

THE COTTAGE GROVE Sentinel

Universal Preschool Plan
See page 3



CGHS Sports
See page 8



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41

Cottage Grove

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Finding 'Diamonds in the Rough': Hyland's Eye for Renewal

CINDY WEELDREYER
Cottage Grove Sentinel

Springfield contractor Shaun Hyland has become a quiet but consequential new player in Cottage Grove's commercial landscape, purchasing three long vacant buildings and bringing one of them back into active use while preparing another for a future tenant and beginning rehabilitation on a third.

His investments mark one of the more visible private efforts to revive aging properties in key corridors of the city.

Hyland grew up in Springfield and graduated from Thurston High School in 1990. He married young at 19 and stepped straight into the family construction business, learning the work hands on before eventually moving into leadership alongside his sister, Tiffani Noah. What began as a practical start in a multi-generational trade has since expanded into a broader interest in property rehabilitation and redevelopment.

Hyland said Cottage Grove's untapped potential is what first drew him south.

Three Properties, Three Stages of Progress

In 2023, Hyland purchased the vacant Cottage Grove Sentinel building at 116 N. 6th Street and rehabilitated it for a specialized tenant. The building is now home to Circle of Friends, a nonprofit

organization serving individuals with complex disabilities and their families. Its colorful mural facing East Whiteaker Avenue has become a familiar sight to passersby.

That same year, he acquired the long vacant Better Bodies Gym, a building that originally housed the Riverside Medical Clinic, on the west end of the Historic District along the river. Cleanup and repairs have been completed, and the building is now ready for a tenant, although it is not yet in use.

Earlier this year, Hyland's equipment arrived at the former Moose Lodge on Highway 99, across from Dairy Mart at the southern entrance to town, to begin rehabilitation work on the deteriorated structure. The building has been empty for years and is considered the most challenging of the three.

Chamber Perspective on Local Investment

Cottage Grove Chamber of Commerce President Danny Solesbee said Hyland's work reflects a long standing regional connection rather than a sudden influx of outside developers.

"Shaun Hyland has been doing construction projects here for years," Solesbee said. "He looks for investment opportunities, and when some businesses closed, he saw the potential."

He added that improvements in the city's permitting process under



Cindy Weeldreyer / Cottage Grove Sentinel

The long-vacant Moose Lodge on Highway 99 has been a blighted property for nearly six years. John Hyland Construction began renovation efforts in January.

Community Development Director Faye Stewart, along with available grants, have made rehabilitation efforts more inviting for investors.

Solesbee said the economic impact of filling long vacant buildings is straightforward.

"The more businesses in a community, the more economic growth and job opportunities you will have," he said. "A revitalized downtown ensures those empty storefronts will be filled."

He also pointed to Cottage Grove's historic character as a draw for investors.

"In my opinion, Cottage Grove has a long, colorful history that

See **HIGHLAND** Page 6



Cindy Weeldreyer / Cottage Grove Sentinel

The Circle of Friends nonprofit organization is housed in this building rehabilitated by John Hyland Construction.

Police chief highlights training gains, push to rebuild staffing

CINDY WEELDREYER
Cottage Grove Sentinel

Public calls for police service slightly increased in 2025 in Cottage Grove, with property crimes among the most common offenses, according to the latest Cottage Grove Police Annual Report.

The CGPD's 2025 annual report outlines call volume, crime trends, training and staffing updates for the past year.

Police Chief Cory Chase presented the department's annual report to the City Council on Feb. 23, part of a series of mid year updates from all city departments, with CGPD taking its turn as a single agenda item. The presentation offered updates on patrol activity, arrests, community engagement and department operations.

Annual reports serve as one of the few opportunities for the public to see a comprehensive snapshot of department activity, including call trends, staffing levels, training requirements and budget pressures.

For smaller agencies like Cottage Grove, these updates also help illustrate how limited personnel and resources shape day to day operations, offering residents a clearer understanding of the challenges facing local law enforcement.

Call Volume and Crime Trends



Courtesy from the City of Cottage Grove

Pictured, holding the Certificate of Accreditation are CGPD left to right holding the certification are CGPD Captain Adrian Passadore, CGPD Chief of Police Cory Chase, CGPD Administrative Assistant Brooke Crow and Cottage Grove Mayor Candace Solesbee.

The department responded to 10,508 calls for service in 2025, a slight increase from the previous year. Property crimes saw modest fluctuations, with thefts and criminal mischief cases remaining among the most common offenses. Person to person crimes held

relatively steady, reflecting patterns consistent with recent years.

Child Abuse Reports

The department continues to review all child abuse reports forwarded by the Oregon

Department of Human Services, along with those received directly by police. Each report is assigned a case number and investigated by an officer working with local Child Protective Services caseworkers. The department reviewed 279 reports in 2024 and 240 in 2025, maintaining a high caseload in this area.

Arrests

Officers made 503 arrests in 2025, including 319 misdemeanor arrests and 184 felony arrests. Felony cases rose slightly compared to 2024, while misdemeanor arrests remained consistent with recent trends.

K9 and Therapy Dog Programs

The department's canine program included two dogs in 2025, both donated and professionally trained by the Portland based nonprofit Working Dogs. Ripp, a seven year old Belgian Malinois handled by Sergeant Derek Carlton, logged 11 deployments, assisted in six arrests, conducted 10 area searches and completed 160 training hours. The department also briefly had a therapy dog program with Sabrina, whose presence was especially meaningful to staff and local youth during the months she served.

Community Engagement

The report highlights several community engagement programs that give department

See **CHIEF** Page 6

Oregon House passes gun bill bolstering Measure 114

SHAANTH NANGUNERI
Oregon Capital Chronicle

The Oregon House on Wednesday, February 25, moved to strengthen some of the nation's strictest state-level firearm safety provisions narrowly enacted by Oregon voters in 2022, after a tense dispute during a committee hearing over the bill brought the chamber to a standstill on Monday, February 23.

Along with banning magazines with more than 10 rounds of ammunition, Measure 114 required completed background checks, permits and firearm safety training before purchasing guns. But the law still hasn't taken effect because it

promptly drew legal challenges in both state and federal courts.

House Bill 4145 would serve as a roadmap for rolling that measure out. It would give authorities 60 instead of the current 30 days required to either issue a permit or provide a written denial, and it would exempt background checks and permit application information from public records requests. The bill would also increase maximum permit renewal fees the state is allowed to collect from \$50 to \$110, while pushing back implementation of the permit requirement until 2028.

The bill passed in a 33-19 vote along mostly party lines after an

emotional debate among lawmakers, who shared dueling stories of defending themselves with firearms and losing loved ones to gun violence. One dissenting Democrat, Rep. Paul Evans, a Monmouth Democrat and veteran, objected to establishing a permitting process for the constitutionally-established right to bear arms. Another Democrat in opposition, Rep. Farrah Chaichi, D-Beaverton, has previously raised concerns about the increased fees' impact on low-income and rural Oregonians, as well as the bill's exemption of law enforcement from the high-capacity magazine ban.

See **GUN BILL** Page 6



Connor Radnovich / Oregon Capital Chronicle

Customer Matt Schonbachler (left) hands a handgun back to assistant manager Trent Bergerson at Tick Licker Firearms in Salem on Friday, Nov. 18, 2022. Sales have been brisk since voters passed Measure 114, tightening Oregon's gun laws.

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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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Captured! Two-year search ends in arrest of convicted rapist

STAFF REPORT
Country Media, Inc.

A Florence man convicted of rape and on the run for two years has been caught in California. Chico Police Department detectives arrested 48-year-old Jack Duane Crist, at an apartment in Chico. Crist was wanted in Lane County on a Rape 1 conviction and had led Lane County Sheriff's Office (LCSO) detectives on a nearly two-year search across multiple states, according to LCSO Sgt. Tim Wallace.

According to court documents, Crist was first arrested in this case in January of 2023, in Florence, Oregon. He later entered a guilty plea with the Lane County Circuit Court for Rape in the 1st

Degree and Attempted Rape in the 1st Degree for an incident involving a juvenile victim.

In June of 2024, Crist failed to appear for sentencing and a warrant was entered for the original charges of three counts of Rape in the 1st Degree, Sodomy in the 1st Degree, and Attempted Rape in the 1st Degree.

"Lane County Sheriff's detectives learned Crist had likely fled to Alaska, but had little information to go on," Wallace said. "They continued investigating and in 2024 confirmed he was in the area of West Plains, Missouri using an alias. Before local law enforcement located him, Crist fled the area."

Wallace said that detectives followed multiple

leads, finally determining in early 2026 that he had been in Yucca, Arizona for approximately a year.

"Unfortunately, he had again left the area," Wallace said. "Detectives determined he was likely in Bly, Oregon, east of Klamath Falls, and quickly moved in. On February 17, detectives served a search warrant with assistance from the Oregon State Police SWAT Team. Two residents were arrested for their role in hindering prosecution, but Crist was not located."

Detectives quickly determined Crist had fled to Chico, California, just days before. They contacted the Chico Police Department along with the U.S. Marshals Service.

"Chico Police detectives conducted a surveillance

operation at the residence in the 1500 block of E. Lassen Avenue where Crist was believed to be, and within hours, observed him exiting the home," Wallace said. "Due to his distinct physical characteristics, detectives were able to positively identify the person as Crist and swiftly took him into custody without incident."

Crist was arrested for his outstanding felony warrant and booked into the Butte County Jail to be held pending extradition by U.S. Marshals to Lane County.

It is believed Crist had been in hiding in multiple other states, including Arizona and Missouri, and may have been using the aliases of "Zane Carson" or "Jack Watson."

Anyone who may have had contact with or was

victimized by Crist during his time as a fugitive is encouraged to contact the Lane County Sheriff's Office at 541-682-4150 option 1.

The Lane County Sheriff's Office would like to thank the many agencies that assisted our detectives on this years-long, multi-state investigation:

- U.S. Marshals Service offices in:
- Eugene and Medford, Oregon
- Anchorage, Alaska
- Springfield, Missouri
- Flagstaff, Phoenix, and Yuma, Arizona
- Chico Police Department, California
- Mohave County Sheriff's Office, Arizona
- Pinal County Sheriff's Office, Arizona



Courtesy photo from the LCSO
Chico Police Department detectives arrested 48-year-old Jack Duane Crist, at an apartment in Chico.

- Oregon State Police
- Amtrak Police Department in Portland, Oregon
- Alaska State Troopers
- Police Department detectives arrested 48-year-old Jack Duane Crist, at an apartment in Chico.

A CLOSER LOOK

Disorderly male allegedly charges at victims with weapon

The following is from the Cottage Grove Police Department (CGPD) Facebook page.

- The CGPD had the opportunity to send three members of the department to a three-day Peer Support training program.
- As a result of this training, the Cottage Grove Police Department is now prepared to begin developing and implementing its own Peer Support Program. This represents an important step forward in strengthening the well-being of the CGPD personnel by providing confidential support, resources, and assistance from trained peers who understand the unique challenges of the profession.
- Another firearms training course was held Thursday, with six CGPD members participating.
- The CGPD detective has been working diligently on her caseload, ensuring each sensitive case receives the thorough attention and detail it requires.
- Officers assisted the Oregon State Police with a multi-vehicle crash along southbound I-5.
- The Lane County Sheriff's Department requested assistance with serving multiple restraining orders.
- Officers located a male subject for whom they had probable cause to arrest in connection with an assault that occurred two days prior. The subject was detained and interviewed, then transported to the Cottage Grove Police Department while arrest paperwork was completed. After the paperwork was finalized, he was transported to the Lane County Jail and lodged on charges of Assault in the Fourth Degree (ORS 163.160) and Unlawful Use of a Weapon (ORS 166.220).

- Officers responded with lights and sirens to Dairy Queen following a report of a disorderly male allegedly armed with a rifle and charging at vehicles in the roadway. The weapon was determined to be a BB gun. After an investigation, the male was arrested and transported to the Lane County Jail, where he was lodged on charges of Disorderly Conduct in the Second Degree (ORS 166.025).
- Reports of a male subject walking into traffic were called in. Additionally, the same male subject was called in by Cottage Grove ER as a patient that left during intake and they were requesting officers locate him and return him to the hospital. He was contacted and transported back to the hospital to receive treatment.
- Officers responded to the area of Les Schwab regarding a physical altercation. Following the investigation, a male subject was arrested and transported to the Lane County Jail, where he was lodged on charges of Harassment (ORS 166.065).
- Officers were dispatched to a medical call regarding a male subject who had fainted and was reportedly not breathing. Upon arrival, officers observed a bystander performing CPR and immediately assumed lifesaving efforts. Multiple officers rotated in administering CPR to ensure continuous compressions until medics arrived on scene. Medics then assumed all medical care and transported the individual to Riverbend for further treatment.

* Please note: This list is a summary of select calls for service. Officers respond to many additional types of calls daily that are not included in this weekly update.

WEEKLY UPDATE
02/16/26 - 02/22/26

Accidents: 2	Hit & Run: 2
Arrests: 13	Suspicious Condition: 6
Criminal Mischief: 2	Trespass: 9
Disturbance: 10	Vehicle Stop: 37
Fraud: 1	Welfare Checks: 8
Total calls --- 277	

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

FEBRUARY 16

- 04:40: Suspicious subject, 2000 block S. 6th St.
- 05:29: Suspicious vehicle, 200 block N. 12th St.
- 07:04: Suspicious vehicle, Cleveland/6th St.
- 07:09: Warrant service, Cleveland/6th St.
- 07:28: Agency assist, 900 block Row River Rd.
- 08:27: Disorderly subject, 200 block N. 12th St.
- 09:03: Hit and run, 1500 block Red Hills Pl.
- 14:51: Welfare check, 800 block N. Douglas St.
- 15:20: Welfare check, 1300 block E. Main St.
- 16:04: Warrant service, 400 block E. Main St.
- 17:01: Trespass, 1500 block E. Main St.
- 17:24: Disturbance, 1500

FEBRUARY 17

- 00:26: Illegal camping, 200 block N. 12th St.
- 00:47: Warrant service, 400 block E. Main St.
- 01:24: Disorderly subject, 200 block N. 12th St.
- 02:16: Welfare check, London/Latham
- 03:13: Suspicious subject, 1300 block Jefferson Ave.
- 04:46: Nuisance, 200 block N. 12th St.
- 06:34: Suspicious condition, 800 block Quincy Ave.
- 07:33: Warrant service, 400 block E. Main St.
- 08:17: Criminal mischief, 100 block N. 9th St.
- 09:18: Criminal mischief, 100 block N. 9th St.
- 10:50: Disorderly subject, R/Bryant
- 11:42: Theft, 1500 block E. Main St.
- 13:51: Welfare check, 700 block Hwy 99
- 14:20: Illegal dumping, M/

FEBRUARY 18

- 00:32: Alarm, 100 block Gateway Blvd.
- 12:01: Abandoned vehicle, Harvey/16th
- 14:12: Warrant service, 400 block E. Main St.
- 20:11: Criminal mischief, 100 block Gateway Blvd.
- 22:23: Agency assist, 1500 block Fairview Pl.

FEBRUARY 19

- 00:17: Warrant service, 400 block E. Main St.
- 09:04: Warrant service, 400 block E. Main St.
- 11:19: Abandoned vehicle, 1800 block Harvey Rd.
- 13:07: Illegal camping, 1400 block N. Douglas St.
- 13:33: Suspicious condition, 100 block Gateway Blvd.
- 16:05: Juvenile problem, 100 block S. 10th St.

- 16:41: Harassment, 900 block N. 9th St.
- 17:57: Welfare check, 1600 block Birch Ave.
- 18:15: Suspicious condition, 100 block Gateway Blvd.
- 20:31: Firearm purchase denial, 100 block Gateway Blvd.
- 20:48: Disorderly subject, 1500 block Gateway Blvd.
- 22:11: Menacing, 300 block Hwy 99

FEBRUARY 20

- 05:22: Assault, 1200 block E. Main St.
- 12:43: Agency assist, 900 block N. Douglas St.
- 14:43: City ordinance violation, 800 block N. 16th St.
- 16:47: Disturbance, 100 block Gateway Blvd.
- 17:50: Illegal camping, Ostrander/16th
- 19:16: Agency assist, 2300 block Main St.
- 21:47: Agency assist, 900 block S. 6th St.
- 22:16: Fraud, 200 block Gateway Blvd.
- 22:22: Order violation, 900 block Row River Rd.
- 23:46: Motor vehicle crash, 500 block Grant Ave.

FEBRUARY 21

- 07:30: Disturbance, 500



Courtesy Photo / Cottage Grove Sentinel

- block N. Douglas St.
- 10:13: Death investigation, 800 block N. 16th St.
- 12:06: Disorderly subject, 5th/Main
- 13:29: Criminal mischief, 900 block N. 16th St.
- 14:01: Warrant service, 400 block E. Main St.
- 14:35: Harassment, 700 block S. 8th St.
- 14:58: Criminal mischief, 900 block N. 16th St.
- 16:31: Welfare check, 2700 block Row River Rd.
- 18:04: Agency assist, 1500 block Village Dr.
- 18:15: Suspicious condition, 100 block S. 6th St.
- 20:21: Juvenile problem, 100 block S. 10th St.
- 22:09: Suicidal subject, 900 block N. Douglas St.

- 22:30: Disturbance, 900 block S. 6th St.

FEBRUARY 22

- 05:53: Suspicious condition, 600 block S. 7th St.
- 06:06: Suspicious subject, 600 block S. 7th St.
- 11:44: Illegal camping, N. Douglas/Ostrander Ln.
- 12:08: Harassment, 500 block E. Main St.
- 12:38: Suspicious subject, 100 block Gateway Blvd.
- 13:39: Mental subject, 900 block N. 16th St.
- 14:13: Agency assist, London/Shorthill
- 15:21: Warrant service, 400 block E. Main St.
- 20:13: Nuisance, 200 block N. 12th St.
- 20:18: Warrant service, 400 block E. Main St.

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‘Roundtable’ launched to create blueprint for universal pre-K in Oregon

ALEX BAUMHARDT
Oregon Capital Chronicle

Oregon Gov. Tina Kotek is bringing together a group of early learning experts to create a plan to provide “affordable, universal preschool access for 3- and 4-year-olds” in every Oregon county.

Kotek announced the Early Childhood Care and Learning System Roundtable in a news release Tuesday. In it, she emphasized the costs to the state’s economy and Oregon families due to a lack of affordable child care and pre-K options.

“This is a conversation we need to have in the state,” Kotek said at a news conference Tuesday afternoon. “How do we support our working families? How do we support our economy by making sure parents have affordable early learning care so they can go to work and support their kids? And, at the end of day, also, what’s best for our children is when they have high quality care.”

The average cost of child care for an infant in the state is about \$18,000 per year,

according to the Washington-D.C. based First Five Years Fund. Oregon parents forced to choose between working and paying for child care or forgoing careers altogether will lose more than \$3 billion in wages during the next decade, according to an analysis from the Bipartisan Policy Center and the Buffett Early Childhood Institute at the University of Nebraska. The tax loss impact to the state is projected to be roughly \$1 billion.

Despite millions of dollars in investment in early learning programs through the Student Success Act since 2019, meant to help subsidize the cost of care for low-income families, Oregon still suffers from child care deserts, including six counties that are considered “severe” deserts where there are no publicly-funded child care options.

Kotek in the news release did not share details about how many people would be on the roundtable but said it will be made up of state and national early learning leaders. Kali Thorne Ladd,

CEO of the Portland-based nonprofit Children’s Institute, and Sara Mickelson, a former leader of the state’s Early Learning Division and most recently a leader at the New Mexico Early Childhood Education & Care Department, will chair it.

In New Mexico, Mickelson helped manage the rollout of an expanded Pre-K program between early 2023 and early 2025, according to her LinkedIn profile. She quit to open a consultancy shortly before the state in November became the first in the nation to guarantee no-cost, universal child care.

“Scaling an early learning system that truly works for every family, regardless of where they live in the state, is a critical undertaking,” she said in a statement. “This starts with getting the plan right, creating a roadmap that is not just ambitious but sustainable and grounded in the reality of what Oregon parents need.”

Thorne Ladd has been a member of the state’s Early Learning Council for eight years, tasked with trying to

create cohesive statewide pre-K standards and programs, and served as the Education Strategies Director in the Portland Mayor’s Office from 2008 to 2012. Prior to that, she worked as a policy analyst at the Oregon Department of Education, according to her LinkedIn profile.

In the news release, Kotek indicated that she also formed the roundtable in response to federal funding freezes to child care and early education programs under President Donald Trump and his administration.

The announcement also comes on the coattails of the governor’s criticisms of Multnomah County’s Preschool for All program for not reaching more kids despite taking in far more revenue than expected from a marginal tax on individuals earning more than \$125,000 and households earning above \$200,000.

Since 2022, child care providers taking advantage of the program have been able to increase capacity and enroll 700 new toddlers, a



Rebecca Rivas / Missouri Independent

Oregon Gov. Tina Kotek announced the formation of a new group that will create a roadmap for Oregon to offer universal preschool.

number that is growing each year, program officials have said. But county officials say to meet demand and reach a 2030 promise of free, universal preschool, the program will need to offer closer to 11,000 new openings for toddlers and kids.

The early childhood learning group will start by “assessing current state-funded early learning programs to identify gaps and recommend improvements, strengthen alignment,” according to the news release.

<https://oregoncapitalchronicle.com/2026/02/24/gov-kotek-launches-roundtable-to-create-blueprint-for-universal-pre-k-in-oregon/>

Oregon Capital Chronicle is part of States Newsroom, a network of news bureaus supported by grants and a coalition of donors as a 501(c)(3) public charity. Oregon Capital Chronicle maintains editorial independence. Contact Editor Lynne Terry for questions: info@oregoncapitalchronicle.com.

2026 Youth Conservation Crew applications open

WHO: Coast Fork Willamette Watershed Council

WHAT: Applications for our 2026 Youth Conservation Crew (YCC) are now being accepted through Tuesday, March 31.

WHERE: Coast Fork Willamette Watershed Council: 28 S 6th Street, Cottage Grove, OR 97404.

YCC members work on sites throughout our watershed as well as in neighboring watershed districts.

WHEN: 2026 season application window is open March 1-March 31st, interviews occur in April. Season runs June 22nd-August 27th, 2026.

WHY: The Coast Fork Willamette Watershed Council (CFWWC), a nonprofit organization based in Cottage Grove, founded the Youth Conservation

Crew (YCC) in 2018 to provide local youth with on-the-job training alongside natural resource professionals. The program is designed to promote the stewardship of community resources while preparing our youth for future success.

The YCC fosters growth in the workforce for individuals interested in our natural resources and looking for a progressive work experience. Crew members work alongside natural resource professionals from regional, state, and federal organizations.

Activities include:

- Trail building and maintenance
- Wildlife habitat restoration
- Plant and animal identification
- Erosion mitigation
- Fire lines and fuel reduction
- Invasive species removal

Make a Difference in 2026 with the Coast Fork Willamette Watershed Council Youth Conservation Crew (YCC)

EXPLORE RESTORE RESPECT PROTECT

- Seed collection and propagation
- Monitoring and surveying
- Diversity, equity, and inclusion training

- Full and part time positions are available
- This opportunity is open to individuals ages 16-20. \$17/hour.

For more information and how to apply, visit www.coastfork.org/youth-conservation-crew.

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

MARCH 4

- Coast Fork Kiwanis Club. Noon. My Boys Pizza, 96 N. Mill St., Creswell.
- Senior Center Pinochle. 1 p.m. Senior Center.
- Lego Club. 2:30 p.m. Library.
- Open Bowling. 3-5:30 p.m. Cottage Bowl.
- Rotary Club of Cottage Grove. Social 5 p.m. Meeting 5:30 p.m. El Tapatio Restaurant.
- Elks Bingo. Doors 5 p.m. Early Bird 6:30 p.m. Regular 7 p.m. Elks Lodge.
- Library Open. 11 a.m.-7 p.m.

MARCH 5

- Baby Laptime. 11:30 a.m. Library.
- Bohemia Gold Mining Museum. 1-4 p.m.
- Teen Gaming. 4 p.m. Library.
- Community Center Table Tennis. 4-6 p.m. Community Center.
- Library Open. 10 a.m.-6 p.m.

MARCH 6

- Oregon Aviation Museum. 10 a.m.-2 p.m.
- Downtown Flea Market. 10 a.m.-3 p.m. 818B Main St.
- Storytime. 11:30 a.m. Library.
- Bohemia Gold Mining Museum. 1-4 p.m.
- Hi Fi Friday. 4:30 p.m. Library.
- American Legion Bingo. 5-7 p.m. American Legion Post 32.

- Library Open. 10 a.m.-6 p.m.

MARCH 7

- Share Fair USA. 9 a.m. 1133 E Main St.
- Downtown Flea Market. 10 a.m.-3 p.m. 818B Main St.
- Bohemia Gold Mining Museum. 1-4 p.m.
- CG Historical Museum. 1-4 p.m.
- Open Bowling. 4-10 p.m. Cottage Bowl.
- Library Open. 10 a.m.-4 p.m.

MARCH 8

- CG Historical Museum. 1-4 p.m.
- Bohemia Gold Mining Museum. 1-4 p.m.
- VFW Bingo. 2-4 p.m. VFW Post 3473.

MARCH 9

- Senior Center Bingo. 12:30 p.m. Community Center.
- Library Closed..

MARCH 10

- Ukulele Club. 9 a.m. Library.
- Oregon Aviation Museum. 10 a.m.-2 p.m.
- Open Bowling. 1-5:30 p.m. Cottage Bowl.
- S.T.E.A.M. 3 p.m. Library.
- Bilingual Story Time. 5 p.m. Library.
- Library Open. 11 a.m.-7 p.m..

MARCH 11

- Senior Center Pinochle. 1 p.m. Senior Center.

- Open Bowling. 3-5:30 p.m. Cottage Bowl.

- Elks Bingo. Doors 5 p.m. Early Bird 6:30 p.m. Regular 7 p.m. Elks Lodge.
- Library Open. 11 a.m.-7 p.m..

MARCH 12

- Baby Laptime. 11:30 a.m. Library.
- Cottage Grove Lions Club. Noon. Axe & Fiddle.
- Bohemia Gold Mining Museum. 1-4 p.m.
- Teen Gaming. 4 p.m. Library.
- Community Center Table Tennis. 4-6 p.m. Community Center.
- Houseplant Class. 5-7 p.m. Seventh day Adventist Church. Fee 5 dollars. Includes dinner and handouts. To register call 541.401.2521.
- Library Open. 10 a.m.-6 p.m..

MARCH 13

- Oregon Aviation Museum. 10 a.m.-2 p.m.
- Storytime. 11:30 a.m. Library.
- Bohemia Gold Mining Museum. 1-4 p.m.
- American Legion Bingo. 5-7 p.m. American Legion Post 32.
- Conversations on Parenting. 6-8:30 p.m. Hope in the Grove Baptist Church.
- Library Open. 10 a.m.-6 p.m.

MARCH 14

- Share Fair USA. 9 a.m. 1133 E Main St.

- Conversations on Parenting. 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Hope in the Grove Baptist Church.

- KNND Spring Alligator Auction. 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Tune in 1400AM. 99.7FM. SLTV 47.4. Call 541.942.2468 for bidder number.

- Bohemia Gold Mining Museum. 1-4 p.m.
- CG Historical Museum. 1-4 p.m.
- Open Bowling. 4-10 p.m. Cottage Bowl.
- Library Open. 10 a.m.-4 p.m.

MARCH 15

- CG Historical Museum. 1-4 p.m.
- Bohemia Gold Mining Museum. 1-4 p.m.
- VFW Bingo. 2-4 p.m. VFW Post 3473.
- South Valley Athletics Bingo. 3:30-5:30 p.m. Coast Fork Brewing.
- Cottage Theatre Auditions. Sunday in the Park with George. 6 p.m. 700 Village Drive. For more info visit www.cottagetheatre.org.

MARCH 16

- Senior Center Bingo. 12:30 p.m. Community Center.
- WallDogs MuralFest and Animal House 50th Anniversary Volunteer Roundup. 6 p.m. Community Center.
- Library Closed.

MARCH 17

- Ukulele Club. 9 a.m. Library.

- Oregon Aviation Museum. 10 a.m.-2 p.m.

- Open Bowling. 1-5:30 p.m. Cottage Bowl.

- Bilingual Story Time. 5 p.m. Library.

- Library Open. 11 a.m.-7 p.m.



Cindy Weeldreyer / Cottage Grove Sentinel
A great blue heron resting on the fountain in Bohemia Park.

Headlight Herald

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Measles outbreak declared in Oregon

JULIA SHUMWAY
Oregon Capital Chronicle

State health officials have declared a measles outbreak following five confirmed cases in Oregon.

Dr. Howard Chiou, medical director for communicable diseases and immunizations for the Oregon Health Authority's Public Health Division, warned during a virtual press conference Thursday morning, February 19, that those cases likely represent a fraction of the actual numbers in the state. That's because not everyone who catches measles will seek medical attention, Chiou said.

"What I really want families to hear is that measles is here in Oregon," Chiou said. "Cases are rising across the United States. And people should really reconsider their vaccine decisions and talk to their health care providers to make sure that they and their families are getting the protection that they need."

A new data dashboard the Oregon Health Authority published Thursday shows

how the measles virus has spread through Oregon counties, based on wastewater surveillance. Health officials take samples from community sewage to check for the measles virus, as they do for other diseases.

They've detected traces of the measles virus in multiple parts of the state, though the confirmed cases were in Clackamas and Linn counties. During the past two weeks, according to state data, wastewater surveillance has found low levels of the measles virus in Lincoln, Linn, Marion, Clackamas, Multnomah and Morrow Counties.

Doctors typically recommend the two-dose measles-mumps-rubella (MMR) vaccine starting at 12 months old, with the second dose between 4 and 6 years old. Approximately 97% of individuals who receive the two doses develop immunity to measles, according to the American Academy of Family Physicians.

While breakthrough infections in vaccinated people are rare, the disease is highly

contagious to unvaccinated people — approximately nine in 10 susceptible people who are in close contact with a contagious measles patient will contract it. Of the five cases in Oregon this year, health officials confirmed that four were not vaccinated and do not yet know the vaccine status of the fifth.

"Measles is not just a fever and a rash. All children who get measles are absolutely miserable," said Dawn Nolt, an infectious disease doctor at Doernbecher Children's Hospital.

Symptoms can begin up to three weeks after exposure and can include fever, flu-like symptoms and a telltale rash on the face that spreads to the rest of the body.

Nearly one-third of people infected with measles develop complications, such as ear infections, pneumonia and encephalitis, or brain swelling. The disease also makes it harder for patients' immune systems to fight back against other diseases for months or years after infection.

The respiratory virus spreads through the air when



Joshua Haiar / South Dakota Searchlight

Photo of a single dose of the MMR vaccine.

an infected person speaks, sneezes, coughs or breathes. It can linger in the air for up to two hours.

Health officials have a goal of a 95% vaccination rate to limit the spread of the disease and protect infants and people who can't be vaccinated through herd immunity. Oregon requires children attending public schools to be vaccinated against measles, as well as other diseases including diphtheria, chickenpox and polio, but widespread use of medical and nonmedical

exemptions means the state hasn't met that goal.

Last year, the health authority reported that 93.5% of kindergarteners had received their first dose of the MMR vaccine and 90.5% had received both doses. The state's nonmedical vaccine exemption rate was the highest it had ever been, with nearly 10% of kindergarteners receiving an exemption for nonmedical reasons for one or more required vaccines.

<https://oregoncapitalchronicle.com/2026/02/19/oregon-health-officials-declare-measles-outbreak-with-five-confirmed-cases/>

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LTD launches lifeline pilot in rural areas of Lane County

The Lane Transit District (LTD) was scheduled to launch a new pilot March 2 in rural South Lane County, Mohawk Valley, Mapleton, and Deadwood (Highway 36 corridor).

"Rural transit services are a lifeline," LTD's Chief Executive Officer Jameson

Auten said. "Without access to affordable and reliable transit, quality of life deteriorates quickly when you can't sustain essential connections to medical care, education, and work."

The Rural Shuttle Pilot uses money from Oregon's Statewide Transportation

Improvement Funds (STIF) to provide rural transit in areas where it doesn't currently exist. The service will connect residents to vital services such as medical care, prescription drugs, and healthy food. The funding for this pilot ends in June 2027.

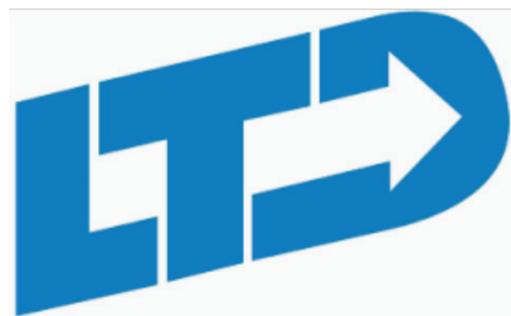
"This is a big change, both for our South Lane riders and our new riders," Auten said. "We are coordinating with our partners, including Lane Council of Governments and area nonprofits to ensure our pilot integrates with other agencies providing services to rural residents."

RURAL PILOT SHUTTLE SCHEDULE

- Highway 36 Corridor 8 a.m. - 3 p.m. Thursday
 - South Lane* 6 a.m. - 4 p.m. Monday and Wednesday
 - Mohawk Valley 8 a.m. - 4 p.m. Tuesday
- *The LTD Connector is a shuttle service only operating in Cottage Grove. Its operating hours changed February 2, to Monday - Friday, 7 a.m. - 6 p.m.

This will provide an increased level of service for riders, according to Auten.

More information about the pilot shuttles and LTD is at LTD.org



Courtesy photo

The LTD Connector is a shuttle service only operating in Cottage Grove. Its operating hours changed February 2, to Monday - Friday, 7 a.m. - 6 p.m.

OBITUARIES

James Duer, 81 of Cottage Grove, Oregon passed away on February 16, 2026. Arrangements are in the care of Smith-Lund-Mills Funeral Chapel and Crematorium.

Michael Toh, age 60, of Cottage Grove, Oregon, passed away February 13, 2026. Arrangements are in the care of Smith-Lund-Mills Funeral Chapel and Crematorium.

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The **COTTAGE GROVE** *Sentinel*

COMMENTARY

Did you reserve the right to be wiser tomorrow?

An open letter to states' rights and fiscal conservatives in the Oregon legislature



Laura Tesler / Oregon Capital Chronicle
The Oregon House Chamber floor.

CHUCK SHEKETOFF
Oregon Capital Chronicle

This year, a sadly partisan political fight in the Oregon Legislature pits the wealthiest against the typical Oregonians. The issue? Whether Oregon should disconnect from some of the changes in the definition of federal taxable income contained in congressional Republicans' 2025 tax and spending megalaw. States' rights advocates and fiscal conservatives must garner a supermajority to disconnect from those federal provisions that undermine Oregon's ability to generate adequate revenue fairly from our state income tax. The fight stems from the fact that Oregon legislators lack the institutional memory of how they got into this mess in the first place in 1969 and what their predecessors did when they first realized their mistake in 1971.

Starting in 1997, the legislature has repeatedly failed to solve the problem. As Albert Einstein would note, that's the definition of insanity. The 2026 Legislature should recognize the insanity and fix the problem. Oregon's Constitution prohibits the Legislature from delegating lawmaking authority to Congress (or any other state or jurisdiction), except with regard to the definition of taxable income. That exception was carved out by a 1969 constitutional amendment that the voters approved that authorized, but did not require, the Legislature to automatically connect to changes in the definition of federal taxable income. Following the passage of that constitutional amendment, legislation went into effect that automatically connected to federal tax code changes, a practice known as "rolling" or "automatic" reconnect.

So right off the bat, whenever Congress changed the definition of taxable income, the change automatically applied in Oregon. That practice, however, was short-lived because it soon proved to be destructive. In 1971, after the Legislature adjourned, Congress enacted changes that created a budget deficit in Oregon, necessitating a special session later that year to rebalance the state budget. Having been burned by its first dance with automatic reconnect option, the Legislature removed the auto-reconnect from the statutes and returned Oregon to deciding for ourselves which Congressional changes to the definition of federal taxable income Oregon would be smart to adopt and which made little sense or harmed Oregon. Poorly staffed or indifferent to the problems created in 1971 when Oregon previously first experimented with rolling reconnect, the 1997

EDITORIAL CARTOON



Legislature again chose to connect automatically to federal code changes in the definition of taxable income. After the fiscal problems of the 2001-03 biennium, the 2003 Legislature partially suspended the automatic reconnect scheme adopted in 1997, through Dec. 31, 2005. The 2005 Legislature took a "do nothing approach" and thus chose not to extend the suspension. As a result, congressional changes in the definition of taxable income now automatically apply to Oregon, unless the Legislature affirmatively disconnects. Political blood will undoubtedly be spilled in the current reconnection debate regarding provisions in the 2025 federal law that some legislators understandably want to disconnect from. Separate from that fight, however, legislators today need to follow the lead of the 1971 Legislature and enact a standalone bill that puts an

end to Oregon's experiments with rolling reconnect. Because the measure would apply only in the future to yet to be enacted federal changes, the bill would have no impact on state revenues and thus would need just a simple majority vote in both chambers to be sent to the governor. Legislators of all stripes claim to be fiscally conservative and to be advocates of states' rights. Ending rolling reconnect with no sunset provision should easily garner bipartisan support. In 1971, legislators followed the sage advice that I often heard from the late Ellen Lowe when she was the "church lady of Oregon" that "one should always reserve the right to be wiser tomorrow." That Legislature chose to end rolling reconnect because federal law changes proved that they can be costly and inconsistent with Oregon's values and priorities.

Let's hope a majority of legislators today are fiscally conservative and support states' rights and "reserved the right to be wiser tomorrow" and will send a bill to Gov. Tina Kotek that puts an end to Oregon's rolling reconnect. Chuck Sheketoff lives in Silverton and was the founding executive director of the Oregon Center for Public Policy from 1997-2018. He prefers Stahlbush Farms products when looking for frozen vegetables. <https://oregoncapitalchronicle.com/2026/02/20/did-you-reserve-the-right-to-be-wiser-tomorrow/> Oregon Capital Chronicle is part of States Newsroom, a network of news bureaus supported by grants and a coalition of donors as a 501c(3) public charity. Oregon Capital Chronicle maintains editorial independence. Contact Editor Lynne Terry for questions: info@oregoncapitalchronicle.com.

First-of-its kind housing initiative to address needs of Oregon Tribes

State officials have announced the launch of the Tribal Housing Grant Fund (THGF), which is a first-of-its-kind program to provide state funds to help address the housing needs of the Nine Federally Recognized Tribes of Oregon. "The Tribal Housing Grant Fund creates a new framework for how the state works with the Nine Federally Recognized Tribes of Oregon," Gov. Tina Kotek said. "It represents a meaningful step forward in honoring our government-to-government relationship and ensuring Tribes have the resources and flexibility they need to address their critical housing needs." Oregon Housing and Community Services (OHCS) and representatives from Tribal Nations, including housing directors, health and human services directors, and council members, worked for more than a year to develop the program.

"The Tribal Housing Grant Fund is a landmark program that elevates Tribal self-determination in a state-funded program," Siletz Tribal Housing Department Executive Director and Housing Stability Council Member Sami Jo Difuntorum said. "The THGF will provide Oregon's Nine Federally Recognized Tribes with critical housing resources, providing flexibility in program design." "The values, culture, and housing needs of communities are best understood locally," OHCS Executive Director Andrea Bell said. "In consultation with Oregon's Nine Federally Recognized Tribes, the Tribal Housing Grant Fund emphasizes self-determination and flexibility in how Tribes use state resources to address local needs. Honoring Tribal sovereignty, in its richest form, calls on us to operationalize this shared value." In the 2025 Legislative Session, lawmakers allocated



Metro Creative Connection

In the 2025 Legislative Session, lawmakers allocated \$10 million to OHCS to establish the program.

\$10 million to OHCS to establish the program. Program funds can be used for affordable rental housing and homeownership

initiatives, as well as to maintain By and For Initiative-Native American Tribes of Oregon (BAFI-NATO) investments. Tribal Nations will receive funds based on a formula that was previously used by the BAFI-NATO program, where each grantee receives a base amount along with Tribal enrollment numbers. To obtain the funds, grantees must submit a housing plan every biennium outlining how they will use the money. Eligible THGF program activities include:

- Homelessness response and prevention
 - Affordable rental housing
 - Homeownership support such as down payment and mortgage assistance
 - Land acquisition, infrastructure, development, and rehabilitation
 - Financial assistance and support services for households that qualify
 - Capacity building
- Visit the THGF webpage for more program details. **About Oregon Housing and Community Services (OHCS)**

OHCS is Oregon's housing finance agency. The state agency provides financial and program support to create and preserve opportunities for quality, affordable housing for Oregonians of low and moderate income. OHCS administers programs that provide housing stabilization. OHCS delivers these programs primarily through grants, contracts, and loan agreements with local partners and community-based providers. For more information, please visit: oregon.gov/ohcs.

Weekly Online Poll

Do you believe that Oregon should move to an open primary system?

Yes No

Previous Poll Results

Do you agree with the Oregon Republican legislators walk out over the state transportation referendum vote?

42.9% - Yes 57.1% - No

THE COTTAGE GROVE Sentinel

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GUN BILL

From Page 1

Rep. Dacia Grayber, a Portland Democrat and chief sponsor of the legislation, told lawmakers that she would fight for legislation that “makes a difference for one family listening today.” She appeared to hold back tears as she spoke about the suicide of her adult stepdaughter last year.

“She wasn’t a criminal, she was a law-abiding citizen,” she said. “She was in counseling, and she was able, legally, to go to a gun range, and that day purchase a firearm and end her life.”

The proposed legislation requires officers conducting permit background checks to check fingerprints of applicants through state databases and then submit a request for review through the FBI. The bill directs Oregon law enforcement to request that the FBI return fingerprint cards after it completes its background checks.

Republicans on Wednesday were unable to gather enough votes to send the bill back to the House Judiciary Committee for further consideration. Their pushback, however, marked a rare instance of the minority party in Salem raising concerns about the federal government’s handling of sensitive information while they are opposing Democrats’ legislation seeking to safeguard protections for Oregonians without permanent legal immigration status.

“I’m a Republican. I don’t even join you guys in most of the anti-federal government legislation that’s coming

out because it’s politically expedient. But on this one, I agree,” Rep. Alek Skarlatos, R-Winston, told his colleagues. “We shouldn’t be just handing over the records of thousands of Oregonians to the federal government for no reason.

Democrats have characterized the bill as a slew of technical fixes to implement Measure 114 and carry out the will of voters, pointing to studies showing a correlation between permit-to-purchase laws in other states and fewer instances of gun violence.

“It does not replace the will of the voters,” Rep. Sarah Finger McDonald, D-Corvallis, said. “It operationalizes it, it clarifies it and it ensures that when Measure 114 is implemented, it will function in a way that is workable, constitutional and fair.”

Rep. Bobby Levy, R-Echo, said the bill creates barriers for lawful firearm owners while raising concerns about affordability for increased permit fees. She doubted that criminals with guns would follow the bill’s provisions, adding that requiring legal challenges against the bill to commence in Marion County Circuit Court would harm rural Oregonians like her eastern Oregon constituents. Supporters of Measure 114 have criticized opponents for filing their state lawsuit in conservative Harney County, a move they derided as “judge shopping.”

“When you more than double the cost of the permit, you do not stop crime,” Levy told her colleagues. “You simply create a wider gap for those who can afford to comply and those who cannot.”

Wounds linger from committee dispute over feds

Opponents on Wednesday framed the bill as an unconstitutional effort to usurp the 2nd Amendment being rammed through by the majority party after a tense exchange between Rep. Rep. Thuy Tr’ân, D-Portland, and House Judiciary Committee Chair Rep. Jason Kropf, D-Bend.

Democrats on Monday had sought to distance Kropf, a sponsor of the bill and a vocal gun control advocate who kicked into action legislating on the issue after a 2022 mass shooting in Bend, from the legislation. Tr’ân and a gun rights advocate had previously accused Kropf of fomenting a hostile environment during committee deliberations over the bill last week, and he was no longer listed alongside Grayber as a chief sponsor of the legislation as of Monday.

Tr’ân, a gun owner and lieutenant colonel in the Oregon National Guard, had raised concerns about how the federal government would handle diverse gun owners’ information and voted against an amendment to the bill. Kropf immediately sighed and called the meeting to a pause, averting a potential tie that would have prevented an amendment from passing. The lawmakers returned to the hearing after speaking outside the committee room, and Tr’ân went on to change her position to a yes.

She said she had been informed of federal regulations that ensure the FBI destroys information from background checks within 24 hours. The rule applies to cases in which an applicant is

successfully cleared with no disqualifying information.

But the pair’s exchange outside the committee room prompted gun rights advocate Derek LeBlanc, who observed their interactions, to file a legislative conduct complaint alleging Kropf, who chairs the House Judiciary Committee, verbally abused and intimidated Tr’ân. LeBlanc told the Salem Statesman Journal that the Legislative Equity Office dismissed his complaint. The office has declined to provide further information on its investigation, citing an exemption from public records requests during the legislative session.

Tr’ân later told reporters that Kropf created a hostile environment, alleging that his “management of events did create confusion, suspicion and distrust in the Democratic process.” Kropf has maintained that he respects Tr’ân and that it’s common for tensions to be running high, particularly for issues such as gun safety.

Lawmakers agreed Monday to accept Kropf’s resignation from his chairmanship on the House Conduct Committee, which could review his dispute with Tr’ân. House Republicans had walked out of the chamber on Monday ahead of a vote on the legislation, accusing Democrats of sweeping Tr’ân’s concerns under the rug. They have not staged another walkout since, though Rep. Greg Smith, R-Heppner, skipped Wednesday’s gun debate and vote to protest the bill.

Under the bill, the Oregon State Police would also be allowed to retain criminal history information from a

background check for up to five years. Oregon is already among 15 states where state law enforcement act as an intermediary between gun sellers and the Federal Bureau of Investigation for background checks. The bill would require permit applicants to go through local law enforcement agencies and require them to take a training course for gun safety.

Tr’ân, a gun owner and lieutenant colonel in the Oregon National Guard, acknowledged on Wednesday the concerns she had which prompted her conflict with Kropf, pointing to a “very different relationship with the federal government today.” But she voted in favor of the bill, referencing an airman at an Air National Guard Base in Portland who died by suicide using a firearm.

“I’ve spoken to you before about the risk of suicide for veterans, and I will continue to fight for support for them,” she told her colleagues. “If this bill saves even one life, it will be worth it.”

Under the proposed legislation, gun leaders and manufacturers who are licensed to operate in the state would have 180 days to dispose of their large capacity magazines if the Oregon Supreme Court upholds the gun law. The ban on high-capacity magazines would not apply to law enforcement officers, regardless of whether they acquired the firearm on or off the job.

The bill’s passage follows increased action in Salem taking on gun violence in the past year. In the 2025 legislative session, Democrats passed a law banning rapid-fire devices like bump stocks and empowering

local governments to stop concealed carrying in public buildings. That measure, however, pushed back implementation of Measure 114 to March 2026, when lawmakers hoped there would be more clarity over the ballot measure’s viability.

That hasn’t happened yet. While a federal judge ruled in 2023 that the law is allowed under the U.S. Constitution, an Eastern Oregon Circuit Court judge blocked it from taking effect in late 2022 and determined it was unconstitutional in November 2023.

The Oregon Court of Appeals disagreed with that Harney County judge’s ruling, and the state Supreme Court will determine whether the circuit judge or appeals court came to the right conclusion. Justices heard arguments in November over the ballot measure, though they have yet to issue a ruling.

And on the federal level, a legal challenge to California’s law banning high-capacity magazines has sat for months on the U.S. Supreme Court’s docket for potential consideration, spelling uncertainty for the similar ban in Measure 114.

<https://oregoncapitalchronicle.com/2026/02/25/oregon-house-passes-gun-bill-bolstering-measure-114-over-republicans-data-privacy-concerns/>

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CHIEF

From Page 1

staff opportunities to connect with residents and build trust. Regular outreach includes Coffee with a Cop, Shop with a Cop during the holidays, Books and Badges in local elementary schools, year round participation in community events, and the department’s partnership with the Trauma Intervention Program (TIP) of Lane County. TIP’s trained volunteers provide on scene emotional support and practical assistance to

victims, families, witnesses and bystanders during emergencies.

Accreditation and Training

The department continues to maintain its Oregon Accreditation Alliance status, a voluntary certification that most small police agencies in Oregon do not pursue. Executive Director Scott Hayes appeared remotely at the start of the Feb. 23 council meeting to congratulate the department, noting that the agency met all required professional standards during its recent review.

Accreditation is considered a significant achievement for smaller departments, which often lack the staffing and administrative capacity to take on the extensive documentation, policy updates and compliance checks required for certification. Hayes emphasized that the process reflects a department’s willingness to hold itself to higher standards of accountability, transparency and professional practice.

Administrative Assistant Brooke Crow was also recognized for her work as the department’s Accreditation Manager, taking on the additional responsibility

alongside her regular duties. Accreditation requires ongoing compliance with best practices and periodic reassessment, underscoring the department’s commitment to accountability and continuous improvement.

Staffing and Patrol Coverage

Staffing remained one of the department’s most persistent challenges. Responding to a question from Councilor Dana Merryday about an earlier remark that staff were “running on fumes,” Chase explained why the department still struggles to fill all patrol shifts.

“It’s a perfect storm because life happens,” he said. “Some are in training, one is on extended medical leave and two positions remain vacant, leaving only five officers available for patrol duty. The sergeants, the captain and I are covering patrol shifts when needed on a busy day shift. However, from where we were in 2023 when I got here, we are definitely a lot more comfortable than we were back then.”

Budget and Grants

As reported in the Feb. 9 edition of the Sentinel, with the assistance of Congresswoman Val Hoyle,

the Cottage Grove Police Department has secured an \$800,000 federal Community Policing grant to support equipment upgrades and training needs, helping offset rising operational costs.

Looking Ahead

Chase told the council that while staffing gaps remain a concern, the department is in a stronger position than it was two years ago. Continued training, community partnerships and recruitment efforts remain priorities for 2026. He closed his presentation by thanking the council and the community for their ongoing support.

HIGHLAND

From Page 1

gives it a special charm,” he said. “Our historic downtown has architecture that’s expensive to recreate. Restoring

these buildings makes sense and invests in the future of our city.”

Solesbee emphasized the importance of preserving the city’s historic commercial core.

“These buildings are crucial to Cottage Grove’s historical past,” he said. “We must do all we can to maintain them for future generations.”

Chamber Support and Business Integration

Cottage Grove Area Chamber of Commerce Executive Director Georgia Haskell said the Chamber stays in close communication with

property owners and developers as they work through projects, helping connect them with the appropriate city departments when needed. In Hyland’s case, she noted, he is already familiar with Cottage Grove’s permitting process and the key staff involved.

“We try to know what’s going on so we can pass on that information to new or current businesses looking for spaces to rent or buildings to purchase,” Haskell said.

Most recently, the Chamber organized a tour of vacant and

available commercial spaces in the Historic District to help match properties with potential tenants and investors.

“Abby Hyland was a great partner in getting this started,” Haskell said. “We invited the mayor, the city manager, Faye Stewart, the planning staff, investors, representatives from local banks, business owners, people looking to open new businesses, and the public. We hope this is just the first of many events of its kind.”

Future Plans Depend on Tenant Interest

Hyland said he does not plan to submit development applications in 2026 unless there is clear demand. He emphasized that the acquisitions are not part of a broader Lane County strategy.

A Family Business With Deep Regional Roots

Hyland and his sister, Tiffani Noah, now lead John Hyland Construction, a Springfield based commercial contracting firm founded by their father. The company has been a regional builder for more than three decades, completing projects across Lane County and the Pacific Northwest.

Hyland said the way their company operates has changed significantly since his father’s era.

“We used to have a lot of people working for us and we performed some of the trades on the projects we built,” he said. “Now we pretty much just manage projects and subcontract out all the work.”

Hyland and Noah partner on their property development ventures, a partnership that includes the three Cottage Grove acquisitions.



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300 ANNOUNCEMENTS

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CGS26-111 NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT Paul Dart has been appointed Personal Representative of the Estate of Nancy Rose Morrow, deceased, Lane County Circuit Court Case No. 26PB01141. All persons having claims against the estate are required to present them within four months from the date of the first publication of this Notice to the Personal Representative at Willamette NW Law Firm, LLC, 735 W. 7th Ave, Eugene, OR 97402, or they may be barred. Any person whose rights may be affected by these proceedings may obtain additional information from the records of the Court, the Personal Representative or from the Personal Representative's attorney. DATED and published: 03/04/2026. /s/ Paul Dart, Personal Representative

CGS26-110 NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT Jacob Charles Rowell has been appointed Personal Representative of the Estate of Kristina K. Rowell, deceased, Lane County Circuit Court Case No. 26PB00508. All persons having claims against the estate are required to present them within four months from the date of the first publication of this Notice to the Personal Representative at Willamette NW Law Firm, LLC, 735 W. 7th Ave, Eugene, OR 97402, or they may be barred. Any person whose rights may be affected by these proceedings may obtain additional information from the records of the Court, the Personal Representative or from the Personal Representative's attorney. DATED and published: 03/04/2026. /s/ Jacob Charles Rowell, Personal Representative

CGS26-109 NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT Elena Mercado has been appointed Personal Representative of the Estate of Gil Mercado Mercado, deceased, Lane County Circuit Court Case No. 26PB00582. All persons having claims against the estate are required to present them within four months from the date of the first publication of this Notice to the Personal Representative at Willamette NW Law Firm, LLC, 735 W. 7th Ave, Eugene, OR 97402, or they may be barred. Any person whose rights may be affected by

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these proceedings may obtain additional information from the records of the Court, the Personal Representative or from the Personal Representative's attorney. DATED and published: 03/04/2026. /s/ Elena Mercado, Personal Representative

CGS26-107 NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT Nancy St. George has been appointed Personal Representative of the Estate of Carl Leonard Lundquist, deceased, Lane County Circuit Court Case No. 25PB10700. All persons having claims against the estate are required to present them within four months from the date of the first publication of this Notice to the Personal Representative at Willamette NW Law Firm, LLC, 735 W. 7th Ave, Eugene, OR 97402, or they may be barred. Any person whose rights may be affected by these proceedings may obtain additional information from the records of the Court, the Personal Representative or from the Personal Representative's attorney. DATED and published: 03/04/2026. /s/ Nancy St. George, Personal Representative

CGS26-112 NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT Benjamin Sitter has been appointed Personal Representative of the Estate of Donald Lauren Sitter, deceased, Lane County Circuit Court Case No. 26PB01377. All persons having claims against the estate are required to present them within four months from the date of the first publication of this Notice to the Personal Representative at Willamette NW Law Firm, LLC, 735 W. 7th Ave, Eugene, OR 97402, or they may be barred. Any person whose rights may be affected by these proceedings may obtain additional information from the records of the Court, the Personal Representative or from the Personal Representative's attorney. DATED and published: 03/04/2026. /s/ Benjamin Sitter, Personal Representative

CGS26-113 NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT THE UNDERSIGNED WILL HOLD A Public Auction on March 13, 2026, at 11:00 AM Simply Storage 79177 North River Road, Cottage Grove, OR 97401. The personal property heretofore stored with the undersigned by: Unit Name A27 Richard Utt E2 Leon Nissen W12 Billie Cross

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 07/23/2023, 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

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attached Exhibit A Commonly known as: 2011 W 14th Place, Eugene, OR 97402. The current beneficiary is Rocket Mortgage, LLC /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

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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. 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

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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 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 the Trustee's deed has been issued by Prime Recon LLC. If any irregularities are discovered within 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,

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including if the trustee is unable to 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 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

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CLASSIFIEDS - continued from page 7

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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

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hearing. You will receive notice of the court hearing. PROTECTION FROM EVICTION IF YOU ARE 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

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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 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 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

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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 to your landlord. ABOUT YOUR TENANCY AFTER THE FORECLOSURE SALE The new owner that buys this property at the foreclosure sale may

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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

999 PUBLIC NOTICES

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 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

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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.oregonlawhelp.org The Fair Debt Collection Practices Act requires that we state the following: this is an attempt to collect, and any 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 rights against the real property only. NOTICE TO VETERANS If the

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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 Recon LLC By: Carmen Robinson, Authorized Signer Prime Recon 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

SPORTS

Cottage Grove's Boston Kent qualifies for state

WILL LOHRE
Cottage Grove Sentinel

Cottage Grove High School hosted the Girls 4A/3A/2A/1A Special District 2 tournament over the weekend of Feb. 20-21, and junior Boston Kent earned a place at the Veterans Memorial Coliseum in Portland, where she'll have a chance at a state championship.

Kent is the lone outright qualifier for the Lions girls, but Alexis Woody also earned placement at the district tournament, finishing fifth at 130 pounds. Kent will join Cottage Grove's seven boys wrestlers who qualified for state.

It was a packed field at the Special District 2 championships, with more than 40 4A/3A/2A/1A teams represented. Kent added another feather to her cap in a season that has seen her earn plenty of hardware. Wrestling at 135 pounds, Kent dominated the early rounds of the tournament to reach the final.

In her first round matchup against Marshfield's Renee Anderson, she pinned her opponent while already ahead 11-0. Kent followed that up with a quarterfinal win against Stayton's Areyan Brown, pinning Brown in the first period of the match. In the semis, she bested Illinois Valley's Dakota Kohler, also by fall, with the score

standing at 5-0. In her run to the finals, none of her opponents scored a point, a testament to the quality of her control.

In the finals, Kent met her match. Facing off with Oakridge's Kali Williams, Kent couldn't assert the same pressure and ended up being pinned. Williams is one of the top wrestlers in the state and is seeded #1 at 135 pounds for the state bracket. Despite the loss, Kent still earned her place in the state championship and capped a phenomenal regular season with another podium placement.

Cottage Grove's second placement at districts came from Alexis Woody. Woody took fifth at 130 pounds. Woody won her first three matchups by pinning her opponents. The quarterfinal against Sweet Home's Bella Rico was a strong performance, as Woody pinned the higher-seeded Rico in 1:57. Woody was pinned in the semifinal against Brookings-Harbor's Lexie Newman. In the consolation semis, Woody lost a hard-fought match by a 3-1 decision to knock her out of the running for third. In the fifth-place match, she had a rematch with Rico and doubled down on the prior result, winning by pin with the score already in her favor, 14-2. It was a gutsy performance by Woody that brought her just one place from a state berth.



Courtesy photo from the Cottage Grove Wrestling Facebook page
Boston Kent after clinching a spot in the Wrestling State Championships.

The 2026 OSAA Wrestling State Championships will be Feb 26-Feb 28 at the Veterans Memorial Coliseum, and

Cottage Grove will be represented by:
135 - Boston Kent
106 - Michael Hoye
113 - Raphael LaCount

132 - Jeffery Conklin
150 - Jayden Davis
157 - Jake Palluck
157 - Karsen Yarush
285 - Ben Stewart

Check out results from the tournaments at Flowrestling.org, and keep an eye out for features and stories in the Cottage Grove Sentinel

State parks to require day-use parking permits this spring

Starting March 30, 2026, Oregon Parks and Recreation Department (OPRD) will no longer waive the parking fee at 22 additional day-use parks

A day-use parking permit is currently \$10 for in-state visitors and \$12 for out-of-state visitors and is valid for the entire day of purchase at any Oregon state park.

Access to parks remains free for visitors who walk, bike, or use public transportation. Visitors who drive in can show valid parking by displaying a current hangtag from camping at an Oregon State Park or a current 12 or 24-month parking permit. Visitors who purchase parking permits online or via the parking QR codes can associate their license plates with valid payment.

Currently, OPRD requires a day-use parking permit at 46 parks and waives parking fees at over 150 parks across the state. The 22 additional parks were selected based on amenities and features that require maintenance and operation such as restrooms, trails, paving, irrigation, boat ramps and more. Parking fees

help pay for maintenance, operation, and keep these offerings available for all visitors.

"These updates are about protecting the experiences visitors love," Interim Director Stefanie Coons said. "We know fee changes are tough and we truly appreciate the support from visitors. These changes help us take care of things people count on like restrooms, boat ramps, and trails, so we can keep parks safe, clean, and welcoming for everyone."

Oregon State Parks has three main sources of funding: a little less than half comes from constitutionally dedicated lottery funds, about 15% comes from recreational vehicle license plate fees and roughly 35% comes from park fees from visitors. It is not funded by general fund taxes.

For frequent visitors looking to save on parking, an annual parking permit is available for Oregon State Parks and can be purchased online. The 12-month parking permit costs \$60 for Oregon residents. The 24-month

parking permit is no longer for sale, but valid permits will be honored until they expire.

Additionally, March 30 also marks the start of a \$10 fee at 19 RV dump stations across the park system. This fee helps cover the cost of maintaining this amenity and supports efforts toward more sustainable operations. Visitors can pay easily by scanning a QR code at the dump station or by paying online.

Whether you are visiting for the day or camping overnight, Oregon State Parks recommends that you visit the park webpage before your visit. Conditions can change quickly and some parks may have construction or seasonal closures.

Oregon state parks with parking fees added March 30, 2026:

- Agate Beach State Recreation Area
- Angel's Rest Trailhead
- Banks-Vernonia State Trail
- Bob Straub State Park

- Brian Booth State Park
- Bridal Veil Falls State Scenic Viewpoint
- Cape Blanco State Park
- Cape Meares State Scenic Viewpoint
- Carl G Washburne Memorial State Park
- Devil's Punchbowl State Natural Area
- Elijah Bristow State Park
- Fogarty Creek State Recreation Area
- Gleneden Beach State Recreation Area
- Governor Patterson Memorial State Recreation Site
- Lake Owyhee State Park
- Latourell Falls Trailhead at Guy Talbot State Park
- Molalla River State Park
- Oceanside Beach State Recreation Area
- Roads End State Recreation Site
- Umpqua Lighthouse State Park
- Wallowa Lake State Park
- William M Tugman State Park



Courtesy photo

A day-use parking permit is currently \$10 for in-state visitors and \$12 for out-of-state visitors and is valid for the entire day of purchase at any Oregon state park.

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