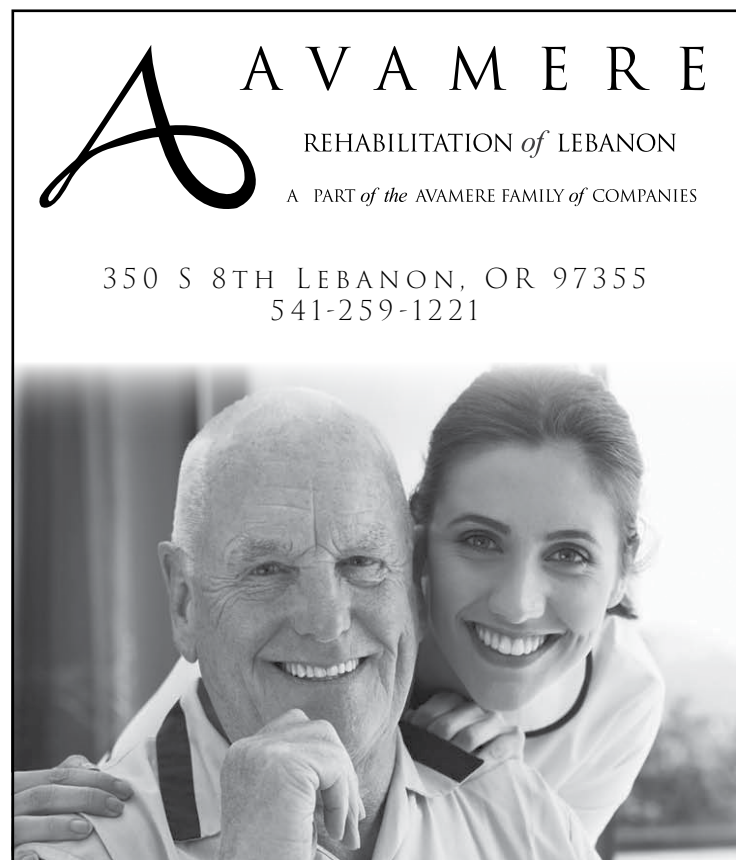
Jacob Noel Yonker, 39, was charged Jan. 22 with first-degree theft and giving false information to a peace officer in connection with a citation or warrant. Bail was set at \$20,000. On Feb. 4 he was sentenced to 120 hours jail and \$200 in fines after pleading guilty to the charges.



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Man and dog escape rural house fire

A homeowner and his dog escaped a rural residential fire, but Lebanon firefighters called the house “a total loss.”

Lebanon firefighters responded to the report of a blaze in the 31000 block of Fritz Lane in the early morning hours of Jan. 25.

The battalion chief found the residence fully involved and a nearby shop exposed to potential damage. When the first engine arrived, they went to work protecting the shop from the flames, while the second engine assisted in suppression and laying 800 feet of supply line to get the additional water needed.

Due to the rural location, the incident commander called for an additional water tender from Sweet Home

Fire and Ambulance District to aid in supplying enough water. Fire crews were able to get the fire under control and out in approximately an hour. Crews remained on scene for an additional one and a half hours pulling tin and getting into buried hotspots throughout the building.

The resident, who narrowly escaped, was later evaluated by fire medics on the scene, and his dog was also recovered alive. According to LFD, the house was a total loss. The cause of the blaze is being investigated by the Lebanon Fire Investigation Team (LFIT).

LFD responded with 22 personnel on three engines, two fire medics, two water tenders, one heavy rescue

and one rehab unit for firefighters, as well as two chief officers. They were assisted at the scene with a water tender from SHFAD, Consumer Power and Linn County Sheriff's Office. Linn County Road Department assisted with additional traffic control, as well as sanding the roadway after the incident due to the cold temperatures and ice forming from the water. Albany Fire Department assisted the citizens of Lebanon by covering the district's additional 911 calls.

LFD asks residents to always follow safe home-heating instructions. This includes making sure there is ample space around wood stoves and fireplaces, burning dried, seasoned firewood, and always keeping the



Photos provided by LFD

Lebanon firefighters spray water to knock down flames on Fritz Lane.

chimney and flue cleaned regularly. The LFD has a free chimney brush program for residents to use. Also check for working smoke alarms.

For assistance with smoke alarms or the chimney brush program, contact the Fire & Life Safety Division at 541.451.1901.

FROM THE DESK OF STATE REPRESENTATIVE

JAMI CATE



HOUSE
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Have you seen the horrible headlines about Oregon's education system recently?

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KOIN News, 7/22/24

OREGON PUBLIC SCHOOLS RANKED AMONG WORST IN U.S., STUDY SHOWS

- The Oregonian, 9/16/24

STUDY: OREGON'S SCHOOL REPORT CARDS DESERVE AN F FOR LACK OF TRANSPARENCY

From the Oregon Capital Chronicle 10/3/24

NEW OREGON EDUCATION DATA SHOWS CONTINUED LEARNING DECLINES SINCE COVID IN KEY SUBJECTS

If you've seen enough, share your thoughts by taking my education survey today!

Take the official survey to tell your Representative Jami Cate how you would fix education... **before it's too late!**



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