

Harvest Fest  
See page 3



Reading Volunteers Needed  
See page 8



70  
44

Cottage Grove

Wednesday, October 8, 2025  
Partly Cloudy

Wednesday October 8, 2025 | Number 41, 137 years      www.cgsentinel.com      \$2.00

# Building community and economic opportunity through Connect Lane

**ANDY VOBORA**  
*Sentinel Guest Article*

Cycling has long been part of Oregon’s identity.

From the wooded trails of the Cascades to the rolling farmland of the Willamette Valley, our state is known around the world for offering some of the most scenic and accessible rides anywhere.

With the development of the first four segments of Connect Lane, Lane County is taking the next step in making cycling safer, more enjoyable, and more beneficial to the communities that make up the Eugene, Cascades and Coast region.

At its core, Connect Lane is about more than wayfinding signs. It is a system built to connect people — riders to the landscapes they want to explore, and communities to the economic opportunities that cycling can bring. The routes highlighted through Connect Lane are designed with the rider experience in mind, steering cyclists away from high-traffic state highways and instead guiding them onto low-traffic country roads, shared-use paths, and scenic corridors that highlight the best

of our region’s natural and cultural assets.

The goal is safety, accessibility, and enjoyment. When riders don’t have to worry about navigating dangerous intersections or riding shoulder-to-shoulder with fast-moving traffic, they can focus on what brought them here in the first place: the joy of cycling through Oregon’s landscapes.

**SUPPORTING RURAL COMMUNITIES**

Perhaps most importantly, Connect Lane is designed to support the economic vitality of rural communities. Each designated route highlights local businesses, lodging, food stops, and cultural attractions. Small towns benefit when riders stop for a meal, stay overnight, or pick up supplies. Studies consistently show that bicycle-related travel brings measurable economic benefit to local economies.

A 2012 statewide study on bicycle tourism found that bicycle travel contributed \$400 million annually to Oregon’s economy, with strong



Courtesy photo from Travel Lane County

**A 2012 statewide study on bicycle tourism found that bicycle travel contributed \$400 million annually to Oregon’s economy, with strong impacts in rural communities where cycling routes are often based. See more photos with this story at cgseninel.com**

See **LANE** Page 6

## Downtown celebration blends barbecue and Bavarian charm

**CINDY WEELDREYER**  
*Cottage Grove Sentinel*

Organizers are already planning the 2026 Cascade Home Center’s Community Cookoff and Cottage Grove Oktoberfest following the successful 2025 events.

On the morning of the last Saturday in September, hundreds of people filled Washington Avenue between 5th and 7th Streets. The tantalizing smell of grilling meat from Cascade Home Center’s Community Cookoff mingled with the festive strains of Oktoberfest’s live music, creating a day of celebration, fundraising, and civic pride.

**COTTAGE GROVE COMMUNITY COOKOFF**

Grills smoked under pop-up canopies lining the south side of the street as brisket landed first on the plates of four celebrity judges, then onto 600 tasting plates served to eager attendees. Eight cook teams competed for four awards.

This year’s judges included Cascade Home Center Store Manager Jake Schmitt, Cottage Grove Police Chief Cory Chase, Georgia Haskell of the Cottage Grove Area Chamber of Commerce, and KNND Radio Station Owner Cameron Reiten.

After deliberation, the judges awarded Best in Show to the Cottage Grove Odd Fellows, led by Cook Captain Penn Sylvain. The Team Award—voted on by the cook teams—went to Kyle Kishen Construction. The Iron Man Award, given to a competitor or volunteer who went above and beyond, was awarded to Jess Corbett. Kyle Kishen and his crew also took home the People’s Choice Award.



Cindy Weeldreyer / Cottage Grove Sentinel

**Cottage Grove Police Chief Cory Chase whipped out his trusty pocketknife for assistance in taking his first sample at the Oktoberfest. See more photos with this story at cg-sentinel.com.**

Three years ago, Cascade Home Center Manager Tobi DiAmore launched the idea of pairing barbecue with nonprofit fundraising. This year’s beneficiary was Slabtown BMX, a local organization rebuilding a competitive racetrack east of town near Row River Nature Park.

The event drew support from 46 sponsors and 50 volunteers representing four organizations who assisted with setup and teardown.

“We start planning six months ahead of the event day,” DiAmore said. “In those months of preparation, the outpouring of community

support is staggering. Slabtown BMX took this event by storm throughout the planning and the weekend itself. Because of their organization and hard work, we’ll do it even better next year. Organizations like theirs are the reason this event has become such a fast success. We look forward to consulting with them next year in choosing the next benefactor.”

Slabtown BMX Board Member Courtney Kelley reported the group earned \$5,298.75 from the Sept.

See **DOWNTOWN**, Page 6

## Oregon prepares for federal changes to SNAP

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

The Oregon Department of Human Services (ODHS) is announcing federally required changes to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) in Oregon.

These changes are required under House Resolution (H.R. 1), a federal law passed on July 4, 2025, according to a release from the ODHS.

More than 740,000 people in Oregon currently receive SNAP benefits, and ODHS expects more than 313,000 people enrolled in SNAP may be impacted by the H.R. 1 changes.

“We are announcing these changes today so that families can prepare for the impact we expect many Oregonians who depend on this resource will feel,” ODHS Federal Response team Co-Leader Dana Hittle said. “Oregon families enrolled in SNAP receive an average of \$300 a month, and any reduction makes it harder for families to put food on the table. Oregon has no choice but to follow federal law that will result in increased hardship across our communities, but we remain committed to helping families adjust and prepare.”

Hittle said ODHS will begin notifying affected households in mid-October. The people who will be most affected by the new federal law include older adults, immigrants and people living in rural communities with limited access to transportation.

Oregon Gov. Tina Kotek has released the following statement about the SNAP changes.

“The federal cuts to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) are simply wrong, and they will hurt Oregon families,” Kotek stated. “I strongly oppose these changes. Our top priority now is making sure every impacted Oregonian knows what’s changing and where to turn for help. No one should have to choose between food and rent, and my administration is mobilizing to ensure that those affected get the information and referrals for other help that they need.”

The changes won’t happen to everyone at once — they will roll out over the next year, according to the ODHS.

For people who already get SNAP: The changes will affect those who applied or recertified between July 4 and Oct. 1, 2025. Notices will be sent around Oct. 15, 2025 to this first group of people who are impacted. The first group will have SNAP benefit reductions or closures on Nov. 1, 2025. For people approved for SNAP before July 4, 2025, the changes will happen over time throughout the next year and a notice will be sent.

For people who apply or reapply for SNAP after Oct. 1, 2025: The new rules will apply right away.

**KEY CHANGES**

The changes will affect three main groups of SNAP recipients:

See **SNAP** Page 8

### INSIDE

- News — 1-3

Obituaries — 4

Death Notice — 4
- Opinion — 5

Classifieds — 7

News — 8



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6 18134 42405 2



# State issues ‘gold bar’ scam warning

The Oregon Division of Financial Regulation (DFR) is issuing a warning to Oregon residents about the “gold bar” scam that is rapidly spreading across the nation. This scam involves fraudsters impersonating government officials who convince victims to purchase gold bars to supposedly protect their nest eggs.

This scam involves contact from someone claiming to be a government official, often associated with the U.S. Department of Treasury, who convinces the victim to convert money held in financial accounts into gold bars. The fraudster claims the victim’s financial institution isn’t safe and that physical gold is the only way to protect the assets.

Once the victim agrees to convert the funds to gold, the fraudster either appears at the victim’s front door or arranges for the victim to meet them at a nearby location to pick up the gold bars. DFR urges the public to stay alert, informed, and safe. Do

not become the next victim of this scam.

More generally, the scam goes like this: Victims are contacted through text, email, or phone call and told their financial accounts are at risk of being compromised for various reasons. The reasons given may include that the accounts were subject to a cyberattack or are being used for illegal activity and must be closed.

Victims are advised to empty the account, purchase the gold bars, and then deliver the bars over to the “government official.” For those unable or unwilling to purchase the gold themselves, the fraudster will offer and even insist on making the purchase for them. Sometimes this includes giving the “government official” remote access to the victim’s electronic devices. Victims are tricked into believing that converting their assets to gold and storing it with the government via the scammer, or “government official,” is necessary to protect their



Metro Creative Connection

**Law enforcement officials said the scam has already caused millions of dollars in losses to Oregon investors and others across the country.**

assets. This is positively – and always – a scam.

It has already caused millions of dollars in losses to Oregon investors and others across the country.

“It is troubling that these criminals are using fear and a false sense of urgency to pressure victims into making devastating financial decisions,” DFR Administrator TK Keen said. “Even more troubling is the reality that they are in our communities and facilitating these crimes in person.”

As an additional precaution, DFR emphasizes that government officials will never contact you and demand payment using gold bars. To stay safe:

Be cautious of someone contacting you and claiming to be a government official. The imposter scam was the most common scam reported to the Federal Trade Commission in 2024. Government officials will never threaten you or demand that you make a payment using cryptocurrency, gift

cards, or gold. If you need to communicate with a government agency, look up the contact information yourself, verify that you have not been directed to a scam site, and – only then – contact the agency using the information provided on its official website. Never share your home address with strangers who contact you.

A government official will never give you a top-secret password. Some victims are given a supposedly top-secret password and instructed to give assets to a person who provides them with the password. This is always a scam.

Never click on suspicious links or respond to unsolicited messages. If you receive an email or text from an unknown sender (even if the details appear accurate), do not respond, and do not click on any links or attachments found in that email. You could unknowingly download malicious software.

Never give out your personal and financial information. Do not share personal and financial information

with strangers. Steer clear of communication and calls from strangers.

Those seeking employment might be tempted to accept positions as a driver or courier from these scammers. This is part of the scam, to use outsiders – referred to as “money mules” – to help facilitate the crime. Be very skeptical about these employment offers. Research a company thoroughly before agreeing to become involved in any “employment” of unusual activity.

DFR cautions Oregonians to remain cautious and informed. Contact local law enforcement to report this scam. You can also contact DFR to report suspected fraud, inappropriate securities business practices, or to obtain consumer information.

Free investor education and fraud prevention materials are available at [dfr.oregon.gov](http://dfr.oregon.gov) or by calling one of DFR’s consumer advocates at 888-877-4894 (toll-free) or [dfr.financialserviceshelp@dcbs.oregon.gov](mailto:dfr.financialserviceshelp@dcbs.oregon.gov).

## 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, SEPT. 22**  
01:57: Agency assist, 6th/15  
03:00: Menace, 38000 block Row River Rd.  
08:53: Theft, 900 block N. Douglas St.  
10:29: Disturbance, 900 block W. Main St.  
10:39: Suspicious subject, 100 block N. 6th St.  
10:43: Disturbance, 78000 block Bigelow Way  
11:27: MIP MJ, 1300 block S. River Rd.  
11:36: Found dog, 1300 block E. Main St.  
11:42: Suicidal subject, 2400 block E. Whiteaker Ave.  
12:11: Illegal camping, 1100 block E. Main St.  
13:13: Warrant service, Row River Rd.  
13:37: Disturbance, 200 block N. 12th St.  
14:47: Alarm, 1st/Van Buren Ave.

16:34: Suspicious condition, 1000 block N. 11th St.  
17:18: Disturbance, E. Madison/2nd St.  
17:30: Abandoned vehicle, 16th/Gibbs  
17:36: Warrant service, 400 block E. Main St.  
17:56: Trespass, 1100 block Hwy 99  
18:21: Illegal parking, 600 block Johnson Ave.  
19:10: Suspicious subject, 1300 block S. River Rd.  
19:18: Trespass, 1100 block Hwy 99

**TUESDAY, SEPT. 23**  
01:14: Fire, 200 block N. 12th St.  
04:28: Warrant service, 900 block Row River Rd.  
06:34: Fire, 200 block N. 12th St.  
07:44: Theft, 100 block North L St.  
07:52: Shots fired, 700 block Hwy 99  
08:49: Warrant service, 400 block E. Main St.  
15:03: Illegal parking, 1400 block Birch Ave.  
17:20: Warrant service, 400 block N. 14th St.  
18:45: Disorderly subject, 1500 block E. Main St.  
19:10: Disturbance, 1500 block Gateway Blvd.  
20:01: Disorderly subject, 100 block Gateway Blvd.  
21:02: Suspicious condition, 1200 block E. Main St.

21:31: Suspicious condition, 900 block W. Main St.  
21:32: Disturbance, 1400 block S. 8th St.

**WEDNESDAY, SEPT. 24**  
07:49: Criminal mischief, 100 block Gateway Blvd.  
07:49: Warrant service, E. Main/N. River Rd.  
08:38: Fraud, 900 block N. Douglas St.  
08:48: Warrant service, 400 block E. Main St.  
09:18: Illegal camping, 700 block E. Main St.  
09:25: Welfare check, 1500 block E. Chamberlain Ave.  
09:57: Suspicious vehicle, R/Fairview  
10:23: Warrant service, 200 block N. 12th St.  
10:47: Suspicious subject, 99/Main  
10:50: Suspicious vehicle, 200 block N. 9th St.  
10:54: Disturbance, Woodson/River Rd.  
11:49: Order violation, 800 block S. 6th St.  
12:21: Theft, 900 block Row River Rd.  
13:05: Theft, 200 block N. 9th St.  
15:31: Illegal camping, Gateway/14th  
16:33: Animal info, 1100 block E. Harrison Ave.  
16:35: Hit and run, 1400 block Anthony Ave.  
16:40: Juvenile trouble, 500 block Fillmore Ave.  
17:49: Welfare check, 1200 block E. Main St.  
17:55: Found drugs, 200 block Gateway Blvd.  
20:06: Fire, Emerson/99  
20:11: Business check, 1500 block Gateway Blvd.  
20:38: Disturbance, 78000 block Cedar Park Rd.



21:08: Theft, 1000 block Tyler Ave.  
21:39: Welfare check, 900 block N. Douglas St.  
22:05: Suicidal subject, 1400 block Daugherty Ave.  
22:12: Trespass, 300 block Hwy 99  
23:27: Suspicious subject, 700 block Row River Rd.  
23:28: Disorderly subject, 200 block S. 12th St.

**THURSDAY, SEPT. 25**  
04:28: Disturbance, 900 block S. 6th St.  
08:06: Theft, 900 block Row River Rd.  
09:04: Found dog, Gateway Blvd/Harvey  
09:09: Found drugs, 700 block Wilson Ave.  
09:10: Illegal camping, Gateway Blvd/14th  
09:26: Order violation, 100 block Sweet Ln.  
09:29: Disorderly subject, 700 block E. Gibbs Ave.  
09:41: Unlawful entry into a motor vehicle, 100 block Gateway Blvd.

10:07: Criminal mischief, 200 block N. 12th St.  
10:50: Dog at large, Main/S  
11:06: Agency assist, 500 block Landess Rd.  
12:48: Suspicious vehicle, Row River Rd/174 NB  
15:41: Disturbance, 4th/Taylor  
16:06: Fire, 34000 block Shoreview Dr.  
16:37: Dog at large, 10th/Grover  
17:01: Illegal camping, Gateway/14th  
17:36: Suspicious vehicle, 1300 block Elm Ave.  
17:38: Warrant service, 400 block E. Main St.  
18:50: Fraud, 1500 block E. Washington Ave.  
19:11: Unlawful entry into a motor vehicle, 100 block Gateway Blvd.  
19:19: Juvenile trouble, 1000 block Hwy 99  
20:02: Trespass, 200 block S. River Rd.  
20:09: Juvenile trouble, 1200 block E. Main St.

**FRIDAY, SEPT. 26**  
01:05: Business check, 900 block E. Main St.  
01:09: Barking dog, 600 block Wood Ave.  
01:21: Criminal mischief, 100 block Gateway Blvd.  
04:33: Warrant service, 400 block E. Main St.  
10:44: Illegal camping, Gateway/14th  
10:58: Criminal mischief, 1300 block E. Main St.  
16:10: Theft, 1400 block Daugherty Ave.  
16:40: Dog at large, 1000 block Taylor Ave.  
19:13: Disorderly subject, 100 block Sweet Ln.  
19:17: Disturbance, 1500 block E. Main St.  
19:27: Disorderly subject, 1600 block Hwy 99  
20:51: Disorderly subject, 1300 block S. River Rd.

21:38: Welfare check, 500 block E. Madison Ave.  
22:32: Suspicious condition, 300 block Hwy 99

**SATURDAY, SEPT. 27**  
02:14: Suspicious vehicle, 1500 block E. Main St.  
03:56: Suicidal subject, 100 block Crestview Ter.  
07:31: Abandoned vehicle, 300 block S. 5th St.  
09:49: Suicidal subject, 1400 block Daugherty Ave.  
11:10: Agency assist, 100 block S. 10th St.  
12:55: Abandoned vehicle, 700 block Girard Ct.  
12:58: Warrant service, 400 block E. Main St.  
14:50: Disturbance, 1600 block Harvey Rd.  
18:22: Missing person, 400 block E. Main St.  
20:09: Welfare check, 1500 block E. Madison Ave.  
20:19: Barking dog, 1400 block S. River Rd.  
20:44: Suspicious subject, 300 block N. Lane  
21:24: Intoxicated subject, 400 block N. Lane  
21:55: Suspicious condition, 300 block Kalapuya Way

**SUNDAY, SEPT. 28**  
08:26: Warrant service, 400 block E. Main St.  
10:37: Alarm, 100 block Village Dr.  
16:57: Warrant service, 400 block E. Main St.  
17:14: Suspicious vehicle, 400 block E. Main St.  
17:20: Motor vehicle crash, 80000 block Hwy 99  
18:10: Barking dog, 900 block W. Main St.  
21:01: Suspicious vehicle, 100 block Gateway Blvd.  
21:29: Suspicious subject, 99/Withycombe  
23:05: Trespass, 1500 block E. Main St.  
23:51: Disturbance, 100 block Thornton Ln.

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# The Coast Fork Farm Stand offers a wide range of locally grown fresh produce

CINDY WEELDREYER  
*Cottage Grove Sentinel*

After nearly 18 months of planning and collaboration, organizers will host Harvest Fest Saturday, Oct. 11, at the Cottage Grove Public Market.

The event is designed to celebrate local food, farms and community connection.

The Harvest Fest runs from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at 926 E. Main Street and features live music, children's activities, artisan vendors, fresh produce, food trucks and seasonal treats.

Harvest Fest also marks a milestone for the Blackberry Food Cooperative (BFC), a newly incorporated member-owned grocery store preparing to assume operations of the Coast Fork Farm Stand by the end of the year. The transition represents a shift from sole proprietorship to cooperative ownership.

A food co-op is a grocery store owned and governed by its members. Members invest through a one-time fee, participate in decision-making and share in the store's success. Anyone can shop at a food co-op, not only members.

### COAST FORK FARM STAND

The taproot of the farm stand was planted by Scott Burgwin, who began selling fresh, locally grown produce during Chamber of Commerce Summer Concerts in Coiner Park. He later moved into a building at South 10th Street and Washington Avenue, across from Bohemia Park, where the business developed a loyal clientele and a significant email list. Membership was not required to shop there, but many customers joined to receive special discounts and support the store's mission.

In April 2024, after operating the farm stand for 15 years, the business faced eviction. Farm stand advocates and Burgwin called a public meeting at the Cottage Grove Armory to explore long-term solutions for maintaining access to fresh, organic and locally sourced food. Burgwin shared his hope that a cooperative could

assume operations as he prepared for retirement.

As previously reported in the Sentinel, the meeting drew a crowd of supporters determined to preserve a business they considered essential to the health and well-being of hundreds of families. In recognition of his role, Burgwin was granted membership number one in the BFC.

Two committees formed that day—one focused on relocation, the other on cooperative development. The relocation committee facilitated the move into the vacant Covered Bridge Brewery building at 926 E. Main St. Members arrived on a Friday morning with pickups and moved the store's entire inventory into the new space within three hours.

Blackberry Food Co-op was recently nominated for the 2025 Up & Coming Cooperative Force award for its efforts to convert a locally owned farm stand into a community-owned grocery. Organizers say few startup co-ops have embraced as many development tools and resources in their first year as Blackberry has.

BFC will continue operating in the same location inside the Cottage Grove Public Market, building on the foundation laid by Coast Fork Farm Stand and its longtime supporters. Organizers say the transition reflects a broader community commitment to food access, economic resilience and shared ownership.

### CO-OP MEMBERSHIP DRIVE UNDERWAY

BFC was officially incorporated last spring and launched its membership drive on Sept. 2. As of Oct. 1, the co-op had 91 members and aims to reach 200 by Oct. 17 to fund equipment upgrades, including refrigeration units, shelving and a point-of-sale system tailored for cooperative grocery operations.

BFC Board Secretary Valeria Clarke said the membership drive is going well.

"We are halfway to our goal of 200 memberships by October 17. Now is the time for folks to get off the fence and join and tip us over the

top. We are working to bring things together with a small group of mighty volunteers—very exciting times."

The co-op will continue serving customers at the same location inside the Cottage Grove Public Market, which has expanded in recent months to include food trucks, a wine bar, coffee bar and bakery. Organizers say the market has become a gathering space for food, art, music and natural groceries.

The BFC's mission is to provide fresh, organic and natural foods at fair prices while supporting a resilient local economy through partnerships with small farmers and businesses. Organizers say the cooperative model can improve food access, support local producers and strengthen community resilience during economic disruptions or natural disasters.

Cottage Grove sits in the Willamette Valley, which produces more than 170 agricultural commodities, including fruits, vegetables, grains, livestock and specialty crops. Agriculture remains a key part of the regional economy, according to a 2024 study published by Oregon State University.

Funds raised through the membership drive will support equipment purchases, expanded checkout lanes and new product offerings. Organizers say longtime favorites—including Toby's produce and Beetanical Honey—will remain available. The co-op is hiring staff and preparing for state inspections, including continued participation in the EBT program.

### TWINBERRY COMMONS

In the process of safeguarding the farm stand's future, community members also recognized the need for a larger space to support health, food access, sustainable farming, emergency preparedness and small business development. That vision led to the creation of Twinberry Commons, a non-profit formed to manage the Cottage Grove Public Market building for multiple community uses. Clarke serves as its board president.

Rebecca Allen Lamptey, executive director of



Cindy Weeldreyer / Cottage Grove Sentinel

**Cottage Grove Public Market attracts people of all ages to enjoy meals, beverages, ice cream, live music and shopping.**

Twinberry Commons, said the organization received enough support earlier this year to meet a \$30,000 challenge grant from the Woodard Family Foundation. Combined with an April fundraising dinner, a total of \$72,000 has been raised.

"These funds are essential to cover overhead costs related to rent, legal and insurance fees, marketing, signage, picnic tables for the Food Truck Court, staff and more," Lamptey said. "We continue to fundraise to meet additional needs, including hiring more staff, improving indoor seating and making the outdoor courtyard usable year-round."

The list of market tenants is growing. The current businesses offering food and drinks are: Coast Fork Farm Stand, Cone Heads Ice Cream, Cocina Mi Pueblo, Saginaw Vineyard Wine Bar and Taphouse, Phat Turk, Calaverita Coffee, Vanessa's Sourdough and Harley Q's Barbecue. The market offers two outdoor dining areas as well as inside seating. On most Fridays and Saturdays live music showcases local performers.

Lamptey said, "As Harvest Fest brings together farmers, families and neighbors this Saturday, the event also marks a turning point—where years of grassroots effort begin to take root in a new cooperative model. For many in Cottage Grove, it's not just

a celebration of local abundance, but a sign of what's possible when a community invests in itself."

### HOW TO JOIN BLACKBERRY FOOD CO-OP

Community members can become co-op owners by purchasing a one-time membership for \$200. Membership includes voting rights, access to member-only specials, and a voice in shaping the store's future.

Membership goal deadline: Oct. 17

Organizers aim to reach 200 members by Oct. 17 to fund equipment upgrades, including refrigeration units, shelving and a point-of-sale system tailored for cooperative grocery operations.

### TO JOIN:

Visit [www.blackberry-foodcoop.org](http://www.blackberry-foodcoop.org) or stop by the Cottage Grove Public Market at 926 E. Main St. during business hours.

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## COMMUNITY CALENDAR

### OCTOBER 10

Rosie the Riveter meeting. From 12:30-1:30 p.m. at the Willamalane Adult Activity Center, 215 W C St. in Springfield. The meetings are the second Friday of every month. For more details, contact Dr. Yvonne Fasold, McKenzie Chapter, American Rosie the Riveter Association. [fasold@uoregon.edu](mailto:fasold@uoregon.edu)

Cottage Grove Museum. Open from 1-4 p.m. Corner Birch Avenue and H Street.

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

Cottage Theatre: Guys & Dolls. 2:30 p.m. 700 Village Dr. Adults, \$29. Youth 18 and younger \$15.

Cottage Theatre's Alice's Adventures in Wonderland Auditions. 6:30 p.m. 700 Village Dr. Show runs for three weekends, Dec. 5-21, with a large cast of actors ages 14+. For more details, visit [www.cottagetheatre.org](http://www.cottagetheatre.org)

### OCTOBER 11

Harvest Fest. From 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Cottage Grove Public Market 926 E. Main St. Celebrate what we bring to our tables! Showcase the abundance of farm and food production in our area. Features live music, kids



Jeremy C. Ruark / Cottage Grove Sentinel

activities, art, produce, food and beverages.

### OCTOBER 13

CG Senior Center Bingo. Starts at 12:30 p.m. Community Center, 700 E. Gibbs Ave. Senior center members only.

Cottage Theatre's Alice's Adventures in Wonderland Auditions. Sunday 6:30 p.m. and Monday, 6:30 p.m. 700 Village Dr. Directed by Tony Rust, the show runs for three weekends, Dec. 5-21, with a large cast of actors ages 14+. Pre-registration is requested and auditioners need only attend one audition day. More info: [www.cottagetheatre.org](http://www.cottagetheatre.org)

Cottage Grove City Council Meeting. 7 p.m. Cottage Grove City Hall. 400 E Main Street.

### OCTOBER 14

Ukulele Club. Starts at 9 a.m. Cottage Grove Public Library, 700 E. Gibbs Ave. Free for adults of all skill levels.

Oregon Aviation Museum. Open from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. 2475 Jim Wright Way

Axe & Fiddle History Pub. From 5-7 p.m. 857 W. Main St. Topic: A Stroll Down Historic Main Street. Local historian Debra Monsive

provides historical photos that provide glimpses into the town that was.

Trinity Lutheran Church Free Community Dinner. From 5:15-6:15 p.m. Seventh & Quincy Avenue. Take-Out Only.

Coast Fork Brewing Trivia Night. From 6-8 p.m. 106 S. 6th St. Up to 7 players on a team.

### OCTOBER 15

Veterans Service Officer Available. From 10 a.m.-1 p.m. VFW Post, 3160 Hillside Dr. Lane County Veterans Service Officer assists with VA paperwork to obtain veterans benefits for vets and survivors

### OCTOBER 18-19

Second Annual Shady Oaks Spooktacular Fundraiser. From 10 a.m.-6

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# New rules from sick time to age discrimination may protect your workplace

SHAANTH NANGUNERI  
Oregon Capital Chronicle

Oregon workers have a range of labor rights that make up some of the strongest worker protection laws in the nation. And under a new set of laws passed earlier this year by the Legislature, the list of rules employers must follow continues to grow.

Some will take effect as soon as Friday, Sept. 26, including a law prohibiting prospective employers from asking candidates' age or date of graduation and one expanding labor rights protections for those awaiting appeals for paid leave benefits. The reforms come alongside other new policy changes and court rulings which have strengthened the state's sick leave protections and expanded the scope of its wage theft investigations.

It's a bright spot for workers in a year when Oregon's annual minimum wage increase registered at 35 cents, the smallest rise in the past decade. Under federal and state law, employers in the state already must post signage regarding issues such as family and medical leave, overtime, breaks, workplace safety regulations, sexual harassment policies and sick time.

Oregon law goes one step further in requiring other employer-specific policies, such as mandating that employers with six or more employees clarify that discrimination against individuals due to medical conditions linked to pregnancy is against the law. To help workers and employers seeking to navigate the new regulations, the Capital Chronicle has compiled a list of some recent reforms, new laws and court decisions.

Labor and industries bureau expansion

The agency responsible for enforcing many of these protections, the Oregon Bureau of Labor and Industries, has become increasingly central in Oregon labor law. State lawmakers allocated an additional \$18.7 million to the agency's 2025-27 budget in the past legislative session.

That increase marks a nearly 31% increase from the previous budget. The agency says the change will allow it to clear a backlog of cases that forced it to stop investigating wage theft claims for workers

making over \$52,710 annually or \$25.34 per hour back in October 2024. Agency leaders plan to seek additional legislative funding for long-term agency stability in the 2026 legislative session, according to the bureau's annual State of the Worker report released earlier this month.

"Being forced to institute the wage threshold, only being able to take claims from Oregonians in the most challenging financial situations, was the most difficult decision I've had to make in office," wrote Commissioner of Labor and Industries Christina Stephenson in the report. "Removing the threshold by the end of 2025 because the Legislature invested in the Bureau's capacity and recognized that all Oregonians deserve to have their rights enforced will be a significant step forward."

### New laws BOLI and employer relations

One law set to take effect Friday will directly impact the bureau's work. That is House Bill 2248, which seeks to mediate conversations and relationships between employers and the labor and industries bureau. The law creates a formal division of employer assistance inside the bureau to provide opinions to employers seeking to comply with state employment laws. The measure specifies that employers relying upon such communications in good faith cannot be punished with penalties by the agency.

### Age discrimination

Regardless of their age, Oregonians can expect to see protections from House Bill 3187, which will take effect Friday and prohibit prospective employers from inquiring about a candidate's age, birthday and time of attendance or graduation from an educational institution. The law applies until an employer completes the interview or makes a job offer. It exempts requests for age-related information if an employer needs to "affirm the applicant meets bona fide occupational qualifications."

### Paid leave protections

Another piece of legislation involves Paid Leave Oregon, a program created in 2019 which came under



Lynne Terry / Oregon Capital Chronicle

**A gas station in Molalla advertises for attendants. New laws in Oregon are set to expand protections for workers in Oregon's private and public sector.**

the purview of the labor and industries board through this year's passage of Senate Bill 69. The law guarantees individuals appealing their Paid Leave Oregon benefits can still file a complaint to the bureau while they are in the process of finding out if they will receive benefits. The law allows the use of sick time for any purpose that qualifies for Paid Leave Oregon, which would include family or medical leave.

### Blood donations and sick time

Senate Bill 1108, which goes into effect in January, allows workers to use sick time off to participate in an accredited voluntary blood donation program, such as one run by the American Association of Blood Banks or American Red Cross.

### Payroll, salary changes

Two new laws will also apply specifically to public employers in the state by January. Senate Bill 731 will require public employers that offer pay bumps for bilingual or multilingual employees to also do the same for American Sign Language speakers.

And employers can now take advantage of Senate Bill 968 to deduct overpaid wages within the past year as long as they give notice to employees at least 10 calendar days in advance. Employers must give written statements itemizing the overpayments and explaining the deductions with the option of recuperating the balance owed from an employee who is terminated. The law limits deductions to 5% of an overall paycheck unless employees request otherwise.

### Court cases involving injuries, sickness

Two major wins for workers involved cases in which plaintiffs were dealing with serious conditions that impacted their health. In a Thursday decision from the Oregon Supreme Court, the justices upheld the Oregon Court of Appeals overruling of a state Workers' Compensation Board decision. The agency had denied an independent examination to a man working in a meat snack company who sustained back injuries.

A doctor selected by his employer's insurance

company found no link between the injury and his job, instead suggesting it was a pre-existing condition. His own doctor disagreed, and the Oregon Supreme Court found that he was erroneously denied an independent exam by the compensation board.

Another case involves the prospect of retaliation and right to seek sick leave. Workers in the state get at least one hour of protected sick time for every 30 hours of work for up to 40 hours per year. Sick leave in Oregon is not required to come with compensation unless an employer in the state has 10 or more employees, though that changes in Portland to employers with six or more.

Accessing those benefits could become easier after a recent Sept. 10 ruling in the Court of Appeals favoring a worker in a Lane County dental office who was fired after being diagnosed and treated for breast cancer.

Richard Myers, her attorney, told the Capital Chronicle that the case emphasizes how employers must not retaliate against

individuals seeking sick leave even if they end up not qualifying for it. Disability accommodation requests for leave should also be met with understanding especially when an employee is dealing with a serious medical condition, he said.

"This has been a long fight for my client and she's very pleased that the court of appeals found in her favor," Myers wrote in an email. "The decision from the court is not only a win for my client but also a win for Oregon workers."

<https://oregoncapitalchronicle.com/2025/09/26/employed-in-oregon-new-rules-from-sick-time-to-age-discrimination-may-protect-your-workplace/>

*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.*

## Death Notice

**Robert "Rob" Jay Pruitt**, age 74, of Cottage Grove, Oregon, passed away September 28, 2025. Arrangements are in the care of Smith-Lund-Mills Funeral Chapel and Crematorium.

## CALENDAR

From Page 3

p.m. Sunday 10 a.m.-4 p.m. 77380 Highway 99S. Curated vendors offer candies, baked goods, 3-D

figures, home décor, crocheted items, tree ornaments, crystals, tumblers, jewelry, raffles, youth activities, pumpkin patch ride and more. Benefit for local farmers. Vendors can apply at [lufkin23@yahoo.com](mailto:lufkin23@yahoo.com).

### OCTOBER 18

Row River Grange Harvest Festival. From 10:30 a.m.-6 p.m., 34360 Row River Road. Features yoga, live music, apple cider press, chili, vendors, and raffle.

CG Historical Society Buster Keaton Night. Starts at 7:30 p.m. Community Center Shepherd Room 700 E. Gibbs Ave. Annual tribute to the legendary actor and director who spent the Summer of 1926 in Cottage Grove filming his silent film Masterpiece, The General. Admission \$5/person  
**OCTOBER 25**  
Mayor's Monster Ball. From 5:30-9:30 p.m. Cottage Grove Armory 628 E. Washington Ave. Fundraiser

for 2027 Citywide Mural Project and Animal House 50th Anniversary Celebration Tickets: \$35/person Live Music: Hot Fuzz. A dance party band 1970s-current covers funk, disco, classic rock, and modern chart-toppers. This event features local food, no-host bar, and surprise entertainment.  
**OCTOBER 30**  
Art Walk. From 6-8 p.m. Cottage Grove's Historic Downtown District. Free community event

showcasing local artists, live music, and extended hours at participating businesses.  
**OCTOBER 31**  
Cottage Grove Halloween Trick-or-Treat. From 3:30-6 p.m. Cottage Grove's Historic Downtown District. Local businesses along Main Street participate by handing out treats, and the whole downtown transforms into a festive, family-friendly haunt zone.

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JOBS REPORT

Lane County adds 1,600 jobs, unemployment at 4.9%

STAFF REPORT  
Cottage Grove Sentinel

Lane County’s seasonally adjusted payroll employment increased 1,600 in August after a loss of 1,000 in July and a loss of 900 in June.

In the not seasonally adjusted private-sector industries in August, there were gains in health care and social assistance (400) and professional and business services (200).

Government lost 100 jobs in August due to a seasonal loss of 200 in local government education that was countered by a gain of 100 in noneducation local government.

When comparing August 2025 with August 2024, total nonfarm employment dropped 800 jobs on a seasonally adjusted basis for a loss of 0.5%.

GAINS AND LOSSES

There were gains in private education and health services (1,800) and leisure and hospitality (700). There were relatively large losses in professional and business services (-1,000), construction (-300), manufacturing (-300), wholesale trade (-300), retail trade (-300), and financial activities (-200).

There was an over-the-year gain of 300 in government in August due to a gain in local government.

Lane County’s seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was essentially unchanged at 4.9% in August compared with a revised 4.8% in July. The rate is up significantly from the 4.2% recorded in August 2024. Lane County’s record low rate was 3.5% in November 2019. The Oregon seasonally adjusted August rate was 5.0% and the U.S. rate was 4.3%.

OREGON JOBS REPORT

Oregon’s seasonally adjusted nonfarm payroll employment rose by 6,900 jobs in August, following a revised gain of 100 jobs in July, according to the Oregon Employment Department.

August’s gains were largest in health care and social assistance (+2,500

jobs); leisure and hospitality (+1,500); government (+1,100); and other services (+1,000). Losses were largest in wholesale trade (-1,100 jobs).

GAINS

Health care and social assistance continued its rapid expansion of the past several years, adding 11,600 jobs, or 3.8%, during the past 12 months. Nursing and residential care facilities added 400 jobs in August and 3,900 jobs, or 6.8%, since August 2024. Hospitals, which added no jobs in August, grew the second fastest of health care’s component industries in the past 12 months (+2,900 jobs, or 4.6%). Social assistance (+2,400 jobs, or 3.0%) and ambulatory health care services (+2,300 jobs, or 2.2%) had slower growth over the year.

Leisure and hospitality grew 2.0% in the past 12 months, gaining 4,100 jobs, following little change the prior two years. Since last August, most of its published component industries added between 2% and 4%. Amusement, gambling, and recreation grew the fastest, adding 1,500 jobs, or 6.7%. In contrast, full-service restaurants cut 1,200 jobs, or 1.8%.

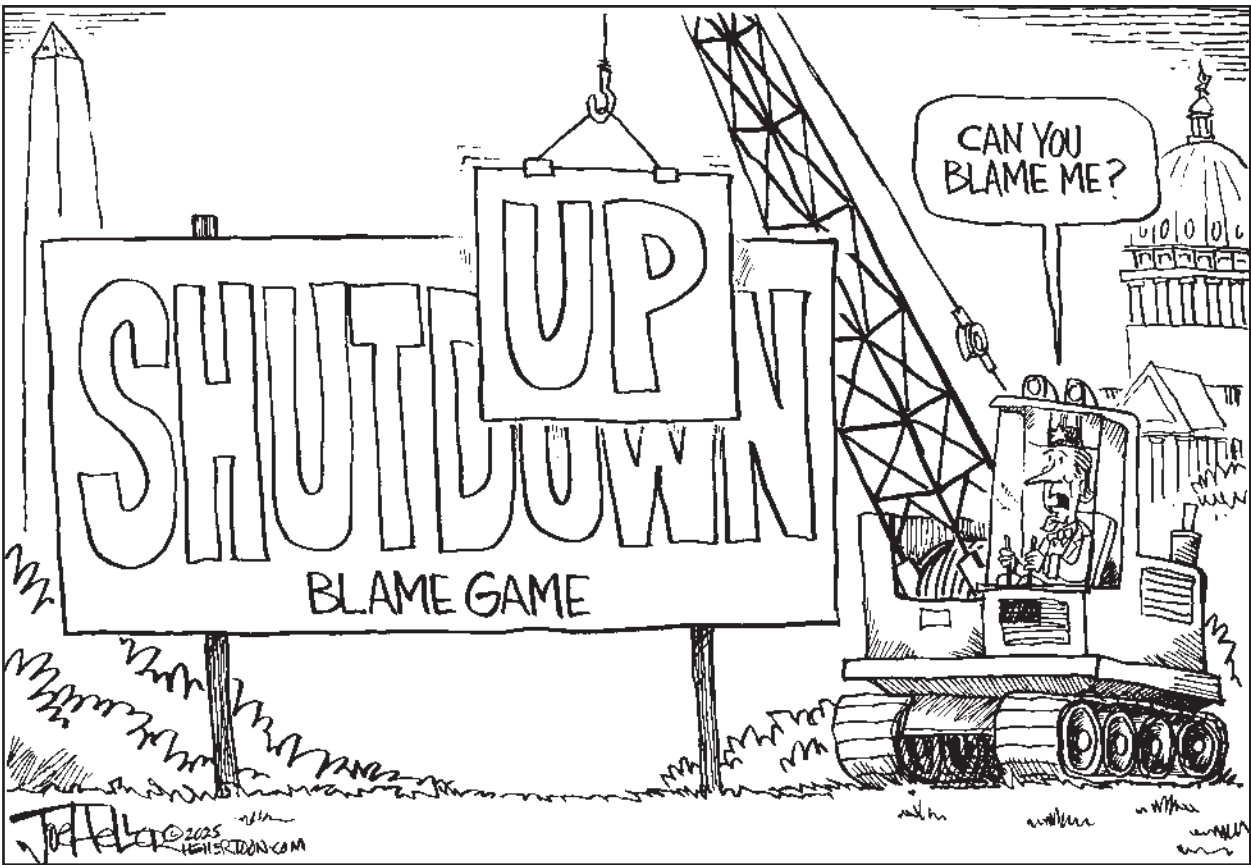
LOSSES

Wholesale trade declined rapidly in the past 12 months (-4,300 jobs, or -5.5%).

All three wholesale component industries shrank substantially in that time: merchant wholesalers, nondurable goods (-1,500 jobs, or -4.9%); merchant wholesalers, durable goods (-1,000 jobs, or -2.5%); and wholesale trade agents and brokers (-900 jobs, or -13.0%).

Oregon’s unemployment rate was 5.0% in August and 4.9%, as revised, in July, after rising gradually over the past year from 4.2% in August 2024. Oregon’s 5.0% unemployment rate was 1.4 percentage points higher than the recent low of 3.6% during spring 2023. The U.S. unemployment rate was 4.2% in July and 4.3% in August.

EDITORIAL CARTOON



COMMENTARY

Following the corporate money

RANDY STAPILUS  
Oregon Capital Chronicle

An Oregon Legislature hung up this season over state finances might in the next regular session, in theory, find some interest in a provocative idea from the Oregon Center for Public Policy:

Require reporting, in open public record, more information about finances among the larger corporations doing business in Oregon, mainly concerning the calculation of taxes paid and benefits received.

Such a concept is going nowhere any time soon on the national level.

In 2021, Congress passed the Corporate Transparency Act, which was intended to pierce the sometimes mysterious forms of ownership — involving shell corporations, layers of ownership and foreign involvement — nationally.

It went into effect last year, but on March 2 the Trump administration announced “not only will it not enforce any penalties or fines associated with the beneficial ownership information reporting rule under the existing regulatory deadlines, but it will further not enforce any penalties or fines against U.S. citizens or domestic reporting companies or their beneficial owners after the forthcoming rule changes take effect either.”

The OCPP proposal (proposed legislative text has been released) is set up differently than that law. It’s intended to work through tax reporting requirements

imposed on publicly-traded corporations — which for the most part means the larger ones — and others which they substantially control. The aim is to elicit not so much forms of control but a sense of how the tax-related finance picture in Oregon actually works.

The group said its plan would require “corporations to make public certain tax and financial information by filing a disclosure with the Oregon Secretary of State. The Act would apply to C-corporations that are publicly traded, meaning they are listed on a stock exchange like the New York Stock Exchange or an over-the-counter market. These corporations are already required to provide significant tax disclosures to the Security and Exchange Commission, so any cost of compliance would be minimal.”

So far as I’ve been able to tell, nothing like it is underway in other states. Most states do impose a corporate income tax, but not all. Some, including Washington, along with Texas, Wyoming, Nevada, South Dakota and Ohio, have no corporate income tax as such, but generally they do apply other taxes and fees aimed at businesses.

But then, Oregon often has been willing to take a lead.

Here is how the OCPP summarizes its argument: “Corporations have designed the tax system to their advantage. Shining

a light on the corporate tax system would allow Oregonians to see which corporations pay the bare minimum in income taxes, while reporting big profits to shareholders. It will allow Oregonians to see which corporations exploit what tax loopholes and subsidies, and which might be shifting profits overseas to avoid taxes on profits earned in Oregon. In short, corporate tax transparency is essential to make the corporate income tax system work for the benefit of all Oregonians.”

This is not, or at least not necessarily, a call for changing or increasing corporation income tax rates. In comparing the basic rates, Oregon is more or less centrist. Its tax rate, averaging across brackets, is lower than in California but similar to Idaho. Rates, and more important the rules surrounding what is counted as net income and what can be deducted or otherwise vary the amounts to be paid, are widely different across the states.

So what is it we ought to know?

The OCPP makes three basic arguments. Each might lead to conclusions that corporations are underpaying their fair share or, if complaints by some corporate advocates are right, the system really doesn’t benefit them at all but hurts the business climate.

First, the OCPP has argued that a number of the larger corporations

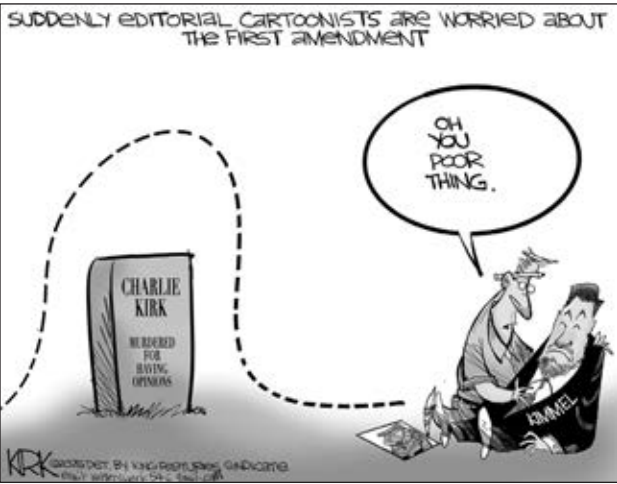
have been (legally) avoiding taxes through use of tax havens and other means. The specifics, if made available, could clarify what an appropriate response would look like.

Second, state corporate tax breaks have been blasted as giveaways and supported as investments in the economy. Right now, Oregonians have little way to assess this, but an open book on the breaks and how they’re used might offer insight.

Third, corporations have argued that tax proposals involving increases or more compliance issues could drive them out of state. It’s an argument often fraught with emotion but too little analysis; more information about how taxes actually impact large businesses would be useful for all legislators to have.

Whichever way the information runs, Oregonians would have a better basis for developing business tax policy. Only a sponsor is needed to launch the discussion.

<https://oregon-capitalchronicle.com/2025/09/25/following-the-corporate-money/>  
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**Americanisms**

“A crown, if it hurts us, is not worth wearing.”  
— Pearl Bailey

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**Weekly Online Poll**

**Should the President of the United States and members of Congress not be paid during a federal government shutdown?**

☐ Yes  
☐ No

**Previous Poll Results**

**What do like best about the transition into the fall season?**

☐ 25% Fall colors  
☐ 62.5% Cooler weather  
☐ 12.5% Pumpkin pie

**THE COTTAGE GROVE Sentinel**

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DOWNTOWN

From Page 1

27 event. In addition to selling sample plates for \$5 each, Community Volunteer Karen Munsell coordinated a root beer float booth that sold 430 floats at \$1 apiece.

The group hopes to open the new track next summer. Cookoff proceeds will help fund a perimeter fence around the facility.

Kelley said members were deeply encouraged by the community’s support—both in words and donations.

“It was truly amazing to see the community come together with a mission in mind and bring it to reality,” she said. “Getting the chance to hear from and see so many people who support our efforts and share our dream is what makes every step worth it.”

**OKTOBERFEST CELEBRATION**

For the fourth consecutive year, Downtown Cottage Grove hosted its early fall Oktoberfest celebration, drawing families, friends, and visitors to the historic district for a day of German-inspired food, music, and shopping.

The event featured more than 30 vendor booths offering hand-made crafts, seasonal produce, and local goods. Live music filled the air throughout the day from the main stage set up near the intersection of 6th and Washington. Attendees sampled German-inspired menus of food carts and pop-up kitchens and gathered with friends to sip local beer and wine.

Downtown Cottage Grove organizers said the event was designed to bring foot traffic to the historic district and support small businesses. Several storefronts extended their hours and offered Oktoberfest-themed specials, including discounted merchandise and seasonal menus.

Event Coordinator Ruth Linoz, Coast Fork Brewing Owner Dale Smith, and Carol Reeves, owner of The Flower Basket and Gift Boutique, led the planning effort. They were pleased with the turnout and proud that their work attracted multi-generational local families as well as out-of-town visitors.

“What’s really cool is the collaboration that makes this event happen,” Smith said. “Downtown Cottage Grove worked really well with the South Valley Farmers Market, the City of Cottage Grove, local businesses, and with Cascade Home Center’s Community Cookoff.”

Linoz added, “We were surprised to see so many people attend this year despite the major road construction project going on. We all look forward to what’s next and how this event will grow when our downtown revitalization project is complete.”



Cindy Weeldreyer / Cottage Grove Sentinel

**Spirit of BMD Board Member Dylan Mann assists four-year-old Waylong Kelp-Miller with the bean bag toss at the Community Cookoff event.**

LANE

From Page 1

impacts in rural communities where cycling routes are often based. Riders typically spend more per day than the average visitor, particularly in the categories of food service, lodging, and recreation

By directing cyclists – residents and visitors - into small towns across Lane County, Connect Lane helps extend those benefits beyond Eugene-Springfield and into communities like Cottage Grove and Creswell.

The lessons hold true from more recent examples as well. Dean Runyan Associates’ analysis of the projected UCI Road Cycling World Championships in Portland showed that overnight visitors — largely drawn by cycling events — spend more than double what

day visitors spend, with food service and accommodations accounting for nearly 60% of their spending.

This underscores why cycling-focused infrastructure like Connect Lane can be a powerful tool for attracting overnight stays and driving local revenue.

**MEETING THE DEMAND FOR OUTDOOR RECREATION**

Connect Lane also taps into a much broader trend: the rising demand for outdoor recreation. According to the 2024 Outdoor Participation Trends Report, more than 175 million Americans — over half the U.S. population — took part in outdoor recreation in 2023, with bicycling ranked among the top five activities

The growing diversity of participants includes more women, more people of color, and more seniors, all groups that represent significant opportunities for Lane

County to welcome new visitors.

At the same time, the report notes a challenge: while participation has grown, the frequency of outings has declined, meaning that many participants ride only occasionally. Well-designed, safe, and accessible systems like Connect Lane can help convert casual riders into more frequent participants. By offering confidence through signage, clear routes, and welcoming community connections, the system lowers barriers and encourages more consistent engagement.

**CREATING SAFE AND MEMORABLE EXPERIENCES**

Safety remains at the center of Connect Lane’s mission. Riders are guided to routes that minimize exposure to state highways and other high-speed roadways, reducing risk and creating a more comfortable environment for both casual riders

and experienced cyclists. This is especially important for attracting family groups, new cyclists, and visitors from outside the area who may be less familiar with local roads.

A safe and memorable experience increases the likelihood that visitors will return—and recommend the region to others. Word of mouth remains one of the strongest drivers of cycling tourism, and communities that invest in safe, user-friendly systems position themselves for repeat business.

**MAXIMIZING OREGON’S COMPETITIVE ADVANTAGE**

Oregon already has a strong reputation for cycling, but Connect Lane helps ensure that Lane County is not just part of that story but a leader in it. By capitalizing on the proven economic impacts of cycling and linking them directly to community benefit, this system

reflects a forward-thinking approach to tourism and rural development.

Cycling tourism does not require large new facilities or extensive capital investment; rather, it leverages existing roads, scenic assets, and community infrastructure. With the addition of strategic wayfinding, Lane County is making those assets more accessible and attractive to a growing base of cyclists who are eager to discover new destinations.

**LOOKING AHEAD**

The Connect Lane Wayfinding System is an investment in the future of Lane County. It demonstrates how infrastructure can serve multiple goals: economic development, community vitality, safety, and outdoor recreation growth. By helping cyclists navigate confidently and safely through the Eugene, Cascades & Coast region, the system ensures that the benefits of cycling

— financial, social, and cultural — are shared across communities.

As Oregon continues to grow its reputation as a global cycling destination, Connect Lane will be a critical piece of the puzzle. It’s a reminder that sometimes, the simplest tools — like clear signs on scenic roads — can have the biggest impact on how people move, how communities thrive, and how we connect with the landscapes that make Oregon home.

Whether you’re a resident or a visitor, go Explore the Eugene, Cascades and Coast region by bike.

*Learn more about Connect Lane at <https://www.eugene-cascades-coast.org/outdoors/adventures/cycling/community-routes/>*

*Andy Vobora is Vice President of Stakeholder Relations at Travel Lane County. He may be reached at 541-484-5307.*

# Worship Guide

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For weekday and Holy Day of Obligation schedule see website [OLPHCG.net](http://OLPHCG.net)  
Confession: 4 PM to 5 PM Saturdays or by appointment  
St. Philip Benizi, Creswell  
552 Holbrook Lane  
Sunday 8 am

**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 p.m.  
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 10 a.m.  
Everyone is welcome!  
Follow us on our Facebook page: [WalkerChurchOregon](https://www.facebook.com/WalkerChurchOregon)

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**Public notices keep you informed about your government.**

But, Oregon legislators are trying to keep public notices from appearing in local newspapers. This severely impacts government transparency and, in turn, limits the public’s right to hold them accountable for their actions.

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THE COTTAGE GROVE

# Sentinel



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Get a break on your taxes! Donate your car, truck, or SUV to assist the blind and visually impaired. Arrange a swift, no-cost vehicle pickup and secure a generous tax credit for 2025. Call Heritage for the Blind Today at 1-844-533-9173 today!

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700 MISC SERVICES

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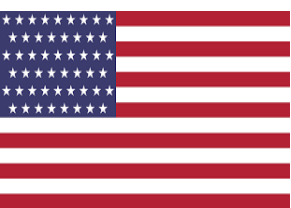
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999 PUBLIC NOTICES

**CGS25-181 Public Auction notice** Notice is given that the undersigned will hold a public auction on **October 9, 2025 At: 11:00 AM At Simply Storage 79177 North River Road Cottage Grove, OR 97424** The personal property heretofore stored with the undersigned by: **A07 Katie Humphries E8 James Lilienthal T18 Kristi Ford S26 Jennifer Merrill**

PUZZLES



Super Crossword CAPITAL-GRAMS

ACROSS

1 Slogan  
6 Like horses offered for breeding  
12 You played well!  
20 Knot on a tree branch  
21 Like Lincolns' day in June  
22 Aroma of a flower  
23 Creature in the Philippines  
24 Former British prime minister  
25 Benjamin Franklin  
26 Final name usually  
30 Best Picture of 2017  
32 E... (1950s epic film)  
33 Horse-drawn carriage in Angola's capital?  
37 Scenic of the screen  
38 P... (a new Olympic summer sport)  
41 Scottish outcrop in France's capital?

DOWN

44 Like charged atoms  
45 Play variety  
49 Metadramatic  
50 Priority to  
51 Massey of old movies  
52 Affliction for some over verbs  
56 Minors of old movies  
57 Pagan bearing organ from a flower in Korea's capital?  
60 Go! or Ha! or Hoo! or Hee!  
61 Go! or Ha! or Hoo! or Hee!  
64 Bo... (a 1950s film)  
65 "State Fair" actor Ayres  
74 Final name usually  
77 Feudal lords in G... (a new Olympic summer sport)  
80 TV captain Jean...  
81 Scottish outcrop in France's capital?  
86 Workforce newcomer  
88 Haver of No Country for Old Men  
89 Doughnut-shaped  
91 Small park in South Korea's capital?  
92 Pagan bearing organ from a flower in Korea's capital?  
97 "Oh, yes!"  
98 St... (a 1950s film)  
104 Fridays (eatery chain)  
106 Fancy presidential hoplite  
107 Fixed dress  
108 Feudal lord in G... (a new Olympic summer sport)  
111 Scott "OK" to...  
115 Gym sweat-boxes in the Bahamas  
119 Inmate chat  
120 The second of a...  
121 P... (a new Olympic summer sport)  
122 Back spot for...  
123 Madrid's fund, to its natives  
124 It's nobody's business  
1 "Gig" studio  
2 - full shot  
3 Scuffed bed  
4 Lillian port  
5 Carina pot  
6 Pops, or beer from Japan  
7 Not lobby  
8 Lark  
9 Mexican meal dishes  
10 And's stand  
11 Lotto: but one  
12 Rave  
13 Kinship with  
14 Clip - (some ties)  
15 1996 presidential hoplite  
16 Bit of sat...  
17 Modly  
18 Island south of S...  
19 Nebel's Pool  
24 Says "OK" to  
28 Talley for leaving the house  
30 Swiss peak  
31 Singer Chris  
34 Part of D...  
35 - (a new Olympic summer sport)  
36 Fanti da...  
37 Wisconsin south of Braz...  
39 Like a desert  
40 Drivers' org.  
43 Brain of oocytes  
44 F... the lungs  
45 Des... (a 1950s film)  
46 "So on" -  
47 Allergic outcasts  
48 Hol was n...  
49 Hol was n...  
50 Plural of...  
51 Ill suited  
52 P... (a new Olympic summer sport)  
53 F... (a new Olympic summer sport)  
54 Moves with a rattling sound  
55 Morse code  
57 Best Picture of 1997  
58 Address Long  
59 Timber nail  
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Weekly SUDOKU

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

Place a number in the empty boxes in such a way that each row across, each column down and each small 9-box square contains all of the numbers from one to nine.

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ♦♦♦

♦ Moderate ♦♦ Challenging ♦♦♦ HOO BOY!

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Weekly SUDOKU

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Answer

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# Reading volunteers needed in Cottage Grove

JEREMY C. RUARK  
*Cottage Grove Sentinel*

SMART Reading, Oregon’s longstanding children’s literacy nonprofit, is calling on local residents to help support and empower young readers.

SMART Reading is a statewide children’s literacy nonprofit that serves kids in Oregon’s highest need schools and communities with two ingredients critical for literacy and learning success: shared reading time and access to books.

As the organization kicks off its 34th year, it’s seeking volunteers to read with students weekly during the 2025-26 school year at Harrison Elementary.

This year, SMART plans to serve 1,288 students and give away over 18,000 books in Benton, Lane and Linn counties, ensuring kids have the tools they need to succeed in school and beyond.

“Our volunteers are the heart of our work,” SMART Reading Area Director Elissa Kobrin said. “Reading with a child for just one hour a week can ignite confidence, curiosity, and a lifelong love of learning. Volunteers often tell us it’s the best hour of their week—and the impact lasts a lifetime.”

SMART has a high need for volunteers at Harrison Elementary.

The program runs for an hour and a half on Thursdays. No special experience is required, and all training is provided. Learn more or sign up at [www.SMARTReading.org](http://www.SMARTReading.org) or call 541-600-8035.

**INSIGHT**  
For insight into this reading program, The Sentinel reached out to SMART Reading Communications Director Phoebe Petersen.

**The Sentinel:** What do you believe are the long-term benefits this reading program offers children?

**Phoebe Petersen:** When kids become strong readers, they are more likely to be successful in school and beyond. Research shows that kids who are not reading proficiently by the end of third-grade are four times less likely to graduate from high school – and if those same students are impacted by poverty, that number jumps to sixteen times less likely to graduate high school.

SMART focuses its services on preschool to third-grade students to help ensure they meet that milestone, and to supplement classroom literacy instruction with two research-based strategies: one-on-one reading support and access to books. SMART’s goal is to help students be equipped to succeed in

school and hopefully, to develop into lifelong readers who are able to access all of the joy and learning that book and reading offer.

**The Sentinel:** How do the volunteers best connect with the children to help motivate their reading skills?

**Petersen:** SMART’s program is child-driven meaning that the goal is for children to have fun, engaging experiences with books in a low-pressure environment. Volunteers are generally paired with the same children each week to allow the volunteer and student to get to know one another and for the volunteer to become attuned to the child’s interests and needs (typically, a volunteer would read with 2-3 students, one-on-one, during their session).

SMART provides a wide array of high-quality, engaging books so that every child can find something that sparks their interest, and volunteers are encouraged to let the child lead by selecting books and by choosing whether they want to read aloud or be read to.

**The Sentinel:** What’s your recommendation to parents to help their children continue building their reading skills at home?

**Petersen:** The biggest thing parents can do is read with their children



Courtesy photo

**Since 1992, SMART Reading has helped more than 334,000 Oregon children build reading skills and a lifelong love of books.**

regularly! Kids benefit from reading out loud as well as being read to. Find books that interest your child, enjoy them together, and pause to ask questions and have conversations while you read. Children build skills through not only

reading but talking about what’s on the page.

**The Sentinel:** Do you have any photos showing the reading program at Cottage Grove schools to help us best illustrate our story?

**Petersen:** We don’t have any photos from Harrison, unfortunately

(we’ll try to get some this year!). However, I’m attaching a couple of photos from schools in Eugene that we were able to take last year.

Visit [www.SMARTReading.org](http://www.SMARTReading.org) or call 541-600-8035 to learn more.

## SNAP

From Page 1

households receiving utility assistance, able-bodied adults ages 18 through 64 with no child under age 14 in their

SNAP group, and certain lawfully present immigrants.

**Utility assistance and SNAP benefits**

- Households previously eligible for the Heating and Cooling Full Utility Allowance (FUA) through energy assistance programs like Low-Income Home

Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) or “Heat and Eat” will see changes.

- Only households with at least one member who is age 60 or older or a member with a disability will automatically qualify for FUA.

- Approximately 29,000 households will lose this allowance, reducing their SNAP benefits by an average of \$58 per month.

- About 9,600 households who applied or renewed between July 4 and Oct. 1, 2025 will get notices around Oct. 15, 2025. Their SNAP will be reduced Nov. 1, 2025.

- Another 20,000 households will see benefits go down when their SNAP is reviewed.

**Able-Bodied Adults Without Dependents (ABAWD)**

- Beginning Oct 1, 2025, people with ABAWD status in 6 counties (Multnomah, Washington, Clackamas, Yamhill, Benton, and Hood River) will be reviewed at application or renewal for required work rules.

- People who don’t meet work rules may lose SNAP benefits after 3 months.

- The work rules will apply to adults ages 18–64

without a disability or without children under age 14 in their SNAP household. Previously the work rules applied to adults ages 18 to 54 without a child under 18 in their SNAP household.

- People with ABAWD status must work or participate in a qualifying activity for at least 80 hours per month.

- Veterans, people experiencing homelessness and young adults aging out of foster care are no longer exempt from the work rules.

- Tribal Members and people who meet the federal definition of “Indian, Urban Indian, or California Indian” are newly exempt from the work rules.

- In January 2026 these ABAWD requirements will be implemented statewide.

- It’s estimated that 310,000 adults will have to be newly evaluated to see if they have to meet the work rules.

**Refugees, Asylees and certain other lawfully present immigrants**

- Refugees, asylees, trafficking survivors and other conditionally allowed non-citizens who were eligible for

SNAP as of July 3, 2025, will lose eligibility under H.R. 1.

- In Oregon, it’s estimated that at least 3,000 individuals will no longer qualify for benefits.

- About 1,000 people who applied or renewed their SNAP between July 4 and Oct. 1, 2025 will get notices around Oct. 15, 2025. Their SNAP will end on Oct. 31, 2025.

- Another 2,000 people will lose SNAP when their SNAP is reviewed.

**Notifications to households**

Around Oct. 15, 2025, ODHS will mail notices to:

- Roughly 9,600 households receiving energy assistance to notify them that their SNAP benefits will be reduced starting November 1, 2025.

- Approximately 1,000 refugees, asylees and other lawfully present immigrants whose SNAP cases will close on Oct. 31, 2025.

- Affected households do not need to take any action. ODHS will adjust benefits automatically.

**Preparing for changes**

- If you think you may be in one of the impacted groups, go to [www.oregon.gov/odhs](http://www.oregon.gov/odhs) to learn more.

- Watch your mail for notices from ODHS and open them right away. The first wave of notices will be sent on Oct. 15, 2025.

- If you think the ABAWD work requirements may apply to you, don’t wait to start planning how to meet them. Call the ODHS ABAWD team directly at 833-947-1694 or SNAP. [ABAWDTeam@odhs.oregon.gov](mailto:ABAWDTeam@odhs.oregon.gov).

- Know what other food resources are in your community.

- The ODHS Food Resources website can help.

- Older adults and people with disabilities can connect with Aging and Disability Resource Connection of Oregon to learn about

government programs and community resources at 1-855-673-2372 or [www.adrcoregion.org](http://www.adrcoregion.org).

- Reach out to 211info by dialing 2-1-1, texting your zip code to 898-211 or visiting [www.211info.org](http://www.211info.org)

**Contact ODHS**

If you have questions or need help understanding these changes, contact ODHS:

- By phone: Call 1-800-699-9075 or 711 (TTY), relay calls welcome

- In person: Visit a local office (find one online)

- By Mail: (Requests must be received by the deadline)

- ONE Customer Service Center, PO Box 14015, Salem, OR 97309

- By email: Send requests to [Oregon.Benefits@odhs-ohs.oregon.gov](mailto:Oregon.Benefits@odhs-ohs.oregon.gov)

- Online: Submit requests through a ONE Online account

**ABOUT SNAP IN OREGON**

SNAP is a cornerstone of Oregon’s fight against hunger, helping more than 1 in 6 people in Oregon, approximately 27 percent of households, afford groceries. This includes children, working families, older adults, and people with disabilities.

Every \$1 in SNAP benefits generates \$1.50 to \$1.80 in local economic activity. SNAP drives an estimated \$1.6 billion into the Oregon economy each year. But even with SNAP benefits, many families still struggle to meet their basic needs, especially amid the rising cost of food and housing, according to the release.

“Everyone deserves access to healthy food, and the Oregon Department of Human Services (ODHS) is committed to making sure people in Oregon receive the right amount of SNAP food benefits they qualify for,” the release states.



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