

THE COTTAGE GROVE Sentinel

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50

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Wednesday March 18, 2026 | 137 years

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Community celebration set for Main Street

JEREMY C. RUARK
Cottage Grove Sentinel

Cottage Grove city officials have set the date for the Historic Main Street Grand Opening. The event is scheduled from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, May 16.

"This event is more than just a ribbon-cutting ceremony; it's a celebration of community and the revitalization of our beautiful downtown," the city officials state in a release. "Come enjoy delicious food, fun activities, exciting prizes, and live music. Bring your family, invite your friends, and be a part of this exciting milestone for Main Street."

The City of Cottage Grove received a \$5 million federal grant from the Economic Development Administration through the American Rescue Plan and with a local contribution of \$1.3 million, began the project in February of last year. The project was completed last December.



Jeremy C. Ruark / Cottage Grove Sentinel

Main Street looking east just before two-way traffic was reinstated in mid-December.

The Main Street Revitalization Project in Cottage Grove's Historic District includes street repaving, frontage improvements, and new water and storm sewer utilities. These improvements include new sidewalk; new curb/gutter, pervious pavers in revised parking areas; water main; water services; storm sewer; storm sewer manholes; double lamp poles; vehicular poles with signals; pedestrian poles at crosswalks; street trees; water fountains;



Jeremy C. Ruark / Cottage Grove Sentinel

One of the new benches and a water fountain along the new Main Street.

new pavement striping, and other improvements such as fiber network cable.

Cottage Grove Project Coordinator Shauna Neigh said there are several key benefits following the Main Street Revitalization.

"A safer downtown with more lighting and less tripping hazards. The beautiful area will attract the community to congregate, tourists

to visit and entrepreneurs to invest," she said.

In a published interview with The Sentinel last December, Neigh said a key focus throughout has been supporting local businesses during the construction phase, which included partnering with the Cottage Grove Area Chamber of Commerce for the Pardon our Dust weekly gift card drawing as a way to encourage shoppers to visit the Main Street businesses.

"Both the city and the Wildish crew have maintained diligent communication with businesses, taking their needs into account when planning construction activities," Neigh said in the December interview.

The project conducted by the city's contractor Wildish, was not without its challenges. There was an unexpected underground discovery.

"During excavation on the north side of 6th Street, a 16-foot heating oil tank was discovered approximately four feet below the surface," Neigh said. "The city immediately contacted the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) and hired BB & A Environmental to manage the removal and testing process. Once tests confirmed the area was free of contaminants, the tank was safely removed and transported by BB & A Environmental to a recycling facility for disposal."

An earlier pre-ceremony was conducted Dec. 12, by city officials following the completion of the Main Street revitalization.

WHO WE ARE

Don Williams at 90: A Lifetime of Service to Cottage Grove



Cindy Weeldreyer / Cottage Grove Sentinel

Don Williams smiles during a surprise celebration of his 83rd birthday at a 2019 Cottage Grove Carousel Board meeting at Cottage Grove City Hall.

CINDY WEELDREYER
Cottage Grove Sentinel

Friends and colleagues honor the longtime Weyerhaeuser manager, civic leader and volunteer who helped shape the city's modern era.

Don Williams, a longtime Weyerhaeuser manager, volunteer and nonprofit champion, celebrates his 90th birthday on March 25 surrounded by family, friends and the many organizations he helped shape. Williams has spent more than

five decades strengthening Cottage Grove through steady leadership, civic service and a deep commitment to community life.

EARLY LIFE

He was born in 1936 in Everett, Washington, and launched his career with Weyerhaeuser in 1954 as a millworker apprentice, beginning a path that eventually brought him to Cottage Grove. In 1958, he married Jean, the love of his life, and together they raised two children.



Don Williams photographs the Albany Carousel during one of many research trips he made to learn from their success. A lifelong photographer and videographer, he used these visits to help guide Cottage Grove's own successful carousel restoration project.

Jean lost her battle with breast cancer nearly 20 years ago. When she died, Don continued investing his time and talents into the organizations they loved and supported.

In December 1975, Williams transferred to the Cottage Grove Weyerhaeuser Mill to serve as Head Filer, where he oversaw chip quality control. As the company restructured, he took on broader responsibilities. He advanced from Area Superintendent to Department Manager and supervised quality control for more than 200 machine

centers. He eventually concluded his Weyerhaeuser career as the mill's Health, Environmental & Safety Manager, a role that reflected both his technical expertise and his steady leadership. Williams built a reputation as a fair and principled negotiator. Both management and union leaders trusted him at the bargaining table, and he helped maintain stability during periods of industry change.

COMMUNITY VOLUNTEER

As the mill's community liaison, Williams stepped into leadership roles across Cottage Grove. He took on multiple responsibilities within the Cottage Grove Rotary Club and is a Paul Harris Fellow. He served many years on the Cottage Grove Area Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors, including twice as its president. He and Jean volunteered for numerous local nonprofits and supported community projects for decades.

COUNTY AND STATE LEADERSHIP

Williams also represented Cottage Grove at the county and state level. In the mid 1990s, he chaired the Lane County Community Corrections Committee, which later became the Public Safety Coordinating Council. He advised

three Lane County sheriffs — Dave Burks, Bob McMannus and Jan Clements — and Sheriff Burks appointed him as a citizen advisor to the Oregon State Sheriffs' Association. Williams also served on the South Lane County Fire & Rescue Board and participated in the Oregon Fire Marshals Association, where he contributed to regional fire safety efforts.

CIVIC ACCOMPLISHMENTS

His two terms as Chamber president bookended some of Cottage Grove's most significant civic improvements. When he returned in 2013 to revive the Chamber's Tourism Committee, he led the restoration of the donated vintage carousel and helped create the "Covered Bridge" Pilot's Lounge at the Cottage Grove Airport. The Chamber honored him with both its First Citizen Award and its Distinguished Service Award.

Williams also strengthened communication among local nonprofits. In 2014, he convened nonprofit and civic leaders to rebuild a presidents' council that could coordinate information and support community organizations. That effort created T.E.A.M.—Cottage Grove, which continues to produce the weekly Around the Grove News e-newsletter and remains a central hub for community information.

See **DON** Page 6

Council reviews citizen complaints about long-term RV parking

"We are not turning a blind eye nor are we ignoring the problem,"
Cory Chase, Cottage Grove Police Chief

CINDY WEELDREYER
Cottage Grove Sentinel

The Cottage Grove City Council is reviewing a growing number of citizens' complaints about recreational vehicles, boats, trailers, and other vehicles parked for extended periods on public streets.

The discussion at the council's Monday night March 9 regular public meeting centered on an parking

code amendment that would shorten the city's current 72 hour parking limit to 24 hours, a change city staff said could help address neighborhood concerns but would come with significant legal and practical challenges.

Chief of Police Cory Chase presented the staff report, noting that both residents and elected officials have raised concerns about long term vehicle parking on city streets. Staff evaluated several possible revisions to Cottage Grove Municipal Ordinance 10.20.050, which governs how long vehicles may remain parked in the public right of way.

Before recommending a path forward, staff considered regulating RVs, boats, and trailers differently from other vehicles by shortening

their parking limits or prohibiting them from parking on public streets altogether. Chase said those approaches were set aside because of legal limitations, enforcement impacts, and the burden they would place on property owners.

Staff also reviewed the City of Eugene's model, which bans RV parking near residences and hotels during overnight hours, but concluded it would not address Cottage Grove's complaints and would be difficult to implement in a smaller city.

The amendment now under consideration would reduce the maximum parking time from 72 hours to 24 hours and require a vehicle to move at least two blocks for at least 24 hours before returning to its

original location. The proposal also clarifies that inoperable vehicles may be treated as abandoned under state law and subject to citation and removal.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Public comment touched on homelessness, public space impacts, and long term RV parking. One speaker raised concerns about homeless activity in parks and near the 12th Street Dusk to Dawn site, while another, who is unhoused, said he plans to file a tort claim after losing personal property during a city cleanup. Two additional speakers focused on RVs parked along North 16th Street near

Safeway and pressed for changes to the parking code.

COUNCIL DISCUSSION

Chase told the council that police and public works staff are already devoting significant time to issues related to homelessness, including regular cleanups at the 12th Street Dusk to Dawn site every two to three weeks. He said the department must continually prioritize calls for service and that staffing limits constrain what the city can realistically enforce.

"We are not turning a blind eye nor are we ignoring the problem," he said.

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We're always interested in hearing about news in our community. Send us your news, photos, and videos and let us know what's going on! Email us your submission!



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Multiple law enforcement agencies arrest burglary, theft suspects

STAFF REPORT
Country Media, Inc.

- Three criminal suspects have been arrested in a multi-law enforcement agency investigation into burglaries and thefts in Lane County.
- The arrests were conducted at 7 a.m. March 4, as Lane County Sheriff's Office (LCSO) Special Response Team (SRT) deputies, detectives, the West Lane district deputy, Florence police officers, and an Oregon State trooper served a search warrant

at a residence in the 2200 block of 12th Street in Florence.

- The suspects were believed to be involved in numerous burglaries and thefts in the west Lane County area.
- The West Lane district deputy authored the search warrant based on his investigation. SRT was used for the service of the warrant as the primary suspect, 35-year-old Jason Scott Sprinkle, of Florence, had attempted to flee and assaulted deputies in past contacts.

- "As deputies cleared the property, Sprinkle attempted to flee on foot while armed with a knife," LCSO Sgt. Tim Wallace said. "He was initially pursued by K9 Ripp, but encountered a detective on perimeter who deployed a taser. Sprinkle dropped the knife and was arrested without further incident."
- During the search, deputies and officers located stolen property connected to several cases, as well as additional construction materials and tools that were out of

place, but not identifiable to a specific case, according to Wallace.

- Several individuals were detained in addition to Sprinkle. After additional investigation, three suspects were arrested and lodged at the Lane County Jail:
- Sprinkle was charged with:
- Theft in the 1st Degree
- Burglary in the 2nd Degree
- Criminal Mischief in the 2nd Degree
- Failure to Report as Sex Offender

- Possession of a Stolen Vehicle
- Parole Violation on an original conviction of Assault on a Public Safety Officer
- Jackson County Circuit Court warrant for Driving with a Revoked License
- Florence Municipal Court warrants for Reckless Driving, Recklessly Endangering Another Person, and Providing False Information to a Police Officer
- Skeyla Aireann Wardrobe, 29, of Mapleton

was arrested for:

- Theft in the 1st Degree
- Burglary in the 2nd Degree
- Criminal Mischief in the 2nd Degree
- Kurt Dillon Eskildsen, 34, of Florence was arrested for:
- Douglas County Circuit Court warrant for Trespass in the 2nd Degree
- The Florence Police Department and Oregon State Police assisted with the investigation.



Courtesy photos

Law enforcement serving the search warrant at a residence in the 2200 block of 12th Street in Florence.

A CLOSER LOOK

WEEKLY UPDATE
03/02/26 - 03/08/26

Accidents: 1	Hit & Run: 5
Arrests: 10	Suspicious Condition: 6
Criminal Mischief: 7	Trespass: 10
Disturbance: 10	Vehicle Stop: 21
Harassment: 1	Welfare Checks: 10

Total calls --- 331

POLICE BLOTTER

The police blotter relates to the public record of incidents as reported by law enforcement agencies. All individuals arrested or charged with a crime are presumed innocent until proven guilty. Information printed is preliminary and subject to change.

For specific details about cases listed, contact the appropriate law enforcement agency.

COTTAGE GROVE POLICE

MARCH 2

- 04:18: Repo, 1000 block E. Madison Ave.
- 06:22: Stolen vehicle recovery, 100 block E. Harrison Ave.
- 06:58: Welfare check, 800 block E. Main St.
- 08:53: Welfare check, 400 block Quincy Ave.
- 08:59: Abandoned vehicle, 300 block Hwy 99
- 09:55: Menacing, 400 block E. Main St.
- 10:47: Motor vehicle theft, 500 block E. Main St.
- 11:18: Trespass, 100 block N. 6th St.
- 12:31: Warrant service, N. River Rd/E. Main St.
- 13:03: Agency assist, I5 174 SB
- 13:21: Illegal camping, 300 block Gateway Blvd.
- 15:46: Warrant service, 400 block E. Main St.
- 15:56: Trespass, 900 block Row River Rd.
- 16:07: Abandoned vehicle, 100 block N. 16th St.
- 17:46: Menacing, 1300 block E. Main St.
- 18:17: Trespass, 1100 block Hwy 99

- 18:25: Welfare check, 1500 block Gateway Blvd.
- 18:49: Disturbance, 300 block S. 5th St.
- 19:13: Found dog, 900 block Row River Rd.
- 21:36: Suspicious vehicle, 1100 block Hillside Dr.
- 22:21: Agency assist, 800 block S. 6th St.

MARCH 3

- 01:31: Suicidal subject, 200 block S. 11th St.
- 06:52: Welfare check, 1700 block E. Washington Ave.
- 07:03: Agency assist, 900 block W. Main St.
- 08:07: Criminal mischief, 1300 block S. 8th St.
- 09:07: Fraud, 100 block Gateway Blvd.
- 10:50: Hit and run, 800 block E. Whiteaker Ave.
- 12:35: Disturbance, 300 block North K St.
- 13:02: Welfare check, 100 block N. 14th St.
- 13:16: Hit and run, 1300 block Birch Ave.
- 17:25: Criminal mischief, 800 block S. 14th St.
- 17:56: Juvenile problem, 1000 block Adams Ave.
- 19:17: Nuisance, 900 block Wilson Ave..

MARCH 4

- 00:58: Fire, Territorial Hwy/MP 42
- 04:08: Fraud, 1700 block E. Main St.
- 05:48: Suspicious condition, 900 block W. Main St.
- 07:00: Suspicious condition, 81000 block Mill Rd.
- 08:52: Warrant service, 1000 block E. Main St.
- 08:54: Hit and run, 1300 block S. River Rd.
- 09:34: Illegal camping, 200

- block N. 12th St.
- 10:14: Suspicious condition, 400 block E. Main St.
- 10:54: Suspicious subject, 2000 block S. 8th St.
- 12:54: Barking dog, 900 block W. Main St.
- 13:40: Hit and run, 900 block Row River Rd.
- 13:48: Fraud, 1000 block W. Main St.
- 14:11: Repo, 2100 block E. Main St.
- 16:10: Trespass, 900 block Row River Rd.
- 16:46: Suspicious condition, 100 block North L St.
- 20:26: Warrant service, 400 block E. Main St.
- 22:08: Warrant service, 400 block E. Main St.

MARCH 5

- 01:38: Trespass, 1000 block E. Main St.
- 06:41: Welfare check, 1200 block Gateway Blvd.
- 08:09: Disorderly subject, Hwy 99/Jefferson
- 08:13: Criminal mischief, 1000 block Ostrander Ln.
- 09:57: Agency assist, Hwy 99/Kenady Ln.
- 10:12: Abandoned vehicle, 100 block S. 10th St.
- 10:37: Disturbance, 100 block S. 17th St.
- 12:16: Theft, 800 block E. Whiteaker Ave.
- 12:26: Harassment, 100 block Gateway Blvd.
- 12:42: Animal info, 1500 block E. Main St.
- 12:46: Disorderly subject, 700 block Hwy 99
- 14:08: Agency assist, 800 block S. 14th St.
- 14:44: Theft, 1500 block E. Main St.
- 15:13: Abandoned vehicle, 100 block S. 16th St.
- 15:29: Found drugs, 100 block N. 6th St.

- 15:50: Alarm, 100 block Village Dr.
- 15:55: Suspicious subject, 100 block S. 10th St.
- 16:36: Assault, 1400 block Daugherty Ave.
- 16:40: Criminal mischief, 100 block S. 17th St.
- 20:00: Trespass, 32000 block Rocklyn Ave.
- 21:14: Disturbance, 700 block Hwy 99
- 23:05: Disturbance, 200 block E. Jefferson Ave.
- 23:37: Warrant service, 400 block E. Main St.

MARCH 6

- 01:44: Disorderly subject, Hwy 99/Lord
- 02:56: Alarm, 1200 block E. Main St.
- 03:01: Illegal camping, 12th/Main
- 07:13: Agency assist, 800 block S. 14th St.
- 09:02: Alarm, 2000 block South R St.
- 10:25: Fraud, 400 block E. Main St.
- 10:48: Juvenile problem, 900 block Row River Rd.
- 11:18: Abandoned vehicle, 500 block Grant Ave.
- 11:36: Suspicious subject, 1500 block Samuel Dr.
- 11:50: Juvenile trouble, 900 block Row River Rd.
- 12:05: Fraud, 1700 block Pritchett Pl.
- 12:17: Disorderly subject, 1200 block Gateway Blvd.
- 12:48: Disturbance, 76000 block London Rd.
- 13:00: Warrant service, 400 block E. Main St.
- 14:07: Disturbance, 1500 block Samuel Dr.
- 15:19: Trespass, 2000 block S. 8th St.
- 15:47: Agency assist, 100 block E. Harrison Ave.



Courtesy Photo / Cottage Grove Sentinel

- 18:40: Assault, 100 block S. 10th St.
- 18:49: Juvenile trouble, 100 block Gateway Blvd.
- 19:07: Disorderly subject, 1300 block S. River Rd.
- 20:27: Suspicious condition, 700 block Hwy 99
- 23:14: Order violation, 1000 block Adams Ave.

MARCH 7

- 01:59: Criminal mischief, 500 block S. 5th St.
- 02:27: Mental subject, 900 block N. Douglas st.
- 10:55: Criminal mischief, 1300 block Pennoyer Ave.
- 11:44: Trespass, 1300 block Elm Ave.
- 12:05: Barking dog, M/ Dogwood
- 19:25: Mental subject, 6th/ London
- 22:43: Illegal camping, 1300 block E. Main St..

MARCH 8

- 01:44: Warrant service, 400 block E. Main St.
- 08:39: Suspicious vehicle, 300 block S. River Rd.
- 09:05: Agency assist, 100

- block E. Harrison Ave.
- 11:55: Fire, 700 block South R St.
- 11:06: Order violation, 100 block Sweet Ln.
- 13:02: Welfare check, 1400 block E. Washington Ave.
- 13:23: Motor vehicle crash, 1800 block W. Main St.
- 13:29: Trespass, 4th/Hayes
- 13:44: Hit and run, Ostrander/Davis
- 15:51: Disturbance, 37000 block Row River Rd.
- 16:42: Disturbance, 32000 block Latham Rd.
- 17:05: Juvenile trouble, 900 block Arthur Ave.
- 18:40: Suicidal subject, 900 block E. Jefferson Ave.
- 19:05: Juvenile trouble, 1500 block E. Main St.
- 19:09: Warrant service, 400 block E. Main St.
- 19:50: Criminal mischief, 200 block N. 10th St.
- 20:32: Trespass, 2100 block Patrick Ct.

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Lodging tax increase facing local opposition

JEREMY C. RUARK
Cottage Grove Sentinel

Oregon lawmakers have voted to increase the state's lodging tax in order to help fund wildlife conservation.

The tax increase passed the state Senate on Wednesday, March 4, in a 20-9 vote, a week after approval in the House. The measure is expected to bring in roughly \$37 million per year by raising the state's lodging tax from 1.5% to 2.75%, according to an Oregon Capital Chronicle report.

Oregon is among many states that have struggled to find funding for vulnerable species managed by state wildlife agencies. Such agencies get much of their revenue from fishing and hunting license sales and have focused much of their work on traditional "game" species such as deer and trout.

Climate change, habitat loss and other factors have increased the urgency for states to take a broader approach. Officials at the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife and similar agencies in other states are responsible for a wide array of species, many of which are struggling. But most agencies have little funding for "non-game" species.

The bill would support programs to aid the more than 300 species that wildlife officials have identified as needing conservation help, through stewardship and by limiting poaching and invasive species. It also earned some Republican support due to a provision that will provide compensation for ranchers whose livestock are killed by wolves.

Some business and tourism groups opposed the bill, arguing it would hurt their industries. But backers noted that

Oregon's overnight lodging tax still remains among the lowest in the country.

LOCAL CONCERN

Before passage by the Oregon Senate, the Oregon State Chamber of Commerce sent Senators the following letter of opposition signed by the association members, including Cottage Grove Chamber of Commerce Executive Director Georgia Haskell, Eugene Chamber of Commerce Executive Director Brittany Quick-Warner, Springfield Chamber of Commerce Executive Director Vonnie Mikkelsen, and Florence Area Chamber of Commerce Executive Director Bettina Hannigan, which reads in part:

"It is important to understand that tourism is a traded sector – it imports dollars into our communities from visitors – and for better or worse, it has been a pillar of

local economic growth absent the growth of traditional traded sector industry.

Many businesses and jobs are supported in our communities due to the well-functioning and well-proven system of tourism promotion and investments that have served our state and our communities for over two decades – a system that will now be significantly disrupted and potentially degraded with the passage of HB 4134 and HB 4148 in tandem.

To be clear: We need visitors and customers on the front end – not grants on the back end.

In other words, we need the TLT revenues dedicated to tourism promotion to do what they were intended to do – promote our communities and drive visitor spending. No other use should be considered for these dollars."

Jason Brandt, Oregon Restaurant and Lodging



Courtesy photo from the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife
Bighorn sheep are among the threatened species identified in the Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife's plan guiding conservation work. A new lodging tax could help provide funding to carry out that work.

Association CEO Jason Brandt, in an interview with KGW TV News, said the increased lodging tax may lead to more state agencies seeking to draw funds from the lodging tax.

The measure now goes to Democratic Gov. Tina Kotek.

Read the full Capital Chronicle report at: <https://oregoncapitalchronicle.com/2026/03/06/oregon-lawmakers-increase-lodging-tax-to-boost-wildlife-funding/> and follow developments online at cgsentinel.com and in the Wednesday print editions of *The Sentinel*.

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

MARCH 18

- CG Library Hours: 11 a.m.–7 p.m.
- CG Library. Ukulele Club for adults. 9 a.m.
- CG Library. Bilingual Story Time. 5 p.m.
- Coast Fork Kiwanis Club. Noon. Sol Azteca Mexican Restaurant.
- Rotary Club of Cottage Grove. Social 5 p.m. Meeting 5:30 p.m. El Tapatio.
- Elks Bingo. 5 p.m.
- Axe and Fiddle. Game Night with Ayla. 6:30–10 p.m.

MARCH 19

- CG Library Hours: 11 a.m.–7 p.m.
- CG Library. Book Club. 4:30 p.m.
- Lions Club. Noon. Axe and Fiddle.
- Coast Fork Brewing. Bradley Shepherd (Americana). 5:30–7:30 p.m.
- Chamber of Commerce Business After Hours. 5:30–7 p.m.

- German Table Conversation Group. 5:30–7 p.m. Jack Sprats.
- Bohemian Tavern. Karaoke Night. 9 p.m.–Close.
- Celebrate Recovery. 5:15 p.m.
- Axe and Fiddle. Billy and the Box Kid (rock n bluegrass). 8–10 p.m. Cover \$8

MARCH 20

- CG Library Hours: 10 a.m.–6 p.m.
- CG Library. Baby Laptine birth to two years. 11:30 a.m.
- CG Library. Teen Gaming. 4 p.m.
- American Legion Post 32 Bingo. 5–7 p.m. 826 W. Main St.
- Coast Fork Brewing. LB and Co. (country rock blues). 6–9 p.m.
- Elks Lodge Steak Feed Community Dinner. 5–6:30 p.m. CG Elks Lodge 775 N. River Rd.

MARCH 21

- CG Library Hours: 10 a.m.–4 p.m.
- CG Library. Storytime. 11:30 a.m.
- Coast Fork Brewing. Bekkah McAlvage (bluegrass country folk). 6–9 p.m.
- Axe and Fiddle. The Winks (pop punk rock). 8–10 p.m.
- AlAnon. 7 p.m. Sinclair Room Cottage Grove City Hall 400 East Main St.

MARCH 22

- Coast Fork Brewing. The Regulars (Americana). 1:30–3 p.m.
- South Valley Athletics Bingo Fundraiser. 3:30–5:30 p.m. Coast Fork Brewing.
- VFW Post 3473 Bingo. 2–4 p.m.

MARCH 23

- Community Sharing Food Boxes Available. 1:30–6 p.m.
- Coast Fork Brewing Gardeners Meeting. 5:30–7 p.m.
- CG Senior Center Bingo. 12:30 p.m.

MARCH 24

- CG Library Hours: 11 a.m.–7 p.m.
- CG Library. Ukulele Club for adults. 9 a.m.
- CG Library. Bilingual Story Time. 5 p.m.
- Trinity Lutheran Church Community Meal. 5:15–6:15 p.m. Seventh and Quincy Ave. Free. Take out only.
- Coast Fork Brewing. Trivia and Games with Gerald. 6–8 p.m.
- Axe and Fiddle. Science Pub with Watershed Council. 5–7 p.m.



Cindy Weeldreyer / Cottage Grove Sentinel
A colorful sign of spring in Cottage Grove

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The **COTTAGE GROVE** *Sentinel*

Deputies, offers teach, attend crisis intervention training

STAFF REPORT
Cottage Grove Sentinel

The Lane County Regional Crisis Intervention Team is made up of coordinators from the Lane County Sheriff's Office, the Eugene Police Department, and the Springfield Police Department.

The team is assisted by a steering committee made up of stakeholders in the local mental health community.

The Team hosted a 40-hour Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) training in late February at the Springfield Police Department and Hillview Baptist Church in Springfield.

This regional training is offered to local law enforcement agencies in Lane County.

The 31 attendees included deputies, dispatchers, and officers assigned to various roles from the Lane County Sheriff's Office, Springfield Police Department, Eugene Police Department, Oakridge Police Department, Cottage Grove Police Department, and Lane Transit District.

CIT Training consists of classroom instruction to educate participants about mental health, addiction, de-escalation, and alternatives to incarceration.

The curriculum includes specific lessons about local resources and programs, commonly encountered mental health conditions, tactical communication strategies, and presentations from community members with lived, first-hand mental health experiences, according to a

release from the Lane County Sheriff's Office (LCSO).

The training includes discussions specific to unique community's law enforcement officers may encounter, such as military veterans, members of the LGBTQIA+ community, and developmentally disabled individuals.

Near the end of the week of training, attendees participate in scenario training based off of real situations. The training concludes with a segment on officer resilience and mental wellness.

"This training provides a solid foundation for local law enforcement to call upon when approaching persons in crisis and to help community members receive the best outcome possible," the release states.



Courtesy from the LCSO

CIT instructors and attendees pose for a photo at the training session.

County assuming control of youth mobile crisis, stabilization services

Due to continued and worsening budget constraints, Lane County Behavioral Health (LCBH) will assume youth mobile crisis and stabilization services previously provided by Riverview Center for Growth effective April 30, according to a release from Lane County.

By absorbing these services into the already existing Mobile Crisis Services of Lane County program, LCBH can ensure Lane County youth and families will continue to have access to life-saving crisis and stabilization services 7 days a week, the release states.

"We thank Riverview for their invaluable service to the

youth and families of Lane County," Lane County Health and Human Services Director Eve Gray said. "We make this move due to the dwindling availability of adequate funding and while it is born out of necessity, we are confident the specific expertise in youth crisis services our LCBH providers and responders have will allow for uninterrupted service to our community."

LCBH has been providing mental health services to children and adolescents for over 50 years with a full staff of providers who specialize in this age group. The Child & Adolescent program at LCBH is one of four core

programs and is comprised of 14 staff and serves roughly 400 clients. Additionally, thanks to the advent of LCBH's Mobile Crisis Services of Lane County, the primary provider of mobile adult crisis services in Lane County outside of Western Lane, LCBH has responders specifically trained to serve youth through mobile crisis response, the release states.

The current youth volume averages to about 6-8 calls per day and three in-person calls for crisis response. Lane County and Riverview are currently engaged in a transition plan which will see LCBH having 7 days a week coverage from 6 a.m.

to 11 p.m. by the beginning of April. Responders for the overnight shift have already been hired and once two additional positions are secured, the program will be able to operate 24/7.

Once the current contract expires with Riverview, they will continue to provide mental health services outside of mobile crisis services.

"We are deeply proud of the life-saving work our crisis team has provided to youth and families in Lane County for more than 20 years," Riverview Center for Growth Executive Director Meghan Melton said. "While this transition marks the end of our Youth Mobile Crisis

contract, Riverview remains fully operational and committed to serving our community through our broader continuum of programs and services."

LCBH is a division of Lane County Health & Human services and encompasses a broad array of services and programs, including Lane County Behavioral Health Clinic, Lane County Treatment Services, and LaneCare. LCBH provides outpatient behavioral health services including therapy, case management, medication management, and peer support to adults, children, and families residing in Lane County.



Courtesy photo

The current youth volume averages to about 6-8 calls per day and three in-person calls for crisis response.

Legislative action stabilizes ODOT budget, avoids layoffs

STAFF REPORT
Cottage Grove Sentinel

The Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) will avoid layoffs and deep service cuts following the passage of legislation that addresses a \$297 million budget shortfall for the agency's maintenance and operations work.

The action prevents layoffs and widespread service reductions that would otherwise have disrupted daily travel and essential services. Highway maintenance crews will remain on the job, safety and storm response operations will continue, and DMV offices will remain open to serve customers, ODOT states in a release.

The legislation redirects \$218 million from existing state transportation funds to support operations and maintenance. As a result, some programs will see impacts, including delayed or reduced grant funding for programs such as Safe Routes to School and Connect Oregon. Safe Routes to School funds projects that improve safety for students walking and biking to school. Connect Oregon is a state grant program that invests in aviation, rail and marine projects.

"This legislative action provides important short-term stability for Oregon's transportation system," ODOT Interim Director Lisa Sumption said. "It allows us to avoid deep reductions while continuing to focus on providing the services Oregonians rely on. At the same time, redirecting existing funds from programs that

serve important functions is not a long-term solution. Oregon's transportation system needs a long-term fix."

In addition to the fund redirections, the legislatively adopted budget reduces ODOT's authorized spending levels by nearly \$80 million. These reductions build on steps ODOT has already taken in recent years to control costs, including leaving positions unfilled. Since 2019, the agency has reduced spending by more than \$500 million, and the current budget already reflects more than \$200 million in reductions, the release states.

ODOT currently has about 700 vacant positions statewide, representing nearly 15% of the agency's workforce. More than 350 of those vacancies resulted from employees leaving the agency during ongoing financial uncertainty since July 2025.

Under the newly adopted budget, Sumption said the agency will continue to leave more than 130 positions unfilled. The department expects to begin hiring for critical vacancies immediately, which will help restore staffing in key areas and strengthen frontline teams across the state, according to the release.



Courtesy photo from ODOT

ODOT employee Rob drives a grader and clears a path through the snow, focused on the road ahead.

"While this legislative action stabilizes operations for the remainder of the current budget cycle, it does not resolve the underlying funding challenges facing Oregon's State Highway Fund," the release states. "That fund supports not only

ODOT, but cities and counties across the state. The current funding model is not keeping pace with rising costs and growing statewide needs. Lawmakers have stated they plan to revisit transportation funding during the 2027 legislative session."

DEATH NOTICES

Barbara "Bobbie" Joyce Strebe, age 83, of Dorena, Oregon, passed away March 8, 2026. Arrangements are in the care of Smith-Lund-Mills Funeral Chapel and Crematorium.

Donna Kay Wheeler, 86, of Creswell, Oregon, passed away on March 3rd, 2026. Arrangements are in the care of Sunset Hills Funeral Home, Crematorium & Cemetery.

Roy Wayne Hakanson, 67, of Eugene, Oregon, passed away on March 2, 2026. Arrangements are in the care of Sunset Hills Funeral Home, Crematorium & Cemetery

THE COTTAGE GROVE
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COMMENTARY

EDITORIAL CARTOON

Veto HB 4177

Sentinel Guest Column

We are asking Gov. Tina Kotek to veto HB 4177, an ill-advised measure approved by the Oregon Legislature that undermines Oregon's long-revered Public Meetings Law.

A work group that proposed HB 4177 excluded media organizations that were deeply embedded in the creation of our Public Meetings Law in 1973 and in subsequent amendments. Coming late to that table, representatives of the Oregon Newspaper Publishers Association were shocked to find this warning from the Oregon Government Ethics Commission:

"This exception would allow governing body members to meet in private and/or communicate privately with each other, outside of any public meeting, in order to gather information. Much of the information gathering that normally occurs in public meetings (work sessions or executive sessions) could instead be done privately ... with no meeting notice, no minutes or recordings, and no news media observers."

Here are additional notes of caution from OGE, obtained through a public records request:

"It should be noted at the outset that whenever a quorum of a governing body gathers together, whether in public or private, that quorum has the power to exercise government authority and bind the government to any decision. Even if that decision occurs in private and in violation of the Public Meetings Law, the action still binds the government."

"It (HB 4177) is effectively rewriting the Public Meetings Law in ways that create much more ambiguity and inhibit enforcement, and doing so in a short session without any public involvement."

HB 4177 contains significant legal and political complications, and there is no emergency needing immediate legislative action without adequate attention to those problems.

Some portray HB 4177 as a measure simply to clarify issues related to "serial communications," which are 'daisy-chain' discussions among members of a governing body allowing deliberation without a meeting.

Instead, as testified by citizens, ONPA and OGE, HB 4177 actually expands permissions for serial communications while allowing full-quorum gatherings of governing bodies with "no meeting notice, no minutes or recordings, and no news media observers."

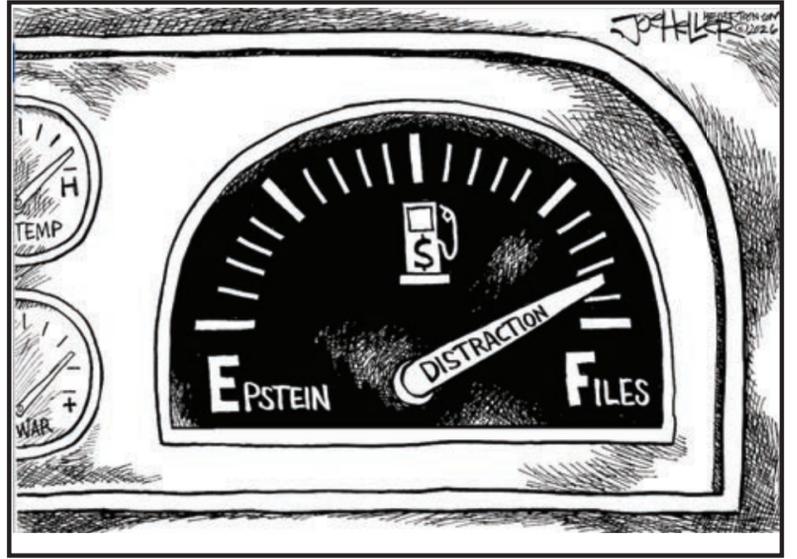
And of course, no citizen observers. Enactment of HB 4177 would result in loss of government transparency, and new confusion for OGE in its role of enforcing the Public Meetings Law.

Ironically, it required a public records request to uncover the depth of public harm that would be imposed by enactment of HB 4177. Oregon's two joined laws – Public Records and Public Meetings – provide the core rights of Oregon citizens to open government.

The Public Meetings Law in ORS 192.620 states state policy unchanged since 1973: "The Oregon form of government requires an informed public aware of the deliberations and decisions of governing bodies and the information upon which such decisions were made. It is the intent of ORS 192.610 to 192.690 that decisions of governing bodies be arrived at openly."

HB 4177 is a violation of that 56-year-old open government policy.

We believe, in passing HB 4177 during a short session, that the Oregon Legislature did not have full access to legal analysis about its consequences. This is precisely the time – particularly by a governor who has championed open government through decades of Oregon public service – for a balancing veto.



Gov. Kotek, we offer our full support on behalf of the Oregon public for your consideration of a veto on HB 4177.

- Albany Democrat-Herald
- BakerCityHerald.com
- Bandon Western World
- Beaverton Valley Times
- Tigard-Tualatin Times
- Bend Bulletin
- Bluemountaineagle.com
- Burns Times-Herald
- Canby Herald-Pioneer
- Cannon Beach Gazette
- Cascade Business News
- Central Oregonian (Prineville)
- The Chronicle (Springfield)
- Columbia Gorge News
- Corvallis Gazette Times
- Cottage Grove Sentinel
- Curry Coastal Pilot (Brookings)
- The Daily Astorian
- East Oregonian
- Estacada News
- Eugene Weekly
- Forest Grove News-Times
- Grants Pass Daily Courier
- Herald and News
- HermistonHerald.com
- Hillsboro Tribune

- The Gresham Outlook
- LaGrandeObserver.com
- Lake Oswego Review
- Lakeview Examiner
- Lincoln County Leader
- The Madras Pioneer
- McKenzieRiverReflections.com
- The Newberg Graphic
- The New Era (Sweet Home)
- The News-Register (McMinnville)
- The News-Review (Roseburg)
- North Coast Citizen
- Oregon Newspaper Publishers Association
- The Oregonian
- Polk Co. Itemizer Observer (Dallas)
- Redmond Spokesman
- Rogue Valley Times (Medford)
- The Sandy Post
- South County Spotlight (Scappoose)
- Seaside Signal
- Siuslaw News (Florence)
- Smoke Signals
- Tillamook Headlight Herald
- Wallowa.com
- West Linn Tidings
- Wilsonville Spokesman
- Woodburn Independent
- The World (Coos Bay)

When conservation becomes entertainment

BRIDGET NEWMAN
Cottage Grove Sentinel
Guest Column

My parents love to tell the story about the time I protested going to the aquarium when I was eight years old.

It was a sunny, warm Chicago day, and my parents and I were visiting for the first time.

Friends, family, and countless "Top 10 Best Activities in Chicago" lists all emphasized the need to visit the Shedd Aquarium. So, like many tourists before us, we added it to our itinerary.

Standing in line, something didn't sit right with me. I told my parents I wasn't sure animals were meant to live in buildings. My parents and I still recall my worries about the animals' unhappiness – and more so, if our money should support that.

"We discussed how people do so to provide education opportunities. Sometimes, people only protect what they know or have seen. Or at least that's what the zoos and aquariums pitch," my mom,

Jen Newman, said when I asked her about that day years later.

That conversation turned into a discussion about the difference between large, for-profit animal amusement parks and wildlife sanctuaries or conservation-focused preserves. While Shedd Aquarium sparked my early doubts, my questions were not about one institution, but about the broader systems shaping how animals are used for entertainment.

Now, that childhood question feels more urgent, especially here in Oregon. The May 2025 closure of the West Coast Game Park Safari in Bandon brought renewed scrutiny to how animals are treated in privately owned attractions. This case illustrates what can happen when animal entertainment operates without welfare standards and public accountability. The park shut down after investigators took hold of more than 300 animals due to abuse and neglect.

I've loved animals for as long as I can remember, and I hope few people intend to fund cruelty – yet dollars can still contribute to it. The difference often comes down to awareness: where we spend our money directly shapes the kind of animal welfare we support.

As one could imagine, being trapped in an enclosure just a couple sizes bigger than yourself would probably drive you insane. Animals are no different.

Lori Marino, a neuroscientist and the president of the Whale Sanctuary Project, led a peer-reviewed paper examining the harmful effects of captivity on animals, specifically orcas. It showed that captivity exposes animals to chronic stress through disrupted social bonds, limited space, constant noise, lack of control and environmental monotony – all of which lead to physical health problems and mental distress.

Over time, the stress of captivity wears down orcas' bodies, and, according to the Animal Welfare Institute, it

significantly shortens their lifespans, with mortality rates up to 2.5 times higher than those of wild orcas. This raises the question: Is your 30-minute experience seeing a dolphin do a backflip worth the animal's trauma?

Many for-profit entertainment corporations frame captivity as conservation, but their business models depend on daily performances that compromise animal health. SeaWorld, for example, markets orcas as "perfect ambassadors for the ocean," yet they perform in small tanks that limit natural behaviors. On the other hand, conservation-focused alternatives that prioritize care and education do exist.

The Oregon Coast Aquarium in Newport, Oregon, centers its mission on conservation, education and animal rehabilitation. The nonprofit institution partners with researchers and wildlife agencies to protect Oregon's coastal ecosystems and provide care for injured marine animals with the goal of rehabilitation when possible.

Jim Burke, the Oregon Coast Aquarium's Director of Animal Care, summed up the difference between conservation-focused aquariums and entertainment-driven corporations in one word: purpose.

"We're here to improve animal welfare, investigate and forward conservation outcomes," he said. Funds from the public's ticket sales go directly to animal care, veterinary medicine, conservation projects, wildlife rehabilitation, animal food and more. "Education only works if animal welfare comes first," Burke said. "It never comes at the expense of an animal."

The Oregon Coast Aquarium is highly regulated, with formal reviews of habitats and exhibits conducted monthly to quarterly.

Burke emphasized understanding as the foundation of care: "You don't care about what you don't understand," he said. "We're a very large advocate for the cleanliness of the ocean, the animals that inhabit the ocean and we

want to directly influence the folks who come here to care."

Rather than focusing on entertainment-driven performances, this aquarium emphasizes ecosystem education and environmental stewardship. The aquarium says its goal is to connect visitors to the Oregon coast and inspire ocean conservation. Like my mom and Burke both said, people want to protect things they know about.

But education cannot come at the expense of welfare. I was only eight years old when I first questioned whether animals belonged in buildings, and what seemed like a small moral doubt grew into a clear understanding of this large-scale issue. If we truly care about animals, our choices – the parks we visit and the money we spend – must reflect that commitment. We can't claim to love animals while funding systems that harm them.

Bridget Newman is a student journalist at the University of Oregon in Eugene.

CLARIFICATION

The Sentinel has received the following from the Lane Transit District's Public Information Officer Anni Katz concerning a story published in the March 11 editions and we want to set the record straight.

The photo used in the Sentinel's article is actually a photo of an LTD service. SLW was the contractor for that service, but never owned it. Since this is an article about SLW, the photo should be corrected.

In the second to last paragraph, this line "...transit officials are asking the community to help spread the word, so neighbors know transportation remains available" is misleading. It makes it sound as if without SLW, there is no transit in South Lane County.

Having multiple transportation options in the area allows providers to fill gaps, so it's a good thing SLW is debuting another service. But, they're not the only ones.

Weekly Online Poll

Do you plan to vote in May to repeal last year's state transportation funding package?

Yes No

Previous Poll Results

Have you completed your state and federal income tax returns yet?

100% - Yes 0% - No

Quote of the Week

"Let us never negotiate out of fear. But let us never fear to negotiate."

John F. Kennedy



THE FIRST AMENDMENT

Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press, or of the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances.

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School district launches community vision process

CINDY WEELDREYER
Cottage Grove Sentinel

South Lane School District administrators have launched a district wide community engagement effort aimed at defining a shared vision for student readiness, district identity, and long term direction.

The initiative, called “Setting the Two Anchors: Identity and Purpose,” invites students, families, staff, and community members to help shape the foundational values that will guide the district’s work from early learning through high school graduation.

Superintendent Todd Miller introduced the effort in a 12 minute video emailed on March 5 to stakeholders inviting them to take a survey designed to align the district’s daily work with the “hopes and dreams and words of our community and our students.”

“I couldn’t be more excited about this process and what this means to our community and our students,” he said. “I need your help, your input, your voice as we work toward this new vision for South Lane.”

The district is asking the community to participate in a survey designed to identify two core elements:

- What skills and traits the community most values for its students, and
- What makes South Lane unique as a district and community.

Identity and Purpose will anchor a long term alignment effort that will shape curriculum, programming, hiring, budgeting, extracurricular offerings, and the district’s

approach to preparing students for life after graduation.

A SHIFT FROM “ME” TO “WE”

In the video, the Miller described the work as a cultural shift toward collective clarity. He said it is natural for individuals in a school system to focus on their own roles and responsibilities, but the district is now asking the community to help define a shared “we.”

“By gathering input from you, we can see who we are collectively, what we stand for and, as a community, what we want for our students,” he said.

The district’s aim is to become “an organization of true impact,” he added, by ensuring that its identity informs its structures, and its structures serve its purpose. When expectations are clear and commonly understood, he said, students are more likely to succeed.

DEFINING READINESS FOR ALL STUDENTS

A major component of the initiative is clarifying what “readiness” means for South Lane graduates. The Superintendent introduced a framework known as the Four Keys to College and Career Readiness: Think, Act, Know, Go

The “Four Keys” model is not new to Oregon. It was developed by Dr. David T. Conley, a long-time professor at the University of Oregon College of Education and founder of the university’s Center for Educational Policy Research. Conley’s research shaped national conversations about what students need to succeed after high school. The model identifies the cognitive,

academic, behavioral, and transition skills that help students thrive in college, career training,

the workforce, and other post secondary pathways.

Miller emphasized that readiness is broader than academics alone. Skills such as compassion, collaboration, creativity, perseverance, and persistence are equally essential for success in adulthood.

A well rounded approach, he said, helps students recognize their strengths, build self esteem, and understand how their learning connects to their future. It also ensures that students who struggle in one area still see themselves as capable and valued.

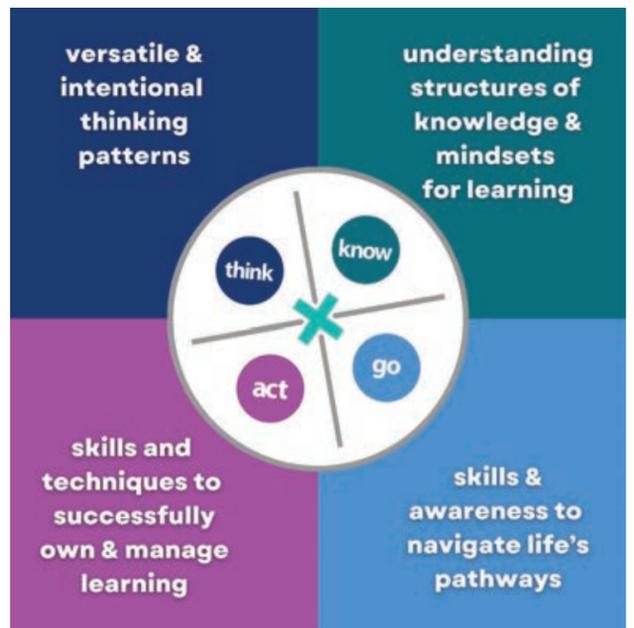
BOARD LEADERSHIP SUPPORTS THE EFFORT

Board Chair Bill Parsons told The Sentinel he and his colleagues strongly support the purpose of the community engagement process.

“Board members are 100 percent behind the ultimate goal of this effort—to find commonality in how all stakeholders view the direction the school district should be moving,” Parsons said.

He said the district needs clearer alignment between community expectations and district goals.

“We need to determine what our community expectations are for our graduates and align our district goals to meet those expectations,” he said. “What’s lacking the most right now is the end goal is not clear to everyone. This vision process provides us with an opportunity to discover our commonality and create greater unity on how our district will be managed in the future.”



Courtesy photo

A major component of the “Setting the Two Anchors: Identity and Purpose” initiative is clarifying what “readiness” means for South Lane graduates.

Once survey responses are collected, the district will compile the data to identify common themes—such as community, resilience, and preparation—and develop a set of traits and values that reflect South Lane’s local character. Those traits will then be used to guide district decision making and create a consistent language for student readiness across all grade levels.

Miller said the process will ultimately “rebrand who we are as a district,” making it easier for families, staff, and partners to understand what South Lane stands for and what it expects for its students.

“We as a school district are only as good as our community, and our community is only as good as our schools,” he said. “We all share a common goal: We want the best for our students.”

The community survey is now open, and district leaders are encouraging broad participation as they begin shaping the next chapter of South Lane’s identity and purpose.

Follow developments online at cgsentinel.com and in the Wednesday print editions of The Sentinel.

DON

From Page 1

His leadership extended to Cottage Grove’s signature summer festival, Bohemia Mining Days. Williams served two terms as president of the BMD Board, each time stepping in during critical moments of transition that ensured the survival of the

community’s annual summer celebration.

From 1979 to 1984, he chaired the BMD Committee and led the festival’s move from downtown to the Chambers Mill site, now the Hayden Homes subdivision. His statewide promotion of the 1980 Grand Miners Parade made it the second largest parade in Oregon with 154 entries — a BMD record that still stands. He returned to the presidency in

2020 and guided the festival through the two year COVID 19 pandemic, keeping the event alive during one of the most challenging periods in its history.

COMMUNITY IMPACT

Across every role — mill manager, civic volunteer, county advisor, festival leader and nonprofit convener — Williams has demonstrated steadiness, fairness and a

deep commitment to the community he and Jean called home for more than 50 years. His influence shows in the organizations he strengthened, the leaders he mentored and the civic traditions he helped preserve.

As Don’s friends and colleagues prepare to celebrate his 90th birthday, his legacy stands in the projects he led and the relationships he built. His decades of service continue to shape the city’s civic

life, and the organizations he supported remain stronger because of his leadership.

CELEBRATION PARTY

The community hosts a celebration honoring Williams’ 90th birthday from 4 to 6 p.m. Wednesday, March 25, in the Cottage Grove Community Center Reception Hall. The Cascade Chorus Barbershop Quartet is scheduled to perform from

4:30 to 5 p.m. and the cake cutting to be held at 5 p.m.

Call or text 541.915.0113 to RSVP by Friday, March 20 for food planning purposes.

Williams is now a resident of Magnolia Gardens Senior Living. For those unable to attend the celebration, he invites friends and colleagues to drop by for coffee and conversation.

Who We Are is a frequent Sentinel feature highlighting the people in our community.

COMPLAINTS

From Page 1

Councilors discussed two possible approaches: reducing the parking limit to 24 hours or creating residential parking zones that would require permits. Staff cautioned that a permit system would need to be self supporting, with fees

covering both administration and enforcement.

Mayor Candace Solesbee voiced support for reducing the limit to 24 hours, calling it a reasonable starting point to deter long term vehicle habitation in residential neighborhoods. She said residents should not have to clean up trash left behind by people living in RVs and

expressed concern about requiring homeowners to pay for permits to park in front of their own property. “It’s a balancing act,” she said, adding that a short term trial could help the city understand how the change plays out.

Responding to a question about allowing RVs to use the parking lot next to the

12th Street Dusk to Dawn site, Chase said the city already spends substantial time managing the same 10–12 individuals who camp there. Expanding that responsibility to RVs would require staffing the site, monitoring arrivals and departures, and handling trash. “We can’t add any more to our plate with our current staffing and caseloads,” he said.

Councilors acknowledged the frustration expressed by residents. One noted that a public commenter had said, “If you guys can’t handle it, I’ll handle it,” a statement he found troubling. Chase said a 24 hour limit would at least make violations easier for the city’s community service officer to track from day to day.

City Manager Mike Sauerwein said police and public works staff are “profoundly frustrated” by the ongoing challenges dealing with unhoused individuals, particularly those who repeatedly decline services that could improve their situation. He said a zonal parking plan could be developed, but only as a standalone program with its own resources rather than drawing from existing police staffing.

Some councilors suggested hybrid approaches, such as limited time parking signs with permits for longer stays. Others cautioned that the city already struggles to enforce 30 minute and two hour zones downtown. “We need to simplify it and say this is what it is,” one councilor

said, adding that any policy change will carry unintended consequences.

Another councilor said the city is “dealing with the consequences of our own actions,” noting that past decisions about sanctioned camps have shaped current patterns. He expressed concern about burdening residents with permit requirements and questioned how the city could prevent people from returning to the same locations after moving their vehicles. “We can’t infringe on people’s liberties, the right of movement, to travel,” he said.

Several councilors said they were not ready to make a final decision. One councilor encouraged residents to bring ideas to the next meeting and discuss the possibility of residential parking zones with their neighbors. Another councilor said he hesitated to support a 24 hour limit because he wanted a solution that truly fixed the problem but acknowledged that shorter limits could at least reduce trash accumulation.

NEXT STEPS

The council directed staff to bring back a draft ordinance reducing the parking limit from 72 hours to 24 hours and to prepare a self supporting zonal parking plan for future consideration.

IN OTHER COUNCIL BUSINESS

A scheduled vote to adopt a supplemental budget allowing the city to borrow from enterprise funds to balance the current year’s budget by June 30 was removed from the agenda and will return at a future meeting.

The Council also approved a zone change for property at 78064 S. 6th Street, shifting its designation from county to city zoning.

Follow developments online at cgsentinel.com and in the Wednesday print editions of The Sentinel.

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Mid-week Service: Wednesday, 1:00

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Comm. Kitchen Free Meal Tuesday 5:15 p.m. to 6:15 p.m.
TLC Groups tlccg.com

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CGS26-114 The Towers, LLC proposes to build a 199-foot monopole telecommunications tower at the approx. vicinity of 77329 McDole Road, Cottage Grove, Lane County, OR 97424 (lat:43-45-15.2; long:-123-5-14.5). Public comments regarding potential effects from this site on historic properties may be submitted within 30 days from the date of this publication to: Trileaf Corp., Taylor Blackburn, t.blackburn@trileaf.com, 2121 W Chandler Blvd, Suite 108, Chandler, AZ 85224, (480) 850-0575. 3/18/26 CNS-4019614# COTTAGE GROVE SENTINEL

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CGS26-106 TRUSTEE'S NOTICE OF SALE TS No.: 187462 APN: 1803533 Reference is made to that certain deed made by DAVID A. KINDT AND DEBRA L. KINDT AND TIFFANY N. KINDT, NOT AS TENANTS IN COMMON, BUT WITH THE RIGHTS OF SURVIVORSHIP as Grantor to FIDELITY NATIONAL TITLE COMPANY OF OREGON, as Trustee, in favor of Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc. as designated nominee for CMG MORTGAGE INC., DBA CMG FINANCIAL as Beneficiary, dated 07/28/2023, recorded 07/28/2023, in the official records of Lane County, Oregon as Instrument No. 2023-021845 in Book xx, Page xx covering the following described real property situated in said County and State, to wit: See attached Exhibit A Commonly known as: 2011 W 14th Place, Eugene, OR 97402 The current beneficiary is Rocket Mortgage, LLC f/k/a Quicken Loans, LLC pursuant to assignment of deed of trust recorded on 07/11/2025 as Inst No. 2025-021286 in the records of Lane, Oregon. The beneficiary has elected and directed successor trustee to sell the said real property to satisfy the obligations secured by said trust deed and notice has been recorded pursuant to Section 86.752(3) of Oregon Revised Statutes: the default for which the foreclosure is made is the grantor's failure to: Make the monthly payments commencing with the payment due on 04/01/2025 and continuing each month until this trust deed is reinstated or goes to trustee's sale; plus a late charge on each installment not paid within fifteen days following the payment due date; trustee's fees and other costs and expenses associated with this foreclosure and any further breach of any term or condition contained in subject note and deed of trust. 1. By the reason of said default the beneficiary has declared all obligations secured by said deed of trust immediately due and payable, said sums being the following, to wit: Principal balance in the amount of: \$172,128.04; 2. Interest through 11/30/2025 in the amount of: \$9,471.56 3. MIP/PMI Advances in the amount of: \$265.12 4. Recoverable balance in the amount of: \$2,836.25 5. Late Charges in the amount of: \$0.00 6. Total Fees in the amount of: \$122.00 7. Escrow Advances in the amount of: \$1,658.83 8. Together with the interest thereon at the rate 7.3750000% per annum until paid; plus all accrued late charges thereon; and all trustee's fees, foreclosure costs and any sums advanced by the beneficiary pursuant to the terms of said deed of trust. The principal sum of \$172,128.04 together with the interest thereon at the rate 7.3750000% per

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annum from 03/01/2025 until paid; plus all accrued late charges thereon; and all trustee's fees, foreclosure costs and any sums advanced by the beneficiary pursuant to the terms of said deed of trust. Whereof, notice hereby is given that the undersigned trustee will on 04/08/2026 at the hour of 1:00 PM, Standard of Time, as established by Section 187.110, Oregon Revised Statutes, at the front entrance of the Courthouse, Lane County Courthouse, 125 East 8th Avenue, Eugene, OR 97401, County of Lane, State of Oregon, sell at public auction to the highest bidder for cash the interest in the said described real property which the grantor had or had power to convey at the time of the execution by him of the said trust deed, together with any interest which the grantor or his successors in interest acquired after the execution of said trust deed, to satisfy the foregoing obligations thereby secured (and the costs and expenses of sale, including a reasonable charge by the trustee). Notice is further given that any person named in Section 86.778 of Oregon Revised Statutes; has the right to have the foreclosure

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proceeding dismissed and the trust deed reinstated by payment to the beneficiary of the entire amount then due (other than such portion of said principal as would not then be due had no default occurred), together with the costs, trustee's and attorney's fees and curing any other default complained of in the Notice of Default by tendering the performance required under the obligation or trust deed, at any time prior to five days before the date last set for the sale. In construing this, the masculine gender includes the feminine and the successor in interest to the grantor as well as any other person owing obligation, the performance of which is secured by said trust deed; the words "trustee" and "beneficiary" include their respective successors in interest, if any. Pursuant to Oregon Law, this sale will not be deemed final until 10 days of the date of this sale, the trustee will rescind the sale, return the buyer's money and take further action as necessary. If the sale is set aside for any reason, including if the trustee is unable to

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convey title, the Purchaser at the sale shall be entitled only to a return of the monies paid to the Trustee. This shall be the Purchaser's sole and exclusive remedy. The purchaser shall have no further recourse against the Trustor, the Trustee, the Beneficiary, the Beneficiary's Agent, or the Beneficiary's Attorney. Also, please be advised that pursuant to the terms stated on the Deed of Trust and Note, the beneficiary is allowed to conduct property inspections while there is a default. This shall serve as notice that the beneficiary shall be conducting property inspections on the referenced property. Without limiting the trustee's disclaimer of representations or warranties, Oregon law requires the trustee to state in this notice that some residential property sold at a trustee's sale may have been used in manufacturing methamphetamine, the chemical components of which are known to be toxic. Prospective purchasers of residential property should be aware of this potential danger before deciding to place a bid for this property at the trustee's sale. NOTICE TO RESIDENTIAL TENANTS The property in which you are living

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CLASSIFIEDS - continued from page 7

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is in foreclosure. A foreclosure sale is scheduled for 04/08/2026 (date). The date of this sale may be postponed. Unless the lender that is foreclosing on this property is paid before the sale date, the foreclosure will go through and someone new will own this property. After the sale, the new owner is required to provide you with contact information and notice that the sale took place. The following information applies to you only if you are a bona fide tenant occupying and renting this property as a residential dwelling under a legitimate rental agreement. The information does not apply to you if you own this property or if you are not a bona fide residential tenant. If the foreclosure sale goes through, the new owner will have the right to require you to move out. Before the new owner can require you to move, the new owner must provide you with written notice that specifies the date by which you must move out. If you do not leave before the move-out date, the new owner can have the sheriff remove you from the property after a court hearing. You will receive notice of the court hearing. PROTECTION FROM EVICTION IF YOU ARE

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A BONA FIDE TENANT OCCUPYING AND RENTING THIS PROPERTY AS A RESIDENTIAL DWELLING, YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO CONTINUE LIVING IN THIS PROPERTY AFTER THE FORECLOSURE SALE FOR: 60 DAYS FROM THE DATE YOU ARE GIVEN A WRITTEN TERMINATION NOTICE, IF YOU HAVE A FIXED TERM LEASE; OR AT LEAST 30 DAYS FROM THE DATE YOU ARE GIVEN A WRITTEN TERMINATION NOTICE, IF YOU HAVE A MONTH-TO-MONTH OR WEEK-TO-WEEK RENTAL AGREEMENT. If the new owner wants to move in and use this property as a primary residence, the new owner can give you written notice and require you to move out after 30 days, even though you have a fixed term lease with more than 30 days left. You must be provided with at least 30 days' written notice after the foreclosure sale before you can be required to move. A bona fide tenant is a residential tenant who is not the borrower (property owner) or a child, spouse or parent of the borrower, and whose rental agreement: Is the result of an arm's-length transaction; Requires the payment of rent that

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is not substantially less than fair market rent for the property, unless the rent is reduced or subsidized due to a federal, state or local subsidy; and Was entered into prior to the date of the foreclosure sale. ABOUT YOUR TENANCY BETWEEN NOW AND THE FORECLOSURE SALE: RENT YOU SHOULD CONTINUE TO PAY RENT TO YOUR LANDLORD UNTIL THE PROPERTY IS SOLD OR UNTIL A COURT TELLS YOU OTHERWISE. IF YOU DO NOT PAY RENT, YOU CAN BE EVICTED. BE SURE TO KEEP PROOF OF ANY PAYMENTS YOU MAKE. SECURITY DEPOSIT You may apply your security deposit and any rent you paid in advance against the current rent you owe your landlord as provided in ORS 90.367. To do this, you must notify your landlord in writing that you want to subtract the amount of your security deposit or prepaid rent from your rent payment. You may do this only for the rent you owe your current landlord. If you do this, you must do so before the foreclosure sale. The business or individual who buys this property at the foreclosure sale is not responsible to you for any deposit or prepaid rent you paid

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to your landlord. ABOUT YOUR TENANCY AFTER THE FORECLOSURE SALE The new owner that buys this property at the foreclosure sale may be willing to allow you to stay as a tenant instead of requiring you to move out after 30 or 60 days. After the sale, you should receive a written notice informing you that the sale took place and giving you the new owner's name and contact information. You should contact the new owner if you would like to stay. If the new owner accepts rent from you, signs a new residential rental agreement with you or does not notify you in writing within 30 days after the date of the foreclosure sale that you must move out, the new owner becomes your new landlord and must maintain the property. Otherwise: You do not owe rent; The new owner is not your landlord and is not responsible for maintaining the property on your behalf; and You must move out by the date the new owner specifies in a notice to you. The new owner may offer to pay your moving expenses and any other costs or amounts you and the new owner agree on in exchange for your agreement to leave the premises in less than

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30 or 60 days. You should speak with a lawyer to fully understand your rights before making any decisions regarding your tenancy. IT IS UNLAWFUL FOR ANY PERSON TO TRY TO FORCE YOU TO LEAVE YOUR DWELLING UNIT WITHOUT FIRST GIVING YOU WRITTEN NOTICE AND GOING TO COURT TO EVICT YOU. FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR RIGHTS, YOU SHOULD CONSULT A LAWYER. If you believe you need legal assistance, contact the Oregon State Bar and ask for the lawyer referral service. Contact information for the Oregon State Bar is included with this notice. If you do not have enough money to pay a lawyer and are otherwise eligible, you may be able to receive legal assistance for free. Information about whom to contact for free legal assistance is included with this notice. OREGON STATE BAR, 16037 S.W. Upper Boones Ferry Road, Tigard Oregon 97224, Phone (503) 620-0222, Toll-free 1-800-452-8260 Website: <http://www.oregon-lawhelp.org> The Fair Debt Collection Practices Act requires that we state the following: this is an attempt to collect, and any

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information obtained will be used for that purpose. If a discharge has been obtained by any party through bankruptcy proceedings: This shall not be construed to be an attempt to collect the outstanding indebtedness or hold you personally liable for the debt. This letter is intended to exercise the note holders right's against the real property only. NOTICE TO VETERANS If the recipient of this notice is a veteran of the armed forces, assistance may be available from a county veterans service officer or community action agency. Contact information for a service officer appointed for the county in which you live and contact information for a community action agency that serves the area where you live may be obtained by calling a 2-1-1 information service. Dated: 11/18/2025 Prime Record LLC By: Carmen Robinson, Authorized Signer Prime Record LLC 27368 Via Industria, Ste 201 Temecula, CA 92590 Phone number for the Trustee: (888) 725-4142 A-4858626 02/25/2026, 03/04/2026 03/11/2026, 03/18/2026

Oregon lawmakers proposed hundreds of bills in the short session - Many failed to pass

SHAANTH NANGUNERI
Oregon Capital Chronicle

Oregon lawmakers proposed hundreds of bills in the packed, five-week-long legislative session that wrapped on Friday, March 6, including dozens that failed to cross the finish line.

Many of the dead bills broadly directed state agencies to study specific issues. And some Republican-led proposals gained little traction among the legislature's Democratic majority.

Multiple ambitious bills were watered down, some were gutted and left largely hollow or stuffed with new legislation, and others failed to move out of committees entirely. Advocates and lawmakers behind some high profile policy proposals that didn't advance are vowing to reintroduce them in the longer legislative session next year or another future session. In the meantime, here's a look at some of the noteworthy bills that didn't make it this year.

Immigration

Oregon lawmakers opened the session with a promise to challenge the Trump administration's aggressive immigration crackdown. But not all of their efforts managed to clear both chambers and head to Gov. Tina Kotek's desk.

Senate Bill 1563 would have empowered Oregonians to sue law enforcement agents who violate their rights under the Oregon Constitution. A similar measure in Illinois is being challenged by the Trump administration in federal court. Though Oregon's bill didn't pass, lawmakers did clear legislation that allows people to sue individuals who enter their property, including medical facilities or buildings, without a warrant signed by a judge.

One effort that would have allowed Kotek to withhold state payments to the Trump administration if the federal government failed to disburse court-ordered funds to the state failed to pass. Though House Bill 4143 cleared the House, the measure stalled in the Oregon Senate. Another bill that would have required contractors hired by state agencies, as well as state grant recipients, to promise they would not conduct transportation operations for federal deportation efforts died in the House.

Lawmakers also allowed a ballot-referral bill to die that would have asked Oregonians in the November 2026 election to ban "secret police." Instead, they opted to pass House Bill 4138 which would allow people to sue law enforcement agencies who fail to comply with a newly passed bill prohibiting all law enforcement officers from wearing masks in most circumstances. Democrats say the measure has a greater chance of standing up in court given that it doesn't discriminate against federal officers.

Senate Majority Leader Kayse Jama, D-Portland, told reporters on Friday that lawmakers would continue to strategize about how to further protect immigrants and refugees in the state. He suggested they would come back in the 2027 session with more responsive proposals.

"The reality is that we don't know what the next year, next month, next week, is going to look like in terms of the Trump administration's attacks on the immigrant, refugee community," he said.

Education and economy

Among the most ambitious proposals to die an early death was Senate Bill 1555, an attempt to overhaul the methodology used

to figure out how much money the state sends to Oregon's schools every two years. The effort led by Democrats did not have the buy-in of membership from both parties, who worried it was too much to take on during a short session.

Republicans also offered some education proposals that failed to move forward, including a bill from Sen. Christine Drazan, R-Canby, that would have allowed teachers to remove disruptive students from their classrooms and required students be held back if they couldn't demonstrate grade-level proficiency in core subjects by third grade. Another Republican bill would have required the state to replicate recent federal tax code changes that allow individuals to write off a portion of private school tuition from their federal income taxes.

A proposal to reallocate a portion of the Oregon "kicker" tax refund to the state school fund didn't make it far. Nor did another proposal to send the kicker to the state's general fund. Another bill to raise the baseline estate tax threshold on dead Oregonians' assets from \$1 million to \$2.5 million passed the Senate with bipartisan support, but died in the House after a public hearing.

And a bill spearheaded by a progressive Portland lawmaker seeking to revive a 2025 proposal to mandate Google and large tech companies pay damages to local news outlets for the content the tech companies aggregate at no cost died for the second year in a row. Sen. Khanh Pham signaled that her proposal, which also involves the creation of a Civic Information Consortium partially funded with the damages payments, is likely to be reintroduced in 2027.

Public health

Sen. Lisa Reynolds, a pediatrician and Democrat from Portland, was behind many of the session's biggest public health proposals.

She was successful in pushing legislation to guarantee vaccine access, but faced significant pushback on a bill to limit the amount of THC allowed in marijuana edibles sold in Oregon. Reynolds blamed it on lobbying from marijuana industry groups.

Reynolds also unexpectedly found herself as the face of the opposition to a bipartisan bill introduced by Drazan that would have blocked public health and harm reduction groups from handing out free hypodermic needles and syringes to drug users within 2,000 feet of schools or child care centers. Republicans tried and failed to force a vote on it in the Senate after it faltered in the Senate Committee on Early Childhood and Behavioral Health.

Reynolds, who chairs the committee, wrote in her newsletter that she shared the bill authors' concerns about needles near schools, but that she would be convening county and city leadership to find a solution.

"The bill in question would have essentially banned harm reduction in our state, a move that health experts know can put so many people at risk," she wrote.

A bill to beef up Measure 114's permit-to-purchase process for guns in Oregon that was passed by voters in 2022 was gutted after stiff opposition from Republicans in the Senate who were ready to walk out over it. Lawmakers opted instead to strip down the bill and solely focus on delaying implementation of the 2022 gun law until 2028. The move highlighted the delicate balancing act Democratic leadership faced in pushing through



Julia Shumway / Oregon Capital Chronicle
Lawmakers meet in the Rotunda of the State Capitol in Salem on Friday, March 6, 2026 following the end of the 2026 legislative session. Julia Shumway / Oregon Capital Chronicle

their priorities on a shorter time frame.

Lift Every Voice Oregon, the coalition of advocates who brought the gun measure to Oregon voters in 2022, said in a statement they "know that change can take a long time."

They continued, "It has been too long already. But we will persevere."

Governance

Lawmakers not for the first time attempted to take up an issue that has historically divided members on both sides of the aisle: bill limits. House Bill 4002 was another attempt by House Speaker Julie Fahey to limit lawmakers to no more than 25 proposals each during a long legislative session, and the governor and state agencies to no more than 200 combined aside from budgeting bills.

Fast Fact

Dozens of proposals meant to address issues such as immigration, public health, education and economic issues died in committees lacking support, time or both.

The proposal died in the House Rules Committee in the wake of heated opposition within and outside the Democratic Caucus. Rep. Paul Evans, D-Monmouth, resigned from his position as assistant majority leader over it, and it never received a committee vote after one public hearing.

House Majority Leader Ben Bowman, D-Tigard, told reporters on Friday, March 6, there is a "genuine effort" to support bill limits.

<https://oregoncapitalchronicle.com/2026/03/09/oregon-lawmakers-proposed-hundreds-of-bills-in-the-short-session-many-failed-to-pass>

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Credit union offers student scholarships

SELCO Community Credit Union is accepting applications through Tuesday, March 31, for nearly \$80,000 in SELCO Steps Up scholarships.

Since opening the application process in early February, SELCO has seen strong interest across the eligibility spectrum, including traditional, nontraditional, vocational, and continuing-education students. However, aspiring students are still encouraged to apply, as there is ample opportunity to receive support.

SELCO will award 20 scholarships of \$3,500, and one Lane County student will receive the \$7,500 Richard Metzler Opportunity Scholarship. The Metzler scholarship is awarded annually to a student who has demonstrated excellence in education, leadership, or civic responsibility despite adversity or a lack of opportunity. Eligible students for both scholarships include high school seniors planning to attend an accredited two- or four-year college, as well as vocational, continuing, and nontraditional students. Graduate students are not eligible.

Part of the SELCO Steps Up philanthropy initiative that the credit union launched in 2024, SELCO's scholarship program aims to address the cost of school, which is the most often-cited barrier for those who aspire to attend college. SELCO's scholarships can also be used for

any educational-related expense, so they are uniquely suited to helping students meet the demands of rising costs.

To qualify, applicants must:

- Plan to attend a vocational school or an accredited two- or four-year college/university.
- Be a SELCO member or an immediate family member of a

SELCO member. SELCO membership is open to anyone who lives or works in one of the 27 Oregon counties SELCO serves.



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