

# THE COTTAGE GROVE Sentinel

**Honoring  
Local  
Veterans**  
See page 3




**CGHS  
Softball  
Win**  
See page 8



**Cottage Grove**

71  
45



Wednesday,  
April 29, 2026  
Mostly Sunny

Wednesday APRIL 29, 2026 | 137 years

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\$2.00

## Staff reductions authorized as school district faces \$3 million budget gap

CINDY WEELDREYER  
Cottage Grove Sentinel

*"Our people are our greatest resource. We remain committed to our staff, our students and our future."  
Todd Mill, SLSL  
Superintendent*

The South Lane School Board has voted to authorize staffing reductions for the 2026-27 school year after Superintendent Todd Miller outlined a significant budget shortfall and a series of financial pressures that have left the district unable to sustain current staffing levels.

The authorization conducted during the board's April 20 regular public meeting, allows the district to begin formal Reduction in Force notifications required by contract timelines so affected employees can be identified by the end of April.

Miller opened the April 20 meeting by explaining that the district's anticipated revenue for next year will not cover existing staffing and

expenses. He told the board that administrators have a responsibility to align the upcoming budget with current enrollment and available resources while remaining focused on students and honoring the people who serve them.

In his presentation he told the board the district must close a projected \$3 million deficit for the coming fiscal year. He explained the district also entered the year with lower than expected carryover and very little reserve to help cover the gap.

"We have a projected deficit of \$3M to cover in the upcoming fiscal year," Miller said.

Rising costs have outpaced anticipated revenue and enrollment declines have added to the challenge. The district has lost 100 students in the past 12 months, a change that directly reduces State School Fund revenue and other state grants.

While COVID-era funding has ended, some programs and staffing it supported still carry costs. Recent reductions in High Cost Disability reimbursements for special

education students and state reconciliation payments for the 2024-25 school year have widened the gap further.

Before turning to staffing, Miller emphasized that the district has already made substantial operational cuts.

These include reductions in software, professional services, professional development and district wide equipment transfers such as textbook adoption, technology, maintenance and transportation.

Building discretionary budgets have been reduced by 15 percent. The district is also shifting toward more in district support models to reduce costly out of district placements. Instructional decisions are being made building by building based on enrollment, student need and programming goals.

Even with those reductions, staffing cuts are unavoidable.

The board authorized the elimination of 12 certified full time equivalent positions and 9.84 classified full time equivalent positions, which represent 15 classified jobs ranging from part time to full time. The

district will identify specific positions at the May 4 board meeting, along with reductions in administrative and confidential positions.

"Due to contractual timelines, this authorization needs to be done now so we can identify affected staff by the end of April," Miller said.

The district is attempting to soften the impact through attrition. Vacancies, retirements and resignations will offset some of the reductions. Of the 12 certified positions being eliminated, seven are covered through attrition, leaving six potential layoffs. Of the 15 classified positions, five are covered through attrition, leaving 10 that could result in layoffs or reductions in hours.

Miller said, "These numbers represent the situation today and may change if additional retirements or resignations occur. Staff who are laid off will have recall rights and will be offered the opportunity to return in reverse order of the reduction if openings become available."

He told the board the district is also working to rebuild its financial health. The proposed budget



Courtesy photo

**The school board authorized the elimination of 12 certified full time equivalent positions and 9.84 classified full time equivalent positions, which represent 15 classified jobs ranging from part time to full time.**

includes a plan to save 2.5 percent next year in order to begin restoring reserves. He acknowledged that saving money means fewer dollars available for classrooms and programs, but stated that the percentage has been continually analyzed to

See **LAYOFFS** Page 6

## Health officials update concerns about measles cases increasing

JEREMY C. RUARK  
Cottage Grove Sentinel

The outbreak of measles continues to spread across Oregon and officials with the Oregon Health Authority (OHA) are again urging public caution.

Oregon State Health Officer Dean Sidelinger, M.D., said the continued measles spread in Oregon is preventable.

The Cottage Grove Sentinel reached out to Jonathan Modie, Strategic Communications Manager at the OHA for insight into the increasing measles cases.

**Cottage Grove Sentinel:** To date, how many measles cases have been reported in Oregon?

**Jonathan Modie:** As of April 16, there have been 20 cases of measles reported in Oregon. We publish the

latest case counts on our measles website each Friday by noon.

**Cottage Grove Sentinel:** Health officials have alerted the public of exposure sites in Gresham, West Linn, Portland, and Oregon City. What areas, cities and counties, seem to be the hot spot cluster of these measles cases?

**Modie:** At this time, we are not sharing specific areas, cities, counties where there may be clusters of cases, but wastewater surveillance data tell us that measles activity is increasing in Oregon.

**Cottage Grove Sentinel:** How is it that the measles cases have spread and the cases appear to be increasing in Oregon?

**Modie:** Measles is one of the most contagious diseases known. It is spread through the air by droplets produced when an infected person breathes, speaks, sneezes or coughs.

People can spread measles even before they get a rash. The virus can also linger in the air for up to two hours after someone who is infectious has left the area. Since early 2025, measles has been rapidly increasing across the United States. Last year, there were almost 2,300 cases reported nationally. Approximately 11% of these cases were hospitalized and three deaths occurred. Most cases occurred in unvaccinated children. While only 20 cases are known to public health, we believe we are detecting only a fraction of measles cases in Oregon. Unfortunately, we expect measles cases will continue to increase over time as vaccination rates continue to decline.

**Cottage Grove Sentinel:** Is Oregon at a point where the Governor needs to declare a Health State of Emergency because of the



Metro Creative Connection

**The MMR shot is safe and effective at protecting against measles—two doses of MMR are 97% effective against measles, according to the OHA.**

measles outbreak? How would that work?

**Modie:** ORS 433.441 does authorize the Governor to declare a state

of public health emergency, while ORS 433.443 authorizes the state

See **MEASLES** Page 6

### WHERE THEY ARE NOW

## Lucas Davey — From CGHS media kid to The Chosen crew member

CINDY WEELDREYER  
Cottage Grove Sentinel

When Cottage Grove High School graduate Lucas Davey looks back at the path that led him into the film industry, he sees a trail lined with encouragement and creativity.

A 2019 CGHS graduate, Davey was first drawn to the school's media classes because his older brother had taken them and because he needed an outlet for a growing desire to act.

In Electronic Media, he helped produce videos shown to the entire school, including the long running "Upcoming Events" segment. What had once been short comedic skits had evolved into fifteen or twenty minute stories by the time he arrived. Being part of a student crew gave him his first taste of real production work. He also created a weekly one minute comedy bit

called Tutorials with Lucas Davey, a dry humor series featuring tater tots in tutorials that absolutely did not need tater tots.

"Tutorials showed me I can use my love for acting to make others laugh," he said.

Davey continued building his skills at the University of Oregon, where he earned a BA in Cinema Studies with a Minor in Music in [year]. He directed and produced several student films, from silent black and white slapstick to short films exploring grief, coping, and identity. He also created music videos for independent artists, including a close friend.

"I'm beyond blessed for those experiences," he said.

After graduation, he pursued one on one voice acting coaching and kept developing his home studio skills. The biggest turning point came unexpectedly while watching

The Chosen with his family in [year]. As the credits rolled, he felt something shift. "I think I'm supposed to do this," he told them.

**THE CHOSEN: DOORS OPEN AND WORK BEGINS**

What followed was a series of improbable open doors. A cold email to the casting agency led to the production coordinator's contact information, something they no longer give out. A year later, when a new season began, Lucas reached out again and was asked only one question: Could he find housing and transportation? Within a week, a local church had connected him with a couple willing to rent him a room.

"Whenever another crew member would ask who got me the job, I would point up to the sky and tell them it was God," he said.

Today, Davey works on The Chosen primarily as a Production

Assistant in the Costumes Department, with occasional opportunities to serve as an on set costumer during special events. He thrives on the fast pace and the responsibility.

"There's a rush you get when someone turns to you in panic and says, 'Bring this to set as fast as possible!' knowing between a hundred and five hundred people may be waiting on you. The background actors, particularly the people who love Jesus, are genuinely joyful to be there and make the work especially meaningful. "Their energy helps keep my perspective clear and remind me that this is one way I serve."

The Chosen is a multi season, crowd funded drama series about the life of Jesus and the people who encountered him. It began as a small, independent project and has grown into a global phenomenon,



Courtesy photo

**Lucas Davey on his dream job.**

embraced by churches, families, and viewers around the world.

The scale of the project is staggering. The Chosen has been watched by an estimated 280 million people worldwide, translated into hundreds of languages, and remains the most successful crowd-funded TV series in history.

See **LUCAS DAVEY** Page 5

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



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# Missing person located deceased in the Vida area



Courtesy photo from the LCSO

**SAR members continued searching on foot, including with search K9s, in the air with drones, and resources from numerous partner agencies, including helicopters.**

**STAFF REPORT**  
*Cottage Grove Sentinel*

During the past several weeks, Lane County Sheriff's Office (LCSO) Search & Rescue (SAR) members have continued searching the Gate Creek area for 42-year-old Michael Trevor Owen Naughton of Eugene.

Naughton was reported missing on February 19, and his vehicle was located by SAR members that night in the Gate Creek area. SAR members continued searching, including with search K9s, drones, and resources from numerous partner agencies, including helicopters.

"Since the initial search, SAR and detectives have also been working closely and sharing information with a private investigator hired by the family of Naughton. Together, they have covered miles of terrain and spent hundreds of hours searching," LCSO Sgt. Tim Wallace said.

On April 21, the private investigator notified the LCSO he had located Naughton on an abandoned spur road more than a mile east of his vehicle.

"The road was littered with downed timber from the Holiday Farm fire," Wallace said. "SAR volunteers responded with

deputies and spent several hours clearing a trail with chainsaws and conducting the recovery."

Specific details of what led to Naughton's death were not immediately available, but Wallace said there is no indication a crime occurred.

Wallace added that the LCSO thanks the private investigator who collaborated on this search, as well as the many staff, volunteers, and partner organizations that assisted, and continue to search for those missing in other cases.

## A CLOSER LOOK

# Sleeping near dumpster leads to arrest

*The following is the Weekly Update from the Cottage Grove Facebook page.*

- Officers responded to a single-vehicle motor vehicle accident in the parking lot near Sans Sushi next to Bi-Mart. Investigation revealed the driver had pulled into the lot to use his phone and, while attempting to park, mistakenly pressed the accelerator instead of the brake, causing the vehicle to crash into a support pillar. Due to the impact, Taylor's Towing responded with specialized equipment to stabilize the structure so the vehicle could be safely removed. The driver was cited for having No Operators License and No Insurance.

- Officers responded to 76 Gas Station for a report of a former employee threatening staff with a knife. Dispatch advised the subject was near the fuel pumps, creating immediate safety concern for employees and customers. Upon arrival, officers located the suspect and detained him without incident.

Investigation revealed the suspect had previously sent threatening messages to the manager. The weapon, a large knife, was later located inside the suspect's vehicle and it was seized as evidence. The suspect was taken into custody and lodged at the Lane County Jail for Unlawful Use of a Weapon (ORS 166.220) and Menacing (ORS 163.190).

- A male subject arrived at the police department post court for fingerprinting. During contact, the subject was found to have two active warrants for his arrest out of Eugene Police Department, both for Theft in the Third Degree. After assisting with the fingerprinting process, the subject was transported and lodged at the Lane County Jail.

- During a routine patrol check, an officer contacted a suspicious vehicle in the Safeway parking lot after hours. Safeway has a trespass letter on file that is in effect during non-business hours. The driver provided a driver's

license that was suspended the officer noticed a needle on the driver floorboard. The driver quickly attempted to conceal it and toss to the other side of the vehicle.

The driver was detained and during the subsequent investigation, the officer located a bag of suspected methamphetamine and a bag of suspected cocaine. The subject was transported to the Lane County Jail to be lodged on charges of Possession of Methamphetamine (ORS 475.894) and Unlawful Possession of Cocaine (ORS 475.884).

- Officers responded to the area of Taco Bell where it was reported that a male subject had been sleeping nearby the dumpster and was refusing to leave. Upon arrival, the subject was recognized from prior law enforcement encounters. Dispatch advised that there was a warrant for his arrest out of Lane County Parole and Probation. The subject was transported to the Lane County Jail to be lodged on his warrant.

Accidents: 5	Fraud: 2
Arrests: 19	Suspicious Condition: 4
Disorderly Subject: 2	Trespass: 10
Disturbance: 9	Vehicle Stop: 31
Harassment: 7	Welfare Checks: 9
<b>Total calls --- 336</b>	

Courtesy from the CGPD

## 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**

**APRIL 13**

- 07:41: Suspicious vehicle, Elm/M
- 08:05: Trespass, 100 block N. 14th St.
- 08:56: Illegal camping, 200 block N. 12th St.
- 09:27: Agency assist, Hwy 99/Abbott
- 11:54: Trespass, 1200 block E. Main St.
- 12:06: Abandoned vehicle, 8th/Harrison
- 12:20: Warrant service, 400 block E. Main St.
- 14:16: Abandoned vehicle, 1500 block S. 5th St.
- 15:43: Fraud, 500 block S. 8th St.
- 20:24: Shots fired, 31000 block Kenady Ln.
- 23:45: Wanted subject, 100 block Gateway Blvd.

**APRIL 14**

- 05:16: Order violation, 2400 block E. Main St.
- 08:03: Theft, 1000 block Penoyer Ave.
- 09:59: Abandoned vehicle, 1100 block Ostrander Ln.
- 10:13: Agency assist, 1500

- block Hwy 99
- 10:16: Abandoned vehicle, Penoyer/99
- 11:14: Order violation, 1000 block Adams ave.
- 13:49: Abandoned vehicle, 300 block Quincy Ave.
- 14:04: Harassment, 1200 block S. River Rd.
- 16:15: Found drugs, 1100 block Hwy 99
- 16:57: Order violation, 500 block Landess Rd.
- 17:06: Barking dog, 2400 block E. Main St.
- 17:35: Drug activity, 1100 block Hwy 99
- 18:09: Warrant service, 900 block S. 4th St.
- 20:30: Suspicious condition, Penoyer/9th

**APRIL 15**

- 03:24: Suspicious vehicle, 1300 block S. River Rd.
- 04:52: Illegal camping, 700 block Gibbs Ave.
- 10:39: Burglary, 1800 block S. 11th St.
- 15:24: Suspicious vehicle, 2100 block South R St.
- 17:00: Fraud, 600 block Jefferson Ave.
- 17:40: Order violation, 900 block S. 6th St.

**APRIL 16**

- 01:42: Welfare check, 900 block S. 6th St.
- 07:10: Fire, Hwy 99/Abbott
- 07:53: Trespass, 1500 block Village Dr.
- 09:53: Warrant service, 400 block E. Main St.
- 10:48: Abandoned vehicle, 300 block S. 3rd St.

- 10:55: Motor vehicle crash, 100 block Gateway Blvd.
- 12:17: Harassment, 300 block North K St.
- 12:20: Trespass, 100 block N. 9th St.
- 12:39: Illegal camping, 3300 block Row River Rd.
- 13:02: Harassment, Whiteaker/8th
- 13:24: Warrant service, 400 block E. Main St.
- 13:38: Disturbance, 500 block E. Madison Ave.
- 14:33: Warrant service, 1600 block Bohemia Pl.
- 14:47: Disturbance, 100 block N. 9th St.
- 16:32: Juvenile trouble, 1000 block E. Main St.
- 16:58: Motor vehicle crash, 6th/Main
- 17:44: Assault, 1500 block Gateway Blvd.
- 17:48: Disturbance, 14th/Penoyer
- 18:40: Disturbance, 700 block S. River Rd.
- 19:11: Warrant service, 900 block E Main St.

**APRIL 17**

- 00:28: Suicidal subject, 100 block S. 10th St.
- 01:11: Suspicious vehicle, 1700 block E. Main St.
- 02:13: Warrant service, 400 block E. Main St.
- 04:56: Warrant service, 400 block E. Main St.
- 08:18: Illegal dumping, 3300 block Row River Rd.
- 11:02: Disturbance, 200 block N. 12th St.
- 12:19: Trespass, 1800 block E. Main St.
- 12:43: Drug activity, 1100

- block Hwy 99
- 13:24: Motor vehicle theft, 1400 block Washington
- 14:09: Trespass, 2900 block Row River Rd.
- 14:35: Juvenile trouble, 300 block Coop Ct.
- 14:42: Warrant service, 400 block E. Main St.
- 14:48: Trespass, 1800 block E. Main St.
- 16:24: Suspicious condition, 100 block S. 16th St.
- 17:27: Disorderly subject, Main/10th
- 21:07: Theft, 200 block Gateway Blvd.
- 21:15: Disturbance, 800 block N. 11th St.
- 22:26: Illegal camping, 1200 block E. Main St.
- 23:26: Barking dog, 500 block S. River Rd.

**APRIL 18**

- 00:24: Suspicious condition, 78000 block S. Hwy 99
- 02:05: Abandoned vehicle, Harding Pl/6th
- 04:23: Barking dog, 500 block S. River Rd.
- 07:13: Warrant service, 400 block E. Main St.
- 08:26: Trespass, 2900 block Row River Rd.
- 08:30: Burglary, 1700 block Parks Rd.
- 12:15: Juvenile trouble, S/ Main
- 15:56: Vicious dog, 1100 block E. Harrison Ave.
- 16:07: Found property, 100 block S. 10th St.
- 16:33: Assault, 1300 block S. River Rd.
- 17:21: Disturbance, 200 block S. River Rd.



Courtesy of CGPD

- 19:33: Harassment, 200 block S. River Rd.
- 19:49: Fire, 600 block Taylor Ave.
- 20:09: Trespass, 300 block S. River Rd.
- 20:26: Harassment, 200 block S. River Rd.
- 20:52: Theft, 1500 block E. Main St.
- 21:18: Disturbance, 1500 block E. Main St.
- 21:54: Reckless driving, Patrick Lp/6th St.
- 22:59: Fire, S. River Rd/Harrison
- 09:02: Warrant service, 2700 block Row River Rd.
- 10:44: Mental subject, 100 block N. 6th St.
- 13:04: Alarm, 1400 block Gateway Blvd.
- 13:11: Suspicious vehicle, 200 block Gateway Blvd.
- 13:51: Theft, 900 block Row River Rd.
- 14:16: Disturbance, 1500 block Hwy 99
- 17:08: Agency assist, 500 block Grant Ave.
- 17:22: Warrant service, 400 block E. Main St.
- 18:17: Warrant service, 200 block Gateway Blvd.
- 18:30: Warrant service, Row River/Gateway
- 18:48: Shoreview/Row River
- 19:52: Harassment, 2400 block E. Main St.
- 20:06: Fire, 2100 block W. Main St.
- 21:08: Suspicious condition, 400 block N. River Rd.
- 22:14: Wanted subject, 300 block N. 9th St.

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# Local veterans recognized with 'Hall of Honor'

JEREMY C. RUARK  
CINDY WEELDREYER  
*Cottage Grove Sentinel*

Local veterans were honored with a special tribute and display during the Cottage Grove Genealogical Society Military History Day Open House.

One of the highlights of the recognition was the "Hall of Honor" where 57 men from South Lane and North Douglas Counties are

remembered with a customized poster commemorating their sacrificial to their country during World War II.

The gallery of 56 posters describes each veteran's story. "They were called to duty and died for our freedom and our duty is to honor them," a Facebook post from the Cottage Grove Genealogical Society states.

The Open House allowed those attending to browse displays of military veterans

from many different wars and offered several displays of mementos from previous wars.

This event culminated months of research to painstakingly gather information from military records and family members about the details of each man who died during World War 2.

The event was held April 22 at 700 E Gibbs Avenue in Cottage Grove.

**The Hall of Honor recognized 57 men from South Lane and North Douglas Counties with a customized poster and framed details of their service commemorating their sacrificial to their country during World War II.**

Cindy Weeldreyer / Cottage Grove Sentinel



The gallery of 56 posters describes each veteran's story.

# Downtown Cottage Grove resets its future with Main Street Program



Cindy Weeldreyer / Cottage Grove Sentinel

**With Main Street now revitalized, Downtown Cottage Grove stands ready to continue improving the aesthetics and economic vitality of local businesses.**

CINDY WEELDREYER  
*Cottage Grove Sentinel*

With the Main Street Refinement Plan complete, a new Urban Renewal District in place, and the Historic District transformed by the reconstruction project,

many residents are asking what comes next. Downtown Cottage Grove, newly unified from two former organizations, is now positioned to help shape that next chapter.

**UNIFYING PURPOSE AND A STRONGER STRUCTURE**

The Economic and Business Improvement District (EBID) was established in 2001 to support downtown businesses through an assessment based funding model. Over time, as property ownership changed and the fee structure became unpopular, the system became difficult to administer. When the city attorney later determined that EBID should not have been responsible for collecting or enforcing those fees, the organization found itself without a viable funding mechanism.

With the ordinance removed and the old funding

model dissolved, and with guidance from Oregon Main Street, the board voted to merge Main Street Cottage Grove and EBID and reorganize under a new name, Downtown Cottage Grove.

The geographical footprint of the new organization reaches far beyond the Historic District and covers most of the commercial areas in town. It extends the full length of Main Street from the river to Gateway Boulevard and on Hwy. 99 from Chamberlain Avenue

See **MAIN ST**, Page 6

## COMMUNITY CALENDAR

### APRIL 29

- Cottage Bowl Open Bowling. 3-5:30 p.m. 740 Row River Rd.
- Senior Center Pinochle Games. 1 p.m. Senior Center. 700 E. Gibbs Ave.
- CG Genealogical Society Military Open House. 1-6. Community Center
- Acoustic Jam with Gregg Biller. 6-7:30 p.m. Coast Fork Brewing.
- Jackson's Pub Games with live music by Bradley Shepherd. 6-8 p.m. Cottage Grove Public Market.
- Game Night with Ayla. 6:30-9:30 p.m. Axe & Fiddle.
- Elks Lodge Bingo. Early Bird 6:30 p.m. Regular Games 7 p.m. Elks Lodge, 775 N. River Rd.

### APRIL 30

- T.O.P.S. Club. 9:30-11 a.m. Delight Valley Church of Christ, Saginaw.
- Baby Laptime. 11:30 a.m. CG Public Library.
- Teen Gaming. 4 p.m. CG Public Library.
- Community Center Table Tennis. 4-6 p.m. Community Center, 700 E. Gibbs Ave.
- Bread Club. 5-7 p.m. CG Public Market
- Stone Hart (rock). 6-8 p.m. CG Public Market
- Celebrate Recovery. 5:15 p.m. Calvary Chapel. 1447 Hwy 99N.
- Tappin' Talent Search. 6-8 p.m. Axe and Fiddle.
- Lizzie Oakwood (folk rock). 6-8 p.m. Axe and Fiddle.
- Sidney Joseph (Americana roots). 6-8 p.m. Coast

Fork Brewery.

- Metropolitan Rhythm and Blues Revue. 7 p.m. Cottage Theatre, 700 Village Dr.

### May 01

- Australian Shepherd Club
- London Grange Annual Pancake Breakfast. 8-11 a.m. & Plant Sale. 8 a.m.-5 p.m. 72467 London Rd. (MP 10)
- Trinity Lutheran Church Annual Spring Garage Sale. 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Sixth & Quincy
- Storytime. 11:30 a.m. CG Public Library.
- Elks Lodge Community Chicken Fried Steak Dinner. 5:30-7 p.m.
- American Legion Bingo. 5-7 p.m. American Legion Post 32, 826 W. Main St.
- Metropolitan Rhythm and Blues Revue. 7 p.m. Cottage Theatre. 700 Village Dr.
- Saginaw Vineyard Friday Night Live. 6-9 p.m. 80247 Delight Valley School Rd.
- Weekly Pool Tournament. 7 p.m. Bohemian Tavern. \$5 entry; BCA rules.

### May 02

- London Grange Annual Pancake Breakfast. 8-11 a.m. & Plant Sale. 8 a.m.-5 p.m. 72467 London Rd. (MP 10)
- "Bikes to Blooms" Wildflower and Birding Walks. 8 a.m.-1 p.m. Bake Stewart Park. Row River Rd.
- Trinity Lutheran Church Annual Spring Garage Sale. 9 a.m.-3 p.m. Sixth & Quincy.

- Share Fair USA. 9 a.m. 1133 E. Main St. (free stuff giveaway behind Dirt Cheap Copies)
- Arbor Day Free Tree Giveaway. CG Residents 10-12 p.m. All Residents 12-2 p.m. Coiner Park
- Cottage Bowl Open Bowling. 4-10 p.m. 740 Row River Rd.
- Humane Society of Cottage Grove "Pins for Pets" Bowl-a-Thon. 5-9 p.m. Cottage Bowl.
- CG Speedway Fan Appreciation Night. Hot Laps 5 p.m. Racing 6:30 p.m. 2150 N. Douglas Ave.
- Rob Lee (jazz). 6-8 p.m. CG Public Market
- Concrete Delta (rock/blues). 6:30-9:30 p.m. Coast Fork Brewery
- AlAnon "Courage to Change." 7 p.m. Sinclair Room. City Hall.
- Metropolitan Rhythm and Blues Revue. 7 p.m. Cottage Theatre. 700 Village Dr.

### May 03

- Bradly Shepherd (blues, country & rock). 11 a.m.-3 p.m. Coast Fork Brewing.
- VFW Bingo. 2-4 p.m. VFW Post 3473. 3160 Hillside Dr.
- Metropolitan Rhythm and Blues Revue. 7 p.m. Cottage Theatre. 700 Village Dr.
- South Valley Athletics Bingo Fundraiser. 3:30-5:30 p.m. Coast Fork Brewing.

### May 04

- Cottage Bowl Open Bowling. 1-5:30 p.m. 740 Row

River Rd.

- Senior Center Bingo. 12:30 p.m. Cottage Grove Community Center.
- Gardeners Meeting. 5:30 p.m. Coast Fork Brewery. 106 S. Sixth St.
- East Lane County Commissioner Candidates Forum. 6 p.m. Community Center
- Monday Movie Night: "Night of the Living Dead". 8-10 p.m. Axe & Fiddle.

### May 05

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



Cindy Weeldreyer / Cottage Grove Sentinel

**A splash of spring color at Main Street and Highway 99 in Cottage Grove.**



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# How to regain SNAP benefits



Courtesy photo

**SNAP is a federal program that provides food assistance to approximately 1 in 5 eligible, low-income families and individuals in Oregon, including many older adults and people with disabilities.**

services and work toward regaining eligibility.

ODHS encourages anyone who has questions about their SNAP benefits or work rules to reach out as soon as possible. Contacting ODHS early may help people keep or regain their benefits.

For full details about SNAP work rules, exemptions and how to report activities, visit:

• English: [Oregon.gov/snapworkrules](https://oregon.gov/snapworkrules)

• Spanish: [Oregon.gov/odhs/es/alimentos/Pages/limites-tiempo](https://oregon.gov/odhs/es/alimentos/Pages/limites-tiempo)

People can also contact the ODHS ABAWD team:

• Call: 1-833-947-1694

• Email: [SNAP.ABAWDTeam@odhs.oregon.gov](mailto:SNAP.ABAWDTeam@odhs.oregon.gov)

For more information about SNAP benefits:

• Online: [benefits.oregon.gov](https://benefits.oregon.gov)

• Call: 1-800-699-9075

**STAFF REPORT**  
*Cottage Grove Sentinel*

As the impacts of recent federally-directed changes to Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) work rules begin to show in Oregon, the Oregon Department of Human Services (ODHS) is sharing information to help people who have lost benefits, or may lose them soon, understand how they may be able to get them back.

The federal bill HR1 significantly expanded SNAP work rules, increasing the number of Oregonians subject to time limits. More adults must now meet SNAP work rules to continue receiving benefits. People who do not meet these rules and do not qualify for an exemption can only receive SNAP for three months within a three-year period. These are called countable months.

“SNAP plays a critical role in Oregon, helping 757,700 people, or one in six Oregonians, put food on the table,” ODHS SNAP Director Jessica Amaya Hoffman said.

“In some communities, particularly in rural areas, people may not have easy access to jobs, training, transportation, or WorkSource offices, making it harder to meet work rules and increasing the risk of losing reliable access to food.”

Many households receiving SNAP have very low incomes, with 35 percent at or below half of the federal poverty level which is \$15,960 per year for a single individual. ODHS has been working to connect with people before benefits stop. Of the approximately 20,000 people who were notified in March that their benefits would close, about 6,000 connected with ODHS and were able to either qualify for an exemption or meet work rules to keep their benefits.

In late March, 13,399 cases closed, affecting 13,898 individual SNAP recipients, after people did not meet work rules or qualify for an exemption. Those cases include 13,898 individual SNAP recipients. As a result, they did not receive April benefits.

In April, 6,948 additional cases are at risk of closing at the end of the month, affecting 6,948 individual SNAP recipients.

Note: Most, but not all, individuals with ABAWD status are on single-person SNAP cases, so the number of cases and individuals may differ.

Additional individuals are at risk of losing benefits in upcoming months as more people reach time limits.

ODHS is encouraging people to reach out as soon as possible if they have questions about their benefits or work rules. Many people may not realize they can regain SNAP after benefits stop, or may not know the steps to take.

If someone has used their three countable months and lost SNAP benefits, there are several ways they may be able to regain eligibility.

People may qualify again if they meet work rules. This usually means completing about 80 hours of approved activities each month. These activities may include paid work, searching for a job,

training programs or volunteering. If someone meets the required hours for at least 30 days, they may qualify for SNAP again.

People may also regain SNAP if they qualify for an exemption. Exemptions are based on a person’s situation and may include health conditions, caregiving responsibilities or other life circumstances. Some activities, such as receiving unemployment benefits or taking part in certain programs, may also count toward meeting rules.

In some cases, changes in a person’s situation may affect whether time limits apply. This may include changes in the household or where someone lives.

“If your SNAP benefits have stopped, contact us right away,” Hoffman said. “Benefits do not restart automatically, but we can review your situation and help you understand your next steps.”

Even after benefits stop, support is still available. ODHS and the Oregon Employment Department can help people connect to employment and training

## Governor signs housing bills addressing affordability, urban growth boundaries



Screenshot from livestream

**Gov. Tina Kotek, state lawmakers and housing advocates celebrate signing six bills into law that address the state’s housing shortage at Woodburn City Hall on Wednesday April 22, 2026.**

**MIA MALDONADO**  
*Oregon Capital Chronicle*

Six new Oregon housing laws aim to make it easier for cities and developers to build housing and prioritize affordable housing for families and older Oregonians.

Gov. Tina Kotek, local elected officials and state legislators gathered at Woodburn’s city hall Wednesday, April 22, to celebrate the new laws, which include one to clear the way for Woodburn to add more housing outside of current city limits.

**Fast Fact**

Oregon’s new housing laws let cities expand urban growth boundaries under requirements and offer loans for developers willing to build housing units.

State economists say Oregon has to build 29,500 new homes a year, mostly in the Portland region and Willamette Valley, if it wants to overcome its housing shortage, while Kotek

set — but has yet to meet — a more ambitious goal of 36,000 homes per year. Since the start of her administration, Oregon has financed or added 17,000 housing units with state support and has taken action to add 50,000 future housing units, Kotek said Wednesday.

Woodburn Mayor Frank Lonergan introduced Kotek, saying it was a special day because Kotek signed House Bill 4035, which modifies a 2024 law that lets eligible cities make a one-time urban growth boundary expansion. The law will allow Woodburn to oversee its own 120-acre expansion.

Similarly, Kotek, state lawmakers and housing advocates celebrated the signing of House Bill 4082. It’s a one-time expansion of urban

growth boundary rules, with the condition that additional land be used for manufactured housing, prefabricated structures, manufactured dwelling parks or for housing specifically for people 55 years old and older. It lets cities with populations of 25,000 or more to bring in 100 additional acres for development, and those with smaller populations to bring in up to 50.

“To all the Oregonians who are struggling to find affordable housing right now, all the folks who are working on this, we see you,” Kotek said. “We are working for you. I’m working for you. We want to make sure that everyone in the state has a safe, stable, affordable place to call home.”

Three of the new housing laws Kotek signed also strengthen state loan programs to preserve and build affordable housing, including Senate Bill 1567, which authorizes the Oregon Housing and Community Services Department to establish a \$20 million loan fund that will offer subsidized loans to developers willing to build housing units affordable to residents at different levels of income.

House Bill 4036 also establishes the Housing Opportunity, Longevity and Durability Fund, a new program funded through the same bond money the state uses to acquire, repair or furnish state-owned property. The new fund would help preserve existing affordable housing that’s at risk of being lost because of expiring federal or local affordability restrictions, financial distress or physical rehabilitation needs.

“With existing federal funding under attack, it’s critical for Oregon to find cost effective ways to build homes available to Oregonians at different income levels,” said Sen. Khanh Pham, D-Portland.

And House Bill 4037, an omnibus bill addressing a range of housing issues, modifies the state loan program to expand low and moderate-income housing production, strengthens state enforcement of local housing laws and clarifies that surplus state-owned land should be prioritized for housing development. The bill cuts red tape for new housing, Kotek said, by expanding the ability for developers to self-certify that

building plans meet requirements and reducing notice and public hearing requirements for certain housing projects.

Elected officials and Kotek also celebrated House Bill 4128, which gives families, individuals and small real estate businesses a 90-day head start before private equity firms can purchase single-family homes for sale in Oregon.

“I think the lineup of bills today is pretty reflective of the work that we have to do,” said Rep. Pam Marsh, D-Ashland, the chair of the House Housing and Homelessness Committee. “It is not just one solution to solve the housing problem in the state of Oregon. Really, we have to hit and address every point on the continuum of development.”

Kotek signed most of the housing bills in late March, according to the state’s legislative information website. Wednesday’s event was a ceremonial celebration of their passage into law.

<https://oregoncapitalchronicle.com/2026/04/22/oregon-governor-signs-housing-bills-addressing-affordability-urban-boundary-growth-boundaries/>  
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COMMENTARY

# Fire Levy Endorsement

**DONALD WILLIAMS**  
Cottage Grove Sentinel  
Guest Column

For the past 50 years, my name has been familiar in the South Lane area.

I have been a volunteer in many organizations, and have chaired many committees - fire department, hospital, BMD and others. However, there are many younger voters who may not be familiar with me and my support of South Lane County Fire and Rescue.

In my 50 years in the community, in the beginning, there were three groups: a volunteer fire department in Creswell with a paid chief, a volunteer rural fire district with a governing board and the City of Cottage Grove Fire Department managed by a fire chief who reported to the city manager. Due to economics and the growth of the district, in 2000, it was apparent we needed to merge and combine the three entities into one. The merger was difficult at first and its birthing

pains created a great deal of bickering. Thankfully, those issues were resolved, and the merger has been successful for several decades now.

Several large tax increases have not been needed due to the merger. But NOW, there has been 25 years of growth since it happened. District taxpayers, I encourage you to take a drive around and look at the increase in demand for your paramedics and firefighters. Vacant lots have been turned into 3-4 homes, including several new homes in my neighborhood. These are all added responsibilities for those who respond to a fire call or a paramedic call.

In my first time on the South Lane Fire and Rescue Board, we ran something like 2,800 calls a year. Today, it is reported that same crew of people are responding to nearly 6,000 calls a year. If you look at the cost of everything else, such as wages and fire equipment, they have skyrocketed in that period of

time. Ambulances rack up over 100,000 miles a year.

Around 2000, when talks began about merging the three entities, I was asked to be on the board of directors. I spent many hours working with other fire departments to learn their ways, so I could be a better fire board member.

I have a tremendous respect for fire fighters and paramedics. The world of volunteers has changed drastically in that 25 year period. When I came to the service, CPR trained and slightly fire trained in my position at Weyerhaeuser. Today, by statute, to be a volunteer firefighter or paramedic, you are required to have the same training as a paid position.

I would ask the voter to think about spending months of training as a volunteer and holding your own job to support your family, when you could be a full-time fire fighter and paramedic and draw wages. So, the world of volunteerism in

EDITORIAL CARTOON



our fire districts has almost disappeared.

Before the merger, we had 32 volunteer firefighters in Creswell and about the same number in Cottage Grove, in addition to the volunteers in the rural fire district. That number was about 60 volunteers then and today is down to 4 or 5.

I ask voters to take a hard look and vote YES to increase the tax levy to

support South Lane County's fire fighters and paramedics.

Chief John Wooten has my total support. I think he and his department have shown good leadership. I believe they are doing their jobs well with what little they have to work with. Sadly, the defeat of the levy last November created an impossible task that will significantly and dangerously reduce current service levels and drive up

fire insurance premiums. Our fire fighters and paramedics have an important job to do to save lives, and the taxpayers need to give them this much needed support. It is that simple.

The levy has my endorsement, and I urge taxpayers in the fire district to join me and approve it.

Donald Williams is a Cottage Grove resident.

# How to use mindfulness in your daily living

**STAN POPOVICH**  
Cottage Grove Sentinel  
Guest Column

Mindfulness is the practice of becoming more fully aware of the present moment rather than dwelling in the past, projecting into the future or what's going on around us. It involves a heightened awareness of sensory stimuli, such as our breathing and being "in the now."

Practicing mindfulness involves breathing methods, guided imagery and other practices to relax the body and mind.

**1. Find a comfortable place:** You'll want to find a comfortable seat in a

relaxed and stress-free environment. Sit on a couch or chair with your feet on the ground. Allow your head and shoulders to rest comfortably; place your hands on the tops of your legs with your upper arms at your side. Put your upper arms parallel to your upper body. Rest the palms of your hands on your legs.

**2. Focus on your breathing:** Close your eyes, take a deep breath and relax. Keep your attention on the sensation of the inhale and exhale of your breath. Focus on the air moving through your nose or the rising and

falling of your stomach and chest.

**3. Reduce wandering thoughts:** It's normal to have wandering thoughts or distractions, so don't judge yourself if you start becoming distracted. Instead of wrestling with your thoughts, let them pass by, without focusing on any thought. Thoughts will try to pull your attention away from your breathing. Notice them, but don't pass judgment. Gently return your focus to your breath.

**4. Tune into your senses:** Sometimes, when we're stressed, focusing on what's happening right

in front of us can be a challenge in and of itself. Our minds are drawn to thinking about the future and all the bad things that are or could happen.

**5. Live in the present:** Focus your attention on what's happening right now, actively engaging with the current moment instead of dwelling on the past or worrying about the future.

**6. Focus on one thing at a time:** Multitasking can leave you feeling distracted, so concentrate on one task with your full attention.

**7. Pay attention:** It's hard to slow down and

notice things in a busy world. Take the time to experience your environment with all your senses, including touch, sound, sight, smell and taste. For example, when you eat a favorite food, take the time to smell, taste and enjoy it.

**8. Enjoy the small moments:** Small moments in our lives include those that we don't typically notice and those we take for granted. A small moment may be having a cup of coffee or a cool glass of water, spending a moment with a child or pet, or performing any everyday activity that goes

by without our attention. Enjoyment, peace and serenity in life happen in the small moments.

**9. Go outside:** Spending time outdoors is a great way to live in the moment and observe the sights, sounds and sensations around you.

Stan Popovich's the author of "A Layman's Guide to Managing Fear" which covers 200+ techniques that can drastically improve your mental health. For more information, visit Stan's website at <http://www.managingfear.com>

## LUCAS DAVEY

From Page 1

Its theatrical releases have earned more than \$120 million. For a young filmmaker from Cottage Grove to be part of a production of this size and influence is no small achievement.

## ROOTS, ADVICE AND WHAT'S NEXT

Unlike many in the industry, Davey does not live in Los Angeles. He drives nearly two thousand miles from Oregon to Texas each season, working on the show for about a third of the year before returning home. Growing up in Cottage Grove, far from major film hubs, gave him a deep appreciation for every opportunity.

Garrett Bridgens, his former Media Arts teacher, remembers that spark clearly.

"Lucas stood out right away as a student who was both highly creative and willing to put in the work to bring his ideas to life," he said. "He developed his own unique style of comedy that was original and authentic to him, and he wasn't afraid to take risks or try something different. What really set him apart, though, was how dedicated he was to the craft. He cared about getting better and consistently put in the effort to improve."

Bridgens said it is no surprise to see Lucas working on a major production like The Chosen. "Even back then, you could see the combination of creativity, work ethic, and passion that it takes to succeed in that field. More than anything, he's just a great person, and it's been really rewarding to see him find success doing something he clearly loves."

Davey says he knew he was meant to be on set because of the kindness he



Courtesy photo from Lucas Davey

Davey used the high school's green screen room to create his Tutorials in-school comedy videos.



Courtesy from Lucas Davey

Davey also enjoys doing voice-over jobs.

encountered. While many productions are known for tense environments, he rarely felt that on The Chosen.

"I could go to lunch with everybody and in a room of sixty to a hundred people I could only find one or two who I didn't get along with well." The improbability of his journey only confirmed his calling. "It took so many

stars aligning, I know it was meant to be."

For current CGHS students dreaming of film or acting careers, Lucas offers simple, earnest advice. "Try. Make something. Make something again. No matter what you do, do it until you're sure you're passionate about it," he said. "And remember, I just tried. I was some random

kid from a random town who tried."

As for what comes next, Davey is content to trust the same God who opened every door so far. When The Chosen eventually wraps, he hopes to continue voiceover work, acting, or even costuming on local projects.

"God has taken care of me all this way and I have no

reason to think he will stop now."

Where Are They Now is a frequent Sentinel featuring highlighting Cottage Grove High School graduates. If you know of a local graduate who is doing something remarkable in the world, call Cindy at 541-915-0113 with your story idea.

### Weekly Online Poll

How often do you read a book?

- Frequently  Sometimes
- Not often

### Previous Poll Results

Do you agree with the city's approach in balancing the City of Cottage Grove's budget with funding reductions at the library and an increase in water rates?

11.1% - Yes 88.9% - No

### Quote of the Week

"A world once divided into two armed camps now recognizes one sole and preeminent power, the United States of America. And they regard this with no fear and no resentment."  
George H. W. Bush

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# MEASLES

From Page 1

public health director or state health officer to take measures in such an emergency to prevent the spread of a communicable disease by coordinating the state's public health response, including identification, assessment and control of the disease, and allocation and distribution of medical supplies and equipment. The time to declare an emergency is when we need additional tools to contain the spread of a disease, protect people in Oregon and respond quickly with fast, focused and effective measures. We have not yet reached that point and, in fact, we are far from it. We have a safe and effective vaccine to prevent the spread of measles, and while the current spread of measles is concerning, the number of people who are at risk of infection is relatively low compared with the number of people in Oregon who have received the MMR vaccine or are immune due to previous infection.

**Cottage Grove Sentinel:** Have there been any fatal measles cases over the past two years in Oregon? If so, children and/or adults?

**Modie:** Fortunately, there have been no deaths from measles in Oregon in the last two years.

**Cottage Grove Sentinel:** Why is the measles disease so dangerous and who is at most risk?

**Modie:** When people think about measles, they tend to think about the classic symptoms -- cough, runny nose, and red eyes with high fever,

Courtesy photo from the CDC

followed by a rash which spreads down the body. What people often don't realize is that measles is much more than a rash. Measles is a serious infection which can cause serious complications, including pneumonia, inflammation of the brain (encephalitis) and death. Antiviral treatment of measles does not exist, and when someone is hospitalized, the medical care available is primarily supportive. Measles can also suppress the immune system and increase your risk for other infectious diseases.

- 1 out of 10 unvaccinated people in the US will require hospitalization.
- 1 out of 20 children with measles develop pneumonia.

- About 1 child out of every 1,000 who get measles will develop encephalitis (swelling of the brain), which can lead to deafness and intellectual disabilities.
- 1 to 3 children out of 1,000 infected will die.

Most at risk are people who are unvaccinated, including infants who are too young to be vaccinated, pregnant woman, and immunosuppressed individuals.

**Cottage Grove Sentinel:** What is the OHA recommendation at this time to families about the measles cases and how they should protect themselves from measles?

**Modie:** The best way to protect you and your family

from measles is to get vaccinated. The MMR shot is safe and effective at protecting against measles—two doses of MMR are 97% effective against measles. All children should receive 2 doses of MMR. If you aren't sure if you've been fully vaccinated, speak with a medical provider. As the number of cases of measles rise, people should reconsider their vaccination decisions, and discuss with your medical providers to make sure that they and their family are adequately protected. People who were at a measles exposure location during the stated date and time period should immediately contact a health care

provider and let them know they may have been exposed to someone who has measles. The health care provider can determine whether you are immune to measles based on your vaccination record, age, or laboratory evidence of prior infection. Public health officials urge people experiencing symptoms of measles not to arrive unannounced at a medical office if they:

- Have a measles-like rash, or
- Have been exposed to measles within the previous 21 days, AND have any other symptoms of measles (such as fever, cough or red eyes).

Whenever possible, individuals planning to seek medical care should first call

your health care provider or urgent care center by telephone to create an entry plan to avoid exposing others in waiting rooms.

**Cottage Grove Sentinel:** Are there any resources you can give us for folks wanting more information?

**Modie:** Yes! People can learn more about measles on OHA's measles website, <https://www.oregon.gov/oha/PH/DISEASES/CONDITIONS/DISEASESAZ/Pages/measles.aspx>.

The OHA and doctors at Oregon Health & Science University met with reporters April 17 to outline concerns about the increasing measles cases.

# MAIN ST.

From Page 4

south to Harrison Avenue and 4th Street.

DCG President Ryan Thomas owns two properties in the Historic District, giving him a direct stake in the future of downtown. He said the change "creates an organization that can be more efficient and follow this successful, national program," while shifting fundraising toward the model used by Main Street programs across the country.

Jim Gilroy served four terms as Cottage Grove's mayor from 1985-1993. One of his legacies, from the nearly two years he served as the executive director of the Chamber of Commerce, was the establishment of the popular Business After Hours monthly networking event.

He is a longtime local banker and is currently serving as Banner Bank's Vice President for Community Development. His involvement with the EBID began in 2011.

Gilroy said being part of Main Street America through Oregon Main Street broadens the organization's vision and provides resources that can be invested directly into what he called the circulatory system of the community. "Just look at what Len Blackstone did with his Bank Building at 6th and Main. What a shot in the arm during the pandemic. Oregon Main Street partially funded those improvements," he said.

## THE MAIN STREET APPROACH IN ACTION

DCG's strategic plan is built on the Main Street Four Point Approach, a

framework used in more than one thousand communities. The four points, Sustainable Organization, Effective Promotion, Quality Design, and Economic Vitality, guide revitalization through incremental, preservation based economic development.

South Lane Wheels Executive Director Ruth Linoz is a longtime community volunteer. As the former Main Street Cottage Grove President, she currently serves as the volunteer administrative director until one can be hired.

"It offers a preservation based economic development tool that helps communities strengthen downtown and neighborhood business districts by leveraging local assets," she said. Continued affiliation with Oregon Main Street connects DCG to funding sources, technical assistance, and a statewide

network of communities facing similar challenges.

Thomas said, "Our vision for downtown over the next three to five years is to see continued results in physical enhancements to the district, more doors being opened, and a continued growth in the vibrant, historic character Cottage Grove has to offer."

## BUILDING CAPACITY AND INVITING PARTICIPATION

The most immediate priority is organizational strength, including hiring a full time program administrator, expanding volunteer committees, and improving communication with businesses and residents. "This position is vital to the success of any Main Street organization," Thomas said.

Linoz notes that DCG's nonprofit status opens doors to grants and preservation funding that the chamber and city cannot access. "The community has only begun to tap an invaluable pipeline to funding and preservation sources, expertise, advocacy, and a diverse network of communities sharing successful strategies," she said. Supporting DCG now, she added, will help the organization become sustainable,

hire staff, and strengthen economic vitality by supporting existing businesses and attracting new investment.

The board brings significant experience. Former EBID and DCG president Jim Gilroy serves as a board advisor, and Linoz has stepped in as volunteer program administrator until a director is hired. Two city advisors, a councilor and a staff member, help maintain communication between DCG and the city.

## A COMMUNITY WIDE EFFORT

DCG is seeking volunteers, partners, and residents willing to support projects that honor local heritage, beautify the district, and strengthen the local economy. Opportunities range from committee work and event support to technical expertise, sponsorships, and financial contributions.

Thomas points to two significant 2027 events, the 50th anniversary of Animal House filming here and the WallDogs MuralFest, as examples of how community involvement shapes the district's identity. He also encourages residents to support local museums, which rely heavily on volunteer time and donations.

Linoz said DCG is exploring the best ways to continue offering high quality service to businesses and property owners, whether by completing its own projects, partnering with other organizations, or responding to new opportunities that align with its mission.

## LOOKING AHEAD WITH CONFIDENCE

Despite the challenges of restructuring, both leaders express optimism about the future. "There are a lot of people who care about Cottage Grove," Thomas said. "Being able to harness that care and energy in productive ways is something I see happen on a regular basis."

"The future of downtown is very positive," Linoz said. With the Main Street reconstruction complete and a strategic plan in place, she sees strong potential for prosperity in the years ahead.

Together, the merged strengths of EBID and Main Street Cottage Grove, now unified as Downtown Cottage Grove, position the district to build on past successes, adapt to new needs, and continue shaping a thriving, historic downtown at the heart of the community.

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Sunday - 8:00 am -10:30 am  
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

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**LAYOFFS**  
From Page 1

but emphasizing the impact of cuts on students and staff. SLEA President Brandi Baker Rudicel wrote, "Budget cuts in Oregon schools don't just trim numbers on a spreadsheet, they reshape classrooms, limit opportunities and quietly erode the support systems students rely on every day."

The association noted that reductions in force remove dedicated educators who provide relationships, mentorship and stability that cannot be easily replaced. The statement concluded with hope that funding will increase so staff can be brought back as soon as possible.

Miller said, "Our people are our greatest resource. We remain committed to our staff, our students and our future."

Board members said they were reluctant to authorize the layoffs and echoed Miller's comments about staff being the district's greatest resource, while noting that they are required to adopt a balanced budget for next year. They also acknowledged that many of the increased costs and reductions in grant funding are beyond their control.

With the authorization now approved, district leaders will finalize the list of positions to be cut and bring those details to the board on May 4. The superintendent reiterated that the district's priority is to restore positions as soon as funding or openings allow.

Follow developments online at [cgsentinel.com](http://cgsentinel.com) and in the Wednesday print editions of *The Sentinel*.

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**999 PUBLIC NOTICES**

**CGS26-123 NOTICE OF BUDGET COMMITTEE MEETING**  
Three public meetings of the Budget Committee of the

**999 PUBLIC NOTICES**

South Lane School District 45J3, Lane County, State of Oregon, have been scheduled to discuss the budget for the fiscal year July 1, 2026 to June 30, 2027 and will be held in person at 455 Adams Ave, Cottage Grove, OR and virtually via ZOOM (see District website for link). The first meeting will take place on May 11, 2026 at 5:30 p.m. The purpose of the meeting is to receive the budget message and budget documents. The second meeting will take place on May 18, 2026 at 5:30 p.m. The purpose

**999 PUBLIC NOTICES**

of this meeting is to provide members of the public with an opportunity to ask questions about and comment on the budget document and for deliberation by the Budget Committee. Members of the public may submit written comments of testimony to tonya.kerns@slane.k12.or.us and clearly mark PUBLIC COMMENT in the subject line. Written comments received by 12 p.m. on May 18, 2026 will be read during the public comment section of the meeting on May 18, 2026. A third meeting is tentatively scheduled on May 26, 2026 at 5:30 p.m. and will take place on an as needed basis. A copy of the budget document may be inspected or obtained on or after May 18, 2026 at the District Administrative Office at 455 Adams Avenue, Cottage Grove OR, between the hours of 9:00 a.m. and 4 p.m. The budget document will also be available on our website after this date. This budget committee meeting notice can also be found on the school district website <https://www.slane.k12.or.us> . 4/29/26

**999 PUBLIC NOTICES**

tatively scheduled on May 26, 2026 at 5:30 p.m. and will take place on an as needed basis. A copy of the budget document may be inspected or obtained on or after May 18, 2026 at the District Administrative Office at 455 Adams Avenue, Cottage Grove OR, between the hours of 9:00 a.m. and 4 p.m. The budget document will also be available on our website after this date. This budget committee meeting notice can also be found on the school district website <https://www.slane.k12.or.us> . 4/29/26

NORTH DOUGLAS LIBRARY DISTRICT CGS26-122

**FORM LB-1 NOTICE OF BUDGET HEARING**

A public meeting of the North Douglas Library District will be held at 6 pm on May 20, 2026 at 205 West A Avenue in Drain, Oregon, at 6 p.m. The purpose of this meeting is to discuss the budget for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2026 as approved by the Budget Committee. A summary of the budget is presented below. A copy of the budget may be inspected or obtained at 205 West A Avenue between the hours of 1 p.m., and 4 p.m., or online at rdld.org. This budget is for an annual budget period. This budget was prepared on a basis of accounting that is the same as the preceding year. For more information contact the library at 541-836-2648 or info@ndld.org

Contact: Miriam Sisson, Library Director Telephone: (541) 836-2648 Email: info@ndld.org

FINANCIAL SUMMARY - RESOURCES			
General Fund	Actual Amount	Adopted Budget	Approved Budget
	2024-2025	This Year 2025-2026	Next Year 2026-2027
Beginning Fund Balance/Net Working Capital	55,523	56,000	38,500
All Other Resources Except Current Year Property Taxes	80,415	32,450	45,500
Current Year Property Taxes Estimated to be Received	111,165	110,000	115,000
<b>Total Resources</b>	<b>247,103</b>	<b>198,450</b>	<b>199,000</b>

FINANCIAL SUMMARY - REQUIREMENTS BY OBJECT CLASSIFICATION			
Personnel Services	110,913	106,000	113,000
Materials and Services	64,586	69,600	67,500
Contingencies	2,000	2,000	4,000
Unappropriated Ending Balance and Reserved for Future Expenditure	0	19,900	14,500
<b>Total Requirements</b>	<b>177,529</b>	<b>197,500</b>	<b>199,000</b>

FULL-TIME EQUIVALENT EMPLOYEES (FTE) BY ORGANIZATIONAL UNIT OR PROGRAM *			
FTE	2.50	2.50	2.50

PROPERTY TAX LEVIES			
	Rate or Amount Imposed 2022-2023	Rate or Amount Imposed This Year 2023-2024	Rate or Amount Approved Next Year 2024-2025
Permanent Rate Levy (rate limit .44 per \$1,000)	.44	.44	.44

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SPORTS

# Cottage Grove softball opens Sky Em with win

WILL LOHRE  
Cottage Grove Sentinel

For the first time since 2023, the Lions' softball squad led off league play with a victory!

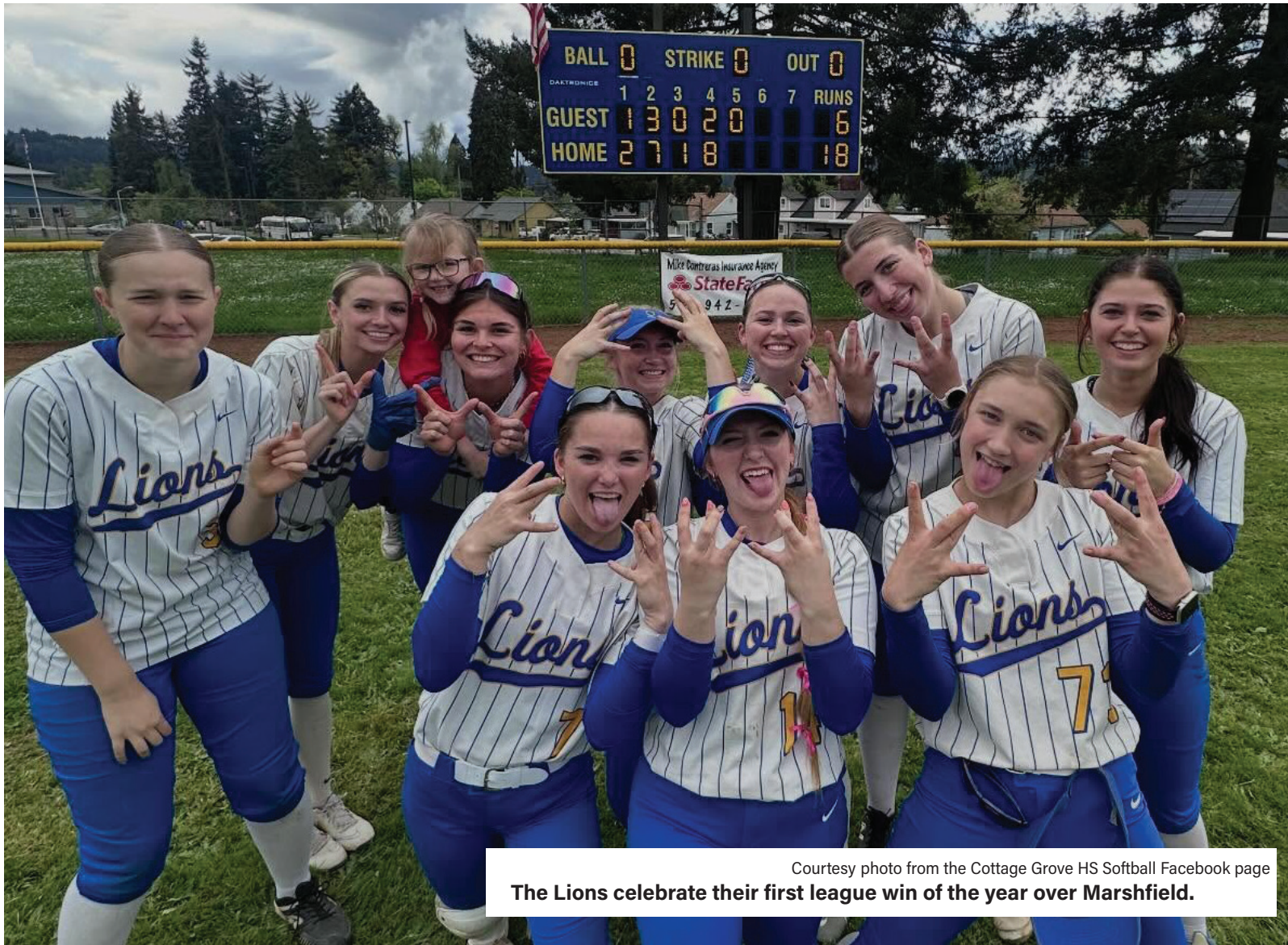
Cottage Grove hosted Marshfield in the league opener on Apr. 21, and it was the best performance of the year, as the Lions tallied the most runs in a game so far this season, and their second-highest hit total. Playing on home turf, the Lions were locked in at the plate, racking up 15 hits and beating the Pirates 18-6.

Sophomore Tori Noffsinger started on the mound for the Lions, and the first inning saw the Pirates get on the board after a walk got one on base, and a double sent the runner home. Noffsinger kept the damage to a minimum, and after catcher June Thornton and Makya Alsop caught the Pirates stealing, the final out of the inning came by way of strikeout.

In the bottom of the first, the Lions managed three hits and two runs, the first of which was driven in by a single from junior Shae Richardson. Richardson had a great day for Cottage Grove, with three hits in three at-bats, four RBI, and a walk to boot. Coming out of the first, Cottage Grove held a 2-1 lead, but the Pirates kept fighting.

In the second, Marshfield scored three quick runs through some well-timed power hitting, taking a 4-2 lead with just one out. Working out of a jam, the Lions got two important outs to close out the inning and leave the Pirates stranded on base. In the bottom of the frame, the Lions didn't just match Marshfield, they grabbed control of the game.

Cottage Grove scored seven runs in the second inning on five hits and three walks, highlighted by a double from Shae Richardson that drove in two runs. Also grabbing hits and an RBI each in the



Courtesy photo from the Cottage Grove HS Softball Facebook page  
**The Lions celebrate their first league win of the year over Marshfield.**

inning were Kadance Crownover, Jayda Bruner, Alexis Woody, and Valerie Aura. Coming out of the second, Cottage Grove was leading 9-4.

In the third, Noffsinger made quick work of the Pirates' lineup. The first two outs came from a pop-up and a flyout, and after a single, Noffsinger struck out the third batter in four pitches, sending her back to the dugout swinging.

Noffsinger had three strikeouts for the game. On offense, the Lions added one more score to make it 10-4. After junior

Macey Basting got on base with a single, Richardson sent her home, batting in her fourth run of the game on a single to left field.

In the fourth, the Pirates would add two more runs, scoring two off a double with two outs, but Cottage Grove put the game to

bed in the bottom of the inning, adding another eight runs to the scoreboard. It was a cascade of hits, errors, and a walk that helped them extend the lead. Crownover, Basting, Bruner, Alsop, and Woody each notched a hit from the batter's box, pushing the Lions over the top to an 18-6 lead.

Basting, Woody, and Richardson were the leading hitters for the Lions, and each had

three during the game, combining for seven RBI during the game.

The game finished after the top of the fifth inning, with Cottage Grove winning by 12 runs, the highest winning margin of the season. The occasion also marked just the fourth time in the last three years that the Lions have totaled 18 runs or more!

Following the victory on Apr. 21, Cottage Grove's next matchup

is a doubleheader rematch with the Pirates away from home on Apr. 24. The Lions will look to build off their opening win, and a 3-0 start in the Sky Em League is still on the table.

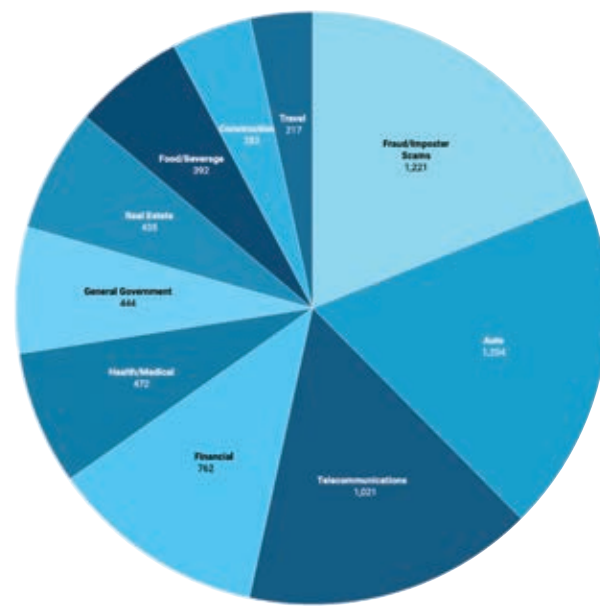
Follow game results at [osaa.org](https://osaa.org) and see Cottage Grove High School sports features online at [cgsentinel.com](https://cgsentinel.com) and in the Wednesday print editions of *The Sentinel*.

# Oregonians claw back nearly \$1.6M with state consumer protection effort for scams, fraud



Laura Tesler / Oregon Capital Chronicle

**Oregon Attorney General Dan Rayfield speaks to the Salem City Club at the Willamette Heritage Center in Salem on Sept. 12, 2025. The Oregon Department of Justice under his leadership has been working to respond to consumer complaints of fraud and scams.**



Courtesy photo

**This chart illustrates the types of complaints from consumers to the ODOJ Consumer Program in 2025.**

SHAANTH NANGUNERI  
Oregon Capital Chronicle

Oregonians filed more than 10,000 consumer complaints with the Oregon Department of Justice last year recovering nearly \$1.6 million as a result of state attorneys' efforts.

The more than \$1.56 million Oregonians received back through the Justice Department's Consumer Advocacy Complaint Program was a 27% increase in recovered funds compared to 2024, according to figures the department shared last week.

Fraud and imposter complaints, as well as reports related to the auto industry and telecommunications, topped the list. The number of health and medical complaints dropped 17% from 2024. And complaints about the government — many

tied to the Elon Musk-led Department of Government Efficiency — more than doubled.

"These numbers tell a real story about what Oregonians are up against," said Oregon Attorney General Dan Rayfield in a statement. "Fraud and scams are on the rise, and more Oregonians are turning to us for help — which means more chances for us to put money back in their pockets. We're resolving complaints faster than ever and holding people and businesses accountable."

While many of the complaints dealt with the private sector, the new figures come as Democratic-led states like Oregon are under political pressure from the Trump administration to combat fraud and financial misuse in programs and social services that receive federal funding.

Rayfield, for instance, announced charges in early April against a Portland-area behavioral health provider for allegedly stealing hundreds of thousands of dollars from Oregon's Medicaid program, vowing to "continue to hold accountable anyone who steals from Oregon's most vulnerable residents." At the time, the Oregon Department of Justice noted that its Medicaid fraud investigation unit has secured more than 200 criminal convictions, hashed out dozens of civil settlements and recovered more than \$85 million in the last decade.

The state agency also took a subtle swipe at the efforts of the Trump administration when announcing the most recent consumer protection findings. In one change from 2024, the Oregon Department of Justice noted that "general

government complaints" surged by 166%, largely driven by complaints related to the U.S. Department of Government Efficiency, or DOGE. It said the surge "reflects the current political environment rather than traditional consumer fraud activity."

"Fifty-three percent of the government related complaints we received in 2025 concerned the Department of Government Efficiency," Jenny Hansson, a spokesperson for the Oregon Department of Justice, said in a statement. "The majority of these focused on Oregonian's concerns about Elon Musk and other non-governmental individuals accessing private information. Many complaints characterized this as a data breach involving the U.S. Treasury."

In its announcement, the Oregon Department of Justice also noted that its consumer advocacy program resolved complaints "faster than ever." The agency said the average case now closes in 40 days, down from 50 days in 2023.

There has been a slight increase, 6%, in cases that result in fully or partially resolved outcomes, as well as real estate, food and beverage, and construction complaints, according to the agency. Travel complaints have fallen by 59% since 2024.

Oregonians who suspect that they have received unfair treatment from a

business or faced a scam can file complaints at [oregon-consumer.gov](https://oregon-consumer.gov) or call the state's consumer hotline at 1-877-877-9392.

<https://oregoncapitalchronicle.com/briefs/oregonians-claw-back-nearly-1-6m-with-state-consumer-protection-effort-for-scams-fraud/>

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