

# THE COTTAGE GROVE Sentinel

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Softball  
Preview**  
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49  
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**Cottage  
Grove**  
Wednesday, March 12  
Light Rain

Wednesday March 12, 2025 | Number 11,136 years

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\$2.00

## Chamber annual event honors individuals, businesses, nonprofits

CINDY WEELDREYER

*Cottage Grove Sentinel*

It was a Saturday evening of glittering fashion, entertainment, good food and spirits, fundraising and community awards at the 75th Annual Cottage Grove Area Chamber of Commerce Awards Banquet.

Representatives of businesses, nonprofit organizations, elected officials and community leaders were among the 175 attendees that gathered in the historic Cottage Grove Armory on March 1.

Casino Night was the theme of the festive affair. Giant playing cards graced the stage that was framed by colorful oversized dice.

During the social hour, local entertainer David Lomond's "Hawaiian Elvis" crooned favorite tunes popularized by the King of Rock and Roll. The program began with Scout Troop 140's Color Guard bringing in the American flag and Cyra Conforth's moving rendition of the national anthem. Chamber Board Secretary Natalie Clark offered the invocation and South Lane Dance Academy students, in glittering purple jackets, gave a high energy dance performance.

Chamber Board Chairperson Cameron Reiten and Vice Chairperson Danny Solesbee presided over the event as co-emcees. Two local eateries, Oba Ramen and the Food Smiths, offered a choice of three entrees with Coast Fork Brewery providing beverages.

The banquet is the Chamber's biggest annual fundraising event. Numerous silent auction gift baskets lined one wall and, across the Armory's cavernous drill floor, was a wide variety of fancy desserts assembled along that wall. The "Dessert Dash" raised more than \$2,000 for student scholarships.

### 2024 AWARD WINNERS

Each year, the Chamber announces its four highly coveted awards honoring local individuals,



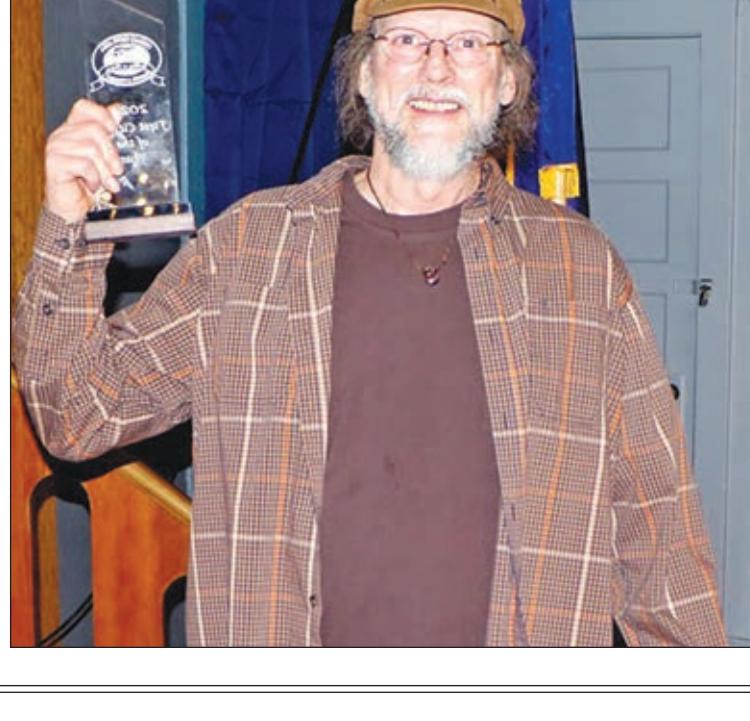
Courtesy photos from Greg Lee

**(Top) Leaders of South Valley Athletics receive the 2024 Nonprofit of the Year Award at the March 1 Chamber Banquet.**

**(Bottom) Peter Dumbleton received the 2024 First Citizen Award for his leadership with the Opal Center for Arts and Education and the Last Friday Art Walk and for his personal commitment to cleaning sidewalks in the Historic Downtown District. See more award photos on page 4.**

organizations and businesses that have made a significant contribution to bettering the community.

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## School super search enters interview phase

CINDY WEELDREYER  
*Cottage Grove Sentinel*

This month the South Lane School District Board of Directors enters the home stretch in its search for a new superintendent.

A national search, conducted by Human Capital Enterprises between Jan 22 and Feb. 28, produced an undisclosed number of applicants.

Now in the Selection Phase (Mar. 7-Apr. 15), candidate interviews are underway with internal and external stakeholders and an extensive review process. Once the finalist is announced next month, the superintendent-elect will spend the remainder of the school year participating in orientation activities in the district and community.

On Friday, Feb. 28, the board met in open session with search firm staff Kathleen Rodden-Nord and Robin Bean to authorize spending an additional \$2,300 to create one more screening panel to increase the participation of administrators and the community in the selection process. Bean told the board she believes the composition of the engagement panel is a broad and balanced representation of the district's stakeholders.

The 12-member Community Engagement Panel represents parents, students, teachers, classified staff, elementary and secondary administrators, the director of teaching and learning and the director of early learning. Most of the positions were determined by a lottery among 30 people eager to participate in the selection process.

"We worked hard on the lottery to make sure every building, the early learning program, the district office, parents and students were represented," Bean said.

### CONFIDENTIAL PROCESS

Last November, when discussing the details of how the search process would be conducted, the Board decided to conduct a confidential search which does not include a "day in the district" component with the search finalists. It was noted in a prior meeting that to attract successful and experienced superintendents, common practice is now a confidential one, to protect their current jobs if they are not selected. Engagement Panel members will sign a confidentiality agreement.

The board then recessed into Friday night's lengthy non-public executive session to virtually interview six applicants recommended by the search firm based on the job description specifics. Three executive sessions are scheduled to conduct the confidential selection process in partnership with the Community Engagement Panel.

See SEARCH, Page 8

## Cottage Grove, Dorena Reservoirs future land use meetings scheduled

JEREMY C. RUARK  
*Cottage Grove Sentinel*

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has scheduled a series of public meetings inviting community members to participate in shaping the future of land management at the Cottage Grove and Dorena Reservoirs.

The current master plans for Cottage Grove and Dorena Reservoirs were last approved in 1989 and need to be revised to address changes in regional land use, population, outdoor recreation trends, and USACE management policy.

Three in-person public meetings are being held in the cities of Springfield, Creswell, and Cottage Grove. Meeting participants can learn about the draft 2025 Master



**The current master plans for Cottage Grove and Dorena Reservoirs were last approved in 1989 and need to be revised to address changes in regional land use, population, outdoor recreation trends, and USACE management policy.**

Plan (MP) and Environmental Assessment (EA) for Cottage Grove and Dorena Reservoirs and submit their comments, according to a

release from the Portland District USACE.

One virtual meeting is scheduled for participants to learn about the

draft MP and EA. Comments are not being taken in the virtual meeting.

Key topics addressed in the MP include the management and development of recreational, natural, and cultural resources, invasive species management and threatened and endangered species habitat.

"We hope to see a strong turnout from the local community to provide input on the long-term management of lands around Cottage Grove and Dorena reservoirs," USACE Deputy Operations Project Manager Dustin Bengtson said. "All of our resources are managed to maximize public benefit and preserve resources for future generations. The public's input is necessary to help

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# Lane County Sheriff's Office earns accredited status

JEREMY C. RUARK  
Cottage Grove Sentinel

The Northwest Accreditation Alliance Professional Standards Committee has unanimously recommended accredited status to the Lane County Sheriff's Office

In order to be accredited, an agency must meet 104 professional standards with over 400 separate requirements contained within those standards. To remain accredited, an agency must go through this reassessment process every three years.

"Accreditation helps agencies evaluate and improve their overall performance. The standards cover a comprehensive list of topics such as Use of Force, Property and Evidence, Training, and Fiscal Management," LCSO Sgt. Tim Wallace states in a release.

"Lieutenant Ryan Wells worked tirelessly to meet all of the accreditation requirements and devoted countless hours towards the effort," Wallace said. "The Northwest Accreditation Alliance recognized his "outstanding work...in preparing the agency for the accreditation review. His involvement and yours show your commitment to the accreditation process."

According to the Northwest Accreditation Alliance,



their organization "exists to

Attorney General's Office  
Courtesy photo from the LCSO

**"Accreditation helps agencies evaluate and improve their overall performance. The standards cover a comprehensive list of topics such as Use of Force, Property and Evidence, Training, and Fiscal Management," LCSO Sgt. Tim Wallace states in a release.**

improve the quality of law enforcement and 9-1-1 agencies in the States of Oregon and Alaska and, ultimately the quality of services provided to the citizens of both states.

The Northwest Accreditation Alliance proudly provides law enforcement and communications 9-1-1 accreditation to qualified law enforcement and 9-1-1 agencies in Oregon and Alaska. The U.S.

has designated the Northwest Accreditation Alliance as the State of Oregon's independent credentialing body for the purpose of certifying compliance with the U.S. Department of Justice standards of certification on safe policing principles."

The accredited status was made January 8, 2025. LCSO issued a release about the accredited status March 4.

# 'Self-Inflicted life-threatening injuries' in highway crash

JEREMY C. RUARK  
Cottage Grove Sentinel

Oregon State Police (OSP) have released investigation results of a rollover vehicle crash along the northbound lanes of Interstate 5 near the Saginaw exit.

At approximately 11:26 a.m. March 4, an OSP trooper was dispatched to the single vehicle rollover near mile post 176 involving a 59-year-old driver. The vehicle was on its top in a grassy area near the Saginaw exit ramp.

"Life Flight was activated, although not used," according to the OSP public information officer. "The occupant of the vehicle was transported by ambulance to the Riverbend Hospital in Springfield with self-inflicted life-threatening injuries. I-5 was not closed for any amount of time."

A second trooper arrived on scene along with a crew from the Oregon Department of Transportation to coordinate traffic around



Courtesy photo

**The crash occurred just north of Cottage Grove along the north bond lanes of I-5.**

the crash site. The OSP troopers completed the collision reconstruction, and the vehicle was towed by Taylor's Towing.

## 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**  
**MONDAY, FEBRUARY 24**  
02:07: Harassment, 900 block W. Main St.  
02:50: Suspicious condition, 200 block S. 13th St.  
08:09: Warrant service, 1200 block S. River Rd.  
08:13: Fire, 300 block N. River Rd.  
09:19: Vehicle impound, 1000 block Chestnut Ave.  
10:39: Juvenile, 1300 block S. River Rd.

11:38: Found property, 400 block E. Main St.  
12:28: Fire, 32000 block Southgate Way  
12:44: Illegal dumping, 16th/Harvey  
13:20: Business check, 100 block N. 14th St.  
13:42: Theft, 400 block South 1st St.  
14:25: Illegal camping, 900 block Row River Rd.  
14:27: Found property, 1000 block Hwy 99  
15:39: Harassment, 100 block N. 14th St.  
16:58: Hit and run, 16th/Main  
17:01: Agency assist, 700 block E. Gibbs Ave.  
17:12: Nuisance, 100 block North N. St.  
18:30: Agency assist, 1500 block Village Dr.  
19:19: Warrant service, 200 block Gateway Blvd.  
20:44: Disturbance, 600 block S. 5th St.

21:38: Traffic complaint, 300 block S. River Rd.  
**TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 25**  
01:05: Suspicious vehicle, 100 block S. 10th St.  
01:33: Alarm, 1600 block Gateway Blvd.  
02:00: Welfare check, 900 block E. Main St.  
07:05: Suspicious condition, 100 block River Walk Pl.  
08:25: Abandoned vehicle, Birch/J  
08:33: Illegal camping, 200 block N. 12th St.  
10:38: Dog at large, Sweet Ln/R St.  
10:48: Motor vehicle crash, Hwy 99/Abbott Ln.  
11:18: Dog at large, Chamberlain/99  
11:51: Dog at large, Sweet Ln/R  
11:53: Alarm, 100 block Gateway Blvd.  
12:14: Abandoned vehicle, 100 block E. Harrison Ave.  
13:06: Business check, 1500 block E. Main St.  
13:26: Agency assist, 100 block Taylor Pl.  
13:54: Illegal parking, 200 block Cherry Ct.

15:07: Suspicious condition, 900 block Geer Ave.  
15:11: Suspicious condition, 1400 block N. Douglas St.  
15:26: Warrant service, 900 block Row River Rd.  
16:26: Welfare check, 500 block S. 3rd St.  
16:28: Disorderly subject, Hwy 99/Latham  
18:04: Found property, 2300 block E. Whiteaker Ave.  
18:06: Found dog, Thayer/9th

19:19: Found property, 200 block Davidson Ave.

20:00: Disturbance, 100 block Thornton Ln.

22:33: Abandoned vehicle, 78000 block Hwy 99

23:58: Business check, 900 block E. Main St.

### WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 26

01:04: Warrant service, 400 block E. Main St.

02:20: Fire, 80000 block Davison Rd.

04:12: Suspicious vehicle, 1500 block E. Main St.

04:55: Agency assist, 400 block E. Main St.

08:56: Welfare check, 600 block Johnson Ave.

09:33: Mental, 200 block S. 13th St.

10:30: Abandoned vehicle, 100 block S. 10th St.

12:23: Theft, 100 block S. 10th St.

13:24: Theft, 900 block Row River Rd.

13:24: Illegal camping, 200 block N. 12th St.

13:33: Found dog, Hwy 99/N. River Rd.

16:54: Theft, 300 block Quincy Ave.

18:13: Welfare check, 2000 block S. 8th St.

19:51: Alarm, 1500 block S. 4th St.

20:05: Disturbance, 800 block Johnson Ave.

### THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 27

00:02: Alarm, 2000 block Getty Cir.

01:01: Criminal mischief, 1800 block Harvey Rd.

02:21: Alarm, 1500 block Gateway Blvd.

02:25: Suspicious condition, 800 block E. Main St.

03:07: Alarm, 1500 block Gateway Blvd.

06:54: Found dog, 1700 block E. Grover ave.

08:34: Illegal camping, 200 block N. 12th St.

08:56: Trespass, 200 block N. 12th St.

11:00: Dog release, 400 block N. 14th St.

12:59: Welfare check, 900 block Row River Rd.

13:01: Stolen vehicle recovery, 1700 block E. Washington Ave.

15:03: Agency assist, 900 block S. River Rd.

15:46: Found property, 700 block E. Gibbs Ave.

19:49: Assault, 1500 block S. 8th St.

20:30: Attempt to locate, 100 block Palmer Ave.

23:46: Juvenile, 1300 block E. Main St.

23:55: Suspicious vehicle, 100 block S. 10th St.</p

# Traffic signals, trees down as Main Street project moves forward

**JEREMY C. RUARK**  
Cottage Grove Sentinel

Crews continue to move ahead with the Main Street Revitalization Project in Cottage Grove's Historic District.

The Chamber is working with Downtown Cottage Grove and the City of Cottage Grove to print banners for the entrance of Historic Main Street reminding people that businesses are still open, according to Cottage Grove Chamber of Commerce Executive Director Georgia Haskell.

"That includes A-frame signs pointing to available parking," she said. "We also are developing a discount book for the construction workers and a stamp card with weekly prizes for the community. I have little plastic hard hats that I will be hiding in a mystery store each week with a gift certificate inside. We have a scavenger hunt, bingo, and other fun activities planned for each month starting in April."

Haskell said the Chamber's message is simple.

"Our message is that businesses are open, and they need our support," she said. "We like to say, 'Pardon our Dust,' we are open!"

Downtown Cottage Grove is the heart of our community and right now we are having heart surgery. The best way to help us get through it is to come visit!"

According to the Chamber's Main Street construction website, the east bound lane, south side of Main Street in the Historic District, is closed and the traffic will remain west bound for the duration of the project. Traffic west of Highway 99 along Main Street have been removed. Two-way stop signs are in place on the cross streets at 5th, 6th, 7th, and 8th Streets. Westbound traffic on Main Street will not stop.

Wildish, the city's Main Street Revitalization Project contractor, was locating existing underground utilities last week. The valves and fittings will be assembled in preparation for the new water main installation. Wildish staff will also be assessing the building fronts and foundations on the south side in preparation of future excavation.

City staff is available to answer any questions and will provide up to date information as the project progresses through the Friday Update and on the City of Cottage Grove website.



Jeremy C. Ruark / Cottage Grove Sentinel

**Crews began removing the trees along Main Street last week as part of the revitalization project.**

The multi-million-dollar revitalization project is designed to improve the street, sidewalks, pedestrian crossing areas, lighting, and landscaping along the busy route in the city's Historic District.

For additional information, contact Cottage Grove City Project Coordinator Shauna Neigh, 541-767-4153.

Follow the Main Street Revitalization Project online at [cg sentinel.com](http://cg sentinel.com) and in the Wednesday print editions of *The Sentinel*.

On May 23, 1949, Articles of Incorporation filed with the State of Oregon established the "Cottage Grove Chamber of Commerce" for the purpose of engaging in the development of the commercial, industrial, civic, and social welfare of Cottage Grove and vicinity and to aid in a similar development throughout the State and Nation. The articles were signed by local businessmen Dwight Near, Jr., Max L. Sears, George D. Drury, Harvey D. Kelly, and Homer Hanson. George D. Drury was elected the Chamber's first president in 1949.

In addition to the annual banquet, the Chamber organizes numerous community events including the Wednesday Concerts in the Park (June 11-Aug 27), Middlefield Golf Tournament (Aug. 16), Bowling Night at The Cottage Bowl (Oct. 4), Downtown Trick or Treat (Oct. 31), and Christmas Kickoff (Dec. 6). On the third Thursday each month, a member business sponsors the Business After Hours networking social.

Board Chair Cameron Reiten presented the award to recognize Weeldreyer's 40 years of community service to the Cottage Grove community. He noted her specific accomplishments as a Lane Community College Board Member, Lane County Commissioner, Bohemia Mining Days Festival Coordinator, and a leader of numerous community projects and organizations.

#### HISTORY

Today's Cottage Grove Chamber of Commerce is an outgrowth of the "Commercial Club", which was formed in the mid-20th century, to promote the City of Cottage Grove.

The Chamber office is located on the corner of Main Street and Highway 99 and serves as the Cottage Grove Visitor Information Center.

Chamber Executive Director Georgia Haskell and banquet organizers said they were delighted with the well-attended event's enthusiastic, celebratory atmosphere and the generosity of the many sponsors who made it happen.

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in newspapers and  
protect your right to know.**

## OBITUARIES &amp; NEWS

**Ricky George Ambrose**

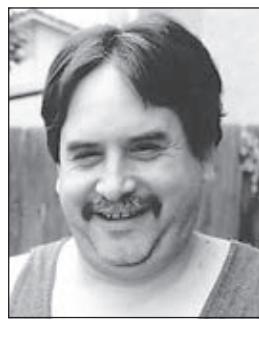
October 11, 1955 - February 25, 2025

Ricky George Ambrose, 69 of Cottage Grove, Oregon passed away due to a heart attack on February 25, 2025.

Born on October 11, 1955, in Oakland, California, Ricky was the cherished son of Carl and Sally (Voss) Ambrose.

After graduating from San Leandro High School, he furthered his education at Hayward Community College, where he studied business and machinery for two years. He married Sherry Clinker and they had 3 children. They later divorced in 1988.

Ricky's personal life was enriched when he married the love of his life, Carlotta Lynn Johnson, on June 18, 1989, in Lathrop, California. Together, they navigated the joys and challenges of life, establishing a warm and inviting home for the three children, Ricky C. Ambrose, Kimberly L. (William) St. Clair, and Jenifer K.M. Ambrose. He was a loving brother to Steven James Ambrose, and he delighted in his role as a grandfather to Cora and Mason. Professionally, Ricky made a name for himself in the plastics industry, building and selling ultrasound equipment. His entrepreneurial spirit shone brightly as he



and Carlotta operated Ambrose Collectibles in Cottage Grove, a haven for fellow collectors.

Beyond his familial and professional commitments, Ricky nurtured several passions. He was an avid golfer whose only wish was to spend every possible moment on the greens. He also possessed a remarkable knowledge and love for collecting coins, a hobby that he pursued with vigor. He also enjoyed traveling. He took pride in always being there for his wife with a helping hand.

Those who knew Ricky will remember him as a loving, spirited, and thoughtful man. And his heartfelt hobbies are treasures that will last forever. Ricky's life was a testament to the beauty of dedication, the strength of family bonds, and the pursuit of one's true interests. He will be deeply missed but his memory will continue to inspire all who were fortunate to know him.

There will be a funeral service Friday, March 21, 2025 at 11:00 a.m. at Living Faith Church 467 S. 10th St. Cottage Grove, Oregon. Interment will follow at Sears Cemetery. Arrangements are in the care of Smith-Lund-Mills Funeral Chapel.

**Harry Charles Harris Jr.**

December 18, 1933 - February 1, 2025

Harry Charles Harris, Jr. of Cottage Grove and former business owner of Harris Machine and Design, passes away on February 1. He was preceded in death by his wife, Doris Ann Harris. A memorial service will be held on Saturday, March 29th, 2025, at 11:00am at Cottage Grove Bible Church 1200 E. Quincy Ave. in lieu of flowers, a donation to Child



Evangelism Fellowship would be appreciated.

**Cottage  
Grove  
Online**

For information  
about Cottage  
Grove 24/7 catch  
us  
Online  
[cg sentinel.com](http://cg sentinel.com)

**Jacqueline (Jackie) Adelle Nee: Markham (Summers)(Buskirk)**

August 23, 1934 - March 2, 2025

Our beloved "Jackie" passed away March 2, 2025, surrounded by family, after a short battle with dementia.



She was born August 23, 1934 in Cottage Grove, OR, to Samuel and Victoria Markham. She lived in Cottage Grove for most of her life, although she also spent time in Tillamook, Portland, and Lake Oswego.

She first married Dave Summers and, with him, two children created a family, Laura Lee and David Douglas. She later married Gerry Buskirk.

She loved such a variety of things, it is impossible to list them all. Everything from indoor/outdoor gardening, baking cheesecakes (blueberry was the very best), making tortilla soup, poetry, modern physics and the relationship to basic ideas of Eastern mystical traditions, metal sculpture design, photography and developing in her own dark room, the Portland Trailblazers, reading Fritjof Capra and Robert Sapolski, and flying with her husband. She could recite a variety of poems at the drop of a hat. "I know why the caged bird sings" by Maya Angelou was her favorite. She collected interesting quotes and jokes over her lifetime, filling a metal candy tin, that she loved to share with visitors. She also made up limericks that were somewhat risqué.



In later years she picked up litter along Mosby Creek, fed stray cats and wild turkeys, and enjoyed walking to her favorite places, Walmart, Dollar Tree, and Goodwill.

Her favorite color was blue. She loved Lady Slippers and 50's Soda Fountain music. Her final room was decorated with family pictures, her sister Shelia's counted cross-stitch embroidery, and impressive angel wing begonias.

Jackie worked as a telephone operator, X-ray tech, and took great pride in hospital

housekeeping/supply which earned her a special award for excellence. She even took pride in having "a job" while in Memory Care clearing tables and matching socks.

Her most recent adventures included her first pedicure (at age 90), a drive with her brother "Pookie" to all the old familiar places in Cottage Grove, getting her hair cut at Rubi's, and her morning oatmeal with brown sugar at Magnolia Gardens that was made "just like Auntie Lena's". She most recently attended St. Andrew's Episcopal Church. She had great empathy for people impacted by war and current events.

Her ultimate gift was to donate her body as a Biogift for medical research. Her nephew Brad describes her as beautiful and classy, she was funny and empathetic as well. Jackie was pre-deceased by: Grandpa Benjamin Zendron, Daddy Sam Llewellyn Markham, Mama Victoria Markham, Aunties Lena and Marie Zendron, sisters Shelia Barrong and Leona Golden, daughter Laura, husbands David Summers and Gerry Buskirk.

She is survived by son Doug, granddaughter Jackie (Scott) DeAlvarez, grandson Ethan, brother Allyn (Pookie) Markham, and many nieces and nephews.

Special thanks to: The staff of Magnolia Gardens MC. The entire staff of Hospice, including Nurse Robert, Chaplain Will, Harpist Kiern, and Social Worker Kerri. Mr. Gerry Gados. Betty Krumlauf and Sharon Durham, and all who visited her during her last days. Rubi's Beauty Salon, Royal Luxe Nails and Spa (especially Tanner). Advanced Eye Care. Backer Family Dental. Smith Lund Mills Funeral Chapel.

Final internment and a family/friends dinner will be scheduled at a later date. Arrangements are in the care of Smith-Lund-Mills Funeral Chapel and Crematorium.

**BLOTTER**

From Page 2

**SUNDAY, MARCH 2**

01:01: Info, 1000 block

Hwy 99

03:56: Disturbance, 32000

block Rachel Rd.

08:43: Disorderly subject, 200 block N. 12th St.  
09:12: Trespass, 200 block N. 12th St.  
11:25: Dog release, 400 block N. 14th St.  
11:40: Animal info, 100 block North J St.  
12:51: Civil, 1700 block Pritchett Pl.  
13:12: Mental, 3200 block Row River Rd.  
13:34: Disturbance, 200 block N. 12th St.  
15:08: Repo, 600 block South R St.  
15:44: Suicide, 200 block N. Lane St.  
15:55: Suicide, 900 block Arthur Ave.  
16:04: Suicide, 400 block E. Main St.  
20:46: Business check, 1500 block Gateway Blvd.

**MEETINGS**

From Page 1

us determine the best approach for both objectives."

The USACE will present the draft 2025 MP and EA at one virtual and three in-person public meetings.

**MEETING SCHEDULE**

1 p.m. - 3 p.m. March 13

Willamalane Adult Activity

Center, Cascade Room

215 West C Street, Springfield  
6 p.m. - 8 p.m. March 13 Creswell Middle School, Cafeteria  
655 West Oregon Avenue, Creswell  
9:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. March 15 Cottage Grove Community Center, Reception Hall Room  
700 East Gibbs Avenue, Cottage Grove  
1 p.m. - 2:30 p.m. March 19 Online virtual meeting.

Comments are not being taken in the virtual meeting.

Meeting login info will be posted on March 18 at

**www.nwp.usace.army.mil/  
MasterPlans.****RESOURCES**

The draft 2025 MP and EA will be available for public review on the USACE project website at: [www.nwp.usace.army.mil/MasterPlans](http://www.nwp.usace.army.mil/MasterPlans). The 30-day public comment period will begin on March 12th, 2025, and end on April 14th, 2025. [www.nwp.usace.army.mil/MasterPlans](http://www.nwp.usace.army.mil/MasterPlans) for instructions on submitting comments and follow developments at [cg sentinel.com](http://cg sentinel.com) and in the Wednesday print editions of The Sentinel.

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**Chamber Awards**

Jeremy C. Ruark / Cottage Grove Sentinel

Cindy Weeldreyer holds her P.A.C.E. Award recognizing her 40 years of community service to Cottage Grove.



Courtesy photo from Greg Lee

Last year's Business of the Year Award winner, Cascade Home Center Store Manager Jake Schmitt, left, presented the award to 5 Flying Monkeys Owners Danny and Candace Solesbee.



## Oregon AG releases Top 10 consumer complaints

**JEREMY C. RUARK**  
*Cottage Grove Sentinel*

Attorney General Dan Rayfield has released the top 10 consumer complaints in 2024 to the Oregon Department of Justice.

The top ten list of consumer complaints in 2024 are:

- Telecommunications (1229)
- Fraudulent Entity/Imposter scams (1135)
- Auto Sales and Repair (1050)
- Financial Credit and Lending (741)
- Health/Medical (569)
- Travel Services (525)
- Grocery Food and Beverage (290)
- Real Estate (274)
- Construction Contractors (219)
- Manufacturing (211)

The Attorney General's Office Consumer Hotline received 22,436 calls and 9,241 written complaints. For the fifth year in a row, telecommunications, imposter scams and auto sales and repairs all landed in the top three. Towing was the only category to drop off, replaced by health and medical complaints at number five.

The number of complaints to the Consumer Hotline doubled, showing the increased need for the work being done in the Consumer Enforcement Division at DOJ, according to Rayfield.

"Having spent almost two decades in private practice working on consumer protection cases, ensuring every Oregonian has a place to turn when they've been harmed is a top priority for our team— and that continues to be a priority for me as attorney general," Rayfield said. "The Oregon Department of Justice will keep pushing forward on cases that help our citizens and hold the people who take advantage of them accountable. If you think you've been scammed, report it right away – the sooner we know, the sooner we can help."

There were numerous significant settlements in 2024 that directly impacted Oregon consumers. In one case, the state received \$2.1 million from Marriott involving a data breach that exposed millions of guest records. The funds will go toward supporting the Oregon DOJ's investigative, consumer protection and consumer education efforts. In addition to the monetary payment, Marriott agreed to strengthen its data security going forward.

In another high-profile case, DOJ sued Camping World and will recover \$3 million for customers who paid more than the advertised price for an RV.

Oregonians also now have another tool to protect their consumer rights. The Oregon Consumer Privacy Act went into effect in 2024, giving consumers more control over their personal and sensitive data. Under the new law, certain businesses must limit the collection of personal information, keep it secure, and provide extra protection for the data of children and teens.

The DOJ recently updated its consumer privacy website with new materials to educate consumers about their Oregon privacy rights, including FAQs, templates to help consumers make privacy rights requests, and a privacy rights complaint form.

Rayfield said he plans to proactively work to take on predatory lenders, scam artists, identity theft, credit fraud, and abusive practices by insurance companies, and improve and expand the state's efforts to make sure consumers are treated legally and fairly in the marketplace.

Rayfield also plans to establish a Working Families Unit at DOJ – a new labor enforcement team to ensure all Oregonians' rights are protected in the workplace.

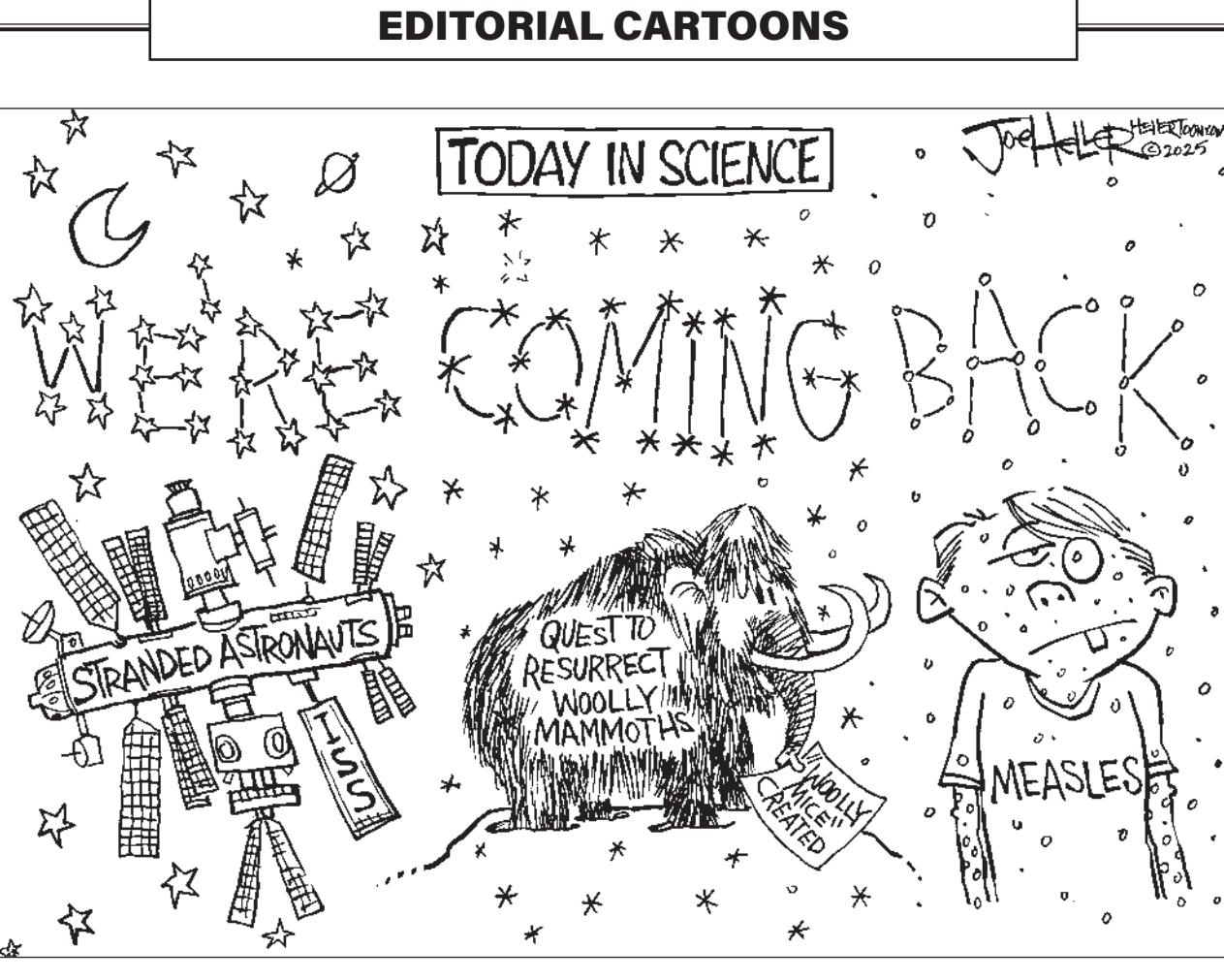
"We want to protect people, whether that be safeguarding their health, their safety or their wallets," Rayfield said. "Every year we recover more money for Oregonians who've been ripped off or scammed by companies or organizations. This top 10 list helps us identify patterns, prioritize areas that need attention, and spread resources effectively."

### RESOURCES

Download Oregon Department of Justice's free materials on scam and fraud prevention: <https://www.doj.state.or.us/consumer-protection/sales-scams-fraud/more-scams-fraud-resources/>

Sign up for Oregon Department of Justice's free Scam Alert Network: <https://www.doj.state.or.us/consumer-protection/scam-alert-network/>

If you have fallen victim to a fraud or scam, contact the Oregon Department of Justice online at [www.oregonconsumer.gov](http://oregonconsumer.gov) or call the Attorney General's Consumer Hotline at 1-877-877-9392.



### GUEST COLUMN

## Shelter from the storm

**JENNIFER FERRAEZ CHARTRAND**  
*Sentinel Guest Column*

Our last City Council meeting was filled with citizens of Cottage Grove concerned about the welfare of our town and the use of pallets shelters given to the City by Lane County for emergency shelter.

A number of those present were residents from the Sunset Ridge neighborhood, built above the nonprofit Community Sharing which has been at its current location since 2007. Others came to show support on one side or the other, but all with the goal of bettering our community.

At one point in the meeting, our mayor specifically asked our police chief, Cory Chase, to give a report on crime rates over the past few months surrounding the area of Community Sharing. He gave a general description about the increase in complaints and citations this winter. American writer Mark Twain once said, "There are three kinds of lies: lies, damned lies, and statistics." I am not stating here, by any means, that our good chief of police would ever distort the truth; only that when statistics are presented without context, the truth is not always conveyed in the message.

The reality of the bigger picture is that in cold weather, people do what they can to keep warm. This year is not unique in reports of people camping closer to town, cooking outside, and sleeping in abandoned shelters. The second fact is that our police force was directed to crack down on citations to houseless individuals after the closing of the camps. People have been ticketed for things they normally would not have been in the recent past. There has been an increase in overall ticketing throughout Cottage Grove, not just in this neighborhood. I am not stating here that people should not be held accountable for breaking the law. I am simply stating a fact.

Some other facts may be helpful in understanding the situation: The majority of the clientele served by



Cindy Weeldreyer / Cottage Grove Sentinel

**The Community Sharing proposal to establish a seasonal warming shelter was discussed during the Feb. 24 Cottage Grove City Council meeting, which attracted more than 50 people.**

Community Sharing are not "the homeless"—approximately only 250 of 5,000 people over the past year are without a permanent address. Among these people are the disabled, unemployed, under-employed, seniors on fixed limited incomes, Veterans, and people fleeing domestic violence. The majority of the help given to citizens of our town is food and clothing. With the primary goal of prevention of our houseless neighbors freezing to death, Community Sharing opened its doors 9 nights this season

as a warming center on nights below 30 degrees. Office space was used and a rotation of volunteers who dedicated their time.

Some of the neighborhood residents reported there is "garbage and RVs all over the neighborhood" surrounding Community Sharing. This is actually not the case. My business office shares a parking lot with Community Sharing. I walk all over the neighborhood and Mount David at least a couple times a week. Occasionally I see spots where some garbage

has been left or a vehicle where someone appears to be sleeping, but this is not common at all.

I would encourage each of us here to explore creating solutions together, rather than focusing on the problem. I invite anyone reading this to take a walk with me or sit down for some productive discussion to explore a long-term solution.

*Jennifer Ferraez Chartrand, LCSW is a Cottage Grove business owner.*



### Weekly Online Poll

#### What are your plans for Spring Break?

- Outdoor adventures
- Shopping
- Relaxing with family
- I don't do Spring Break

### Previous Poll Results

**Do you agree with the Cottage City Council's decision to deny Community Sharing's seasonal shelter proposal?**

57% Yes

43% No

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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.

### PUBLISHED WEEKLY AT:

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# Theatre opens with Mary Poppins April 4

Submitted

Cottage Theatre continues its 2025 season with a four-weekend run of Mary Poppins, a jolly holiday with everyone's favorite nanny.

This popular musical is based on the 1964 Disney Film and the stories of P.L. Travers. Mary Poppins runs from April 4 - 27, at Cottage Theatre, 700 Village Drive in Cottage Grove.

When the Banks family is visited by the practically perfect nanny Mary Poppins, her whimsical methods help them rediscover the joy and importance of family. This adaptation of the 1964 Disney movie musical has become an enduring fixture on stages around the world thanks to songs like: "Supercalifragilisticexpialidocious" and "Chim Chim Cher-ee."

Cottage Theatre's production of Mary Poppins promises a blend of familiar tunes and high-flying moments — a heartwarming reminder that the extraordinary can be found in the most ordinary of places.

Cottage Theatre's production of Mary Poppins is directed by Bil Morrill, supported by Brittany Dreier as Assistant Director and Olive Bennett as Stage Manager.

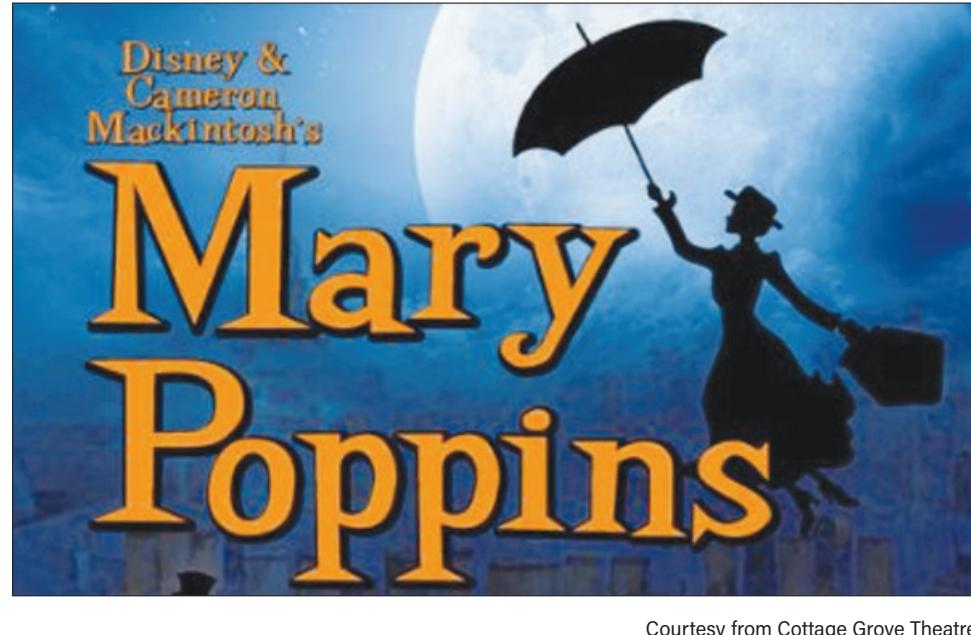
The production features Jodi Arend as Mary Poppins, Dylan Bunten as Bert, Izzy

Lucas as Jane Banks, and Faith Kupsick as Michael Banks. Supporting roles are played by Laurel Merz, Nathan Blakely, Kaycee Lofgren, Seth Bailey, Jennifer Mandeville-Schulz, Susan Goes, Angela Pearson, Mark Allen, Daniel Borson, Matthew Chasen, James Kiser, Tom Perkins, Abigail Bonertz, Marc Siegel, Quinn Branstetter, and Audriahna Jones.

An ensemble rounds out the large cast. The live band is under the direction of Chris Holt and Jaclyn Beck serves as Vocal Director. The choreographer is Janet Rust. Set design is by Janet Whitlow, costume design by Chris Carter, and lighting design by Trinity Riddell. Flying effects are provided by ZFX.

Mary Poppins is on stage for four weekends at Cottage Theatre from April 4 - 27. Performances are Thursday, Friday and Saturday evenings at 7:30 p.m. and Sunday afternoons at 2:30 p.m. There will be no performance on Easter Sunday, April 20.

Tickets are available online at [www.cottagetheatre.org](http://www.cottagetheatre.org) or by phone at 541-942-8001. Tickets are \$35 for adults and \$15 for youth. All seating is reserved, and advance purchase is recommended. Cottage Theatre's production of Mary Poppins is sponsored by Starfire Lumber Company.



Courtesy from Cottage Grove Theatre

**Mary Poppins runs from April 4 through April 27 at Cottage Theatre, 700 Village Drive, in Cottage Grove.**

Cottage Theatre, founded in 1982, produces a year-round season of plays and musicals featuring talented Lane County performers. The theatre also offers educational programs for youth.

A member of the American Association of Community Theatre (AACT), Cottage Theatre was one of just six theatres in

the country selected to produce a world premiere as part of the AACT 2024 NewPlayFest. The theatre is known for its strong production values, in keeping with its mission of "engaging and enriching our community through the magic of live theatre."

# Oregon Education Reform Act introduced

**JEREMY C. RUARK**  
*Cottage Grove Sentinel*

State Senator David Brock Smith (R-Curry, Coos and Douglas Counties) and State Representative E. Werner Reschke (R-Klamath Falls) have introduced SB 1100, described by the two as "an omnibus education bill to bring real reform to benefit students, teachers, and their families across the state."

"Oregon education continues to play for last place across the nation, even though the legislature has continued to provide more funding than

ever before," Smith said. "As reported in the Oregonian on January 28th, 2025, 'Oregon fourth graders who were tested in early 2024 ranked second worst in the country in math and tied with 10 other states for third worst in reading.'"

According to Reschke, the current public education system is broken.

"Fundamental reform is necessary, and we must return to common sense education principles," Reschke said. "Excellence in education is not an option, we must do better, and this omnibus

education legislation is a great step in the right direction."

Reschke and Smith describe SB 1100 as a comprehensive education reform bill that would:

- Allow school districts the choice of where to place feminine sanitary products.
- Provide an income tax credit for teachers in rural school districts.
- Requires public schools, community colleges, and public universities to provide instruction in a neutral manner. Prohibits the State Board of Education from adopting rules that promote a stance or



Metro Creative Connection

**This Oregon Education Reform Act will bring the needed transformation changes to Oregon's education, while providing for clear paths for teachers and parents for the benefit of our students across our state, supporters said.**

otherwise show support for or against a political movement or group.

- Requires school districts to designate athletic competitions and extracurricular sports according to biological sex. Prohibits biological males from participating in athletic competitions or extracurricular sports designated for biological females.
- Provides for school resource peace officers for each school in every district.
- Ensures licensure pathways to bolster career and technical education teachers.
- Forbids OHA from requiring Covid-19 immunizations for school attendance.

• Directs a school district to provide notice to the parent or legal guardian within 24 hours when a student under 18 has been subjected to an act of harassment, intimidation or bullying, an act of cyberbullying, a disciplinary action, a visit to a school health professional or a school-based health center or has had a discussion of self-identity issues.

- Directs district school boards to ensure that the curriculum of each course of study is made available on the school district's website. Directs school districts to ensure that a student's grades are posted on a website that is accessible by the parent or guardian of the student.
- Provides an income tax credit for families that home-school or pay private school tuition, with proof of attendance and passing grades, that is equal to the local general purpose grant per ADM in ORS 327.013.

"This Oregon Education Reform Act will bring the needed transformation changes to Oregon's education, while providing for clear paths for teachers and parents for the benefit of our students across our state," Smith said.

Smith represents Senate District 1, which includes Curry, Coos and Douglas Counties, Southwest Oregon's Fish, Farm and Forestry District.



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St. Philip Benizi, Creswell

552 Holbrook Lane

Sunday 8 am

**Our Worship Directory is a weekly feature.**

**If your congregation would like to be a part of this directory, contact us today!**

*St. Andrews Episcopal Church*

1301 W. Main • 541-767-9050

Rev. Lawrence Crumb

"Scripture, Tradition, Reason"

Worship: Sunday 10:30am

All Welcome

**Seventh-day Adventist Church**

820 South 10th Street

541-942-5213

Pastor: James D. Boram

Bible Study: Saturday, 9:15 am

Worship Service: Saturday, 10:40

Mid-week Service: Wednesday, 1:00

**Trinity Lutheran Church**

6th and Quincy

541-942-2373

Vacancy Pastor: Steven Spencer

Sunday School and Adult

Education 9:15 a.m.

Sunday Worship 10:30 a.m.

Comm. Kitchen Free Meal

Tuesday 5:15 p.m. to 6:15

TLC Groups

[tlccg.com](http://tlccg.com)

**United Methodist Church**

334 Washington 541-942-3033

Worship 10am

[umcgrove.org](http://umcgrove.org)

**CRESWELL:**

**Creswell Presbyterian Church**

75 S 4th S • 541-895-3419

Rev. Seth Wheeler

Adult Sunday School 9:15am

Sunday Worship Service 10:30 am

website [www.creswellpres.org](http://www.creswellpres.org)

**Walker Union Church & Cemetery**

32904 England Rd, Creswell, OR

(541) 649-1800

Pastor: Randy Wood

Sunday Service at 11:00 AM

Everyone is welcome!

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## 702 GARAGE SALE

Garage Sale - 77500 S. 6th Sp. A-45. 3-14th & 15th. 10 to 5

## 999 PUBLIC NOTICES

CGS 25-112

TRUSTEE'S NOTICE OF SALE TS NO: 24-71756 Reference is made to that certain Deed of Trust (hereinafter referred to as the Trust Deed) made by MATTHEW COOK AND KIERA ELIZABETH COOK, HUSBAND AND WIFE as Grantor to AMERITITLE INC., as trustee, in favor of Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc. ("MERS"), as designated nominee for RANLIFE, INC., beneficiary of the security instrument, its successors and assigns, as Beneficiary, dated 12/22/2021, recorded 12/23/2021, as Instrument No. 2021-079124, in mortgage records of Lane County, Oregon covering the following described real property situated in said County and State, to-wit: THE EAST 90.0 FEET OF LOTS 1 AND 2, BLOCK 13, CHAMBERS ADDITION TO EUGENE, AS PLATTED AND RECORDED IN BOOK 3, PAGE 41, LANE COUNTY OREGON PLAT RECORDS, IN LANE COUNTY, OREGON. The street address or other common designation, if any for the real property described above is pur-

## 999 PUBLIC NOTICES

ported to be: 1210 GARFIELD ST AND 1212 GARFIELD STE EUGENE, OREGON 97402 The Tax Assessor's Account ID for the Real Property is purported to be: 048356811704363203500 Both the beneficiary and the trustee, ZBS Law, LLP have elected to foreclose the above referenced Trust Deed and sell the said real property to satisfy the obligations secured by the Trust Deed and a Notice of Default and Election to Sell has been recorded pursuant to ORS 86.752(3). All right, title, and interest in the said described property which the grantors had, or had power to convey, at the time of execution of the Trust Deed, together with any interest the grantors or their successors in interest acquired after execution of the Trust Deed shall be sold at public auction to the highest bidder for cash to satisfy the obligations secured by the Trust Deed and the expenses of sale, including the compensation of the trustee as provided by law, and the reasonable fees of trustee's attorneys. The default for which the foreclosure is made is: The monthly installment of principal and interest which became due on 7/1/2024, late charges, and all subsequent monthly installments of principal and interest. You are responsible to pay all payments and charges due under the terms and conditions of the loan documents which come due subsequent to the date of this notice, including, but not limited to, foreclosure trustee fees and costs, advances and late charges. Furthermore, as a condition to bring your account in good standing, you must provide the undersigned with written proof that you are not in default on any senior encumbrance and provide proof of insurance. Nothing in this notice should be construed as a waiver of any fees owing to the beneficiary under the deed of trust, pursuant to the terms and provisions of the loan documents. The amount required to cure the default in pay-

## 999 PUBLIC NOTICES

ments to date is calculated as follows: From: 7/1/2024 Total of past due payments: \$16,059.60 Late Charges: \$498.75 Additional charges (Taxes, Insurance, Corporate Advances, Other Fees): \$1,830.00 Trustee's Fees and Costs: \$1,360.00 Total necessary to cure: \$19,748.35 Please note the amounts stated herein are subject to confirmation and review and are likely to change during the next 30 days. Please contact the successor trustee ZBS Law, LLP, to obtain a "reinstatement" and or "payoff" quote prior to remitting funds. By reason of said default the beneficiary has declared all sum owing on the obligation secured by the Trust Deed due and payable. The amount required to discharge this lien in its entirety to date is: \$394,487.94 Said sale shall be held at the hour of 1:00 PM on 5/7/2025 in accord with the standard of time established by ORS 187.110, and pursuant to ORS 86.771(7) shall occur at the following designated place: Front Entrance to the Lane County Courthouse, 125 East 8th Avenue, Eugene, OR 97401 Other than as shown of record, neither the said beneficiary nor the said trustee have any actual notice of any person having or claiming to have any lien upon or interest in the real property hereinabove described subsequent to the interest of the trustee in the Trust Deed, or of any successor(s) in interest to the grantors or of any lessee or other person in possession of or occupying the property, except: NONE Notice is further given that any person named in ORS 86.778 has the right, at any time prior to five days before the date last set for sale, to have this foreclosure proceeding dismissed and the Trust Deed reinstated by payment to the beneficiary of the entire amount then due (other than such portion of the principal as would not then be due had no default occurred) and by curing any other default complained of herein

## 999 PUBLIC NOTICES

that is capable of being cured by tendering the performance required under the obligation(s) of the Trust Deed, and in addition to paying said sums or tendering the performance necessary to cure the default, by paying all costs and expenses actually incurred in enforcing the obligation and Trust Deed, together with the trustee's and attorney's fees not exceeding the amounts provided by ORS 86.778. The mailing address of the trustee is: ZBS Law, LLP 5 Centerpointe Dr, Suite 400 Lake Oswego, OR 97035 (503) 946-6558 In construing this notice, the masculine gender includes the feminine and the neuter, the singular includes plural, the word "grantor" includes any successor in interest to the grantor as well as any other persons owing an obligation, the performance of which is secured by said trust deed, the words "trustee" and "beneficiary" include their respective successors in interest, if any. 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. Dated: 12/24/2024 ZBS Law, LLP Dirk Schouten, OSB# 115153 ZBS Law, LLP Authorized to sign on behalf of the trustee A-4831915 02/19/2025, 02/26/2025, 03/05/2025, 03/12/2025

## 999 PUBLIC NOTICES

at Lorane Grange No. 54, 80356 Old Lorane Hwy, Lorane. Personnel will attend the meeting to answer any questions from the community. If unable to attend, please reach out to Dan Dutton, Smartlink at Daniel. Dutton@smartlinkgroup.com with questions. Published March 12th, 2025

CGS 25-116

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Kimberly Eder has been appointed Personal Representative of the Estate of ALICIA DARLENE COX, deceased, Lane County Circuit Court Case No. 25PB01681. 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: 03/12/2025 /s/ Kimberly Eder, Personal Representative

## 999 PUBLIC NOTICES

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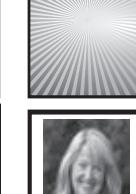
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# CGHS Softball Team returning with 'full vengeance'

JEREMY C. RUARK  
Cottage Grove Sentinel

The Cottage Grove High School Spring Sports Season is just around the corner.

In the following conversation with The Sentinel, Head Coach Sarah Keafauver gives us insight into the new season ahead.

The Sentinel: How did the varsity team fair last season?

Sarah Keafauver: Last season, the varsity team placed 5th in League and 18th in state with an 8-14 record.

The Sentinel: At this early point, who would be returning to the team and what do you see as those players' contributions this season?

Keafauver: At this point we expect our entire varsity roster from last year to return (minus one graduated senior), we have an exciting addition this season as Shae Richardson joins our program.

All in all, I expect all of our varsity returners to come back with full vengeance after a tough season last

year. We definitely have some scores to settle, and we are eager to work hard and take care of business in league. We are also excited to hire a new JV coach which will help with the longevity of our program as we continue to build over the next few years.

The Sentinel: What are the teams that you suspect will be the most challenging for the Lady Lions this season and why?

Keafauver: Junction City and Marist always give us great competition. The rivalry, intensity and pressure that is felt in those games is unmatched. Additionally we get the opportunity to play Harrisburg pre-season, they have a pretty impressive program. Last season they went 23-5 and placed 6th in state, 2nd in their league. I am excited to see how that game goes for us. If we win, that will be a pretty big confidence boost leading us into league play.

The Sentinel: What are your fundamental goals for the team this season?

Keafauver: This season we are going to focus on a few things. First, we will be fundamentally sound and consistent. Second, we will work on setting each other up for success, this is a huge focus of mine as a coach. We are also going to focus on preparing for games with intention, each team in our league has different dynamics and strategies and we plan to adjust accordingly. We are going to shake things up a lot this season, and I have full confidence we will find success in doing so.

The Sentinel: What do you hope the players take away from their experience with the team this season that will help them on the field and as they move forward in life?

Keafauver: We're going to prioritize a team-first mentality. While it may sound cliché, the ability to work effectively within a team is an invaluable life skill. We will also champion women

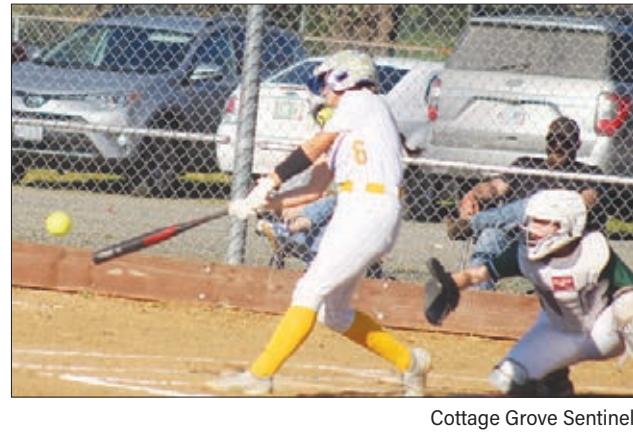
in sports, empowering each girl to understand the importance of hard work, resilience, and never accepting 'no' as an answer.

Above all, we will emphasize the power of women supporting women—celebrating and uplifting each other's successes. Our focus will be on respect, accountability, and taking ownership of our actions. I hope the girls walk away with an understanding of all of the above, and knowing that I will always be in their corner to support them along the way.

The Sentinel: Feel free to add any other comments you might have. We'd greatly appreciate your responses by tomorrow afternoon.

Keafauver: This year, we're thrilled to announce the construction of a new batting cage at our field, a project made possible through countless hours of fundraising. This will be an incredible enhancement to our facilities.

Additionally, we've successfully raised enough



Cottage Grove Sentinel

**Cottage Grove's Emily Pacheco hits an inside the park home run in the third inning of Cottage Grove's 9-2 victory of Sweet Home on April 2, 2024.**

funds to provide two fully functional tarps for both of our fields. We were also fortunate to receive two donated storage sheds from the woodshop at CGHS, which were generously delivered to each of our fields by Taylor's Towing, also as a donation.

I am truly excited to offer our girls the opportunities they deserve with these much-needed field upgrades. I can't wait to see this program reach its full potential!

We are actively accepting donations and sponsorships that can be renewed each season. We have a long way to go when it comes to facility upgrades and would love any opportunity we have to work with community members that want to help us out!

*Follow the CGHS Softball Team game results at osaa.org and look for CGHS sports features at cgsentinel.com and in the Wednesday print editions of The Sentinel.*

## Priority Care

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### Athlete of the Week

Photo courtesy of Cottage Grove High School  
Cottage Grove High School is recognizing Samuel Harrison an outstanding junior athlete who has shown exceptional dedication, skill, and sportsmanship. Harrison truly went above and beyond in the Cottage Grove Varsity boys basketball game against North Bend High School. Harrison made the game winning layup breaking the tie by 1 and sending the Cottage Grove boys basketball team to playoffs.



## SEARCH

From Page 1

In an all-day, non-public meeting on March 7, candidates will be asked scripted questions and panelists will provide individual and group feedback to the board, which will lead to the selection of 2-3 finalists for in-person interviews on March 17-18.

Board Chair Taylor Wilhour said, "(The search) is very exciting and coming to a critical point."

The search process for a new superintendent began following the resignation of Dr. Yvonne Curtis last June. The SLSD Board named Brian McCasline as interim school superintendent.

McCasline was scheduled to serve for the 2024-25 school year. His salary for the year was to be \$160,249.

#### IN OTHER BUSINESS

#### CLASSIFIED STAFF

The board passed a resolution recognizing March 3-7 as Classified Employees Appreciation Week. The district is now negotiating with the South Lane Education Association on a new contract and negotiations are going well.

**NEW MATH CURRICULUM UPDATE**  
Director of Teaching and

Learning Jeremy Smith and elementary, middle school and high school staff provided a detailed presentation. Math instruction is challenging because of the prevalence of negativity. Statistics show 98-percent of adults report some level of math anxiety. Among students taking a national math exam, 59-percent reported worrying math with be difficult, 33-percent reported they get very tense doing math homework, and 31-percent said they get very nervous doing math problems.

New curriculum at the elementary, middle and high school levels emphasize group and individual mastery-focused learning. It moves away from the traditional rote learning and algorithms to guide learning through questioning, connections and vocabulary. Math problems have real-world applications.

At the secondary level, grading is based on proficiency with unlimited retake tests if new learning is demonstrated. A significant amount of teacher availability throughout the school day and virtually helping students and parents with homework. The combined efforts are increasing proficiency in all grades.

South Lane School District's Professional Learning Communities (PLCs) are data driven. Survey data at the district, state and national level helps teachers and administrators identify where the learning gaps are and develop strategies to quickly address them. Enrichment time is built into the school day to provide additional instruction for students who need it.

The presentation highlighted how math educators district-wide collaborate and implement teaching strategies to ensure students and parents receive the support needed to be successful in mathematics at the elementary and secondary levels.

#### SUPERINTENDENT EVALUATION

Interim Superintendent Brian McCasline briefly highlighted the progress he is making on achieving the district's 2024-25 goals. He said he would provide the board with a detailed written report on how the goals are being implemented.

He continues to visit schools and classrooms to be aware of what is happening in the district. He noted data indicates improvement is still needed in reading and math. He is working to help students and parents understand the beneficial concept of Social, Emotional Learning and what they can do to support it. Creating a plan to improve Career Technical Education opportunities at the elementary and secondary levels.

"A personal goal I have is to improve the district's community outreach," McCasline said. "I'm most proud of the work that our administrators have done with the parents and students they work with. Administrators have improved their communication and increased activities with parents and students. We've supported them financially with some of the things they are doing, and they have done some great work."

*Follow the SLSD events at cgsentinel.com and in the Wednesday print editions of The Sentinel.*

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