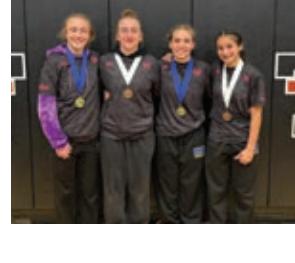


THE COTTAGE GROVE Sentinel

**Tutoring
Funds**
See page 3



**CGHS
Wrestling**
See page 8



**Cottage
Grove**

53
32



Wednesday,
February 11, 2026
Partly Cloudy

Wednesday February 11, 2026 | 137 years

www.cgsentinel.com

\$2.00

ICE OUT Walkout draws 100 CGHS students, community reactions mixed



Cindy Weeldreyer / Cottage Grove Sentinel

Students enthusiastically begin their Feb 4 ICE OUT Walkout March on River Road from the High School to Coiner Park for a rally. See more photos with this story at cgsentinel.com.

CINDY WEELDREYER
Cottage Grove Sentinel

A ripple from the intense "ICE OUT" protests at the Federal Courthouse in Eugene reached Cottage Grove High School (CGHS) on Wednesday afternoon, Feb. 4, where students staged their own walkout to make their voices heard.

According to several CGHS seniors, concerns about immigration enforcement and student safety prompted them to create an Instagram group chat that helped coordinate logistics and invite underclassmen to join. Students said they intentionally chose an early release Wednesday so they would not miss instructional time.

The district, however, made clear the event was not school sponsored.

In a letter emailed to families Tuesday night, SLSD Superintendent Todd Miller wrote that the district had learned "late last night" about a planned walkout from 12:07 to 1:06 p.m. Miller reminded families that while students retain First Amendment rights

to peaceful expression, any student who left class for a protest would be marked absent and unexcused under district policy. He encouraged parents to discuss expectations with their students and emphasized the district's responsibility to maintain an orderly campus and minimize disruption to instruction.

Information about the walkout also circulated in the community. A Blackberry Pie Society "Rally Alert" was sent to its members and the Sentinel. It invited its members to participate in the student's "ICE OUT OF OUR SCHOOLS" walkout, and march the high school to

See **ICE** Page 6

Share Fair USA brings weekly community giving to Cottage Grove

CINDY WEELDREYER
Cottage Grove Sentinel

On Saturday mornings behind Dirt Cheap Copies on East Main Street, a steady stream of neighbors gathers for Share Fair USA, a weekly community giveaway that has quickly become a reliable resource for local families.

Tables, tailgates and wagons fill with household goods, clothing, furniture and other essentials — all offered at no cost. The atmosphere is relaxed and welcoming as people browse, talk with one another and share a bowl of hot soup. What began as a simple idea has grown into a weekly event meeting real needs in Cottage Grove.

The concept is straightforward: bring what you can, take what you need, and leave with a sense of connection. There are no fees, no reservations, no swapping rules and no expectations. Everything is free, and everything is offered in the spirit of neighbors helping neighbors. The simplicity of the model removes barriers and invites participation from anyone who wants to give or receive.

RESPONDING TO A GROWING LOCAL NEED

The first Share Fair launched Nov. 1, shortly after reductions in food assistance benefits left many local families struggling. The need in Cottage Grove remains high, especially for people newly housed after long periods of homelessness. The fair provides a place to find furniture, kitchenware, bedding, electronics and other basics that help turn an empty room into a home.

Each week, the covered parking lot transforms into a cheerful, bustling space. Items are displayed from vehicles or wagons, boxes and tables. Participants often stay



to chat, share a bowl of homemade soup and watch their donations find new homes. Regular attendees describe the atmosphere as welcoming and upbeat, with neighbors cheering when someone finds a much needed item.

LEADERSHIP BEHIND THE SCENES

Behind the scenes, the weekly gathering benefits from the steady hand of Ananda Reeves, an enthusiastic community events planner whose work has shaped everything from neighborhood celebrations to large scale volunteer efforts. She prefers to keep the focus on the fair itself, but her experience shows in the smooth flow of the event, the welcoming atmosphere and how quickly newcomers feel at ease. Regular participants say her ability to organize without overshadowing the community is part of what makes the fair feel so natural and sustainable.

POSITIVE COMMUNITY IMPACTS

The impact is already showing up in personal ways.

Terri Evans hadn't even heard of Share Fair until a friend stopped by to browse and she noticed a large, sturdy, dark wood eight drawer dresser in the back of a pickup. When she asked about it, she was stunned to learn it was free.

"I was blown away that it was for free," she said. "It replaced two chests I've had for more than 20 years that both had broken drawers that fell out. I don't have any extra money to buy furniture, especially as nice as my new dresser. I'm so thankful that this event can help people like me. My bedroom now looks so good."

Stories like hers are becoming common. Reeves recounted another moment involving a single mom who had lost everything in her storage unit. With company arriving from out of town, she came to Share Fair hoping to find a few basics.

"The next car that rolled in had everything the mom needed for a beautiful table setting," Reeves said. "Both the giver and the

See **SHARING** Page 2

Corporate profits, consumer spending reverse Oregon's deficit but budget challenges remain

ALEX BAUMHARDT
Oregon Capital Chronicle

Oregon lawmakers meeting at the Capitol to balance the state's budget are staring down a much rosier economic forecast than expected.

Lawmakers will have about \$106 million more revenue to work with in the state's general fund than expected and \$50 million more from other non-general fund revenues, a significant increase from the \$63 million budget deficit they were expected to be grappling with following the last economic forecast in November, and a near-full turnaround from the \$373 million deficit they were told to expect in August.

Oregon's chief economist, Carl Riccadonna, and senior economist, Michael Kennedy, presented the surprising news and the state's latest quarterly economic forecast on Wednesday, Feb. 4, to House and Senate revenue committees and previewed some of their findings on a call with reporters Tuesday evening

Riccadonna said the gap between market forecasts and actual revenues has been a problem not just for state economists but national ones during the last year. Data showing strong economic output in the midst of market uncertainty from tariffs, an anemic labor market and rising unemployment has confounded economists nationwide.

"This is the conundrum that forecasters are dealing with. Normally there's a tight relationship between growth and employment. At the moment, that has broken down," Riccadonna said.

Whether that's due to a rebalancing in hiring that boomed after the COVID pandemic, or due to the proliferation of artificial intelligence in the workplace meant to replace human labor, or both, is too difficult to know for certain right now, Riccadonna said.

"It's probably contributions from both factors, but understanding the weighting — is it a little AI or a lot

See **FORCAST** Page 6



Alan Cohen / Oregon Capital Chronicle
The Oregon Department of Revenue building in Salem on Thursday, Feb. 13, 2025. Lawmakers will begin 2026 with \$300 million more than expected for the state's budget, state economists reported.

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Phone Number: **503-444-7924** • Email: cgsentinelofficemanager@countrymedia.net

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

Email us your submission!

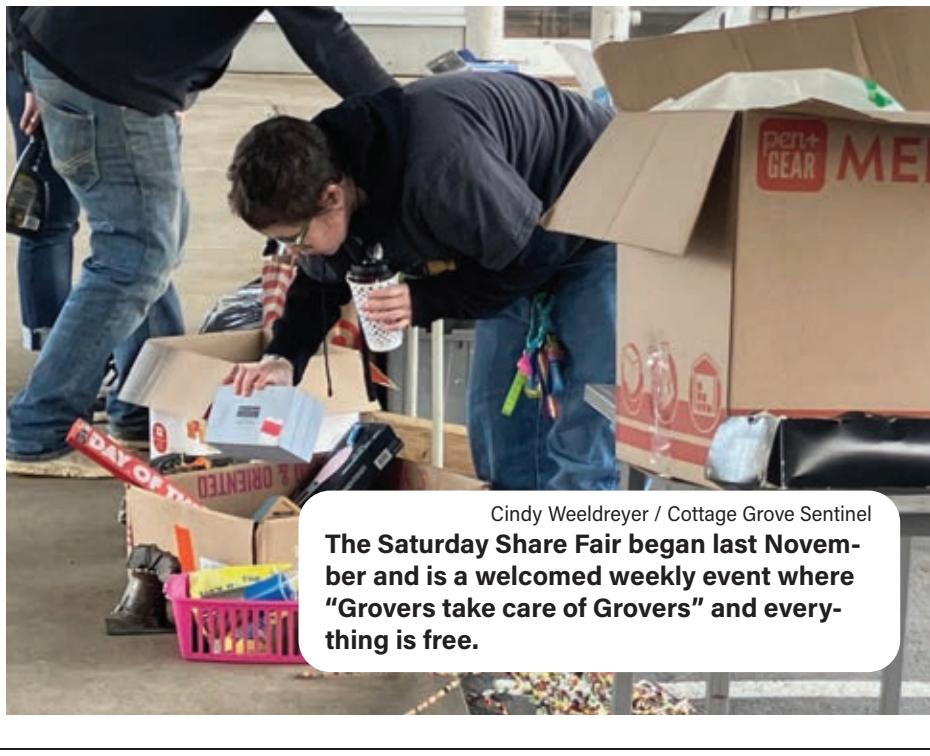


Latest news can be found online at:

www.cgsentinel.com



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Cindy Weidreyer / Cottage Grove Sentinel
The Saturday Share Fair began last November and is a welcomed weekly event where "Grovers take care of Grovers" and everything is free.

SHARING

From Page 1

receiver were thrilled beyond measure."

Many participants say the fair has helped them furnish new apartments, replace broken items or simply feel supported during tough times. Others come because giving things away — and watching those items immediately help someone else — feels meaningful.

The weekly event's guiding philosophy — "Grovers taking care of Grovers" — reflects a desire to keep resources circulating locally rather than through corporate thrift chains. Participants are

asked to keep items contained in a vehicle or wagon and to take back anything that doesn't get claimed. The goal is to create a sustainable, community managed system where generosity flows without creating waste or burden.

A MODEL BUILT TO SPREAD

The Share Fair model is intentionally simple so it can spread. The hope is that similar gatherings will take root in neighborhoods across the country, offering a free alternative to traditional shopping and helping communities build resilience from the ground up. The idea is already gaining attention

from people curious about replicating it elsewhere.

Share Fair USA runs every Saturday, rain or shine, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at 1133 E. Main St., behind Dirt Cheap Copies. Anyone is welcome to bring items in good condition, browse freely, enjoy a bowl of soup and spend time with neighbors.

In a season when many are struggling, this weekly gathering is proving that generosity is contagious — and that community can be built one shared item, one warm bowl of soup and one Saturday at a time.

"This isn't about me," Reeves said. "It's about what happens when a community decides to take care of each other."

Suspect wanted in multiple crimes arrested

STAFF REPORT
Cottage Grove Sentinel

An Elmira man faces multiple criminal charges after Lane County Sheriff's Office (LCSO) deputies deployed a drone to assist in his arrest.

LCSO deputies and Oregon State troopers responded to a property in the 23000 block of W. Sheffler Road in Elmira at 8 a.m. Feb. 3.

LCSO investigators had determined that 41-year-old Jack Weldon Baker, was likely on the property.

"Deputies had been searching for Baker regarding a number of crimes committed in several recent incidents. Deputies also deployed a drone to assist in the search," LCSO Sgt. Tim Wallace said. "After about an hour, Baker was located in brush on the property and detained without incident.



Courtesy from the LCSO
These two firearms were located by deputies during a search of the suspect's residence.

A LCSO detective authored a search warrant for Baker's residence and it was granted by a circuit court judge. During the search, deputies located two firearms, according to Wallace.

After additional investigation, Baker was arrested and lodged at the Lane County Jail on the following charges:

- Failure to Report as a Sex Offender
- Felon in Possession of a Firearm
- Assault in the 4th Degree
- Attempt to Elude a Police Officer by Vehicle
- Reckless Driving
- Criminal Trespass in the 2nd Degree

DEATH NOTICES

Angus "Clive" MacDonald, 89, of Cottage Grove, Oregon passed on February 2, 2026. There will be services held at a later date. Arrangements are in the care of Smith-Lund-Mills Funeral Chapel and Crematorium.

Deborah Geary Marshall, 71, of Eugene, Oregon, passed away on January 23rd, 2026. Arrangements are in the care of Sunset Hills Funeral Home, Crematorium & Cemetery.

Eusebio Pablo Pablo, 50, of Cottage Grove passed on January 20, 2026. Arrangements are in the care of Smith-Lund-Mills Funeral Chapel and Crematorium.

Grace Anna Almaas, 84, of Drain, Oregon passed on February 1, 2026. Arrangements are in the care of Smith-Lund-Mills Funeral Chapel and Crematorium.

Maralyn Ann Coop, age 84, of Creswell, Oregon, passed away January 30, 2026. Arrangements are in the care of Smith-Lund-Mills Funeral Chapel and Crematorium.

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

JANUARY 26

- 02:27: Animal info, 1700 Hwy 99

- 05:47: Criminal mischief, 800 block E. Quincy Ave.

- 06:09: Suspicious vehicle, 3200 block Row River Rd.

- 08:01: Theft, 700 block E. Whiteaker Ave.

- 08:08: Disturbance, 1900 block W. Harrison Ave.

- 08:39: Trespass, 1100 block E. Main St.

- 10:53: Agency assist, 78000 block Rat Creek Rd.

- 11:19: Suspicious vehicle, 900 block Row River Rd.

- 12:25: Agency assist, 200 block Buttercup Lp.

- 13:56: Suspicious condition, 900 block S. 4th St.

- 15:05: Trespass, 1500 block E. Main St.

Row River Rd.

- 15:15: Burglary, 1600 block Samuel Dr.
- 16:36: Barking dog, 1100 block Birch Ave.
- 19:47: Menacing, 900 block N. 16th St.
- 19:07: Reckless driving, 300 block Gateway Blvd.
- 19:44: Agency assist, London/Latham Rds.
- 20:08: Burglary, 100 block E. Jackson Ave.
- 20:15: Disturbance, 600 block Wood Ave.
- 22:51: Warrant service, 400 block E. Main St.

JANUARY 28

- 05:02: Suspicious vehicle, 1100 block Birch Ave.
- 07:49: Unlawful entry into a motor vehicle, 600 block N. 9th St.
- 08:49: Trespass, 1600 block Samuel Dr.
- 09:34: Agency assist, 77000 block Dugan Ln.
- 10:44: Abandoned vehicle, 1200 block Meeker Dr.
- 11:05: Burglary, 1400 block E. Washington Ave.
- 12:03: Motor vehicle crash, I5/Gateway
- 12:50: Abandoned vehicle, 200 block E. Harrison Ave.
- 16:49: Abandoned vehicle, 1500 block Cottage Heights Lp.
- 18:30: Disturbance, Woodson/River Rd.
- 18:46: Fire, Hwy 99/Lynx Hollow Rd.
- 19:39: Disorderly subject, 800 block E. Whiteaker Ave.
- 20:14: Suspicious subject, 1500 block Gateway Blvd.
- 23:37: Disturbance, 1300 block E. Main St.

JANUARY 29

- 01:34: Trespass, 32000 block Latham Rd.
- 01:37: Prowler, 100 block E. Jackson Ave.
- 02:07: Warrant service, 400 block E. Main St.
- 05:19: Suspicious vehicle, 900 block Row River Rd.
- 08:14: Theft, 900 block Row River Rd.
- 09:09: Disorderly subject, 400 block E. Main St.
- 09:54: Dog at large, E. Main/River Rd.
- 10:13: Abandoned vehicle, Harvey/19th
- 10:32: Abandoned vehicle, 1000 block S. 4th St.
- 11:48: Illegal camping, M/Cottonwood
- 12:36: Theft, 700 block E. Gibbs Ave.
- 13:16: Warrant service, 400 block E. Main St.
- 19:58: Found dog, 1100 block S. 6th St.
- 20:45: Suspicious condition, 1100 block S. 2nd St.

JANUARY 30

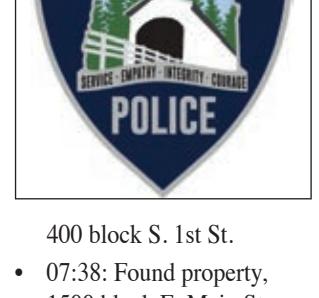
- 00:28: Disturbance, 1200 block Gateway Blvd.
- 03:03: Suspicious subject, Q/Birch
- 03:09: Suspicious condition, 400 block E. Main St.
- 07:37: Warrant service, 400 block E. Main St.

JANUARY 31

- 01:03: Fire, 200 block N. 12th St.
- 03:41: Disturbance, 200 block N. 12th St.
- 11:48: Trespass, 900 block S. 8th St.
- 14:18: Found dog, 100 block S. 10th St.
- 15:01: Trespass, 2000 block S. 8th St.
- 15:03: Hit and run, 900 block Row River Rd.
- 17:34: Abandoned vehicle, 16th/Main
- 18:16: Found dog, 400 block E. Main St.
- 20:52: Missing juvenile, 200 block Grant Ave.
- 23:05: Disturbance, 200 block N. 12th St.

FEBRUARY 01

- 06:42: Motor vehicle theft, 1000 block S. 10th St.
- 07:13: Motor vehicle theft,



400 block S. 1st St.

07:38: Found property, 1500 block E. Main St.

11:07: Alarm, 100 block Village Dr.

11:47: Disorderly subject, Main/River Rd.

11:58: Death investigation, 200 block S. 3rd St.

13:17: Trespass, 900 block S. 8th St.

14:18: Found dog, 100 block S. 10th St.

15:01: Trespass, 2000 block S. 8th St.

15:03: Hit and run, 900 block Row River Rd.

16:32: Fire, 75000 block London Rd.

17:34: Abandoned vehicle, 16th/Main

18:16: Found dog, 400 block E. Main St.

20:52: Missing juvenile, 200 block Grant Ave.

23:05: Disturbance, 200 block N. 12th St.

DEATH NOTICES

DEATH NOTICES

DEATH NOTICES

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Creswell Schools to receive \$305,092 in tutoring funds

JEREMY C. RUARK
Cottage Grove Sentinel

With additional funding from the legislature to support statewide early literacy efforts, the Oregon Department of Education (ODE) has awarded 48 school districts a total of \$12 million in 2025-27 high-dosage tutoring (HDT) supplement funds.

The Creswell School District is to receive \$67,897.56 under the state allocation, according to the Oregon Department of Education.

ODE allocated funds based on districts' English language arts (ELA) proficiency, as well as their number of English language learners, students experiencing disabilities, and students experiencing poverty.

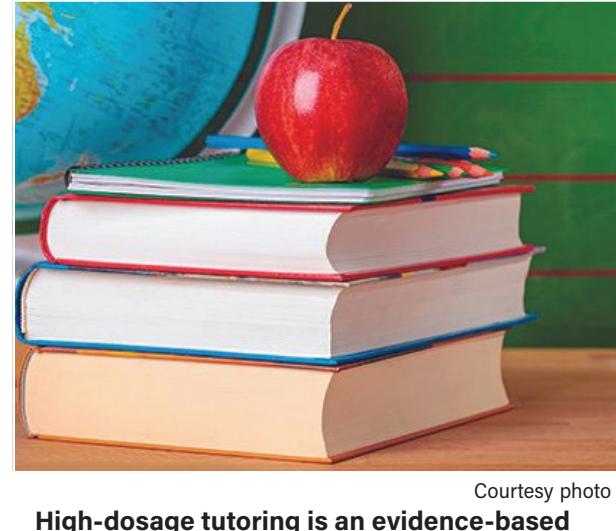
"This investment is about meeting students where they are and giving them the support they need to thrive," Governor Tina Kotek said.

"High-dosage tutoring allows us to focus resources on the learners who need it most, accelerate progress, and make sure every dollar is driving better outcomes for students."

High-dosage tutoring is an evidence-based support, provided in addition to core literacy instruction, that allows students extra time and assistance to practice foundational literacy skills in small groups or one-on-one with a highly-trained tutor.

"This investment is about ensuring students who need additional literacy support receive it early and consistently," ODE Deputy Director of Academics Dr. Candice Castillo said. "By prioritizing districts with higher concentrations of need, ODE is helping schools deliver high-dosage tutoring that can make a meaningful difference in students' reading outcomes."

All districts receiv-



Courtesy photo

High-dosage tutoring is an evidence-based support, provided in addition to core literacy instruction, that allows students extra time and assistance to practice foundational literacy skills in small groups or one-on-one with a highly-trained tutor.

ing HDT supplement funds are required to:

- Prioritize funds for their highest-need schools, based on 3rd-5th grade ELA proficiency

- Supplement, not supplant funds already allocated to HDT. Funds must be used to expand or establish new tutoring activities.

• Participate in ODE's HDT Community of Practice taking place through March 2026. Participants will learn about current research on effective HDT, identify key actions for high-quality implementation, and share resources and best practices.

Many districts are using HDT Supplement funds to strengthen tutor training and ensure high-quality implementation aligned with Multi-Tiered Systems of Support (MTSS) frameworks.

"By providing tutors with strong training, ongoing support, and opportunities to observe other high-dosage tutors, we help them see effective strategies in action," Central Point School District Director of Education Christine Becht said. "These experiences build their capacity to better serve students who benefit from additional MTSS support."

BACKGROUND

In the 2025 legislative session, ODE received additional funds to support statewide early literacy efforts. The HDT Supplement distributes \$12 million directly to prioritized school districts to expand tutoring programs focused on improving early literacy outcomes for grades PreK-5.

ODE is allocating approximately \$3,000 per student for 15% of 3rd-5th graders in each eligible district who are not yet proficient on state standardized tests. Additionally, approximately \$1.5 million (12%) of all funding is being set aside to support small districts (<1650 ADM), which is commensurate to the percent of students served in small districts across the state.

See More information about the HDT Supplement attached to this story online at the Lincoln County Leader website.

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

FEBRUARY 11

- CG Public Library Hours Today 11 a.m. - 7 p.m. 700 E. Gibbs Ave. For information call: 541.942.3828
- Senior Center Pinochle Games. 1 p.m. Senior Center, 700 E. Gibbs Ave.
- Craft Tutor. 2:30 p.m. Cottage Grove Public Library. 700 E. Gibbs Ave. Make a fun craft to take home.
- Open Bowling. 3-5:30 p.m. Cottage Bowl. 740 Row River Road. Info: 541-767-2695 or www.thecottagebowl.com
- Elks Bingo. 5 p.m. Elks Lodge. 775 N. River Rd. Doors and lounge open at 5 p.m. Early Bird Bingo begins at 6:30 p.m. Regular games begin at 7 p.m. Food and beverages available for purchase.
- Acoustic Jam with Gregg Biller. 6-7:30 p.m. Coast Fork Brewing. 106 S. 6th St.
- AWANA. 6:30-8 p.m. Cottage Grove Bible Church. 1200 E. Quincy Ave. A midweek discipleship ministry for youth from Age 3 thru 8th grade that meets during the school year.
- Axe and Fiddle Game Night w/Ayla. 6:30 - 10 p.m. Axe and Fiddle. 657 E. Main St. Free.

FEBRUARY 12

- Cottage Grove Public Library. 10 a.m. - 6 p.m. 700 E. Gibbs Ave. For information call: 541-942-3828.
- Oregon Aviation Museum Open. 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. 2475 Jim Wright Way Donation.
- Baby Laptimes. 11:30 a.m. Cottage Grove Library. 700 E. Gibbs Ave. Birth to 2 yrs.
- Cottage Grove Lions Club. Noon. Axe & Fiddle. 657 E. Main St.
- Bohemia Gold Mining Museum Open. 1-4 p.m. Thursday-Saturday. 308 South 10th St. (across from Bohemia Park)
- Community Center Table Tennis. 4-6 p.m. Reception Hall. 700 E. Gibbs Ave. Tables, paddles, and balls provided.
- Celebrate Recovery. Soup dinner 5:15 p.m. Meeting 6 p.m. Calvary Chapel. 1447 Hwy 99N. CR is a Christian-based recovery program for any hurt, habit, or hang up that is based on 8 Principles and 12 Steps for more information call 541-554-8135.
- Pilates/Yoga Class. 5:30-6:30 p.m. Row River Grange. 34360 Row River Rd. Build strength, improve flexibility and balance in warm and welcoming class taught by Courtney. To register before the first class: alignyourlife-coach@gmail.com Fee: Five class passes \$60

FEBRUARY 13

- CG Public Library. 10 a.m. - 6 p.m. 700 E. Gibbs Ave. For information call: 541-942-3828
- American Legion Post 32 Bingo. 5-7 p.m. 826 W. Main St. Cards: 50-cents. Payout is 75% per game. Proceeds support veterans in our community.
- The Concrete Delta (Americana) 6-9 p.m. Coast Fork Brewery. 106 S. 6th St.
- Weekly Pool Tournament 7 p.m. Bohemian Tavern. 48 N. 9th St. Entry Fee: \$5 and BCA Rules

FEBRUARY 14

- Share Fair USA 9 a.m. 1133 E. Main St. Covered parking area next to Urban Kitchen. Reserve a space and share from your abundance with neighbors who are in need. Load up your unwanted items to give away for free (no bartering). Details about the weekly event is on Share Fair USA Facebook page or send email to eventsbyananda@gmail.com
- Cottage Grove Public Library. 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. 700 E. Gibbs Ave. For information call: 541-942-3828.
- Storytime. 11:30 a.m. Cottage Grove Public Library, 700 E. Gibbs Ave. All ages welcome.

FEBRUARY 17

- CG Public Library Hours Today. 10 a.m. - 6 p.m. 700 E. Gibbs Ave. For information call: 541.942.3828.
- Bilingual Story Time. 5 p.m. Cottage Grove Public Library. 700 E. Gibbs Ave.
- Taco Tuesday Mindy Joy Fundraiser. 5-7 p.m. Elks Lodge. 755 N. River Rd. The co-founder of the Pay It Forward Facebook page who has positively impacted thousands in need has had a serious medical emergency and hospitalization has created a crushing financial burden on her and her children are asking for community support.
- Pilates/Yoga Class. 5:30-6:30 p.m. Row River Grange. 34360 Row River Rd. Build strength, improve flexibility and balance in warm and welcoming class taught by Courtney. To register before the first class: alignyourlife-coach@gmail.com Fee: Five class passes \$60
- Cottage Theatre Play: A Piece of My Heart. 7:30 p.m. 700 Village Dr. More info: www.cottagetheatre.org A drama about six women who served in Vietnam, tracing their experiences before, during, and after the war. Runs weekends through Feb 22 (Thu-Sat at 7:30 p.m. and Sunday at 2:30 p.m.)

FEBRUARY 18

- Oregon Aviation History Museum. 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tuesday-Saturday. 2475 Jim Wright Way (donation).
- CG Public Library Hours Today. 11 a.m. - 7 p.m. 700 E. Gibbs Ave. For information call: 541.942.3828
- Coast Fork Kiwanis Club. Noon.
- Senior Center Pinochle Games. 1 p.m. Senior Center. 700 E. Gibbs Ave.

FEBRUARY 19

- Cottage Theatre Play: A Piece of My Heart. 7:30 p.m. 700 Village Dr. More info: www.cottagetheatre.org A drama about six women who served in Vietnam, tracing their experiences before, during, and after the war. Runs weekends through Feb 22 (Thu-Sat at 7:30 p.m. and Sunday at 2:30 p.m.)
- Karaoke Night. 9 p.m. to Midnight. Bohemian Tavern. 48 N. 9th St.

FEBRUARY 20

- CG Public Library. 10 a.m. - 6 p.m. 700 E. Gibbs Ave. For information call: 541.942.3828
- Baby Laptimes (birth to 2 yrs). 11:30 a.m. Cottage Grove Library. 700 E. Gibbs Ave.
- Pilates/Yoga Class. 5:30-6:30 p.m. Row River Grange. 34360 Row River Rd. Build strength, improve flexibility and balance in warm and welcoming class taught by Courtney. To register before the first class: alignyourlife-coach@gmail.com Fee: Five class passes \$60

FEBRUARY 21

- Share Fair USA 9 a.m. 1133 E. Main St. (covered parking area next to Urban Kitchen) Reserve a space and share from your abundance with neighbors who are in need. Load up your unwanted items to give away for free (no bartering). Details about the weekly event is on Share Fair USA Facebook page or send email to eventsbyananda@gmail.com
- CG Public Library Hours Today. 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. 700 E. Gibbs Ave. For information call: 541.942.3828

Friday and Saturday 7:30 p.m. Sunday 2 p.m. Tickets: \$20. Runs two weekends

FEBRUARY 22

- Wine Club Members receive 10% off. Tickets must be purchased in advance and are non-refundable. For reservations call 541-942-1364.
- AlAnon Meeting. 7 p.m. Sinclair Room. Cottage Grove City Hall. 400 East Main St. A 12-step group for family members and friends of alcoholics/addicts offering mutual support and a design for living in spite of what the alcoholic may or may not do. For more information call Saunders at 541-255-7648.

FEBRUARY 23

- The Regulars (Americana). 1-3 p.m. Coast Fork Brewery. 106 S. 6th St.
- VFW Bingo. 2-4 p.m. VFW Post 3473. 3160 Hillside Dr. Cards: 50-cents. Free coffee & popcorn. Payout is 75% per game. Proceeds supports veterans in our community.
- South Valley Athletics Bingo Fundraiser. 3:30-5:30 p.m. Cards \$1/each for 10 rounds

See more CALENDAR, Page 4

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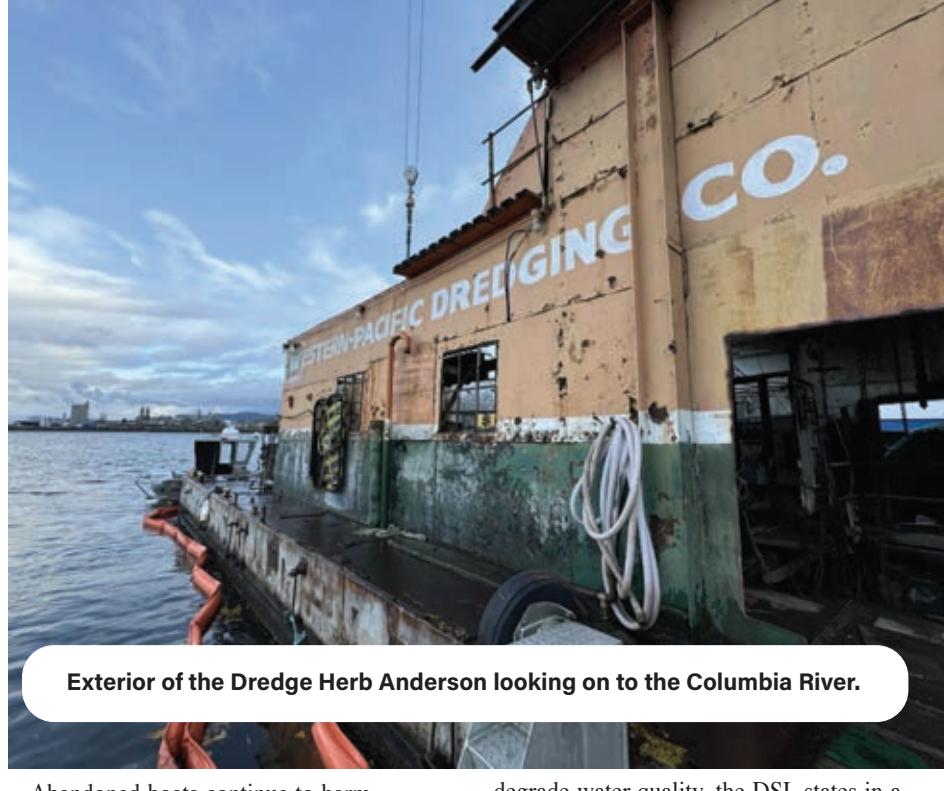
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Chevy
CHEVROLET, INC.

Oregon cracking down on abandoned boats



Exterior of the Dredge Herb Anderson looking on to the Columbia River.

Abandoned boats continue to harm Oregon's rivers and coastlines, according to the Oregon Department of State Lands (DSL).

From huge vessels like the 100-foot Dredge Herb Anderson, removed from the Columbia River last year, to smaller recreational craft, these derelict boats leak harmful toxins, drift dangerously into navigational channels, and

degrade water quality, the DSL states in a release.

Oregon Department of State Lands has been leading the charge on this issue since launching the statewide Abandoned and Derelict Vessel (ADV) Program in Sept 2024.

"We can't continue polluting our Oregon waterways or risking a large marine accident," Oregon Department of State Lands Director

Kaitlin Lovell said. "The scope of this issue has motivated bipartisan legislators and community members along impacted waterways to come together for solutions."

After a successful push during the state's 2025 legislative session, two significant changes to state law came into effect on September 26, 2025.

- Streamlined Disposal: Allows the state to classify severely degraded ADVs as marine debris, opening a more efficient and cost-effective route for disposal.

- Reduced Administrative Burden: Allows authorized entities throughout the state to remove ADVs from the waterway without a time- and resource-intensive process, reducing delays and red tape.

"The legislative wins for this program might sound like words on a page, but these are the systematic changes we need to get these dilapidated vessels out of our waters," Oregon District 10 State Representative David Gomberg (D) said. In agreement was Republican State Senator Legislator Dick Anderson from Lincoln City. "This issue requires all of us to stay vigilant for ways to be more effective, and removing red tape is a good place to start."

In addition to legislative progress, Oregon's statewide ADV Program secured a \$1,000,000 grant from the BoatUS Foundation, with support from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's Marine Debris Program. The dollars awarded to Oregon will support the removal and disposal of dozens

of high-priority boats in counties throughout Oregon.

"Some of the really large vessels can cost hundreds of thousands of dollars when there is toxic material," Port of Newport Deputy Director Aaron Bretz said. "so obviously significant funding is required, but there's also a lot of coordination with the Coast Guard, sheriff's offices, environmental regulators, and companies equipped to perform the complex dismantling work."

Coordination of involved parties was top-of-mind for Oregon Department of State Lands when updating the statewide ADV Program website to include new procedures for ADVs based on the changes in state law.

A remaining challenge for the nascent program is stemming the flow of ADVs into Oregon waterways.

"We pursue penalties against owners who fail to resolve their problems and leave DSL to address the hazards they've created," DSL Waterways Stewardship Program Manager Josh Mulhollem said. "But many of the biggest, most expensive cleanups are ships that have already drained the owner's assets. Many people just don't understand that bidding on a cheap ship at auction can lead to financial ruin."

Despite the challenges that remain, momentum is building, according to the DSL.

"With new tools, funding, and partnerships in place, Oregon's ADV Program is chartering a clearer course toward cleaner, safer, waterways," the release states.

Federal judge ends oft-used exemption to environmental review for logging on federal land

ALEX BAUMHARDT
Oregon Capital Chronicle

A 34-year-old rule exempting some commercial logging projects on federal lands from environmental review is unlawful, a federal judge has ruled.

Judge Michael McShane in the U.S. District Court in Medford earlier this month struck down the exemption, and with it, reversed recent approvals for three commercial logging projects covering tens of thousands of acres in Fremont-Winema National Forest in southern Oregon.

The decision is the result of a 2022 lawsuit brought against the U.S. Forest Service by regional conservation groups Oregon Wild, WildEarth Guardians and GO Alliance.

Since 1992, the U.S. Forest Service has been able to bypass environmental reviews required by federal law for logging projects on federal land, if the logging is meant to "improve forest stand conditions," habitat or prevent wildfires, without "significant effect" on the human environment.

The agency established the carveout as one of 25 that could be invoked to circumvent a rigorous environmental review process in certain situations that require logging and prescribed burns on federal forestland.

But in 2022, after the U.S. Forest Service used the exemption to approve without environmental review three large and controversial forest restoration and wildfire prevention projects in the Fremont-Winema that involved logging roughly one-third of the 91,000 acres the projects encompassed, local conservation groups sued.

Oregon Wild, WildEarth Guardians and GO Alliance said in the suit that the agency's exclusion to environmental review for such projects is fundamentally flawed and a "logging loophole," because it is being used to justify bypassing environmental reviews on large logging projects of thousands of acres that most certainly will have significant environmental impact.

"There is not — and never has been — any legal basis for the agency to use a regulation intended for small, innocuous projects for massive commercial logging projects instead," said Oliver Stiebel, a Crag Law Center attorney who represented the conservation groups, in a statement.

McShane agreed.

"Because the record before the court does not show the Forest Service considered the impact of thinning (logging) at any scale, commercial or

otherwise, the court cannot conclude the Forest Service engaged in a 'reasoned decision' regarding environmental impacts of the actions authorized by (the exemption)," he said in the ruling.

The U.S. Forest Service has not yet filed an appeal in the case and did not respond by Tuesday to a request for comment.

Exclusion used excessively

The specific exclusion at the heart of the lawsuit allowed for logging and prescribed burns to go forward on national forestland without environmental review if the logging and burns would not cause significant environmental harm, and if they are done in service of forest and habitat improvement or wildfire prevention.

The exemption couldn't be used if logging activities required building more than 1 mile of new road, or if herbicides would be used, but it did not have any other limitations, including on the amount of logging that could reasonably take place without having a "significant effect" on the environment.

By the early 2000s, the specific exclusion was being used frequently to authorize commercial logging without review on federal land,

according to a Government Accountability Office review of Forest Service vegetation



Courtesy photo from the U.S. Forest Service / Flickr
The Chewaucan River Flowing through the Fremont Winema National Forest in Southern Oregon. A judge has reversed approvals for three commercial logging projects in the forest because they relied on an exemption to environmental review that has been found unlawful.

management projects from 2003-05.

The office found it was the most used of the categorical exemptions to environmental review, and was used to bypass such reviews on nearly 2.5 million acres of forest logged as part of "vegetation management" projects during those years.

WildEarth noted in the suit that the 1992 exclusion was established for improving forests, not to make it easier to log them.

"The Forest Service did not intend for the categorical exclusion to apply to commercial thinning," the group wrote.

But the Forest Service argued that it's been long used to advance commercial logging projects, that the agency is staffed with scientists who know best practices and that it's needed to avoid litigation that often comes from environmental review processes that can slow the agency's work down.

<https://oregoncapitalchronicle.com/2026/01/27/federal-judge-ends-oft-used-exemption-to-environmental-review-for-logging-on-federal-land/>

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COMMENTARY

PERS reform starts with removing conflicts of interest

DOUGLAS BERG
Oregon Capital Chronicle

The Oregon Public Employees Retirement System is set to take another massive bite out of public budgets starting in the 2027-29 budget cycle.

Still reeling from an even bigger increase that took effect last summer for the current biennium, public agencies will feel unprecedented pressure as they struggle to absorb this new shock.

The two increases mean that by 2029, PERS contributions will have increased almost 80% over the 2023-2025 biennium, from \$5.26 billion to \$9.35 billion, over 25% of payroll.

Shocking as these increases are, they shouldn't be surprising. They are the inevitable result of years of failures by a succession of PERS Boards.

Such a big spike in contributions could have been prevented. Its main cause is the depletion of reserve accounts, known as "side accounts," established years ago to soften contribution hikes by tapping the accounts each biennium.

Responsible PERS boards would have planned for the end of the side accounts by gradually raising

contributions each biennium to blunt the future increase. Instead, PERS Boards showed a stubborn unwillingness to raise contributions enough, leaving the agencies exposed when the inevitable contribution increase arrived.

The 2008 financial crisis should have been a wake-up call. Overnight, PERS funding crashed to 80%. Suddenly the board was facing a large unfunded liability, which means too little money coming into the system to pay promised pensions under current assumptions.

One key assumption that the PERS Board controls is the assumed rate of return on PERS investments. A large unfunded liability means the assumed rate is set too high — PERS investments would not earn enough to meet pension promises. Lowering the assumed rate produces higher contributions from public agencies but improves system funding.

How did the PERS Board react after 2008?

For five years, the PERS Board did nothing to increase contributions, leaving the assumed rate of return unchanged. Finally a new board chairman arrived in 2013 and lowered the assumed rate for three consecutive bienniums. In 2019, progress stalled again. Only

one reduction has been made since then.

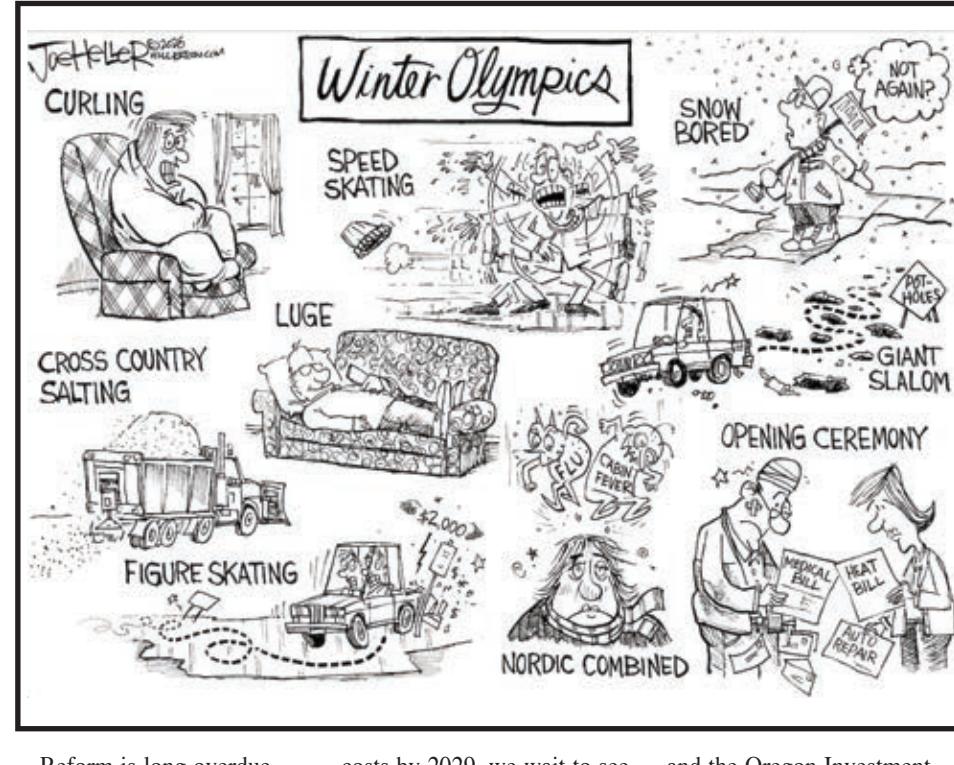
PERS Boards failed to understand that keeping agency contributions artificially low is like backing up water behind an unstable dam. Eventually the deluge will come, as it has now with these enormous contribution hikes. And there may be more to come. Despite the billions of new money coming into the system, its funding is even worse than it was 2008.

Why did PERS Boards behave this way, and what can be done?

For decades, conflict of interest has marred PERS decisions and their oversight. Lawmakers, governors, and judges are all PERS members in some form. PERS members held half of the PERS Board positions before 2003 reforms. Today two out of five board members can be PERS members.

Whatever the motivations, the results are unmistakable. For decades, PERS Boards had their priorities backward. First, they approved such generous pensions that by 2000 many retirees were collecting pensions equal to their final salaries. Then, when the 2008 financial crisis exposed the cost of those decisions, they refused to ask for enough contributions to fund the pensions they created.

EDITORIAL CARTOON



Reform is long overdue.

Lawmakers can reform the system by mandating that all five PERS Board members and their spouses have no connection to the PERS system, either as a beneficiary or in any other capacity. We've seen how badly PERS was managed with PERS members having substantial influence on the decisions. Only by having a truly independent board is there hope for the PERS system.

Meanwhile, as public agencies scramble to manage over \$4 billion in added PERS

costs by 2029, we wait to see what PERS hands them next.

Douglas Berg moved to Oregon in 2008 after a long career in information technology. He soon became interested in Oregon issues such as ballot measures, taxation and the Oregon Public Employee Retirement System. His opinion pieces and letters have appeared in The Oregonian/OregonLive, the legacy Eugene Register-Guard, and Lookout Eugene-Springfield. He has testified before the PERS Board

and the Oregon Investment Council.

<https://oregoncapitalchronicle.com/2026/02/04/pers-reform-starts-with-removing-conflicts-of-interest/>

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Roads funding, budget deficit, protecting immigrants top legislative priorities



Laura Tesler / Oregon Capital Chronicle

Oregon House chamber on June 26, 2025. Lawmakers in during the February 2026 session will consider more than 250 proposals and, most urgently, find ways to balance the state budget.

ALEX BAUMHARDT
Oregon Capital Chronicle

Ninety lawmakers from across Oregon gathered February 2, at the State Capitol in Salem to tackle a host of urgent issues, including balancing the state's budget amid a looming deficit, keeping the state's transportation department solvent, protecting Oregonians and immigrants from aggressive federal enforcement tactics and affordability.

The lawmakers — 30 senators and 60 representatives with Democratic majorities in both houses — have no more than 35 days during the short session to pass new laws. Each member is allowed to propose two bills, though each chamber and the committees within them can propose additional, joint legislation.

So far more than 260 bills have been posted to the Oregon Legislative Information System, and the session must end by March 8. Here's a look at the biggest

issues and proposals lawmakers will consider:

Balancing the state's budget

The short sessions that take place during even years in Oregon — as opposed to the long sessions that take place over six months during odd years — are typically focused on balancing the state's existing budget.

Making that work harder for lawmakers now is the massive tax and spending cut package that congressional Republicans and President Donald Trump passed during the summer. It includes income tax exemptions on tips and overtime, major tax write-offs on business investments and assets and trillions in spending cuts over the next decade to food and health insurance programs for low-income Americans, including billions for Oregonians.

And because Oregon's state tax code automatically replicates changes to the federal tax code, lawmakers are expected to have \$63 million less revenue to spend than

expected on critical services over the next year and a half. That could change, however, depending on the upcoming state revenue forecast Oregon's lead economists will unveil on Wednesday.

At a news conference leading up to the session, Democratic leaders in the House and Senate said they will consider ways to reduce current spending, potentially tap the state's reserve funds and consider selectively disconnecting Oregon's state tax code from the federal tax code.

"If a tax break is putting more money in working people's pockets, then we can say 'keep that,'" House Speaker Julie Fahey, D-Eugene, said about the selective disconnect, and preserving some tax changes such as keeping tips tax-free. "We want to make sure that our tax policy actually incentivizes economic growth, and is not just a giveaway to the corporations."

Republicans asserted the state has enough money to execute its priority functions, and that legislators should be focused on reducing state spending, not on imposing or raising any taxes.

"State government should tighten its belt, the same way Oregon families have been forced to do over the last few years," said Senate Minority Leader Bruce Starr, R-Dundee.

The Legislature's Joint Committee on Ways and Means will hold a public hearing on Tuesday from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. at the Capitol to get feedback from Oregonians on budget reduction options.

Protecting immigrants

Both Democratic and Republican lawmakers said they've heard from

constituents fearful and angry about recent federal immigration enforcement actions. Though House Republican Leader Lucetta Elmer, R-McMinnville, blamed Oregon's sanctuary laws and news reports as fueling tensions.

House Majority Leader Ben Bowman, D-Tigard, shot back that "the fear is real," referring to the growing number of children and U.S.

citizens who have been swept up in immigration enforcement actions in Oregon and nationwide. Those include a high schooler in Elmer's district and a 7-year-old in Portland, along with her parents, who were seeking emergency medical care for their daughter.

"What we're seeing is madness," Bowman said. "I think the proposals you'll see in Oregon will be effective,

they'll be constitutional and we'll do what we can to protect Oregonians."

The Democrats' "immigration justice package" includes bills that would allow Oregonians to sue individual federal agents for constitutional rights violations, protect the data privacy rights of immigrants in Oregon and require schools to notify parents

See **LEGISLATURE** Page 6

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Weekly Online Poll

Are you ready for winter, or do you want the warm spring-like conditions to continue this month?

- Ready for winter
- Want more spring-like weather

Previous Poll Results

Should Oregon's sanctuary laws be changed to allow federal law enforcement to address public safety concerns?

38.4% - Yes 63.6% - No

THE COTTAGE GROVE Sentinel

THE FIRST AMENDMENT

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LEGISLATURE

From Page 5

when there's Immigration and Customs Enforcement, or ICE, activity on or near campus.

Other bills meant to bring more transparency to federal immigration operations would limit masking by law enforcement and standardize identification for all law enforcement in Oregon. Another proposal would put guardrails on federal agencies' use of license plate reader data collected by local law enforcement.

A proposal from Rep. Willy Chotzen, D-Portland, would allow the state to withhold tax payments to the federal government, if the federal government unlawfully

withholds funds from the state. It comes in light of recent threats from Trump and his administration to withhold federal dollars from Oregon and other Democratic states' for enforcing sanctuary laws.

Transportation funding
Lawmakers will need to get creative and collaborative following a years-long saga to get sustainable revenue flowing to the Oregon Department of Transportation for critical infrastructure and safety upgrades, and to cover the agency's \$240 million budget hole.

Democrats in a special session in September passed a \$4.3 billion, 10-year funding package that would increase gas and payroll taxes and vehicle license and

registration fees, but that's in limbo after Republican opponents gathered enough signatures to refer it to the ballot. Oregon voters will decide on the new taxes and fees during the May primary.

In the meantime, Gov. Tina Kotek called on lawmakers to reallocate existing money within the transportation department to cover its budget holes, staving off hundreds of layoffs. She said no money can be allocated from the general fund, and that long-term solutions to state transportation funding will need to be solved in 2027.

Affordability

Both Democrats and Republicans have introduced bills they believe will make living in Oregon, buying a home, finding a job and

running a business more affordable and accessible.

Kotek is backing a bill in the House that would create a council to fast-track permitting for industrial sites and expand eligibility for the state's enterprise zone program, a property tax subsidy to coporations in exchange for the promise of economic development and jobs.

Another Kotek-backed proposal would create an exception to state land use and urban growth boundary laws that would make it easier for developers to site and build manufactured homes and mobile home parks for Oregonians 55 and older who meet low-income thresholds.

Other Democratic bills to address housing affordability are aimed at making it harder for multi-billion-dollar

private equity firms to buy up Oregon homes, and eliminate the mortgage interest deduction on income taxes if the mortgage is for a vacation home.

To address housing affordability, Republicans are sponsoring a bill that would create a deferred loan program for closing costs for first time homebuyers, allowing the loan and interest to be paid off when the home is sold to the next buyer.

Other Republican proposals that lawmakers said would increase affordability would be to pause the Clean Fuels Program, which is a carbon tax on gas and fuels distributors in the state that some lawmakers said gets passed onto consumers. The program is part of state-mandated emissions reduction

targets that fossil fuel providers reach to lower the intensity of their planet-warming pollution.

Another proposal would expand the types of schools, apprenticeships and training programs that Oregonians can pay for with federal Pell Grants available to low-income students and students from low-income families.

<https://oregoncapitalchronicle.com/2026/02/02/roads-funding-budget-deficit-protecting-oregons-immigrants-top-2026-legislative-priorities/>

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FORCAST

From Page 1

AI? — has huge implications as we're trying to put together a personal income tax forecast. Time will tell and that's the only way to understand what's happening here. This is a conundrum my team's dealing with," he said.

Lawmakers will also have \$147 million in unspent revenue from the last budget cycle to apply to the state budget during the next 18 months.

The roughly \$106 million general fund revenue boost in the latest forecast is from corporate income tax revenues and other revenues coming in higher than expected, though personal income taxes are down more than \$40 million from the previous quarter. Another \$50 million that lawmakers will have to work with comes from lottery and corporate activity taxes that came in higher than expected.

Overall, the state is looking at more revenue than expected in the quarter ahead due to several factors, Riccadonna explained:

— Spending stimulated by the Republican tax and spending cut megawall and from the Federal Reserve lowering interest rates by about 2% over the last year.

— Less uncertainty related to tariffs than at the start of 2025. The

U.S. Supreme Court will decide in the next few months whether President Donald Trump can continue ordering them by executive fiat.

— High corporate profits, business activity and stock market valuations driven by the "hyperscalers" such as AI processing and data centers selling cloud computing and data storage and management, and the semiconductors needed for the server farms.

"The fact of the matter is that the corporate profits environment is strong. Financial market valuations are close to record high levels, and so this offsets a lot of the weakness that we would see in wages and salaries, especially in the lower tier households," Riccadonna said.

Democratic lawmakers expressed relief that they'll have more money to work with to shore up nearly \$1 billion in federal revenue losses from the Republican tax and spending cuts, and frustration that the economic boosts seem to indicate healthy corporate, rather than household, budgets.

"While modestly good news at the state level, most Oregonians won't be impacted by what we learned in the revenue forecast today. Many will wake up tomorrow and still struggle to pay skyrocketing healthcare costs, rising rent, and growing grocery bills," House

Majority Leader Ben Bowman, D-Tigard, said in a statement.

"Oregon's economy continues to show signs of resilience, even though President Trump's economic policies are exacerbating inflation pressures and cost of living challenges for Oregonians," Gov. Tina Kotek said in a statement. "My focus remains on driving solutions for people struggling to make ends meet and defending Oregon's values in the face of federally-driven cuts to essential services."

Republican leaders used the forecast to poke holes in Democrats' plan to cut ties with three of the 115 provisions of the Republican tax and spending cut law to keep nearly \$300 million in tax revenue in the state.

"Raising costs on businesses and middle-income Oregonians right now is indefensible, and voters have already rejected this approach in overwhelming fashion," Senate Republican Leader Bruce Starr, R-Dundee, said in a statement. "With additional resources on the table, Democrats are deliberately choosing to suppress economic growth and shrink our tax base."

Economy continues to split. During the last revenue forecast, Riccadonna told lawmakers that Oregonians are experiencing the current economy differently based on their income bracket, creating a K-shaped economy where upper

income-earners see their money grow while low-income households see theirs fall.

On Tuesday, Riccadonna said the split is becoming even more pronounced. Capital gains taxes are on the rise from the sale of stocks, but overall income taxes are down, indicating low wages and lost jobs or low job growth.

The national unemployment rate decreased slightly in recent months, but Federal Reserve Chair Jerome Powell has characterized this period as one of "low hiring, low firing," leaving many trapped outside of labor markets or stuck in jobs with little mobility.

Oregon's unemployment rate seems to be plateauing after reaching the highest level — outside a recession or recovery period — in a decade, according to the Oregon Employment Department.

Filings for unemployment insurance have slowed compared to the same time last year, signaling that maybe labor conditions will begin to meet growing economic output, Riccadonna said.

There is strong growth in production and the national output of durable goods, Riccadonna said, but it's not being reflected in the labor market. Among the strangest relationships is growing output from the manufacturing sector, coupled with large manufacturing job losses, especially in Oregon.

"It's unusual," he said. "In normal economic conditions, if the economy grows faster, you have more job gains to go along with that."

Economists at the Federal Reserve recently changed their assessment of economic activity from "modest" to "solid," and Riccadonna characterized it as "sturdy."

Clarification: The article previously stated that lawmakers would have \$300 million more than expected to spend during the next 18-months of the budget cycle. This included \$147 million in unspent funds from the previous cycle, which state budget writers were aware of. The article has been updated to clarify that state budget writers are in fact looking at a combined \$156 million more than expected from general fund revenue and other non-general fund revenues that improved.

<https://oregoncapitalchronicle.com/2026/02/04/state-budget-goes-from-deficit-to-expected-300-million-increase-in-latest-economic-forecast/>

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Courtesy photo from Matthew Hewlett

Counter protesters in the blue truck with the Trump Won sign yelled back at the students their support for President Trump and his administration's immigration policies. See more photos with this story at cgsentinel.com.

ICE

From Page 1

Main Street. BPS members were encouraged to wear black "to show solidarity," and stand with immigrant communities in opposition to "the ICE detainment of students of Lane County."

THE MARCH

The walkout began at 12:07 p.m. during the last period of the day. About 100 students gathered in front of the school before marching north on River Road to Main Street and continuing through the Historic District to Coiner Park, where they held a rally near the Peace Pole and Peace Tree.

Students stayed on the sidewalks along the route, and many carried handmade signs. "Jesus stood for the people not the powerful Abolish ICE!" "The Holocaust started as a mass deportation too!" "Crush ICE and not thy neighbors." "Lions say F--- ICE!" "We're skipping our lesson to teach you one!" "No Human is illegal on stolen land!"

Throughout the march, students repeatedly shouted profane chants such as "F--- ICE" and similar statements directed at President Trump. The chants continued for the entire

route. Passing drivers responded with a mix of honks, thumbs up gestures, and occasional middle finger reactions. A few large trucks prominently displaying American flags drove repeatedly along the route.

A small group of counter protesters supporting President Trump stood outside the high school as students passed, and the two groups exchanged brief verbal remarks. At Coiner Park, additional counter protesters holding large American flags stood at the perimeter of the student gathering.

When a few students moved toward them in response to comments, adults supportive of their cause who were present as observers, directed the students to rejoin the larger group, telling them not to engage. One of the adults there to support the students spoke softly to the counter protester who drew the ire of some students and initiated a conversation on federal immigration policy. No physical altercations occurred, and many participants and bystanders recorded the event on their phones.

STUDENT VOICES

Several students said they joined the walkout because of concerns about immigration enforcement and its impact on their friends, families, and neighbors.



Courtesy photo from Matthew Hewlett
The students carried signs as they marched from Cottage Grove High School through downtown to Coiner Park. Along the route drivers honked at them and either gave them a thumbs up or a middle finger gesture. See more photos with this story at cgsentinel.com.

"ICE has been ravaging Portland and across the country and we're angry and upset about that," said senior Noah Treadwell, 17, who helped spread word of the event among classmates. He said students chose an early release day to avoid disrupting instruction.

"We're still walking out as a movement without disrupting teachers' classroom plans."

Treadwell said some CGHS students have had contact with immigration authorities. "I personally know people here at the school who have been contacted by them and that they have been here and could easily come back."

He described the walkout as an act of solidarity. "We want to stand up for human rights and the love and kindness we share with everyone regardless of their race or opinions."

Freshman McKenna Booth, 14, carried two cardboard signs she made the night before, including one that read, "Love thy neighbor not MURDER them."

"I'm doing this because of the impact ICE is having on my friends, my family and my neighbors," she said. "One of my friend's

mother was detained in an ICE raid here several months ago. That was so wrong."

Just before the march began, a senior who asked not to be identified stood on a planter near the school's front entrance and delivered an emotional speech. She described how her great grandmother had been taken to an Indian boarding school and the generational trauma that followed.

"I'm doing this because I have a concern for the people who have been taken, those protesters who have been attacked and for the two people who were murdered by ICE," she told the crowd. "I want my voice to be heard by our community today."

AT THE PARK

At Coiner Park, students formed a loose circle around the Peace Pole and Peace Tree, holding signs, taking photos, and talking with friends. The rally remained brief and informal with motivated students standing on a bench to make their remarks to the crowd. The rally ended around 2 p.m. with the students walking back to the high school.

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1. GEOGRAPHY: What is the capital of Honduras?

2. FOOD & DRINK: What is the name of the Pillsbury Doughboy?

3. TELEVISION: In which state is the sitcom "Roseanne" set?

4. PSYCHOLOGY: What is the fear represented in the condition called arachibutyrophobia?

5. MUSIC: Which 1992 Radiohead song has the lyric "I wish I was special"?

6. MOVIES: Who is Indiana Jones' nemesis in "Raiders of the Lost Ark"?

7. U.S. PRESIDENTS: Which president is known for giving the longest inauguration speech to date?

8. LITERATURE: "Cry, the Beloved Country" is a novel set in which country?

9. HISTORY: Which organization was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 1917?

10. ANATOMY: Which element is a primary component of bones?

Answers

1. Tegucigalpa.

2. Poppin' Fresh.

3. Illinois.

4. Fear of peanut butter sticking to the roof of one's mouth.

5. "Creep."

6. Dr. Rene Belloq.

7. William Henry Harrison, 1 hour and 45 minutes.

8. South Africa.

9. International Committee of the Red Cross.

10. Calcium.

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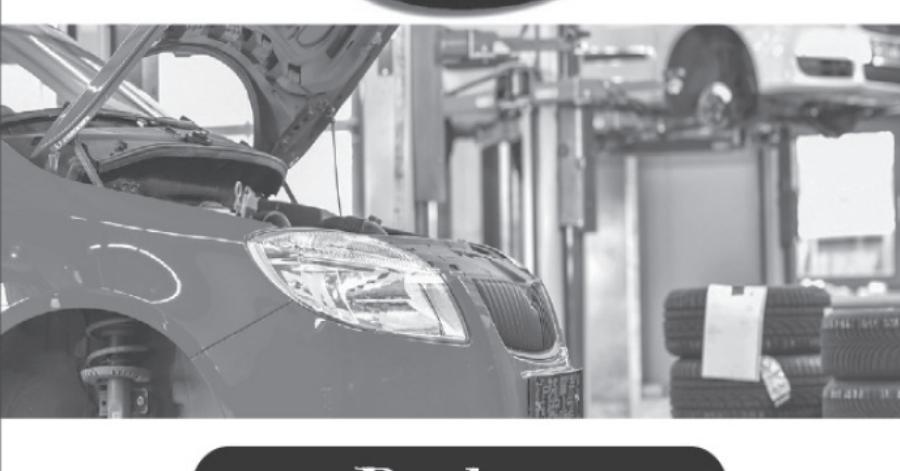
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proposes to build a 106-foot-tall monopole communications tower at the approx. vicinity of 2085 Highway OR-99, Cottage Grove, Lane County, Oregon 97424 (Lat: 43°46'52.79", Long: -123°4'23.44"). Public comments regarding potential effects from this site on historic properties may be submitted within 30 days from the date of this publication to: Trileaf Corp, Taylor Sims, t.sims@trileaf.com, 2121 West Chandler Boulevard, Chandler, Arizona 85224, Suite 108, (480)447-8495. 2/11/26 CNS-4008848# COTTAGE GROVE SENTINEL

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Southern start

In Texas, Georgia, Florida and other southern states, February is the start of garden season.

- It's time for southerners to plant root vegetables, including carrots, beets, and onions sets. Plant your peas if you haven't already, and get your cabbages, kales, and broccoli in the ground.
- Cut back ornamental grasses and dead stalks on perennials.
- Transplant snapdragons and pansies. Direct seed poppies and sweet peas.
- Give the compost pile a flip. - Brenda Weaver

Source: www.bhg.com

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SPORTS



Courtesy photo from the Cottage Grove Wrestling Facebook page
Michael Hoye (left) and Jeffery Conklin (right) holding up their hardware from the Tualatin Invitational.



Courtesy photo from the Cottage Grove Wrestling Facebook page
From left to right: Taylor Blank, Boston Kent, Alexis Woody, and Aliya Urenda showing off their medals from Tualatin.

Cottage Grove High School wrestlers celebrate victories

WILL LOHRE
Cottage Grove Sentinel

The Lions have been hitting the mats hard in the past couple of weeks, with dual meets and tournaments aplenty to keep Cottage Grove's wrestlers busy.

Let's take a look at some of the standout moments from the past couple of weeks and see some of the Lions who have been picking up podium placements this January.

Tualatin Invitational

Both the boys' and girls' varsity teams made the trek up I-5 to Tualatin High School to compete earlier this month, and had plenty to celebrate when the tournaments wrapped up. The girls took home second, and the boys finished 10th with some amazing performances from Jeffery Conklin and Michael Hoye.

The girls' tournament was held on Friday, Jan. 23, and 16 teams from around the state competed. Cottage Grove sent 11 wrestlers to compete at Tualatin High School, and there was no shortage of highlights for the Lions when the dust settled.

Propelling the Lions to the top of the podium were Alexis Woody and Taylor Blank, who each earned their first-ever first-place finishes.

Woody, wrestling at 130 pounds, went 4-0 on the day, pinning her way to the semifinals. With a spot in the finals on the line, Woody bested McMinnville's Tayah

Curry with a 22-12 major decision victory. The final was a hard-fought 15-12 victory by decision over Tualatin's Naima Agboola, cementing a gold medal for Woody.

Blank paved her road to gold with pinned opponents. Wrestling at 125 pounds, Blank brought down each of her three opponents in less than two minutes. The crowning achievement in the final was a takedown and pin of Summit's Heidi Hagen in the final, ending the match in just 1:22. A perfect way to grab her first top spot on the podium.

Other standouts from the meet included Aliyah Urenda (105 pounds) and Boston Kent (135 pounds), who each went 3-1 on the day and earned bronze medals in Tualatin. Rounding out the Lions' podium placers was Jaylee Tripp with a 4th place finish at 115 pounds, Jaidynn Shepherd-Davis landing in 5th at 110, and Bella Valencia taking 6th at 135 pounds.

Also competing and gaining valuable experience were Bailey Jones (7th place at 130 lbs), Elena Gocobochi (11th place at 100 lbs), Olivia Basting 8th place at 135 lbs, and Violet Anson (10th place at 130 lbs).

The boys travelled to Tualatin one day later to compete on Jan. 24. The Lions placed 10th out of 21 teams according to Flowresting.com, with more than 20 wrestlers repelling the

blue and gold on the mats. Two Lions earned podium placements.

Jeffery Conklin continued what has been an incredible stretch for the senior, extending his undefeated 2025-2026 season with four wins and a gold medal at 132 pounds.

Coming in as the #1 seed, Conklin had a bye into the second round, where he faced Silverton's Brandon Boenm.

Conklin dominated the match, winning by technical fall and running up a 19-2 score. Next, Conklin pinned West Salem's Benjamin English to secure a spot in the semifinals. What followed was an epic match with Westview's Isaiah Snyder. It was a knockdown, drag-out bout, and Conklin came out victorious in overtime with a 13-12 tiebreaker to advance.

In the finals, Conklin left little doubt. Squaring off with Aloha's Samuel Lopez Sandoval, Conklin grabbed the initiative early, scoring seven points in the first round with a takedown and a near pin.

In the second round, he finished the job, pinning Lopez Sandoval to earn the title. It was another feather in Conklin's cap during a season where he's risen to every challenge.

Also grabbing a top-two finish for Cottage Grove was Michael Hoye. Hoye wrestled his way to a silver medal at 106 pounds. Hoye accrued an impressive 4-1 record,

with his lone loss coming in the final against Grant Pass'

Patrick Murphy. Leading up to the final, Hoye showed how dominant he could be, winning his first three matches by fall or technical fall. In the semifinals, he scored an impressive 12-10 win by decision over Summit's Austin Walker.

While he couldn't quite snatch the gold against Murphy, it was a well-deserved silver.

Harrisburg All-Girls Tournament

Just eight days after they

battled it out in Tualatin,

the girls were back on the road to wrestle at the 2026 Harrisburg All-Girls Tournament on Jan. 31.

Despite bringing just nine

wrestlers, the Lions clawed

out a 6th-place finish out of

the 18 teams assembled.

Boston Kent and Alexis

Woody headlined the podium

placements, each taking home

silver medals. Kent went

2-1, registering two pins to

make the final before being

defeated by Oakridge's Kali

Williams. Woody also went

2-1, mirroring Kent's results

with two pins to earn a place

in the finals before ultimately

losing in the gold medal

match.

Aliyah Urenda continued

her trend of podium place-

ments with a fifth-place

finish. After losing in her

first match, Urenda bounced

back with back-to-back wins

to get fifth. Bella Valencia

finished 5th at 135 pounds,

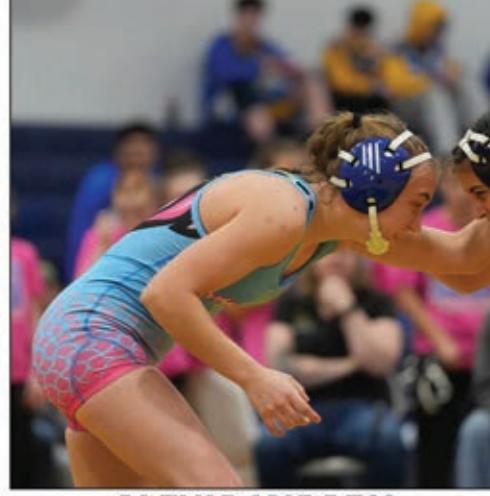
going 2-2, and beating fellow

Lion Olivia Basting by a 12-3

2 Championships fast approaching on Feb. 20-21.

Cottage Grove hosted both boys' and girls' wrestling tournaments over February 7-8. Look for results at osaa.org and follow Cottage Grove's wrestling season online at cgsentinel.com and in the Wednesday print editions of The Sentinel.

The COTTAGE GROVE Sentinel ATHLETE OF THE WEEK



ALEXIS WOODY

ALEXIS IS THIS WEEK'S CG SENTINEL ATHLETE OF THE WEEK BECAUSE OF HER RECENT RECORD OF 28-9. SHE HAS REPRESENTED CG WITH PRIDE AND SHOWN WHAT IT IS TO BE A LION.

Popular Tillamook State Forest campground to transition to reservations-only system

OREGON DEPARTMENT OF FORESTRY

Browns Camp Off Highway Vehicle (OHV) Campground in the Tillamook State Forest, managed by the Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF), will transition from a first-come, first-served model to a reservation-only system when it reopens for the season on April 1, 2026.

"We are making the change to a reservation-only campground for two main reasons," ODF's State Forests Recreation Facilities Manager Ben Burns said. "First, it benefits our campers. When you load up your toy hauler for a weekend trip, it's reassuring to know you'll have a campsite waiting when you arrive. This system eliminates the frustration of driving around the campground hoping to find an open site."

ODF successfully implemented a reservation system at all equestrian campgrounds in 2025 for similar reasons.

"Horse campers often travel long distances with large trailers and have limited options if a campground is



ODF's Browns Camp OHV campground in Tillamook State Forest is moving to a reservation only system. Reservations can be made online for the 2026 season starting March 2. The campground will reopen on April 1.

full," Burns said. "The reservation system worked well to eliminate that problem, so based on that success, we're

expanding reservations to OHV campgrounds."

The change will also

improve operational

efficiencies.

"Fee collection takes up a significant portion of staff time during the camping season," Burns said. "The time saved can instead be used to

better maintain and improve our campgrounds."

Browns Camp has 28

campsites, and ODF encourages visitors to reserve

early—especially for busy holiday weekends—when reservations open on March 2, 2026. The group camping area at Browns Camp is already reservation-based and will remain unchanged.

Campsites can be reserved at www.reserveamerica.com. Same-day reservations will be allowed although reserving sites prior will be recommended due to spotty cell phone service in the area. Camping fees will remain the same as Browns Camp: \$20 per night.

In addition, ODF is working to improve overnight options for OHV users in Tillamook State Forest by converting the Diamond Mill OHV Area into a campground.

"We are actively working on that project, and it will be ready to roll out for the 2026 season," Burns said.

Visit ODF's Recreation, Education and Interpretation website and social media sites for updates and opening announcements."