

Arcade aims to rekindle 'kinesthetic' fun

By Sarah Brown
Lebanon Local

They had thought about the idea before, but when faced with the annual challenge of how to celebrate their son's birthday, Mitch and Nicole Robison realized it was time to add a bonus round to what Lebanon had to offer.

Within months, the Robisons - with the help of their co-player children - opened Afterglow Arcade, Lebanon's newest play space located downtown.

It was their son Ori's 13th birthday last April that set the pinball in motion, so to speak. The family had to decide how they wanted to celebrate. Nicole said in past years they'd already done "all the things," with Lebanon's bowling alley being their go-to for several years.

"We love the bowling alley, but we wanted something different and there wasn't really a space here to do that," Mitch said.

They opted this year to go to an arcade in Albany, but the distance made it difficult for many of Ori's friends to



Amara and Emrey Redick, center, approach an arcade game while Henry, left, and Amanda Redick, right, keep themselves entertained at the Afterglow Arcade.

attend. Recalling they'd talked about opening an arcade before, and looking around at the venue in Albany, Nicole realized the dream was attainable. The pair decided to just "buckle down" and do it.

"So we launched a business plan and we just started rip-

ping," Mitch said.

The energy at Afterglow Arcade comes alive with bright lights and the iconic sound of beeps, dings, machines being manipulated and - for the lucky ones - electric fanfare for jackpot winners.

In one corner, a brightly-lit

glass counter displays prizes that can be earned with paper tickets. It's one of the arcade's signature highlights, harkening back to the original days of video game rooms when quarters were placed in coin

See Arcade, Page 13

Habitat for Humanity ushers 31st family into new home

By Sarah Brown
Lebanon Local

It took three long years, but the wait is finally paying off for the McMahan family as they move from a rental into their first, brand new house in Sodaville.

As Habitat for Humanity Executive Director Tina Breshears put it, "What begins as a vision soon becomes a place of safety and hope."

The McMahons are the most recent family to move into their own home through Lebanon Area Habitat for Humanity. It's the organization's 31st homing project since the nonprofit incorporated in 1993.

Ted and Veronica McMahan had been sharing a two-bedroom house in Sweet Home for seven years with their sons, Jordan, 17, and Sam, 8. While Jordan mainly lives with his grandmother, he had to share Sam's room when he stayed with his parents.

"It was hard 'cause I got a teenager and then one that's in elementary school; it's not



From left, Veronica, Jordan, Ted and Sam McMahan cut the ribbon on their new house while Kelsey Breshears, at right, watches.

easy," Veronica said.

Sam, who looks up to his brother, didn't mind sharing the room with Jordan, Veronica said, but Jordan admitted sometimes it could be annoying to not have his own space.

Today, the boys find them-

selves moving into their own, private rooms in the three-bedroom, two-bath house.

What the family is leaving behind is a house which, according to the parents, had issues their landlord wouldn't fix: siding falling off,

lead paint, broken gutters, windows that wouldn't open, a broken porch, and rats.

It's the sort of conditions Habitat for Humanity takes seriously when finding their next family to accept into the

See New Home, Page 16

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LOCAL WOMAN CELEBRATES 100TH BIRTHDAY PAGE 8



OUR SAVIOUR'S LUTHERAN CONGREGATION CELEBRATES 75TH YEAR AS CHURCH PAGE 9



OBITUARIES



Bob Hutley

July 6, 1927 - Aug. 20, 2025

Bob Hutley passed away Aug. 20, 2025.

He was 98 years old. He was born in Maple Hill, Kan.,

the oldest of eight children.

Bob served in the Navy in World War II, then married a neighboring farm girl, Marian Glotzbach. Together they raised 10 children.

He owned the Hutley General Store in Paxico, Kan., for 10 years, worked at lumber mills in Oregon, then was self-employed to finish his working career.

His passion was music, specifically playing his guitar, joining bands and entertaining wherever he lived up to his 97th birthday.

Marian (his wife of 77 years) passed away in May of this year.

Bob is survived by 10 children: Jerry, Maxine, Tom

(Bobbi), Shirl (Dwight), Mary (Bud), Deb, Joyce, Joan (Jerry), Louise (Steve) and Laurie (Brian). Also surviving are two sisters, Doris (Dale) and Diane (Wes). He had 18 grandchildren and 30 great-grandchildren.

Services were held Sept. 19 at St. Edwards' church in Lebanon.

Frank Brown

Feb. 24, 1961 - Aug. 27, 2025

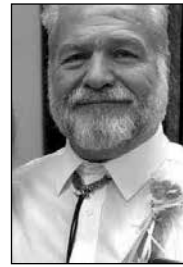
Frank Brown, 64, of Lebanon, passed away after a battle with liver cancer.

He was born Feb. 24, 1961, in Albany to Ray and Helen Brown.

He is survived by his wife,

Shawn Brown; parents Roy and Helen Brown of Soda-ville; brothers Bobby Brown of Vancouver, Wash.; Jimmy Brown of Albany, and Johnny Brown of Sweet Home; daughter Dana Anderson of Albany; step-daughter Ashley Lowery of Salem; son Josh Brown of Dallas; and stepson Joshua Jackson of Salem; nieces and nephews; grandchildren; and great-grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by his sister Barbara.



DEATH NOTICES

Kathleen Balagot, 78, of Lebanon, died Aug. 10, 2025.

Huston-Jost Funeral Home is handling the arrangements.

Harold W. Bates, 93, died in his sleep Aug. 17, 2025.

Services were held Aug. 26 at Crowfoot Baptist Church, with interment at Lebanon I.O.O.F. Cemetery.

Huston-Jost Funeral Home is handling the arrangements.

Barbara Nell Dietrich, 83, of Lebanon, died August 25, 2025.

Sweet Home Funeral Chapel is handling the arrangements.

Dennis Wayne Fast, 66, died Aug. 30, 2025.

A memorial service was held Sept. 5 at Our Savior's Lutheran Church, with a reception following.

Huston-Jost Funeral Home is handling the arrangements.

Todd Lincoln Oeder, 60, died Sept. 15, 2025.

Services will be held at 2 p.m. Friday, Sept. 26, at Santiam Place Event Hall, 139 S. Main St.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to the American Cancer Society or to the National Museum of the United States Army in Fort Belvoir, Va.

Huston-Jost Funeral Home is handling the arrangements.

Charles "Charlie" A. Pettner, 81, of Lebanon, died Sept. 8, 2025.

A celebration of life was held Sept. 18 at Santiam Place Event Hall.

Huston-Jost Funeral Home is handling the arrangements.

Phillip Leonard Priestley, 79, of Lebanon, died Aug. 25, 2025.

A Celebration of Life was held Sept.

6 at the First Presbyterian Church in Lebanon.

Weddle Funeral Service is handling the arrangements.

Julie "Jarri" Lynn Saul, 55, of Lebanon, died July 28, 2025.

Huston-Jost Funeral Home is handling the arrangements.

Ronald Louis Schrick, 74, of Lebanon, passed away Sept. 6, 2025.

Sweet home Funeral Chapel is handling the arrangements.

PUBLIC SAFETY

Information for the Public Safety report and Courts in Lebanon Local is sourced from local law enforcement and fire agencies. Addresses provided generally denote the location of the incident or arrest, occasionally indicating the origin of the call. Incident details, which may not always be available from agencies in time for publication in our weekly paper edition, are often updated online at lebanonlocalnews.com as information becomes available. Also, due to space limitations in our paper editions, content may be restricted to the most recent information, and a more extensive version of the Public Safety Report will be available at lebanonlocalnews.com.

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. We commit significant effort to following through as cases move through the judicial process.

Following is a list of abbreviations that may appear in our log reports: LCSO (Linn County Sheriff's Office); LPD (Lebanon Police Department); SHPD (Sweet Home Police Department); OSP (Oregon State Police); LMC (Lebanon Municipal Court); LCCC (Linn County Circuit Court); LCJC (Linn County Justice Court); SHMC (Sweet Home Municipal Court); AMC (Albany Municipal Court); FTA (failure to appear); FTC (failure to comply). A Roman numeral listed after a charge means that the charge is that numbered-degree: theft I (first-degree theft).

Sept. 16

3:10 a.m. - Jared Skelton, 52, of Crabtree, cited for driving while suspended, driving without insurance and on outstanding warrant, Cleveland/Grant streets. Report taken.

3:35 a.m. - Three doses of Narcan deployed on subject, later transported to hospital, 800 block Academy St.

4:12 a.m. - Craig Snyder, 47, of Crawfordville, cited for driving uninsured and arrested for driving while suspended and for warrants, Franklin St./Luna Way. Report taken.

9:26 a.m. - Deputy investigated killing of goat by dogs in 36200 block Middle Ridge Dr. Civil compromise reached.

10:32 a.m. - Dog bite reported in 42900 block Green Mountain Dr. Quarantine or-

der issued. Report taken.

10:59 a.m. - Jordan L. Smith-Barley, 18, cited for failure to display registration plates, Village Lp./Laredo Way.

11:37 a.m. - Julian C. Chavez, 21, cited for cell phone use, 1900 block S Main St.

11:53 a.m. - Naomi S. Thomas, 34, and Dakota E. Koen, 34, cited for failure to use seatbelt, E Cedar/S Main Sts.

12:14 p.m. - Officer reported on their presence at Hamilton Creek School with LCSO to provide security during a time when a staff member allegedly posted statements on their social media concerning Charlie Kirk, and the district was receiving calls and emails demanding the staff be fired

or else action would be taken.

12:42 p.m. - Burglary reported at Willamette Speedway, 36600 block W. Airport Rd. Several buildings were entered and a Red Yeti cooler, American flag chairs, wrist bands, a propane tank, sodas, vehicle keys, and an ATV were taken from the location. Estimated loss \$10,000. Report taken.

1:08 p.m. - Callers reported male and female arguing and pulling at a child, 500 block W Vine St. Samuel Castillo-Lara, 26, taken into custody.

1:19 p.m. - Caller reported theft of items from home while away on vacation, 800 block S 12th St.

1:24 p.m. - Brandon Ryan Freeman, 31, arrested on SHMC warrant for FTC in trespassing case.

1:41 p.m. - LCSO initiated pursuit of motorcyclist who drove through active construction zone in area of Oak/12th streets, against flagger's hand-held sign, then disappeared into residential area north of Oak near Airway. Rider was wearing Carhardt-style tan pants, a white T-shirt and a full-face black helmet. Report taken.

3:23 p.m. - Caller reported subject with guitar standing on donation box near Rife's. Nicholas T. Wells, 33, trespassed for life.

3:37 p.m. - Juveniles reported riding dirt bikes on roadway in area of Headgate Rd./Perkins Dr. Two juveniles contacted and educated.

5:06 p.m. - Caller reported disturbance of residents and wanted officer to witness immaturity of some of them, 800 block S 12th St.

5:51 p.m. - Caller reported subject pulled into parking lot at Carl's Jr. at high rate of speed, got out and punched a guy in the face, punched a car and left.

8:21 p.m. - Caller reported subject punched them, 1400 block S 5th St.

11:58 p.m. - Caller reported indecent exposure of subject who was behaving indecently in dumpster area near Timbermill Self Storage.

Sept. 15

8:32 a.m. - Christopher David Powell, 43, cited for driving violation, 1100 block Park St.

8:55 a.m. - Caller reported adult son is threatening them, being rude and not helping around the house. Tristan William Richardson, 23, taken into custody on LCCC warrant.

10:35 a.m. - Carol Ronan cited for dog as public nuisance, 39300 block Mt. Hope Dr. According to LCSO, dogs were running onto neighboring properties and barking at neighbors. Report taken.

12:15 p.m. - Caller reported theft of bike from in front of Safeway. Loss valued at \$100.

2:01 p.m. - Jordan L. Smith-Barley, 18, cited for failure to maintain lane, failure to use seatbelt, failure to register, failure to carry proof of insurance, and using cell phone while driving, S Main/Wheeler Sts.

2:51 p.m. - Unidentified subject cited on LMC warrant.

4:45 p.m. - Anna R. House, 41, cited on LJC warrant.

6:17 p.m. - Caller reported subject appeared angry and was carrying knife and rope, Park/E Oak Sts.

7:00 p.m. - Caller reported they sold a washer/dryer to female who later insisted she get a refund without returning the machines. They saw a handgun in her waistband and she threatened to bring her "gang member" husband back with her.

See Public Safety, Page 4

Airport Road reopens

The City of Lebanon reported Aug. 28 that it has completed installing a traffic signal and related improvements at the intersection of Airport Road and Stoltz Hill Road.

The traffic signal is now operational, allowing Airport and Stoltz Hill roads to be open to traffic. The closure for the construction project began March 17, 2025.

The city, in a statement, expressed gratitude to Lebanon citizens "for their patience and cooperation during the construction."

Anyone with questions or concerns is asked to call (541) 258-4923 or email engineering@lebanonoregon.gov.

Board announces pool director Engler's resignation

By Sarah Brown
Lebanon Local

It was announced during the Lebanon Aquatic Pool Board meeting on Aug. 19 that Executive Director Lorlee Engler has resigned from her position at the Lebanon Community Pool.

Board Chair Kim Kendall made the announcement, asking for a motion to accept the resignation. It was approved 4-1; Julie Miller opposed.

Engler has not yet responded to Lebanon Local's request for comment.

It's believed Engler has served as executive director for more than a decade. She has been on a board-approved leave for a few months. Aquatics Program Director Jill Smith has been working as interim director.

Other motions were passed through before attending to other business.

The board approved motions, 4-1, to provide a written response to a notice of grievance recently submitted to the board by staff member Rose Kress, and to obtain "additional legal services" from Michael McClory at the Cable Huston law firm in Portland. Miller opposed both motions.

In a letter addressed to the board, Kress expressed concern that Oregon Public

Meeting laws were violated by board members regarding serial communications. She provided an overheard comment and an unrecorded meeting (electronically) as her basis for concern. See her letter at lebanonlocalnews.com.

The board's response, in the form of a letter, explains two of the five board members regularly meet with the executive director (or, more recently, Smith) to go over items that should be placed on the upcoming board meeting, but two does not constitute a quorum. Further they reported electronic access to meetings is required "to the extent reasonably possible," noting that equipment failure makes the provision unreasonable. See their response at lebanonlocalnews.com.

Kress told Lebanon Local she expects to formally file her grievance soon.

Miller told the board she would like the meetings between the two board members and Smith recorded in the interest of transparency.

"I think the board should be privy to the information that is shared at the hours of meetings that you guys share with Jill, and I ask that they be recorded for transparency," Miller said.

Kendall said she and Vice



File Photo

Longtime Lebanon Community Pool Executive Director Lorlee Engler stands on the pool deck.

Chair Darla Bulmer meet once a month with Smith to make out the agenda and twice a month to sign checks. For a period of time, they were also meeting with Lebanon Community School District COO William Lewis weekly to discuss renovation projects. They also met with Smith more often in June and July to prepare budget paperwork they were still learning about.

Miller expressed concern that Smith was being directed by the board members on how to do her job. Smith said that was not the case.

Bulmer told Miller the board recently received an "ethics

complaint for doing business outside a public meeting, and sending emails to the entire board is one of those violations that we were being called on."

Watch the full meeting on the pool district's YouTube page at <https://bit.ly/45XLiBN>.
In other business:

• New Board Member Elaine Wilder introduced herself to the public.

• Board Member Jereme Guenter introduced Ross Dewberry, who is volunteering to help with the more technical aspects of "things," such as Zoom meetings. Another friend of his, only identified as Wendy, is considering helping

with the secretarial duties at board meetings.

• "It has really just come up that we need some assistance so the board can pay attention to board business as we're conducting it," Kendall said. If Wendy commits to the volunteer work, the board will publicly vote on the decision.

• Smith announced the pool is closed for three weeks for annual maintenance, which will include cleaning, painting and destroying decades-old documents that are taking up storage space.

• Guenter reported he is working with Smith to make all financial records available to the public online.

• Robert Waterhouse addressed the board to say he noticed the agenda did not have "old business" included. He believes the pool renovation project is old business that should still be included in the agenda, at least to give mention or updates at every meeting.

• Wilder reported she and Miller are working on a project idea to have a muralist competition for the outside and inside of the pool building, pending school district approval.

CIRCUIT COURT

Warrants are out on the following individuals:

Omar Edgar Arroyo, Elias Nicolas Azar, Kiah Brooke Bearden-Coxen, Jonathan Edward Betar, Christina Marie Cash, Austin Shane Conner, Steven Michael Cooley, Selina Renee Ford-Blackburn, Steven Edward Grimm, Aaron Thomas Halvorson, Robert Edwin Hoskinson, Devin Michael Houseman, Bruce Clifton Kelly, Faron Walter Kennedy, Alan Kenneth Kilmer, Caden Jason Scotty King, Brent Jay Klient, Andrew Donald LeGore, Mikel Vincent Lizama, Christopher James Lloyd, Mainor Misael Lucas-Velasquez, John Andrew Mance, Heather Dawn Meeks, Matthew Kincaid Nelson, Ryan Michael Newton, Autumn Brooke Pearson, Allen Jess Russell, Rosemary O. Saviour, Donald Shane Simmons, April Lee Springer, Brandi Lynn Trelstad, Wyatt Linn Vaughan, Joshua Webb, Darnell T. Wells

Sonny Allen Agrelius, 28, charged Sept. 15 with two counts of fleeing or attempting to elude, DUII (controlled substances), reckless driv-

ing, failure to perform duties of a driver when property is damaged, and unlawful possession of a controlled substance. Bail set at \$20,000.

Carrie Lynn Alfaro, 55, sentenced Aug. 21 to a lifetime revocation of a driver's license, 16 mos. with the Oregon Dept. of Corrections, 36 mos. supervised probation and three years post-prison supervision after pleading no contest to criminally negligent homicide and assault III.

Charges against **Kelvin Edwin Attebery, 36**, of DV strangulation, DV assault IV and DV menacing were dismissed without prejudice on Aug. 13.

Tasha Mary Bowers-Curtis, 41, sentenced Aug. 22

to three years suspension of driver's license, 65 days jail, 24 mos. bench probation and a \$1,500 fine after pleading no contest to DUII (liquor) with a .15% BAC, criminal mischief II and four counts of FTA. Other charges of reckless driving and FTA dismissed. In a separate case, she was sentenced to an additional 240 hours jail after pleading no contest to harassment; charges of strangulation and assault IV were dismissed.

A charge against **Makaylee Diane Mercaydee Brewer, 27**, of tampering with a witness was dismissed Aug. 18.

Ethan Hunter Dysinger, 25, sentenced Sept. 12 to three year suspension of

driver's license, 10 days jail, 24 mos. bench probation and \$2,695 in fines and fees after pleading no contest to DUII (liquor) with a .25% BAC, recklessly endangering another person, and driving while suspended or revoked. Charges dismissed are reckless driving and open container in a motor vehicle.

Kennedy Duran Gonzales, 30, sentenced Sept. 9 to 16 mos. with the Oregon Dept. of Corrections and 36 mos. post-prison supervision after pleading no contest to burglary I. A theft III charge was dismissed.

Jessica Chari Gregorich, 40, fined \$1,415 for speeding 112/55 and careless driving.

Jett Shae Harry, 24,

charged Aug. 14 with DUII (liquor) and criminal driving while suspended or revoked.

A charge against **Robert Grant Hodson, 30**, of conspiracy to commit tampering with a witness was dismissed

See Circuit Court, Page 5

Crossword KEY Puzzle on page 4

C	R	U	D	A	M	O	C	O	M	A	A	S
E	I	R	E	R	A	R	E	R	I	G	B	O
B	L	I	N	B	L	A	R	E	C	H	I	C
U	L	C	E	R	I	C	E	K	A	A	B	A
				B	E	A	C	H	B	O	Y	S
T	A	U	D	I	E	R	A	D	A	M	A	
U	G	L	I	E	R	A	A	R	A	B	A	S
N	A	N	A	S	A	I	L	B	L	I	N	I
E	V	A	N	D	I	M	A	R	A	B	I	A
D	E	E	P	A	R	R	N	A	S	S	A	N
				S	E	R	E	N	A	D	E	S
U	D	D	E	R	D	E	C	S	A	B	E	R
T	A	R	A	S	A	F	E	S	B	A	R	I
A	B	E	L	S	L	U	M	S	I	B	I	S
H	A	G	S	B	E	D	E	W	N	E	C	K

SUDOKU KEY Puzzle on page 4

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

BRAND NEW RV SHELTER

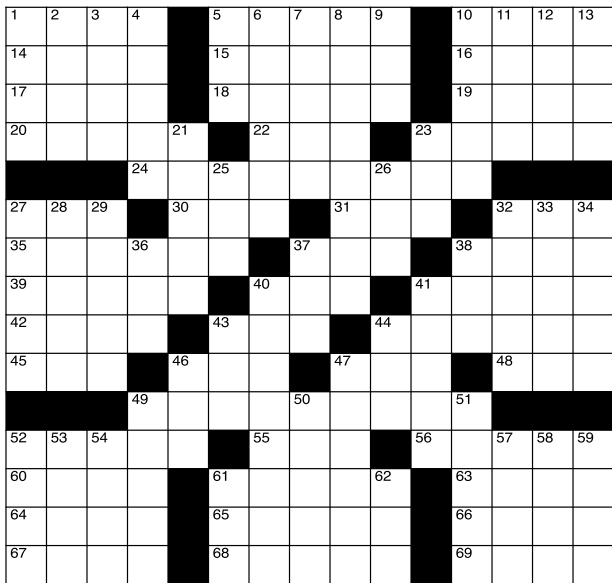
Taking reservations for covered and secure RV shelter in Lebanon. Located in Mill Race Storage 550 Laredo Way the site is fully fenced and the manager lives on site. Fall move-in specials for a limited time so don't miss out. The weather is changing. 541-405-9450 or millracestorage@gmail.com

- Compost
- Rock Products
- Sawdust
- Fir Bark
- Hemlock
- Garden Mixes

Central Bark Sales

5265 South Santiam, Lebanon Oregon 97355 • 541-451-2373
Summer Hours : Mon. - Sat. 8am - 5pm | Sun. 9am - 3pm

CROSSWORD



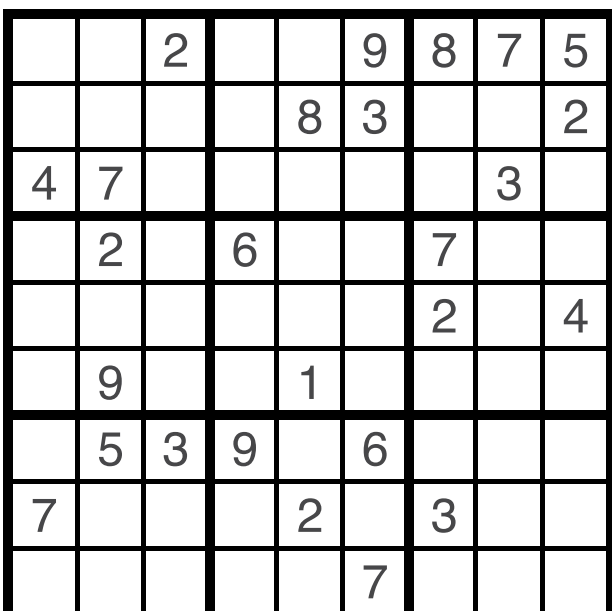
CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Unpleasant substance
- 5. Oil group
- 10. One-time Yankees rookie sensation
- 14. Ireland
- 15. Less easily found
- 16. Southeast Nigeria people
- 17. Bridgeline Digital stock designation
- 18. Play loudly
- 19. Elegantly fashionable
- 20. Open sore
- 22. Frozen water
- 23. Sacred Islamic site
- 24. "Kokomo" rockers
- 27. Follows sigma
- 30. Cease to exist
- 31. Cool
- 32. Doctors' group
- 35. Less attractive
- 37. Swiss river
- 38. Greek sophist
- 39. Grandmothers
- 40. Afflict
- 41. Russian pancake of buckwheat flour and yeast
- 42. Actress ___ Rachel Wood
- 43. Not bright
- 44. Western Asia peninsula
- 45. Baseball speedster Gordon
- 46. Golf score
- 47. Transmits genetic information from DNA to the cytoplasm
- 48. Diego, Francisco, Anselmo
- 49. Songs to one's lover
- 52. Cattle's mammary gland
- 55. Having ten
- 56. Fencing sword
- 60. Scarlett's home
- 61. Hold valuables
- 63. Italian Seaport
- 64. Cain and ___
- 65. Bad places to live
- 66. Large, wading bird
- 67. Witches
- 68. Cover with drops
- 69. Props up the head

CLUES DOWN

- 1. Philippine province
- 2. Shallow channel
- 3. Type of acid
- 4. Cygnus' brightest star
- 5. One who buys and sells securities (abbr.)
- 6. Ill will
- 7. Plant of the goosefoot family
- 8. Intellectual
- 9. Mineral
- 10. Shiny silicate minerals
- 11. Ottoman civilian title
- 12. What you wear when eating BBQ (2 words)
- 13. Soul and calypso song
- 21. Advises
- 23. "The Spanish Tragedy" author
- 25. Surrounds the earth
- 26. Paddle
- 27. Adjusted
- 28. Succulent plant
- 29. Forearm bones
- 32. Belonging to Egyptian ascetic Apollo's colleague
- 33. Type of mental illness
- 34. One from Asia
- 36. 007's creator
- 37. Direct toward
- 38. Pie ___ mode
- 40. Large terrier
- 41. Hillsides
- 43. Patriotic women (abbr.)
- 44. Connects words
- 46. For each
- 47. Flower cluster
- 49. Closes a deal
- 50. Arabian desert
- 51. Vaccine against poliomyelitis
- 52. American state
- 53. Religion practiced in China
- 54. Type of sediment
- 57. Hall of Famer Ruth
- 58. "Layla" singer Clapton
- 59. Gamble
- 61. Sino-Soviet block (abbr.)
- 62. Midway between south and southwest

SUDOKU



Level: Advanced

Editorial: New stadium facility will be costly, but valuable local asset

By Scott Swanson
Publisher

In a day when we hear almost constantly about how factors like the COVID pandemic and social media use have degraded our ability to function as a society, I'm reminded of the value of youth sports.

I admit bias here. I started in newspaper journalism as a sports reporter and I volunteer as a cross-country coach. But those activities demonstrate to me regularly how youth sports contribute to community health.

There's no doubt in my mind that there are infinite benefits to kids throwing or kicking balls, swinging bats or (golf) clubs, or running and jumping, rather than spending their free time glued to a video game screen.

The benefits to the community as a whole go beyond mentally, physically and socially healthy kids. Going to a football or basketball game brings the community together in a shared experience that fosters social bonds and shared identity.

When the Warriors of Lebanon High School or the Eagles of East Linn Christian Academy compete, viewers - relatives, alumni or just interested community members - have a sense of belonging that's different than participating in a Facebook rant session or sequestered in the back yard or watching the boob tube.

It's a participatory activity with a sense of identity that strengthens the social fabric and overall vitality of a community.

When my own kids were running in high school well over a decade ago, I met people, parents, I still know who I never would have if we hadn't been together in the stands or along a trail.

When I look into the stands during a football game, I see hundreds of people there for a common purpose: to urge the kids to play well and, hopefully, represent the community with a victory.

I've got a point beyond all this: Heath Stadium.

The Warriors' track and turf field give local kids a fine venue in which to practice and compete. But a big part

of sports is the ability for people to enjoy the communal experience of supporting their athletes and enjoying (hopefully) their successes.

And that's why it's important to have facilities that enable us to do that.

We don't know yet what it's going to cost to replace or rebuild Heath Stadium, but it won't be cheap. It wasn't cheap to build the new gym at ELCA in 2007, but the facility has benefited the school and its students in a myriad of ways over the years, creating a needed venue for the kind of interaction, the community described above.

The Warriors' current grandstands were built in 1959, which was more than 65 years ago, so the initial investment that Lebanon made in that stadium has lasted a long time.

Even without concrete figures (the school district is being cautious about floating unconfirmed estimates), we know it will be costly to get this thing rolling.

But it will pay off for the community in many ways, so it will be worth it.

PUBLIC SAFETY

From page 2

8:02 p.m. - Male placed in police officer hold after reported mental health episode, 900 block F St. Report taken.

9:50 p.m. - Officer responded to two-car crash, W Sherman/S 2nd Sts. Juvenile cited for failure to obey traffic control device, and Kyler Jesstin Adrian King, 26, cited for driving while suspended.

10:06 p.m. - Jason Sylvester trespassed from church property in 600 block Cascade Dr. and was told to pick up trash he had left there.

Sept. 14

1:02 a.m. - Subject said he choked on the liquid from a shot and coughed until he passed out, then fell off the stool and hit his head on the ground, at Duffy's.

8:53 a.m. - Callers reported subject hammering on railroad track, throwing large rocks and other items at train, and yelling "stop blowing your f-xxx whistle," W Olive/S 2nd Sts. Micah Joe Williams, 47, said metal pieces in his facial area vibrate every time the train whistles. He was arrested for disorderly conduct II and criminal trespass II. Report taken.

12:02 p.m. - Nicklaus Glaser, 36, of Lebanon, cited on warrant, 2300 block S. Santiam Hwy. Report taken.

4:10 p.m. - Caller reported subject stole bag of donated recycling items at the Lebanon Soup Kitchen.

6:23 p.m. - Caller reported hearing a horrible animal noise coming from home, 1300 block S William St.

9:01 p.m. - LCSO responded to report of overdose in

30600 block Santiam Hwy. Further details not available.

9:52 p.m. - Caller reported someone threw ice cubes against the side of her travel trailer in 37600 block KGAL Dr. Deputy responded. No damage and no one was located in area.

10:19 p.m. - Tyrel Glenn Attebery, 44, cited on LMC warrant.

Sept. 13

12:34 a.m. - Callers reported subjects on motorcycle "racing around" without helmets, clearly intoxicated, 900 block Mtn. River Dr. Jesse Douglas McFarland, 37, arrested for DUII with a .22% BAC.

1:57 a.m. - Officer responded to fight at Duffy's. Victim reportedly was punched and hit his head on table. He could not remember what happened.

4:52 a.m. - Report taken for burglary at US Mini Mart. Video shows subject broke glass door and took Fireball, lighter and cigarettes. Loss valued at \$22.97. Suspect identified as Aric Cavel Simmons, 35.

10:51 a.m. - Rachell Ann Gandrud, 44, cited on LMC warrant.

5:40 p.m. - Caller reported subject taking entire contents

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See Public Safety, Page 6

Fire District seeks to annex outlying properties into district

By Sarah Brown
Lebanon Local

The Lebanon Fire District recently sent letters to a select number of property owners notifying them of the district's interest in annexing them into the district's coverage area.

Deputy Fire Marshal Candace Hedding updated the LFD Board of Directors about the process during their Sept. 9 board meeting.

Two years ago, Senate Bill 1068 authorized rural fire districts to annex properties that were within a seven-mile radius of the district's fire station. What had been happening was that some properties were not paying taxes toward fire protection and were, essentially, receiving the service at no cost while their neighbors within the district boundaries were paying taxes for the same service.

The Lebanon Fire District covers 134 square miles, generally bordered by Lacombe, Berlin, Sodaville, Steckley Road, and Highway

226. Along the borders of the LFD coverage area, some of the more rural locations are carved into the district while other properties are not.

According to Hedding, letters were sent out to the Lacombe area, Middle Ridge, McDowell Creek, Red Bridge Road, Spicer School Road and Plainview Drive, among others.

"It wasn't on our radar that they weren't paying the taxes," Hedding said. "Previously, we just assumed they were and we would carry on and provide services for no fees."

The letter explains that these property owners can move forward to annex into the district, but if they do not, then their properties can automatically be annexed when certain conditions occur – when a change in property ownership takes place, a building permit is issued, or a new structure is built.

For those who choose not to annex into the LFD coverage area, the fire district may

still respond to fires and incidents, but it could end up costing the property owner as much as three times the service cost. Hedding said it was estimated that, on the low end, a rural residential fire could cost the homeowner about \$14,000.

For those within the fire district and, thus, paying \$48 a month (give or take, depending on home value) in taxes toward fire protection, there is no added cost.

The district sent out 115 letters notifying the property owners about their interest to annex, and pretty quickly Hedding began receiving phone calls and questions. While some people were initially not happy, they got their questions answered and walked away with a better understanding, she said.

Some asked why this request to annex was happening now (answer: LFD was not aware these properties were outside the district until SB1068 brought it to their attention), why their prop-

erties were no longer in the fire district (answer: they were never in the district), and will they still be billed if they choose not to annex but a neighbor calls for service on their property (answer: yes).

In other business during the board meeting, Fire Chief Joseph Rodondi announced his plans to retire, and the board authorized him to enter into negotiations with Operations Chief John Tacy to fill the position until a replacement is hired.

Also Rodondi informed the board:

- The BLS (Basic Life Support) Medic 36 ambulance dual-role pilot program will conclude this month, after which time they will evaluate whether to continue it in the next budget cycle.

- The district will change the fee schedule for FireMed. Currently there's a yearly rate of \$70 and a discounted rate of \$120 for two years. The district will eliminate the two-year rate and replace it with an auto-renew-

al discount.

- The district is getting ready to launch an online storefront, where they will sell challenge coins, pins, T-shirts and hats. Board member Matt Herb suggested adding to the store an option to donate life jackets to the kiosk program and donations for the displaced family fund.

- The district will soon receive 75% of requested FEMA money for a winter storm event that took place more than two years ago.

- OC John Tacy reported multiple fire organizations, including LFD, are asking Rep. Dacia Grayber to submit a letter to Gov. Tina Kotek asking for a carve-out for rural EMS in Oregon. He explained they are requesting consideration for the rural health transformation bill, which is part of the Big Beautiful Bill, granting \$100 million every year for four years. The ask is that some of that money be used to support rural EMS services in Oregon.

CIRCUIT COURT

From page 3

with prejudice Sept. 17.

Melissa Kay Hunter, 38, sentenced Aug. 21 to 10 days jail, 10 days compensatory service in lieu of jail, and 36 mos. supervised probation after pleading no contest to unlawful use of a weapon. Charges of menacing and pointing a firearm at another were dismissed.

Javan Wayne Inget, 41, charged Sept. 16 with DUII (alcohol).

Nickolas Keith Izatt, 27, charged Sept. 12 with carrying of concealed weapon and two counts of unlawful possession of methamphetamine.

Jason Lloyd Knapp, 45, charged Sept. 19 with arson I, attempt to commit a Class A felony, unlawful use of a weapon, menacing, recklessly endangering another person and criminal mischief II.

Joshua James Koenig, 24, charged Sept. 8 with DV strangulation and DV assault IV.

Caleb Ray Lybarger, 20, charged Aug. 26 with DUII (alcohol), reckless driving, criminal mischief II and driving while suspended.

Trevor Matthew Lyon, 25, sentenced Sept. 11 to 15 days jail, 36 mos. supervised probation and a \$200 fine after pleading no contest to coercion. Charges of strangulation and interference with making a report were dis-

missed.

Autum Jean Ann Macklin, 24, sentenced Sept. 8 to 90 days suspension of a driver's license, five days compensatory service in lieu of jail, 12 mos. bench probation and a \$100 fine after pleading guilty to reckless driving. She was placed in the diversion program after pleading guilty to DUII (liquor or controlled substances) with a BAC below .08%. A charge of fleeing or attempting to elude was dismissed.

Edward Arnold Martinez, 24, charged Aug. 28 with attempted assault I, assault II, two counts of unlawful use of a weapon and two counts of menacing. Bail set at \$50,000.

Kiona Shauntel Brooke McCoy, 26, charged Aug. 19 with assault III and criminal mistreatment I. Charges allege a victim was 10 years old or younger.

Danielle Ray Miller, 33, sentenced Aug. 28 to six mos. with the Oregon Dept. of Corrections and 36 mos. post-prison supervision after pleading no contest to attempt to commit Class B felony/DV assault II.

Abby Leigh Mueller, 22, sentenced Sept. 4 to 45 days jail, 36 mos. supervised probation and a \$200 fine after pleading guilty to assault III. Charges dismissed are assault II, unlawful use of a weapon, menacing and harassment.

Ryan Michael Newton, 30, charged Sept. 2 with

criminal trespass II, menacing, attempted assault IV and burglary II.

Tyler James Nofziger, 25, sentenced Aug. 20 to 30 days jail and 36 mos. supervised probation after pleading guilty to online sexual corruption of a child I.

Elijah Aaron Pauls, 37, charged Aug. 21 with burglary I, criminal mischief I, criminal mischief II and criminal driving while suspended or revoked. Bail set at \$25,000.

Tyrese Matthew Pechar, 25, charged Aug. 25 with DV assault III, recklessly endangering another person and reckless driving.

Aric Cavell Simmons, 35, charged Sept. 15 with burglary II, criminal mischief II and theft III. Bail set at \$20,000.

Caden Alexander Smith, 22, charged Sept. 8 with unlawful use of a weapon, menacing and disorderly conduct II.

Harley Dixie Dean Tinker Vader, 20, charged Sept. 8 with unauthorized use of a vehicle.

Jack Rudolph Visconti, 24, sentenced Aug. 27 to five days compensatory service in lieu of jail, 12 mos. bench probation and a \$100 fine after pleading no contest to failure to report as a sex offender.

Amber Nicole Welch, 24, charged Sept. 2 with DUII (liquor) and recklessly endangering another person.

Michael R. Wiltgen, 51,

sentenced Sept. 3 to five days compensatory service in lieu of jail and 36 mos. supervised probation after pleading no

contest to unlawful use of a weapon. Charges dismissed are menacing and pointing firearm at another.

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HALL OF FAME

Four Lebanon High alums selected for Hall of Fame

Four Lebanon High School alumni have been selected as this year's inductees into the Bud and Dorothy Page Lebanon High School Alumni Hall of Fame.

The Hall of Fame recognizes Lebanon High School graduates who have made significant achievements in the fields of arts and entertainment, science and medicine, business, humanitarian service and athletics.

Lebanon High School's Hall of Fame is intended to promote Lebanon pride, inspire students by highlighting the successes of those who've gone before them, and raise scholarships for the Bud Page Leadership Award.

This year's inductees are Carol Herron, Ben Masog, Milt Moran and Dan Speasl.

Read more about these inductees in the September and October issues of Lebanon Local and at lebanonlocalnews.com.

This year's induction ceremony will be held Oct. 25 at the Boulder Falls Event Center.

Tickets can be purchased at RKI Insurance, 1175 S. Main St.

Milton Moran Jr. Class of 1971 Business / Humanitarian Service

Milton I. Moran Jr., Class of 1971, has been selected for induction into the Bud and Dorothy Page LHS Hall of Fame for both his business leadership and humanitarian service.

Moran is president of Cascade Timber Consulting Inc. in Sweet Home, which manages all timber land operations and fiscal management of 145,000 acres of Hill Timber Limited Partnership lands. He began his career with CTC following graduation from Central Oregon Community College with an associate of science degree in forest technology in 1973, and has been with the company for 52 years, serving in various management roles prior to becoming president



Milton Moran Jr.

in 2018.

Moran's leadership in forestry management literally spans the globe. He has served on countless boards and committees, chairing many of them, such as the Oregon Forest Industries Council, the Northwest Log Rules Group (past president), the COCC and OSU Cascades

Campus Forestry Advisory Committee, and numerous committees for the Oregon Department of Forestry, to name a few.

On a national level, he has represented private landowners on the Federal USFS & BLM Large Wildland Fire Incident Commanders Council.

Since 2020, Moran has been a member of the Board of Governors for Cainard Forestry in New Zealand.

Moran's commitment to his community is as impressive as his professional leadership, particularly his work to improve access to quality healthcare and to provide opportunities for children.

Representing Sweet Home on the Samaritan Lebanon Community Hospital Board of Directors since 2004 and on the Samaritan System Healthcare Board since 2014 (board chair 2020-22), Moran championed Sweet Home's

need for improved medical facilities. As co-chair for fundraising, he was instrumental in accomplishing the construction of Sweet Home's new clinic, urgent care and pharmacy facility.

Improving the lives of Sweet Home's children is also important to Moran. He served on the school board for eight years and held leadership positions on the budget committee and the high school advisory committee and site council.

As a member of the Boys and Girls Clubs of the Greater Santiam Fundraising and Building Project Committee, Moran played a key role in raising funds to construct Sweet Home's new Club and Community Center facility.

Moran and his wife Jane (Duerr) have been married 49 years, raised four children, built three new houses, and have seven grandchildren.

Dan Speasl Class of 1970 Athletics / Humanitarian Service

Dan Speasl, Class of 1970, has been selected for induction into the Bud and Dorothy Page LHS Hall of Fame for outstanding achievements in both athletics and humanitarian service.

Speasl's success as a wrestler developed into even greater achievements as a coach. Following an impressive wrestling career as an LUHS Warrior, Speasl enrolled at Oregon State University where he lettered in wrestling. He then transferred to Southern Oregon College (now University) as a sophomore, where he won



Dan Speasl

three NAIA All-American titles, the first Southern Oregon athlete to ever do so in any sport. Following graduation, he accepted a teaching and coaching position at Crater High School in Central Point.

Speasl was the head wrestling coach at Crater High from 1974 to 1985, and his obituary remembers him as

taking the team "from the back of the class to a state contender." According to the National Wrestling Hall of Fame, Speasl "built one of the most competitive and dominant programs in the history of Oregon high school wrestling." During his coaching career, his wrestlers earned 112 individual district titles, 121 individual state places, 10 individual state championships, and six Oregon high school State team titles.

Beyond coaching, Speasl developed significant scholarship opportunities for students. He was one of the three founders of the Crater Foundation, which has granted \$7.6 million in scholarships to Crater High graduates over the years. Since 2000, the Crater Foundation has awarded a scholarship to every graduating senior who has applied.

In 2016, Speasl contacted

LHS wrestling coach Michael Cox, asking if he could help organize and fundraise a wrestling scholarship for Lebanon wrestlers in Coach Dick Weisbrodt's name.

"I had no idea where to start, but Dan walked me through it every step of the way," Cox said. "We have raised over \$25,000 and counting." Every year, two LHS wrestlers are awarded a \$1,000 scholarship.

Speasl has been inducted into the SOU Athletic Hall of Fame, the Oregon Athletic Directors Hall of Fame, the Crater High School Athletic Hall of Fame, the Crater High School Achievement Hall of Fame, and received the National Wrestling Hall of Fame's "Lifetime Service to Wrestling" award.

Speasl passed away in 2023. He and his wife, Sandy, were married 45 years and had a son, David.

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PUBLIC SAFETY
From page 4

of dumpster out and trash spread out, 2700 block S Santiam Hwy.

6:39 p.m. - Report taken for dog bite at Twin Cedars mobile home park. A loose dog attacked another dog. Former dog taken to police station kennels and latter dog will be seen by a vet for leg injury. Emily Ann Nunn, 44, cited for allowing dog to become a public nuisance.

10:16 p.m. - Shain Nicholas Hersey, 50, cited on LMC warrant.

11:32 p.m. - Police attempted stop for no front plate or hood, driver started driving

recklessly with speeds over 100 mph, S Santiam Hwy./Weldwood Dr.

Sept. 12

7:27 a.m. - Schrene Marie Worley, 56, cited on LMC warrant.

9:40 a.m. - Caller reported slashed tire, 1700 block Carroll St.

2:01 p.m. - Stephen Johnson, 67, of Lebanon, arrested for criminal trespassing II, 1600 block S. 7th St. Cited and released. Report taken.

3:35 p.m. - A juvenile subject threw pizza sauce on another juvenile's car at the high school. Subject agreed to wash car or pay for damages, if any.

4:52 p.m. - Chance Lee

Seiber, 26, cited for driving uninsured, S 3rd/Tangent Sts.

5:36 p.m. - Matthew Doyle, 32, of Lebanon, cited for speeding, 45/25, 39300 block Gross St.

5:58 p.m. - Subject given doses of Narcan, then drove away. Sonny Allen Agrelius, 28, charged with fleeing or attempting to elude, reckless driving, DUII, unlawful possession of fentanyl and failure to perform duties of driver. Near Ralston Park and at 1200 block Filbert Ave.

8:59 p.m. - Caller reported subject trying to jump in front of cars, 1500 block S 10th St.

9:03 p.m. - Floyd Dorgan,

See Public Safety, Page 7

PUBLIC SAFETY

From page 6

63, of Lebanon, arrested on warrant following report of dispute in 38700 block Lacombe Dr. Cited and released. Report taken.

9:21 p.m. - Caller reported crash involving vehicle and pedestrian in area of Santiam Hwy./Santiam Terrace Rd. However, when LCSO arrived, it turned out to be a deer rather than a person. Vehicle had left scene and deer was off the road.

Sept. 11

12:55 a.m. - Crash reported in area of Oak St./Denny School Rd. Vehicle was gone when LCSO arrived.

2:40 a.m. - Ecatarina Lucia Nordahl, 37, cited for driving while suspended and failure to register, Sodaville Rd./S Santiam Hwy.

2:54 a.m. - Pamela Jean Smith, 65, cited on LMC warrant.

3:20 a.m. - James Allen Moore III, 36, cited on AMC

warrant.

5:06 a.m. - Callers reported hearing gunshots, between 100 block E Ash and E Rose Sts.

7:07 a.m. - Caller reported that truck reported stolen the day before from 200 block Taylor St. had been located and recovered by owner.

9:40 a.m. - Harley Dixie Gene Tinker Vader, 20, cited on warrants with LMC and LCCC.

10:53 a.m. - Emily Kingsberry, 29, of Lebanon, cited for two counts of dog at large, River/Perkins drives. Report taken.

11:57 a.m. - Caller reported female punched him in the face while he was at a stop light, W Airport Rd./S Santiam Hwy.

12:31 p.m. - Unidentified subjects cited on LMC warrants.

2:33 p.m. - Caller reported credit card had been fraudulently used in five purchases totaling \$655.18, 39500 block Gross St., Waterloo.

2:41 p.m. - Caller reported subject playing guitar behind Rife's, being loud and erratic, throwing the guitar, talking to himself and yelling.

3:31 p.m. - Caller reported hit and run when motorhome backed into her parked car at Lebanon Retail Center.

3:50 p.m. - Caller reported hit and run when neighbor backed into his car and refused to give insurance info, 1000 block S 10th St.

4:04 p.m. - Caller reported theft of bike, 600 block Evans Dr. Juvenile suspect returned property to rightful owner.

4:19 p.m. - Caller reported female at Ralston Park screaming, yelling, throwing things in bathroom. Lisa Ilene Borden, 39, taken into custody on Linn County Supervisory warrant.

5:09 p.m. - Caller reported mail and packages stolen from mailbox in 40100 block Mt. Hope Dr. over past several weeks. Value of stolen

See Public Safety, Page 10

Suspect charged with murder of local man

An Albany man has been lodged on a manslaughter charge in connection with the death of a Lebanon man.

Skylar Stuckey, 21, of Lebanon, was fatally shot in Portland on Dec. 31, 2023.

The Portland Police Bureau reported that the North Precinct responded to a call in the 1100 block of Northeast Faloma Road at 8:09 p.m. on that evening. Police found two men, who were later taken to the hospital for wounds.

Stuckey was later identified as one of the victims of the incident in the East Columbia neighborhood. He died of gunshot wounds shortly after arriving at the hospital. The other victim, an unidentified male, survived his head injuries.

Jimmi Lawing, 18, of Albany, was recently arrested and charged with the first-degree manslaughter of Stuckey.

A witness at the scene, Jack Durrett, said he heard gunshots just outside his house while watching a football game. When he went outside to investigate, he found Stuckey in a car and saw the unidentified male run into



File Photo
Skylar Stuckey

his yard. Durrett said he's lived in the neighborhood for 33 years and nothing like this has ever happened there. He's found bullet holes in his cars, boat and house.

A third individual was seen fleeing on foot.

If anyone has information about this incident, they are asked to contact Det. Brent Christensen at Brent.Christensen@police.portlandoregon.gov or by phone at (503) 823-2087, or Det. Meghan Burkeen at Meghan.Burkeen@police.portlandoregon.gov and by phone at (503) 823-2092. Reference case number 23-336668.

Comp-NW medical university takes next step toward expansion

Western University of Health Sciences (WesternU) announced it received the deed for 150 acres of land in Lebanon to be used in the university's plan for expansion.

The land - bordered by Gill's Landing to the north, Riverview School to the south, and the South Santiam River flowing along the east - was formerly the site of the Santiam and Willamette Industries mills, often referred to as the "old mill" property.

The Heatherington Foundation for Innovation and Education in Health Care donated the land for the new campus, while FamilyCare, Inc. donated \$22.5 million toward the expansion. WesternU's College of Osteopathic Medicine of the Pacific Northwest (COMP-Northwest in Lebanon) will be renamed to the Heatherington College of Osteopathic Medicine in honor of Dr. Jeff Heatherington, who is president of both donor organizations.

WesternU in Lebanon currently operates COMP-Northwest and the College of Health Sciences-Northwest (CHS-Northwest). The former, Oregon's only osteopathic medical school, confers doctorate degrees in osteopathic medicine, while the latter offers a physical therapy program.

The university, which also operates colleges in Califor-

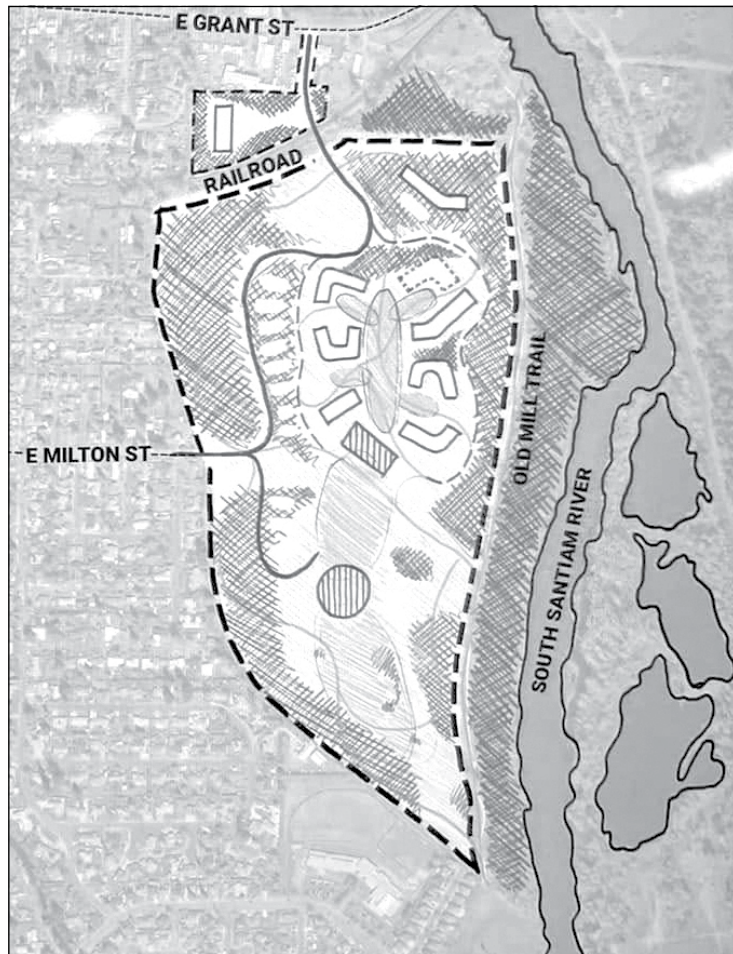


Photo provided by Laura Gillott

A design concept shows what the new WesternU campus in Lebanon might look like on the old mill property.

nia, is developing a master plan for the new land, with plans to establish a graduate program in behavioral health there.

The school reported the development will "emphasize the use of Oregon's natural resources, net-zero construction principles, and restoration of the land's nat-

ural habitat," with "abundant greenspaces, art, culture, and state-of-the-art teaching and learning environments." The school's plan includes restoring the area's ecosystem to encourage the return of native flora and fauna.

To see its fulfillment, WesternU will launch a comprehensive fundraising campaign.

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Century milestone: Lebanon woman celebrates 100th birthday

By Sarah Brown
Lebanon Local

Trying to recall her earliest memory wasn't so easy for Lillian Roberts.

After all, she had little moment's notice to pull 100 years of recollections from her memory.

Roberts was sitting on a small sofa inside a local tea house with her daughter Carol Dinges, daughter-in-law Sheryle Roberts, and friends Lynden Brown and Jane Lesperance. They were gathered together to celebrate the centenarian's birthday.

Roberts was born Aug. 28, 1925, in Vernonia. She was the fifth and final child in her family, and the only one of them born in Oregon after they had moved to the state from Mississippi in 1923. They joined the ever-increasing numbers of people who moved to Vernonia when a new lumber mill was built. In 1920, the city's population was 142. By 1930 it was 1,625.

Roberts had two brothers and two sisters, and it is them, she said, who make up a lot of her earliest memories.

"The two oldest were my brothers, who both adored me," she said. "I think I was a pest."



Photos by Sarah Brown

Lillian Roberts, center, celebrates her 100th birthday flanked by (from left) daughter Carol Dinges, Lynden Brown, daughter-in-law Sheryle Roberts and Jane Lesperance.

She recalled one of the brothers taking her for rides on the handlebars of his bicycle. Despite how uncomfortable it was, she had so much fun that she never said anything about it.

Much of Roberts' childhood was spent during the Depression.

"I think I didn't understand that times were really bad," she said. "I knew that people didn't have very much, but I didn't realize how really terrible the Depression was."

Her mother took in boarders and her dad took on various jobs, but they always had plenty of homegrown food.

A year after she graduated high school, Roberts attended Oregon State College, now Oregon State University, to study business.

"I don't know why," she said with a laugh. "There are other things I would have been much better at."

Home economics seems like it would've been a more likely choice, Sheryle interjected,



Lillian Roberts prepares to celebrate her 100th birthday at a local tea house.

noting how good Roberts is at home-making and cooking. In fact, she'd just finished making homemade applesauce.

But she also studied French, a skill that actually helps her finish crossword puzzles, Roberts said.

Still, she spent only two years at college, an education paid for by one of her brothers who was a prisoner of war during World War II after his Air Force plane was shot down. At that time, the full cost of tuition was \$35 for the winter term and \$40 for the summer term.

It was at the college where Roberts met her husband, Charles. He was studying as a member of the Army Specialized Training Program, which enrolled enlisted men into schools to study scientific, technical, medical and linguistic fields.

"I guess we fell in love," Roberts said. "Just before he went overseas, we were married; that was on Christmas day in 1944."

The next year, the war had ended and Charles was honorably discharged, so he took his new wife to Rainier, where he built a career in the banking industry. Together, they raised two children, Carol and Charles "Chuck", the latter of whom passed away from a rare cancer.

"The saddest day of my life

was losing my son," Roberts said.

After her children had moved away, Roberts took a job as an office manager at a center for children with disabilities. It was an "extremely interesting job," she said.

In 2014, the pair sold their home overlooking the Columbia River and moved to Lebanon, where Dinges lives.

Looking back over the past 100 years, it was hard for Roberts to say which historical event was most important in her life, but she agreed with her daughter Carol that the war was significant because it played a role in meeting Charles and, ultimately, having her two children.

She also has two grandchildren - "A beautiful granddaughter, and Andy is the best grandson anyone could have," she said - and three great-grandchildren.

During her lifetime, Roberts beat two life-threatening health scares, but every day she walks and works on crossword puzzles.

And, as is everyone's right to answer one particular question when they reach 100, Roberts was asked what she believes the secret to a long life is.

"I haven't a clue, because I certainly haven't had perfect health," she responded.

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75 Years of Faith



Congregants, above, gather at Our Saviour's Lutheran Church to celebrate the church's 75th anniversary. Below, the very first worship service of Our Saviour's Lutheran Church in Lebanon was held on July 29, 1951. The Sept. 13 event consisted of food, singing, a special skit, and the opening of a time capsule that was created in 2010 for this particular anniversary. Our Saviour's Lutheran Church was founded in 1950. They first worshiped at the Seventh Day Adventist Church until they built their own church on 5th and C streets. The growing congregation expanded to their current location at 3111 S Main Road in 1990. See more photos of the event at lebanonlocalnews.com.



Photo courtesy of Our Saviour's Lutheran Church



Fire History on Display

Lebanon's antique International fire hose wagon, now fully restored, is finally home and on display at Lebanon Fire District's Station 31.

With the help of several volunteers and high school students, LFD Division Chief of Training Mark Fitzwater and Division Chief of Operations John Tacy have been restoring the wagon, getting their hands on every nook and cranny to make the piece sparkle.

When Station 31 was rebuilt in 2023, district officials made sure to carve out a special place for the vehicle in front of a wall of windows. At night, lights put the wagon on full display.

The International, believed to be from 1917-1921, was the first motorized fire apparatus in Lebanon and served the city through the 1930s. Even after its fire service, the International continued to work, rolling through parades, carrying toy donations at Christmas, and even competing in statewide fire musters.



Photos by Sarah Brown

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SWAT team assists in Lebanon disturbance

Lebanon Police officers responded to a report of a domestic disturbance on Dodge Street at approximately 9:53 p.m. on Sept. 17.

A juvenile caller had reported a male and female fighting inside a residence.

Officers arrived at the residence and could hear a female in distress. A male, identified as Jason Lloyd Knapp, 45, of Lebanon, confronted an officer with a knife inside the residence. The officer was able to safely back out of the residence and officers were able to relocate the female to a safe location.

Further investigation revealed Knapp had started a fire inside the residence, which had since been extinguished, and had made threats to harm himself and others. Knapp then fled the residence on foot. With the assistance of the Linn County Sheriff's Office and Albany Police Department, a search was initiated using K9 units and drone support.

A short time later, Knapp returned to the residence and made threats to ignite a fire

using natural gas. As a precaution, the utility company shut off the gas supply, and nearby residents were notified and advised to evacuate for their safety.

Due to Knapp refusing to exit the residence to be taken into custody and making repeated threats of harm to himself and others, the Linn County Regional SWAT team was contacted and responded to assist. After several hours of encouraging Knapp to exit the residence, he eventually complied and was taken into custody, at which time officers noticed Knapp had self-inflicted injuries that were non-life-threatening.

Knapp was charged with burglary I, arson I and violation of a release agreement. Knapp was transported to a local hospital for evaluation of the self-inflicted injuries and will be booked into the Linn County Jail upon medical clearance.

This case remains under investigation. Anyone with information is asked to contact Sergeant Miner at (541) 258-4314.

PUBLIC SAFETY

From page 7

items estimated at \$780. Report taken.

5:31 p.m. - Caller reported garage door kicked in and kitchen window cut on vacant home, 1000 block S 10th St.

6:38 p.m. - Caller reported theft of iPhone after leaving it on toilet paper holder at Walmart.

7:44 p.m. - Andrew Jeremiah Epting, 41, taken into custody for restraining order violation and stalking, 500 block C St. Report taken.

Sept. 10

1:38 p.m. - Christopher Francis Ciullo, 39, cited for driving while suspended and driving uninsured, Sodaville Rd./S Santiam Hwy.

2:50 p.m. - Truck reported stolen from 200 block Taylor St. Investigation ongoing. Report taken.

6:16 p.m. - Callers reported three loose dogs killed a cat, 300 block E Isabella St. Jessica Rae McGuire, 42, cited for dog at large.

6:22 p.m. - Caller reported a subject was verbally aggressive and "came at" him at Safeway gas station area. Caller was taking photo of subject's truck, and subject was trying to block caller from taking photos. Donald K. Flanigan Jr, 36, trespassed for life.

6:38 p.m. - Caller reported hit and run when car side-swiped their parked car, 100 block S 2nd St. Broken mirror and scuffing. Video of incident handed over to police.

7:09 p.m. - Caller reported subject shooting crossbow near Mark Slough. Caller suggested it's not safe, and subject threatened to fight him.

10:51 p.m. - Fawn Burleson, 41, of Waterloo, arrested for three outstanding warrants and possession of controlled

substance - meth. Kirk Miller, 46, of Waterloo, arrested for two outstanding warrants and giving false information to law enforcement officer. 4th/Star streets, Waterloo. Both lodged at Linn County Jail. Report taken.

11:24 p.m. - OSP attempted to stop speeding vehicle, 35/25, suspected to be operated, OSP reported, by Rebecca Lyn Marlow, 53, of Albany, in area of Airport and Airway roads. According to OSP, Marlow, driving a Chevrolet Venture minivan, refused to yield, but trooper was able to maintain "distant visual" and was able to identify Marlow as the registered owner. Case referred to District Attorney's Office.

Sept. 9

12:13 a.m. - Elijah White, 25, of Lebanon, cited for speeding, 71/55, 36100 block Hwy. 34.

8:45 a.m. - Caden Waskom, 25, cited for driving while suspended and LMC warrant for driving while suspended, S 5th/W Oak Sts.

9:46 a.m. - Caller who is renovating three-plex reported drinks and paint are going missing, unknown how someone is getting in, 200 block E Sherman St.

1:21 p.m. - Caller reported theft of phone and wallet from purse while shopping at Safeway. Loss valued at \$150.

5:06 p.m. - Caller reported car was side-swiped while parked at Walmart.

6:04 p.m. - Deputies warned rock hounds about trespassing in farm field, 38700 block Lacombe Dr.

6:34 p.m. - Caller reported subject drove down driveway, broke caller's car window with baseball bat and left, 1300 block S Grove St.

8:04 p.m. - Officer responded to two-car crash at new

traffic signal, Airport/Stoltz Hill Rd. Driver turning west from Stoltz Hill said the green arrow came on so she turned. Driver heading south on Stoltz Hill said car turned in front of him. There's no green arrow, so southbound driver had right of way.

10:31 p.m. - Matthew Samard, 38, of Lebanon, cited for speeding, 81/55, for driving while suspended and driving uninsured, 30100 block Santiam Hwy.

10:50 p.m. - Female driver almost struck bicyclist, 300 block E Airport Rd. She was concerned, so she honked. He flipped her off, cursed and yelled, and hit the back of her car.

10:55 p.m. - Colette McCool, 47, of Lebanon, cited for speeding, 71/55, Santiam Hwy./Horseshoe Loop.

11:10 p.m. - Dylan Spence, 22, of Sweet Home, cited for speeding, 72/55, 30600 block Santiam Hwy.

Sept. 8

10:12 a.m. - Caller reported neighbor has been leaving gifts on her porch and mowing her yard, and she doesn't want this happening, 100 block Wheeler St.

1:24 p.m. - Caller reported someone removed screws from community washing machine in attempt to take coins, causing damage to machines, 000 block Market St.

2:09 p.m. - LCSO investigated case in which elderly couple fell victim to crypto scam, resulting in loss of \$24,000. 1900 block Strawberry Lane. According to LCSO, this was an email phishing scam that looked like Paypal. Scammer asked that money be sent to them through a "Rocketcoin ATM." Report taken.

See additional Public Safety report listings at lebanonlocalnews.com.

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Social media fundraiser continues as district mulls stadium options

By Scott Swanson
Lebanon Local

Lebanon sports spectators are having to make do this fall following the shutdown last spring of Heath Stadium grandstand seating due to structural concerns and changes in insurance coverage.

Fans are sitting in the visitors section while the main grandstand sits empty.

"This is not super comfortable for anybody," said Lebanon High School Athletic Director Kraig Hoene. "We've always kind of prided ourselves with our stadium setup for visitors, with the elevated seating (across from the home grandstand).

"We don't have the space we used to have in our home stands. It is what it is.

We're just trying to give the kids, especially our seniors, and their parents the best experience possible under the circumstances."

Meanwhile, the district is working on a plan to rebuild the grandstand, built in 1957, which has deteriorated structurally, Hoene said.

The district reported in April



Photo courtesy of Lebanon School District

Temporary bleachers for home fans stand next to the Heath Stadium grandstands.

that deteriorating concrete, and "significant rust and corrosion" had made the structure unsafe. The grandstand, the district said then, was insured at "actual cash value" rather than replacement cost, due to its age and condition.

Hoene said actual cost estimates for a replacement are still in the works by district facilities officials and numbers are being "thrown around" in the community "that are true

or not true."

"It's going to depend on the options we choose," he said, "how we go about it, what kind of stadium, what kind of configuration. A lot of it's just a guesstimate."

Since July the district has participated in the Friday Night Lights program sponsored by the T-Mobile mobile network operator that offers a prize package valued at approximately \$1 million, in-

cluding cash, a weight room upgrade by Rob Gronkowski, and consultation with a stadium experience expert.

Some 440 high schools are participating in the program this year.

T-Mobile launched the program last year to, the company said, "support small towns by giving high schools a chance to showcase their spirit and compete for a game-changing football field upgrade." Com-

munities with a population of 150,000 or less are eligible to participate.

Twenty-five finalists were to be announced starting Sept. 25, all of whom will get \$25,000. Each finalist will get its own page on the Friday Night 5G Lights website www.fridaynight5Glights.com website, and voters can cast a vote for the finalist selection they choose.

Hoene said people who want to support the high school's campaign for funding can make a social media post on Instagram or X (formerly Twitter) using the hashtags #fn5glsweepstakes, #lebanonwins, #LHSwarriors and #lebanonoregon.

Posts should show school spirit, community involvement, and support for student-athletes. Posters should make sure their profiles are public and post frequently, as each individual post counts as an entry, increasing Lebanon's chances to win.

The final grand prize winner will be announced Oct. 30.

Lebanon won \$5,000 from T-Mobile last year in a weekly award drawing, Hoene said.

Sodaville will implement monthly fee for water maintenance

By Sarah Brown
Lebanon Local

The Sodaville City Council was updated on well progress, and approved a monthly \$10 maintenance fee on utility bills during its Aug. 25 meeting.

Following a work session held earlier in the month, the council approved a resolution implementing a \$10 fee on all utility bills to build up a reserve for water system repairs and expansion.

Mayor Brian Lewis told the council that Oregon Water Resources Department visited Sodaville to look at wells 3 and 6. They measured Ray Jackman's well (which might be drilled as the city's Well 6 project) and hit water at 52 feet, and discussed how pipes would have to be laid to pump the water to the city's tower.

Lewis mentioned there has always been a concern about costs to install the pipes, which might exceed what the city has in grant funds to complete a new well project.

OWRD then looked at Well 3, where the department believes previous drilling had broken through the "aquifer." They offered to bring in their equipment at no cost to the city to test the well. The concern is that if another well is drilled there as an "exempt well," then the city would just be pumping water into a pool

of water that's draining.

As such, the bottom of the well might need to be capped off.

"(If) we can get Well 3 capped off where it's not draining water out the bottom, we might be able to save Well 3 and bring it up to be a high producer again," Lewis said.

However, during the city's brief City Council meeting held Sept. 18, Lewis in-

formed the council that OWRD learned Well 3 is built such that they can't use their equipment on it. There are still some options to consider, but further discussion on the matter will be placed on future council agendas.

Meanwhile, the city's application for water rights for a new well is on hold for 180 days while the city figures out if it wants to continue pursuing new rights or go another

direction, such as transferring water rights or having an exempt well.

In other business, the council:

- Approved a resolution to use grant funds received from OWRD for water hauling as needed.
- Denied a permit application for temporary use of an RV. The council learned the applicant had been living in his RV for "a number of years"

on another person's property. He had filed an application two years ago, but never re-applied every six months, as required. The city received complaints about the situation, and learned the property owner doesn't want the man living on her property.

- Approved a building permit application to build a shop on property owned Lewis, who abstained from the discussion and vote.

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District encouraged by number of incoming kindergarteners

By Scott Swanson
Lebanon Local

Lebanon Community School District got a good crop of kindergarteners at the beginning of the school year, Supt. Jennifer Meckley told School Board members at their monthly meeting Thursday, Sept. 18.

Meckley reported that, as of Sept. 10, the district had 3,898 students, including 35 Pre-K students split between Cascades and Green Acres schools. She said that on Sept. 17 the number had risen to 3,908, noting that the number "goes up and down quite a bit in the first few days."

Financial Services Director Steven Prosocki said the district does not get funding for pre-K students, so the Sept. 17 total that would be funded would be 3,872. That number, he said, is 26 below the district's projection for the year, "which is a pretty good guess-timate."

"What I look at there is that we're funded by the State Schools Fund per student, based on enrollment, and that's balanced out throughout the whole state.

He said that the district gets about \$11,000 per student, so if it is down by 26 students, "we would be over-funded right now, if the enrollment stayed there, by about \$289,000."

Meckley said the district's enrollment has declined slowly, "not drastically."

"We were actually very pleased to see the kindergarten numbers as high as they were," she told the board, adding that districts across the state have seen decreases in their kindergarten numbers due to reduced birth rates.

"Our kindergarten numbers came in really strong, which is good for us, long-term. And they're so cute," she added, laughing.

She said the district's Pre-K enrollment has grown from one class last year, funded by the Promise Grant, to three this year.

"It's very, very exciting," Meckley said, crediting Cascades Principal Ryan Christner for overseeing the grant. "It's been a good thing for our community. We're going to try to continue to grow that."

Board Member Clyde Rood asked if the district had seen academic improvement from students who had attended district Pre-K versus those that have not or have come from other Pre-K programs.

Meckley said there isn't enough data yet to determine that yet, because the program is so young.

"Every program tries to track that," she said. "Every preschool asks us that question because other preschools want to know how their kids are doing."

She said she could provide "anecdotal data," citing what she said Christner has told her about the Pre-K students' "readiness for school" being "significantly better, whether it was academically or just readiness to be in a classroom and follow directions."

Meckley told board members that they would get a report on class sizes in October, "which is a new contractual requirement."

District Goals Review

Meckley reported on the district's goals, which, she said, fulfill state requirements as well as guiding district activities.

The goals have five primary focus areas: academic achievement, safety and belonging, financial integrity, effective facilities and community connections.

"Everything that we do aligns to these five areas," Meckley told the board.

The state evaluates the district based on its academic achievement numbers, "but if we don't have goals around all of the other areas and efficient systems, then we're not going to get academic achievement, so we try to focus on all of those areas," she said.

She noted that the district exceeded its target numbers in academic achievement in 2023-24, the most recent year that actual proficiency results are available for third-grade English language arts proficiency, ninth-grade on-track to graduate, and four- and five-year high school cohort completion rates, and overall attendance which are the metrics measured for the state.

Meckley said that, following the passage of the Education Accountability Bill last spring, "we will be adding kindergarten attendance and eighth-grade math.

She said that the district looks to be on track to exceed its goals for 2024-25.

She added that schools will be using a new formative assessment data form that will track their success in meeting goals that will be completed three times a year, also a requirement of the Accountability Bill.

She said district principals are scheduled to fill out the new form on Sept. 30 and that the data will be populated into a summary sheet that

will show the district-level data.

The other goals, she said, seek to ensure students' physical and psychological safety and acceptance "for their authentic selves;" accurate budgeting, long-term financial planning and financial transparency; ensure the proper maintenance, safety and security of district facilities, and create opportunities for capital projects; and increase community engagement and partnerships, and family involvement.

Cellphone Policy

Board members briefly discussed the district's draft cellphone policy, which, as of their meeting, required that all personal electronic devices capable of calling, texting or accessing the internet independently of the district's network, be powered off and stored in students' lockers or backpacks during the entire instructional day, unless authorized by a school administrator.

It also prohibits invading the privacy of others, including taking, sharing or posting unauthorized images or videos of other students or staff, and bans the posting of such content on social media.

Students are not permitted to access social media platforms using personal or district devices while on school grounds or at district-sponsored events unless authorized by a school administrator for educational purposes.

Various levels of discipline will be administered following progressive steps for those who don't comply, ranging from verbal warnings for initial offenses to meetings between school administra-

tors and family members, to consequences that will be determined. The policy also includes consequences for using PED's for academic dishonesty, illegal activity (sexting, unauthorized recording, harassment), violation of privacy or disruption of school activities.

It also includes instructions for emergencies and exemptions for medical and other needs.

Board Member Mike Martin said he liked the policy but wondered if it should be modified to specify what kinds of district events might be subject to the policy, such as a field trip, versus a football game.

Rood added that he did not think the restrictions should apply to sporting events, but noted that OSAA has authority over sporting events, and said he would like to see a clause to that effect in the policy.

He and Meckley noted that events, such as wrestling tournaments, sometimes are held during the instructional day.

She said the district's administrative regulation is "easy to change - it doesn't have to go through two readings."

She said issues such as those "are discussions at every meeting I go to."

Board Member Melissa Braurer suggested that they add "during instructional hours" to the policy to clarify that issue and the board agreed to pull the policy off the consent agenda so that change could be made before they approved it.

See School Board, Page 15

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ARCADE

From page 1

slots and tickets spit out for points earned.

Instead of modern game cards arcades use today, the Robisons issue out custom tokens to their customers and use paper tickets for prizes.

According to Mitch, the couple wanted people to be able to tap into the kinesthetic response one gets when they put coins into the machine and feel tickets in their hands.

"When we touch it, when we feel it, it makes us feel good," he said. "When you pick up all those tokens, when you hear the tokens hit the bottom, it sounds nice. And when you hit the jackpot, you get to see all those tickets pour out and then you get to pick 'em up and hold 'em and feel 'em."

It's that physical and stimulating sensation they wanted their customers to have, something that can't be experienced with player cards, Nicole said.

"When a kid hits the jackpot and it goes to a player's card, you don't know that you hit a jackpot, you don't know how many tickets you have," she said. "But when those tickets start pouring out and everyone's looking and you're the cool kid, it's a great feeling."

The other thing the Robisons focused on in their business was affordability.

While visiting several arcades in the state, they found the reloadable game cards usually cost money to obtain and required a minimum amount of, like, \$10 put on them, Mitch said.

"We didn't want that," he said. "We wanted a kid to come in and have five bucks



Photo by Sarah Brown

A customer chooses a prize to spend his game tickets on. Manning the prize counter is Nicole Robison's mother, Rani Brown.

and throw five bucks in and have fun, right? We just really want to make it accessible to this community."

Plus, he found that using the game cards made the experience less fun in a different way, as well.

"The ones that were not affordable just weren't fun because it had me thinking about money, not thinking about fun," Mitch said.

On Aug. 29, Afterglow Arcade and Contender Comics partnered together to host their first Santiam Comic-Con. Kids and adults, some in costume, flitted from machine to machine and perused comic books.

Mitch and his 4-year-old daughter Olivia, who was dressed in a Batman costume, played some games together, seeming to just enjoy the business they were building together. Olivia, you see, plays a vital role in the business as the company's game tester.

Closer to the front were Nicole, also dressed as Batman, and son Ori. They were busy selling tokens and handing out prizes.

Ori, 13, helps by making prizes with his 3-D printer and manning the prize table. One of his favorite games at Afterglow is Big Shot, a catapult-type game.

And what does Olivia think about her family owning an arcade?

"It's actually the best," she said.

But she doesn't get to just play all the games she wants; her family lets her earn tokens by doing chores.

The arcade still has plenty of room for growth. In the back storage area, the Robisons have a number of games ready to be fixed up and set out for play. It's an area they think could eventually make a nice event rental space. There's also a smaller room set aside as a party room.

The family has plans to ex-

pand with a snack shack and bar, but for now, for the adults who just want to sit and relax while their kids play, there's a row of tables and chairs set along the building's wall of windows.

It's a simple option for parents, but one Brittney Dewberry appreciates. On their first day at the arcade, Brittney and her husband, Ross, showed their young daughter, Finley, how to play some of the games.

"It's great for her because there's not a lot in town for littles," Brittney said. "She loves the tickets, she loves the coins, and she doesn't know yet she gets the prizes at the end."

Plus, she noted, it's not very expensive.

During the comic-con event, Haley Downs watched as her son, Ryder, played with a driving game, one that was clearly too big for him, but he seemed to be happy just playing with the steering wheel.

Meanwhile, Haley's hands grasped a row of paper tickets longer than her. The coins and tickets, she said, were making the experience more fun.

Also, she noted, "It's pretty neat to have something for the kids to do in town versus having to drive hours away."

That was another part of their business plan that was important to the Robisons: location.

"So it could be something families could walk to, kids could walk to, have somewhere for families to go after school, during summer, when it's raining," Nicole said.

And when they leave, she doesn't want them to leave empty handed.

Some people, Nicole explained, are saving up their ticket wins to later redeem for one of the bigger prizes – perhaps the PS5 or TV. But Nicole tries to encourage them to at least get a sucker, "because it's fun to save, but it's also fun to leave with something in your hand."

Afterglow Arcade has been open only a couple of months, and the rainy, indoor season has yet to reveal the true success of the business, but so far the community's reception has been "fantastic," Mitch said.

"I didn't expect to receive the gratitude that we've been receiving from everyone," he said. "So many people thank us for providing this."

The Robisons are already starting to get to know the regulars, and Nicole said she even had a couple hold a date night at the arcade.

"We're just here to have fun and help families have fun, and we have a lot of people thanking us and being really grateful."

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REAL ESTATE SOLD

Following are Lebanon, Sweet Home, and Brownsville area real estate transactions recorded with the county during late July and August 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. See more listings at lebanonlocalnews.com.

30552 Merry Ln., Lebanon; 1232 sq.ft., three bedroom, two bathroom, built in 1960; 1.74 acres; \$445,000.

630 Central Ave., Lebanon; 580 sq.ft., five bedroom, one bathroom, built in 1946; 0.26 acres; \$315,000.

33597 Brewster Rd., Lebanon; 1580 sq.ft., three bedroom, 1.5 bathroom, built in

1971; 1.69 acres; \$450,000.

420 Dodge St., Lebanon; 2522 sq.ft., five bedroom, 2 1/2 bathroom, built in 2018; 0.14 acres; \$470,000.

38970 Griggs Dr., Lebanon; 1040 sq.ft., three bedroom, one bathroom, built in 1950; 28.06 acres; \$300,000.

1896 Strawberry Ln., Lebanon; 1456 sq.ft., three bedroom, 1.5 bathroom, built in 1960; 0.93 acres; \$250,000.

2368 Kokanee Way., Lebanon; 3744 sq.ft., five bedroom, 3 1/2 bathroom, built in 2006; 0.14 acres; \$599,000.

630 Central Ave., Lebanon; 580 sq.ft., five bedroom, one bathroom, built in 1946; 0.26 acres; \$315,000.

33597 Brewster Rd., Lebanon; 1580 sq.ft., three bedroom, 1.5 bathroom, built in 1971; 1.69 acres; \$450,000.

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2368 Kokanee Way., Lebanon; 3744 sq.ft., five bedroom, 3 1/2 bathroom, built in 2006; 0.14 acres; \$599,000.

31035 5th St., Lebanon; 2876 sq.ft., three bedroom, three bathroom, built in 1973; 4.54 acres; \$840,000.

1027 Turtledove Lp., Lebanon; 1846 sq.ft., three bedroom, 2 1/2 bathroom, built in 2006; 0.16 acres; \$487,000.

157 Elmore St., Lebanon; 1330 sq.ft., two bedroom, one bathroom, built in 1910; 0.25

acres; \$334,900.

29055 Santiam Terrace Rd., Lebanon; three bedroom, two bathroom, 30.61 acres; \$491,700.

3471 Red Arrow Dr., Lebanon; 1396 sq.ft., three bedroom, two bathroom, built in 2007; 0.15 acres; \$395,000.

575 Ash St., Lebanon; 1200 sq.ft., three bedroom, one bathroom, built in 1948; 0.17 acres; \$335,000.

55 Dewey St., Lebanon; 756 sq.ft., two bedroom, one bathroom, built in 1945; 0.26 acres; \$75,000.

337 Lydia Ln., Lebanon; 1442 sq.ft., three bedroom, two bathroom, built in 2013; 0.15 acres; \$439,500.

565 Airway Rd., Lebanon; 1580 sq.ft., four bedroom, two bathroom, built in 1976; 0.2 acres; \$330,000.

30205 Craig Ln., Lebanon; 2394 sq.ft., three bedroom, built in 1971; 5.33 acres; \$800,000.

689 Sherman St., Lebanon; 1332 sq.ft., three bedroom, 1.5 bathroom, built in 1910; 0.23 acres; \$313,100.

702 Rhododendron St., Lebanon; 1024 sq.ft., three bedroom, one bathroom, built in 1977; 0.16 acres; \$334,900.

77 Wagon Wheel Dr., Lebanon; 1025 sq.ft., three bedroom, two bathroom, built in 1998; 0.15 acres; \$370,000.

935 Carolina St., Lebanon; 1656 sq.ft., three bedroom, two bathroom, built in 1991; 0.21 acres; \$405,000.

309 Sherman St., Lebanon; 1104 sq.ft., two bedroom, one bathroom, built in 1920; 0.23 acres; \$268,000.

2185 Stoltz Hill Rd., Lebanon; 2641 sq.ft., four bedroom, 2 1/2 bathroom, built in 1947; 0.66 acres; \$405,000.

630 Central Ave., Lebanon; 580 sq.ft., five bedroom, one bathroom, built in 1946; 0.26 acres; \$315,000.

33597 Brewster Rd., Lebanon; 1580 sq.ft., three bedroom, 1.5 bathroom, built in 1971; 1.69 acres; \$450,000.

420 Dodge St., Lebanon; 2522 sq.ft., five bedroom, 2 1/2 bathroom, built in 2018; 0.14 acres; \$470,000.

38970 Griggs Dr., Lebanon; 1040 sq.ft., three bedroom, one bathroom, built in 1950; 28.06 acres; \$300,000.

1896 Strawberry Ln., Lebanon; 1456 sq.ft., three bedroom, 1.5 bathroom, built in 1960; 0.93 acres; \$250,000.

2368 Kokanee Way., Lebanon; 3744 sq.ft., five bedroom, 3 1/2 bathroom, built in 2006; 0.14 acres; \$599,000.

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2368 Kokanee Way., Lebanon; 3744 sq.ft., five bedroom, 3 1/2 bathroom, built in 2006; 0.14 acres; \$599,000.

720 Central Ave., Lebanon; 1994 sq.ft., four bedroom, two bathroom, built in 1940; 0.34 acres; \$490,000.

1130 Ash Pl., Lebanon; 1008 sq.ft., three bedroom, one bathroom, built in 1973; 0.19 acres; \$350,000.

820 Mazama Ave., Lebanon; 1188 sq.ft., two bedroom, two bathroom, built in 1995; 0.11 acres; \$275,000.

40350 Hilltop Dr., Lebanon; 1443 sq.ft., three bedroom, two bathroom, built in 1965; 5.4 acres; \$610,000.

30563 Fairview Rd., Lebanon; 1868 sq.ft., three bedroom, two bathroom, built in 1958; 3.36 acres; \$543,000.

30720 5th St., Lebanon; 1236 sq.ft., three bedroom, two bathroom, built in 2018; 4.88 acres; \$530,000.

34215 Lacombe Rd., Lebanon; 1296 sq.ft., three bedroom, two bathroom, built in 1979; 5.5 acres; \$665,000.

550 Crowfoot Rd., Lebanon; 873 sq.ft., two bedroom, two bathroom, built in 1950; 0.23 acres; \$322,000.

521 Rose St., Lebanon; 1176 sq.ft., three bedroom, 1.5 bathroom, built in 1946; 0.18 acres; \$315,000.

930 Airway Rd., Lebanon; 1012 sq.ft., three bedroom, one bathroom, built in 1979; 0.19 acres; \$342,000.

30683 Spring St., Lebanon; 1204 sq.ft., 1.5 bathroom, built in 1940; 0.95 acres; \$350,000.

1640 Airway Pl., Lebanon; 1022 sq.ft., three bedroom, one bathroom, built in 1976; 0.18 acres; \$345,000.

304 Spaulding Ave., Brownsville; 1246 sq.ft., two bedroom, two bathroom, built in 2015; 1.02 acres; \$470,000.

28796 Santiam Hwy., additional details not listed; Sweet Home; 1.05 acres; \$7,500.

101 Cooley Ave., Brownsville; 1770 sq.ft., five bedroom, two bathroom, built in 1976; 0.4 acres; \$446,800.

4490 Knotty Pine Ct., Sweet Home; 1424 sq.ft., three bedroom, two bathroom, built in 2024; 0.18 acres; \$403,000.



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Samaritan announces it will not close Lebanon birthing center

By Scott Swanson
Lebanon Local

Samaritan Health Services announced Aug. 27 that it will continue to offer maternity care for women and children at all five of its hospitals, including Samaritan Lebanon Community Hospital.

The organization said that it is “updating the proposal,” which originally included consolidating women’s and children’s services, obstetrics, general surgery, orthopedics and urology within the five hospitals, most likely moving the birth center services to Albany.

The proposal to cut services at Samaritan’s outlying hospitals was due to a shortage of clinicians and to financial shortfalls, Marty Cahill, Samaritan’s president and chief executive officer, told The New Era earlier this summer. He said then that the number of medical and nursing students being produced in schools is insufficient to meet

the need for new clinicians.

Also, according to a 2024 report by the Hospital Association of Oregon, as a whole, Oregon hospitals are seeing increased emergency room visits and between 2022 and 2024 lost \$152 million on patient care. Those losses are due to lagging operating margins (the difference between the cost of providing services and payment for those services), rising costs and a “complex and costly” regulatory environment by the state and federal governments. According to the report, Medicaid, the largest insurer in the state, paid hospitals 56 cents for every dollar spent caring for its members and Medicare, which provides coverage for senior citizens, paid 82 cents on the dollar.

Samaritan’s revised proposal comes “after more than 70 listening sessions with staff, clinicians and leaders across the system, and they directly reflect the ideas shared during

those conversations,” the organization said in a statement.

“Our teams and communities have been clear that they want to sustain essential services close to home, while finding new ways to collaborate and strengthen our financial sustainability,” said Marty Cahill, Samaritan’s president and chief executive officer. “We are proud of how people across Samaritan have worked together to bring forward solutions that protect access to care while also making our system stronger for the future.”

Samaritan stated that after considering the feedback and “ongoing analysis and refinement of all aspects of the proposed changes,” it has decided to move forward with the following modified proposal for Women and Children’s services:

- Continue delivering babies at all five Samaritan hospitals
- Establish a coordinated, systemwide OB/GYN practice

to improve collaboration so that care is provided seamlessly across Samaritan hospitals.

- Continue developing creative solutions — such as cross-training staff and partnering with community resources — to support safe and sustainable care and reduce the use of temporary agency providers.

- Regularly review progress toward sustainability, with a full reassessment in the summer/fall of 2026 to ensure services remain viable and responsive to community needs.

“Our care teams are committed to driving innovative change to sustain delivery sites across the system,” said Dr. Lesley Ogden, chief executive officer of Samaritan’s coastal hospitals in Newport and Lincoln City. Cuts similar to Lebanon’s were being considered for those facilities.

“Though these innovations may not get us to 100% of the estimated financial benefit

of the previous proposals, we are hoping the changes will make enough of a difference to make these services viable in each of our communities.”

Samaritan will evaluate the effectiveness of these measures over time.

“We anticipate significant positive impact — in large part because of how Samaritans across the system are collaborating and working together,” said Sy Johnson, chief executive officer of Samaritan’s valley hospitals.

In addition to directly impacting the financial sustainability of delivering care in our three-county service area, all of the clinical program proposals are also expected to deliver benefits for clinician recruitment and retention, patient access and quality measures.

To learn more about the clinical programs being explored by Samaritan, visit samhealth.org/SustainableHealthCare.

SCHOOL BOARD

From page 12

Projects Completed

Operations Director William Lewis reported on summer maintenance and update projects that were completed in the district.

They included:

- A new playground installed at Green Acres School, paid for by fundraising efforts;
- A walking path at Pioneer School, also paid for by fundraising efforts;
- A covered play area for Cascades Preschool, paid for by a state grant;
- A wall removal at Ralston Academy to create expanded classroom space;
- Installation of a new bus lift
- The installation of 61 One Screen Interactive Boards in classrooms;
- Installation of entry access control systems at all schools, paid for with a federal COPS grant;
- New exterior paint for Hamilton Creek School;
- New exterior paint and a new electronic sign at Cascades School;
- New dropped ceilings and electrical, and an intercom system at Lacombe School;
- Removal of carpet and polished concrete floors at Cascades Preschool, paid for with state grant money;
- Paving of a bus slip and installation of a new electronic sign at Seven Oak Middle School;
- Tree removal, stump grinding and the planting of replacement trees at River-

view School;

- Network hardware replacement of network boxes that were more than 10-plus years old.

LCSD has had a busy summer of projects. All the summer projects listed exceeded the regular maintenance and school updates scheduled every summer. The summer project list supports all five district focus areas (safety and belonging, effective facilities, academic achievement, community connections, and financial integrity). Breaking down just one of the focus areas, financial integrity, the projects were funded from four different funding sources. One federal grant (COPS

grant for safety and security updates). One state grant (pre-school promise) helped pay for polished concrete floors and a new covered play area. School/community funds (several years of fundraising at Pioneer and Green Acres) helped pay for the walking path and new playground. When combined with fundraising funds, multi-year savings through the general fund helped complete projects sooner. We are grateful for our community support!

In other action, the board:

- Met with members of the Facility Advisory Committee to discuss the process of addressing the district’s facility needs during a workshop

prior to their regular Sept. 18 meeting. Lebanon Local will report separately on that meeting at lebanonlocalnews.com.

- Swore in Student Board Representatives Addy Pickles and Cade Weber, both Lebanon High School students.

- Finalized the renaming of Pioneer School Library from “Scot R. Noss Honorary Library” to “Scot R. Ross Memorial Library.”

- Swore in Student Board Members Addy Pickles and Cade Weber.

- Approved the hiring of Jessica Anderson (Quinn) as Dean of Student Success at Cascades School; Hannah Bean as an elementary music

teacher at Cascades, Green Acres, Pioneer and Riverview schools; Rebecca Briggs, second grade teacher at Green Acres; Abigail Davis (Lopez), first grade teacher at Cascades; Scot Potter, counselor at Pioneer; and Melissa Stratten, English language arts teacher at Seven Oak Middle School, all permanent; Eva Miller, counselor at Seven Oak; and Kyla Wheeler, second grade teacher at Hamilton Creek School, both temporary; and Lana Abbott as assistant principal at Seven Oak.



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NEW HOME

From page 1

program. Candidates must be able to demonstrate a need for housing, including the need for a safe and healthy environment, Breshears told potential sponsors in 2019. Other considerations include people faced with “astronomical” rent or homelessness.

Candidates must also qualify as “low income,” or be between 30 and 59% percent of the area median income. Habitat homes are sold with no interest and at no profit, but buyers must complete classes and invest a number of “sweat equity” volunteer hours before they get the keys to their home.

Buyers also, despite a low income, must be able to pay a small mortgage, including taxes and insurance. Ideally that would be no more than 43 percent of their income, Breshears said.

One important caveat to Habitat’s ability to provide these homes, however, is the organization’s reliance on donations of land and/or houses.

“I love it. I’m excited,” Veronica said about her first impression in the front yard of her new home. “I can’t wait to see the rest of it.”

On Sept. 13, Jordan and Sam were given the honor to cut the red ribbon during a special home dedication ceremony. Then Kelsey Breshears, Habitat construction team member, handed the keys over to Veronica and Ted.

“This house is really nice looking,” Jordan said. “I thought it was really cool when they started building it. I’ve been wanting to see it finished. It looks beautiful, actually.”

The 1,540 square foot house sits on the top of a hillside. Its facade boasts a deep blue color with white trim. Inside, vaulted ceilings rise over a wood floor. The kitchen features black marble countertops and black tile backsplash. The paint, flooring, cabinets and countertops are among the decisions the McMahons were allowed to make regarding their new home.

The family’s faces gleamed as they saw their completed home for the first time. Veronica looked at the spacious pantry, noting they would now have room for all their food. Ted commented on having a separate laundry room, and then the two headed toward the bedrooms.

Sam darted ahead, taking in the new rooms much quicker than his older counterparts. As the parents spent time admiring the hall bathroom features, Sam looked at his room and then darted into the master bedroom.

His parents’ room overlooks the backyard with a sloping lawn and, beyond the property line, nothing but a prairie-like easement and wall of trees as their view.

In the master bedroom, Veronica entered her walk-in closet and spun around several times with her arms outstretched.

While the McMahons had seen the property multiple times during the beginning of the build, they were barred from visiting since December, allowing room for something of a “final reveal.”

The road to get to this day, however, has been a long and bumpy one.

According to Tina Breshears, the organization received a land donation in Sodaville that included an



Photos by Sarah Brown

The McMahons react as they see the inside of their completed home for the first time.

old store building near City Hall. The city, not wanting to lose the historic value of the store, offered to trade the property for two vacant lots.

One of the lots, located next to the water tower on Ridge Street, became the site for what would be the McMahan home. They broke ground in October 2022 with “lofty goals” to have the home completed by June 2023, Breshears said.

But she didn’t anticipate all the snags and additional costs they would hit along the way, propelling the move-in date some three years into the future. Some of those snags included upgrading electric access, supply acquisition, and schedule availability of those donating time and labor.

“When you have people donating their time, you go



Veronica McMahon spins around in her walk-in closet. Watching from the outside are Justin and (reflected in the mirror) Ted McMahon.

by their schedule,” Breshears said.

Indeed, Habitat for Humanity and the families rely largely on donations of labor, equipment, money and supplies. Breshears – under the telltale signs of a choked-up, grateful recipient – made sure to recognize their benefactors for a house “built from the ground up by the hearts and hands of many.”

“We absolutely appreciate everybody that donates their time and materials,” she said.

The McMahons invested their own labor into the build, as well. According to Ted, they put in 600 hours of sweat equity to make their home a reality.

“It’s been pretty exciting going through most of it,” he said about the three-year project. “I knew the process of building homes, but I’ve never been on this side where I’m actually getting the house, so it’s been a journey; pretty stressful.”

Ted helped paint, build the roof and walls, and in-

stall the concrete driveway, trim and flooring. Veronica also helped and, according to Kelsey Breshears, learned new things and conquered fears in the process.

“She was nervous to do anything,” Kelsey said. “Like, she wouldn’t pick up a hammer, and now she uses power tools. And she did conquer her fear of getting on a ladder.”

Working closely with families, teaching them new skills and being a part of getting them into a place they deserve is what fulfills Kelsey in her job, she said.

Pastor Richard Pruitt of New Beginnings Fellowship church opened and closed the ceremony with a benediction and prayer, while friends and family gathered in a circle to be part of the blessing.

“We are thrilled to help open this new chapter in the McMahons’ lives and look forward to more new beginnings with future builds,” Breshears said.

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