

The New Era

Serving East Linn County since 1929

SWEET HOME • LEBANON • AND SURROUNDING COMMUNITIES

JANUARY 7, 2026

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Remembering 2025: Year in Review

The past year was an eventful one, with some big highs, as well as some lows. Following is our recap of some of those stories that affect east Linn County communities.

January

- Scott and Miriam Swanson returned to The New Era and Lebanon Local after having sold it one and a half years ago to a former employee. They issued a statement that the business was near financial collapse and it would take a community to help keep it going. The community responded with donations and support necessary to keep the newspaper operating until it could regain its financial footing.

- First baby of the year at Samaritan Lebanon Community Hospital comes from Lebanon couple Aleah and Caleb Vandehey. Selah Cove Vandehey arrived at 8:29 p.m. on Jan. 1, weighing 6.6 lbs. at 18.5 inches.

- Being sworn-in to the Sweet Home City Council for the first time were Chelsea Augsburger, Ken Bronson and Aaron Hegge.

- Lebanon City Council declined a proposal that would have allowed nonprofit orga-



Joe Nichols performs at the 2025 Oregon Jamboree in early August, the final chapter for the festival.

nizations supporting low-income housing to be exempt from property taxes.

- A train carrying agricultural materials derailed after a trestle collapsed in Corvallis, leaving a train car in Mary's River and another two dangling.

- A car crashed into a newly-installed bollard at the Lebanon Chamber of Com-

merce. This was the third crash at the building in two years.

- Brothers Trevor and Travis Ayres, suspects in an altercation in Sweet Home, fled from police and struck a passenger car in the process. When Travis was located a week later, he fled in reverse gear in his car, striking several cars, including police. He fled on

foot, but was arrested.

- Jerod Norman, of Sweet Home, was arrested after detectives believed him to be involved in the death of his girlfriend, Mariah King, who was allegedly found by Norman hanging in his shed.

- Linn County residents Dustin and Jennifer Nehl were arrested in California for al-

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Catalytic converters stolen off six Lebanon school buses

Six school buses were damaged last weekend as someone broke into the Lebanon Community School District transportation yard and stole the catalytic converters from the buses.

The issue was discovered Monday morning by bus drivers, who arrived to ferry students after the completion of winter break.

According to Michele Steinhebel, director of communications for the district, the break-in occurred over the weekend. She said the situation resulted in "short delays" for some bus routes as staff made sure the remaining buses were operational.

"Thankfully, due to the quick actions of our drivers and the use of some of our smaller activity buses, all routes were able to be completed this morning and students or schools were not impacted," Steinhebel said.

The Lebanon Police Department is investigating the theft, Steinhebel said.

She said a fence was cut by the suspect(s) to get into the yard and who ever is responsible was able to avoid security cameras.

The stolen equipment is specialized for school buses, and replacement parts may take time to obtain, Steinhebel said, adding that transportation delays may occur as repairs are completed.

She said district staff were awaiting estimates on the cost of new catalytic converters, but said the cost will likely be nearly \$3,000 each, not counting mechanics' time or other "soft costs."

"We don't have a solid number yet,"



Photo courtesy of Lebanon Community Schools
Sawed-off exhaust pipes, left and right, show damage on a school bus after someone stole the catalytic converter.

Steinhebel said.

Supt. Jennifer Meckley also credited her staff with getting things up and running.

"Student safety is always our top priority," she said. "While this incident was an unfortunate discovery this morning, our transportation team acted quickly

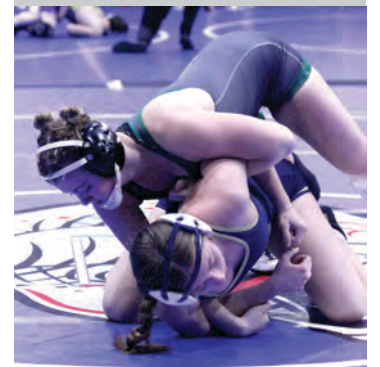
to ensure our remaining buses were safe and operational and I commend them for their quick work."

Anyone with information related to the incident is encouraged to contact the Lebanon Police Department at (541) 451-1751 and reference case number 26-145.

Hometown
Newspaper of
**LORRAINE
DAY**



**LEBANON GIRLS DOWN
THURSTON, FALL TO
CLACKAMAS
PAGE 16**



**HUSKIES TAKE HOME
CROWN; COMPETE
WELL AT NORTHWEST
DUAL
PAGE 9**

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OBITUARIES

Norman Villines

Feb. 24, 1941 - Dec. 24, 2025
Norman Darle Villines, 84, of Sweet Home, passed away Dec. 24, 2025.



He was born Feb. 24, 1941, in Low Gap, Ark., to Thomas and Alpha (Wishon) Villines.

Norman grew up in Low Gap before moving to Sweet Home in 1959. He worked at Willamette Industries for 33 years.

He enjoyed many different activities, including: bowling, riding horses, guns, gardening, fishing, hiking, camping and telling stories. He loved baseball and was a coach and an umpire.

Norman was a Christian and attended a few different churches, including River of Life Fellowship.

He is survived by his wife, Zelma of Sweet Home; children Kathy Ackerman, Gwenda Campbell, Douglas Villines and Victor Villines; eight grandchildren; and 12 great-grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by his parents and siblings, Lex, Herman, Archie, Blanche, Eunice and Avanel Villines.

A memorial service will be at 11 a.m. Saturday, Jan. 17, at River of Life Fellowship. Sweet Home Funeral Chapel is handling the arrangements.

Edris Wagers

Oct. 24, 1937 - Dec. 31, 2025

Edris O. Wagers, 88, of Sweet Home, passed away Dec. 31, 2025.



She was born Oct. 24, 1937, to Grace (Rickman)

and Ole Soleim in Eugene.

She was a bookkeeper, then became a pediatric nurse, joining the U.S. Air Force, where she continued her nursing career as a pediatric nurse and stewardess nurse. She was also a stay-at-home mom.

During her life she lived in Eugene, Spokane, Travis Air Force Base in California, where she was in the Air Force from 1962 to 1965 as a second lieutenant nurse, then in Seattle, Yakima and Wapato, Wash.

Edris and Clifford moved to Sweet Home in the summer of 1984.

She also was the co-owner of Coast to Coast Hardware in Sweet Home.

Edris enjoyed doing jigsaw puzzles and loved to go shopping, but mainly spent her time as a caregiver to others.

Edris and Clifford became parents to over 200 chil-

dren, by birth, by fostering and by adoption. She would tell every child who came into her home that there would always be a piece of her heart that went with every one of them.

She loved every child as if they were her own.

She is survived by a son, Brian Wagers and wife Danyell of Pasco, Wash., son Doug Wagers and wife Sheli of Salem, daughter Gail Hubble and husband Brian of Springfield, daughter Nikita Wagers of Albany, and daughter McKenzie Wagers of Albany; seven grandchildren and six great-grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her loving husband of 56 years, Clifford Wagers (2021).

A memorial service with military honors will be at 1 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 10, 2026, at Sweet Home Funeral Chapel.

Sweet Home Funeral Chapel is handling the arrangements.

Death Notices

Nancy May Alverson, 78, of Sweet Home, passed away Jan. 2, 2026.

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

Michael Richard Hofer, 81, of Sweet Home, passed away Dec. 27, 2025.

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

Tamara Ann Ridout, 53, of Lebanon, passed away Dec. 30, 2025.

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

Lebanon resident announces run for Congressional seat

Joseph Lehman, a "blue-collar worker," husband, and father of three, announced on Dec. 29 his candidacy for the United States House of Representatives in Oregon's Fifth Congressional District as a Libertarian.

Lehman said he will challenge incumbent Janelle Bynum with a campaign focused on "accountability, working-class representation, and practical solutions that put people ahead of politics."

Lehman, who is not a career politician, says his decision to run comes from growing frustration with a political system that he believes has lost touch with everyday Americans.

"For too long, families in our district have watched politicians on both sides of the aisle bicker amongst each other while prices rise, trust erodes, and real problems go unsolved," Lehman said. "I'm running because Oregon deserves a represen-

tative that listens to his constituents, works across party lines, and actually represents the people who keep this country running."

Describing himself as a "proud blue-collar worker," Lehman said he will "emphasize firsthand experience with the challenges facing working families - from affordability and economic uncertainty to government overreach and lack of transparency."

His campaign will center

on common-sense reforms, free markets, fiscal responsibility, individual freedom, and fair representation for all constituents, regardless of political affiliation, he said.

Lehman said his approach is "rooted in unity rather than division, aiming to bring together Independents, Democrats, Republicans, and voters who feel unrepresented by the two-party system."

"This campaign isn't about labels or party loyalty," he said.

"It's about restoring trust, protecting individual liberties, and making sure government works for the people, not the other way around."

Lehman said he will be campaigning across the 5th District, encouraging voters who are tired of politics as usual to stand with him and help move the district - and the country - forward.

For more information about Joseph Lehman and his campaign, visit www.lehmanforcongress.com.

New Friends nonprofit group organizes to support Lebanon Pool

By Sarah Brown
Lebanon Local

Friends of the Lebanon Community Pool have officially organized into a nonprofit organization, calling themselves, aptly, Friends of Lebanon Pool.

Their purpose: to actively support the community pool through fundraising and other projects.

It was born out of a "short lived" fundraising committee of the Lebanon Aquatic District Board of Directors in

2024, explained Robert Waterhouse, treasurer of the new nonprofit. The committee began brainstorming events and other fundraising opportunities for the pool's needed renovation projects.

"Our original fundraising goals were designed around the expected renovation of the

pool, which we thought would occur (in 2025) between August and October," he said. "We were going to target donations for specific items that would be outside the scope of the renovation project but would be needed as a result of the project."

Those items include new

starting blocks, entry ladders, backstroke flags and diving board.

However, they soon realized they could do more than throw a couple of fundraising events.

"It was in that committee that we identified a need for a 501c3 organization that could apply for grants from entities that do not fund government entities, like the LAD," he said.

Friends of Lebanon Pool is just getting their feet wet as a new nonprofit fundraising arm for the community pool, and are not yet taking on memberships, Waterhouse said. The vision has also tweaked a little since renovation did not happen as expected.

While they wait to see what the Lebanon Aquatic District and Lebanon Community School District will do regarding pool renovations, the Friends are looking at other ways to support the pool and the community.

"We are focused, for now, on raising funds to purchase a new set of entry steps for the warm pool," Waterhouse said. "Secondly, we would like to

OREGON DREAM HOME ART PARTY

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Thursday, January 22, 2026

6:30 pm to 8:30 pm

Jim Riggs Community Center
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All supplies included + snacks
Optional: Bring a magazine to clip from

Hosted by Tamara Shinko, Realtor
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2026 Strawberry Court

The Lebanon Strawberry Festival Court for 2026 has been announced. They are, from left, Princess Anne Workman, Princess Emma Estes, Princess Tatum Cole, Princess Ruby VandenBos and Princess Payton Voight.



Call Michael:
541-797-5445

WE SUPPORT THE NEW ERA!

TEMPERATURES

| DATE | HIGH | LOW | PRECIP |
|-------------|------|-----|--------|
| December 30 | 43 | 26 | 0.00 |
| December 31 | 39 | 27 | 0.00 |
| January 1 | 42 | 36 | 0.02 |
| January 2 | 52 | 43 | 0.29 |
| January 3 | 52 | 43 | 0.09 |
| January 4 | 52 | 40 | 0.58 |
| January 5 | 52 | 34 | 0.00 |

PRECIPITATION

Year to date: **00.98**
January 8, 2025: **2.79**

FORECAST

| DAY | WEATHER | HIGH | LOW |
|------|---------------|------|-----|
| Thur | Showers | 45 | 34 |
| Fri | Mostly Cloudy | 51 | 32 |
| Sat | Cloudy | 51 | 36 |
| Sun | Cloudy | 51 | 35 |
| Mon | Partly Cloudy | 52 | 34 |
| Tues | Partly Cloudy | 53 | 34 |
| Wed | Partly Cloudy | 53 | 38 |

LAKE LEVELS

Foster Reservoir: **618.1**
Green Peter Res.: **934.0**

TODAYS FIRE DANGER IS
LOW

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

PUBLIC SAFETY

Information herein is sourced from law enforcement and fire agencies. Details, which may not always be available in time for our weekly publication, are updated on our website as information becomes available. Addresses noted generally denote the location of the incident or arrest, occasionally indicating the origin of the call.

Our reporting of an individual's arrest or citation for a crime does not imply guilt. Determination of guilt can only be established through legal proceedings in court. We commit significant effort to following through as cases move through the judicial process.

Following is a list of abbreviations that may appear in our log reports: AMC (Albany Municipal Court); DV (domestic violence); FTA (failure to appear); FTC (failure to comply); LCSO (Linn County Sheriff's Office); LCCC (Linn County Circuit Court); LCJC (Linn County Justice Court); LCSA (Linn County Supervisory Authority); LMC (Lebanon Municipal Court); OSP (Oregon State Police); OSPB (Oregon State Parole Board); SHMC (Sweet Home Municipal Court); SHPD (Sweet Home Police Department).

A roman numeral indicates the degree of a charge: theft I (first-degree theft).

B: Brownsville, H: Halsey, L: Lebanon, SH: Sweet Home, SV: Sodaville, WL: Waterloo

Jan. 4

LCSO/OSP Lebanon

3:40 a.m. - Kelvin Attebery, 36, of Lebanon, cited and released on warrant, Santiam Hwy./Russell Dr. Report taken.

2:12 p.m. - Caller reported dirt bike stolen from barn in 32800 block Berlin Rd. Described as red 110 cc dirt bike, valued at \$1,000. Report taken.

3:19 p.m. - Caller reported neighbor's dogs were attacking caller's chickens, and feathers were removed. Wanted information documented, in case there were further issues. 2000 block Stoltz Hill Rd.

7:16 p.m. - Caller reported fraud stemming from a "fraud alert" text message, resulting in a loss of more than \$4,900 to scammers. 30000 block Canyon View Dr. Report taken.

LCSO/OSP Sweet Home/S. County

5:56 a.m. - Bryant O'Neil Pires, 34, of Lebanon, cited for failing to obey traffic control device, driving uninsured, Seven Mile Lane Harrison Rd., Brownsville. 10:57 a.m. - Miranda Autumn Desantis, 50, of Brownsville, cited for speeding, 76/55,

33300 block Hwy. 228, Halsey. 2:58 p.m. - Small Ruger revolver found in woods near Iron Mountain was turned over to SHPD, 1950 Main St. Report taken.

Sweet Home Police

3:46 a.m. - Franklin Joe Whitton, 46, arrested on LCCC warrant for FTA in criminal mischief case. Also arrested for possession of meth. 2000 block Main St. Cited and released.

1:25 p.m. - Caller reported someone appeared to be setting up food cart in 1700 block Main St. without permission. Officer responded, contacted male who was advised of complaint, and was to move along. 3:33 p.m. - SHPD responded to overdose in 1000 block Nandina St. Male transported by medics.

7:21 p.m. - Caller reported vehicle ran stop sign, was speeding, had no headlights on and had multiple people hanging out of windows, drinking. 1500 block Tamarack St. Officer responded, contacted vehicle operator who was advised of complaint and counselled on

her driving behavior. She was to stay at location for remainder of night.

Lebanon Police

Lebanon police had not submitted a log for this date in time for publication. When available, log will be updated at lebanon-localnews.com.

Jan. 3

LCSO/OSP Lebanon

12:42 a.m. - Bradley Springer, 64, of Lebanon, cited for driving while suspended, driving uninsured, Aspen/Honey-suckle streets.

10:19 a.m. - Deputies responded to call from woman reporting that her ex-husband was not abiding by their parenting plan and had told her that she was not going to get their kids at the appointed time. Deputies informed her that this was a civil issue and she would have to file a complaint in divorce court. 37900 block River Rd.

11:38 a.m. - Caller reported that they paid someone \$700 via Apple Pay after caller, claiming to be LCSO officer, stated she had a warrant for failing to appear for jury duty. Caller had already contacted bank. Investigation ongoing. Report taken.

1:03 p.m. - Caller reported someone had moved caller's motorhome off their property in 39300 block Davis St. and had caused damage estimated at \$2,100. Also, a drill valued at \$160 was stolen. Report taken.

LCSO/OSP Sweet Home/S. County

2:32 p.m. - LCSO responded to report of female threatening to harm herself with unloaded firearm in 40900 block Hwy. 228. After investigation, deputies determined it was a sibling rivalry and that there

were different accounts of what happened - no indication of suicidal or homicidal intent. Access to firearms was removed and constructive input offered on how to deal with the stress of adults living together with sickly parent.

4:01 p.m. - Deirdre Braywick, 34, of Junction City, cited for failing to obey traffic control device, 000 block American Dr., Halsey.

4:22 p.m. - Kolby Dean Peterson, 31, of Lebanon, cited for speeding, 52/35, Bishop Way/Hume St., Brownsville.

9:23 p.m. - Robert Tackitt, 45, of Lebanon, cited on outstanding warrant and for driving while suspended, 29100 block Pleasant Valley Rd. Report taken.

Sweet Home Police

7:25 a.m. - Caller reported he

See Public Safety, Page 7

CIRCUIT COURT

Omar Edgar Arroyo, Travis Alexander Ayres, William Medford Bass, Jonathan Edward Betar, Raymond Paul Binford, Lloyd William Bly, Kristina Larizza Boswell, Deanna Marie Brown, Christina Marie Cash, Austin Shane Conner, Matthew Timothy Cook, Steven Michael Cooley, Jacob Scott Fisher, Selina Renee Ford-Blackburn, Scotty Lee Foster, Sean Doyle Gay, Nicholas Gregory Godell, Steven Edward Grimm, Aaron Thomas Halvorson, Noe Hernandez-Reyes, Michael Trevor Hilton, Robert Edwin Hoskinson, Daniel Henry Johnson, David Mark Jones, Bruce Clifton Kelly, Faron Walter Kennedy, Alan Kenneth Kilmer, Brent Jay Klient, Tyler Bruce Lanz, Andrew Donald LeGore, Mikel Vincent Lizama, Christopher James Lloyd, Mainor Misael Lucas-Velasquez, Charles James Marvel, Thomas Junior McCarthey, Bryce William McGowan, Eric Wayne McKnight, Heather Dawn Meeks, Carrie Lynne Miller, Thomas Elbridge Miller, James Keith Mortensen, Matthew Kincaid Nelson, Nicholas Alan Nelson, Daniel Austin Phillips, Bradley Marion Pugh, Sean Ever Robinson,

Tammy Lavonn Robinson, James Ryan Routon, Daniel Ryan Salo, Rosemary O. Saviour, Phillip Stanley Shanklin, Donald Shane Simmons, April Lee Springer, Joshua Webb, Darnell T. Wells, Franklin Joe Whitton, Joshua Alexander Williams, Jessica Ashley Wynne

Hayden John Logan Branam, 23, charged Dec. 22 with DUII (liquor) and reckless driving.

Grace Maureen Colgan, 55, charged Jan. 4 with DUII (liquor), reckless driving, assaulting a public safety officer and harassment.

Kenneth Dale Gates, 52, sentenced Jan. 2 to one year revocation of a driver's license, 30 days jail and 18 mos. supervised probation after pleading guilty to unauthorized use of a vehicle. Dismissed: reckless driving, disorderly conduct II.

Douglas Ryan Kempton, 34, charged Dec. 25 with failure to report as a sex offender.

Caleb Ray Lybarger, 21, charged Dec. 29 with felon in possession of a firearm.

Juan Dedios Ocon, 32, sentenced Dec. 31 to a \$100 fine after pleading guilty to failure to report as a sex offender.



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

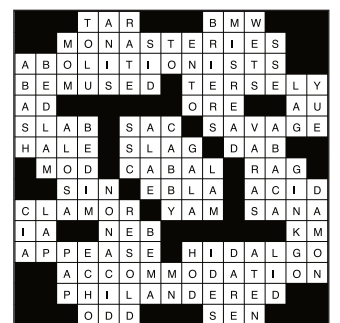
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DIAL-A-BUS
CURB TO CURB IN SWEET HOME
MON-FRI 7 AM - 4 PM
CALL TO SCHEDULE
OFFICE HOURS 8-4

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

Crossword KEY Puzzle on page 13



SUDOKU KEY Puzzle on page 13

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

FROM OUR FILES



Judy DeVaney shows her newborn, Shyla Kalleen, who is Sweet Home's first baby of the year in 1976.

Jan. 11, 1951

Seven newly built school bus stop shelters are now in use, and more are expected. The shelters are financed by a benefit dance and built by the Active Club members. The first to be erected was near the Wanigan Cafe in the Midway district.

A Dallas man looking for a night's lodging wound up in the city jail in a round-about way. Melvin Ferguson, 24, was arrested for drunkenness Monday night. Seven minutes later, it was discovered that someone had entered City Hall through a window, and the heel print left behind matched that of Ferguson. Further evidence was glass found in his trousers. Asked if he knew his whereabouts when he entered City Hall, he said, "I thought it was the jail."

Jan. 8, 1976

Sweet Home's first baby of the year is Shyla Kalleen DeVaney, born to Judy and Kenneth DeVaney. She was born at 1:17 p.m. on Jan. 3, weighing 9 lbs., 7 oz. at 22

inches long.

The beginning of a new "Sunday Recreation" program is now offered in the community as a pilot program to determine the community's need for informal recreation opportunities on Sunday. The high school gym will offer space for children's games and activities, and space for older juveniles and adults to play volleyball and basketball.

Jan. 10, 2001

Sweet Home's first baby of the year is Boe James Baxter, born to Shauna and Shim Baxter. He was born at 1:41 a.m. on Jan. 5, weighing 7 lbs., 11 oz. at 20.5 inches long.

SHEM moved out of the Chamber of Commerce and into its new location in the former site of Backcountry Pedaler at 4101 Hwy. 20, across from Cedar Shack. The new location provides more storage and space during a time when there are record-setting food drives. This year, SHEM gave 240 Christmas boxes and averaged 180 monthly boxes.

Editorial: Off and running in new year

By Scott Swanson
Publisher

Welcome to the first edition of the expansion of The New Era to include coverage of the entire east Linn County!

Although we try not to sensationalize news, I'll let that exclamation point through, but that will be it...

Seriously, though, it's good to finally be here and we pray that this new initiative will work out for the good of everyone involved - you, the reader, our advertisers and our staff.

But how well this goes will depend a lot on you, the community.

I don't want to belabor the point, but it's a very crucial one. I don't think I'm over-dramatizing the situation when I say that we're fighting a very real battle to solidify this newspaper for the future, and we think this move will help.

There are a number of ways that you, the reader, can assist us in this process.

The fact that you're reading this very likely means that you're a subscriber, which is very helpful. Having a dependable revenue stream is crucial to any business enterprise, and it's particularly so for us. When you subscribe, you assist our efforts in that way.

Another important way to help us is to tell advertisers that you've seen their ads in the newspaper. It's helpful to them to know they're getting your attention and by extension, it helps us. There is a LOT of competition for ad dollars these days, but online advertising doesn't replace a good print ad and print ads equal pages. More on that in a bit.

You can also help us identify things to write about. Our reporters are very good at cover-

ing interesting stories, but we are few and there are many potential stories out there. Unless we know about them, we can't make an informed decision whether or not to cover them.

If you think it's something we might be interested in or that we should know, email us at news@sweethomenews.com or call us at (541) 367-2135. It's that simple, and it's important. And yes, phone calls to us are nearly always answered live (particularly between 10 and 5, Monday through Friday). You will talk to a real human being.

We're always interested in covering, as much as possible, milestone celebrations, awards, honors and other achievements, big reunions. If someone is turning 100 and can converse with a reporter, or can do so with family help, we want to talk to you. A good story is often anything that legitimately would make someone say "wow!"

Letters to the Editor: Yes, the opinion page is not just for my opinion or people we choose. It is also for you. We welcome comments and insights from readers on topics of community interest presented in a civil manner (not Facebook rants).

We tell you things you should know. This newspaper can benefit a lot of people who, unfortunately, don't take advantage of it. We bring issues to light that deserve public attention.

We help keep local government transparent. We help you understand and be part of your community by telling you about your community - or maybe telling the community about you.

We help local businesses

connect with the people who actually live in east Linn County. And we try to do all this in an accurate, even-handed, unpretentious manner.

Newspapers provide a record of history. Plus, in our archives, we offer glimpses into the past that aren't available in many other places except family lore and maybe a museum or some government records. As long as we're a viable newspaper, we will continue to do that.

In today's world, many newspapers like ours, which prioritize news coverage over all else, are finding themselves operating almost like non-profits. Yes, we operate as a for-profit enterprise, but our primary purpose is to provide a service to the community and we haven't let a lust for profit get in the way of that, although - obviously - we have to operate in the black to survive.

More and more we're relying on those types of things, as you can see from the occasional QR codes, such as the one below, we offer readers who want to contribute through a nonprofit entity.

The business community also plays a big role in what we do. The support we get from businesses who promote themselves through newspaper advertising and sponsorships is key to how much news we can put in the paper. And now that we're taking on Lebanon sports, we need space more than ever.

So here we go! We're genuinely excited because we've wanted to serve our readers better and this is the strategy that makes the most sense in achieving that goal.

SUPPORT LOCAL JOURNALISM IN EAST LINN COUNTY!

As we come to the end of this remarkable year, we want to pause and say a heartfelt THANK YOU for being a valued reader of The New Era.

Gracious and generous support from the community has helped us recover from a bleak situation over the past year and we're eager to continue serving you with hyper-local news to help you stay on top of what's happening in our community. Without you,

The New Era / Lebanon Local would likely no longer be in existence today. If you'd like to contribute to our mission of serving east Linn County as one of the only truly independent, locally owned newspapers remaining in Oregon, please consider a tax-deductible gift that will directly fund our writers' coverage of local issues and events.



DONATIONS ARE TAX-DEDUCTIBLE

When using our link or QR code. Donations are specifically used for funding reporters, and freelance writers.



YOU MAY ALSO DONATE BY CREDIT CARD

By calling 541-367-2135 or by mailing a check:
The New Era 1313 Main Street, Sweet Home, OR 97386 (NOT tax-deductible)

Every donation—large or small—makes a meaningful difference.

AND THERE ARE OTHER WAYS TO HELP TOO:

- Give a gift subscription to a friend or family member
- Choose to advertise your business or event
- Sponsor a page in the newspaper each week
- Thank an advertiser for advertising in The New Era!

SCAN ME



BIT.LY/TNE1929

Thank you for standing with us, believing in community journalism, and helping keep local news alive. We are truly grateful for you.

Scott & Miriam Swanson, and The New Era Team

The New Era

A LOCALLY OWNED NEWSPAPER

SWEETHOMENEWS.COM

OFFICE: 1313 Main St., Sweet Home, Oregon

PHONE: 541-367-2135 FAX: 541-367-2137

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NEWS QUESTIONS / TIPS - news@sweethomenews.com

YEAR IN REVIEW

From page 1

legedly impersonating firefighters in the Palisades Fire evacuation zone.

- Sweet Home boys won their second straight Oregon Classic Championship in wrestling.

- Linn County Search and Rescue, and an OSP Fish and Wildlife K9 team located and rescued Nicole Decker, of California, who was lost in the snow off Hwy. 20 east of Sweet Home.

- Highway 20 was designated "National Medal of Honor Highway."

February

- Lebanon Fire District announced that it will have to cut costs as it faces "a widening gap between revenue and expenses." They plan to control spending, reduce staff, restructure operations, and look for new revenue sources.

- New transitional housing units rolled into Sweet Home's FAC Sleep Shelter. The "tiny homes" were funded through a grant and will be used as emergency shelter housing.

- Crossroads Communities will host the Sleep Trailer in Lebanon for a three month trial period to determine if the eight-pod portable sleeping trailer could function well for homeless individuals.

- Tyler Lanz was captured after he led law enforcement officials on a chase and crashed his motorcycle near Holley.

- The girls team for Sweet Home swimming won seven of 11 events, an achievement marking the 50th straight year Sweet Home has won a district title.

- Caleb Gay was sworn in as a new city councilor for the City of Sodaville, filling a seat vacated by Jeff Hensley, who did not run for another term this year.

- At the East Linn Chamber of Commerce Distinguished Service Awards, Charlene Adams was awarded the Distinguished Service award, Freddy Bratton was named First Citizen and Colton Emert was named Junior First Citizen.

- Simone Dankenbring released the first two in a series of chapter books published by Little Bee books.

March

- Several blocks on Airport Road in Lebanon begin to close for several months as construction begins for installation of a traffic signal at Airport and Stoltz Hill, and other additions to the area.

- At the Lebanon Chamber of Commerce Distinguished Service Awards, Michael Kerigone was named Man of the Year, Jenny Sheldon was named Woman of the Year, Heather McDaniel was named Senior First Citizen, Steve Patterson was named Junior First Citizen, and the Frankie Gray "Answering the Call" award went to Dale Hall.

- Sweet Home City Council voted to place a ballot mea-



File Photo

Daisy Lalonde of East Linn Christian Academy, one of the best runners in a generation in Linn County, wins a race in 2025. She went on to win two state titles in track, bringing her state track titles total to six and two state cross-country championships. She now competes for NCAA Division II Colorado Mesa University.



File photo courtesy of LFD

Lebanon firefighters extinguish a fire that destroyed a pickup truck, started a grass fire and threatened a trailer on Berlin Road in September.

sure on the May election ballot asking if residents want to vote for their mayor instead of allowing the council to select one from among themselves.

- Robert Leroy Hermans was declared deceased after, it is believed, he was struck by a vehicle while crossing South Santiam Highway in Lebanon near BiMart.

- The Husky wrestling team placed second at the 4A Division state wrestling championship, and four in the team brought home individual state titles.

- An open house carnival at Green Acres Elementary in Lebanon raised enough money to nearly fill out the remaining funds needed to replace decades-old playground equipment.

- Two fishermen were rescued from an island in the Middle Santiam River below Green Peter Dam after water from the dam began rising rapidly, trapping them.

- The City of Sodaville provided a temporary solution to pothole-laden streets in "the Village" by packing gravel on Fisher, Maple and Park streets.

- Kaitlyn Watts, of Brownsville, was rescued by passers-by after her car plunged off Hwy. 20 east of

Sweet Home into the riverbank. Watts was pinned in while chest-high water rushed in.

- Alisha Hendrickson, of Lebanon, was named a finalist for a 2025 Citizen Honors Award from the Congressional Medal of Honor Society in South Carolina. Last year, she braved intense flames to rescue a teenager trapped in a car following a crash.

- Santiam Excursion rolls out its newest activity: Rail Bike Adventures in Sweet Home. People can rent the rail bikes and pedal them from 18th Avenue to Foster Dam.

April

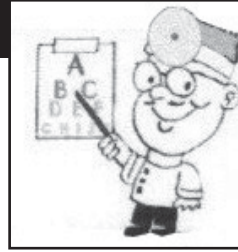
- Holley Church revealed its long-awaited treehouse-themed children's lobby.

- The grandstand at Lebanon High School's Heath Stadium was shut down due to structural concerns and changes in insurance coverage. Originally built in 1957, the grandstand now has deteriorating concrete, exposed rebar, and rust and corrosion.

- Sudden wind gusts blew through Sunnyside Park, rolling over an ice machine, toppling trees and severely damaging an RV.

- The Lebanon School Board

See Year In Review, Page 8



Q: Do I have dry eyes or allergies?

A: Although allergy season is in full swing some people who have allergy type symptoms may in fact have dry eyes. There are specific eye drops for allergies and dry eyes. It's important to use the correct drop or you may make your symptoms worse. Education or evaluation can facilitate the right treatment. Dry eye is an inflammation type condition in which there are insufficient tears to lubricate and nourish the eye. Tears are necessary for maintaining the health of the front surface of the eye and

Dr. Michael W. Stoner

for providing clear vision. People with dry eyes either do not produce enough tears or have a poor quality of tears. Dry eye is a common and often chronic problem, particularly in older adults. The primary approaches used to manage and treat dry eyes include adding tears, conserving tears, increasing tear production, and/or treat the inflammation of the eyelids or eye surface that contributes to the dry eyes. Ocular Allergies is the abnormal response of sensitive eyes to contact with allergens and other irritating substances. Pollen in the air is the most common cause of allergy symptoms but other things in the air such as smoke, animal dander or fumes may also trigger an allergic response. The primary approach to manage ocular allergy is avoidance of allergic triggers, cool compresses, eyewash, oral anti-histamines or eye drops specific for allergies. Most eye drops used for dry eyes are mainly used to increase volume of tears. Drops used for ocular allergies have an anti-histamine component, which reduces the effects of histamine but also dry the eye. Using an ocular allergy drop will make a dry eye problem feel worse. If you are unable to find relief you should have your eyes evaluated to determine what condition you have and the best treatment options available to you specifically.

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Q: What are the worst drinks for my teeth?

A: Ironically, many of the foods and drinks we enjoy the most aren't good for us at all.

1. Soda: Two of the most harmful things for our teeth are sugar and acid, and carbonated beverages are full of both! The teeth literally start dissolving under the attack of acid, leading to cavities.



Wolthuis Family Dentistry

2. Sports Drinks: Like soda, they are often full of sugar and are highly acidic. One study showed that lemon-lime Gatorade dissolved more tooth enamel than any other drink, including Coke.

3. Fruit Juice: After reading to this point, you probably know what this is on the list. Juice has lots of sugar and acid too. While it could be considered a healthy option, most fitness experts will advise you not to drink you calories. Eat the entire fruit instead and enjoy the health benefits of the fiber.

Drink lots of water, maintain a healthy diet and lifestyle and see your dentist regularly, to be sure your teeth stay in good shape.

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CHURCH DIRECTORY

For where two or three are gathered together in My name, I am there in the midst of them.
-Matthew 18:20

Two longtime LFD officers retiring

The Lebanon Fire District has announced the retirement of two longtime staffers whose combined careers total more than seven decades of service: Division Chief – Fire Marshal Ken Foster and Lieutenant/Acting Battalion Chief Michael Maynard.

“Their careers represent sacrifice, grit, compassion, and unwavering commitment,” said Fire Chief John Tacy. “Ken and Mike shaped lives, mentored future generations, and set a standard of excellence that will live long beyond their final shifts. On behalf of the Lebanon Fire District, we thank them – deeply – for giving so much of themselves to this community and to this profession.”

Ken Foster

Foster’s 36 years in LFD started from a family deeply woven into the fabric of public safety.

“It was a family affair,” Foster reflected. “My uncle was the fire chief at the time, my dad had been a volunteer, my brother-in-law and future brother-in-law were all members. My mother had been a part of the women’s auxiliary for years.”

Foster joined the fire service as a volunteer after completing academy in December 1989 in Lcomb. After several years of volunteering and a brief internal crossroads between the stability of a metal fabrication job and the uncertainty of a new career, a mentor stepped in – Battalion Chief Ron Danielson.

“He came into the shop I was working at and convinced me to apply. He explained what retirement and benefits meant. It took a couple days to process, but it was the best decision I ever made,” Foster said.

Over the course of his career, he served as a volunteer, then full-time firefighter, engineer, lieutenant, deputy fire marshal, lieutenant, and finally, division chief of fire and life safety/fire marshal.

A district statement cited one of Foster’s greatest achievements as his leadership within Fire and Life Safety since 2017 to modernize and strengthen community protections and safety practices. But beyond systems and programs, his greatest pride is deeply personal.

“I am most proud of my wife and kids – they are amazing. I am proud to have served this community in various capacities over the past 36 years. I have tried to make the lives of the people we serve better in one way or another, and that is very rewarding.”

He expressed gratitude for the mentors who shaped him: “My uncle Larry Arnold, my mother Carolyn, my dad Dennis, Training Chief Ted Fitzwater, and previous Chief Joe Rodondi. I never imagined retiring out as a Chief Officer.”



Photos courtesy of LFD

Ken Foster, left, and Michael Maynard are stepping down after a total of some 70 years of service.

Retirement for Ken will be a new chapter: slowing down, spending time with family, and returning to projects long waiting for attention.

“I bought my ‘55 Chevy from my dad when I was 15 and always wanted to build it the way I imagined. We started a few years ago and have a long way to go.”

“I’m looking forward to being able to drop what I’m doing and go spend time with my wife Renee and do whatever we want, whenever we want. I have a list – and she has hers. I won’t be running out of things to do anytime soon.”

Michael Maynard

For 33 years, Maynard has served Lebanon – not originally as a goal, but as a path that unfolded in front of him.

He was first introduced to fire service at age 7, standing inside a small volunteer station in Crawfordsville while his father and neighbors raced out on calls.

“I would sweep the bay floor and wait for them to return,” he said. “As a young child, hearing that plectron go off in the middle of the night and watching him run down the hallway left a pretty big impression on me.”

When he turned 18, Maynard joined Sweet Home Fire as a member. After encouragement from Brent Gaskey, he applied for Lebanon Fire District in 1992 as a resident volunteer.

“I remember walking in and talking with Deputy Chief Wilkerson one day and that night I moved into the station. It was intimidating – I hardly knew anyone.”

He moved through the ranks: resident volunteer, intern/part-time firefighter/EMT, full-time firefighter (1996), lieutenant (2016), and acting battalion chief when needed.

One of his proudest memories is from May of 2024.

“My crew and I were involved in a rescue at a small residential care facility and were able to successfully pull a resident trapped in a bedroom. The teamwork and tenacity they showed that night was truly amazing. I

could not have been more proud.”

His career, like many in the fire service, also carried heavy challenges, especially mental health.

“The 2018 Camp Fire in California broke me and forced me to do something about my mental health. It changed me and I am grateful for that. I encourage anyone struggling to reach out for help. There is absolutely no shame in asking.”

Maynard emphasized the influence of mentors, including his father and Uncle Bob, whose volunteerism shaped his earliest understanding of service, and former Chief Rodondi.

“His belief in my abilities and my knowledge were so good for my personal and professional growth. I truly appreciate everything he has done for me.”

He said he has been proud of simply being part of LFD.

“I work alongside some of the most amazing people. It’s no secret we run short for the call volume we have. When I started in 1996, we ran around 2,500 calls a year and now we’re around 7,000 – with essentially the same number of people. Putting on the uniform and representing the fire district is something I will always be proud of.”

As he steps into retirement, Maynard is looking toward a new kind of life, one defined by family and freedom.

“I’m looking forward to living life uninterrupted,” he said, sleeping in my own bed every night. Hunting, fishing, being a full-time cheer and dance dad, helping my wife, and spending more time with my daughter Nora. I don’t know exactly what retirement looks like, but I know I’m ready.

“I have spent 33 years in a town I was not from and made it mine. Getting the honor to serve the people of this district has been truly special. I will miss the job, but I will miss my people the most. Take care of each other. I will always be a phone call away and will always be in your corner.”

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Husky girls continue best hoops start in years

By Keeghan Gittins
For The New Era

The Sweet Home girls basketball team is off to its best start in years, opening the season with a 6-3 record and earning a No. 15 ranking in the 4A standings.

The Lady Huskies have already surpassed last season's win total of five games, a significant turnaround after finishing 1-19 two years ago and winning just five games the year before that.

The last season comparable to this start came when the current seniors were in eighth grade, when Sweet Home, led by Brooke Burke, who is now playing at Pacific University, finished 10-14 overall with four nonleague wins.

This year's success has been fueled by strong leadership from third-year Head coach Erika Evans.

Forward Aaliyah Brown, a junior, is averaging 10.2 points per game, while fellow junior Brooke Elder has also been a key contributor, averaging 9.7 points per game while shooting 33% from three on six attempts per game.

The Huskies competed in the Vince Dulcich Tournament, finishing 2-1 with wins over Estacada, 37-33, and Warrenton, 39-31, before falling to Astoria, 60-36.

Evans was not available for comment.

Sweet Home returns to action Tuesday, Jan. 6, against Sisters, which will be in the league the Huskies will compete in next year when they drop down to the 3A division.

PUBLIC SAFETY

From page 3

was rear-ended on Nov. 4 in area of Main St./Holley Rd., and he and other driver had civil agreement to pay for damages, but other driver isn't paying. Info noted.

7:26 p.m. - Caller reported large group of juveniles in area of Old Mill Property/Green River Dr., possibly intoxicated and one vehicle stuck on property. Officer responded, contacted multiple individuals who showed no signs of impairment. They were warned for trespassing and moved along.

7:33 p.m. - FBI National Threat Operation Center reported concerning messages from female on social media about no longer wanting to be alive. Officer responded to 5100 block Redwood St., contacted female, who refused to get out of vehicle. She was advised she could not sleep in the vehicle. Resident of location agreed to

See Public Safety, Page 11

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YEAR IN REVIEW

From page 5

decided to partner with the Lebanon Aquatic District to work on a \$1 million project fixing major problems at the pool. They plan to fix the pool's faulty gutter system, pumps and pipes, repair cracks, and resurface the pool.

- CTS Inc., formerly Valley View Logging, held its third annual Spring Sawdust Fling Chainsaw Race, drawing in competitors from across Oregon.

- Motorcyclist Donald Gibbs was struck in an apparent hit and run incident in Sweet Home. He was transported to a hospital.

- Bob Reinhardt, of Idaho, brought a team to Sweet Home for a fast-track research project gathering information, stories and artifacts related to families who were relocated out of Foster for his "Atlas of Drowned Towns" project.

May

- To stem losses, Samaritan Health Services announced it was considering cutting various services, such as general surgery, orthopedics, women and children's services (including the birthing center), and urology. Residents flooded social media in protest.

- SHEDG reveals plans to grow the "Sweet Events" idea, providing a variety of entertainment such as the Santiam Smoke Show barbecue competition, a treasure hunt, the battle of the bands Tune It Up



Unified basketball team members from Lebanon, left, and Sweet Home faced off in early in the year at Sweet Home High School's Main Gym.

File Photo

Tuesdays, and the PNW Stampede's western line dance competition.

- New political groups in Lebanon form: Citizens for Lebanon, and East Linn Indivisible.

- Linn County's new RV dump station opened up in Sweet Home, offering four paved lanes to alleviate county park systems as well as provide service to others.

- Sweet Home voters supported the move by 80.01% to have its mayor elected rather than chosen by City Council.

- In four days, two separate motorcycle accidents occurred on curves just west of Menear's Bend on Hwy. 20, sending both riders with serious injuries to the hospital.

- Voters rejected Central Linn School District's \$34.55 million operating bond request by 74.84%.

June

- Cole Russell Allen, of Lebanon, faces manslaughter charges following a car crash outside of Lebanon that killed an Albany man. Deputies believe Allen was intoxicated and speeding.

- Hannah Savedra was crowned Strawberry Festival Queen at the start of the festival's "Berries Just Wanna Have Fun" event.

- An apparent "swatting" incident led to school lockdowns in Sweet Home after police received a call from someone reporting his sister shot their parents in a residence near the high school.

- America's Best Restaurants Roadshow stopped in Lebanon to film a show at J&C BBQ & Catering. The film crew sampled some of the restaurant's best meals, and learned more about the family-owned restaurant.

- News staff at The Brownsville Times held a grand opening at the release of the first issue of its "revived" business. The 136-year-old paper folded in December 2024, but locals formed a nonprofit to bring the paper back.

After a year of exploration, Samaritan Health Services



File Photo

Local residents and school district staff demonstrate in Sweet Home after they became aware of an attempt to oust schools Supt. Terry Martin. The situation created a tumultuous start for newly elected School Board members and the resignation of one veteran board member.

and Santiam Hospital and Clinics mutually decided to cease the pursuit of a formal affiliation.

- An explosion on W Grant Street in Lebanon leads to one dead and two injured. The explosion took place inside a car, sending debris into nearby yards and setting other cars on fire. A woman who was living in one of the cars was found deceased.

- The Native American Education Program organized its inaugural Willamette Valley Pow Wow at Boulder Falls Event Center. With 50 vendors and a full room, the organizers think next year's event will need a larger venue.

July

- After decades of complaints about traffic on one small stretch of road in Sweet

Home, residents on 1st Avenue received four three-inch speed humps. Residents say the stretch on that street between Hwy. 20 and Hwy. 228 sees heavy traffic, speeding and prohibited commercial trucks.

- Lebanon resident Jami Cate, who currently serves as House District 11 Representative, announced she will run for the Oregon Senate District 6 seat.

- Sweet Home resident Angelita Sanchez, currently a city councilor, announced she will run for the House District 11 seat.

- School district staff and residents stood at the Sweet Home School District protesting a special session agenda that was scheduled to discuss the possible dismissal of Supt. Terry Martin, who was on vacation at the time.

- Lebanon Police Officer Zac McKinney was honored for a life-saving action he took last month. McKinney responded to a call about an unconscious male, and performed chest compressions and CPR on the man until he began breathing, right as medics arrived.

- Lebanon City Council held its first meeting at its new location: the community room

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Huskies take home Linn County crown; compete well at Northwest Dual

By Ryker Burr
For The New Era

Sweet Home's boys and girls both took home the crown at the Linn County Championships wrestling tournament, held Friday, Jan. 2, at Central Linn High School, while Lebanon's boys finished fourth and a depleted girls team sixth.

Sweet Home scored 291.5 points without defending state champion Tytus Hardee, which was good enough to best second-place Harrisburg (251.5), and bronze-medalist West Albany (241.5).

Heavyweight Lynkin Royer won the final match of the day for the Huskies, pinning runner-up Riley Harmon from Scio in 49 seconds.

"He's not wrestling like a heavyweight. He's taking shots and he's aggressive like he hasn't been," commented Head Coach Steve Thorpe.

Other winners from Sweet Home's boys were: freshman Cody Sieminski (113), juniors Riley Vaughan (120) and Jesse Landtroop (126), who is undefeated this year; and senior Dillan Davis (144).

"Dillan's been wrestling very well," Thorpe said of Davis, the defending state champion at 132 pounds who won by decision against Harrisburg's Trayson Truesdell, last year's 3A state runner-up at 138 pounds.

Freshman Cody Sieminski defeated teammate Keegan Jefferson (junior) in the finals to grab the 113 crown, just a week after pinning returning state champion Hezekiah Worthington of Newberg, a senior, at Rose City.

Other placewinners for the boys at the Linn County Championships were runner-ups Ryder Farris (106), Cael Stevenson (132), Luke Rosa (190) and Elijah Cruz (215).

Jasper Victor placed third at 138, with Talon Temple (106), Zach Davis (144), Macen Rosa (150), Michael Eggers (190) and Dyan Hartsook (215) finishing fourth.

Brayden Driver (132), Brodee Gay (157), Kyle Zajic (175) and Halen Salvador (285) were fifth and Gavin Baker (165) and Martin Chelstad (175) were sixth, Chelstad forfeiting the fifth-place final to Zajic.

The girls didn't disappoint either. Their 225 points ran away with the title against runner-ups West Albany (184) and Harrisburg (137).

Bailey Chafin led the day for the Huskies at 135 pounds, pinning all of her opponents to secure the title. Chafin was awarded the tournament's outstanding wrestler honor for the third year in a row.

"She's still continuing to come back. She's wrestling awfully tough right now," Thorpe stated.

Freshman Hailey Ayala (155) and sophomore Sydney Dominy (145) also won their brackets for Sweet Home.

In addition to the three winners, Sweet Home had seven



silver-medalists.

Finishing second for Sweet Home were Lexi Lee (100), Kasidy Zajic (105), Lyla Ventura (115), Alizeah Weikel (120), Bella Rico (130), Madi Looney (140) and Bailey Newens (190).

Raelyn Andrews was third at 125 and fourth-placers were Natasha Marin (110) and Hailey Borromeo (135).

"The state, the county, and our fans are starting to realize that our girls are pretty stinkin' tough. We took 13 girls here and they all placed," said Tomas Rosa, girls head coach.

Rosa added: "What I like about our girls is that they don't quit."

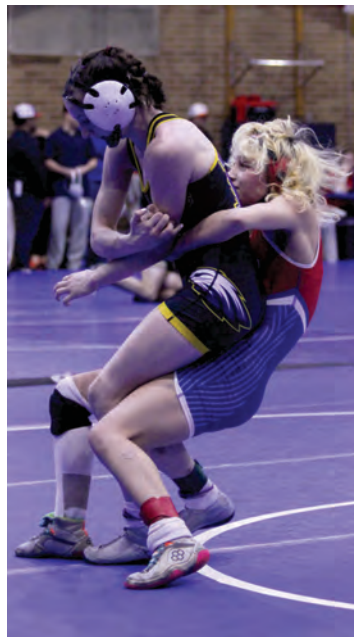
"There's no spot in the trophy case for the Linn County Championships. We're looking for a state trophy."

Earlier in the week, Sweet Home's boys placed third at the Northwest Duals, one of the biggest dual tournaments of the year, featuring teams from all over Oregon and Washington.

Freshman Cody Sieminski (113), juniors Riley Vaughan (120) and Jesse Landtroop (126), and seniors Luke Rosa (190) and Lynkin Royer (285) went undefeated at the tournament.

The girls' sixth-place performance was led by sophomores Bailey Newens (190) and Bella Rico (120); and junior Alizeah Weikel (120), who all went undefeated. Senior Bailey Chafin won six of her seven matches, most of them by pinning her opponent in less than a minute.

Sweet Home will travel to Salem on Wednesday, Jan. 7, for a dual against North Salem. The Huskies will then wrestle in front of their home crowd on Thursday, Jan. 8. The Green and Gold will finish off the week by hosting the Special District 2 Duals, beginning at 9 a.m. on Saturday, Jan. 10. The Oregon Wrestling Classic, the dual-meet state championships, will begin on Jan. 16 at



Photos by Ryker Burr

the Deschutes Fair Grounds at 11 a.m.

"We're going to go in trying to win it," said Thorpe of the Oregon Classic.

Lebanon Wrestlers Win

The Lebanon boys wrestling team wound up fourth at the Linn County Championships with an 144.5 point effort.

Lebanon dominated, to say the least, the 165 and 175 pound weight classes. At 165, Seth Wynn took home first place after defeating teammate Cade Weber in the final. In the 175 pound bracket, Grady Cox emerged victorious against fellow-Warrior Zach Halsey in the championship match.

Other placewinners for Lebanon were Tyson Trask, third at 157; fifth-placers Chase Breshears (106), Tyeler Myers (120), David Brandt (150), and Miller Swanson (190). Christopher Slinguff (126) and Lake Tucci (215) were sixth.

Lebanon's girls placed sixth with 84 points behind Sweet Home (225), West Albany (184), Harrisburg (137), Central Linn (96) and South Albany (86).



Photos by Scott Swanson

Sweet Home's Lynkin Royer, above, gets set to take down Scio's Riley Harmon in the 285-pound final of the Linn County Championships. At left, Zach Halsey, left, and teammate Brady Cox battle for the 175-pound title. Below left, Lebanon's Mary Jane Duty wrestles Paxton Steele of Harrisburg in the 110-pound girls final. Below, Sweet Home's Sydney Dominy pins West Albany's Evelyn Mattingly to win the 145-pound bracket. See more photos at sweethomenews.com and lebanonlocalnews.com.



Zoe Ruonavaara led the day for the Warriors. She won the 235-pound bracket by pinning her opponent in the brackets' only match.

Three Warriors placed second for the girls Mary Jane Duty at 110, Kenley Mortenson at 155 and Sophia Summerlin at 170. Penelope Heslip was fourth at 125.

"We have a couple girls not wrestling today, so I think we could've done a little bit better," stated Assistant Coach Tucker Drummond.

Lebanon's boys will compete Saturday, Jan. 10, at the Tigard Tournament, followed by a dual at Central High School on Jan. 14, beginning at 6 p.m. The girls will also compete at Cen-

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YEAR IN REVIEW

From page 8

at the Lebanon Public Library.

- Staff members of the Lebanon Girod Birth Center and the emergency after-hours surgical services unit at Samaritan Lebanon Community Hospital protested in Lebanon in response to proposed cuts to those services.

- With very little discussion on the matter, Sweet Home's City Council approved the first reading of an ordinance that would remove fluoride from its water system. It was learned the water has not been fluoridated for several years because the system has been broken.

- Lebanon City Council held a work session to flesh out what it would take to reopen the city's jail, which has been closed since 2023 due to limited staffing, as well as ORS and CIS requirements. It will take an estimated \$1.2 million to operate the jail. Options for how to fund that amount were: an operational levy, increased City Service fees, or reduced city services elsewhere.

- Natalie Conn was crowned Sportsman's Holiday Queen.

- Sweet Home's historic A&W drive-in just got more historic by installing the entire original Burger Family statues. Papa, Mama, Teen and Baby Burger, all from the 1960s, were purchased in California and given a fresh coat of paint before going public.

- SHEDG announced this will be the last year they put on the Oregon Jamboree Music Festival, citing financial strain due to rising production and talent costs, and declining ticket sales.

- Linn County Sheriff's Office responded to a call about a bloody woman lying in the road at Washburn Heights Drive. Deputies encountered the woman's son, Oliver Mercer, who led them on a chase to Highway 34 and Denny School Road, where he

crashed and shot himself in the head.

- Wrestlers from around the state attended Sweet Home's Santiam Wrestling Camp, which celebrated its 25th year this year.

- The Sweet Home School District Board was reorganized after upheaval ensued when rumors that Supt. Terri Martin may be fired surfaced. An intended special session on the matter was canceled.

August

- Anticipated state regulations may cost the City of Lebanon millions as it also looks to build out its at-capacity wastewater treatment system.

- Sweet Home's final Oregon Jamboree featured headliners Clay Walker, Shane Smith and the Saints, and Jordan Davis.

- A local Lebanon business owner, Rachael Folger, of HNB House, is gaining attention from TV stars Chip and Joanna Gaines. Their Magnolia Market business has been ordering Folger's handmade wooden embroidery kits to sell in their Texas shop.

- A newly-organized nonprofit brought back the Sweet Home Rodeo after a 13-year absence.

- Sweet Home Oregon Coalition for Artistic and Scholastic Enrichment (SHOCASE) held its first Plein Air event at Foster Lake. Artists sat by the lake while doing their creative work in an activity that was once popular in the mid-1800s: doing art outdoors.

- Tell & Sell announced the owner and operator were set to retire after 32 years of operation. They turned the business over to the owners of The New Era.

- Sweet Home police brought back their National Night Out, this time holding on 13th Avenue between Main and Long streets downtown. This was the first event to be held in the "Festival Street" location that the city plans to use for community events.

September

- Samaritan Health announced it would not close its birthing center at Samaritan Lebanon Community Hospital, following earlier suggestions that maternity care might be moved to Albany, which prompted protests from nurses and other Samaritan medical personnel.

- New Principal Shelley Nurre began her first school year at Foster School in Sweet Home.

- Lebanon Area Habitat for Humanity released its 31st homing project to Ted and Veronica McMahan, who came from Sweet Home with their two kids. The family spent three years helping to build the brand new house on a vacant lot in Sodaville.

- Lorlee Engler, executive director at the Lebanon Community Pool, turned in her resignation to the Lebanon Aquatic Pool Board. It is believed she served in the position for more than a decade.

- Member and former chair



File photo by Satina Tolman

A bull rider gets set for competition during the Sweet Home Rodeo, which was revived to a standing-room-only response last August.

Floyd Neuschwander resigned from the Sweet Home School Board and former teacher and administrator Chris Hiaasen was sworn in to replace Erin Barstad, who had stepped down a month previously.

- A new memorial was dedicated at the Samaritan Sweet Home Medical Center to honor the late Dr. Alan Blake, who practiced in Sweet Home for many years before suffering a stroke while on a mission trip to Ukraine in 2015. He passed on his 44th anniversary, Sept. 31, 2023.

- Peggy Blair, a longtime local resident of Sweet Home and now of Lebanon, was named Oregon's TOPS Queen for losing the most pounds, nearly half her body weight, over three years.

- After learning they had been serving areas outside of its district for free, essentially, the Lebanon Fire District sent letters to property owners asking if they would like to annex into LFD's district. Annexed properties will begin paying taxes to the fire district, while those who don't annex may be faced with costly charges if LFD responds to an emergency.

- Oregon State Police announced they had identified the remains of a young woman, which had been discovered in 1976 approximately 17 miles east of Sweet Home, as Marion McWhorter, who was last seen shopping in Tigard.

- Sweet Home's girls soccer team recorded its first victory in more than two years with a win over Kennedy.

- The City of Sodaville approved a monthly \$10 maintenance fee on utility bills to build up a reserve for those times that the water system needs repairs and expansion.

- Samaritan Health Services announced it will not close Lebanon's birthing center. CEO Marty Cahill said more than 70 listening sessions with staff,



File Photo

Lebanon High School graduation carries on in June despite the closure of Heath Stadium due to safety concerns.

clinicians and leaders solidified their commitment to sustain essential services close to home.

October

- Sweet Home Fire and Ambulance District announced it had received an \$8.7 million grant for wildfire defense from the U.S. Forest Service, which also will benefit Lebanon and other east Linn County communities over the next five years.

- Sweet Home's football team beat Marist for the first time in more than 20 years, raising its record to 5-0.

- Following weeks of searching, the body of former Lebanon teacher and coach Donald Carroll, 88, was located in the area of Upper Calapooia Drive and Blue River Reservoir Road, approximately 30 miles east of Hwy. 228. Carroll, who suffered from dementia, had disappeared two weeks previously.

- New Sweet Home School Board member Robert Webster was sworn in to fill the Cascadia seat vacated by the resignation of Floyd Neuschwander.

- A Lebanon motorcyclist, Jeremy Wayne Smith, was killed and his passenger, De-

lana Ann Marie Smith, also of Lebanon, was seriously injured when a car pulled out in front of them and they collided on Hwy. 20 west of Sweet Home.

- Lebanon School District received a \$25,000 prize from the T-Mobile Friday Night 5G Lights Competition, and made it into the final round for a chance to win a \$1 million prize toward homefield upgrades.

- Sweet Home Fire and Ambulance Service received a nearly \$127,000 grant to provide screenings for cancer and other medical conditions for its firefighters.

- Victorian Chocolate owner Kelly Reetz in Lebanon faces at least \$100,000 in costs after the roof collapsed during a heavy rainstorm earlier this year. Inspections revealed further damage in other parts of the building. The confectionary has been unable to produce candies since May.

- Lebanon City Council discussed ideas on the possibility of installing solar panels that could alleviate the city of rising electrical costs.

- Samaritan Health announced plans to merge with

See Year In Review, Page 15

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PUBLIC SAFETY

From page 7

9:03 p.m. - Shawn Michael Hoggart, 41, arrested by Lebanon police on SHMC warrant for FTC in unauthorized use of motor vehicle case. Cited to appear Feb. 11.

Lebanon Police

Lebanon police had not submitted a log for this date in time for publication. When available, log will be updated at lebanon-localnews.com.

Jan. 2

LCSO/OSP Lebanon

2:20 a.m. - Caller reported being harassed in a virtual reality video game. Deputy suggested blocking the offender but the victim did not feel this would solve the issue. Deputy suggested trying a new game. Caller decided that would be the best choice. 300 block Washington St.

4:09 a.m. - Moises Prado, 34, of Albany, cited for driving while suspended, Santiam Hwy./Market St.

11:21 a.m. - Male knocked on door of Lebanon substation, 2500 S. Main Rd. He just wanted to stop and thank LCSO and its deputies for their service and to wish LCSO a happy new year.

1:24 p.m. - Caller reported damage to residence heating unit in 33200 block N. Santiam Hwy. Caller believed someone tried to get into the home. Damage estimated at \$2,200. Report taken for criminal mischief.

2:57 p.m. - Dog bite reported in

36700 block Rock Hill Rd. Victim was delivering groceries. Report taken.

8:10 p.m. - David Duffield, 68, arrested on warrant after report of trespasser in 37600 block River Rd. Cited and released. Report taken.

9:59 p.m. - Hunter Weins, 20, of Lebanon, cited for speeding, 11-20 mph over limit, 35200 block Brewster Rd.

11:57 p.m. - David Archer, 50, of Lebanon, cited for driving uninsured, 1900 block S. 2nd St.

LCSO/OSP Sweet Home/S. County

3:20 a.m. - Luis Bamboa, 63, of Sweet Home, cited for driving uninsured, Main St./22nd Ave.

7:57 a.m. - Caller reported people digging on CTC property in 41100 block McQueen Dr., looking for petrified wood. Suspicious vehicle spotted at gate was gone when deputy arrived. Report taken.

9:39 p.m. - Ashley Fagan, 35, of Sweet Home, cited for outstanding warrant and for driving while suspended and driving uninsured, 1000 block Pleasant Valley Rd. Report taken.

Sweet Home Police

7:35 a.m. - Multiple callers reported concerns about male who was reportedly acting "erratic" in 4300 block Main St. Officers responded, contacted male, who refused help from family and law enforcement, and was walking home.

7:52 a.m. - Larry Dean Bergstrom, 61, arrested on

See Public Safety, Page 12



Main Street crash

Police officers and operators stand at the scene of a crash Saturday morning, Jan. 3, near the intersection of Main Street and Clark Mill Road in Sweet Home. According to police, the collision occurred at 11:11 a.m. when a 2014 Mazda CX5 driven by Ashely Rena VanPatten, 18, of Sweet Home, struck a Ford F350 pickup driven by Timothy Lee Miller, 59, of Pinedale, Wyo. Police said VanPatten was northbound on Clark Mill, and made a left turn onto Main Street to head west, driving into the side of the truck, which was headed west. No injuries or citations were reported. The truck sustained damaged to the rear driver's side bed and the Mazda had rather extensive front-end damage. Damages were estimated at over \$2,500.

Photo by Scott Swanson

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SH boys improve in busy end-of-year hoops stretch

By Keeghan Gittins
For The New Era

The Sweet Home Huskies wrapped up 2025 with a packed schedule, competing in the Vince Dulcich Tournament and finishing the week with a 2-1 record, while also battling through several tight losses earlier in the week.

Sweet Home's lone tournament loss came against host Astoria, the No. 15-ranked team in the 4A Division. The Huskies fell 53-51 in a game in which they played one of their most complete performances of the season. Sweet Home shot 33.3% from three-point range, 47% from midrange, and 70% at the free throw line, but 20 turnovers proved to be the difference in the narrow defeat.

"I have been proud of our guys so far," said Head Coach Drew Emmert. "We are playing together and learning how to win. I was proud of the way we competed at the tour. We almost had that first game and then won the next two."

After the loss to Astoria,

the Huskies bounced back with a 56-49 win over 3A division Warrenton, and followed it up with a 51-40 victory against Seaside to close out tournament play.

Despite the strong showing, close games have been a recurring theme for Sweet Home this season. The Huskies have lost several games by slim margins, including a 49-47 loss to No. 27-ranked Sutherlin in the 3A classification.

Free throw shooting has been an issue, as the Huskies are averaging 57% from the line as a team.

"We have lost a few really close games this year. Three of them were lost because of missed free throws," Emmert said. "Two were free throws in the last few seconds which would have sent them to OT."

Sweet Home started the new year with a 49-47 loss at 3A Sutherlin Friday, Jan. 2, which Emmert described as "our worst game of the year."

"We looked tired from our long week and didn't compete at the level we had been," he said. "Credit to

them for playing hard and hitting big shots at the end though."

Bradyn McClure has been a recurring bright spot for the Huskies, leading them in most offensive categories, averaging about 18.6 points per game while shooting 58% inside the arc and 74% from the free throw line. McClure and Kellen Hartsook are also both averaging around six rebounds per game.

Mason Tyler chips in with 10 PPG.

Looking ahead, Sweet Home has three preseason games remaining before entering league play. Emmert remains optimistic about the group's potential.

"Overall I'm excited about this group and what we can accomplish the rest of the season," he said.

The Huskies were to face Sisters, now a 3A school, at home at 7 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 6, followed by road games Friday, Jan. 9, at Madras and Jan. 13 at St. Helens. They will open the OWC season Tuesday, Jan. 20, at Philomath.

Lebanon woman charged with second-degree murder

A Lebanon woman was charged with second-degree murder and first-degree robbery three months after the Linn County Sheriff's Office began investigating a homicide near Corvallis.

Ashlee Mae DeeAnn Lathrop, 31, was charged last week in connection with the Oct. 4, 2025 homicide.

Early in the morning of Oct. 4, the Corvallis Fire Department and LCSO responded to a call about a gray 2013 Chevrolet Camaro that had crashed into a fence on Highway 34 and Peoria Road, east of Corvallis.

First responders found the occupant, Christopher Joseph Smith, 30, of Albany, had been shot. Sheriff's detec-

tives initiated a criminal investigation and determined the driver was shot in a parking lot at the intersection near where he was found.

Smith died on scene from his injuries.

Two weeks later, the investigation led to the arrest of Steve Dwaine Simmons Jr., 44, of Albany. According to LCSO, he was apprehended after trying to run from officers while at the Geary Street Urgent Care in Albany.

Joshua Edward Gabell, 41, of Corvallis, was also identified as a suspect and located in custody at the Linn County Jail on an unrelated case a week after the incident.

On Jan. 5, 2026, Lathrop, was also charged in relation

to the case with the aforementioned charges.

Simmons' most recent indictment in December included charges of murder I, murder II, robbery I, two counts of felon in possession of a firearm, unlawful possession of meth and unlawful possession of a controlled substance.

Gabell's indictment in October included charges of murder II and robbery I.

In court documents, the murder charges for all three defendants allege Smith's death occurred during a robbery.

The district attorney's office and LCSO did not respond to calls in time for publication.

PUBLIC SAFETY

From page 11

SHMC warrant for FTA in theft case, LCCC warrants for FTA in contempt case and for contempt case, and LJC warrant for reckless burning. Police had responded to report from caller that male in area of Wiley Creek Dr./Main St. was half-dressed and caller was afraid he was going to jump into water.

8:16 a.m. - Caller reported gas lines were drilled through in 900 block 1st Ave. Northwest Natural Gas notified.

9:28 a.m. - Caller reported male stumbling into roadway in 3000 block Main St. Officer responded, contacted male, who was given courtesy ride home.

11:29 a.m. - Caller reported suspicious male at Dollar Tree, 2414 Main St. Officer responded, trespassed male from location.

12:18 p.m. - Caller reported male at location in 4800 block Main St. who had previously been trespassed. Officer responded to learn that male had

been invited to location by another tenant to retrieve property. He was advised of complaint and trespassed.

12:40 p.m. - Caller reported male and female going through garbage disposal unit in 2400 block Main St. Officer responded, located couple, who were trespassed.

2:21 p.m. - Caller reported vehicle stolen from 1200 block 44th Ave. Officer responded, report taken for theft I. Missing vehicle described as white 2014 Chevrolet Impala with tinted windows, no plates. Value approximately \$2,200.

6:43 p.m. - SHPD conducted death investigation in 2300 block Main St. Lebanon Police Lebanon police had not submitted a log for this date in time for publication. When available, log will be updated at lebanon-localnews.com.

Jan. 1

LCSO/OSP Lebanon

2:11 a.m. - Katrina Marie Counts, 54, of Lebanon, arrested on two outstanding warrants, 3200 block Burdell Blvd.

Cited and released. Report taken.

2:32 a.m. - LCSO contacted person living in vehicle behind private property in 3200 block Burdell Blvd. They moved along on deputy's advice.

9:22 a.m. - Caller reported burglary in 1000 block Mountain View Rd. Officer responded, report taken for burglary II, theft III. Scaffolding and wood stain missing. Loss valued at approximately \$80.

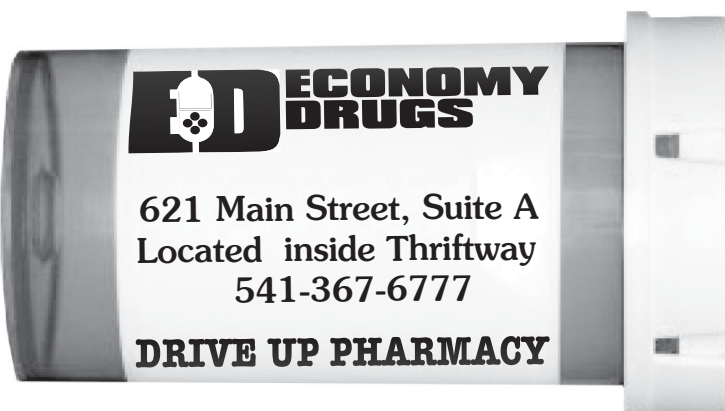
9:25 a.m. - Burglary reported in 33000 block Bellinger Scale Rd. Missing items included car batteries, live ammunition. Report taken.

11:42 a.m. - Caller reported her cat stuck in bay area at Les Schwab, 1707 Main St. Office responded. Caller was reunited with her cat.

2:24 p.m. - Caller reported back window on vehicle shattered in 1700 block Elm St. Officer responded, information noted.

7:53 p.m. - Michelle Ray, 35, of Sweet Home, cited for driving while suspended, and for war-

See Public Safety, Page 14



Public Notices

Sweet Home Police Department
 1950 Main St., Sweet Home, OR 97386
 (541) 367-5181

Notice of intent to dispose of property under ORS 98.245

The Sweet Home Police Department has in its physical possession the unclaimed personal property described below. If you have any ownership interest in any of the unclaimed property, you must file a claim with the Sweet Home Police Department within 30 days from the date of publication of this notice or you will lose interest in that property. You may file a claim that presents proof satisfactory that you are the lawful owner or security interest holder of the property. The unclaimed property may be donated to a non-profit organization or another government agency; retained for use by the City of Sweet Home; destroyed; or sold at public auction through govdeals.com, ebay.com or Facebook at any time after the 30-day period expires, Dec. 31, 2025-Jan. 30, 2026 (PP 25-10):

Eight books, lighters, vaping devices, clothing, bedding with miscellaneous small items, wallet for Jaime Villafana Chavez, bike frame and tire, backpack, bicycles, insurance card for Dick Reynolds, tents, suitcase, wagon, tarps, tools, bike trailer, EBT card for Donald Rodgers. (12/31 - 1/21)

Notice of sale of personal property under landlord's possessory lien. Personal property left in the following units have been seized for non-payment of rent and will be sold at **The Storage Depot-36666, Hwy 34, Lebanon OR 97355 on January 30, 2026 at 10:00 am:** Nicole Harwood AL49, Jimmy Shepherd AR15, Lance Cain CC19, Jeana Collins DL10, Carol Davies EL11, Shawn Harriman DC25, Kathleen McClure FC71, Jennifer Strickland BR42, Deborah Ward AR47. (1/7 - 1/14)

Notice of sale of personal property under landlord's possessory lien. Personal property left in the following units have been seized for non-payment of rent and will be sold at **The Storage Depot-333 Depot Ave Brownsville, OR 97327 on January 28, 2026 at 12:00 pm:** Hannah Nastaniel (Naftaniel) B0204, Leanne Krause D0416, Khristine Montoya D0401. (1/7 - 1/14)

Notice of sale of personal property under Landlords Possessory lien. Personal property left in the following units have been seized for non-payment of rent and will be sold at **The Storage Depot, 111 Davidson St. NE Albany, OR 97321 January 29, 2026 at 10:00am.** Patrick Wood E32, Alyssa Brazington C101, Rafael Mora C60, Kelly Adam E1, Randy Smith RGS Auto F54; Tiffany Ingram C43, Aimey Jamieson C71, Gail Cockrell F94. (1/7 - 1/14)

In the Matter of the Estate of Alphonse Derouaux Jr.
 NOTICE TO INTERESTED PERSONS Linn County Case No. 25PB10509
 NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Circuit Court of Linn County, State of Oregon, has appointed the undersigned as Personal Representative of the Estate of Alphonse Derouaux Jr., deceased. All persons having claims against said estate are required to present the same, with proper vouchers, to the personal representative in care of Sarah Castleton, Attorney at Law, Ivers & Miller Law at 317 W. 1st Ave,

Public Notices

Suite 302, Albany, OR 97321, within four (4) months after the date of first publication of this notice, or the claims may be barred. All persons whose rights may be affected by the proceedings may obtain additional information from the records of the court, the personal representative or the attorney for the personal representative.
 DATED and first published: January 7, 2026.

Tina King
 Personal Representative
 c/o Sarah Castleton
 Ivers & Miller Law
 PO Box 1033
 317 First Ave W., Suite 302
 Albany, OR 97321
 (541) 928-5875
 sarah@ivers.law.
 (1/7)

Notice of sale of personal property under landlord's possessory lien. Personal property left in the following units have been seized for non-payment of rent and will be sold at **The Storage Depot-4199 Main St. Sweet Home, Or 97386 on January 28, 2026.** The following units are available for viewing at 10:00am and will be sold to the highest bidder: Otis Lozinto - A212, Aaron Jefferson A320, Denise Bermudes A341, John LaBar A416, Glenn Gatliff A423, Christina Cash A531, Jimmy Joe Brown JR A583, Timothy Roebuck B151, Erik Warren Spencer Hutton B306, Crystal Wiggins C178, Scott Dimick C188, Ronda Cliver D202, Kelly Orban D224, Meagan Piper D312, Amber Steinborn D357, Samantha Mansell D404, Farrin Geise D425, Curtis Hughes RV39. (1/7 - 1/14)

Notice of sale of personal property under Landlords Possessory Lien. Personal property left in the following units have been seized for Non-payment of rent and will be sold at **The Storage Depot, 2887 SW Ferry St Albany, OR 97322 on January 29th 2026 at 12:00 pm.** The following units are available for viewing and live public sale at 12:00pm: Terry Brooks J2096; Denelle Crommett J2064; Robert Hilliard J2078; Natalie Jones B0216; Lisa Miller G0737; Joanna J Schrock I1049; Manuel Baca, Zuzul Landscape, LLC E0559; Rosalyn Battenfield I1057; Jena Downard A0107; Jane Giles F0614, F0602, & F0668; Chloe Haase J2079; Bree Morgan

Public Notices

J2015; Marcus Pitzer H0866; Debra Tilley J2019. (1/7 - 1/14)

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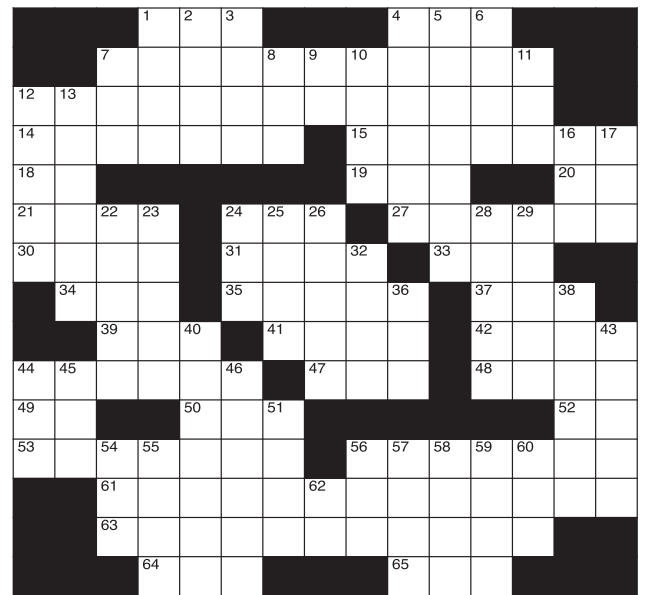
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CROSSWORD



CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Formed by burning tobacco
- 4. Luxury automaker
- 7. Religious residences
- 12. Crusaders
- 14. Puzzled
- 15. In a curt way
- 18. Selling tool
- 19. Solid material
- 20. Gold
- 21. Thick piece of something
- 24. Pouch
- 27. "Wonder Years" actor Fred
- 30. Strong and healthy
- 31. Waste matter
- 33. Apply lightly
- 34. Type of squad
- 35. Secret political faction
- 37. Mock
- 39. Immoral act
- 41. Early Syrian kingdom
- 42. Neutralizes alkalis
- 44. Loud, confused noise
- 47. Sweet potato
- 48. Yemen's largest city
- 49. Farm state
- 50. Bird's beak
- 52. Measures distance
- 53. Pacify
- 56. Spanish noble
- 61. Lodging supplied for public convenience
- 63. Womanized
- 64. Not divisible by two
- 65. Monetary unit

CLUES DOWN

- 1. Used in perfumery
- 2. Arabic man's name
- 3. Assess
- 4. Prickly plants
- 5. Falsely assess
- 6. "___ the whistle"
- 7. Mama
- 8. Rocker ___ Vicious
- 9. Toward
- 10. Prefix meaning within
- 11. Midway between south and southeast
- 12. Cause to be embarrassed
- 13. Pandemonium
- 16. Fall behind
- 17. Cantonese
- 22. Shad
- 23. A way to make dark
- 24. Specialized systems consultant
- 25. Wings
- 26. Taxi driver
- 28. Linear units
- 29. Large Philippine plant
- 32. Celebration
- 36. Fugitives are on this
- 38. Chinese tree
- 40. Not sour
- 43. "Bourne" actor Matt
- 44. Former OSS
- 45. Runners run this
- 46. Offered again
- 51. Sanctuary
- 54. Food suitable for babies
- 55. Caused by a reflection of sound
- 56. Mortar trough
- 57. Days in mid-month
- 58. Exhibit the courage to do
- 59. Disk of the sun in Egyptian mythology
- 60. Protects from weather
- 62. Manganese

SUDOKU

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

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Commissioners hear Juvenile update, perform end-of-year housekeeping

By Alex Paul
Linn County Communications

Linn County Commissioners Roger Nyquist, Sherrie Sprenger and Will Tucker on Dec. 23 heard from Linn County Juvenile Department Director Torri Lynn that juvenile work crews completed more than 600 hours of community service projects in November.

Lynn said 15 youths on the Tier 1 work crew (informal probation) completed 218.5 hours of community service over 12 project days. During November 2024, six young people completed 58.5 hours of service.

He said 20 youths on the Tier 2 work crew (higher risk assessment) completed 390.25 hours of service over 15 project days. In November 2024, some 29 young people completed 637.25 hours of service.

After the meeting, Lynn said work crews do a variety of projects, working closely with the Bureau of Land Manage-

ment and the Oregon Department of Forestry.

“The Juvenile Department pays particular attention to separating youth based upon their level of risk and age, making sure each youth is able to safely be supervised on any particular project,” Lynn said. “The first priority is safety of the youth and staff, followed by job skill development and project completion.”

Lynn told the commissioners, there were 47 referrals in November and referrals have not returned to pre-Covid 19 numbers. There are 183 youths in the Probation Unit, either on probation or pending court with 32 of them assessed as high-risk. There are 126 youths under the Community Programs Unit serving on informal probation and the Intervention Specialist is serving 194 youth. Of those, 186 youth are from the community with no involvement with law enforcement.

In November, 11 youths from Linn County – two fe-

males and nine males – were held for 69 days of care. Their average length of stay was 5.75 days.

Six youth from Benton County – all males – were held for 84 total days. Their average length of stay was 14 days.

Three youths from Lincoln County – all males – were held for 46 days. Average length of stay was 15.33 days.

The average daily population was 6.63 youths and an average length of stay of 9.48 days.

Three youths completed 60.25 hours of service with the Community Wildfire Risk Reduction Program.

In other business over the past two meetings, the commissioners on Dec. 30 addressed a number of end-of-the-year housekeeping items:

- Elected Nyquist as chairman of the board and Commissioner Tucker as vice-chairman for 2026.
- Approved the Albany

Democrat-Herald and The New Era (Sweet Home and Lebanon) as official newspapers of record for publication of legal notices.

- Appointed Matt Pitcher as the Linn County Tax Collector.

- Approved a two-year extension of a four-year contract with Crabtree Automotive to provide maintenance for Linn County Sheriff's Office vehicles.

- Appointed John E. “Trè” Kennedy III of Lebanon and Danielle Myers of Brownsville as Justices of the Peace pro tempore for District 4A.

- Held a second reading of an ordinance designating the Lyons Rural Fire Protection District to provide service for Linn County Ambulance Service Area Code 7. The Idanha-Detroit Rural Fire Protection District had previously covered that service area, but discontinued ambulance service in 2016. The ordinance will take effect on March 30, 2026.

- Approved a code text amendment to allow acces-

sory dwelling units (ADUs) in the Urban Growth Area – Rural Residential zoning district and the Rural Residential zoning district.

- Adjourned the Board of Commissioners meeting and convened a meeting of the 4-H and Extension Service District governing board. Tucker was elected chair and Sprenger was elected vice-chair for 2026.

Also during their Dec. 23 meeting, commissioners:

- Updated a contract with the law firm of Sussman Shank LLP, for litigation services in the Western States Land Reliance Trust v. Linn County lawsuit, which will be reviewed on appeal by the Oregon Supreme Court. The contract is not to exceed \$175,000.

- Approved a letter of proxy allowing Tucker to vote for the Board of Commissioners at the Association of O & C Counties annual meeting.

PUBLIC SAFETY

From page 12

rants, Santiam Hwy./Russell Drive. Report taken.

10:08 p.m. - Danny Burroughs, 78, of Lyons, cited for driving while suspended, failure to carry proof of insurance. Casey Trussell, 40, arrested on probable cause from previous burglary case in Lyons and cited on warrant. Lacombe Dr./Totem Pole Rd. Report taken.

LCSO/OSP Sweet Home/S. County

5:42 p.m. - Caller reported people trespassing on CTC property and attempting to steal petrified wood, 41100 block McQueen Dr. Suspects departed before deputy could get to scene.

Sweet Home Police

12:30 a.m. - James Daniel McClintock, 51, arrested by Lincoln City police on SHMC warrant for FTA in harassment case. Cited to appear Feb. 25.
2:05 a.m. - Jaime Castro-Hernandez, 29, arrested by OSP

on SHMC warrant for FTC in criminal driving case. Cited to appear Feb. 25.

3:44 p.m. - Mariah Callahan, 34, arrested on LCCC warrant in sex abuse case, 1300 block 56th Ave. Lodged at Linn County Jail.

4:24 p.m. - Tara Sue Wilber, 29, arrested after she turned herself in at SHPD, 1950 Main St., on SHMC warrants for FTA in trespassing and theft of services cases. Cited and released.

9:56 p.m. - Michael Malaki Swinger, 34, arrested on Jackson County Circuit Court warrant in trespass case. Jade Amasa Waldon, 25, arrested on JCCC warrants for FTA and probation violation in DUI case. 1200 block Clark Mill Rd. Both cited and released.

Lebanon Police

Lebanon police had not submitted a log for this date in time for publication. When available, log will be updated at lebanon-localnews.com.

Dec. 31

Law enforcement responded to multiple reports of illegal and loud fireworks in rural and urban locations in Lebanon and Sweet Home during New Year's Eve evening. Officers/deputies checked areas but did not locate sources of fireworks.

LCSO/OSP Lebanon

8:43 a.m. - Curt Blasche, 46, of Lebanon, cited on multiple warrants. Anthony Middleton, 64, of Lebanon, cited on LMC warrant. 36000 block River Rd. Both cited and released. Report taken.

11:39 a.m. - Hannah Brownell, 40, of Sodaville, cited for speeding, 1600 block Cascade Dr./Sodaville Rd.

1:21 p.m. - Richard Walls, 55, of Lebanon, arrested on two outstanding warrants, 32800 block Berlin Rd. Cited and released. Report taken.

2:00 p.m. - Thomas Haught, 61, of Lebanon, cited for outstanding warrant. Also cited for driving while suspended, driving uninsured and improper display of registration stickers. 6th/Card streets, L. Vehicle impounded. Report taken. At 2:34 p.m. Haught was arrested on two active warrants in 39300 block Davis St. Report taken.

3:40 p.m. - Willa Harris, 54, of Lebanon, cited for criminal trespass II, 2200 block Fuller Lane. Report taken.
LCSO/OSP Sweet Home/S. County

3:30 p.m. - Anna House, 41, arrested for criminal trespass II, 400 N. Main St., Brownsville. Report taken.

7:43 p.m. - Caleb Thorne, 22, of Brownsville, arrested for reckless endangering and menacing after deputies responded to report of an armed disturbance in 25100 block Little Valley Lane, Brownsville. Report taken.

9:53 p.m. - Eneki Lokela Trujillo, 25, of Brownsville, arrested on outstanding warrant and cited for giving false information to police, 25100 block Little Valley Lane, Brownsville. Lodged at Linn County Jail. Report taken.

Sweet Home Police

1:54 a.m. - Brandon Ryan Freeman, 31, arrested on SHMC warrant for FTC in concealed

weapon case, FTA in trespassing case, 3100 block Main St. Cited and released.

2:21 p.m. - Caller reported dog in distress in area of Elm St./6th Ave. Officer responded. Dog was deceased prior to officer arrival. Owner advised.

2:52 a.m. - Shauna Ray Harden, 32, cited for driving while suspended, driving uninsured, Long St./37th Ave.

3:19 a.m. - Cody Allen Bowman, 36, arrested on SHMC warrants for FTA in two trespass cases, and FTA in two theft cases, 1100 block 10th Ave. Cited and released.

5:48 a.m. - Franklin Finnell, 24, cited for driving uninsured and no valid operator's license after caller reported someone hit mailboxes and a telephone pole in 4100 block Osage St. Vehicle impounded.

10:00 a.m. - Nickolas Ryan Shoulders arrested by Lebanon police on SHMC warrant for FTC in theft case. Cited to appear Jan. 28.

8:51 p.m. - Matthew Shane Samard, 38, arrested on LMC warrant for probation violation in criminal driving case, cited for driving while suspended, 2300 block Main St. Cited and released.

10:33 p.m. - Caller reported cat stuck inside Les Schwab, 1707 Main St. Officer responded. Cat now free but at large. Owner will continue to attempt to catch it.

Lebanon Police

9:56 a.m. - Nickolas R. Shoulders, 36, cited on LMC warrant for FTA on original charge of driving while suspended, improper display and driving uninsured, SHMC warrant for theft III and LCCC warrant for FTA on original charge of endangering the welfare of a minor.

10:03 a.m. - Christopher J. Swisher, 60, cited for driving while suspended and on insurance.

11:55 a.m. - Subject on bicycle was swerving around, almost fell over in front of driver, using his phone to record a female walking on the sidewalk.

11:56 a.m. - Linda L. Gillett, 57, cited for failure to obey traffic control device.

1:43 p.m. - Karen Jean McCoy,

40, cited for cell phone use. 2:01 p.m. - Caller reported subject put ashes from a fire in his hat and put the hat on his head, near O'Reilly's. Nicholas Trevor Wells, 34, was making art on a board using dirt and bark dust, denied burning anything. He was cited on LMC warrant for FTA.

2:19 p.m. - Bryan Andrew Steinhauser, 46, cited for speeding 45/25.

2:20 p.m. - Caller heard loud noise a couple nights ago and this morning noticed his bush was crashed into and uprooted, 1400 block Filbert St. A parked truck was also hit.

**Dec. 30
LCSO/OSP Lebanon**

9:07 p.m. - Brad Neuenchwander, 67, of Jefferson, cited for driving while suspended, failure to renew vehicle registration, Tangent/10th streets, L.

10:31 p.m. - Hit and run reported in area of Rock Hill/Sodaville Cutoff drives, L. Deputy responded, helped facilitate exchange of information. Victim declined to pursue charges.

LCSO/OSP Sweet Home/S. County

3:25 p.m. - Leo Reece King, 18, of Brownsville, cited for careless driving, driving uninsured, failure to register a vehicle and operating a vehicle without privileges following single-vehicle crash in area of Sand Ridge Rd./Webber Dr. Report taken.

8:59 p.m. - Deputies investigated report of historical child abuse, 29200 block Berlin Rd. Investigation ongoing. Report taken.

Sweet Home Police

12:34 a.m. - Bryanna Sue Harley, 34, arrested by Albany police on SHMC warrants in two theft cases. Cited to appear Feb. 11.

2:47 a.m. - Officer flagged down by citizen who reported theft of bicycle, Main St./18th Ave. Missing bicycle described as GT model Triple Triangle Pro, cream colored. Approximate value \$50. Report taken for theft II.

See more and updated public safety logs at sweethomenews.com and lebanonlocalnews.com.



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YEAR IN REVIEW

From page 10

Tacoma-based MultiCare Health Systems in a move that, Samaritan said, would strengthen its ability to provide health services in the region.

November

- The Sweet Home American Legion Post 133 moved into its new headquarters, the former Fir Lawn Lutheran Church, after renovations, which still needed to be completed at move-in.

- Samaritan Health Services announced a merger with MultiCare, a Washington-based health service. MultiCare is expected to pay \$700 million over the next 10 years to assume ownership of Samaritan's assets.

- Three Sweet Home cross-country runners qualified for the state championships at the district meet.

- Lebanon Fire Chief Joseph Rodondi announced his plan to retire after leading LFD for six years. During his time here, he oversaw construction of the new Station 31, battled challenges presented by COVID, increased programs and social media, and built a system to raise up future local fire chiefs. John Tacy replaced Rodondi.

- Sweet Home's football team got an unexpected berth in the 4A state playoffs after apparently missing its opportunity in a 27-14 Halloween loss to Philomath. But the Warriors announced they were forfeiting the game because they violated an OSAA rule that prohibits junior varsity players from competing on successive nights, giving the Huskies their first trip to the playoffs since 2019.

- City leaders in Sweet Home held a summit meeting to discuss food needs in the community, including difficulties being experienced by relief organizations.

- Sweet Home sophomore Emma Whitton finished seventh at the state cross-country championships after placing fourth as a freshman. Senior McKenzie Miller, who was ill, finished 14th. Junior Ryker Burr was 34th for the boys in his first trip to state in cross-country.

- Sweet Home's football team lost a tight state playoff game 20-17 on the road at La Grande.

- Santiam Travel Station, the former city-owned council chambers in Lebanon, was sold to the company that operates Santiam Excursion for \$525,000.

- Lebanon High School earned second place in the T-Mobile Friday Night 5G Lights Competition. T-Mobile gave them a \$100,000 check for their efforts.

- The City of Waterloo hired Grace Reed as its new city recorder.

December

- After serving Lebanon on a monthly basis with the Lebanon Local for more than nine years, newspaper owners



File Photo

Lebanon cheer and dance team members rally visitors to scan a QR code to cast a vote in support of the Warriors' effort to win a \$1 million prize from T-Mobile that would have paid for upgrades to the shuttered Heath Stadium. Lebanon finished second in the nationwide contest to a high school in Arkansas, but still received a total of \$125,000 from T-Mobile for the stadium effort.

Scott and Miriam Swanson announced plans to merge the paper with its weekly Sweet Home publication, The New Era, to provide weekly news for all of east Linn County.

- Linn County commenced construction of a new mental health crisis center across the street from Albany General Hospital that will eventually provide 24/7 temporary respite for people who need behavioral health assistance.

- Lebanon teen Zayne Hannah-Gray was found dead and a Sweet Home-area juvenile seriously injured following a two-car crash at McDowell Creek Drive and Berlin Road.

- Organizers of the Sweet Home Alumni Foundation Christmas Tree Auction estimated the event raised some \$50,000 for scholarships for Sweet Home High School graduating seniors. The scholarships are funded by the foundation's endowment, which has exceeded \$3 million, and foundation Board Member Greg Ego told the attendees that SHAF plans to award a record \$120,000 in scholarships this year.

- Sweet Home School District announced it has been promised \$12.2 million in state matching funds if voters approve a bond measure that would simply extend the bond rate they currently pay over a longer period of time. Combined with funds already saved by the district for the purpose, and the state grant, the proposed bond measure would raise approximately \$40 million for facility needs, according to the district.

- Sweet Home School Board members agreed to purchase a flag lot adjoining the Sweet Home High School campus for \$90,000. The property will provide an opportunity to create safer bus access to the campus, district officials said.

- In the continuing story of attempts to build a new well in Sodaville and finally free itself from buying water from Lebanon, Mayor Brian Lewis said, "This spring I wanna drill a well." For years the city has been crossing hurdles to dig a sixth well, and is reaching the

end of a rope that would provide them financial hope of being able to do so.

- Sweet Home High School CTE students are in the process of creating an art installation that will feature 60 metal fish that will be placed in the Main Street median.

Charlie Kuskie was sworn in to fill a seat at the Waterloo City Council, which was recently vacated by Adam Beskow.

- City officials in Lebanon presented a "State of the City" during a Chamber of Commerce lunch forum. The mayor said key challenges include aging infrastructure, budget constraints, staffing limitations, the Green Peter drawdown, and unfunded government mandates. The finance director reported recent budget concerns are now looking up after cutting costs and implementing a City Service Fee.

- Sweet Home Fire and Ambulance District and former staffer Zach Lincoln settled a federal lawsuit Lincoln had filed against the district, alleging violations of federal and state laws and its own policies in his dismissal.

- Fire destroyed a rural residence off Old Hufford Drive, east of Sweet Home. Sweet Home Fire and Ambulance District shuttled some 45,000 gallons of water to the remote site.

- Sweet Home High School head janitor Darren Schultz and former teacher Dr. Harrison Neal collaborated in getting 215 desks that were being discarded by Western Oregon University for the high school, all in good condition and worth some \$60,000 if purchased new.

Elks Hoop Shoot Winners

The Sweet Home Elks hosted their 25th annual Hoop Shoot free throw competition Dec. 6 at Sweet Home Junior High.

More than 225 shooters from Sweet Home Charter School, Foster, Holley, Hamilton Creek and Hawthorne participated in the contest, which started with competitions held at the individual schools, organizer Randy Claassen said.

About 30 contestants moved on to the local finals on Dec. 6. The winners in the various age divisions will move on to the district finals in Corvallis Jan. 10 and those winners will qualify for the state competition in Salem, with the regional competition following in Vancouver, Wash.



Top placers in the 8-9 age division are, from left, Elene Moe, second, and Charleigh Dixon (Hawthorne, winner), and for the boys, Rayden Samson (Holley, winner), Sam Chalker, third, and Porter Walker, second. Contest Director Randy Claassen is on the right in each photo.



Top placers in the 10-11 age division are, from left, Jaxson Hutson, third, Eli Strong (Holley, winner), and Brayden Auichouser, second. Girls finalists are Avery Bondesen (Hawthorne, winner), Sofia Estrada, third, and Avery Sullivan, second.



Top placers in the 12-13 age division are, from left, Liam Tucci (Lacomb, winner), Carter Collins, and Ryker Samson. For the girls, finalists are, from left, Sadie Matson, Serenity Boyer and Agnes Erickson (Foster, winner).

FOLP

From page 2

help pay for some new lane lines."

Other ideas they've considered included: sponsorship of Swim Club members for low-income families, making a family pass available at the Lebanon Public Library that

patrons can check-out, and funding swim lessons for children from low-income families.

But one thing's for certain: they will bring back the Splash for Cash swim marathon event they kicked off last year. Last year, FOLP Board Member Rose Kress reported to the LAD board that

their inaugural event raised \$14,000 for the pool. Waterhouse said they expect to host the second annual event in February or March this year.

"I am looking forward to doing some good fundraising in 2026 and contributing to appreciation for and success of our Lebanon Pool," Waterhouse said.

SH boys, girls fourth against top swim teams

For The New Era
By Satina Tolman

The banner hanging above the check-in desk at the Sweet Home Community Pool says it all: "The Pool That Peargin Built."

On Saturday, Jan. 3, that legacy was on full display as the Huskies hosted the second annual Peargin Plunge, welcoming some of the state's top small-school programs for a meet honoring longtime coach Doug Peargin.

Peargin has dedicated 51 of his 57 years in coaching to Sweet Home swimmers, helping guide the Huskies to at least one district championship – boys, girls or both – every season since 1979. With 46 consecutive years of district titles tied to his tenure, it is no surprise the meet has quickly become a marquee event on the high school swim calendar.

Sweet Home was joined by Marshfield, Newport, Molalla, North Bend, Hidden Valley, La Grande, Henley, Cascade Christian, Cove Charter and North Marion.

Despite competing with a significantly smaller roster, the Huskies held their own against the tough competition. Both the boys and girls teams placed fourth out of 11 teams, while Sweet Home finished third overall with a combined score of 425 points, trailing only Marshfield and Newport.

Head coach A. Jay Bronson praised his team's effort and competitiveness throughout the meet.

"We swam well. We did a great job racing across the board," he said. "We got drowned out because we don't have as many people as the teams that outscored us. All the teams ahead of us had 35-plus swimmers."

Bronson emphasized that the results were particularly impressive, given the level of competition.

"Third as a team in a meet like this is huge," he said. "The big thing to take away from this is that together we can do great things. Individually, they did really well, but as a team on our relays, we placed incredibly high. This meet was faster than districts. We had eight of the best teams across the state competing here, and we held our own."

The Huskies delivered several top-three finishes throughout the meet.

For the girls, sophomore Khloe Sautel led the way with a second-place finish out of 36 swimmers in the 50-yard freestyle (26.01) and a first-place victory in the 500-yard freestyle (5:32.45). Sautel also anchored the second-place 400-yard freestyle relay alongside juniors Ella Haggas and Lexi Rundell, and senior Kylie Melkvik, finishing in 4:24.15.



Photos courtesy of Satina Tolman

Khloe Sautel, center, awaits the arrival of teammate Kylie Melkvik in the girls 200 Medley Relay. Below, longtime Coach Doug Peargin, right, urges a swimmer on during the meet that bears his name. See more photos at sweethomenews.com.



The boys' team also posted strong results, including a second-place finish in the 200-yard medley relay by senior Andrew Tolman, juniors Grayson Savri, Henry Jones, and Austyn Hogan (1:56.08). Hogan added a first-place finish in the 500-yard freestyle (5:38.38), while Tolman won the 100-yard backstroke (1:02.84) and placed third in the 200-yard individual medley (2:26.21). Savri finished second in the 100-yard breaststroke (1:13.18), and the Huskies took second in the 400-yard freestyle relay with Tolman, Hogan, Jones and Savri swimming a 3:47.84.

Following the meet, Bronson commended his swimmers for their effort.

"You guys did a phenomenal job, and you should be proud of that," he said.

Sautel was named Swimmer of the Meet after stand-out performances in her individual events and both relays.

The Huskies also posted some big personal bests, Bronson said. They included: rookie Ethan Hernandez's 27.7 in the 50 Freestyle, his first time under 30 seconds; a 15-second

PR for freshman Malakai Walls in the 200 Freestyle; a seven-second PR by Henry Jones in the 100 Butterfly, a two-second personal best for Lexi Rundell in the 100 Freestyle, and two-second PRs in both the 100 Breaststroke and 100 Freestyle for Grayson Savri.

Looking ahead, Sweet Home will compete in a sprint meet on Saturday, Jan. 10, at the district pool in Albany, an opportunity Peargin said will help the team prepare for postseason competition.

Peargin, for whom the meet is named, also addressed the team afterward. "You guys did a great job today, and I'm proud of ya – everybody," he said.

One of the team captains, senior Kylie Melkvik said the meet provided valuable insight into what lies ahead.

"I think we did really great, especially because the competition looked a lot like what we will expect at districts and state, too," Melkvik said. "Relays are going to be hard, especially since we don't have a B relay, so that makes it tough."



Photo by Scott Swanson

Peyton Vorderstrasse gets a shot off over Thurston's Addison Nelson in the Warriors' win Dec. 30. See more photos at lebanonlocalnews.com.

Lebanon girls down Thurston

The fifth-ranked Lebanon girls warmed up for their Mid-Willamette Conference campaign last week with a 71-48 thrashing of Thurston, followed by a 71-58 loss to Clackamas last week.

The Warriors ended their winter break on Dec. 30, hosting the Colts. Lebanon was riding a three-game winning streak and continued their hot streak, jumping out to a quick lead and then maintaining a roughly 20-point advantage throughout the contest.

Lebanon employed an up tempo offense and a stingy, aggressive defense which enabled them to control the game from start to finish. The Warriors switched defenses regularly throughout the game causing many Thurston turnovers and easy baskets for

the hosts.

Lebanon led 16-5 at the end of the first quarter, continuing its aggressive style of play throughout the game allowing them to extend their lead to 38-20 at half. They led by 23 at the end of the third quarter.

Piper Sewell led the Warriors with 23 points; with Peyton Vorderstrasse contributing 21, Jayden Hare, 12; and Hazel Pepperling with nine.

On the road at Clackamas (7-2 going into this week) on Jan. 2, Lebanon faced the sixth-ranked team in the 6A Division. Game details were unavailable at press time.

The Warriors, 6-2 going into this week, open their MWC schedule Tuesday, Jan. 6.

– Mike Warner

Warrior boys start 2026 with wins

Lebanon's boys came back from their Christmas break with a pair of decisive wins last week over Aloha and McKay.

The Warriors' 76-32 win over the Royal Scots on the road Jan. 2 gave them a 1-0 start on the Mid-Willamette Conference season.

That followed a 76-43 demolishing of Aloha at home on Dec. 30, which was winless going into this week.

Lebanon jumped on the visitors coming out of the gate, starting with a lay-in following the jump ball.

Using a determined pressure defense, the Warriors built a 27-7 lead by the end of the first quarter. They continued to create mayhem for the visitors from Portland's 6A Metro League and led 51-19 at the half. Leading scorers for the Warriors included Logan Large, 18; Gunner Miller, 17; Ryan Robinson, 14; Logan Taylor, 11; and Finn VandenBos, nine.

Lebanon's execution of the play was dominant and efficient and a portent of future successes for the Warriors throughout the game.



Photo by Scott Swanson

Logan Large goes up for some of his team-leading 18 points against Aloha. See more photos at lebanonlocalnews.com.

Lebanon, 4-3 going into this week, resumes MWC play Friday, Jan. 3, at McKay and hosts Dallas Friday, Jan. 9. Both games start at 7 p.m.

– Mike Warner