

MOMS Club Formula: Support, Service, Social Time

By Sarah Brown
Lebanon Local

They say new mothers always talk about poop.

Well it's certainly one of the things this group of mothers talk about, but being a mom introduces a whole new level of what one might find exciting.

Who's going to be excited to learn someone's child will now eat cold cheese? Most likely a member of the MOMS Club.

"We talk about all the crazy things, but I think what's great is you feel open to talk about anything that's going on and you have somebody else that completely understands," said Larisa Neilson, a mother of three and founder of the Mid Valley MOMS Club.

While their children found entertainment with each other and various toys on the floor, the mothers – most of them bearing a baby in hand – were tasked with stuffing toiletries into small bags. These would be gifts for women who'd just given birth.

It was a project of personal understanding, "Just a little something to give them kind



Members of the Mid-Valley MOMS Club prepare to showcase their club in the Strawberry Festival Parade.

of a boost," said Jessica Fischer, mother of two and president of the club.

Last year, the club members helped with a toy drive at The River Center as part of a service project, but this year they wanted to do something specifically for mothers.

It's what MOMS Club is all about – moms providing moms the support they need.

As someone who moves a

lot due to her husband's job, Fischer, of Halsey, discovered the MOMS Club was an "easy enough" commitment and a good place to meet people.

"Bouncing around new places, you don't have a whole lot of friends," she said. "I knew no one here when we first moved."

That was the same situation Neilson found herself in when she moved to Lebanon from Denver two years ago.

"I'd just had my first son; he was nine months old," she said. "I quit my job, was gonna be a stay-at-home mom, came here and was like, 'I have to have some type of community.'"

Neilson looked for mom groups she could connect with, but all she learned was that a MOMS Club in Lebanon had disbanded.

See Moms, Page 11

Samaritan CEO highlights merger pluses in Lebanon town hall

By Scott Swanson
Lebanon Local

Samaritan Health CEO Marty Cahill kicked off a series of town halls, focusing on Samaritan's planned merger with Tacoma, Wash.-based MultiCare health system, on Wednesday evening, Nov. 12, at Samaritan Lebanon Community Hospital.

Speaking to about 100 people in the hospital conference room, Cahill explained reasons behind the merger and provided an overview of MultiCare and its interest in joining with Samaritan.

Samaritan reported Thursday, Nov. 13, that town halls scheduled in Albany and Corvallis have been filled, so it is scheduling another from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. Tuesday, Nov. 25, at Boulder Falls Inn Event Center, 605 Mullins Drive, Lebanon. Registration is required, and seating is limited. To register or learn more, visit samhealth.org/Affiliation.

Also, a virtual forum with Cahill is scheduled for noon to 1 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 11. A link will be provided upon



Photo by Scott Swanson

Samaritan CEO Marty Cahill speaks during a town hall held at Samaritan Lebanon Community Hospital to discuss the planned merger with Tacoma-based MultiCare.

registration and a recording will be available at samhealth.org/Affiliation after the event.

At the Nov. 12 town hall, Cahill recounted the deliberative process through which Samaritan and MultiCare came together, saying Samaritan's Board of Directors and administrators

hired Juniper Consulting Group to identify potential partners for a possible merger.

He said Juniper received responses from 18 organizations that signed non-disclosure agreements to learn more about the opportunity, which led to seven proposals that were narrowed

down to four, then two finalists, and finally, MultiCare.

"This wasn't a fire sale," he said. "We were viewed as a very good strategic partner in this state."

After visiting with board members and leadership of

See Samaritan, Page 10

INSIDE



CHAMPIONSHIP SEASON COMES TO END FOR WARRIORS
PAGE 15



FIRE CHIEF JOSEPH RODONDI SAYING GOOD-BYE TO LFD
PAGE 5



HALLOWEEN FUN AT LACOMB SCHOOL
PAGE 16



OBITUARIES

Jeffrey Wooden

July 1966 - Sept. 30, 2025

Jeffrey Howard Wooden, 59, of Lebanon, passed away in his home on Sept. 30, 2025.

Born July 1966 in Corvallis, Jeff graduated from Corvallis High and went on to Oregon State University, studying computer science. Jeff retired after 22 years working in the semiconductor manufacturing field from Hewlett Packard.

His passions in life were the Oregon outdoors; whether it be fishing for trout in Wickiup Reservoir, motorbiking in Siuslaw National Forest, or walking a beach on the coast. His dream was to purchase a boat and live retirement on the water.

He is survived by daughters Autumn and Jasmine; mother Laura Childers; and brothers Keith Wooden, Scott Wooden, Jameson Dolan and Jonathan Dolan.

He was preceded in death by his father, Larry Wooden; and his wife Jenifer Stevenson.

A celebration of life to honor Jeff Wooden will be held at 2 p.m. on Nov. 8 at Providence Vineyard Christian, located at 35787 Richardson Gap Road in Lebanon.

Death Notices

Montie Dave Stephens, 81, of Lebanon, died November 8, 2025. Huston-Jost Funeral Home is handling the arrangements.

Jackie Marie Williams, 89, of Lebanon, died October 22, 2025. Huston-Jost Funeral Home is handling the arrangements.

Jeffrey Howard Wooden, 59, of Lebanon, died September 30th, 2025. Huston-Jost Funeral Home is handling the arrangements.

David Roger Staup, 82, of Lebanon, died October 29, 2025. Huston-Jost Funeral Home is handling the arrangements.

Elizabeth Jean (Nobles) Dadey, 89, of Lebanon, died October 5, 2025. Huston-Jost Funeral Home is handling the arrangements.

Marolyn L. Bond, 90, of Lebanon, died October 19, 2025. Huston-Jost Funeral Home is handling the arrangements.

Donald Ray Carroll, 88, died October 18, 2025. Huston-Jost Funeral Home is handling the arrangements.

ton-Jost Funeral Home is handling the arrangements.

Michael (Mike) Charles McCoy, 72, died October 10, 2025. Huston-Jost Funeral Home is handling the arrangements.

Leona Marie Hopper, 81, of Lebanon, died October 4, 2025. Weddle Funeral Service is handling the arrangements.

Brian Arthur Oeder, 64, of Lebanon, died October 11, 2025. Weddle Funeral Service is handling the arrangements.

Oren Dale Pracht, 94, of Lebanon, died October 4, 2025. Huston-Jost Funeral Home is handling the arrangements.

Ronald Drury, 64, of Lebanon died November 1, 2025. Sweet Home Funeral Chapel is handling arrangements.

Jeremy Wayne Smith, 46, of Lebanon, died October 17, 2025. Sweet Home Funeral Chapel is handling arrangements. www.sweethomefuneral.com.

PUBLIC SAFETY

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

It is crucial to emphasize that our reporting of an individual's arrest or citation for a crime does not imply guilt. Determination of guilt can only be established through legal proceedings in court. 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); SHPD (Sweet Home Police Department); OSP (Oregon State Police); LMC (Lebanon Municipal Court); SHMC (Sweet Home Municipal Court); AMC (Albany Municipal Court); LCCC (Linn County Circuit Court); LCJC (Linn County Justice Court); LCSA (Linn County Supervisory Authority); OSPB (Oregon State Parole Board), FTA (failure to appear); FTC (failure to comply); DV (domestic violence). A roman numeral listed after a charge means that the charge is that numbered-degree: theft I (first-degree theft).

Nov. 8

3:09 a.m. - Hayden Branam, 23, of Lebanon, cited for speeding, 102/55, and arrested for probation violation on LCCC warrant, 30800 block Santiam Hwy. Report taken.

5:53 a.m. - Jered George, 20, or Albany, cited for speeding, 35000 block Santiam Hwy.

11:07 a.m. - Deputy investigated report of drowned deer in Waterloo County Park, 31200 block Waterloo Rd. Caller thought it was a dog in the river. Deputies located it and found it to be a small doe. No signs of obvious injury. It was pulled to shore and Linn County Parks assisted in disposing of it.

12:11 p.m. - Timothy Metcalf, 69, of Lebanon, cited for driving while suspended, driving uninsured, 200 block E.

Airport Rd.

1:36 p.m. - Tiffany Sanders, 34, of Albany, cited for driving while suspended, 30500 block Fairview Rd.

2:13 p.m. - Gabriel Vergara, 45, of Albany, taken into custody on outstanding warrant, cited for driving uninsured, driving without privileges, 400 block E. Ash St. Report taken.

2:30 p.m. - Hunter Gomez, 42, of Lebanon, arrested for outstanding warrants, 100 block Vaughan Lane. Report taken.

3:23 p.m. - Caller reported fraud, 38700 block Sodaville Waterloo Dr. Caller ordered two portable generators for approximately \$400 off Ebay and was sent a tub of orange scent. They disputed this with

See Public Safety, Page 3

CIRCUIT COURT

Warrants are out on the following individuals: Omar Edgar Arroyo, Jonathan Edward Betar, Kristina Larizza Boswell, Deanna Marie Brown, Christina Marie Cash, Austin Shane Conner, Matthew Timothy Cook, Steven Michael Cooley, Selina Renee Ford-Blackburn, Scotty Lee Foster, Steven Edward Grimm, Aaron Thomas Halvorson, Robert Edwin Hoskinson, Devin Michael Houseman, David Mark Jones, Bruce Clifton Kelly, 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, Daniel Ryan Salo, Rosemary O. Saviour, Phillip Stanley Shanklin, Donald Shane Simmons, April Lee Springer, Brandi Lynn Trelstad, Joshua Webb, Darnell T. Wells, Jessica Ashley Wynne

Sonny Allen Agrelius, 28, sentenced Oct. 17 to one year suspension of a driver's license, 60 days jail, 18 mos. supervised probation and a \$1,000 fine after pleading no contest to fleeing or attempting to elude, DUII (controlled substance), reckless driving and failure to perform duties of driver - property damage. Additional charges of fleeing or attempting to elude, and unlawful possession of a controlled substance - Schedule

II were dismissed.

Alex Jose Amaton, 30, charged Nov. 12 with assault IV.

Jeremy Wesley Babb, 51, charged Oct. 6 with two counts of failure to report as a sex offender.

Richard Anthony Bagg, 33, charged Oct. 13 with assault III and assault IV.

Juan Felipe Barajas-Ledezma, 26, placed in diversion program after pleading no contest to DUII (controlled substances) and reckless driving.

Russell Andrew Barber, 45, charged Oct. 3 with DV assault IV and criminal mistreatment I.

Michael Douglas Barnes Jr., 44, sentenced Nov. 3 to 10 days compensatory service in lieu of jail and a \$100 fine after pleading guilty to failure to report as a sex offender.

Aryan Allen Barr, 46, sentenced Oct. 17 to 89 mos. with the Oregon Dept. of Corrections, three years post-prison supervision after pleading no contest to two counts of manufacture or delivery of a controlled substance within 1,000 feet of a school, and felon in possession of a firearm. Additional charges of manufacture or delivery of a controlled substance within 1,000 feet of a school, unlawful possession of a controlled substance - Schedule II, delivery of meth within 1,000 feet of a school, delivery of heroin within

1,000 feet of a school, felon in possession of a restricted weapon and felon in possession of a firearm were dismissed.

In a separate case, he was sentenced to 64 mos. with the Oregon Dept. of Corrections and three years post-prison supervision after pleading no contest to manufacture or delivery of a controlled substance in Schedule II, and felon in possession of a firearm. Additional charges of felon in possession of a firearm, felon in possession of a restricted weapon, unlawful possession of meth, and unlawful possession of a controlled substance - Schedule II were dismissed.

Geraldine Rachel Bagg, 30, charged Oct. 20 with hindering prosecution."

Russell Andrew Barber, 45, sentenced Nov. 3 to 10 days compensatory service in lieu of jail, 18 mos. supervised probation and a \$100 fine after pleading no contest to DV assault IV. A criminal mistreatment I charge was dismissed.

Deanna Marie Brown, 40, charged Sept. 30 with identity theft.

Justin Tyme Carr, 49, charged Nov. 10 with arson I and two counts of recklessly endangering another person. He posted 10% of a \$50,000 bail.

Cynthia Rose Christiansen, 19, was sentenced Oct. 10 to one year suspension of a driver's license, 60

days jail and a \$1,000 fine after pleading guilty to DUII (liquor) with a .09% BAC and FTA. Another FTA charge was dismissed. In a separate case, she was sentenced to 60 mos. with the Oregon Dept. of Corrections, 36 mos. post-prison supervision and \$1,299.99 restitution after pleading guilty to attempt to commit a Class A felony - robbery I. Charges of theft III and assault IV were dismissed.

Carolyn Louise Coleman, 50, sentenced Oct. 29 to 90 days suspension of a drivers license, five days compensatory service in lieu of jail, 12 mos. bench probation after pleading no contest to fleeing or attempting to elude. A charge of failure to carry/present license was dismissed.

Tunisha Ann Coleman, 43, charged Oct. 7 with arson I, criminal mischief II and two counts of recklessly endangering another person. Bail set at \$25,000.

August Brent Collins Jr., 47, charged Oct. 6 with two counts of stalking.

Matthew Timothy Cook, 31, charged Sept. 25 with fleeing or attempting to elude, reckless driving and FTA.

Charges against **Jack Edward Counts II, 36**, of unauthorized use of a vehicle, offensive littering and disorderly conduct II were dismissed with prejudice.

Jordan Eathan Davis, 27,

sentenced Oct. 10 to 13 mos. with the Oregon Dept. of Corrections and two years post-prison supervision after pleading guilty to unlawful use of a weapon. Charges of menacing and endangering a person protected by FAPA order were dismissed.

Ethaniel E. Delk, 21, charged Sept. 24 with DUII (liquor).

Scotty Lee Foster, 43, charged Oct. 12 with DUII.

Michael Edward-Leverne Gagner, 43, charged Oct. 13 with unlawful delivery of marijuana and endangering the welfare of a minor.

Aaron Marten Heintzman, 36, placed in the diversion program after pleading no contest to DUII (controlled substance).

Daniel Lane Hodson, 52, charged Nov. 10 with unlawful possession of meth and unlawful delivery of meth. Bail set at \$25,000.

Robert Grant Hodson, 30, sentenced Sept. 22 to 100 mos. with the Oregon Dept. of Corrections and 20 years post-prison supervision after pleading no contest to sodomy I. Two counts of rape I and two additional counts of sodomy I were dismissed.

Matthew Michael Johnson, 46, charged Oct. 27 with DUII (liquor), reckless driving, assault IV, failure to perform duties of driver to injured persons, and criminal mischief II.

David Mark Jones, 58,

See Circuit Court, Page 3

CIRCUIT COURT

From page 2

charged Oct. 29 with DUII (liquor) and reckless driving.

Cody William Kledzinski, 28, placed in diversion program after pleading guilty to DUII (liquor).

Fritz Henry Lutje, 48, sentenced Oct. 8 to 30 days jail, 36 mos. supervised probation and a \$200 fine after pleading guilty to online sexual corruption of a child II. A luring a minor charge was dismissed.

Jessica Maileen Magee, 33, charged Nov. 3 with DUII (liquor) and reckless driving.

Edward Arnold Martinez, 25, sentenced Nov. 3 to 90 days jail and 36 mos. supervised probation after pleading no contest to assault III, unlawful use of a weapon and menacing. Charges dismissed: assault IV, and additional counts of unlawful use of a weapon and menacing.

Jesse James Marquez, 29, charged Oct. 6 with burglary II, two counts of criminal mischief II, disorderly conduct II, unlawful entry into motor vehicle, resisting arrest, assaulting a public safety officer, aggravated harassment and attempted assault II.

Kiona Shauntel Brooke McCoy, 27, sentenced Oct. 15 to 10 days compensatory service in lieu of jail and 36 mos. supervised probation after pleading guilty to assault III - victim under 12 years old. A criminal mistreatment I charge was dismissed.

Donald Joe Nave Jr., 54, charged Nov. 10 with two counts of unlawful delivery of meth, two counts of unlawful possession of meth, and criminal driving while suspended or revoked. Bail set at \$30,000.

Ryan Michael Newton, 31, charged Oct. 15 with unlawful use of a weapon, disorderly conduct II, escape III and unlawful possession of

meth.

Charges from three separate cases against **Thomas Ray Pimentel, 28**, of theft I, unlawful possession of meth, identity theft and probation violations have been deferred while he attends a drug court program.

Brian Kyle Perry, 39, charged Sept. 22 with DUII (liquor). He was placed in the diversion program after pleading guilty to DUII (liquor) with a .15% BAC.

John Ray Porter, 34, sentenced Oct. 15 to 18 mos. with the Oregon Dept. of Corrections and two years post-prison supervision after pleading no contest to aggravated identity theft and FTA I. Additional charges of aggravated identity theft and theft I were dismissed.

Melinda Sue Rickard, 53, placed in diversion program after pleading no contest to DUII (liquor) with a .05% BAC.

Michael Anthony Rivers, 33, sentenced Sept. 19 to 60 days jail and 36 mos. supervised probation after pleading guilty to attempt to commit a Class B felony - sexual abuse I. A coercion charge was dismissed.

Zachary Nitschke Sanderson, 26, charged Oct. 31 with four counts of rape II, sodomy II, sexual abuse I, and encouraging child sexual abuse II. Allegations involve a female victim under the age of 14. Bail set at \$500,000.

Phillip Stanley Shanklin, 35, charged Oct. 24 with DUII (cannabis).

Shingy Robert Shineachi, 18, sentenced Oct. 3 to eight days jail, 18 mos. bench probation and \$7,000 restitution after pleading no contest to unauthorized use of a vehicle and FTA.

David John Slack, 42, charged Sept. 25 with kidnapping I, two counts of DV strangulation, DV assault IV, and two counts of criminal mischief II.

Daniel Dene Storkson, 59, charged Nov. 14 with assault III.

Allison Jane Thompson, 36, charged Nov. 7 with DUII (liquor) and refusal to take a test for intoxicants.

Cody Alexander Tilson, 32, sentenced Sept. 23 to 13 mos. with the Oregon Dept. of Corrections, three years post-prison supervision and a \$200 fine after pleading no contest to encouraging child sexual abuse I. A second count of the same charge was dismissed.

Treyontae Eugene Trask, 21, charged Sept. 25 with luring a minor and sexual abuse III. Bail set at \$5,000.

Eric Michael Vader, 18, charged Oct. 20 with criminal driving while suspended or revoked, and unlawful possession of marijuana by a person under 21 years old.

Wyatt Lynn Alan Vaughan, 22, sentenced Oct. 23 to one year suspension of a driver's license, 10 days jail, 18 mos. supervised probation, and \$1,255 in fines and fees after pleading guilty to DUII (controlled substance) and two counts of FTA. Additional FTA charges dismissed.

Troy Steven Williamson, 24, sentenced Oct. 6 to 70 mos. with the Oregon Dept. of Corrections and three years post-prison supervision after pleading no contest to robbery II. Charges of theft III and assault IV were dismissed. In a separate case, he was sentenced to an additional eight months with the Oregon Dept. of Corrections after pleading no contest to assault II.

Isabella Rean Wynn, 23, charged Oct. 13 with burglary I.

PUBLIC SAFETY

From page 2

Ebay, and needed a police report.

4:20 p.m. - Deputy was flagged down to respond to door left open after man left for hospital in 38100 block Main St. Deputy was unable to get past several dogs in the yard.

5:27 p.m. - Vehicle theft reported in 30400 block Townsend Rd. Brown 1991 Ford F-250 bearing Oregon plate RVP953 stolen from location during past few weeks. Report taken.

5:41 p.m. - LCSO conducted death investigation in 33000 block Bellinger Scale Rd. Death determined to be natural. Report taken.

6:34 p.m. - Rachel Hodson, 48, of Lebanon, cited for driving while suspended. Daniel Hodson, who was a passenger in the vehicle, arrested on warrant and for possession of meth. He was transported to Linn county Jail. Williams/A streets. Report taken.

Nov. 7
8:22 a.m. - Crash reported on Hwy. 20 near Cemetery Rd./ Milepost 12. According to OSP, a vehicle was rear-ended at the location as it stopped for a large truck exiting the Pacific Pride gas station. The driver of the second vehicle told police she hit her brake, but her leg went numb due to a medical condition. OSP report did not list drivers' names.

11:53 a.m. - Christian Coleman, 27, of Lebanon, cited for driving uninsured, failure to install an ignition interlock device, driving while suspended. 400 block Russell Dr. Cited and released. Report taken.

2:36 p.m. - Crash reported in area of Berlin Rd./Fritz Lane. According to LCSO, Heather Vancil-Becker, 43, of Lebanon, was driving east on Berlin in a Chevy Silverado when she turned left in front of the oncoming Hyundai Elantra, causing a collision. The two vehicle

then struck a Ford Flex stopped at the stop sign on Fritz, in waiting to turn. Vancil-Becker cited for making dangerous left turn. LCSO did not provide identification of other two drivers. Report taken.

Nov. 6
8:23 a.m. - Vehicle reported stolen from residence in 1900 block River Rd. during previous night. Described as 2002 Chevy Silverado 2500, stolen from the location when the keys were left in it. Report taken.

10:52 a.m. - Firearm reported stolen from caller's vehicle during previous week. Value undetermined. 37100 block Pony Rd. Described as Ruger .22 revolver. Report taken.

11:35 a.m. - Jameson Mires, 55, of Lebanon, cited for driving while suspended, driving uninsured, Mountain River/Park drives.

1:13 p.m. - LCSO helped locate next of kin and identify deceased for another agency, 34100 block E. Lacombe Rd.

2:44 p.m. - Richard Ramsey, 54, of Lebanon, arrested for warrants. Brandy Dozier, 50, of Albany, arrested for warrant. Robert Edelhuber, 63, of Lebanon, arrested for warrant. Berlin/Brewster roads. Report taken.

3:23 p.m. - Stolen vehicle recovered in 42400 block Crockett Lane. Report taken.

Nov. 5
8:18 a.m. - Jesse R. Knox, 31, taken into custody on Washington County Circuit Court warrants for FTAs on original charges of DUII, reckless driving, criminal mischief II and eluding.

8:37 a.m. - Dustin Andrew Clarneau, 51, cited for civil trespass when found violating one year trespass from parks.

9:03 a.m. - Caller reported that someone claiming to be him was asking for money. According to LCSO, this was a scam in which members of the caller's church were receiving

See Public Safety, Page 8



DIAL-A-BUS

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



SWEET HOME SHOPPER

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

LINN SHUTTLE

MON-FRI 6 AM - 10 PM - 10 ROUTES PER DAY
SAT 7 AM - 7:30 PM - 6 ROUTES PER DAY
CALL FOR APPROVED FLAG STOPS

SWEET HOME:

FOSTER
SH CITY HALL
HOY'S HARDWARE
13TH & KALMIA
SHEA POINT

LEBANON:

WALMART
LBCC
PARK & OAK

ALBANY:

LBCC MAIN CAMPUS
TRAIN STATION
HERITAGE MALL
DOWNTOWN
SAT ONLY: KOHL'S & WINCO

STUDENTS RIDE FREE WITH STUDENT ID | ALL OTHERS \$1 PER TRIP
ELECTRONIC TICKETS - DOWNLOAD THE TOKEN TRANSIT APP: TOKENTRANSIT.COM
TICKETS AVAILABLE AT THE OFFICE OR ON THE BUS.
ONLY CASH ACCEPTED BY DRIVERS (EXACT AMOUNT, NO CHANGE AVAILABLE)

541-367-4775 | LINNSHUTTLE.COM | FIND US ON FACEBOOK

Crossword KEY

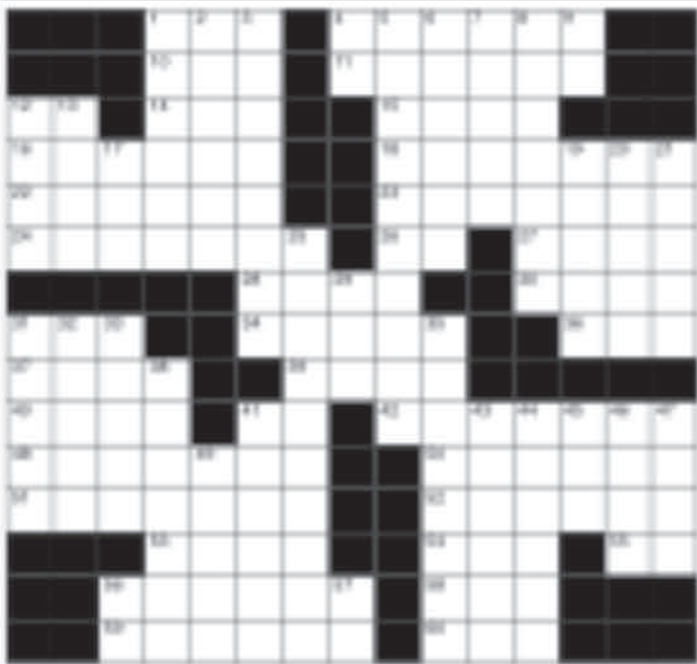
Puzzle on page 4

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

SUDOKU KEY

Puzzle on page 4

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

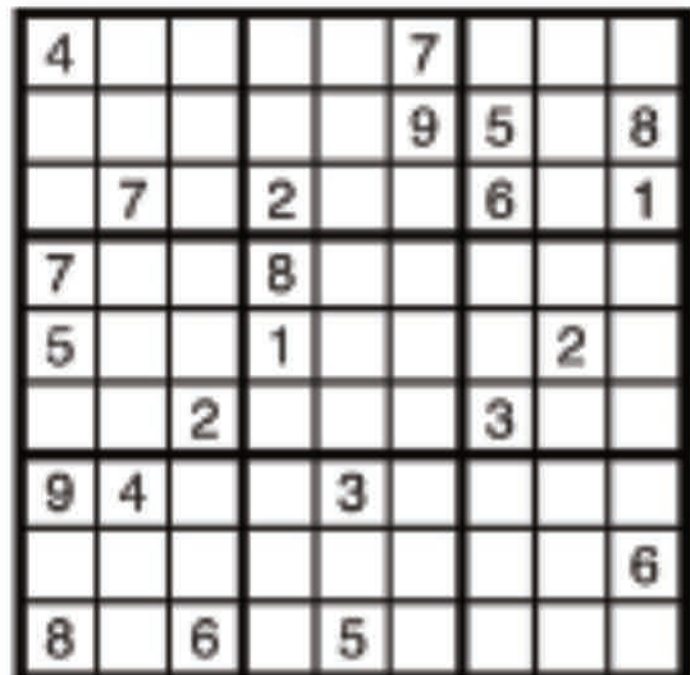


CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Color
- 4. English prince
- 18. When you'll get there
- 11. First
- 12. Activism
- 14. Greek letter
- 15. Pinnacled matter
- 16. One of a Polynesian island
- 18. Most species
- 22. What you own
- 23. Button-like ornament
- 24. Ancient city
- 26. Trauma center
- 27. CNN anchor (female)
- 28. Through (outside)
- 38. Lebowitz's nickname "The ___"
- 31. Pleading speed measurement
- 34. Waterbirds
- 36. WWI airship
- 37. Sudden attack
- 39. Abuse
- 40. Sac where fungi develop
- 41. Where instinctive impulses are manifest
- 42. Subcutaneous implants
- 48. Boats parts
- 50. Borne by or suspended in a liquid
- 51. Of the desert
- 52. Starbucks size
- 53. Ancient Roman garment
- 54. In a way, not alliterative
- 55. Sanskrit
- 56. Heavenly bodies
- 58. Matter in the solid state
- 59. Exchanged
- 60. Int'l organization

CLUES DOWN

- 1. Repair
- 2. A colorless colorless gas used as fuel
- 3. Delicacies
- 4. Spanish he
- 5. Miami Heat goal
- 6. More slick
- 7. Turn away
- 8. Made a second thrust
- 9. Where injured body parts end up
- 12. As quickly as can be done
- 13. Military digest
- 17. ___ and Dad
- 18. Mythological wind (Greek)
- 20. Slides without control
- 21. Principle or belief
- 23. Unusually large
- 25. Naturally occurring solid material
- 31. Backslides
- 32. L. egg-orange-brown butterfly
- 33. Old Testament prophet
- 35. Women's apartments in a Madison palace
- 36. One who waters down
- 41. Made a visual representation of
- 43. Continent
- 44. Flat pieces of rock
- 45. Very long period of time
- 46. Radioactivity units
- 47. Fields of study
- 49. Distinctive, pleasant smell
- 56. The Constitution State (abbr.)
- 57. South Dakota



Level: Intermediate

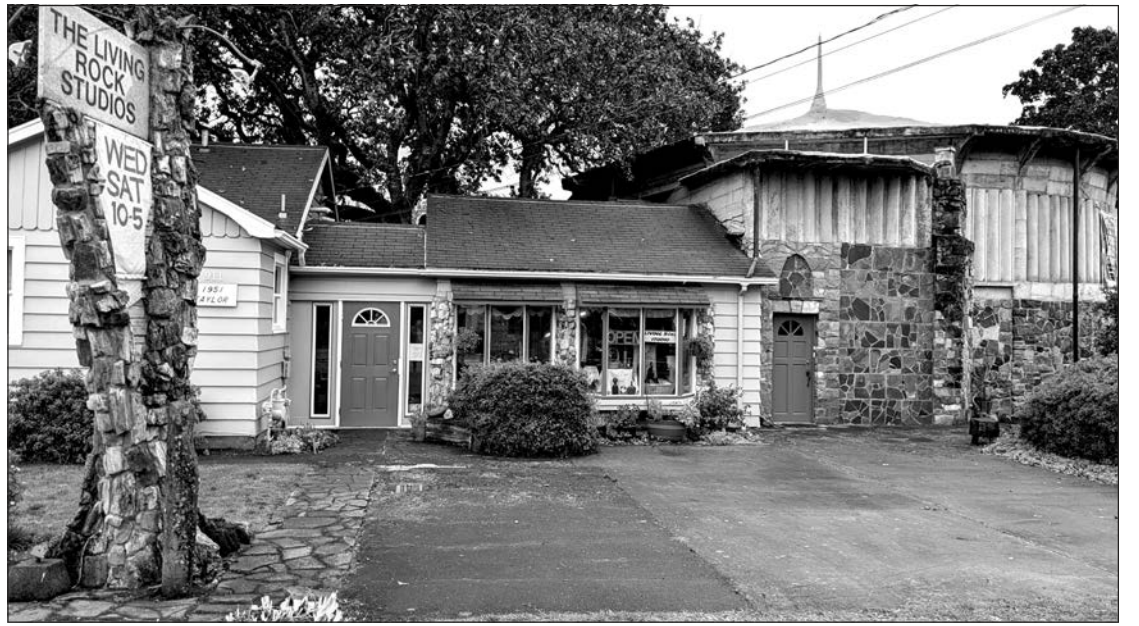


Photo by Sarah Brown

The structure of Living Rock Studios was built beside the Taylor's garage.

Rock of ages: Tribute celebrates 40 years

By Sarah Brown
Lebanon Local

Despite its unique appearance, Living Rock Studios sits unassumingly like a time capsule near the outskirts of Brownsville.

Within its stone walls are testaments of time – Earth's formation of rocks and minerals, historical manmade artifacts, and even stories thousands of years old recounted through the Bible.

David and Marilyn "Penny" Mackey observed the monument's 40th anniversary this year, harkening back to Oct. 13, 1985, when Penny's parents, Howard and Faye Taylor, celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary alongside the structure's grand opening.

Howard constructed the museum over the course of a quarter century. The monument could be seen as something of a tribute to God's works of geology.

Or maybe Howard just wanted to show people samples of his masonry skills.

That is, after all, how it began, according to David Mackey, who provided a tour of the studio.

The story goes that the Taylors moved to Brownsville from Cottage Grove in 1951. Penny was just a toddler at the time.

Prior to this, Howard worked for the Army Corps of Engineers, a job that took him and his family throughout Oregon. The work exposed him to unique rocks, crystals

and history that were being destroyed by man's expansion in the state. He was given permission to collect them for preservation.

After settling in Brownsville, Howard took work as a timber cruiser and land surveyor for the Schneider Lumber Company situated just behind their home. Only a few years later, though, Taylor had to quit due to declining health.

He then began a landscaping business, but soon found himself amidst a 14-month job removing and rebuilding the 400 tons of stone of Albany's Presbyterian church to reinforce its footings.

Meanwhile, he converted his garage into a rock shop and, to demonstrate his skills in stone masonry, began building walls of what would later become the Living Rock Studios.

Raw, organic shapes of rocks and crystals are found embedded between layers of flat, rectangular slabs of stone. These make up the first dozen layers a visitor is initially introduced to when entering the foyer. Some of the rocks have been sliced open to expose nature's hidden design within.

The entire tower, roughly two stories high, is estimated to be made up of 800 tons of rock from donations of a thousand rock hounds. The walls are composed of thunder eggs, quartz, tuffa, geodes, scoria, obsidian, agate, crystals, jasper, tourmaline.

Winding through the build-

notice glass jars cemented within the walls – jars that hold specimens of rock minerals. Every once in a while, his mini flashlight clicks on and David holds it up against an agate embedded in the wall to display its transparent nature.

If the entire structure is not Howard's magnum opus, then perhaps the seven Living Rock Pictures are. Using thin slices of select rocks, Howard shaped and carved each piece to form, like a puzzle, depictions of biblical stories. A light shines from behind each picture, revealing a stained glass-like painting and the natural lines each geologic specimen formed over hundreds of years.

And then there's the homage to the biblical "Tree of Life," floor-to-ceiling pillars made of petrified wood with "trunks" extending above the top floor to meet a 450-square-foot canvas of painted branches and leaves. It was Penny who contributed the canopy to her father's project.

It appears Penny inherited her father's creativity, though she took an interest in fiber arts more than anything. Her woven and felted works hang throughout the museum among her father's other creative pursuits of painting and wood carving.

But Living Rock Studios holds one other attraction for visitors: cultural history.

Artifacts from native tribes and items passed down through the family's generations -- clothing, spectacles, bibles, photographs, blankets, tools, instruments, dishes – all add an historical element to the geological showpiece.

Howard and Faye Taylor have long since passed, and it is the Mackeys who now invite visitors to appreciate the geological construction. Once they themselves pass on, David said, it will be up to God what happens to Living Rock Studios.

Living Rock Studios, located at 911 W Bishop Way in Brownsville, is open for tours from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Wednesday through Saturday.

The New Era
LEBANON LOCAL
A LOCALLY OWNED NEWSPAPER

LEBANONLOCALNEWS.COM
OFFICE: 1313 Main St., Sweet Home, Oregon
PHONE: 541-367-2136 FAX: 541-367-2137
WHO WE ARE:
Sarah Brown, Staff Writer - sarah@lebanonlocalnews.com
Miriam Swanson, Publisher - miriam@lebanonlocalnews.com
Mack Knebel, Ad Representative - mack@lebanonlocalnews.com
Scott Swanson, Publisher - scott@lebanonlocalnews.com
SUBSCRIPTIONS: Monthly - \$2.99 Annual - \$32.99
NEWS QUESTIONS / TIPS - news@lebanonlocalnews.com

Outgoing LFD Chief Rodondi leaving 'organization that stands apart'

By Scott Swanson
Lebanon Local

Joseph Rodondi had served for some 35 years at every rank in the fire service when he retired in 2015.

He'd started in 1983 after being introduced to the fire service through an emergency medical technician course at the local junior college in San Bruno, Calif.

A required ride-along with a local fire department changed the direction of his life, said Rodondi, now 61.

"I immediately fell in love with the fire service culture - what they do for the community, how they keep people safe and the sense of purpose that comes with it," Rodondi said.

He rose through the ranks - starting as a volunteer in March 1985 after earning a degree in fire science, and then moving on to firefighter, paramedic, engineer, captain, battalion chief, deputy chief and, ultimately, fire chief at San Bruno and then the nearby Livermore-Pleasanton Fire Department.

After a few years of retirement, Rodondi asked his wife Debra one day, "Do you ever get bored?"

"She said, 'You want to go back to work, don't you?'"

"I missed the excitement, going on medical calls and fighting fires," he said, adding that he kissed the gratification of assisting people in need "even when the outcomes aren't always positive. When you get into public service, it kind of becomes who you are."

They agreed that he would look around, see what opportunities might be out there.

And that's how Rodondi found the Lebanon Fire District, which was seeking a new chief to replace Gordon Sletmoe.

The Rodondis - he and De-

bra and their daughter Veronica and son Dante moved here in 2019. Their other daughter, Ashley, already lived in Florida at the time.

"It's been a wonderful experience," Rodondi said.

Busy Years at LFD

Rodondi has announced he will retire - for real, this time, after six years heading LFD. He plans to move to Minnesota, where most of their children live.

Since joining LFD at the end of 2019, Rodondi helped guide the organization through some of its most challenging and defining moments - a pandemic and then increasing financial challenges that face the department.

Almost immediately upon his arrival, COVID-19 struck, which forced fire and emergency medical service agencies across the country to re-think nearly every aspect of their operations.

"What didn't know when we unpacked our bags was that COVID was going to come out," Rodondi said, adding that he'd already experienced pandemics - avian flu, the swine flu. "This one was the biggest by a long shot."

"That was one of the greatest challenges of my career. We had to adapt overnight - protecting our people while still answering every call for help. I couldn't be prouder of how our members rose to that challenge."

Meanwhile, the district was midway through the construction of a new headquarters fire station, financed by a bond voters had approved in 2019, before construction costs skyrocketed during the pandemic.

"We had to stall the project," Rodondi said. "Many people wondered what was taking so long but we were being respectful of people's tax dol-

lars. We had to delay the project until constructions costs came to a simmer, not a roiling boil."

The 50-year-old LFD Fire Station 31 was decommissioned in September 2022 and construction crews began tearing down the old building a month later. Project leaders broke ground for the new construction in February 2023. The new station was completed a year later.

While negotiating LFD through the pandemic and the construction process were two of his big accomplishments, Rodondi said he's also worked on plenty of other issues, particularly building communication with the community and addressing increasing financial challenges.

He has prioritized modernization and community connection, leading efforts to update the district's website, expand its social media presence, and launch programs like the Fire Expo, which brings families together around fire prevention and safety education. One of his projects is establishing a data hub that will allow the public to monitor LFD's call load and responses.

"We've worked hard to show the community who we are and how we serve," Rodondi said. "Those relationships matter, and I hope that sense of transparency and trust continues long after I leave."

Early in his tenure with Lebanon, Rodondi championed a succession plan to develop leaders from within the district - an effort that now comes to fruition as several members move into new positions.

"When I arrived, one of the board's goals was to build an organization that could promote from within," he said.



Lebanon Fire District Chief Joseph Rodondi

"Seeing that plan succeed - watching our people step confidently into new leadership roles - is one of the accomplishments I'm most proud of."

He will be replaced by Division Chief John Tacy. Lt. Candace Hedding has been promoted to fire marshal, Lt. Jason Adamson has been appointed to deputy fire marshal, Division Chief Mark Fitzwater will transition from training to operations chief, Engineer Cody Manzi has been promoted to lieutenant, and Heath Nance has been appointed to firefighter.

Big Challenges for LFD

The fire district has been scrambling to find ways to trim its budget after approximately two-thirds of Lebanon voters who turned out in the May 2024 election rejected a 75 cents per \$1,000 levy request by the department. That would have provided funding for additional firefighters in an effort to improve response times.

That didn't happen, and

Rodondi said Lebanon, along with fire districts across the nation, is facing problems that many people don't see coming. The failure of the levy left the department with a budget shortfall calculated at \$865,000.

Rodondi said he's been able to cut staff via attrition, but most of the department's budget goes to staffing.

Lebanon's medics often have to handle multiple calls at once and the problem is going to get more difficult. On Jan. 1, 2026, Lebanon will reduce to two 24-hour ambulances, down from four units that were available during the day when Rodondi arrived, due to the financial constraints. One disappeared after COVID and the other has required "some reserves" to stay operational.

"Oregon's EMS is not considered an essential service," he said. "It's not supported by taxes. It's fee-based. Folks need to understand that EMS is funded differently."

"Many people don't understand that the fire district is not part of the city," he added, noting that he thinks that was a problem in the bond election. "Many people thought we were involved with the city, that we had plenty of money."

In Lebanon, 81% of the community is on Medicare or Medicaid, which only pay "three to four cents on the dollar," he said. "It's not sustainable. There's nothing affordable in affordable health care. We have an unsustainable pre-hospital-care ambulance system."

He said that many communities are already beginning to face "ambulance deserts" - where they are located more than 25 miles away from an ambulance station.

"It happened in Baker City,

See Rodondi, Page 16

TheNew Era
BUSINESS DIRECTORY
LOVE WHERE YOU LIVE, SHOP WHERE YOU LIVE.

EQUIPMENT
CASCADE
OUTDOOR POWER EQUIPMENT
"Powerful Equipment, Local Service"
HOURS: M-F 8AM-5PM
SAT 8AM-NOON
1215 W AIRWAY ROAD
LEBANON OR 97355
CASCADEPOWERLEBANON.COM
541-451-5213

FURNITURE
Hometown
Comfort Station
2550 S. SANTIAM HWY
f @ G
(541) 259-3646

HOME & GARDEN
SUMMIT
HOME & GARDEN
541-258-7107
www.summitacehg.com
ASK ABOUT FREE DELIVERY
FINANCING OPTIONS AVAILABLE
MON-FRI 7:30AM-6PM
SATURDAY 8AM-5PM
1055 TANGENT ST. LEBANON

INSURANCE
Eriksen & Irwin Agency
Enriching The Lives In The
Communities We Serve
COUNTRY
FINANCIAL
Auto • Home • Life
Business • Retirement
(541) 223-0404

JEWELRY
Trem's Jewelry
Custom Design
Diamond Specialist
722 S. Main Street
tremsjewelry.com
(541) 258-2888

LOANS
loanDepot
JOLENE MULLENIX
Loan Consultant
NMLS#853502
(541) 570-2322
www.loanDepot.com/jmullenix
Equal Housing Opportunity | 56 E. Airport Rd.,
Lebanon, OR 97355. loanDepot.com, LLC NMLS ID
174457. Licensed by the OR Division of Finance and
Corporate Securities, Mortgage Lending ML-4972.
(091923 120284-1723)

REAL ESTATE
OREGON
Real Estate
PROFESSIONALS
LLC
2345 S. Santiam Hwy., Lebanon
oregonrealestateprofessionals.com
(541) 258-6100

Teaching just tip of iceberg for parade grand marshal Dr. Derrick Sorweide

By Scott Swanson
Lebanon Local

If there's such a thing as a typical, ordinary medical school professor, Dr. Derrick Sorweide is probably not it.

That becomes pretty clear pretty fast as Sorweide sits in his office at College of Osteopathic Medicine of the Pacific-Northwest in Lebanon, where he was one of the team who started the school in 2011.

Oh, Sorweide is most assuredly a medical school professor. He teaches family medicine, and is the school's director of Healthcare Simulation.

But he's also an outdoors enthusiast and since 2016, he's been a military man, serving three extended tours around the world. Now a lieutenant colonel in the U.S. Army Reserves, he serves as the medical readiness and training command surgeon for the reserve component.

In recognition of his service, Sorweide has been chosen to serve as grand marshal of this year's Linn County Veterans Parade in Albany. He actually was chosen as the parade's grand marshal last year, but was unable to attend because he was being deployed in the Middle East last fall.

Medicine Came First

Sorweide's path to military

service has been a series of steps, not all of them planned.

He spent his early years in Washington, but largely grew up in Las Vegas, Nev., after his father, an airline pilot who didn't particularly like rain, decided to move there.

Sorweide initially worked in physical therapy, when "I decided to have a career change and applied to medical school."

He originally planned to attend medical school on a military scholarship, "however, those plans kind of went sideways when both my parents were diagnosed with cancer."

"My sister, who's a nurse, and I ended up hospicing them and that was not a good time for me to leave the country."

He received his doctorate of osteopathic medicine from Kirksville College of Osteopathic Medicine in Missouri before completing his residency in family medicine at the University of North Texas Health Sciences Center and Dallas Southwest Medical Center.

Sorweide said he'd always loved the Northwest, so "as soon as I got done with (the residency), I knew I was going to come out to Oregon. So I came out and established



File Photo

Lt. Col. Derrick Sorweide speaks at the Sept. 11, 2022 9/11 Day Flag of Honor ceremony held at the Circle of Flags at Boulder Falls in Lebanon.

Sorweide Family Medicine in Grants Pass. He continued there for 16 years before joining the team at COMP-Northwest.

"I'm actually one of the founders," Sorweide said.

He had gotten involved in the Osteopathic Physicians and Surgeons, an organiza-

tion that provides continuing education and representation for osteopaths in the state, and got acquainted with Larry Mullins, CEO of Samaritan Lebanon Community Hospital at the time, and Paula Crone, who later became dean of COMP-Northwest.

"That just blossomed, the relationships with a lot of people," he said. "I saw such a good group of folks, some of the best friends I'd ever made in my life, and it was a project that I knew I could put myself behind and that I wasn't, you know, I wasn't going to end up regretting it."

He sold his practice and moved north to help start the school.

He also met Dr. Leslie Stevens, a graduate of the College of Osteopathic Medicine of the Pacific (COMP) in Pomona, Calif., in Pomona, Calif., which is now the sister school for COMP-Northwest. They're now married.

Late Arrival to Army

Through it all, Sorweide had never lost interest in military service.

"I always wanted to serve in the military," he said. "I thought those days were over with, because I started having kids and started a practice and did all my things, and then I came up here to start working for the school, and suddenly I had a very supportive environment."

"The school has always supported my efforts to go into the military. My wife grew up in an Army family. Actually, her brother was my

See Sorweide, Page 11

Water loss, water rights: Sodaville takes two steps forward, one step back

By Sarah Brown
Lebanon Local

After a brief report on losing 70,000 gallons of water, Sodaville's City Council unanimously voted to pursue rights to drill multiple wells during its Oct. 16 meeting.

Public Works Director J D Burns reported a two inch pipe had blown out at Liberty Street around 4 a.m. on Oct. 9, causing a loss of about 70,000 gallons of water.

Burns, City Administrator/Recorder Molly McGuire, city councilors Roger Perry and Joseph Parsons, Mayor Brian Lewis and residents Brian Perry and Gerald Hutchman spent the morning fixing the problem.

"This is kind of the reason that we voted to do the \$10-per-meter-per-month maintenance fee, because when that line blew, it was blowing like a fire truck with the wa-

ter, and we had no parts," Lewis said. "We've gotta build up some parts, because we can't have a water burst like that and not have the parts to fix it. Every hour that that thing pumped, we lost a lot of water."

Next steps for new wells

A majority of the meeting centered around a decision the council had to make regarding the city's water rights application it submitted last year.

While the council was informed last May that the application for new water rights would likely be denied, Lewis reported this month that the state is now able to approve it. The application has been on administrative hold for a time so the city could figure out its next steps.

Lewis explained the city could keep the application as-is, which allows Sodaville

to ask for new water rights for a Well 6, or they could amend the application to include additional locations near Well 3 and near the reservoir tank. It would cost \$2,300 to make those changes.

"(The latter) would allow Sodaville options to have more of a free choice of where we can locate and place an efficient well," McGuire said.

Kind of tangled in with the latter option is the fact that the water rights for wells 3, 4 and 5 expired in 2015, so the city needs to ask for an extension to those rights which, if accepted, would last to 2035, Lewis explained.

Although it would cost money to amend the application, the upside is it allows the city to drill new wells at different locations, including what would be Well 6 on the Jackman property.

Thus, the council was faced with deciding whether to pursue Well 6 alone, as originally intended, or pay to amend the application for additional wells at different locations. They voted for the latter.

Another off-shoot to the discussion at hand was the costs the city will be faced with to build new wells.

Lewis indicated he believes the city would be in good straits if it could spend \$70,000 of the remaining funds for two wells while leaving the rest for water hauling in the meantime.

While the city was awarded a \$365,000 reimbursable grant to help build Well 6, some of that money has been chipped away for water hauling in the past couple of years. According to Lewis, there is now \$278,000 of that fund remaining. The city earmarked another \$130,000 for

water hauling, \$44,000 for engineering, and the remaining \$104,000 for well-building, if all goes as planned.

Parsons acknowledged the delicate balancing act needed to pay for water hauling while also keeping funds available to build wells that would essentially put a stop to the need for water hauling.

Part of that balancing act includes the fact the city must first pay for its water and construction bills before the state will reimburse the city.

"It's like a double-edged sword," he said. "To me, money is no option. We'll spend what we need to spend to make it happen. But what? - You just piddle away all your money water-hauling all summer?"

In other business:

- Burns announced that McGuire earned a Small Systems Operator certificate, which allows her to operate small public drinking water systems.

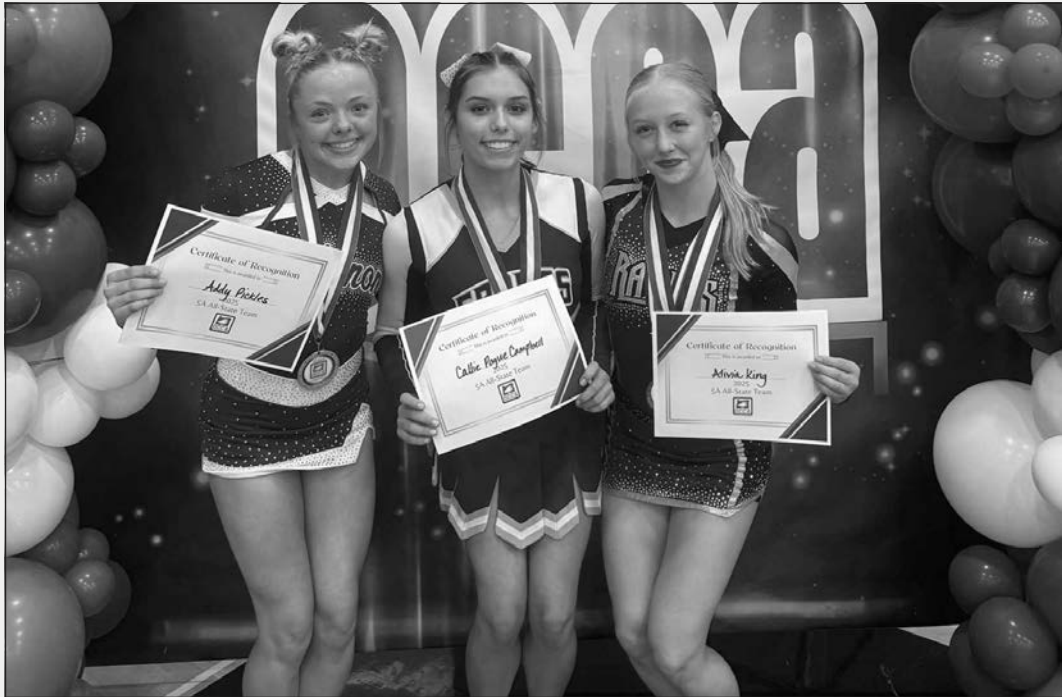
- Burns reported that the pump for Well 3 has died.

- Burns reported that water is being hauled in from Lebanon about three days every week.

- McGuire reported the Water System Expansion grant is now successfully amended, allowing the city to be reimbursed for water hauling costs.

THE ACTION
Stream
willamettevalleysports.com

KSHO
94.1 FM-920 AM
The Best Music
www.ksho.net



Lebanon's Pickles claims fourth 5A individual title

Lebanon's Addy Pickles, left, with Eagle Point's Callie Pogue Campbell and Crescent Valley's Alivia King, won her fourth straight 5A individual cheer title at the 2025 OCCA All-State Competition Oct. 18, completing a clean sweep of the state championships as a Lebanon Warrior. Along with the titles of All-State Team Member, cheerleaders who placed in the top three of the individual divisions also receive academic scholarships. Lebanon's stunt teams were fourth and fifth in the state at the competition

Santiam Station sold to Albany Railroad

By Sarah Brown
Lebanon Local

The City Council approved the sale of the Santiam Travel Station following a public hearing during its Nov. 12 meeting.

The company that operates Santiam Excursion at the site purchased the property for \$525,000.

Councilor David McClain clarified the property will return to the tax roles. He also asked what the proceeds could be used for, as he would be interested in using some of it toward the library expansion project, if necessary.

Finance Director Brandon Neish said it will be up to the City Council to determine what to use the proceeds for.

The property, consisting of approximately 5,500 square feet on a third of an acre located at 750 S 3rd Street, was acquired by the city in 1996 from Southern Pacific Railroad. It has served as the City Council Chambers and was leased to Albany & Eastern Railroad for use as a ticketing office and passenger waiting area.

The council moved its chambers to the Lebanon Public Library's community room this year and soon after discussed the possibility of selling the vacated property, followed by legal procedure to do so.

An appraisal done last year by Jackson Group NW valued the property at \$560,000. Linn County listed the Real Market Value as \$609,390.

Albany & Eastern Railroad (RB Acquisition LLC, Rick Franklin Corp.) made an offer for the property in the amount of \$525,000. The

terms include shared closing costs, with the buyer responsible for one-half of the escrow fees and all recording charges. The seller will cover the cost of a standard title insurance policy, any applicable excise or conveyance taxes, and one-half of the escrow fees. In addition, the seller will pay a brokerage commission of 3%.

According to City Manager Ron Whitlatch, it cost the city about \$10,000 a year in utilities to maintain ownership of the property, and there are about \$60,000 in improvements that need to be done.

In other business, the council:

- Approved an ordinance

amending the City of Lebanon Development Code regarding changes to code interpretation procedures, and park and recreational trail land use categorization and permitting.

- Approved and ordinance vacating public right-of-way on Crowfoot Road.

- Introduced Shana Olson as the city's new development services director.

- Authorized a transfer of appropriations for the City of Lebanon 2025-2026 budget, which gives expenditure authority to the library to acquire design work for the expansion project. The library has a special revenue fund of about \$400,000.

FREE McMuffin® Breakfast Sandwich
of equal or lesser value with purchase of any McMuffin® Breakfast Sandwich



Valid only at Lebanon, OR McDonald's®
Not valid with any other offer, discount, coupon or meal. Limit one coupon per person per visit.
Cash value 1/20 of 1 cent.

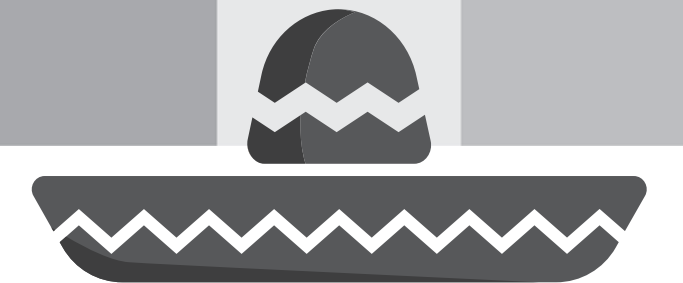
Expires 12/31/25

FREE Medium Fries and Medium Soft Drink
With purchase of a premium sandwich valued at \$2 or more



Valid only at Lebanon, OR McDonald's®
Not valid with any other offer, discount, coupon or meal. Limit one coupon per person per visit.
Cash value 1/20 of 1 cent.

Expires 12/31/25



TAQUERIA DOS ARBOLITOS
Great Mexican Food!

50 W. Oak St., Lebanon
541-258-5798

IxtaPa Mexican Restaurant



Gift Certificates Available Now!
\$2 OFF ANY LUNCH OR DINNER
Not valid with any other offer.

25 N Santiam Hwy • (541) 451-3995
ixtapamexicanrestaurant.com

Mon. - Thurs. 11 A.M. - 9:30 P.M. | Fri. - Sat. 11 A.M. - 10:30 P.M. | Sunday 11 A.M. - 9 P.M.



DOWNLOAD OUR APP
TO SEE OUR DAILY SPECIALS



Online Ordering • Outdoor Patio Section • Oregon Lottery
Sun-Thur: 8am-8pm | Fri-Sat: 6am-9pm
(541) 367-1560 • 6305 US 20 Foster • pointstweethome.com



Photo courtesy of T-Mobile

T-Mobile representatives present a check for \$100,000 to Lebanon after the Warriors finished second in the nationwide Friday Night 5G Lights competition.

Warriors finish second in T-Mobile contest, but Lebanon scores \$100,000 for stadium

T-Mobile announced Oct. 30 that the Lebanon Warriors have scored an additional \$100,000 in the company's Friday Night 5G Lights competition — bringing Lebanon's total winnings to \$130,000.

Lebanon finished second to Dierks High School in Arkansas, which will receive \$1 million for a stadium makeover.

Dierks came out on top in the competition, involving 2,100 high schools across the nation, after the state of Arkansas rallied behind the tiny school (Dierks had a population of 960 in the 2020 census, down from 1,333 in 2010), located just north of Texarkana, Texas. Dierks finished with 1,988,665 votes. Lebanon was second with 1,457,848 votes — a difference of 530,817. Lebanon's total was nearly triple that of Dexter Regional High School of Dexter, Maine, which finished third.

Lebanon's award comes in addition to the \$25,000 the school earned as a Top 25 fi-

nalist, along with \$1,000 for applying, bringing the total to \$126,000 in cash support for the high school.

Additionally, the school earned \$5,000 from taking part in the T-Mobile contest last year.

"We are incredibly proud of our students, staff, and community for the way they rallied together,"

said Lebanon Community School District Superintendent Jennifer Meckley. "What began as a contest turned into a celebration of Warrior pride and unity, and we are grateful to T-Mobile for recognizing that effort."

Lebanon was the only Oregon school to reach the Top 25 in the national competition. The Friday Night 5G Lights program shines a spotlight on high schools demonstrating exceptional school spirit and community support.

"Lebanon High School is incredibly proud and grateful to accept this \$100,000 con-

tribution from T-Mobile," said LHS Principal Craig Swanson. "This journey has showcased the best of us, and we deeply appreciate the overwhelming support we received from our school, our community, and the state of Oregon.

"I love Lebanon, Oregon, and am thankful that the rest of the state and nation got a glimpse

of how great and supportive this community truly is."

The Lebanon Community School District plans to set aside the funds to address the grandstands at Heath Stadium. The grandstands, built in 1957, were closed earlier this year due to structural issues. Currently, Warrior fans sit in the small visiting section of the stadium, and visitors sit on a set of bleachers on either side of the closed grandstands.

More information on the grandstands on the district's website: www.lebanon.k12.or.us/connect/heath-stadium-grandstands.

PUBLIC SAFETY

From page 3

text messages from a random number claiming to be the victim, asking for money. LCSO said no money is known to have been sent. 600 block Cascade Dr.

11:27 a.m. - Billy Wayne Hatch Jr., 48, cited for driving while suspended, LMC warrant for FTA, AMC warrant for FTC on original charge of contempt of court, LJC warrant for driving while suspended, Salem Municipal Court warrant for FTA, and SHMC warrant for contempt of court. Car impounded.

1:26 p.m. - Harley Dixie Gene Tinker Vader, 20, cited on LMC warrant for FTA and LCCC warrants for FTAs on original charges of unauthorized use of a vehicle, criminal trespass and FTAs.

4:14 p.m. - Branden L. Harvey, 38, cited for driving while suspended and failure to display.

4:26 p.m. - Tyson Lee House, 18, cited for driving uninsured.

4:37 p.m. - Anna R. House, 41, cited on Benton County Circuit Court warrant for attempt to commit felony, and LCJC warrant for littering.

9:01 p.m. - Caller reported subject wearing plastic bags for clothes and using stick to dig in storm drains. Subject said he was fixing a drainage problem.

Nov. 4

9:36 a.m. - Fraud reported when male called female saying he was from the bank and scammed her into taking money and depositing it into a machine at Albany Walgreens. Loss: \$500.

1:44 p.m. - Female claimed to have power of attorney over dad who has dementia and staying at assisted living facility. She told staff she was picking him up to visit grandkids, but also said she was going to lose house and needed to prove she was taking care of him. She claimed her brother is a con artist trying to steal from

dad and saying he has POA. Investigation showed female has history of fraudulently trying to steal from dad.

4:08 p.m. - Report taken for theft of shoes from Wilco from a couple. The next day they tried to return the shoes in Salem. Loss: \$110.

4:31 p.m. - Theft of battery charger and inverter at Wilco reported. Loss: \$190.

6:09 p.m. - Travis Justin Lee Mack, 23, of Lebanon, cited for careless driving relating to motor vehicle crash, Oak St./Fir Rd. According to LCSO, Mack had just worked on the brakes on his Dodge Dakota pickup truck, but they didn't work and he rear-ended a stopped car in traffic. Injuries reported. LCSO did not provide name of other driver. Report taken.

6:48 p.m. - Austin Brennen, 36, of Lebanon, cited for failure to obey traffic control device, Main Rd./Hobbs St.

9:58 p.m. - Car crash into mobile home park house, 200 block Market St. Riley Shane Huntoon, 21, arrested for DUII, reckless driving and criminal mischief II. Report taken.

10:22 p.m. - Riley Shane Huntoon, 21, cited on LCSA warrant for contempt and SHMC warrant for contempt.

Nov. 3

9:04 a.m. - "Highly intoxicated" subject with large glass bottle of beer walking in circles in high school parking lot (not a school day). Jacob Joshua Jimenez, 34, trespassed from the school property for 30 days.

10:15 a.m. - Caller reported finding ash from a small fire in Citizens Bank entryway.

10:32 a.m. - Jeremy Lee Durrant, 46, arrested on domestic incident, 1300 block S Grove St.

11:56 a.m. - Littering reported on Weyerhaeuser property in area of Mount Pleasant Rd./Keel Mountain Dr.

12:14 p.m. - Officer investigating suspicious circumstance of male falling off bridge in Marion County and

See Public Safety, Page 14

REP. JAMI CATE@OREGONLEGISLATURE.GOV 503-986-1411

JAMI CATE
STATE REP

Hey Lebanon!

I'm here to serve you!

Never hesitate to reach out to my office for help with government agencies, concerns over legislation, or to get clarity on things happening in Salem!

Get my emails!
Visit my Legislative page to register for my in-depth and informative emails.

Subscribe at OREGONLEGISLATURE.GOV/CATE

VISION SOURCE
SIGNATURE EYE CARE

Experience Modern Eye Care

Lifetime Vision Source of Lebanon offers comprehensive eye care services and in-demand lenses and frames to Lebanon and the surrounding communities.

Lifetime Vision Source of Lebanon
90 Market St. Ste 20
Lebanon, OR 97355
541-451-1144
lifetimevisionsource.com



Photo by Sarah Brown

St. Martin's congregants celebrate the church's 75th anniversary.

St. Martin's Episcopal church celebrates 75th anniversary

By Sarah Brown
Lebanon Local

Members of St. Martin's Episcopal Church celebrated the church's 75th anniversary with food and fellowship on Oct. 25.

Technically, the congregation first began meeting in October of 1949 in the recreation room of Wiltshire Hall, now known as the second floor of the old Wells Fargo building. Worship services later moved to the Rose Room banquet hall in the old Lebanon Hotel.

By 1950, the congregation was able to break ground on its first of three buildings that would make up the church at the northeast corner of Grove and E Milton streets. The parish hall was completed in October 1950, the vicarage in October 1951, and the church in September 1957.

During the past several decades, the church has served the community with tutoring services for children, annual observance of the Blessing of the Animals, and particular attention to low-income and homeless ministries, including laundry service, meals, personal care kits, a food pantry and other support services.

The celebration was observed under a canopy of musical notes by pianist Lydia O'Brien. Historical facts, information and photos were spread around the parish, with hors d'oeuvres stationed strategically throughout. Guests were invited to drop a note for a time capsule, encouraged to try to win a prize with Episcopalian trivia, and given opportunity to recommend a good joke for the church newsletter.

Expanded library expansion expected

By Sarah Brown
Lebanon Local

During the City Council meeting on Nov. 12, Library Director Kendra Antila provided an update on the library's pursuit of an expanded children's room.

According to Antila, a needs assessment was recently conducted, causing the library staff to realize there was more demand for the children's room than previously expected. In other words, they would need to increase the planned expansion project size.

"Our initial project underestimated the true scope of community needs and growth," she said.

When the library and its board initially began discussing an expansion project in 2017, the children's room was being used for five different story times, which was "always really loud and disruptive to the library," Antila said.

Today, there are fewer story times yet an increase in other activities, such as after school and teen programs. Furthermore, with the City Council Chambers now located inside the library's community room, there's even less available space to utilize for children's activities.

"It became very obvious



Photo courtesy of Lebanon Public Library

that that little 500 square foot space was not gonna be enough for all the different types of programming that we do," she said. "Nor did it allow us for growth."

The addition would include gathering space for various children's activities, including a soundproofing feature. There would also be additional shelving space, perimeter seating for parents and stroller storage, windows for parents to observe their children, fully enclosed patio space, and unobstructed access to the family restroom, children's section, staff office and storage.

The original project design was 746 square feet, with an expected total cost of \$0.7

million. The updated project design is 1,605 square feet with an expected total cost of \$1.5 million.

Antila emphasized that while the scope of the project is smaller than other city initiatives, it will not even require any additional city funds. That's because she plans to fund the project with grants, community fundraising, and business partnerships. She's particularly hopeful to be able to secure the full cost through a Community Development Block Grant.

The library will apply for the grant next fall. So far, Friends of the Lebanon Library have raised \$50,000 for the project.

EXCITING NEWS YOUR NEWSPAPER IS GOING WEEKLY!

We're thrilled to announce that, starting January 2026, your Lebanon Local is moving from monthly to weekly! We are merging Lebanon Local and Sweet Home News to be ONE East Linn County news publication. That means more local news, more community updates, and more of the stories you care about – every week.

UPDATED SUBSCRIPTION PRICING

With this change, our subscription options are being updated to reflect the increased frequency and expanded coverage.

Special Offer good thru March 2026 – Get 6 months for only \$32.99 – that's less than \$1.30 per week!

After that, the annual rate will be \$79.99 per year – Just \$1.53 per newspaper*, a great value for weekly delivery right to your mailbox.

*Lebanon Local is currently \$2.75 per newspaper

If you are a current subscriber, we are pro-rating expiration dates for each individual subscriber to reflect the weekly subscription pricing. If you want to take advantage of the special 6-month rate, give us a call, or submit a payment before March 31, 2026 and we will add 6 months to your subscription.

- You will have access to both Lebanonlocalnews.com & sweethomenews.com.
- You can also sign up to receive the Morning Grind newsletter weekly in your email highlighting top stories.

STAY CONNECTED, STAY INFORMED, AND SUPPORT LOCAL JOURNALISM!

SUBSCRIBE TODAY TO GET THE SPECIAL RATE SO THAT YOU DON'T MISS A SINGLE ISSUE!

PLEASE REACH OUT TO US IF YOU HAVE QUESTIONS: 541-367-2135

The New Era and Lebanon Local Staff – Scott, Miriam, Sarah, Casey, Mack & Jessica

SAMARITAN

From page 1

the two finalists, he said Samaritan board members unanimously selected MultiCare.

Introducing MultiCare

MultiCare's history dates back to 1882 with the establishment of Tacoma's first hospital, and it has since grown since 1980 into the largest community-based, locally governed health system in Washington state. The organization operates more than 300 primary, urgent, pediatric and specialty care locations across Washington and Idaho and – with the addition of Samaritan – Oregon, as well as 13 hospitals totaling 2,926 beds, staffed by 25,000-plus employees and more than 2,300 clinicians.

Ten of its hospitals offer acute care and two are behavioral health facilities. MultiCare's services include neurology care, same-day surgery, retail imagery services, and is about to open a new children's hospital in Tacoma, none of which are offered by Samaritan, Cahill said.

Also, according to its tax filings in recent years, MultiCare has been profitable every year during the period of 2011 through 2023, during which Samaritan as a whole has finished in the

red, financially, in 2021-2023, 2016 and 2014, and profits have been seven figures or less in five other years during the 2011-23 timespan.

Cahill attributed that to smart planning and investing by MultiCare: "All the things they do are the right fits for MultiCare, their community," he said. "They just have tools and technology and investments through which they've been able to gain great efficiencies in their hospitals, in the partnerships they've done."

He said MultiCare has a "significant treasury because they've been successful."

"They've done a very good job. They're very disciplined with their investment strategy. There are things we can learn from them."

For MultiCare, Samaritan's health plan was of high interest, Cahill said, and it operates a hospice, which MultiCare lacks.

The health plan component was critical to MultiCare's interest, he said.

"If the healthcare plans go away, we're not interested' – that's how valuable they are."

Another positive that Samaritan brings to the table is that it is an "employer of choice" in the region, he said.

"We have people with 10,

15, 20, 30, 40 years of service and they liked that."

Benefits for Samaritan

Paperwork to begin the process of merging was filed earlier this month.

The merger agreement, which is expected to be completed by the middle of next year, includes a commitment of \$700 million over 10 years from MultiCare, which would assume ownership of Samaritan's assets. When the merger is complete, Samaritan will have one seat on MultiCare's Board of Directors, which will bring the number of board members to 13.

Cahill said Samaritan leaders hope the cash influx will fund a new wing for Good Samaritan Regional Medical Center in Corvallis and possible upgrades to the "very small" emergency room at Albany General Hospital.

Plus, he said, MultiCare has experience in creating medical facilities that Samaritan has not: free-standing emergency rooms, ambulatory services such as same-day surgery and retail imaging centers. He noted that the organization has established Indigo walk-in urgent care clinics throughout Washington and northern Idaho, and could do the same in Samaritan's territory.

County Commissioner Roger Nyquist asked how the merger might affect Samaritan in its abilities to recruit medical practitioners – doctors, nurses, physician's assistants and others.

Cahill noted that those vacancies have largely been created by retirements, though he acknowledged that because many young doctors now work for large corporations rather than small practices, it's easier to move to perceived greener pastures.

Cahill said medical

schools are not producing enough new doctors and nurses to fill the void, which makes recruiting such professionals even more difficult, particularly in a rural region.

MultiCare intends to bring in more primary care and specialty care doctors, Larissa Balzar, Samaritan's vice president of strategy and planning, interjected. She noted that it had added 60 physicians at Yakima Memorial Hospital, with which it merged in 2023, "which really had been struggling before that."

"We believe they will help in recruiting," Cahill said. "They have a secret sauce in hiring folks."

He also said that Samaritan's name will likely remain on its facilities, though MultiCare's could appear as well.

"It's wildly expensive to change signs," he said.

Also, there will be no changes in 2026 to insurance plans currently accepted at Samaritan facilities, he and Balzar said. More information about health insurance is available at samhealth.org/InsuranceBilling.

'Cultural Alignment'

Cahill said there is "cultural alignment" between the two – "similar philosophies."

Like Samaritan, MultiCare is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit. Cahill said the organization operates on four "pillars" which, he said, govern all the decisions its board makes:

- A moral obligation to deliver best health system possible;
- Local governance and decision-making;
- Trust within the community; and
- Cultural transformation to become customer- and community-centric.

"They say it a little differ-

ently, but that's exactly who we are," Cahill said. "That resonated with us. When you look at what people do, where the money's spent, you can see what's important to them."

He said MultiCare uses a "win-win-win" philosophy to determine its courses of action: "success for patients, success for both partners, success for MultiCare."

MultiCare's goal, he said, is to serve one-third of the population of the Northwest, and it is moving into southern Idaho as well as Oregon, which is another reason why it is interested in merging with Samaritan.

Samaritan's location in the Willamette Valley and its assets give MultiCare a chance to make a splash in Oregon, he said.

"That's a position of strength. They chose us for a reason. When you look at the Willamette Valley, we will be a foundation for MultiCare moving forward."

"I think size makes a difference in healthcare today and they have tools that I think can really help us."

He used a sports analogy to explain why Samaritan decided to make a move, citing the example of the Pac12 conference, which underwent a major membership realignment in 2024 when four members – Oregon, Washington, UCLA and USC – bolted to the Big 12 when the Pac12's media rights deal expired.


"Teams had choices and opportunity, but if you waited too long and the music stopped, that was gone."

Samaritan's senior leadership viewed a merger with MultiCare as "a win-win-win for us," he said.

"MultiCare's strongest capabilities match Samaritan's needs."

For additional information on the merger, visit samhealth.org/Affiliation.


LOCAL SERVICE - POWERFUL EQUIPMENT



CASCAD

E

OUTDOOR POWER EQUIPMENT



541-451-5213 • 1215 WAIRWAY RD-LEBANON

WWW.CASCADEPOWERLEBANON.COM

Waterloo council seat becomes vacant

The Waterloo City Council learned at its Oct. 14 meeting that a council seat has become vacant after a councilor resigned from the position.

City Councilor Adam Beskow, who was not present at this meeting, turned in a letter of resignation earlier in the month. He told Lebanon Local he left for several reasons, but added, "I believe it's important to make space for fresh perspectives and new leadership, and now feels like the right time to step aside."

Beskow was first voted into office in 2020, serving a four-year term between 2021 and 2024. He was re-elected in the 2024 election and served the first nine months of that term.

The council voted for Councilor Russell Tolen to replace Beskow as council president. The city will put out a notice informing the community the council is accepting inquiries of interest to fill the seat, which ends Dec. 31, 2028.

Interested parties must be a resident of Waterloo.

In other business:

- City Hall hours were changed to Tuesdays and Thursdays from 8-11 a.m.
- Resident Jason Cripe had questions about a variance for ADU minimum lot size and sewer work.
- Resident Sissy Willard said her husband can help with moving bus stops.
- Outgoing City Recorder Justin Cary informed the council the city's insurer

may have grants available. A grant the city just applied for could replace a back door at City Hall.

• Street Master Chad Wolfe reported he will install a stop sign at 6th and Card streets.

• Code Enforcement Officer Dennis Scott reported some letters he sent out have been returned by the post office.

• Mayor Justin Sawdon reported he and some councilors are preparing to repair and move some bus stops.

• The council approved a motion for pro-tem City Recorder Grace Reed to attend a basic governmental training presented by the League of Oregon Cities.

SORWEIDE

From page 6

first commander, and her dad commissioned me.

"So she said, 'Hey, you've always wanted to do this. Why don't you? You're not too old. Go do it.'"

So he did, joining the Army Reserves in 2016.

"I was a late bloomer in the Army," Sorweide said. "I commissioned at 49."

He started working in a combat support hospital (CSH) as a primary care doctor.

"My job was pretty much to make sure, early on, that all the other soldiers around me were fit to go and do these deployments and assignments that they received. And so we did all the primary care part of that."

In 2018 he got tagged to deploy to the Middle East.

"I got a call and they said, 'Hey, you've done hospitalist work. You've also done some ER work. Would you mind being an ER doctor for this deployment?'"

"And I was like, 'I can do that.'"

He said that deployment, in Kuwait and then in Iraq, established his reputation as an ER doctor.

"That kind of let the military know that I can function in that manner," Sorweide said. "And most of my other deployments have been in that regard."

During COVID, he was deployed as an ER doctor to South and Central America, where the Army was carrying out anti-drug and anti-human trafficking efforts.

Thanks to COVID travel restraints, he was deployed for nine months that time - in what was supposed to be a 90-day stint that was prolonged due to the pandemic.

Plus, he was forced to stay in the Texas desert "in the middle of nowhere" for three weeks before and after the Central America deployment at an "old World War II tank gunnery range with a Quonset hut - that's where they put us up."

"By the time we left, three weeks later, there were, like, 80,000 people living out there because the entire military couldn't leave the country. There was a travel ban, so they were just sticking us all out there to quarantine us.

"They had taped-off sections, like 100 yards by 100 yards and that was your thing. You couldn't cross over because they didn't want to contaminate groups, right? So, yeah, it was interesting."

Most recently, he worked in eight different countries in the Middle East as part of a command team that focused on humanitarian work. Currently, he holds the position of command surgeon for the 2nd Medical Brigade of the U.S. Army Reserve, overseeing all medical military personnel in six western states.

"So actually, I saw a few patients, but that wasn't my role. My role was to make sure everybody else was doing their job. So we oversaw eight countries and what the medical teams in those eight countries had to deal with."

Then, last spring, he got diagnosed with cancer, from which, Sorweide said, he's recovered.

Outdoors Orientation

Meanwhile, not only does he run academic programs at the university when he's not deployed, but Sorweide also advises COMP-Northwest's Military Medicine Club and its Wilderness Medicine Club.

Over his years at COMP-Northwest, he also founded Joint Military Medicine Trauma Training events in Lebanon, a bicycle interest group for students and Crash Cart Talks - informal educational sessions designed to teach medical students and staff how to respond to emergency situations and the use of a medical crash cart, which carries medication and equipment used to save lives in hospital emergencies.

"I love austere medicine," said Sorweide, who also said he enjoys fly fishing, hunting and general outdoors recreation. "I love, you know, going out in the middle of nowhere to do what I do. So I'm having a lot of fun."

"When I lived in Grants Pass I was a huge fly fisherman," noting that he lived near the junction of the Rogue and Applegate rivers. "I fished all the time, pretty much for my sanity."

He said he and students will be putting on a winter medicine conference at Mount Hood this year.

See Sorweide, Page 12



Photo courtesy of Maya Milhon

Maternal Care Coordinator Gaby Esquivel, MPH, at left, shows a sample of care kits donated by MOMS Club members Maya Milhon, center, and Larisa Neilson, right, with their children.

MOMS

From page 1

Eight months later, with baby number two on the way, Neilson put a call out on social media to form a new chapter.

She didn't know what to expect, but five mothers showed up to the first meeting and more have since joined, she said. So far, their members come from Albany, Halsey, Lebanon and Scio.

The Mid Valley MOMS Club is still only a toddler itself at one and a half years, but what the women say they've found therein is a community.

"I think, personally, the biggest benefit has just been to find other moms in a similar situation," said Maya Milhon, vice president and mother of two in Lebanon. "I think a lot of us are newer to the area, and as adults it's hard to find your community...It's like, where do you even start?"

The group meets four times a month: once in Lebanon at a park or library, once in Albany at a park or library, once at Immanuel Lutheran Church in Albany (which provides a free meeting space for the club), and once for moms-only night.

The gatherings provide mothers a chance to connect with other mothers, to talk about their days and their wins, and to provide support for each other.

"I think that's been the biggest benefit for me, is just giving me a place that I know I can start, and moms that get it - they know the chaos, the craziness," Milhon said.

It also helps burn some of the day that may otherwise seem endless when a toddler demands constant attention.

"It's much more easy for me to get through my day because I always break my day into their two wake windows," Neilson said. "I have to fill up the morning and I have to fill up the afternoon-evening."

For Neilson the entire morning is already accounted for on meet-up days.

While Neilson admits being a stay-at-home mom is a blessing, it can also be very isolating - and that's the very foundation of why Mary James started the national club in 1985.

In this day of social media, Neilson still sees mothers seeking that familiar connection as they reach out with posts looking for mom groups or asking for ideas of things to do with kids, or maybe just looking for someone to join them for a walk in the park.

"My vision is just that they would see we are here," Neilson said. "You can come and have that support, have the things to do, have the set-up park date so you're not a mom sitting there on the bench by yourself saying 'I really wanna go talk to that mom, but I don't want to be awkward.'"

Fischer agrees.

"It's nice having something where it's like, even if you don't feel like socializing, it's so good for you to just get out into public and talk to other moms, talk to adults," Fischer

said.

The Mid Valley MOMS Club is part of an international nonprofit group where members pay \$20 a year. It is not religiously affiliated.

This year, the moms raised money to fund a service project geared specifically for mothers. They packed their 80 little care packages and donated them to Lebanon Community Hospital and Mid-Valley Birthing Center.

"A lot of people donate baby things to hospitals, which is super sweet," Neilson said. "After you have your baby and getting a hand-crocheted blanket or a hat is lovely, but I'm not sure any of us have ever experienced something for the mom. So we wanted to do something that was a little gift for mom."

It was a chance for the group to let new mothers "feel seen," with a special invitation letting the mom know "We are here for you, so when you feel like going back out into the world again, come find us and make some friends."

Voters approve Sheriff's Office levy in November 4 election

A majority of Linn County voters approved the four-year law enforcement levy request by the Linn County Sheriff's Office in the Nov. 4 election.

As of Nov. 7, 52.54% of voters had approved the levy, with 47.46% opposing it.

The new levy, which runs through 2030, will increase from the current rate of \$2.98 per \$1,000 of assessed value to \$3.08 per \$1,000. The levy would generate an estimated \$184,595,812 over its four years, beginning July 1, 2026.

A total of 29,731 voters cast ballots, which is a turnout of 29.65%.

AVAMERE
REHABILITATION of LEBANON
A PART of the AVAMERE FAMILY of COMPANIES

350 S 8th, Lebanon OR 97355
541-259-1221





Photo by Sarah Brown

From left, Mark Fitzwater and John Tacy prepare for a badge pinning ceremony during the board meeting on Oct. 20.

New fire chief steps in

Two chiefs were sworn in to their new roles at the Lebanon Fire District, one of which replaced Joseph Rodondi as fire chief, during the Oct. 20 Board of Directors meeting.

Fire Chief John Tacy

John Tacy began his fire service journey as a volunteer with the Lacombe Fire District before joining LFD in 1985. During the past four decades, he held nearly every operational role — firefighter, engineer, lieutenant, battalion chief and division chief — gaining an understanding of the district's operations and the community it serves.

"I am just happy to serve in any capacity in the community I grew up in and love," Tacy said. "I've been fortunate to experience 40 years of proud moments — watching our members rise to challenges, helping our neighbors through tragedy, and witnessing how resilient and hard-working the people of LFD truly are."

Tacy credits his parents and the many mentors he's worked with for shaping his leadership.

"My mother and father were two of my biggest inspirations. All the chiefs and captains I've worked with have taught me something valuable," he said.

As Fire Chief, Tacy plans to focus on advancing the district's readiness and adapting to the changing landscape of emergency medical services.

"I'm very happy to be able to serve the community of Lebanon and lead such a dedicated team," he added.

Division Chief of Operations Mark Fitzwater

Mark Fitzwater's career began at an early age, inspired by his father, who served as the district's training officer.

He first participated in a burn-to-learn exercise at age 16 — a moment that confirmed his passion for the fire service, he said. After graduating from Lebanon High

School in 2002, he joined the district as a volunteer firefighter and became a full-time firefighter/paramedic in 2007.

Over the years, Fitzwater has served as engineer/medic, lieutenant, battalion chief and division chief of training, earning a reputation for professionalism and mentorship, Rodondi said.

"I always wanted to work at LFD because this is my hometown," Fitzwater said. "It's difficult to move away from training because I truly enjoy it, but our district is experiencing growing pains with increased call volume and limited staffing. I feel I can best support our personnel and community by moving into operations."

In his new role, Fitzwater will oversee emergency operations, staffing coordination and resource planning — work that will help guide the district as it continues to meet the needs of a growing community.

In other business:

- Rodondi reported there are five additional property owners since last month who applied to annex into the district.

- Rodondi reported he's spoken to Samaritan Health's Valley Regional CEO Sy Johnson. Their discussion included the beginnings of a plan to figure out how the health and ambulance providers can limit the number of transports they do long-distance, such as Portland or Salem, or even further, which cause lost revenue.

- Tacy reported they are inspecting the roof at Station 34, which is damaged, to determine why it's damaged and how to repair it.

- Rodondi encouraged the board to consider going again to voters for a levy. He said going for a November ballot would be better than a May ballot, which they did last year and only saw a 33% voter turnout.

Lebanon board members hear ICE plan for school district

By Jennifer Moody
For Lebanon Local

As far as Superintendent Jennifer Meckley knows, federal immigration authorities haven't come looking for any students in the Lebanon Community School District - yet.

But if and when they do, the district has policies and procedures in place for how to respond.

Meckley shared that information Thursday, Nov. 13, as part of the November meeting of the school district's Board of Directors.

She said she'd been part of an informal roundtable during a recent conference of the Oregon School Boards Association at which it was suggested that, with Immigration and Customs Enforcement action happening in various parts of the state, local boards might like an update.

Meckley reminded board members that the district follows federal and state laws. A child's citizenship status is not part of the information kept, and "we do not play a role in immigration enforcement as a school district."

However, she said, she knows people are worried, particularly because ICE has been reported in Albany, as well as other parts of the state.

"There's a heightened awareness, heightened fear among our staff and our families," she said.

Doors at Lebanon schools are kept locked. If a federal official were to contact a

school office looking for a child, the office personnel are instructed to contact the superintendent, who would then inform legal counsel. Only a judicial warrant could clear the way for access to a child, Meckley said.

Perhaps a bigger fear among families, she went on, is that they might be taken into federal custody without their children's knowledge and without anyone left at home after classes let out.

Meckley told board members she's encouraging families to work together and with the district's bilingual community liaison to come up with emergency plans and contact information. In a later interview, she added that creating such a plan is a good idea for all circumstances, not just in cases of immigration action.

Meckley said Lebanon hasn't experienced a sharp increase in absentee rates, nor has it noted any uptick in bias incidents.

"But even if one of them feels uncomfortable, we want to protect them," she said.

Board members voiced no questions or concerns about Meckley's information.

In other business Thursday, the board heard an update from student representative Cade Weber about a donation from T-Mobile for finishing second in the wireless network company's "Friday Night 5G Lights" competition. (See page 8)

Lebanon didn't get enough votes for the \$1 million grand prize, but is scheduled to re-

ceive a \$100,000 check for second place during a special assembly at the high school Friday. That combined with other winnings in the contest - about \$130,000 in all - will be put toward replacing Heath Stadium.

The stadium was built in 1957 and the roof was added in 1962. District officials closed the stadium for safety reasons earlier this year, citing structural problems and corroded concrete. Graduation was held on the football field itself and no fans sat in the stands during Warrior games this fall.

Chief Operating Officer William Lewis said the T-Mobile funds should cover most, if not all, of the cost of demolition for the stadium. That's to take place this spring. After that, building a replacement will depend on donations and district funds.

Board members also on Thursday declined to move forward with any changes in policy that would allow them to receive payment for their board service.

Meckley noted to the board that recent changes in state law mean members now can receive compensation for serving, but said various policies would need to be updated before the district could begin working toward that.

Board members said they weren't interested in pursuing that path. "There's too many other things the district needs to do with that money," Chair Nichole Piland said.

SORWEIDE

From page 11

"All my students are actually participating in that with me."

COMP-Northwest club members compete against teams from half a dozen other medical schools, nursing programs and military groups in "Med Wars."

"They get together in the Northwest and they compete, and you have to build a fire from scratch. You have to build a shelter from scratch. You have to do these medical scenarios. You have to rescue people out of a ravine, out of the water."

Sorweide said he is waiting to find out how long his military career will continue.

"I turned 60 this year," he said. "So I'll find out this year, if I'm still in the Army or not, whether they can extend me past 60. There's got to be a need for it."

His four children are all out of the house — none pursuing medical careers — and his wife is nearing retirement from Kaiser Permanente in

Keizer.

"She's done it all correctly," Sorweide said wryly, adding "Where I did all the stuff that we were told not to do in the '90s but I did it anyway."

The Sorweides have three grandchildren.

He and Leslie enjoy camping, he said, noting that they'd just returned from a long-postponed outing, delayed by his cancer treatments.

"We'd been putting it off and I wasn't going to put that off any longer," he said. "We went out in the middle of the East Oregon desert and found some hot springs and went up in the Steens Mountains."

"I love Oregon. There's no other state where I can have ocean, mountains, desert — whatever I want, all within an hour. Oregon's got everything I'd ever want."

He said he also likes fishing with one of his sons, who's a firefighter for Oregon Department of Forestry.

"The little bugger has become a much better fly fish-

erman than me," Sorweide observed, adding that being in the woods frequently puts his son at an advantage over his dad.

"He finds streams that we don't know about. So every year we try to do what we call our "trout bomb" trip, where we just go out and we dirt bag it and go fishing. I'm loving getting back to that, especially as I think my Army career is about to come to an end. I'll have more weekends available to me."

One gets the strong sense that Sorweide's found ways to do things he's enjoyed, including teaching, without a lot of regrets.

"I have always felt very fortunate," he said. "I was born with a good mom and dad, and a good family with a decently strong body and a decently strong brain."

"I felt like I owed the world that. My way of giving back has been to go and do things." — Emily Campbell of COMP-Northwest contributed information for this story.

Brison Edwards named Player of Year after leading Warriors to title

Following are Lebanon players named to the Mid-Willamette Conference and the District 3 Football All-League Teams for the fall 2025 season.

Football

The Warriors finished as District 3 champions, 6-0 in league play, 8-2 overall.

All-League Offense honorees were:

Brison Edwards, senior, Offensive Player of the Year

Logan Large, senior, first team (unanimous choice) receiver, first team return specialist

Dylan Juntunen, junior, first team tackle

Gavin Wilson, junior, second team guard

Zech Halsey, senior, second team receiver

Cade Weber, senior, second team running back

Wyatt Eastman, senior, honorable mention tackle

Grady Cox, junior, honorable mention tight end/H back, honorable mention placekicker

Jack Whitacre, junior, honorable mention running back

Troy Alker, Coach of the Year

All-League Defense honorees were:

Cade Weber, senior, first team linebacker

Logan Large, senior, first

team safety

Grady Cox, junior, first team linebacker

Zech Halsey, senior, second team linebacker

Brison Edwards, senior, second team cornerback, honorable mention punter

Cohen Vandiver, junior, second team cornerback

Rowan Jones, senior, honorable mention safety

Lukas Pratt, senior, honorable mention defensive interior lineman

Kobe Zurfluh, junior, honorable mention defensive interior lineman

Eddy Kennedy, Assistant Coach of the Year

Volleyball

The Warriors finished 5-9 in Mid-Willamette Conference play, 11-13 overall, and seventh in the MWC. All-conference honorees are:

Regan Haim, junior, honorable mention outside hitter

Anna Marshall, senior, honorable mention outside hitter

Hazel Pepperling, junior, honorable mention middle blocker

McKenna Villarreal, junior, honorable mention setter

Macie Ellis, junior, honorable mention defensive specialist

Boys Soccer

The Warriors finished 1-8 in the MWC, 1-12-1 overall, and

ninth in the conference.

Omar Amador, junior, second team midfielder

Sam Tunstill, senior, honorable mention forward

Landon Savri, senior, honorable mention midfielder

Girls Soccer

The Warriors finished 3-6 in the MWC, 4-11 overall, and eighth in the conference.

All-conference honorees were not available at press time.

Cross-Country

Lebanon's Jocilynn Durgeloh, a senior, was the Warriors' top finisher in the girls district championship race held Oct. 30 at Western Oregon University, running 21:17 to finish 19th. Freshman Julia Hearn was 27th in 22:11, followed by sophomore Brooklyn Davis, 34th in 23:04; and freshmen Hannah Pool, 36th in 23:19 and Kapri Collins, 37th in 23:25. Lebanon was fifth out of eight scoring teams.

For the boys, senior David Brandt was 21st in 18:18, followed by senior Gunner Harris, 45th in 19:54; senior Carson Quigley, 50th in 20:30; junior Ethan Johnson, 52nd in 20:35; senior Landyn Whitley, 58th in 21:46; and freshman Abram Plagman, 59th in 21:49.



Photo by Sarah Brown

Garden club members and other volunteers converge on the cut bank at Riverview Park to plant cuttings along the South Santiam River for erosion control.

Garden Club committee plants cuttings to control erosion along Santiam River

By Sarah Brown
Lebanon Local

To someone who may have walked along the trail near Riverview Park on Oct. 25, they would have noticed an unusual sight: a handful of people sticking twigs in the ground.

Those twigs, it is expected, will grow into a lush grouping of vegetation, something of a barrier between the South Santiam River and the flood plain. But what's more important is the function their roots will play to keep dirt in its place.

It was Lebanon Garden Club members and other volunteers who were seen at the park's riverbank that day. Clothed in sweaters and rain gear, they stuck hundreds of twigs – more appropriately termed cuttings, in this case – in the ground with a desire to halt the erosion there.

Club member Linda Ziedrich who noticed the problem and brought it to the club's attention.

"I was watching the erosion

year after year and worrying about it," she said.

The Garden Club's new Community Project Committee has been talking about getting involved in park projects, she said. They visited several parks in the city, including Riverview Park where erosion is apparently becoming a problem.

City staff and the South Santiam Watershed Council met with the committee to help determine how the club could help.

The volunteers planted about 200 cuttings consisting mostly of willow, red twig dogwood, rose and bitter cherry. They returned a week later to plant blue elderberry, douglas spirea, snowberry, and Oregon grape. Ziedrich said they might return in February to add alder cuttings and other plants.

The cuttings they used were taken from native plants in the area, said Matt Herb, who emphasized the importance to establish native plants, otherwise invasive breeds will take over.

Pool renovation plans treading water

By Sarah Brown
Lebanon Local

The Lebanon Aquatic District heard an update on expected pool renovation costs during its Oct. 20 board meeting.

William Lewis, COO for the Lebanon Community School District, told the board he was in communications with a pool specialist contractor to determine what could be done about needed renovations.

"I'm trying to get the bare-bottom expense," he said. "What is it that we can do with the money we have? What is it that we need to do to keep the useful life of the work that we do in the 30-year range or more?"

The contractor made it clear the district shouldn't go too low on scope.

"The bottom line is, if you want the work that's done to last 30 years, you don't want to go too cheap, and then you have the tile and materials are all falling apart at 10 or 15 years," Lewis said.

Furthermore, when they're talking about work that should last 30 years, they're really hoping to be able to stretch it to 40 or 50 years.

"I guess the point is we don't want to cheapen out on materials, we don't want to cheapen out on the process," he said. "So we've kinda come up with

a bare-bones scope of what it would take to re-do the gutter system, re-line the pool."

But a project like that includes other expenses, such as design work, permits and other fees.

Lewis said it's best to get the design work done ahead of time and apply for the required permits, which take time. That means that by the time the design and permits are paid for, the board will begin to see a deficit in their funds.

"So I need to be straightforward with that. We've gotta bridge that gap somehow in order to proceed with the pool project."

While it would ultimately be cheaper to get all the renovations done in one go, it may be necessary to do it in phases, based on available funds.

Board member Jereme Guenther asked if the project cost is still expected to be around \$1.5 million or lower, to which Lewis responded they're looking more along the lines of \$1.75 to \$1.8 million. That number, however, includes all the added fees (permits, geotech, etc), as well as any unexpected costs that may arise during construction.

"That budget does include contingency for that," he said.

In other business:

• Aquatics Director Jill Smith

reported swim lessons have begun for third grade classes, and new stairs have been installed for the main pool.

• Board member Darla Bulmer reported she made changes to the forms for oral requests and communications. Board member Julie Miller said she would like policy changes to be discussed at board meetings rather than done without approval outside meetings.

• Rose Kress provided an update to the board from Friends of the Lebanon Pool. Jim Knaup asked the nonprofit if they could fundraise for new steps for the warm pool, and there is a donor who may be interested in kickstarting that. There is a plan for a second annual Splash for Cash event next year. The first event this year raised \$14,000 for the pool.

• Board member Elaine Wilder reported more painting will be done on the pool building by medical college students, and there is an idea to have a mural contest.

• Bulmer reported membership in Swim Club is the largest it has been in 10 years, and discussed with the board ideas to solicit donations from people who would like to buy swim passes or club membership to families.

Lebanon's New Neighbor Program

Lebanon is welcoming new residents to town by extending hospitality from our local merchants as well as maps and guides to help them settle in Our Town!

And it's FREE!

If you or someone you know is new to Lebanon and would like a New Neighbor Packet

Stop by the Lebanon Chamber of Commerce
Monday-Saturday
1040 S. Park St., Lebanon



Waterloo's recently hired recorder enjoys serving rural communities

By Sarah Brown
Lebanon Local

A new city recorder has begun working at the City of Waterloo.

Grace Reed, of Lacombe, was hired on a pro tem basis while she goes through a trial period. She was selected by the City Council in September from among eight applicants.

Reed was raised in North Albany and Lacombe. After high school, she interned at a law firm where she assisted with legal paperwork. She later secured a job at the Albany Police Department as a records clerk.

"I thought that would have been my career, but I realized I wanted something a bit more," she said. "I really enjoyed the government aspect of it, and service is really important to me, so I knew I wanted to stick with something like that, but I needed a lot more flexibility."

Reed resigned from the police department so she could pursue a bachelor's in business administration, which she expects to complete next year. She anticipates pursuing a master's for public administration, or something similar.



Photo by Sarah Brown

City Recorder Grace Reed took over the position in October.

The city recorder job at Waterloo allows her to serve a rural community, which is important to her, she said. She also works part-time at an assisted living facility, where she enjoys getting to serve the se-

nior community.

Outside of work, Reed coaches Oregon High School Equestrian Teams (OHSET) and is trying out as rodeo queen title for Sisters Rodeo.

PUBLIC SAFETY

From page 8

his girlfriend in Lebanon later transferring his car title into her name.

12:34 p.m. - Customer told smoke store someone was going to rob them that day, 1100 block S Main St.

1:15 p.m. - Caller reported dog complaint in 38600 block Knighten Lane. According to LCSO, these dogs have history of running at large. Citations pending. Report taken.

4:01 p.m. - Caller reported theft of tote-style tool box from truck, 500 block W Rose St.

4:27 p.m. - Caller reported driver running through red lights southbound from Ixtapa area.

5:11 p.m. - Caller reported theft of items from Dollar Tree. Loss valued less than \$15.

8:31 p.m. - Male called a business and repeated over and over, "Hello, I'm masturbating."

9:19 p.m. - Callers reported hearing male or female in car screaming for help, driving south on 5th St. near Ash St.

Nov. 2

2:42 a.m. - Domestic disturbance call of fight between female and family, 000 block Oakway Pl.

7:47 a.m. - Domestic disturbance call of "large family brawl," 000 block Oakway Pl. Conflicting stories. Yelling about feces on wall and alcohol given to child. Two subjects transported to hospital. DA to

review potential charges. Report taken.

12:35 p.m. - Callers reported subject riding small gas-powered motorcycle on sidewalk and trails around town.

2:24 p.m. - Daniel Fergusson, 31, of Lebanon, arrested for warrants, possession of meth., 2200 block Porter St. Report taken.

3:13 p.m. - Deputy contacted people blocking timber gate on Cascade Timber Consulting property in 37600 block Middle Ridge Dr. They moved their vehicle.

3:46 p.m. - Debora Sue Rannebeck, 65, cited for driving uninsured.

5:18 p.m. - Brittney Elliot, 33, of Lebanon, cited for warrants, 300 block Russell St. Report taken.

5:19 p.m. - Caller reported trespassed subject at Walmart. Shania Sims, 27, cited for trespass I and theft II.

Nov. 1

2:50 a.m. - Caller reported hit and run on parked car near Sam's Place. Officer believes maybe a tow hitch from car in front of victim car backed into front end.

8:05 a.m. - Isabella Wynn, 23, of Lebanon, cited for driving uninsured, driving without privileges, failing to display plates, Porter/Primrose streets. Vehicle impounded. Report taken.

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

REAL ESTATE SOLD

Following are Lebanon, Sweet Home, and Brownsville area real estate transactions recorded with the county during late October and November 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:

36062 Providence School Rd., Lebanon; 1620 sq.ft., three bedroom, two bathroom, 2001; 42.5 acres; \$1,440,000.

109 Nandina St., Sweet Home; 1356 sq.ft., one story, two bedroom, one bathroom, built in 1951; 0.17 acres; \$250,000.

2605 Promise Way, Lebanon; additional details not listed; 0.3 acres;

\$1,200,000.

182 Joy St., Lebanon; 1318 sq.ft., one story, three bedroom, two bathroom, built in 2016; 0.15 acres; \$405,000.

2195 Janna Ct., Lebanon; 1298 sq.ft., one story, three bedroom, two bathroom, built in 2004; 0.16 acres; \$385,000.

2847 10th St., Lebanon; 1008 sq.ft., one story, three bedroom, one bathroom, built

in 1979; 0.18 acres; \$172,000.

2381 Mountain River Dr., Lebanon; 2925 sq.ft., two story, three bedroom, 2 1/2 bathroom, built in 2007; 0.13 acres; \$477,000.

34198 Lacombe Rd., Lebanon; additional details not listed; 3.53 acres; \$845,750.

1227 Walker Rd., Lebanon; 1330 sq.ft., one story, three bedroom, two bathroom, built in 1994; 0.2 acres; \$425,000.

365 Main St., Lebanon; additional details not listed; 0.29 acres; \$410,000.

30651 Spring St., Lebanon; 1300 sq.ft., one story, three bedroom, one bathroom, built in 1957; 0.6 acres; \$200,000.

1280 Ashwood Ct., Lebanon; 1471 sq.ft., one story, three bedroom, two bathroom, built in 1994; 0.18 acres; \$444,000.

760 Elmore St., Lebanon; 1276 sq.ft., one story, three bedroom, two bathroom, built in 1956; 0.23 acres; \$272,500.

34180 Lacombe Rd., Lebanon; 2640 sq.ft., triple wide Mobile home three bedroom, 2 1/2 bathroom, built in 1997; 8.61 acres; \$280,000.

31501 Stoltz Hill Rd., Lebanon; 1316 sq.ft., one story, two bedroom, two bathroom, built in 1950; 4.72 acres; \$655,500.

2759 12th St., Lebanon; 1667 sq.ft., one story with attic, three bedroom, one bath-

room, built in 1997; 0.14 acres; \$379,000.

1342 Filbert St., Lebanon; 1394 sq.ft., one story with attic, three bedroom, two bathroom, built in 1940; 0.21 acres; \$350,000.

37289 James Pl., Lebanon; 2142 sq.ft., one story, three bedroom, two bathroom, built in 1965; 0.51 acres; \$449,900.

41601 Beaver Ln., Lebanon; additional details not listed; 2.51 acres; \$230,000.

40 Pine St., Lebanon; 720 sq.ft., one story, two bedroom, one bathroom, built in 1942; 0.15 acres; \$289,000.

1257 Filbert St., Lebanon; 1488 sq.ft., one story, three bedroom, two bathroom, built in 1950; 0.16 acres; \$370,000.

1222 Laurel Ct., Sweet Home; 1074 sq.ft., one story, three bedroom, two bathroom, built in 2004; 0.14 acres; \$305,000.

4309 Highway 20, Sweet Home; additional details not listed; 3.58 acres; \$1,000,000.

27835 Meridian Heights Ln., Sweet Home; 2376 sq.ft., one story, three bedroom, 2 1/2 bathroom, built in 2010; 0.68 acres; \$660,000.

448 Strawberry Ln., Sweet Home; 1478 sq.ft., one story, 1 1/2 bathroom, built in 1984; 0.32 acres; \$339,000.

1011 Pleasant Valley Rd., Sweet Home; additional details not listed; 36.21 acres; \$407,000.

2345 S. Santiam Hwy
Lebanon, OR 97355

(541) 258-6100

OregonRealEstateProfessionals.com



Photo courtesy of Cole Harnar

Brison Edwards runs the ball on a return during the Warriors' win over Dallas to clinch their league title.

Football season ends early for Warriors after first-round upset

By Mike Warner
For Lebanon Local

Lebanon's football season ended suddenly – and a bit prematurely – as the fourth-ranked Warriors lost in the first round of the 5A state playoffs to 12th-ranked Churchill, 21-8 on Friday, Nov. 7.

The game had all the earmarks of a hard-fought game between two quality teams and it lived up to expectations.

But Lebanon had trouble getting its offense on track early on and it was clear that Churchill intended to keep the ball out of the hands of Warriors quarterback Brison Edwards, the Special District 3 conference Player of the Year, and first team all-league wide receiver Logan Large.

The Lancers, who finished third in Special District 4 with a 6-3 record, 6-2 in league, used their ground game to keep the hosts off

the field.

They worked their plan to perfection holding Lebanon scoreless in the first half.

Lebanon's defense came to play, recovering three fumbles in the first half, but they did not translate into scores.

Churchill scored a touchdown just before half but the point after was blocked and the Lancers led 6-0 going into the locker room.

The third quarter was hard-fought with neither team establishing control. Churchill scored a touchdown with under three minutes remaining in the quarter and successfully converted the two-pointer to make it 14-0.

The Lancers scored another touchdown in the fourth quarter, extending their lead to 21-0. Lebanon finally got its offense untracked late in the fourth quarter, scoring on a short touchdown pass from Edwards to Large and following

that up with a two-point conversion late in the quarter. A successful on-side kick gave the Warriors reasons for hope but Churchill was able to squelch the rally and get out of Heath Stadium with the 21-8 win.

Lebanon's potent offense was held to a total of 167 yards for the game including 89 rushing and 77 passing. Churchill had 353.7 total yards including 256.1 rushing and 97.6 passing. Lukas Babbitt racked up 182 yards rushing and scored all three of the Lancers' touchdowns.

Edwards finished 11 for 22 in the air, throwing for 103 yards and leading the Warriors on the ground with eight carries for 15 yards.

After winning the league title with come-from-behind wins against Silverton and Dallas, the conference's other post-season teams, the Warriors finished 8-2 overall, 6-0 in Special District 3.

Modified Green Peter drawdown to be on short rope this year

By Sarah Brown
Lebanon Local

As the end of the year approaches, parts of the Willamette Valley once again face the annual deep drawdown of Green Peter Reservoir. But maybe this year it won't be so bad.

According to Dustin Bengtson, operations project manager for the Willamette Valley and Rogue Basin projects with the United States Army Corps of Engineers, the Corps will try to reach their target reservoir level by Dec. 1.

"It's a little different than it has been in years past" he said. "We're supposed to try to get to that target elevation by the first of December. And then, different than in prior years when we were trying to achieve a 30-day operation at that level, this year is planned for two weeks."

As such, the Corps plans to hold Green Peter Reservoir at 780 feet above sea level between Dec. 1 and Dec. 15.

At the beginning of October, the cities of Lebanon and Sweet Home filed a lawsuit against the Corps of Engineers based on claims the Corps violated the Clean Water Act and Administrative Procedures Act. Lebanon, suing for \$26 million, and Sweet Home, suing for \$11 million, say the drawdowns caused a heavy sediment load on their water treatment systems, which caused damages and higher costs to provide clean drinking water.

In 2023, the first year of the deep drawdown, the Corps started releasing water from Green Peter Reservoir in late summer as they attempted to reach their target level by mid-November, but they actually reached the target a month early. They held the pool at its targeted level until mid-December.

The following year, in 2024, the Corps began

drawing down in mid-October to reach its target elevation by mid-November, with an expected 30-day hold period. However, drinking water risks from downstream municipalities halted the operation, and the Corps began allowing the reservoir to refill by Nov. 23 that year.

Greg Taylor, USACE Supervisory Fisheries Biologist for the Willamette Valley and Rogue Basin Projects, said water has already been getting released from Green Peter Reservoir this year, but it's more of a gradual release.

"Because the inflows to Green Peter are significantly lower than the releases, the reservoir elevation will continue to drop slowly," he said.

As for the water's turbidity, it should not be noticeable until later this year than in previous years.

"Based on previous monitoring, we have been able to tie the onset of turbidity to the elevation of the reservoir," Taylor said. "It looks like this year we should not see turbidity increase until November, barring anything unusual with the weather."

Bengtson said the Corps is currently not working under the 2021 injunction that forced the deep drawdown, but they are working under "a modified operation to achieve the same objective."

Kathryn Tackley, a program manager at the Portland District, reported these drawdowns should be considered the "new normal" until USACE constructs physical fish passage structures to replace the need for the drawdowns.

The Corps maintains regular communication with the affected cities, Bengtson said.

More information about this year's drawdown, as well as upcoming informational meetings, is expected to be announced by USACE soon.

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

KGAL

SmartTalk 1580

www.kgal.com

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

Central Bark Sales

5265 South Santiam, Lebanon Oregon 97355 • 541-451-2373
Winter Hours: Mon. - Sat. 8-4 - Closed Sundays



BOO BASH IN LACOMB

Lacomb Elementary PTC held their annual Halloween "Boo Bash" on Oct. 25, inviting families to come in their favorite costumes and check out spooktacular activities. Stopping points along the hallway allowed kids to grab candy or toys, or they could pop into the gym for games and prizes. At top left, pirate Rowdy Edmonds, 8, gives away some of his booty. Above, parents hand out snacks and drink. At right, kids try to stack eyeballs in a STEM activity. Below left, Owen Urrutia tries his hand at ball toss as Kathy Bias offers some pointers. Above left, "chickens" hand out egg-celent candy. See these and many more photos at lebanonlocalnews.com.

Photos by Sarah Brown



Thank you to the Lebanon community for embracing WesternU student doctors since 2011.



Western University of Health Sciences

COMP-Northwest, which is becoming Heatherington College of Osteopathic Medicine, and the College of Health Sciences-Northwest are committed to preparing Oregon's compassionate health care professionals and extending service and care into the community.

LEARN MORE Oregon.WesternU.edu

RODONDI

From page 5

where they didn't pass a levy.

"We're starting to see organizations struggle," he added, noting that Eugene/Springfield is conducting a study of the problem.

Politicians haven't responded aggressively "because it's not their priority," he said, adding that Republicans aren't eager to raise taxes and for Democrats, EMS woes "don't fit into their spending model."

"My feeling is it will take a collapse to get their attention," Rodondi said.

Retirement Again

The Rodondis plan to move to Minnesota, where the "majority" of their three children now live, he said.

"Our goal is to spend time with our family, help them do the things around their houses that my parents and grandparents helped us

with - how to do paint, electrical, plumbing.

"My family has sacrificed a lot for my career. Now it's my turn to give that time back."

He said he plans to continue to stay in touch with what's going on in the fire district and support Oregon's fire service through legislative and policy work while spending more time with his family.

"I've worked for three different organizations in two different states," Rodondi said. "Lebanon has been the best by far - the culture I've dealt with, the people in these Oregon stations. They do so much with so little, without hesitation, griping. And then they keep coming back to do more."

"Of all the organizations I've had the honor to serve, this one stands apart."

"It's been my privilege to lead them."