The Cottage Grove Sentinel

Transit Service to Contine
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CGHS Wrestling at State
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Cottage Grove
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Wednesday, March 11, 2026
Rain/ Snow Showers

Wednesday March 11, 2026 | 137 years www.cgsentinel.com **$2.00**

Ouch! Gasoline prices soaring

JEREMY C. RUARK
Cottage Grove Sentinel

Gasoline prices have jumped significantly in the past 30 days in Cottage Grove, Lane County and across Oregon.

In some areas, the price has jumped by 50 cents a gallon since early February.

As of March 4, pump prices in Cottage Grove showed a low of $3.69 to a high of $4.39 per gallon of regular unleaded.

- Mobile $3.69
- Safeway $3.79
- Shell station (bottom of overpass) $3.99
- Chevron Truck Stop $4.39

The American Automobile Association (AAA) says the national average for regular gas shot up 11 cents overnight March 2 and is above $3 a gallon for the first time since December 1, 2025. Average prices are up in all 50 states.

For the week, the national average for regular jumps 16 cents to $3.11 a gallon. This is the highest price since October 2025. The Oregon average rises four cents to $3.95 a gallon.

A closure of the Olympic Pipeline sent gas prices skyrocketing in Oregon and Washington, at the same time that refineries in California started the transition to summer-blend fuel.

A spokesperson for BP said that the pipeline resumed operations February 19, after being shut down for maintenance and repairs. Wholesale prices in the Pacific Northwest shot up and consumers were hit with double-digit increases at the pumps. Higher crude oil prices due to geopolitical tensions between the U.S. and Iran are also putting upward pressure on pump prices, according to Marie Dodds, Oregon / Idaho AAA Public Affairs.

Increases were already on tap even before Saturday's U.S.-Israel strikes at Iran, as warmer weather usually means more demand and refiners start producing a summer-blend product. But the attack adds new, powerful momentum to the price surge. The war makes it tough to forecast how long any increases will last or how big they could be. Recent experience does offer some hope that any big spike won't last, according to an Oregon Capital Chronicle report

"While oil markets continue to react to potential tensions in the Middle East, history has shown that the price increases are temporary and quickly fall back," said Joseph Brusuelas, chief economist and principal at the consulting firm RSM US, on his Real Economy Blog.

President Donald Trump, speaking at a news conference with German Chancellor Friedrich Merz on Tuesday, sought to justify the strikes and said any price hikes would be temporary.

"People felt it's something that had to be done," he said. "So, if we have a little high oil prices for a little while, but as soon as this ends, those prices are going to drop, I believe, lower than even before."

Read the full Oregon Capital Chronicle report here:

https://oregoncapitalchronicle.com/2026/03/03/republ/iran-war-drives-gas-price-uncertainty-ahead-of-busy-summer-season/

The West Coast region continues to have the most expensive pump prices in the nation with all seven states in the top 10. It's typical for the West Coast to have six or seven states in the top 10 as this region tends to consistently have fairly tight supplies, consuming about as much gasoline as is produced. In addition, this region is located relatively far from parts of the country where oil drilling, production and refining occurs, so transportation costs are higher. And environmental programs in this region add to the cost of production, storage and distribution, according to the AAA.

Oregon is one of 49 states and the District of Columbia with higher prices now than a month ago with the average price at $3.95 per gallon as of March 4. The national average is 23 cents more and the Oregon average is 47 cents more than a month ago. Oregon has the largest month-over-month jump in the nation.

The Sentinel reached out to Marie Dodds for insight into the fuel price increases.

The Sentinel: What is the AAA recommendation to drivers about how they can ease the pump price pinch?

See **GASOLINE** Page 9

WHO WE ARE

Watercolor artist finds joy in capturing the soul of animals

CINDY WEELDREYER
Cottage Grove Sentinel

At Apple Pie Antiques, Randy and Susie Deering have built a decades long business blending watercolor portraits, antiques and interior design.

Apple Pie Antiques sits inside the old Cottage Grove Hotel, but Randy Deering's artwork travels much farther. Many of his commissions come from people who first wander into the shop while visiting town, notice his animal portraits and tuck his card into a pocket before heading home. Some reach out within days, and for others its years later. One woman contacted him four years after her visit to order a painting of her pet.

Randy's commissioned pet portraits range from small pieces that start at $185 to larger multi animal works that can reach $1,200. Because watercolor reacts poorly to moisture, he mats and frames every painting before it leaves the shop. Customers buy the original artwork, but Randy keeps the copyright, which allows him to create prints and notecards that have become a popular item among Apple Pie Antiques' merchandise.

The shop also carries original watercolor pieces priced under $100, giving visitors a range of options beyond commissioned work.

Randy and his wife, Susie, have lived in Cottage Grove for 46 years. They met as students at Chico State University in California and relocated to Oregon soon after graduation. They first opened Apple Pie Antiques in Eugene in 1980, but soon realized they preferred the charm and pace of Cottage Grove.

Their antique shop is located in the historic Cottage Grove Hotel, a building constructed in the 1920s where Buster Keaton once walked the hallways while filming The General. The hotel's long history shapes the backdrop for the business and gives the shop a setting that matches the character of the pieces they carry.

The Main Street Project brought its share of challenges for the owners. Daily foot traffic dropped during construction, which disrupted the steady rhythm the shop had relied on for years. The slowdown shifted the flow of customers, but the project also introduced new visitors who were exploring the changes downtown.

The shop reflects the practical skills both owners bring to the business. Susie offers

See **WATERCOLOR** Page 2

Cindy Weeldreyer / Cottage Grove Sentinel
Watercolor Artist Randy Deering frequently paints portraits of beloved pets on commission from their owners.

Cindy Weeldreyer / Cottage Grove Sentinel
Watercolor artist Randy Deering uses layered washes to capture the personality and presence of beloved pets.

Volunteer round Up launches Cottage Grove's WallDogs journey

City begins planning for 2027 mural festival and 'Animal House' anniversary

CINDY WEELDREYER
Cottage Grove Sentinel

Cottage Grove takes its first step toward the 2027 WallDogs MuralFest on Monday, March 16, when the city hosts a volunteer round up to launch planning for the large scale public art event.

The meeting begins at 6 p.m. at the Cottage Grove Community Center and will introduce the committees, roles, and community involvement needed to prepare for the arrival of hundreds of muralists in 2027.

Mayor Candace Solesbee describes the Monday evening gathering as "our very first community call for volunteers and the moment where we begin building something that will leave a lasting legacy for our town."

See **WILLDOGS** Page 9

Courtesy photo from Casey Woodard
This street-long mural is part of the project in The Dalles. In 2022, The Dalles became the only Oregon city to be selected by the WallDogs for a MuralFest.

Courtesy photo from Casey Woodard
This is one of the WallDogs MuralFest created in The Dalles in 2022.

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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A CLOSER LOOK

Yelling, arguing in the woods leads to arrest

The following is the weekly update from the Cottage Grove Police Department's Facebook page.

Chief Chase presented our 2025 Cottage Grove Police Department's Annual Report Monday evening at the Council Meeting.

- In January 2025, your Cottage Grove Police Department began the process of earning accreditation through the Northwest Accreditation Alliance, which is designated by the U.S. Attorney General's Office as the State of Oregon's independent credentialing body for certifying compliance with the U.S. Department of Justice standards on safe policing principles.

On January 12, 2026, both the Cottage Grove Police Department and the South Lane 9-1-1 Center were unanimously approved for accreditation. Scott Hayes of the Northwest Accreditation Alliance presented the official accreditation award to City Council at Monday night's meeting.

This achievement reflects the dedication, professionalism, and commitment of our staff to providing high-quality, accountable service to our community.

- A big thank you to Simply Donuts from Eugene for delivering a generous assortment of delicious donuts to our department on Tuesday morning. We also had other sweet treats delivered to us from a community member who purchased the goodies from Pour 818! We truly appreciate the thoughtful gesture and community support!

- Another firearms training course was successfully conducted on Thursday.

- Officers, along with the Oregon State Police (OSP), conducted a patrol check underneath southbound Interstate 5 just north of milepost 174. Numerous homeless encampments and individuals were contacted. One individual was identified as having a warrant out of Lane County Parole and Probation for methamphetamine-related charges. He was arrested and lodged at the Lane County Jail.

- During a routine patrol check of Coiner Park, officers located a male subject inside the men's restroom outside of designated park hours, surrounded by personal belongings. The individual was cited for violating Cottage Grove Municipal Code 12.24.020 (Prohibited Conduct) and issued a 15-day park exclusion.

- Dispatch sent officers to a wooded area regarding a report of illegal camping. The reporting party advised they could hear individuals yelling and arguing coming from the area.

Upon arrival, officers conducted a search and located a tent and an active warming fire. Two individuals exited the tent and were recognized by officers due to prior law enforcement contacts. Dispatch conducted a records check on both subjects. The male subject was found to have a confirmed warrant issued by Lane County Circuit Court, as well as multiple warrants from Cottage Grove Municipal Court for Failure to Appear related to Probation Violation, Littering, and Disorderly Conduct. The male subject was taken into custody without incident and transported to the Lane County Jail, where he was lodged on the outstanding warrants.

- Officers responded to a reported disturbance involving a male and female. Upon arrival, officers could hear a verbal argument. After investigating and interviewing all involved parties, the male subject was arrested for: Disorderly Conduct in the Second Degree (ORS 166.025), Physical Harassment x2 (ORS 166.065), Reckless Endangering (ORS 163.195), and Resisting Arrest (ORS 162.315). He was transported to the Lane County Jail and lodged on the charges.

POLICE BLOTTER

The police blotter relates to the public record of incidents as reported by law enforcement agencies.

All individuals arrested or charged with a crime are presumed innocent until proven guilty. Information printed is preliminary and subject to change.

For specific details about cases listed, contact the appropriate law enforcement agency.

COTTAGE GROVE POLICE

FEBRUARY 23

- 00:24: Disturbance, 100 block S. 3rd St.
- 02:26: Warrant service, M/Dogwood
- 08:43: Order violation, 400 block E. Main St.
- 08:51: Illegal camping, Dogwood/M
- 09:55: Illegal dumping, Lane/99
- 10:33: Abandoned vehicle, 200 block S. 6th St.
- 11:10: Disturbance, 32000 block Rachel Rd.
- 14:01: Trespass, 1200 block Gateway Blvd.
- 16:39: Harassment, 200 block S. 6th St.
- 17:02: Abandoned vehicle, 1100 block Geer Ave.
- 17:33: Welfare check, 2000 block S. 8th St.
- 18:17: Fire, 300 block Sweet Ln.
- 21:00: Agency assist, 31000 block CG Lorane Rd.
- 23:51: Welfare check, Ostrander/16th

FEBRUARY 24

- 04:03: Suspicious vehicle, 100 block Gateway Blvd.
- 06:45: Trespass, 100 block 6th St.
- 11:09: Warrant service, 1000 block E. Main St.
- 14:36: Dog at large, 1000 block Hwy 99
- 15:58: Disorderly subject, 100 block N. 14th St.
- 19:13: Warrant service, 1300 block E. Main St.
- 21:35: Reckless driving, 1500 block S. 4th St.
- 22:40: Alarm, 100 block Village Dr.
- 22:55: Disturbance, 1500 block Gateway Blvd.
- 22:59: Disturbance, 1700 block Hwy 99
- 23:33: Trespass, 100 block N. 14th St.

FEBRUARY 25

- 04:19: Alarm, 1000 block E. Main St.
- 08:14: Motor vehicle crash, 1500 block Gateway Blvd.
- 13:02: Suspicious condition, 900 block N. Douglas St.
- 13:46: Suspicious vehicle, Ostrander/Douglas
- 16:38: Suspicious condition, 300 block Hwy 99
- 19:00: Hit and run, 700 block E. Gibbs Ave.
- 19:09: Suspicious condition, 400 block S. 10th St.
- 19:22: Suspicious condition, 1100 block Lord Ave.
- 20:49: Suspicious vehicle, M/Birch
- 21:48: Disturbance, 200 block N. 16th St.
- 22:33: Suicidal subject, 35000 block Howard Lp.

FEBRUARY 26

- 00:19: Barking dog, 1200 block Bryant Ave.
- 08:11: Theft, 2400 block E. Main St.
- 10:03: Dog at large, 1300 block E. Main St.
- 10:20: Abandoned vehicle, 6th/Main
- 16:39: Abandoned vehicle, Fairview Lp/R
- 17:14: Harassment, Main/99

FEBRUARY 27

- 05:03: Warrant service, 400 block E. Main St.
- 07:52: Warrant service, Exit 174 NB on ramp
- 08:36: Agency assist, 2000 block S. 8th St.
- 16:26: Illegal camping, 1300 block E. Main St.
- 16:49: Found property, 500 block Grant Ave.
- 16:56: Theft, 1000 block W. Main St.
- 17:15: Animal info, 12th/Quincy
- 17:33: Disturbance, 100 block S. 10th St.
- 21:56: Assault, 100 block N. 9th St.
- 22:34: Illegal camping, 700 block Main St.
- 22:49: Warrant service, 400 block E. Main St.
- 23"44: Criminal mischief, 100 block N. 9th St.

FEBRUARY 28

- 00:27: Trespass, 900 block Row River Rd.
- 00:55: Motor vehicle crash, Main/R
- 04:07: Disturbance, 700 block F St.
- 09:05: Agency assist, 100 block N. 9th St.
- 09:12: Welfare check, Row River Rd/Gateway
- 10:35: Warrant service, Milepost 175
- 16:29: Animal info, 400 block Boardwalk Pl.
- 16:46: Burglary, 1200 block E. Main St.
- 17:22: Motor vehicle crash, 1400 block E. Main St.
- 17:35: Disorderly subject, 300 block S. River Rd.
- 18:49: Criminal mischief, 400 block S. 3rd St.
- 19:16: Disturbance, 100 block Karen Ct.
- 20:08: Nuisance, 22nd/Main
- 20:27: Trespass, 32000 block Nichols Ln.
- 21:56: Warrant service, 1000 block E. Main St.

Courtesy Photo / Cottage Grove Sentinel

MARCH 1

- 06:41: Death investigation, 1400 block Daugherty Ave.
- 09:10: Criminal mischief, 1700 block S. 10th St.
- 10:54: Nuisance, 700 block S. 13th St.
- 12:31: Fraud, 700 block S. 3rd St.
- 14:07: Suspicious vehicle, 3200 block Row River Rd.
- 16:35: Trespass, 900 block Row River Rd.
- 19:52: Found dog, 1500 block E. Main St.
- 21:10: Juvenile trouble, 1900 block S. 6th St.
- 23:01: Theft, 100 block Palmer Ave.

Traffic stop leads to seizure of over 40 pounds of meth

STAFF REPORT
Cottage Grove Sentinel

Details have emerged concerning a large drug bust near Cottage Grove.

Oregon State Police report 40 pounds of methamphetamine was discovered during a traffic stop along Interstate 5 (I-5).

On Saturday, February 21, just before 11 a.m., an OSP trooper conducted the traffic stop on a passenger vehicle traveling northbound on I-5 near milepost 168 near Cottage Grove.

The trooper observed indicators of potential criminal activity. During a consent search of the vehicle, a duffel bag was found in the trunk containing 40 resealable plastic bags filled with methamphetamine, weighing a total of 40.5 pounds.

The driver was taken into custody and arrested on charges of possession and distribution of methamphetamine. Details of the person arrested were not immediately available.

The case remained under investigation at press time.

Courtesy from Oregon State Police

Oregon State Police displayed the duffel bag full of meth on the hood of the trooper's vehicle.

WATERCOLOR

From Page 1

interior decorating services and works with customers to shape spaces that fit their own tastes. Randy also completes custom galvanized and copper tabletop and countertop projects for architects, designers and individual customers around the country, a steady line of work that has grown alongside the antiques and artwork.

For many years, the Deerings have also been active participants in Art Walk, the monthly event that brings visitors downtown and remains a valuable asset to the Historic District.

After more than four decades in business, Randy and Susie say the people they meet keep them rooted in Cottage Grove. They have watched generations of families come through the doors of Apple Pie Antiques, including customers who stop in each time they pass through town. The shop has weathered economic shifts, construction projects and changing trends, and the relationships they have built over the years continue to anchor their work.

Cindy Weeldreyer / Cottage Grove Sentinel

Watercolor Artist Randy Deering retains the copyright to his portraits and uses them to create note cards. This photo shows his work displayed in the shop.

"Over the years we've seen a lot of businesses come and go, but the Historic District hasn't looked this robust in a long time," Randy said. "We're looking forward to more storefronts filling up and the energy the renovation will bring."

Apple Pie Antiques is located at 811 E. Main St., Suite D. The shop opens at 10:30 a.m. Monday through Saturday. For more information, call 541 942 0057.

Who We Are is a frequent Sentinel feature highlighting the people in our community.

Community gives back to Pay It Forward founder

Collaborative effort aims to lift financial burden for Beer

Cindy Weeldreyer / Cottage Grove Sentinel

Duane and Birdella Taddei and Nadine Kelley (center) prepare the street taco fundraising dinner for Mindy Joy Beer at the Elks Lodge.

Cindy Weeldreyer / Cottage Grove Sentinel

Duane Taddei and Nadine Kelley volunteered to prepare a street taco meal at Mindy Joy Beer's community fundraiser to help her with mounting medical bills.

CINDY WEELDREYER
Cottage Grove Sentinel

Friends, customers and Pay It Forward supporters came together to help Mindy Joy Beer with her growing medical bills.

Beer is the cofounder of the Pay It Forward Facebook page, a space where neighbors share needed items for free. She has nurtured that kindness ripple for years.

The benefit, held Feb. 17 at the Elks Lodge, filled the room with donated auction baskets, special and unique items and the smell of street tacos. Duane Taddei stood over the grill, sweating as he cooked his well known tacos with a hardworking kitchen crew beside him. Elks members staffed raffle jars and took meal payments.

A steady stream of Grovers came through the doors, including people Beer had helped through Pay It Forward and loyal customers from the Shell Station market and deli on Hwy. 99. Many said they wanted to show up for someone who has shown up for them time and again.

Beer and her daughter Jennifer Crosby launched the Pay It Forward group in 2014 as a way for neighbors to donate items and meet one another's needs, whether it is food, firewood, housewares, appliances or furniture.

Taddei, known around town for the street tacos he donates at community fundraisers, said supporting Beer felt like the natural thing to do.

"Naturally, when I heard about someone in need, if I could not help, I would suggest they reach out to Mindy and her group," he said.

"Over the years, I watched the group grow. I learned that Mindy never judged people and always put others before herself. When I heard she was in the ICU facing serious medical complications, I realized that instead of offering up a few dollars, I could support her through my time, a few dollars and our local community."

Supporters purchased meals and placed bids in the silent auction. While Beer was not able to attend, three of her children were present and each expressed gratitude for the more than 100 people who came.

"Our mom is a very caring person who is also very independent and has always been able to take care of herself," Crosby said. "With her medical condition now prohibiting her from working, she finally allowed us to start a GoFundMe page and ask the community for help to cover her mounting medical expenses."

The amount raised in the funding effort was not available at press time. Taddei said he never doubted the fundraiser would succeed.

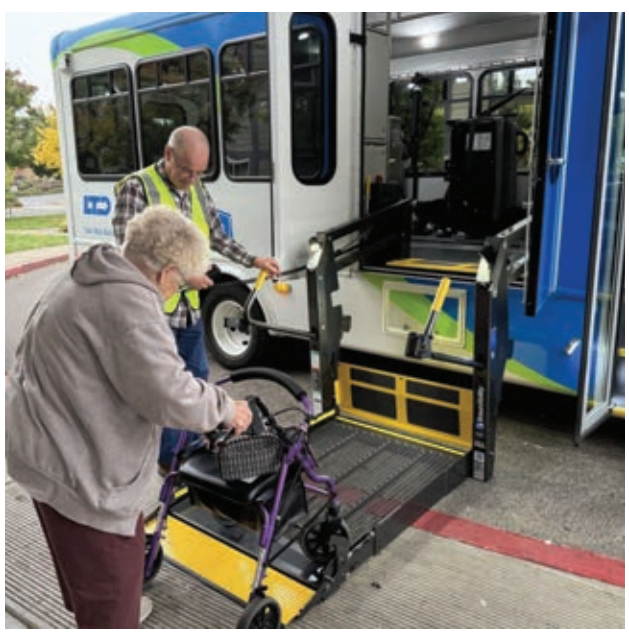
"I could not be the only one in town who felt we owe this to her," he said. "She has given so much time, care and generosity to our community. Besides raising the money she needs to help her through this tough time, I wanted Mindy to know how much I appreciate her leadership and her hard work in supporting community members she does not even know."

To learn more or make a donation, visit the page "Come Together and Help Mindy" at www.gofundme.com.

BACK TO ITS ROOTS

South Lane Wheels

to continue local door-to-door service



Courtesy photo

Door-to-door service is offered Monday through Friday, and all ride scheduling is handled directly through the dispatcher at 541 942 0456 ext. 1.

CINDY WEELDREYER
Cottage Grove Sentinel

South Lane Wheels administrators confirmed they are continuing to provide service throughout South Lane County and now adding North Douglas County following a major operational transition earlier this year.

Executive Director Ruth Linoz captured the heart of the agency's mission in an announcement March 1: "For many people living in rural communities, transportation is not simply convenience, it is independence."

That message reflects what riders across our region already know — South Lane Wheels has been part of daily life here for more than 40 years, and it continues to show up for people who need to reach medical care, work, school, shopping, recreation, and community activities.

The nonprofit is a longstanding provider of safe and economical transportation for rural residents, and the release reinforces that commitment. South Lane Wheels leaders and staff said they recognize their agency is "a vital transportation lifeline for rural residents across South Lane and North Douglas counties" and emphasizes their organization remains dedicated to reliable, affordable service for riders traveling locally and into the Eugene–Springfield metro area.

One of the most important reminders in this week's update is that there are no eligibility requirements. Riders of all ages may schedule transportation through the door-to-door service model. Seniors, workers, families, and medically vulnerable residents all have the same access. The website echoes this point clearly: anyone in the service area may ride.

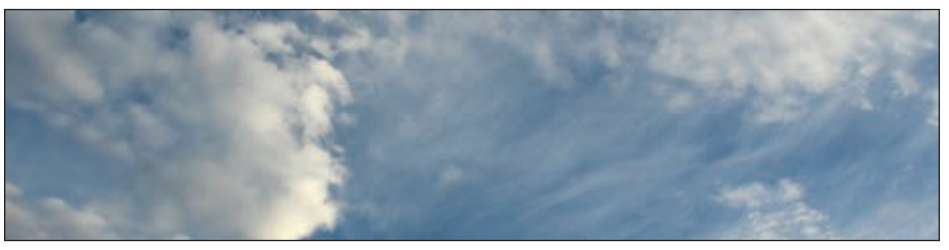
Drivers continue to serve Cottage Grove, Creswell, Drain, Dorena, Culp Creek, Saginaw, London, and Lorane, with scheduled trips available to Eugene and Springfield. South Lane Wheels also participates in regional Connector services that link rural riders to larger transit systems.

Last year, Lane Transit District announced changes to its local service due to a change in the scope of its Rural Shuttle Pilot state grant. After that announcement local riders expressed their dependence on what was then the current service level and described the negative impacts the door-to-door transportation to the metro area would have on them, especially getting to medical appointments.

As the organization moves forward, it's asking the community to help spread the word, so neighbors know transportation remains available. Door-to-door service is offered Monday through Friday, and all ride scheduling is handled directly through the dispatcher at 541 942 0456 ext. 1.

Fare prices and general information is available at www.southlanetransit.com, and scheduling remains phone only.

COMMUNITY CALENDAR



MARCH 11

- Senior Center Pinochle. 1 p.m. Senior Center.
- Open Bowling. 3-5:30 p.m. Cottage Bowl.
- Elks Bingo. Doors 5 p.m. Early Bird 6:30 p.m. Regular 7 p.m. Elks Lodge.
- Library Open. 11 a.m.-7 p.m..

MARCH 12

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

MARCH 13

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

MARCH 14

- Share Fair USA. 9 a.m. 1133 E Main St.
- Conversations on Parenting. 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Hope in the Grove Baptist Church.
- KNND Spring Alligator Auction. 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Tune in 1400AM. 99.7FM. SLTV 47.4. Call 541.942.2468 for bidder number.
- Bohemia Gold Mining Museum. 1-4 p.m.
- CG Historical Museum. 1-4 p.m.
- Open Bowling. 4-10 p.m. Cottage Bowl.
- Library Open. 10 a.m.-4 p.m.

MARCH 15

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

MARCH 16

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

MARCH 17

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

Oregon Spring Cleanup registration opens

As global attention turns toward environmental awareness in April, the Oregon Spring Cleanup provides a way to translate that momentum into tangible results.

Registration is now open for the annual Oregon Spring Cleanup, in partnership with Portland General Electric. This year, SOLVE is expanding its largest spring volunteer initiative to span the entire month of April, turning Earth Month into coordinated action across Oregon and Southwest Washington.

The Oregon Spring Cleanup is SOLVE's largest spring volunteer initiative, bringing together individuals, families, schools, businesses, and community groups to care for beaches, neighborhoods, parks, natural areas, and waterways. Projects include litter cleanups and habitat restoration efforts such as native plantings, invasive species removal, and mulching. In April 2025, the initiative supported 214 projects, engaging nearly 4,500 volunteers who removed 26,077 pounds of trash and cleared more than 22 acres of invasive species across Oregon and Southwest Washington.

With 65 events already open for registration, volunteers can sign up for projects taking place throughout April. SOLVE is aiming for 200+ projects across the region and continues to recruit additional event leaders to broaden statewide engagement. Expanding the initiative to a full month creates greater access and enables more communities to take part in coordinated Earth Month action.

"Earth Month is a powerful reminder that local action drives meaningful environmental impact," said Kregg Arntson, Director of Community Impact at Portland General Electric. "Through our partnership with SOLVE, PGE deepens its commitment to helping Oregon's vibrant communities become climate resilient communities."

As global attention turns toward environmental awareness in April, the Oregon Spring Cleanup provides a way to translate that momentum into tangible results. Each project contributes to protecting natural spaces, improving neighborhood livability, and preventing litter from entering rivers and the ocean ahead of peak recreation season.

SOLVE is actively seeking additional event leaders to host cleanup or restoration projects in April. Whether returning hosts or first-time leaders, participants receive planning support, free supplies, disposal assistance, and volunteer recruitment tools. Hosting a project can be as simple as identifying a site in need and completing the new leader orientation at volunteer.solve.org/orientation.

How to Get Involved

- Volunteer: Browse the event calendar and register yourself or a group at volunteer.solve.org/oregon-spring
- Lead your own project: SOLVE provides all the necessary resources, including supplies and disposal funds, to make hosting a project easy for you.
- Encourage participation: Invite schools, workplaces, and community groups to take part in Earth Month action

The Oregon Spring Cleanup 2026 is made possible through the partnership with Portland General Electric and the generous support of Clean Water Services, Fred Meyer, Metro, Oregon State Park & Recreation, The Standard, AAA Oregon/Idaho, Intel, Kaiser Permanente, KOIN6, LAM Research, Lithia & Driveway, National Parks Recreation & Parks Association, and PepsiCo.

For more information or to register, visit solve.org/oregon-spring

Courtesy photo from SOLVE

This child joined a previous SOLVE cleanup effort.

'Responsible Forestry Today, Healthy Forests Tomorrow'

88th Annual Oregon Logging Conference

STAFF REPORT
Cottage Grove Sentinel

Industry professionals gathered for three days of networking, education, and social activities at the 88th Annual Oregon Logging Conference held at the Lane Events Center and Fairground.

This year, there were more exhibitors, both inside and outside, and greater attendance at the OLC, the largest logging, trucking, equipment and construction show, west of the Mississippi, according to organizers.

2026 Oregon Logging Conference (OLC) President and Stimson Lumber Company Director of Western Resources Mike McKibbin said this year's conference was an overwhelming success.

"This year's show was a testament to an industry that continues to show up for one another to meet old friends, share new ideas, and really just have fun," McKibbin said. "Our goal each year is to showcase the latest technologies in logging, discuss current topics, promote our industry through educational outreach, and become a place that families can enjoy," he added. "I think we checked all of those boxes in 2026," McKibbin said. He also expressed his appreciation to the exhibitors, OLC Board of Directors, staff and volunteers. "Their dedication and collaborative spirit are what makes OLC what it is," McKibbin said.

Keynote speaker Jacque Buchanan, U.S. Forest Service Regional Forester for Region 6 (Oregon and Washington) spoke about partnerships with the timber industry and for the first time in a long time, having tools to implement a streamlined timber harvesting program.

Buchanan is also the U.S. Forest Service Regional Forester for Region 5 (California) and Acting Regional Forester for Region 10 (Alaska). She has served with the U.S. Department of Agriculture and the Forest Service for more than 30 years and holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Natural Resources from Pennsylvania State University.

Desserts for Dreams Fundraiser Benefits Compassion Tillamook

More than $32,000 in ticket sales and cash and in-kind donations was raised at the 22nd Annual Desserts for Dreams luncheon, held at the Graduate by Hilton Hotel.

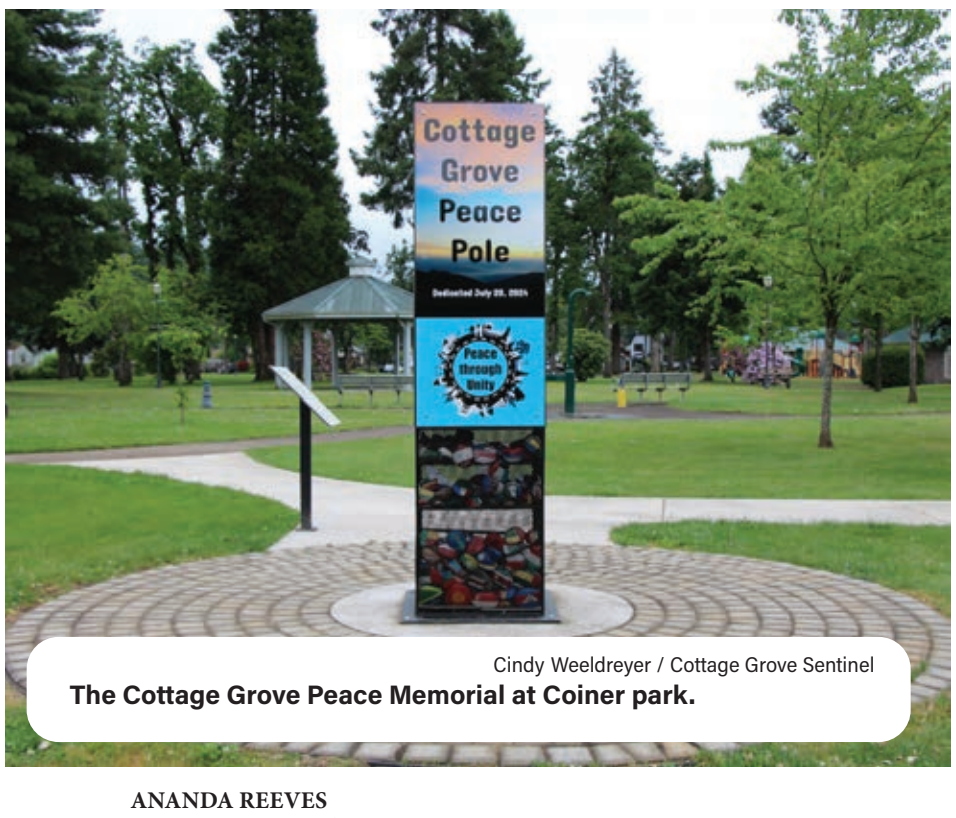
See **LOGGING** Page 5

Courtesy photo

Local school children toured logging equipment at the Eugene conference.

COMMENTARY

Peace is not loud



Cindy Weeldreyer / Cottage Grove Sentinel
The Cottage Grove Peace Memorial at Coiner park.

ANANDA REEVES
Cottage Grove Sentinel
Guest Column

Peace is like that
It's not loud
It's not always dramatic
It's often quiet, consistent, and practical
A clear path
A held door
A kind word
Deep breath before you respond
A choice not to feed anxiety
A decision not let depression write the script

A moment where you pause and return to the spirit within you

Keep walking in your reality
Keep showing up in your life
Even if it feels like nothing is changing
Because peace is already in you

And when you act from it, you become a living example of it

So today, take a deep breath, say loving things to your water, put your feet on the ground, Do the next right thing.

Ananda Reeves is a Cottage Grove resident and community organizer for Peace.

EDITORIAL CARTOON

VOICES OF THE COMMUNITY

Opposes Student Walkout

I'm a 32-year resident of Cottage Grove and want to share my thoughts regarding the February 11 issue's front page story and photos and our high school students with "ICE OUT!!!" signs.

1. I do not believe they had the Administration's support for taking time out of classes.

2. ICE's function is getting the previous Biden Administration's open border travesty repaired. I love Latinos, so let's get that out of the equation up front. Yo puedo hablar español. Mi amor es siempre con latinos. (I can speak Spanish. My love is always with Latinos.) I'm not fluent; my deceased brother was.

3. My son is dead because of open borders and the ease of obtaining lethal street drugs. He committed suicide trying to break his decade of drug abuse. My only child is dead!

4. These children, all citizens of the United States of America, stood on the corner swearing, distracting traffic, and abusing the grace of their civil rights that my father and millions of servicemen bought for them with their blood, permanently deformed bodies and minds, lost time with loved ones, and the physical pain of war.

I served seven years in the California National Guard in Los Angeles, working in anti aircraft and missile defense units.

I cannot imagine a more painful display, abuse, and total disregard of service families than to be so disrespectful to their memories and to our current servicemen and servicewomen.

Les Moore
Cottage Grove

QUOTE OF THE WEEK

"Peace is not absence of conflict; it is the ability to handle conflict by peaceful means."
Ronald Reagan

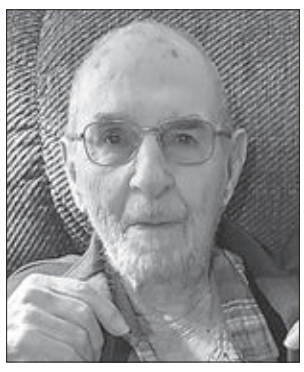
DEATH NOTICE

Nadine Griffin, 80, passed away February 27, 2026, in Cottage Grove, Oregon. Arrangements are in the care of Smith-Lund-Mills Funeral Chapel and Crematorium.

OBITUARY

Jay Miller

1935 - 2026



We have come to the end of an era with the passing of Jay Miller. His pioneer mind and heart shaped every part of his life, and all of us who grew up in the village of Mosby Creek knew him as someone who lived exactly the way he wanted. As kids, we always said he was born too late, his soul fit a much earlier time.

Jay was born on September 26, 1935, to Pearkins and Agnes Blackmore Miller in Cottage Grove, Oregon. Many photos from his childhood show him working hard on the farm and truly enjoying it. His siblings are Carol King, Loleta Allen, and Ivan, known to most of us as Bud Miller.

Jay attended local schools and, as a young child, moved with his family from Adams Road to Mosby Creek. He later met and married Phyllis Lane on November 22, 1952, in Reno, Nevada. Together they raised their family and built a life rooted in hard work, community, and the outdoors.

He is survived by his children: Richard Miller, Nancy Shepherd, Sally Lassiter Cash, and Joyce Miller, along with his grandchildren, great grandchildren, and great great grandchildren, and numerous nieces, and nephews. Jay was preceded in death by his son Steven Miller, brother Wallace Miller,his grandson Justin Turpin, and by his beloved wife Phyllis, who passed just one week shy of their 70th anniversary.

Beginning in 1970, Jay's family reached five living generations, an incredible milestone that lasted until his passing.

Jay worked for Georgia Pacific, then for Morrel Logging as a catskinner-logger. Eventually, he and his brother-in-law Harold Jones, started their own company. Later, Jay purchased property up Martin Creek Road, where he spent the years that truly reflected who he was: a genuine farmer and an old pioneer soul. There, he lived what he often called his best life.

Jay made friends everywhere he went, many of the same age as his own children, and people loved listening to his stories. He mentored countless folks with his knowledge of hunting, fishing, and farming. As a family, we want to extend a big "Thank You" to everyone who kept Jay in their lives over the years.

We invite you to share your stories, memories, and thoughts about our beloved father. Thank you for being part of his life and for celebrating the legend, the myth, and the old soul that was Jay Miller.

A graveside interment was held at Brumbaugh Cemetery on Saturday, February 28, 2026 at 1:00 PM

Arrangements were under the care of Smith Lund Mills Funeral Chapel and Crematorium.

LOGGING

From Page 5

"I feel very blessed to be a part of Desserts for Dreams," OLC First Lady Angela McKibbin said.

McKibbin selected Compassion Tillamook as this year's charity to benefit from the annual fundraiser. Compassion Tillamook is a non-profit organization that provides medical, dental and other services for those in need at an annual clinic, which takes place at the Tillamook Fairgrounds. A special shampoo, soap, and other toiletries drive was part of the luncheon this year, and all donations were distributed at the February 23rd Compassion Clinic.

Oregon Logging Conference Foundation (OLCF) Auction

More than $26,000 was raised during auction during the Oregon Logging Conference. Proceeds from the auction will support the OLCF scholarship program. Auction items included a safari, paintings and other art items, truck tires and seats, chainsaws, and more. Since the Oregon Logging Conference Foundation's scholarship program was established in 1968, more than $1.5 million has been awarded to deserving students pursuing careers in the timber industry.

Future Forestry Workers Career Day

More than 700 students, educators, and industry professionals participated in the 8th Annual Future Forestry Workers Career Day, held in conjunction with the conference.

High school students from more than two dozen Oregon schools attended this interactive and hands-on career day, learning about logging, forestry, reforestation, sawmills, wildland firefighting, diesel mechanics, and operating heavy equipment.

One of the activities at Future Forestry Workers Career Day was the high school forestry skills relay.

With 17 teams from 10 Oregon schools competing, Waldport High School team 1 took first place, Waldport High School team 2, second, La Pine high School team 1, third, and Waldport High School team 3, fourth place.

The teams competed against each other in the four-skills relay, which included hose lay, choker setting, crosscut sawing. and chainsaw use.

This event is coordinated by Future Natural Resource Leaders, a high school student leadership organization focused on developing students' potential for premier leadership, personal growth, and career success, through natural resources education.

Log Loader Competition Winners

Demonstrating their skills at operating a 4040-B Link-Belt, the top three winners in the 16th Annual Oregon Logging Conference Log Loader Competition were within 15 seconds of each other.

First and second place this year were captured by two people who work for Bryant Logging in Bearvercreek, OR. First place was Jeremy Staats (with a time of 3:22:72) and second place was Zane Bryant (with a time of 3:26:28). Third place was Justin Jakola (with a time of 3:33:76) who works with Rice Logging in Sweet Home, OR

Guess the Net Scale

Oregon Logging Conference attendees gave their guesses for the net scale of two loads of logs, with the winner of each receiving a $250 Cabela's gift card. The Cabela's gift cards were donated by Swanson Bros and Melcher Logging.

The winner of the load of logs provided by Swanson Bros on a Leonard Maser Trucking log truck was Richard Beers, II, (with assistance from his father Richard Beers) He and two others guessed the exact net scale of 7,420 and in the case of a tie, the names are put into a hat and one name is drawn.

The winner of the guess the net scale load of chip and saw logs, provided by Sierra Pacific Industries on a Gene Whitaker Inc. log truck, is Corey Copeland. Copeland, from Albany, OR is the Harvest Manager at the Weyerhaeuser Alsea Tree Farm. Copeland's name was drawn after he and one other person were tied with the closest guess of the net scale. Their guesses were 5,670 and the net scale was 5,640.

Family Day and OLC Open to the Public Day

Forest families and members of the public turned out in large numbers on the final day of the Oregon Logging Conference, according to the organizers. One of the new activities this year, which was very popular, was an opportunity to take a virtual tour of a working forest.

Other popular Family Day activities included building wooden birdhouses, live wildlife, free seedling giveaways, face painting, balloons, art projects, and other hands-on forestry-related opportunities.

"Saturday, we are joined by our industry's families, as well as being open to the public which provides an opportunity for everyone to learn more about who we are and what we do and meet many of the professionals who make their living in this industry," OLC Manage Rikki Wellman said. "Our conference is also a place where forestry and natural resource professionals can socialize and network with others in the industry," she added.

The logging conference was conducted February 19-21. The dates for the 89th Annual Oregon Logging Conference are February 25, 26, and 27, 2027.

For more information visit: www.oregonloggingconference.com.

Weekly Online Poll

Have you completed your federal and state tax returns yet?

❑ Yes ❑ No

Previous Poll Results

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

50% - Yes 50% - No

The Cottage Grove Sentinel

THE FIRST AMENDMENT
Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press, or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances.

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How to Reach Us
Joe Warren | Chief Executive
jwarren@countrymedia.net

Newsroom
Jeremy C. Ruark | News Editor
jruark@countrymedia.net

Display Advertising
Gary Winterholler/Advertising
gwinterholler@countrymedia.net

Classified Line Advertising
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Classified Display Ads
5 p.m. Wednesday prior

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Public Notices
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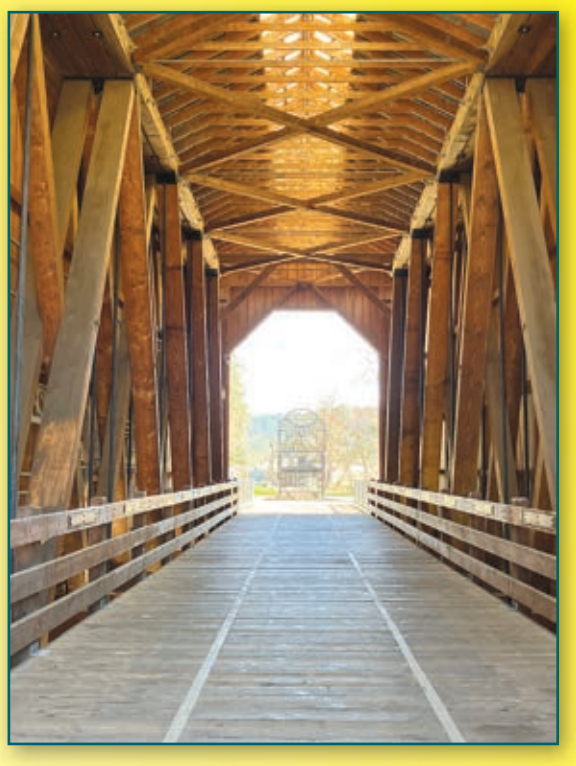
Cottage Grove 1908 taken from McFarland Butte (Mt. David)



The Chambers Mill Railroad Bridge is the last Standing RR covered bridge west of the Mississippi River. With six area covered bridges Cottage Grove is the Covered Bridge Capital of Oregon

Dear Steve and Carol Hungerford and Country Media Shareholders:

On behalf of the citizens of the Greater Cottage Grove Community, we want to express our deepest gratitude for your decision to continue publishing the Cottage Grove Sentinel. We recognize the challenges you face in today's digital age with rising production costs, and we don't take your decision lightly.

Your willingness to recommit to our newspaper speaks volumes about Country Media's integrity and understanding of the vital role local journalism plays in communities like ours.

This full-page ad is just the beginning of our commitment to ensure the Sentinel thrives for generations to come. You asked us to harness our enthusiasm by increasing subscriptions and advertising support — and we pledge to do exactly that.

A small-town newspaper is essential to the heartbeat of its community. The Sentinel's 137-year history is woven into the very fabric of Cottage Grove — chronicling everything from our proud heritage as the "Covered Bridge Capital of Oregon" to our vibrant celebrations including Western Oregon Exposition, Bohemia Mining Days and twice named All American City.

For more than a century, the Sentinel has recorded our births and deaths, our triumphs and challenges, our high school football victories and Main Street business openings. It has been the constant thread connecting generations of families who have called this community home.

When timber was king and our mills ran three shifts, the Sentinel was there. When our community transformed and adapted to new economies, the Sentinel documented our resilience. Through floods, fires, and moments of celebration, this newspaper has been our collective memory, our town square, and our voice.

Cottage Grove may be small in population, nestled quietly in the foothills of the Cascades — but we are deep in memory, and steadfast in our loyalty to the institutions that hold us together.

It took the threat of losing the Sentinel to make us truly see it. The moment we learned it might close, we realized how much we had taken for granted — those weekly pages that arrive like clockwork, connecting us to our neighbors, our history, and each other. That wake-up call galvanized our community and reminded us that some things are simply too precious to lose.

Your decision to keep the Sentinel publishing affirms that you understand this — that you recognize Cottage Grove is not simply a circulation number, but a living community with deep roots, strong values, and an unwavering commitment to preserving what matters most.

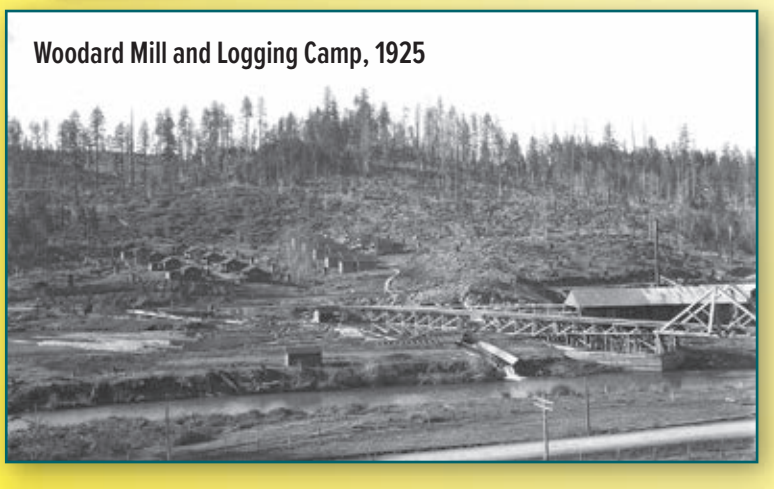
Thank you for believing in Cottage Grove — and for recognizing that some things, like the newspaper that has carried our story for 137 years, are simply worth fighting for. You've given our community something precious: a future with its voice intact.

With gratitude and renewed commitment,
Signed,
Citizens of the Greater Cottage Grove Community

Buster Keaton filmed his award-winning silent movie in Cottage Grove in the summer of 1926 and established the town as a movie-friendly location.

The Village Green Motor Hotel had an international reputation in the 1960s-1970s and attracted many famous people to town.

The Bookmine is Cottage Grove's oldest bookstore in the National Historic District, est. 1991

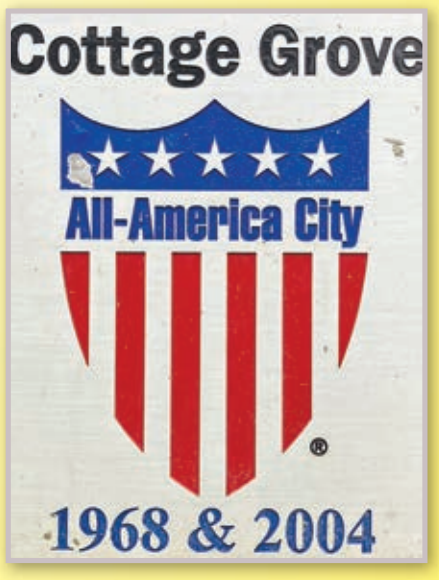


Woodard Mill and Logging Camp, 1925

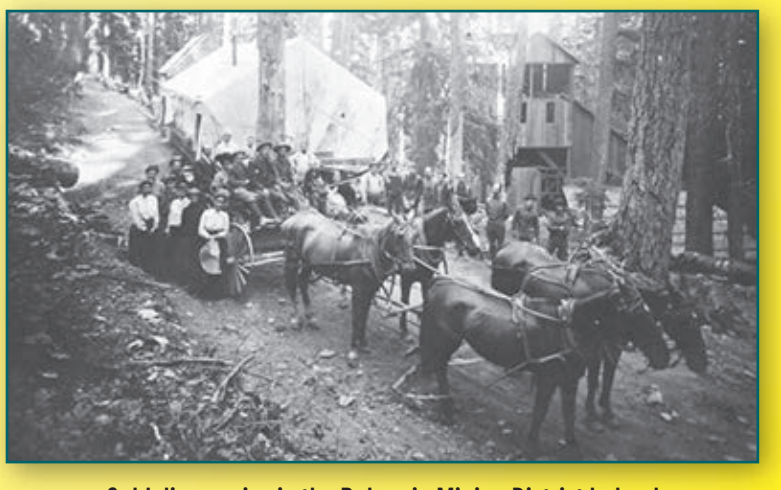
Cottage Grove High School Basketball Team, 1927 The Sentinel has covered high school sports for more than a century.

Contemporary Photos courtesy of Cindy Weeldreyer/ Cottage Grove Sentinel

Historical Photos courtesy of the Cottage Grove Museum



The nation's top honor for constructive citizenship and rare to win more than one.



Gold discoveries in the Bohemia Mining District helped swell Cottage Grove's population in the late 19th century as miners settled and started families.

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999 PUBLIC NOTICES

CGS26-113 NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT THE UNDERSIGNED WILL HOLD A PUBLIC AUCTION ON

March 13, 2026, at 11:00 AM Simply Storage 79177 North River Road, Cottage Grove, OR 97424 The personal property heretofore Stored with the undersigned by: Unit Name A27 Richard Utt E2 Leon Nissen W12 Billie Cross

CGS26-106 TRUSTEE'S NOTICE OF SALE TS NO.: 187462 APN: 1803533

Reference is made to that certain deed made by DAVID A. KINDT AND DEBRA L. KINDT AND TIFFANY N. KINDT, NOT AS TENANTS IN COMMON, BUT WITH THE RIGHTS OF SURVIVORSHIP as Grantor to FIDELITY NATIONAL TITLE COMPANY OF OREGON, as Trustee, in favor of Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc. as designated nominee for CMG MORTGAGE INC., DBA CMG FINANCIAL as Beneficiary, dated 07/28/2023, recorded 07/28/2023, in the official records of Lane County, Oregon as Instrument No. 2023-021845 in Book xx, Page xx covering the following described real property situated in said County and State, to wit: See attached Exhibit A Commonly known as: 2011 W 14th Place, Eugene, OR 97402 The current beneficiary is Rocket Mortgage, LLC f/k/a Quicken Loans, LLC pursuant to assignment of deed of trust recorded on 07/11/2025 as Inst No. 2025-021286 in the records of Lane, Oregon. The beneficiary has elected and directed successor trustee to sell the said real property to satisfy the obligations secured by said trust deed and notice has been recorded pursuant to Section 86.752(3) of Oregon Revised Statutes: the default for which the foreclosure is made is the grantor's failure to: Make the monthly payments commencing with the payment due on 04/01/2025 and continuing each month until this trust deed is reinstated or goes to trustee's sale; plus a late charge on each installment not paid within fifteen days following the payment due date; trustee's fees and other costs and expenses associated with this foreclosure and any further breach of any term or condition contained in subject note and deed of trust. 1. By the reason of said default the beneficiary has declared all obligations secured by said deed of trust immediately due and payable, said sums being the following, to wit: Principal balance in the amount of: $172,128.04; 2. Interest through 11/30/2025 in the amount of: $9,471.56 3. MIP/PMI Advances in the amount of: $265.12 4. Recoverable balance in the amount of: $2,836.25 5. Late Charges in the amount of: $0.00 6. Total Fees in the amount of: $122.00 7. Escrow Advances in the amount of: $1,658.83 8. Together with the interest thereon at the rate 7.3750000% per annum until paid; plus all accrued late charges thereon; and all trustee's fees, foreclosure costs and any sums advanced by the beneficiary pursuant to the terms of said deed of trust. The principal sum of $172,128.04 together with the interest thereon at the rate 7.3750000% per annum from 03/01/2025 until paid; plus all accrued late charges thereon; and all trustee's fees, foreclosure costs and any sums advanced by the beneficiary pursuant to the terms of said deed of trust. Whereof, notice hereby is given that the undersigned trustee will on 04/08/2026 at the hour of 1:00 PM, Standard of Time, as established by Section 187.110, Oregon Revised Statutes, at the front entrance of the Courthouse, Lane County Courthouse, 125 East 8th Avenue, Eugene, OR 97401, County of Lane, State of Oregon, sell at public auction to the highest bidder for cash the interest in the said described real property which the grantor had or had power to convey at the time of the execution by him of the said trust deed, together with any interest which the grantor or his successors in interest acquired after the execution of said trust deed, to satisfy the foregoing obligations thereby secured (and the costs and expenses of sale, including a reasonable charge by the trustee). Notice is further given that any person named in Section 86.778 of Oregon Revised Statutes; has the right to have the foreclosure proceeding dismissed and the trust deed reinstated by payment to the beneficiary of the entire amount then due (other than such portion of said principal as would not then be due had no default occurred), together with the costs, trustee's and attorney's fees and curing any other default complained of in the Notice of Default by tendering the performance required under the obligation or trust deed, at any time prior to five days before the date last set for the sale. In construing this, the masculine gender includes the feminine and the successor in interest to the grantor as well as any other person owing obligation, the performance of which is secured by said trust deed; the words "trustee" and "beneficiary" include their respective successors in interest, if any. Pursuant to Oregon Law, this sale will not be deemed final until the Trustee's deed has been issued by Prime Recon LLC. If any irregularities are discovered within 10 days of the date of this sale, the trustee will rescind the sale, return the buyer's money and take further action as necessary. If the sale is set aside for any reason, including if the trustee is unable to convey title, the Purchaser at the sale shall be entitled only to a return of the monies paid to the Trustee. This shall be the Purchaser's sole and exclusive remedy. The purchaser shall have no further recourse against the Trustor, the Trustee, the Beneficiary, the Beneficiary's Agent, or the Beneficiary's Attorney. Also, please be advised that pursuant to the terms stated on the Deed of Trust and Note, the beneficiary is allowed to conduct property inspections while there is a default. This shall serve as notice that the beneficiary shall be conducting property inspections on the referenced property. Without limiting the trustee's disclaimer of representations or warranties, Oregon law requires the trustee to state in this notice that some residential property sold at a trustee's sale may have been used in manufacturing methamphetamines, the chemical components of which are known to be toxic. Prospective purchasers of residential property should be aware of this potential danger before deciding to place a bid for this property at the trustee's sale. NOTICE TO RESIDENTIAL TENANTS The property in which you are living is in foreclosure. A foreclosure sale is scheduled for 04/08/2026 (date). The date of this sale may be postponed. Unless the lender that is foreclosing on this property is paid before the sale date, the foreclosure will go through and someone new will own this property. After the sale, the new owner is required to provide you with contact information and notice that the sale took place. The following information applies to you only if you

The Garden Bug

Herbals

Many of the earliest medical writings were known as "herbals." They were books that described plants and how they might be used to heal illnesses. Most began as traditional oral information, written down so they could be shared more widely. These collections also included other natural materials in the environment which were thought to be useful as medicines, such as milk, salt, honey, and even gemstones.

– *Brenda Weaver*

Source: circulatingnow.nlm.nih.gov

At left: "Gladiolus bulbs with leaves and flowers" from *De Historia Plantarum* (1644).

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CLASSIFIEDS - continued from page 7

999 PUBLIC NOTICES

are a bona fide tenant occupying and renting this property as a residential dwelling under a legitimate rental agreement. The information does not apply to you if you own this property or if you are not a bona fide residential tenant. If the foreclosure sale goes through, the new owner will have the right to require you to move out. Before the new owner can require you to move, the new owner must provide you with written notice that specifies the date by which you must move out. If you do not leave before the move-out date, the new owner can have the sheriff remove you from the property after a court hearing. You will receive notice of the court hearing. PROTECTION FROM EVICTION IF YOU ARE A BONA FIDE TENANT OCCUPYING AND RENTING THIS PROPERTY AS A RESIDENTIAL DWELLING, YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO CONTINUE LIVING IN THIS PROPERTY AFTER THE FORECLOSURE SALE FOR: 60 DAYS FROM THE DATE YOU ARE GIVEN A WRITTEN TERMINATION NOTICE, IF YOU HAVE A FIXED TERM LEASE; OR AT LEAST 30 DAYS FROM THE DATE YOU ARE GIVEN A WRITTEN TERMINATION NOTICE, IF YOU HAVE A MONTH-TO-MONTH OR WEEK-TO-WEEK RENTAL AGREEMENT. If the new owner wants to move in and use this property as a primary residence, the new owner can give you written notice and require you to move out after 30 days, even though you have a fixed term lease with more than 30 days left. You must be provided with at least 30 days' written notice after the foreclosure sale before you can be required to move. A bona fide tenant is a residential tenant who is not the borrower (property owner) or a child, spouse or parent of the borrower, and whose rental agreement: Is the result of an arm's-length transaction; Requires the payment of rent that is not substantially less than fair market rent for the property, unless the rent is reduced or subsidized due to a federal, state or local subsidy; and Was entered into prior to the date of the foreclosure sale. ABOUT YOUR TENANCY BETWEEN NOW AND THE FORECLOSURE SALE: RENT YOU SHOULD CONTINUE TO PAY RENT TO YOUR LANDLORD UNTIL THE PROPERTY IS SOLD OR UNTIL A COURT TELLS YOU OTHERWISE. IF YOU DO NOT PAY RENT, YOU CAN BE EVICTED. BE SURE TO KEEP PROOF OF ANY PAYMENTS YOU MAKE. SECURITY DEPOSIT You may apply your security deposit and any rent you paid in advance against the current rent you owe your landlord as provided in ORS 90.367. To do this, you must notify your landlord in writing that you want to subtract the amount of your security deposit or prepaid rent from your rent payment. You may do this only for the rent you owe your current landlord. If you do this, you must do so before the foreclosure sale. The business or individual who buys this property at the foreclosure sale is not responsible to you for any deposit or prepaid rent you paid to your landlord. ABOUT YOUR TENANCY AFTER THE FORECLOSURE SALE The new owner that buys this property at the foreclosure sale may be willing to allow you to stay as a tenant instead of requiring you to move out after 30 or 60 days. After the sale, you should receive a written notice informing you that the sale took place and giving you the new owner's name and contact information. You should contact the new owner if you would like to stay. 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FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR RIGHTS, YOU SHOULD CONSULT A LAWYER. If you believe you need legal assistance, contact the Oregon State Bar and ask for the lawyer referral service. Contact information for the Oregon State Bar is included with this notice. If you do not have enough money to pay a lawyer and are otherwise eligible, you may be able to receive legal assistance for free. Information about whom to contact for free legal assistance is included with this notice. OREGON STATE BAR, 16037 S.W. Upper Boones Ferry Road, Tigard Oregon 97224, Phone (503) 620-0222, Toll-free 1-800-452-8260 Website: http://www.oregonlawhelp.org The Fair Debt Collection Practices Act requires that we state the following: this is an attempt to collect, and any information obtained will be used for that purpose. If a discharge has been obtained by any party through bankruptcy proceedings: This shall not be construed to be an attempt to collect the outstanding indebtedness or hold you personally liable for the debt. This letter is intended to exercise the note holders right's against the real property only. NOTICE TO VETERANS If the recipient of this notice is a veteran of the armed forces, assistance may be available from a county veterans' service officer or community action agency. Contact information for a service officer appointed for the county in which you live and contact information for a community action agency that serves the area where you live may be obtained by calling a 2-1-1 information service. Dated: 11/18/2025 Prime Recon LLC By: Carmen Robinson, Authorized Signer Prime Recon LLC 27368 Via Industria, Ste 201Temecula, CA 92590 Phone number for the Trustee: (888) 725-4142 A-4858626 02/25/2026, 03/04/2026, 03/11/2026, 03/18/2026

Oregon Working Families Party, state's largest teachers union decline to endorse in governor's race

ALEX BAUMHARDT
Oregon Capital Chronicle

Members of Oregon's largest teachers union and the liberal Working Families Party will not endorse any of the current candidates for governor, including incumbent Democratic Gov. Tina Kotek.

That's despite both groups supporting Kotek in her 2022 run for governor and in past legislative races. The Working Families Party announced its list of candidate endorsements — notably missing any gubernatorial candidates — on Tuesday afternoon. And on Saturday, 75% of the members of the Oregon Education Association Political Action Committee, the political activities arm of the union, voted not to endorse any of the candidates currently running for governor. That's according to social media, two people who attended the meeting but could not speak publicly and a photo of results shared with the Capital Chronicle.

Declining to endorse Kotek was a surprising development from both groups, which had previously thrown enormous support — and in the case of the teachers' union, money — behind her in her first bid for governor. The union in 2022 donated roughly $389,000 to Kotek's first run for governor.

Annie Naranjo-Rivera, state director of the Working Families Party, said that the endorsement had been requested by leading Democrats, though she would not explicitly say that Kotek sought the endorsement. She said members voiced concerns that none of the candidates running "express the values and commitment" to uplifting working class families and families of color that make up the party.

"A lot can change between now and the general election in November," she added. As a minor party, the group has until August to nominate a candidate for the general election.

The last time the teachers union chose not to endorse any gubernatorial candidate was more than a decade ago, when Democratic then-Gov. John Kitzhaber ran for reelection in 2014 against his Republican opponent, Dennis Richardson.

The union declined to provide a statement or response to questions about the vote by Tuesday morning.

Marissa Sandgren, a spokesperson for Kotek's re-election campaign, said in a text Tuesday that the governor has worked closely with Oregon educators and parents over the years to deliver record investments in schools, literacy training and instruction and summer learning.

"At a time when President Trump is sending ICE into schools and gutting education funding, Governor Kotek will continue to stand up for Oregon, fighting to protect every federal dollar and defend a public education system rooted in opportunity for every child," Sandgren said.

Kotek in her first year in office, and after Portland Public Schools teachers went on one of the longest strikes in district history, passed record state school funding at the time: $10.2 billion for the 2023-25 school years. Last year, she oversaw the passage of another record $11.36 billion in funding for state schools during the next two years, as well as new investments in literacy training for teachers and curriculum and tutors for kids, and the first ever promise from the state Legislature to consistently send $35 million a year to schools for summer programs.

On social media, one union member sharing the vote information on Bluesky expressed anger about Kotek's criticism, and attempt to intervene, in Multnomah County's Preschool For All program. Kotek was vocal last year about her concerns that the taxes raised on high earners in Multnomah County to pay for the program were driving the wealthier tax base out of the county while much of the revenue collected — about $485 million at the time — hadn't been spent.

Angela Bonilla, president of the Portland Association of Teachers, said in an email that she would wait to say more until the statewide union releases a statement.

Jordan Gale/Oregon Capital Chronicle

Tina Kotek is mobbed by kids in downtown Portland on Nov. 10, 2022, while celebrating her gubernatorial win. Members of the Oregon Education Association voted not to endorse any gubernatorial candidate, including Kotek, in the 2026 election.

"I can tell you anecdotally that I have not talked to a single educator who plans to vote for Kotek due to her poor record on education," she added.

Portland Public Schools faces a $50 million deficit in next year's budget due to higher than expected costs due to inflation and unexpected infrastructure repairs, according to reporting from Oregon Public Broadcasting. The district's chief financial officer, Michelle Morrison, indicated in a letter to families that staff reductions would likely be necessary.

Bonilla listed Kotek's "unwillingness to declare a state of emergency on education" to provide emergency funding to Oregon schools this year struggling with midyear budget cuts due to potential federal tax changes impacting state tax revenue. Those impacts are expected to be less severe than earlier this year due to brighter revenue forecasts and the passage of a bill to decouple some of Oregon's tax code from the federal code. There are currently no major cuts to education funding in the state budget being readjusted by lawmakers in the current session.

Bonilla also expressed concern that Kotek passed a statewide school accountability system law in 2025, Senate Bill 141, without "appropriate funding." The bill updates standards for student outcomes and offers more powers of intervention for the Oregon Department of Education in underperforming schools.

https://oregoncapitalchronicle.com/briefs/oregon-working-families-party-states-largest-teachers-union-decline-to-endorse-in-governors-race/

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Republican petitioners sue Oregon over law rescheduling gas tax referendum

MIA MALDONADO
Oregon Capital Chronicle

Republican leaders of a successful petition to pause gas tax and transportation fee hikes until a citizen vote are suing the state over a new law rescheduling that vote.

Gov. Tina Kotek signed Senate Bill 1599 into law shortly after it passed the House on Monday, clearing the way for voters to have a say on the controversial transportation law she championed in May rather than November.

But referendum leaders including Rep. Ed Diehl, R-Scio, Sen. Bruce Starr, R-Dundee and Taxpayer Association of Oregon founder Jason Williams listed themselves as joint plaintiffs in a new lawsuit alleging the law violates Oregon's constitutional referendum protections, due process and fair election principals. The lawsuit has an additional 36 plaintiffs from a variety of different political backgrounds, Diehl told reporters at a press conference Tuesday afternoon, March 3, without specifying who the other plaintiffs are.

Petition leaders said they would file the lawsuit in Marion County Circuit Court later in the day, listing Oregon Secretary of State Tobias Read as the defendant. A spokesperson for Read declined to comment because it is pending litigation. The suit was not yet available in online court records as of late Tuesday afternoon.

While lawmakers cannot repeal a law once it has been referred to the ballot, they are allowed to move which election voters can take up an issue, Read said in January.

However, Read last week warned lawmakers that missing a Feb. 25 deadline to sign the bill into law, would limit how much time petitioners have to pay a $1,200 filing fee or gather 500 signatures to add arguments to the state voter pamphlet. Both are due by March 12, but the petitioners couldn't begin collecting signatures for the pamphlet until the bill was signed into law. This process takes more time since the secretary's office must verify those signatures.

Diehl said he and his colleagues are in the process of collecting signatures to qualify for the pamphlet.

The lawsuit alleges the law compressed the timeline campaign leaders have to qualify for the voter's pamphlet, and that the lawsuit is necessary to defend the 250,000 Oregonians who signed the No Tax Oregon petition to pause a 6-cent gas tax increase, hikes to car registration and title fees and doubling the payroll taxes used for public transit — all of which were supposed to bring in new revenue for the Oregon Department of Transportation's maintenance and operations which faces a $242 million shortfall in the 2025-27 budget cycle alone.

The petition leaders criticized Democratic lawmakers and Gov. Tina Kotek for what they say is interference in their efforts to have a voice. Kotek took nearly the entire 30 business days she had to sign the transportation law she championed during a fall special session into law — a move that limited the time frame No Tax Oregon petitioners had to gather signatures.

"The governor waited 43 days to sign it," Diehl said about Kotek's fall transportation package. "I think she waited 15 minutes to sign this one."

Mia Maldonado / Oregon Capital Chronicle

From front left to right, Sen. Bruce Starr, R-Dundee, Rep. Ed Diehl, R-Scio and Taxpayer Association of Oregon founder Jason Williams speak to reporters at a press conference announcing their lawsuit over a bill to reschedule a gas tax referendum they pushed for to May.

https://oregoncapitalchronicle.com/2026/03/03/republican-petitioners-sue-oregon-over-law-rescheduling-gas-tax-referendum/

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Video Messaging Research

SEAN NEALON
Cottage Grove sentinel
Guest Article

Low-resolution online videos are less likely to influence opinion and also more likely to dissuade viewers from engaging with future content, research by Oregon State University scientists shows.

The study carries major implications for the design and delivery of video content and suggests that deviations from high-quality presentations can create repercussions regarding the video's content, according to Christopher Sanchez of the OSU College of Liberal Arts.

Sanchez says it's not surprising that the findings, published in the journal Displays, suggest people prefer high-quality videos and will opt for them if given the choice.

"Where this gets interesting, in my opinion, is that viewers don't always have that choice," he said. "Anyone who does much streaming will have encountered scenarios where the streaming service scaled down resolution to meet bandwidth requirements – for example, when you're on your phone with a spotty connection. Same thing with videoconferencing providers. But when a scale-down happens, ostensibly to preserve the connection or prevent buffering, it has downstream consequences that are unrelated to the material itself per se."

In this project, Sanchez showed study participants a five-minute video of a news program type of discussion on assisted suicide; half of the participants watched a comparatively low-quality version of the video, the other half a comparatively high-quality version.

"It appears we have a strong preference for high-resolution media," he said. "This preference seems to guide our engagement, both with future material and also with the content at hand. We become less engaged with what's in front of us, have less reaction to it emotionally and become less receptive to the opinions being expressed."

Courtesy from OSU

Quality High-resolution online videos are more likely to influence opinion and also less likely to dissuade viewers from engaging with future content, research by Oregon State University scientists shows.

Participants who viewed the low-resolution video remembered the information presented just as well as those viewing the high-resolution video, but their attitudes toward the video content or message, in this case support of assisted suicide, shifted less.

"If you are in charge of messaging for legislation supporting assisted suicide, for example, this would be a bad thing, in the form of time and money wasted," Sanchez said. "And the degraded video also made people less likely to engage with such material in the future, which is potentially even worse – the current ad might be a miss, but now people won't even come back for a future one that might be better for any number of reasons."

He added that while this study didn't examine artificial intelligence's role in video production, it can nevertheless inform future study on the effects of AI-generated video.

"AI is used very much nowadays to generate video content, and our work seems to suggest that more realistic, higher-definition, higher-quality video productions are best if one wishes to influence viewers or at least keep them watching," Sanchez said. "AI has enabled the creation of high-quality video snippets with a simple prompt, which as viewers potentially opens us up to being influenced or increases our likelihood of doom scrolling; higher-quality video produces higher engagement in multiple ways."

Doctoral student Nisha Raghunath helped conduct and author the study, as did Chelsea Ahart, a former undergraduate member of Sanchez's research group.

Steve Lundeberg is a news and research writer at Oregon State University. He may be reached at Steve.Lundeberg@oregonstate.edu

WALLDOGS

From Page 1

WHO ARE THE WALLDOGS?

The WallDogs trace their roots to 1993 in Allerton, Iowa, where local residents and more than 60 sign painting artists created eight murals during a summer festival that organizers describe as "the beginning of the Walldog Public Art Movement." The event's coordinator, Nancy Bennett, is widely recognized as a founding leader of the movement.

Since that first gathering, the WallDogs have grown into an international collective of muralists who travel to host communities to create large scale, hand painted murals rooted in local history. Their festivals typically draw 150 or more artists from around the world. In Wayne County, Iowa, for example, more than 150 artists painted 16 murals celebrating the region's heritage.

The group blends traditional sign painting with community storytelling. Artists volunteer their time, and host towns provide research, wall preparation, and local support. Festivals often produce 15 to 20 murals in four to five days, leaving behind permanent public art installations that become long term cultural assets.

A GLOBAL ARTS COLLECTIVE HEADS TO COTTAGE GROVE

Cottage Grove will join that tradition in 2027, when hundreds of WallDogs artists arrive to paint 15 murals across the community. The group focuses on historic advertisements, heritage themes, and local stories. As Solesbee explained in her interview, the WallDogs are "skilled traditional artists using paint, ladders, and teamwork to help communities tell their stories — on a very large scale."

Solesbee first learned about the group from The Dalles Mayor Rich Mays, whose city hosted the WallDogs in 2022. She said the project impressed her because residents "rolled up their sleeves, came together, and celebrated their history." That experience convinced her to pursue the festival for Cottage Grove.

She connected with WallDogs leader Jay Allen, and after a two hour conversation about Cottage Grove's history, heritage, and the upcoming anniversary of "Animal House," the group selected the city for 2027. Solesbee said she will "never forget that moment," calling it the kind of experience "our community will talk about for generations."

A DUAL CELEBRATION IN 2027

The mural festival will align with the 50th anniversary of the filming of "Animal House," which brought national attention to Cottage Grove. Solesbee said planners intend for the two events to strengthen one another and create a lively, town wide experience.

Activities under consideration include live music, food trucks, mural tours, a toga party, and a parade that recreates the film's iconic scene. Organizers expect the combined celebrations to draw thousands of visitors and generate strong economic activity for local businesses.

COMMITTEES AND VOLUNTEER ROLES

The March 16 meeting will introduce a wide range of committees. Some groups will focus on long term planning, fundraising, and logistics, while others will support single day tasks during the festival. Solesbee emphasized that residents can contribute in many ways.

"Participation doesn't require picking up a paintbrush," she said. "There are many other ways people can make this 'once-in-a-generation event' successful."

Volunteers will help with hospitality, transportation, lodging, paint supplies, information booths, and event setup and cleanup. Local artists, youth, and community members will also have opportunities to take part in mural design and painting. Some cities have even featured murals created entirely by children.

HOW THEMES WILL BE CHOSEN

Organizers plan to use a community driven process to select mural themes. Solesbee said certain pillars of Cottage Grove's history, including mining, timber, foundational industries, and the people who built the community, will guide the selection. Local historians will help ensure accuracy and authenticity. With 15 murals planned, she said the festival offers "wonderful opportunity to tell a variety of meaningful stories."

LOOKING TOWARD 2027

Planners are considering two possible festival windows: the third week of August or the last week of August 2027. The final dates will depend on coordination with WallDogs leadership, local committees, and community partners.

Long term mural maintenance will follow the WallDogs' national standards, which outline best practices for wall preparation, sun exposure, protective coatings, and ongoing care. Solesbee said the city intends to protect the murals so they remain a valued asset for generations.

She believes the festival fits squarely within Cottage Grove's cultural and economic goals. "This festival is about more than paint on walls," she said. "It's about strengthening community identity, creating shared experiences, and positioning Cottage Grove as a welcoming, creative, and historically rich destination."

Follow this developing story online at cgsentinel.com and in the Wednesday print editions of The Sentinel.

GASOLINE

From Page 1

Marie Dodds: Shop around for the least expensive gas near you. Download the AAA Mobile app which lets you find the prices for all grades of fuel at gas stations that are close to your location. Pricing can vary widely from station to station - even gas stations that are across the street from each other can have differing pricing. The AAA Mobile App is free and available at the App Store and Google Play.

Take steps to conserve fuel. Even small things can add up to savings at the pumps. Here are some fuel-saving tips:

https://gasprices.aaa.com/news/fuel-saving-tips/

Consider using a credit card to pay for your fuel purchases so that you can get a cash rebate. Use a card that offers cash back on fuel purchases, or even better, use a card that gives you a higher percentage for gas purchases. The AAA Travel Advantage Visa card lets you earn 5% cash back on gas & electric vehicle charging stations. Find out more at https://oregon.aaa.com/financial/more-products/aaa-visa-credit-card.html

Some loyalty programs offer discounts on gas. Stores such as Safeway, Albertson's and Fred Meyer offer fuel rewards programs that let customers earn discounts on gasoline by earning points from shopping.

AAA has a program called Shell Fuel Rewards®. Members who register between March 9 and April 30 will get 35¢/gallon off their first fill at participating Shell stations, and all AAA Fuel Rewards members will save 10¢/gallon during that time period, which is an additional 5¢/gallon compared to the standard Fuel Rewards discount.

The Sentinel: Is AAA noticing any shift in driving trends, more use of public transit, carpooling, less pleasure drives, due to the higher prices?

Dodds: Not yet. While gas prices have jumped since the strikes on Iran, prices are still in the realm of what we can see this time of year, and significantly lower than the record high prices we saw in 2022 when the national average climbed to nearly $5.02 a gallon on June 14, and the Oregon average climbed to nearly $5.55 on June 15. Overall, we find that relatively small price fluctuations don't tend to trigger large-scale behavioral changes, especially when gas prices are still in a "normal" range. As of March 4, the national average for regular gas is about 10 cents more than a year ago, and the Oregon average is about 25 cents more.

A 2022 survey done by AAA showed that $4 per gallon can be a tipping point for Americans to begin cutting back on driving or changing travel habits. When prices hit this threshold, over half of drivers make lifestyle adjustments. However, this may not be the case in states such as California, Hawaii, Washington, Oregon, Nevada and Alaska, where it's not unusual for average gas prices to climb above $4 a gallon. The survey showed that if prices soar to $5 per gallon, three-quarters of Americans make changes, such as limiting leisure driving, canceling or shortening road trips, curbing discretionary spending such as shopping or dining out, and combining errands.

Worship Guide

COTTAGE GROVE:

COTTAGE GROVE FAITH CENTER
33761 Row River Rd.
541-942-4851
Lead Pastor: Kevin Pruett
www.cg4.tv
Full Children's Ministry available
Services: 10:00am

DELIGHT VALLEY
Church of Christ
33087 Saginaw Rd. East
541-942-7711 • Pastor: Bob Friend
Two Services:
9am - Classic in the Chapel
10:30am - Contemporary in the Auditorium

LIVING FAITH ASSEMBLY
467 S. 10th St. • 541-942-2612
Worship Services Sundays: 9a & 11a
Youth Worship Sundays: 11a (all ages welcome)
Mondays: 5:30p (6th-12th grades)

OUR LADY OF PERPETUAL HELP AND ST. PHILIP BENIZI CATHOLIC CHURCHES
1025. N. 19th St.
541-942-3420
Father John J. Boyle
Holy Mass:
Saturday Vigil – 5:30 pm
Sunday – 10:30 am
For weekday and Holy Day of Obligation schedule see website OLPHCG.net
Confession: 4 PM to 5 PM Saturdays or by appointment
St. Philip Benizi, Creswell
552 Holbrook Lane
Sunday 8 am

ST. ANDREWS EPISCOPAL CHURCH
1301 W. Main • 541-767-9050
Rev. Lawrence Crumb
"Scripture, Tradition, Reason"
Worship: Sunday 10:30am
All Welcome

SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH
820 South 10th Street
541-942-5213
Pastor: James D. Boram
Bible Study: Saturday, 9:15 am
Worship Service: Saturday, 10:40
Mid-week Service: Wednesday, 1:00

TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH
6th and Quincy
541-942-2373
Pastor: John Westhafer
Sunday School and Adult Education 9:15 a.m.
Sunday Worship 10:30 a.m.
Comm. Kitchen Free Meal
Tuesday 5:15 p.m. to 6:15 p.m.
TLC Groups
tlccg.com

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
334 Washington 541-942-3033
Worship 10am
umcgrove.org

CRESWELL:

CRESWELL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
75 S 4th S • 541-895-3419
Rev. Seth Wheeler
Adult Sunday School 9:15am
Sunday Worship Service 10:30 am
website www.creswellpres.org

WALKER UNION CHURCH & CEMETERY
32904 England Rd, Creswell, OR
(541) 649-1800
Pastor: Randy Wood
Sunday Service at 11:00 AM
Everyone is welcome!
Follow us on our Facebook page: WalkerChurchOregon

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

SPORTS

Cottage Grove Lions compete at wrestling State championships

WILL LOHRE
Cottage Grove Sentinel

Cottage Grove High School's wrestling season is in the books, and Head Coach Charlie Kent is "incredibly proud" of the growth the Lions have shown in his three years as head coach.

Kent has eyes on being one of the premier wrestling programs in the state, so he isn't "satisfied" and sees more room to develop, but in terms of where the team ended up this season and the outlook towards the future, he couldn't be more thrilled.

"Overall, I am incredibly proud of how our kids showed up, how we wrestled, and the dedication they had not only to the sport, but to the academic side and being leaders within the school," Kent said. "We had some really good wrestlers who really performed and had some great matches. I'm really excited for the future of what we're doing."

Kent spoke with the Sentinel after the Lions competed at the 2026 OSAA Wrestling State Championships on Feb. 26-27. The Lions were back in the Coliseum and competed with ferocity.

The crowning achievement of the weekend was a season in the making, as junior Jeffery Conklin capped an undefeated 2025-2026 season with a championship crown at 132 pounds. With a pin over Sweet Home's Tytus Hardee in the state finals, joined Allison Palluck as the only wrestlers in Cottage Grove history to go undefeated in a season and win a state championship.

Conklin was a force of nature on the mats all season, and his four matches at state were no different. He won three of his four matches by pin, with the outlier being an 18-2 win in the quarterfinals by technical fall. It was a dominant showing by Conklin that left little doubt.

"It's beyond exceptional. His focus and support, everything is aligned for that kid, opportunity-wise, and then he steps in and fills the role. He's taking advantage, and he's deserving of the work that others are putting into it, because of how hard he works at this," Kent said. "No one works harder in the room. No one dedicates more time. The kid is just always thinking about wrestling, and he's getting better. And he keeps getting better year after year. The sky's really the limit."

Kent recalls a time when Conklin "couldn't even do a pull-up on the bar" when he first arrived at GCHS, but the competitive spirit always showed through. Conklin's competitive edge, in conjunction with his work ethic have made him a cut above the rest, and his composure and focus set him apart.

"It's been such a privilege to coach alongside him while he competes, rather than coach him while he competes. I feel like we're playing chess together when he goes out on the mat, and at this point, I'm just holding his water bottle," Kent said.

With another season left to wrestle at the high school level, Conklin's Lions story will continue to unfold.

Also placing for Cottage Grove at the state championships was the Lions' lone girls representative. Wrestling at 135 pounds, junior Boston Kent put together a gritty bronze medal performance. After losing her opening matchup to the eventual state runner-up, Kent found her footing and didn't lose another match. She went 4-0 through the consolation bracket, including two wins by decision and two pins to take third, capping a phenomenal season for the Lions.

Also representing Cottage Grove at the state championships were Ben Stewart, Jake Palluck, Jayden Davis, Karsen Yarush, Michael Hoye, and Raphael LaCount.

Aspiring for more

Cottage Grove High School has a rich wrestling history and legacy, and Kent said he aspires to bring the program back to the level that was achieved under Lions' legend Bill Thompson. Reflecting on this season, Kent said the program is already well on its way back to the peak.

"Cottage Grove was a leader in the sport back in 2005 to 2010," Kent said. "When I put it back in historical context, I'm like, 'Man, we've got the foundation.' We've got great families, we've got great wrestlers, we've got great buy-in, we just need to bake for another year or two, and we'll get back into it. But on the flip side, we're there."

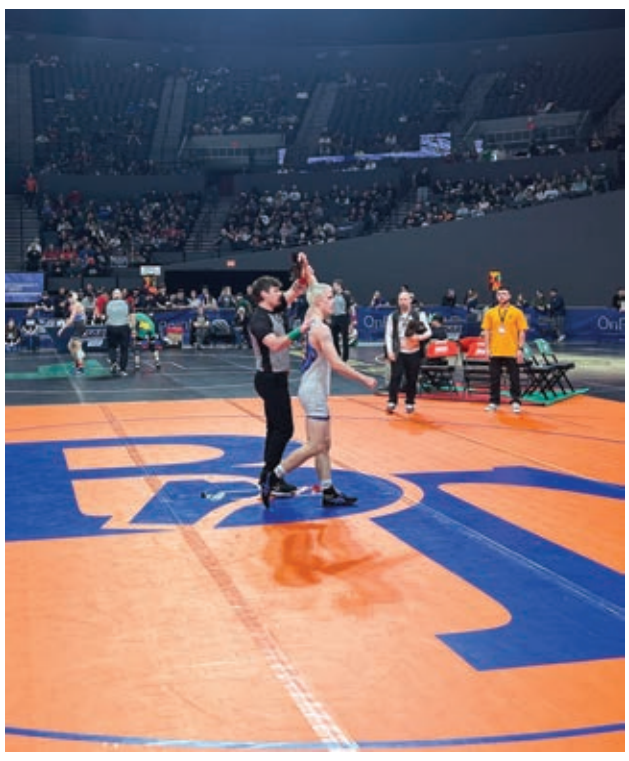
Kent cited the strong turnout to Cottage Grove's invitational tournament as a measure of how the program is weaving itself into the fabric of Oregon wrestling. Over 50 teams attended the Cottage Grove Invite this winter, a resounding statement about the program's pull in recent years.

"It's cool. I'm getting goosebumps thinking about it. But we're in the middle of it. To really sit back and appreciate that piece is difficult at times for me," Kent said. "I didn't think we'd be here this quick when I started with four or five girls on the team and 12 boys a few years ago."

Kent's vision of a premier, competitive program is becoming a reality, and one of his favorite moments from the season came during the duals at North Bend on Jan. 22. Freshman Russell Wood clenched the win for Cottage Grove with a 1-0 victory in the deciding match.

Kent said Wood's ferocity, intensity, and gritty approach to wrestling are emblematic of the program and what earned him the nickname "Russell the muscle."

"There wasn't another kid I wanted out there," Kent said. "He came through; he's a freshman, and he's exactly what Cottage Grove is. He's a tough kid who wrestles his butt off, competes, and, win or lose, you're gonna know you wrestled this kid. That kind of defines what we did this year."



Will Lohre / Cottage Grove Sentinel

Cottage Grove's Jeffery Conklin after winning his semifinal match at the state championships.

As Wood hung on to win, Cottage Grove's other wrestlers cheered him on through the finish, exemplifying the team component of a largely individual sport. Kent said the Lions are working towards being competitive as a dual team with their depth, as well as a team that shines at tournaments. His vision for the future is ambitious.

"In the past five to eight years, we've had a state champion on our team, but we're only putting two or three kids at state. Now we're getting seven or eight deep, and we're going to start placing here in the next three or four years, top 10 or top 5," Kent said. "We've got a fifth-grade class coming in that are just hammers. I keep telling the old guard [at other programs], 'Hey, soak it in now, because we're going to be kicking your butts in four or five years.'"

Florence's Claire Lindell earns national recognition as part of Linfield University's cheer team

Courtesy photo

Linfield University cheer team at nationals. Pictured front (L-R): Elizabeth Olivan, Ava Vallencourt, Elizabeth Vasquez, Grace Christiansen, Emma Tayas, Gabrielle Louis, Hannah Wilken. Middle (L-R): Jacquelin Fernandez, Rylee Black, Angela Serna-Andrade, Taylor Mason, Claire Lindell, Mary Ebenezer, Miranda Arredondo Sanchez, Deiana Gutwig. Back row (L-R): Marissa Valdivieso, Ashley Dunn, Abby Monroe, Jackson Chapman, Mikayla Dunham, Natalie Schneider, Zuraide Hart.

The Linfield University cheer team brought home a pair of fifth-place trophies from the 2026 USA Collegiate Championships, held Feb. 21-22 in Anaheim, California. The Wildcats earned a fifth-place finish in the Game Day Situational Sideline/Cheer College and Game Day Band Chant categories.

Among the students competing for Linfield was Claire Lindell of Florence, OR. Lindell is a first-year student, majoring in psychology.

Started in 1997, the USA Collegiate Championships bring together teams from four-year and community colleges, with teams competing against schools from all athletic divisions. Nearly 1,000 collegiate student-athletes compete in nearly 15 divisions.

Twenty-three members of cheer team - representing three states and more than 11 academic majors - traveled to Anaheim for the competition. The trip was made possible through the support of the Linfield community, including students, staff, faculty and administration.

The team's results continue a pattern of strong performances on a national stage for the cheer and dance programs. The cheer team previously competed at the UCA College Cheerleading Nationals in 2022 and 2024. In their most recent appearance, the team earned a top 20 finish in the Open All Girl Game Day category. Last year, Linfield's dance team earned fifth place at the 2025 College Classic National Tournament.

"It's always so rewarding to represent Linfield in a positive light, but there was something special about doing it at USA Nationals 2026," Senior Captain Miki Dunham said. "Being a part of this team the last four years has helped me grow as a person and as an athlete, I am so lucky to have been surrounded by such amazing teammates pushing me to my best every single day."

Learn more about the Linfield cheer programs at https://golinfieldwildcats.com/sports/cheerleading.