

# THE COTTAGE GROVE Sentinel

## Family Affair

See page 3



## Coach Taylor Honored

See page 8



**93**  
**54**

**Cottage Grove**

Wednesday,  
June 24, 2026  
Sunny

Wednesday June 24, 2026 | 137 years

www.cgsentinel.com

\$2.00

## When a heart stopped, a community stepped in

**CINDY WEELDREYER**  
Cottage Grove Sentinel

When Lane County earned its designation as a HEARTsafe Community, local fire and medical leaders emphasized that the title was not ceremonial. It was a commitment, a promise that when a person's heart stops, this region is prepared.

On the morning of February 21, that promise was tested in the most public and humbling way possible during a volunteer work project at Row River Nature Park.

That morning, members of the Coast Fork Willamette Watershed Council gathered for a habitat restoration work party, planting native vegetation in the park. Among the volunteers was 71-year-old Chris Ellis. The group spent the morning working side by side before pausing to take a group photo, a simple moment of camaraderie that turned, in an instant, into a life or death emergency.

As Ellis knelt in the front row, he suddenly collapsed. Volunteers quickly realized the severity of the situation: he had no pulse and wasn't breathing. Two volunteers, Bear and Cricket, had CPR training and immediately began hands only CPR, pushing hard and fast in the center of his chest while another volunteer called 911.

Ellis remembers none of it. "I don't remember exactly what happened," he said in a phone interview with The Sentinel.

"The last thing I recall was kneeling down for the group photo. Then I woke up at RiverBend where I was told I had a cardiac arrest." He said the experience still feels surreal. "They are the reason I'm still here and I'm very glad to be here. I owe my life to them."

Inside the dispatch center of the Cottage Grove Police Department



Cindy Weeldreyer / Cottage Grove Sentinel

### Chris Ellis right stands next to Cottage Grove Police Department Patrol Officer Quentin Buckland holding the AED machine that saved Ellis' life on Feb. 21.

(CGPD), Telecommunicator Shanice Roselle answered the 911 call. She alerted the patrol officers on duty and notified the Central Lane Dispatch Center in Eugene, which handles South Lane Fire & Rescue's 911 calls. Dispatchers are a critical link in the HEARTsafe chain, providing real time coaching that keeps CPR going until responders arrive.

CGPD Officer Joshua Israel was the first to arrive on the scene and began rotating CPR compressions. Moments later Officers Ryan Blalack and Quentin Buckland arrived and Blalack assumed command. They deployed the automated external defibrillator (AED) from a

patrol vehicle. Several years ago a collaborative grant between South Lane Fire & Rescue (SLF&R) and CGPD placed the lifesaving machines in local emergency response vehicles. The small machine did what it was supposed to do — it delivered a shock that helped restore Ellis' pulse.

SLF&R paramedics on C Shift soon arrived on the scene. Captain Stephen Beach, Engineer Alex Wales, Resident FF/EMT Jorge Rodriguez and FF/EMT Eryn Whisler transitioned Ellis into their advanced cardiac care. After stabilizing him they transported him to the PeaceHealth Sacred Heart

Medical Center at RiverBend, home of the PeaceHealth Oregon Heart & Vascular Institute, the region's cardiac center. Because CPR was started immediately — and because an AED was used within minutes — Ellis survived an event that is fatal far too often.

At RiverBend, the cardiac receiving team completed the final link in the HEARTsafe chain. Cardiologists, nurses and critical care staff provided the advanced treatment that stabilized Ellis and supported his recovery in the days that followed.

See **HEART** Page 6

## City talks wildfire preparedness plan

### Issues water curtailment advisories

**JEREMY C. RUARK**  
Cottage Grove Sentinel

Cottage Grove City officials have issued a Plan Today, Protect Tomorrow advisory concerning the summer-fall wildfire season.

"Wildfire risks are rising, and preparation has never been more critical," the officials state in a release.

Fire officials have consistently recommended that property owners develop defensible space to best protect their homes and property from wildfires.

The Oregon State Fire Marshal's Defensible Space Program is designed to help Oregonians protect their homes and communities through proactive, practical measures, according to the release.

Defensible space is the buffer you create between your business or home and the grass, trees, shrubs, or any wildland area that surrounds it.

Proper defensible space can slow or stop the spread of wildfire and help protect your home or business.

You can find a Defensible Space Assessment and Checklist on the Oregon State Fire Marshal's webpage.

On June 15, the Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF) declared all of its districts were in fire season. This means that to reduce the risk of human-caused wildfires, fire restrictions may be in place where you live or at a destination you plan to visit or recreate.

"Looking at the current conditions and projections for the summer, ODF is prepared to have another busy fire season," Oregon Department of Forestry's Fire Protection Division Chief Michael Curran said. "Oregonians need to be practicing wildfire prevention and emergency preparedness NOW."

Now is the time to brush up on your wildfire prevention knowledge. Tips include:

- Know before you go. Campfires may be banned or only allowed in approved campgrounds.
- Make sure your campfire is cool to the touch before going to sleep or leaving your site. Don't forget to Drown, Stir, Repeat.
- Forests and fireworks don't mix. Private use of fireworks is not allowed on forest land, which includes all private lands protected by ODF and all other state and federal forest lands in Oregon. Remember to check any additional city and county firework restrictions as well.
- Backyard debris burning either requires a burn permit during fire season or is

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## Oregon governor declares state of emergency over wildfire threat

**ALEX BAUMHARDT**  
Oregon Capital Chronicle

While Oregon's first 2026 heatwave eased Tuesday, June 16, heat and drought are expected to worsen through the summer and will heighten wildfire risks across Oregon, spurring Gov. Tina Kotek to declare a state of emergency.

Kotek made the declaration Tuesday in an executive order, which will make it easier for local and state fire authorities to access "all available resources" including various firefighting crews, aerial support, ground resources, and emergency personnel to prevent and respond to fires. The emergency will last until the end of the year or the end of the fire season, which is expected to last through October.

"Increasing heat, dry vegetation and shifting winds continue to align and create dangerous conditions that demand immediate action," Kotek said in a statement. "Throughout the summer, it will get hotter and drier. Oregon has record-setting low snowpack, and nearly



Matt Fisher of Umatilla Task Force / Northwest Interagency Coordination Center  
**A helicopter drops flame retardant on the Cow Valley Fire in eastern Oregon on July 12, 2024. Scientists expect wildfires to continue to intensify with climate change.**

half of our counties are facing persistent drought conditions. On average, 70% of wildfires in Oregon are human-caused. Prevention starts with every Oregonian — at home, at work and out and about enjoying our great state."

Kotek also advised Oregonians to sign up for the statewide emergency alert system OR-Alert, to have an evacuation plan and to have an emergency "go kit" ready.

Since March, Kotek has declared drought 17 of Oregon's 36 counties, mostly in southern

and eastern Oregon. More than 400 wildfires so far this year have burned more than 8,000 acres, and several caused temporary evacuations.

The declaration directs state agencies and the National Guard to collaborate on wildfire response and prevention by sharing personnel, equipment and resources. It also directs those agencies and Guard troops to meet requests coming from the state's primary fire agencies — the Oregon Department of Forestry and the State Fire Marshal — and local and tribal governments.

<https://oregoncapitalchronicle.com/briefs/oregon-governor-declares-state-of-emergency-over-wildfire-threat/>

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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!



Latest news can be found online at:

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## COMMUNITY CALENDAR

### JUNE 24

- Cottage Bowl Open Bowling. 3–5:30 p.m. 740 Row River Rd.
- Senior Center Pinochle Games. 1 p.m. Senior Center. 700 E. Gibbs Ave.
- Chamber Concerts in the Park: The Regulars (rock/blues/country/originals) Vendors 5:30 p.m. Concert 6:30–8 p.m.
- Acoustic Jam with Gregg Biller. 6–7:30 p.m. Coast Fork Brewing.
- Concerts in the Park After Party 8–9 p.m. Cottage Grove Public Market.
- Sunfish. 8–10 p.m. Axe and Fiddle.
- Elks Lodge Bingo. Early Bird 6:30 p.m. Regular Games 7 p.m. Elks Lodge, 775 N. River Rd.
- Calvary Chapel Vacation Bible School (June 22–26). 6–8:30 p.m. (4 yrs–5th grade)

### JUNE 25

- T.O.P.S. Club. 9:30–11 a.m. Delight Valley Church of Christ, Saginaw.
- Baby Laptime. 11:30 a.m. CG Public Library.
- Teen Gaming. 4 p.m. CG Public Library.

- Community Center Table Tennis. 4–6 p.m. Community Center, 700 E. Gibbs Ave.
- Bread Club. 5–7 p.m. CG Public Market
- Celebrate Recovery. 5:15 p.m. Calvary Chapel. 1447 Hwy 99N.
- Stone Hart (rock). 6–8 p.m. CG Public Market.
- Calvary Chapel Vacation Bible School (June 22–26). 6–8:30 p.m. (4 yrs–5th grade)
- Open Mic Night with Brady and Urban. 7–8:30 p.m. Axe and Fiddle.
- Mount Saint Elias (folk/rock). 8:30–10 p.m. Axe and Fiddle.

### JUNE 26

- Storytime. 11:30 a.m. CG Public Library.
- American Legion Bingo. 5–7 p.m. American Legion Post 32. 826 W. Main St.
- Elks Lodge Fish Fry Dinner. A la cart prices vary. 5:30–7 p.m. 755 N. River Rd.
- Saginaw Vineyard Friday Night Live. 6–9 p.m. 80247 Delight Valley School Rd.
- Last Friday Art Walk. 6–8 p.m. Historic Downtown District and 6th Street Businesses



City Weeldreyer / Cottage Grove Sentinel

### Main Street on Flag Day, June 14. Flags courtesy of the American Legion Post 32

- Jackson's Pub Karaoke Night with Jesse Hart. 6:30 p.m. CG Public Market.
- The Huckleberrys (Americana/Country). 6:30–9:30 p.m. Coast Fork Brewery.

- Weekly Pool Tournament. 7 p.m. Bohemian Tavern. \$5 entry; BCA rules.
- Max Minardi (folk/Americana). 8–10 p.m. Axe and Fiddle.

### JUNE 27

- Share Fair, 9 a.m. 1133 E. Main St.
- Yoga with Heather Ralston. 9–10 a.m. CG Public Market.
- Café Mam. Conservation and Climate Change Presentation. 10–11:30 a.m. CG Public Market
- South Valley Farmers Market. 10 a.m.–2 p.m. 7th and Main Street.
- Cottage Grove Museum. 1–4 p.m. Birch Avenue and H Street.
- Cottage Bowl Open Bowling. 4–10 p.m. 740 Row River Rd.
- Towse (indie folk). 6:30–9:30 p.m. Coast Fork Brewery.
- AlAnon "Courage to Change." 7 p.m. Sinclair Room. City Hall.
- Unicorn (Weird Alt Rock). 8:30–10:30 p.m. Axe and Fiddle. (\$12 cover)

### JUNE 28

- The Regulars (blues, country, rock). 1–3 p.m. Coast Fork Brewing.
- Cottage Grove Museum. 1–4 p.m. Birch Avenue and H Street.

- VFW Bingo. 2–4 p.m. VFW Post 3473. 3160 Hillside Dr.

- South Valley Athletics Bingo Fundraiser. 3:30–5:30 p.m. Coast Fork Brewing. Cards \$1/10 Rounds
- Cosmic Cowgirl-Jodi Jean (alt folk/country). 6–8 p.m. Axe and Fiddle.

### JUNE 29

- Cottage Bowl Open Bowling. 1–5:30 p.m. 740 Row River Rd.
- Senior Center Bingo. 12:30 p.m. Cottage Grove Community Center.
- Gardeners Meeting. 5:30–7 p.m. Coast Fork Brewing.
- Sequoia Rose (bluegrass). 8–10 p.m. Axe and Fiddle.

### JUNE 30

- Ukulele Club (for adults) 9 a.m. CG Public Library.
- Bilingual Story Time. 5 p.m. CG Public Library.
- Trinity Lutheran Free Take-Out Dinner. 5:15–6:15 p.m. 675 S. 7th St.
- Trivia & Games with Gerald and Cribbage with Ted. 6–8 p.m. Coast Fork Brewing.

# Sisters launch vintage shop and coffee bar

**CINDY WEELDREYER**  
*Cottage Grove Sentinel*

A sister vacation cruise to Hawaii sparked the idea behind one of Cottage Grove's newest small businesses.

During the trip Janet Flake and Jewel Harrison talked about what they wanted for the next chapter of life. When they returned home the idea of opening a vintage store rose to the top. Flake loved thrifting and shopping, and Harrison's daughter Amber McMullen already envisioned a coffee bar and even had the name chosen. The three of them moved quickly to bring the idea to life.

They soon spotted the old retro style gas station on South Sixth Street for rent and acted immediately. The building's character fit their vision for a vintage and antique store. "Once we met the owner, we knew this was the place," Harrison said.

### ALL IN THE FAMILY

Harrison is the oldest of four siblings and Flake is the youngest. Their lives took them to different states for many years. When their mother's health required more attention, they both returned to Oregon. Harrison and McMullen live in Eugene and Flake lives in Roseburg. Cottage Grove sits almost directly between those towns and made it a natural midpoint for both families.

Returning to Oregon to care for their elderly mother reunited the sisters after many years in different states and brought their families closer together,

creating the foundation for the new business, Bean There Done That, they would eventually build.

"Being close to her right now means everything to us," Flake said.

They wanted the store to feel warm and inviting and designed open aisles so customers with mobility needs could move easily. They decorate for every season and holiday and enjoy creating a fresh look throughout the year. The aroma of fresh coffee greets people as they walk through the door and is intended to simple and welcoming so customers can grab a cup and browse.

### A WARM WELCOME AT THE DOOR

McMullen manages the daily operations. She handles ordering, design, social media, event planning, marketing, booth rentals, and accounting. She greets customers with her signature red lip smile and enjoys hearing their stories and sharing a laugh. Harrison's other daughter, Autumn Grant, serves as the store's webmaster and helps maintain their online presence.

"I love hearing people's stories and sharing a laugh," McMullen said. Her energy shapes the store's personality and helps create a friendly atmosphere.

Vendor spaces filled quickly and the owners-built friendships with many of the artists and makers who now sell their work in the shop. Opening in winter created challenges because many people still associated the building with

its past life as a gas station and mechanic shop.

"Opening in winter made it tough because people still thought of the building as a gas station," McMullen said. Word of mouth and social media helped spread the news, she said.

### RENOVATION AND COMMUNITY SUPPORT

The renovation became a team project. They spent more than a month creating the layout, decorating, and remodeling the bathroom which they encourage customers to see. "You have to see the bathroom," McMullen said with a laugh. They credit the Cottage Grove community for steady support. City Hall staff helped them navigate the setup process and local vendors welcomed them into the business community.

"Cottage Grove has been amazing to us," Harrison said.

The store carries a wide variety of items including baked goods from Jo's Dough and The Carb Shop Cookies, work from local artists, vintage pieces, antiques, handmade crafts, jewelry, clothing, and plants. They describe the shop as a place where everyone can find something that fits their style.

From this summer the shop hosts a Pop Up Market from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Tuesday through Sunday. The seasonal market features rotating vendors and give shoppers more opportunities to explore local goods.

### A COFFEE BAR WITH LOCAL FLAVOR

The coffee bar adds a sense of home to the store. They keep prices affordable with a 12-ounce cup for \$1.50 and a 16-ounce cup for \$2. They plan to add iced coffee soon. They serve Café Mam coffee which comes from an organic roaster in Eugene. The owners enjoy working with the company and praise the quality of the coffee.

"We love working with Café Mam because the coffee is so good and

the company is local," Harrison said.

Their grand opening last month brought sunshine, vendors, regular customers, and new faces. They spent the day celebrating, meeting people, and building relationships they hope will last.

### LOOKING AHEAD

The three women hope the community will continue supporting small businesses so Bean There Done That can thrive. They want success not only for themselves but for the

many small businesses represented by their vendors.

Their goal is to keep creating a place where people feel welcome, discover unique items, and enjoy a cup of coffee while they explore.

"We want this to be a place where everyone feels welcome," Flake said.

*Bean There Done That*  
409 S. 6th Street  
Hours: Tuesday-Sunday,  
10 a.m. to 5 p.m.  
Phone: 541-521-9152  
Website: [www.beantheredonethatshop.com](http://www.beantheredonethatshop.com)



Courtesy photo

Four family entrepreneurs hosted a May 2 grand opening for Bean There Done That, offering coffee, crafts and antiques. L-to-R: Jewel Harrison, Amber McMullen, Autumn Grant and Janet Flake.



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**OBITUARIES**

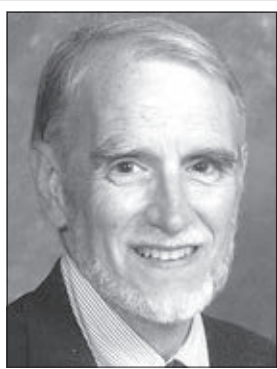
**Nichols (Nick) Milbank Cutting**

October 4, 1935 - May 27, 2026

Nichols Milbank "Nick" Cutting was born on October 4, 1935, in Los Angeles, California. He passed away on May 27, 2026, at the Good Samaritan Regional Medical Center in Corvallis, Oregon, of bone cancer. He lived in Cottage Grove from 1974 to 1982.

For the full obituary, see <https://www.mchenryfuneralhome.com/obituaries/nichols-cutting/#!/Obituary>

A celebration of life will be held at the Albany Golf & Event Center, 155



NW Country Club Lane, Albany, Oregon, on July 11 at 3:00 pm followed by interment at the San Gabriel (California) cemetery.

**Education officials recommend repealing compulsory school attendance rules**

ALEX BAUMHARDT  
Oregon Capital Chronicle  
To improve school attendance in a state with one of the nation's highest absenteeism rates, Oregon education officials have presented lawmakers with a plan to repeal existing attendance laws.

The high-level presentation and 20-page report presented to the Senate Interim Education Committee June 16, described a strategy to replace existing attendance laws "rooted in compliance" with new rules that measure "attendance as a performance growth indicator." It left lawmakers with many more questions than answers: State Sen. Courtney Neron Misslin, D-Wilsonville, almost immediately requested a follow-up meeting to get more clarity.

Senate Bill 315 passed during the 2025 legislative session required the Oregon Department of Education to produce by May 31 a report that outlined how districts are handling attendance policies, best practices for recording and improving student attendance and statutory recommendations that could apply in Oregon. Lawmakers will take up any recommendations during the next legislative session in 2027.

Oregon schools have among the highest absenteeism rates in the country, state data shows, and it's a problem that has persisted since students returned to school following the COVID pandemic nearly five years ago.

Roughly one-third of Oregon students in 2024 were considered chronically absent, meaning they missed 17 or more school days during the school year in a state with one of the shortest school years in the country. About one-fifth of students nationwide were chronically absent in 2024, according to the U.S. Department of Education.

Repeal and replace Among the recommendations state education officials offered are to repeal 11 state statutes relating to compulsory school attendance and to replace them with statutes that "would include compulsory attendance requirements and exemptions," and also outline the responsibilities of guardians and school districts when it comes to student attendance. The report described some state attendance laws as "outdated" and "duplicative," and said some homeschooling regulations are wrapped into attendance laws.

The State Board of Education would be tasked



Rachel Alexander / Salem Reporter

**An empty classroom in Salem, Oregon has some of the highest rates of student absenteeism in the country, state data shows and among the shortest school years.**

with coming up with the new statutes, and attendance would be wrapped into new legislatively mandated accountability measures.

"Oregon's current compulsory attendance statutes and rules are grounded in compliance-oriented definitions of attendance, static thresholds, and enforcement mechanisms. Maintaining compulsory attendance statutes rooted in compliance creates tension with this model, as they rely on fixed definitions of absence and enforcement responses that create conflict with attendance as a growth-based measurement," the report reads.

Notably absent is any recommendation for punitive action or a framework for accountability from students or their families when a student continues to miss school. Lawmakers in 2021 repealed an Oregon law that allowed schools to issue truancy fines to parents or guardians for a child's ongoing and unexcused absences from school.

"This represents a shift from enforcing attendance through prescribed sanctions to using attendance data as a continuous signal for improvement, support, and system effectiveness," the education department recommendations read.

Candice Castillo, deputy director of academics at the state education department, told lawmakers that some students who continually violate district attendance policies will unenroll from school or just stop showing up, disappearing altogether.

"There's all these barriers and these challenges that our students and communities are facing, and compulsory policies can be helpful to some extent, but there is a broader system that needs

to be in place in order to really support students," she said. "What we aim to do with this recommendation beyond that compulsory requirement is really to help the district build a system and build an approach that allows us to support the student needs, so that our students would want to be in the classroom consistently."

State Sen. Janeen Sollman, D-Hillsboro, asked Castillo "what the teeth" of the proposal would be.

"I think you can have that

level of the 'wrap around supports' — What supports does this student need? What supports does this family need? — but we also can hold students accountable," she said. "I sometimes worry Oregon gets in its own way when we remove the accountability."

Other attendance policy recommendations Education officials told lawmakers that there are major inconsistencies in how districts record student attendance, as well as how they record the reasons why a student is absent, making it difficult to collect accurate data on why so many students in Oregon are not going to school regularly.

The education department would create 17 possible codes districts could use to record students not as merely "excused" or "unexcused" but as "present" or "absent."

Under the new codes, a student could be marked "present" even if they are out of school for a debate tournament or sport, are temporarily getting remote instruction or are attending a tribal education program or event. A student would be marked "absent" if they are ill, working, can't find transportation to school or if their situation is unknown.

In their presentation, state education officials noted that merely recording a student as "excused" or "unexcused" lacks clarifying information and "places a value statement on absences and contributes to a misconception about absences," while recording students as "present" or "absent" provides more context and "centers the loss of instruction for any reason and elevates root causes for appropriate interventions."

Education officials also recommended studying and revisiting Oregon's 10-day rule, under which students are automatically unenrolled if they miss 10 consecutive days without an excuse. The rule's intended to ensure districts are not double-counting students who may have moved between districts, but it can create barriers for students who eventually return to a school after a prolonged absence and require a school to resubmit enrollment information to get the student's per-pupil funding restored.

They also recommended the state provide more money for the agency's Every Day Matters program, which currently has just two full time employees, and to fund a statewide information and data collection system so the education department can more easily collect attendance information from schools and provide technical help.

The agenda for the three-hour meeting included more updates from education officials on the legislatively mandated accountability metrics and the rollout of Gov. Tina Kotek's recent executive stopping school districts from cutting instructional time to save money.

"How does low instructional time and days contribute to a culture of non-attendance?" Sollman asked Castillo.

Castillo acknowledged Oregon's short school year, and research showing school attendance is one of the single most important indicators of student success.

"While there's always benefits for our students to have longer instructional time, we also know that, as we referenced earlier, it has to be a cohesive and holistic approach and system," she said. "Having additional instructional time will be important, but we're also creating the right conditions for our students."

<https://oregon-capitalchronicle.com/2026/06/17/state-education-officials-recommend-repealing-replacing-compulsory-school-attendance-rules/>

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**DEATH NOTICE**

Nancy A. Martin, 70, of Eugene, Oregon, passed away on May 22, 2026. Arrangements are in the care of Sunset Hills Funeral Home, Crematorium & Cemetery.

See all obituaries online at [cgsentinel.com](http://cgsentinel.com)

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear people of the great State of Oregon

Thank you so much for responding to my letter to the people of Oregon

I appreciate you sending me a letter. My favorite item was the letter you sent me because it taught me many new things about Oregon. The most unique fact I learned about Oregon was the state gem is the Oregon sunstone.

On My 21, our entire grade displayed our floats at the State fair. I've included a picture of my flat. I hope I made you proud!

I really appreciate that you took the time to send me items and information about Oregon.



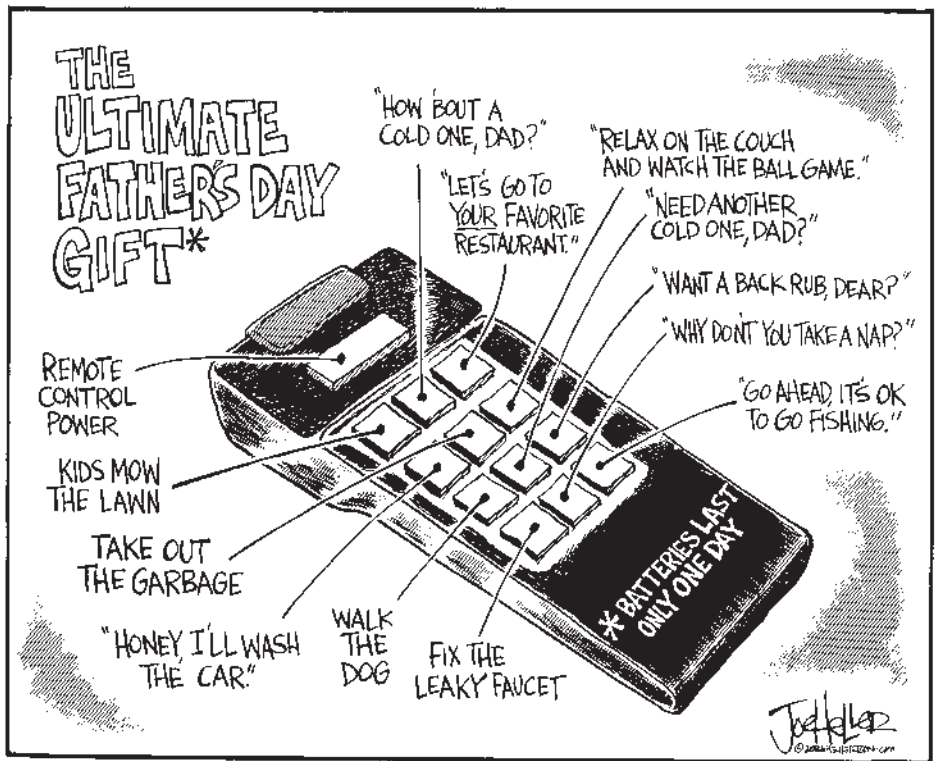
Sincerely,  
Alexandra  
The Langley SchoolLean,  
Virginia

Remember How You Voted

To the Voters of South Lane County, Oregon: The next time you or a member of your family calls "911..." Remember how you voted 05-19-2026!

Paul F. Hughes Sr.  
Cottage Grove

EDITORIAL CARTOON



GUEST COLUMN

Hopeful for the future

TODD MILLER  
Cottage Grove

Sentinel Guest Column

Students of South Lane School District have finalized their graduation requirements and proudly earned their diplomas.

June 6 was a special day for the students and for those who supported them along the way. As I learned more about this group of graduates, I became more and more hopeful for our future.

The road to graduation is a long one for students. Many years of learning, growth, struggle, challenge, social pressures, insecurities and early mornings of not wanting to wake up. All these challenges can lead to moments of doubt, but later, they can produce perseverance and strength. For everyone who supported and encouraged our graduates through these challenges, we thank you. They have learned, they have reflected and they have grown from their experience at South Lane School District.

This group of graduates can teach us all a powerful lesson- proud accomplishments don't come easy. This is a lesson for me, this is a lesson for everyone who supports the youth of South Lane and it should be a lesson for all our students, all the way down to elementary school and pre-k. The road to graduation and beyond starts at the youngest of age, and that we all have a role in supporting our students to this milestone, through the good times and the hard times. And when we come together through the hard times, we can come out stronger on the other end, like our graduates.

As we look ahead to the 2026-2027 school year, this lesson is driving our focus as a district. We know that the journey to that graduation stage doesn't begin in high school, it begins the moment

our youngest learners step into our classrooms, onto our buses, onto our fields and stages and as they walk through our halls.

To ensure every child in South Lane has the support they need to reach that finish line, we are leaning into our commitments to our students and families:

- Aligning Community and School Values and Vision: We will kick off next school year with a new district vision, based on all the feedback we received from parents, students, community and staff this year. This unified message will help us align our work within our schools from pre-k through high school and help ensure you feel like a true partner in your child's education every step of the way.

- Integrating Systems: We are intentionally reviewing departments and pulling our academic, behavioral, and operational programs together into one cohesive system. When our schools or programs operate as a unified team rather than isolated pieces, we can see student needs more clearly, share resources faster, and ensure that every student experiences a continuous, unbroken chain of support from Pre-K all the way through graduation.

- Building Life and Employability Skills: We will further our work in embedding these life skills (aligning social-emotional learning with Oregon Employability Standards) into all we do. We want our students to graduate not just with high academic knowledge, but with the perseverance, emotional resilience, critical thinking and collaboration skills that local employers and colleges value, and that will support our students throughout their lives, past graduation. When school connects to life, it has greater meaning and stronger engagement.

None of this growth would be possible without the dedication of the South Lane School District staff. Our educators, administrators, and support staff pour their hearts into their work daily, ensuring that our schools remain safe, welcoming, and high-achieving environments for every child.

As we look toward the future, we acknowledge that our district, like many across the state, faces real budget challenges. However, I want to reassure you that these challenges will not diminish our core mission. We remain committed to continual improvement in three vital areas: the academic growth of our students, their social-emotional well-being, and the development of real-world employability skills that prepare them for the future.

While our students and families should absolutely take this upcoming break to rest, recharge, and enjoy a well-deserved summer, please know that our work does not pause. Throughout the summer months, our leadership and staff will be hard at work improving our district systems, cleaning and improving our campuses, and refining our instructional plans to ensure a successful, seamless return to school this fall.

The graduation we just celebrated is proof of what happens when a community wraps around our students and does not give up on them. Thank you for your continued partnership, your resilience, and your dedication to the children of South Lane. Together, we are building a brighter hopeful future, one graduate at a time.

Have a wonderful, safe summer break.

Todd Miller,  
Superintendent  
South Lane School District

GUEST COLUMN

BMD 2026: Two parades, three days of family fun

MATTHEW HEWLETT  
Cottage Grove

Sentinel Guest Column

What began for us as a community rescue effort in 2024 has grown into a year round nonprofit dedicated to preserving Cottage Grove's heritage and strengthening local traditions. The Bohemia Mining Days Festival returns July 16-18 with expanded programming, new partnerships and a renewed commitment to celebrating the stories that have shaped The Grove for generations. This year's theme, "Rivers, Rails & Reels," honors the intertwined history of mining, waterways, railroads and early filmmaking in Cottage Grove.

BMD 2026, produced by Spirit of Bohemia Mining Days, offers something for all ages with live music, food, contests, heritage demonstrations, vendors, two parades, a kid zone and lots of memory making family activities.

Thanks to new and returning sponsorships, our BMD 2026 Production Team is hard at work planning the 67th annual festival. Our team transforms Coiner Park into "Bohemia City" for three full days (Thursday-Saturday) of food, fun, vendors and a wide variety of entertainment all ages will enjoy.

We continue our long standing tradition of two parades, one on each morning of our three day festival. The Kiddie Parade returns to its traditional downtown route and steps off at 11 a.m. Friday from the Community Center (sign up at 10:30 a.m.) and is presented by Affordable Auto/Captain Hook Towing.

The Saturday morning Grand Miners Parade, presented by Douglas Fast Net, will follow a new route

this year: Main Street from 5th Street east to Gateway Boulevard. With this year's "Rivers, Rails & Reels" theme, we're encouraging parade entries to have fun with western, railroad, river, mining and early film inspiration.

One of the things we're most excited about this year is the return of the Ore Cart Races presented by Weyerhaeuser. Adam Williams is back to lead the charge, and if you've ever seen these races, you know they bring a whole different kind of energy to the festival. Teams push and load ore carts in a fast paced, good natured competition that gives a playful nod to our mining roots. We'll also have kid races between the adult heats right in front of the Bohemia Gold Mining Museum.

Families will find plenty to do throughout all three days. Thanks to S&K Inflatable Rentals, we'll have a whole lineup of obstacle course style inflatables this year. Unlimited daily passes will be available for \$25, or folks can choose a smaller option with three tickets for \$5. The Ziplay Fiber Kid Zone, Junior Marshals Game, Gold Dash Fun Run, Lil' Miss Bohemia City, contests, performances and hands on history activities all help make the festival a place where kids can learn, play and feel connected to Cottage Grove's story.

Living history continues to be a big part of what makes Bohemia Mining Days special. Visitors can watch blacksmithing, gold panning, old engines, Native American cultural education, mining displays and historic storytelling. These demonstrations help bring the past to life in a way that's fun, memorable and meaningful for all ages.

As Spirit of Bohemia Mining Days grows as a year round organization, we're continuing our work in youth leadership, senior outreach, school partnerships and educational storytelling. Keeping the festival free and accessible is a core part of our mission, and we couldn't do it without the support of volunteers, sponsors and community donor

Volunteers help with everything from setup and cleanup to contests, hospitality, information booths and children's activities. Sponsorships and donations help cover the real costs of entertainment, infrastructure, insurance, equipment, signage and youth programming. Monday, June 29, is the deadline for business owners to commit to hanging an Old West-style custom designed wooden business card in Bohemia City. Every contribution helps keep this tradition strong.

Honestly, there is way too much to tell you about everything we have planned this year in this column, so I hope you'll take a few minutes to visit our website at [www.spiritofbmd.com](http://www.spiritofbmd.com) for all the details.

On our website you can make a donation to help us pay the bills, register for the Saturday Grand Miners Parade, sign up to volunteer so the event runs smoothly and efficiently, and even learn how to build a racing ore cart. We're also working hard to boost the Old West Bohemia City vibe this year and encourage everyone to come in costume if you can.

We'll keep adding updates as we get closer, and we can't wait to celebrate with you July 16-18.

Matthew Hewlett is the Spirit of Bohemia Mining Days Executive Director.

Weekly Online Poll

Do you have a wildfire escape plan, and do you practice that plan?

Yes  
No

Previous Poll Results

How connected are you to the Cottage Grove community?

- Very involved with local schools, politics, community matters 42.9%
- Involved in specific groups, but not connected to most community matters 14.3%
- Not connected or involved as I could be 14.3%
- My connections are only to family and friends here 28.6%

Quote of the Week

"Without facts, you can't have truth. Without truth, you can't have trust. Without these three, we have no shared reality. Without a shared reality, we can't engage in civil discourse. Without civil discourse, democracy is in peril."

Maria Ressa



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 the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances.

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**CITY**  
From Page 1

prohibited altogether. If you burned earlier this spring, go back and check on your debris burn site to make sure nothing reignites due to the heat.

- Don't flick a cigarette onto the ground. It may be just enough to start a fire.
- Don't park or idle over dried grass.
- Don't drag tow chains.
- Check local restrictions and fire danger levels.

"Prevention is our number one tool to reduce property loss, firefighting costs, and risk to the lives of our firefighters. We can't prevent lightning fires, but we can prevent human-caused fires," Curran said.

ODF protects over 16 million acres of private, county, state, and federal land in Oregon from wildfire. Fire season is declared at the local level when conditions reach a point where the risk of a fire starting and spreading becomes clear. This year, the Central Oregon district was the first to declare on May 8, and the Northwest Oregon Area was the last to declare on June 15.

**Water Conservation**

Cottage Grove city officials are also concerned about the city's water supply. The City of Cottage Grove's water currently comes primarily from the Row River, with additional contributions from Layng Creek.

Residents, fish, and wildlife all depend on this shared resource,



Give your home an increased chance of surviving a wildfire, even if firefighters cannot reach your home.

Courtesy photo from the Oregon State Fire Marshal's Office

This illustration identifies defensible space.

so it's essential that we use our water wisely to ensure there is enough for everyone," the release advises. "Because landscape irrigation drives water demand up during the summer months, when streamflows are at their lowest, reducing outdoor water use is especially important"

The city has issued the following water conservation tips:

- Adjust sprinkler heads. Make sure your sprinklers are pointed low and avoid watering the pavement.
- Water your lawn only when necessary. Most lawns only need about one inch of water per week to stay green.

You could also let your lawn go a little brown by watering less — it will recover when the rains return.

- Water early in the morning or late at night. Avoid the heat and water your landscape early in the morning or late at night to minimize water waste due to evaporation.

• Set mower blades high. A taller lawn shades the soil, helping to retain moisture, and has deeper, stronger roots that are more tolerant of drought.

**RESOURCES**

- For more information, contact the City of Cottage Grove, at 541-942-5501.

• For more information about how you can help prevent wildfires, visit [keeporegongreen.org](http://keeporegongreen.org).

• For more information about water conservation, visit the Outdoor Water Conservation page.

**HEART**  
From Page 1

Their work closed the circle that began with bystanders in the park and continued through dispatch, police and fire personnel.

Ellis attended the June 8 City Council meeting where the first responders and CPR-trained bystanders were

honored. He said he is deeply appreciative of the Watershed Council volunteers who knew what to do and to the Cottage Grove police officers who arrived within minutes.

Police Chief Cory Chase read a proclamation during the ceremony praising the responders' "quick response, teamwork and decisive actions," noting that their conduct "embodies our core values of service

through immediate lifesaving response, empathy and providing compassionate care during a crisis, integrity in their professional and coordinated conduct and courage in confronting a high stress, life threatening situation without hesitation."

The ceremony also honored the bystanders who stepped in before the uniforms arrived. JoAnna Kamppi, representing Eugene

Springfield HEARTsafe program and Lane County HEARTsafe, spoke about the importance of community readiness. "Bystanders make a difference," she said. "Every minute that CPR is withheld from a victim of cardiac arrest they have a ten percent less chance of survival. It takes everyone to make it happen."

Kamppi read a statement from Bear and Cricket, the two watershed council volunteers who performed CPR.

"To help save a life is a humbling experience," they wrote. "Chris is the real star here with his will to live and recover, and he is the one who deserves the spotlight along with the trained professionals who ensured his survival. We are thankful

every day that we decided to volunteer with the Coast Fork Willamette Watershed Council. We met Chris for the first time that day. When he collapsed, we were able to help keep him alive until police and EMT personnel arrived. Bystanders with training and experience can be a vital link in the chain of helpers that save lives every day. We are humbly grateful to have that training and beyond grateful that we could be of service to Chris."

The HEARTsafe designation requires communities to meet benchmarks in CPR training, AED placement, emergency planning and public education. Lane County agencies have spent years building that foundation — teaching hands only CPR at

fairs and farmers markets, mapping AED locations and encouraging residents to register devices through the PulsePoint app.

PeaceHealth is a formal partner in the HEARTsafe initiative, working alongside Eugene Springfield Fire to strengthen the region's cardiac arrest response. Through its cardiac care programs, community education efforts and support for public CPR training, PeaceHealth helps ensure that the final link in the chain of survival — advanced hospital care — is strong and accessible. RiverBend's cardiac team is the regional destination for patients like Ellis, providing the specialized treatment that completes the HEARTsafe continuum from bystander action to hospital recovery.

Ellis said his recovery has been "slow but steady." He was released from RiverBend in early March and continues rehabilitation on Wednesdays.

"All my doctors are impressed with my recovery," he said. He credits much of that progress to his caregiver and best friend, Hannah. "She did a lot to bring me back," Ellis said. "She was marvelous in caring for me for the first two months after I got home."

Ellis grew up in the San Bernardino area of California and moved to Cottage Grove in 2012 to be closer to his parents. He said the support he has received from the community since February has meant more to him than he can express. "I'm very glad to be here," he said. "And very grateful for the people who helped save my life."

**RESOURCES**

• For HEARTsafe CPR training or AED information, residents can contact Eugene Springfield Fire's Community Risk Reduction division at 541 682 7100 or visit [eugene.gov/HEARTsafe](http://eugene.gov/HEARTsafe).

• For cardiac care education and survivor resources, PeaceHealth provides additional information at [peacehealth.org/heart](http://peacehealth.org/heart).

*Worship Guide*

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**CGS26-137 NOTICE TO INTERESTED PERSONS:** Probate proceedings in the Estate of Stefanie Ann LeMoigne, deceased, are now pending in the Circuit Court for Lane County, Oregon, Case No. 26PB05026. Kristina LeMoigne has been appointed as personal representative of Decedent. All persons having claims against the Estate are required to present them, in due form, within four months after the date of first publication of this Notice. The date of first publication of this Notice is June 24, 2026. Claims shall be presented to the personal representative at this address: c/o Samantha K. Bunge, Willamette NW Law Firm, PC, 735 W. 7th Ave., Eugene, OR 97402, or they may be barred. All persons whose rights may be affected by these proceedings may obtain additional information from the records of the court, the personal representative, or their attorney, Samantha K. Bunge, whose address is listed above, and whose telephone number is (541) 246-8752. 06/24/26

**999 PUBLIC NOTICES**

**ROW RIVER VALLEY WATER DISTRICT CGS26-136**  
**NOTICE OF BUDGET HEARING AND ADOPTION OF BUDGET**  
**Fiscal Year July 1, 2026- June 30, 2027**

A meeting of the Budget Committee and Board of Commissioners will be held on Monday, June 30, 2026, at 6:00 p.m. at the Row River Christian Church, 37553 Row River Road, Dorena, OR. The purpose of this meeting is to discuss the approved Budget with the public, receive their comments, adopt the Budget, and make appropriations for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2026, and ending June 30, 2027, as approved by the Row River Valley Water District's Budget Committee.

A summary of the Budget is presented below. A copy of the Budget may be inspected or obtained by sending a request to the Row River Valley Water District, P.O. Box 1, Dorena, OR 97434. This certifies that the Budget was prepared on a basis of accounting consistent with that used during the preceding fiscal year.

	Adopted Budget 2025/2026	Proposed Budget 2026/2027
<b>General Fund:</b>		
Personal Services	\$ 52,605.00	\$ 52,605.00
Materials & Services	\$ 70,400.00	\$ 74,900.00
Capital Outlay	\$ 16,000.00	\$ 20,000.00
Debt Repayment	\$ 27,047.00	\$ 57,329.65
<b>Total General Fund Appropriation:</b>	<b>\$166,052.00</b>	<b>\$204,834.65</b>
<b>Total Unappropriated &amp; Reserve Amt.:</b>	<b>\$ 463.00</b>	<b>\$ 650.16</b>
<b>TOTAL BUDGET:</b>	<b>\$166,515.00</b>	<b>\$205,484.81</b>

**Just Like Cats & Dogs** by Dave T. Phipps

**THIS CASE OF SUGAR-FREE, CARB-FREE SODA YOU PICKED UP SHOULD LAST US... WELL, THE REST OF OUR LIVES.**

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**CryptoQuote**

**AXYDLBAAXR** is **LONGFELLOW**

One letter stands for another. In this sample, A is used for the three L's, X for the two O's, etc. Single letters, apostrophes, the length and formation of the words are all hints. Each week the code letters are different.

JOSG LFRJ WOKQ OBBJOCI,  
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**Fun Fact**

In 1867, on Coney Island, New York, an immigrant named Charles Feltman invented the first "hot dog bun," enabling beachgoers to enjoy his "Frankfurter" sausages without needing plates or silverware. Over the next 60 years, Feltman's "hot dog" stand grew into Feltman's Ocean Pavilion, serving up to 40,000 hot dogs each day.

Source: www.feltmansofconeyisland.com

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# Aqua Lion alumni, community leaders honor legendary coach Bud Taylor

**CINDY WEELDREYER**  
Cottage Grove Sentinel

Generations of swimmers, water polo players and community members filled the Warren H. Daugherty Aquatic Center Saturday afternoon, June 13, to honor a man whose influence inspired Cottage Grove athletics for more than six decades.

The South Lane School District officially named its lap pool the Coach Bud Taylor Competition Pool, unveiling a bronze plaque at the entrance bearing the inscription “Through These Doors Have Walked Champions,” a quote from another local coaching legend Wally “Chic” Ciochetti.

Taylor, now 84, took over the local swim club in 1959 at age 19 and served as head coach from 1966 to 1996, and again in 2012. His program produced district and state champions, college scholarship athletes and generations of swimmers who carried his lessons far beyond the lanes of the pool. Alumni traveled from across the country to attend, many reuniting with teammates they had not seen in decades.

## A WINNING PARTNERSHIP

Inside the humid, echoing pool building, championship pennants lined the walls. Taylor sat beside Sue, his wife of 61 years. He accepted the attention with quiet discomfort and brightened when a shared memory touched his heart.

For decades, Bud and Sue were the steady partnership behind the storied Cottage Grove High School (CGHS) Aquatics Program—Bud teaching discipline and technique, Sue orchestrating the logistics that kept the team moving, from timers to meals, lodging and transportation.

When he addressed the crowd, his voice carried the familiar steadiness generations of swimmers remember. He credited Sue, the

homecoming queen and life-guard he met at the pool, as the cornerstone of everything he built.

“My wife and I have been married 61 years, and she was absolutely the best, best possible person in the world,” Taylor told the crowd. “I tell you, no one has had a better life than I have.”

## A POOL BUILT BY THE COMMUNITY

Joyce Settlemyer, representing the Friends of the Warren H. Daugherty Aquatic Center, reminded attendees that the pool itself was born from community determination.

“This legacy began by the dedication of citizens who, in the mid 1950s, went door to door and collected money to build this pool,” she said. She noted that the Friends group continues to advocate for keeping the facility accessible to all residents.

South Lane School District Superintendent Todd Miller told the approximately 90 attendees at the June 13 event that the naming honors both past achievement and future inspiration.

“Not only did Coach Taylor inspire a lot of people who are here today,” Miller said, “but hopefully this inspires future generations of swimmers and teams, not just in the pool but in life as well.”

Taylor insisted the ceremony include a remembrance of the swimmers and coaches who have died, with each name honored by a lotus flower placed into the warm water therapy pool and the soft chime of a singing bowl. Early aquatic center staff member Ron Pupke and longtime coach and teacher Wally “Chic” Ciochetti were among those remembered.

One speaker captured Ciochetti’s influence simply: “Every time I say his name or think of him, I stand a little straighter.”

Storyboards assembled by local historian and archivist



Cindy Weeldreyer / Cottage Grove Sentinel

From left to right, Former CGHS Coach Mike Dirksen, Coach Bud Taylor and Sue Taylor, address those gathered at the celebration.

Casey Woodard, a three time state champion from 1978 to 1981, were set up on the pool deck for the ceremony. Drawn largely from Cottage Grove Sentinel archives, they traced the program back to the 1950s. Additional displays honored Dyrol Bursleson, the CGHS and Olympic middle distance runner who remained close friends with Taylor since their youth.

## A LEGACY THAT ENDURES

The ceremony also fulfilled a long held dream of Taylor’s: formal recognition of his boyhood hero, Dyrol “Burley” Bursleson. City Councilor and local historian Dana Merryday announced that River Road, where Bursleson trained as a young runner, has been officially named the Dyrol Bursleson Trail. Bursleson, a two time

Sports Illustrated cover athlete and multiple world record holder, was remembered as a product of fierce determination, goal setting and the supportive environment of a small town.

## WINNING THE BATTLE OF THE BED

Former swimmer Pat Russell, a retired Marine and Naval Officer who has battled terminal cancer since 2019, described how Taylor called him through years of treatment, coaching him through visualizations of his immune system fighting the disease.

“To this day I receive a phone call from Bud at least weekly,” Russell said. He tied it to Taylor’s signature lesson: “Number one was winning the battle of the bed, learning to get up every day, even when you do not want to.”

Longtime coach Bill Kuzmer traced his own career back to a moment in 1965 when his older brother dropped him off at the pool and told him he was joining the swim team.

“Under the influence of the swim program led by Bud and Sue, I became a coach,” Kuzmer said. “I do not know how many coaches Bud has produced, and those coaches have produced, but it just goes on and on.”

Bob Wiltse drew laughs recalling his habitual lateness to morning practice, then turned serious. “Bud has helped a lot of kids turn their lives around,” he said. “While swimming is great and the accomplishments are nice, Bud became our life coach.”

As former teammates embraced, many knowing it

might be their last reunion, the ceremony became a testament to a coach whose influence forged lifelong friendships and shaped lives far beyond the pool. As the plaque now declares, “through these doors have walked champions”. On Saturday, June 13, the champion of the day was Bud Taylor.

The Coach Bud Taylor Competition Pool is located at the Warren H. Daugherty Aquatic Center, 1440 South 8th St. The summer schedule of open swims and classes and fees are available at [www.slane.k12.or.us/ovdac](http://www.slane.k12.or.us/ovdac).

*The Sentinel gratefully acknowledges the research and archival contributions of local historian Casey Woodard in our coverage of this event.*

# Lions baseball and softball home stretch

**WILL LOHRE**

Cottage Grove Sentinel

School’s out for summer! With the break in full swing, let’s take a moment to see how baseball and softball season wrapped up for the Lions in late May.

## Softball

A year after making the state playoffs in 2025, the Cottage Grove softball program couldn’t replicate the same results. It wasn’t for lack of effort, though, and there were plenty of highlights during the season.

Cottage Grove ended the season with a 5-21 overall record, finishing 2-10 in the 4A Sky Em. Both of the Lions’ wins came against Marshfield on Apr. 21 and Apr. 24.

The second win of their series against the Pirates was a barn burner, with the Lions beating back a furious comeback in the seventh inning to earn a 14-13 win. There were some phenomenal offensive displays during the matchup, including from some of the Lions’ beloved

seniors. Senior Jayda Bruner teed off against the Pirates, racking up five hits (including a double), three RBIs, and three runs scored. Also on point against Marshfield was Makya Alsup. Alsup had three hits, with the crown jewel being a two-run homer in the top of the sixth inning to put the Lions up 14-7.

While the Pirates scored six runs to make a comeback push, the Lions held out thanks to a clutch strikeout by sophomore Tori Noffsinger. While that was the final win of the season for the Lions, another highlight came at the start of May.

In an effort to raise funds and awareness for breast cancer, the Lions hosted a cancer-awareness game during their doubleheader against Marist Catholic on May 1. According to the Cottage Grove HS Softball Facebook page, the team raised \$400 for the cause. Before the game, there was a “special cancer survivor



2026 Lions Girls Softball team. Courtesy photo

first pitch,” followed by a moment of silence.

It was a powerful moment for the team and showed their commitment to giving back to the community.

After Cottage Grove’s win against Marshfield, the wins were hard to come by. The Lions lost 11 straight contests to close the season, including nine league games. Cottage Grove ended the season as the #26 team in OSAA’s 4A rankings and fourth of the five teams in the Sky Em League.

To wrap up the season, the Lions said goodbye to the program’s five seniors, Valerie Aura, Kadance Crownover, Jayda Bruner, Makya Alsup, and captain Ava Johns.

## Baseball

For the first time since 2023, the Lions won a game in the Sky Em League!

Facing off with Marshfield on Apr. 24, the Lions beat the Pirates 11-7, securing their first win in the Sky Em in years. It was the second game of a doubleheader, and after losing

12-2, the Lions were out for redemption.

Playing away from home, the Lions came out hot in the first inning and held the lead for the entire game. Nolan Spear led off with a walk for Cottage Grove, and he was batted in by Colton Cogburn shortly after. After a bevy of errors and walks loaded the bases and put Cottage Grove up 4-0, Spear stepped back up to the plate. Spear sent a double into center field, driving in three runs and giving the Lions a 7-0 lead.

Spear and Cogburn added a couple more hits in the third inning, each sending runners home and bringing the Lions to a commanding 10-3 lead, a perfect answer to the Pirates’ three runs in the first and second innings. Cottage Grove would add one more run in the fifth for good measure and keep the Pirates

at bay for the 11-7 win. It was the program’s first Sky Em victory since beating Marshfield on Apr. 14 in 2023.

After beating the Pirates, the Lions didn’t conjure another win, losing three game series against Marist Catholic, Junction City, and North Bend. Cottage Grove finished the season with a 4-23 record overall, and a 1-11 mark in the Sky Em.

The Lions were a young squad this season, with the majority of the crew consisting of sophomores, juniors, and freshmen. While those players will be the future in coming seasons, Cottage Grove will definitely miss its four seniors, Felix Garza, Elijah Cushman, Evan Emmick, and Hunter Rhodes.

While there’s plenty of room to grow, getting back to winning in the Sky Em is something that the Lions will hope to build on in 2027.

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