THE COTTAGE GROVE
Sentinel

Gardening Column
See page 8

CGHS Sports
See page 8

Cottage Grove
62
36
Wednesday, February 4, 2026
Partly Cloudy

Wednesday February 4, 2026 | 137 years www.cgsentinel.com $2.00

Four generations of Wilsons shaped Cottage Grove through faith, hard work, and a small Mosby Creek mill

CINDY WEELDREYER
Cottage Grove Sentinel

The last time I saw John Wilson Jr. was in mid August.

It was clear he was losing his third battle with cancer, so I did what every good reporter does: I pulled out my phone and asked him to walk me through the milestones of his life. On Nov. 23, he died quietly at home surrounded by his family — and today (Feb. 4) would've been his 89th birthday.

I've known John and his second wife, Shirley, for all the 42 years they were married. Both are gentle souls with sweet smiles, bound by a "late in life" love story that began with a blind date arranged by mutual friends. Shirley said it took John three weeks to call her for a second date. They talked for hours, and she laughingly said, "I fell in love with him during that call." Their long and happy marriage, steeped in the strong Christian values they shared, seemed to be one perpetual honeymoon.

Family and friends say they loved how John tenderly called Shirley "my bride." They enjoyed each other's company so much they were inseparable wherever they went. They were active members of Cottage Grove Faith Center and served as leaders in Gideons International, providing Bibles locally and around the world. His commitment to the organization earned him a nickname among his mill customers that he embraced proudly: "John the Gideon."

I began this story as a tribute to my good friend John and to highlight the contributions he and his father, John Sr., made with their family-owned mill on Mosby Creek Road. But as I talked with family members, I made a surprising discovery — one that widened the lens on the significance of the Wilson family in our community.

William Stanage Wilson (1821–1917)

The two Johns were descendants of WSW (as he is known in the family history book). Born in Ohio, he traveled west in 1852 on a wagon train and, two years later, purchased a Donation Land Claim here. His wife, Mary Ann McNutt Wilson, and their two young sons settled eight miles south of Cottage Grove along the Coast Fork of the Willamette River. When Cottage Grove Lake was created in 1942, Wilson Creek Park was named in honor of their family.

Josiah Johnston Wilson (1878–1919)

This was John Sr.'s father, who died of the Spanish flu when his son was only 11. Josiah's granddaughter — and John Sr.'s younger sister — Betty Wilson Schrenk of Creswell, recalled her father describing how difficult it was for his mother to keep her four children together after her husband died. Believing it was in his best interest, she made the painful decision to have family friends who owned a farm raise her middle son — a decision John Sr. later told his children affected his younger brother quite negatively for the rest of his life.

History records that a widow in 1919 faced almost no safety net after the Spanish flu, which killed more than 3,600 Oregonians and struck hardest at adults in their 20s to 40s — the very people raising young families. In that climate of sudden loss, economic hardship, and social disruption, placing a child with a trusted family friend was often a desperate act of survival rather than abandonment.

John Williams Wilson Sr. (1907–1996)

Courtesy photo from the Wilson Family
In 1994, John Jr. (left) and his father John Sr. stand next to the historical monument placed in Cottage Grove Lake's Wilson Creek Park to honor their family.

John graduated from Cottage Grove High School in 1927 and began what would become a nearly 30 year career as a local postal carrier. He was active in the First Baptist Church Youth Fellowship, where he met and fell in love with his future wife, Esther Ruth Allen.

Esther was born in 1911 in Oklahoma, the fifth of ten siblings. Her family migrated to Oregon just before the Dust Bowl crisis and settled in the Silk Creek area west of the city. She graduated from Cottage Grove High School in 1931. Esther and John Sr. married on New Year's Eve 1933 and had three children:

See **WILSONS** Page 6

Courtesy photo from the Wilson Family
John Wilson Jr. and his father John Wilson Sr. were avid fishermen and hunters. In this photo, a very proud John Jr. displays his catch of the day.

WHO WE ARE

Two years in, local coffee shop is still pouring strong

Fast Fact
Pour 818 owners say customer loyalty and creative partnerships have fueled the shop's growth.

CINDY WEELDREYER
Cottage Grove Sentinel

January marked the second anniversary of the popular coffee shop, which opened during the January 2024 ice storm and quickly began drawing steady foot traffic to Pour 818 in the Historic Downtown District.

What began as a long running idea between two friends has become a consistent meeting place for residents, visitors, and downtown workers.

Co owners Heather Pennington and Stacie Quimby met 23 years ago as young parents and later worked together at PeaceHealth. Over time, they talked about creating a sit down space downtown where people could meet, work, or connect over coffee or tea.

"We had ideas and dreams of filling a need in our town," they said. "We knew Cottage Grove needed a place where people could linger, hold conversations, and feel comfortable staying awhile."

They chose the name "Pour 818" to reflect their mission to pour goodness into the community as well as their address at 818 E. Main St. From the beginning, they aimed to locate in the Historic Downtown District, which they viewed as the natural home for a community oriented café.

OPENING WEEK AND EARLY SUPPORT

Pour 818 opened just as the severe ice storm paralyzed Cottage Grove, but customers still showed up. Some walked through icy streets to see the new business, and others stopped in simply to warm up.

"Several people genuinely thanked us for opening the space and confirming how much it was needed," Quimby recalled.

That early response reinforced their belief that Cottage Grove wanted a dedicated gathering spot. The shop now employs five staff members in addition to the two co owners. Pennington and Quimby say the small team has shaped the shop's identity and built relationships that keep customers returning.

DIVISION OF ROLES

Pennington and Quimby collaborate on the shop's design and overall aesthetic, but they divide daily responsibilities based on their strengths. Quimby manages operations, scheduling, and organizational systems, always looking for ways to streamline processes. Pennington leads marketing, social media, and creative direction, drawing on her design background to maintain a consistent look and feel.

They describe their partnership as aligned and steady. Clear communication and flexibility have helped them navigate decisions. They also make a point to support other Historic Downtown District businesses, promoting events and encouraging customers to explore the area.

MENU AND RETAIL APPROACH

The owners launched the shop with coffee, tea, and pastries from

See **COFFEE SHOP** Page 2

Cindy Weeldreyer / Cottage Grove Sentinel
The Pour 818 staff said they are grateful to the community for its support as the business celebrates its second anniversary. Pictured left to right are Stacie Quimby, Jacob Ronan, Heather Pennington, Mason Quimby, Paula Spriggs, Marie Donner, Hannah Donner, Reilly Sammut. Not pictured: Celeste Keepers.

City budget crisis deepens as $4.5M error comes to light

CINDY WEELDREYER
Cottage Grove Sentinel

Cottage Grove residents could see significant cuts to city services next year after newly uncovered accounting errors revealed a $4.5 million hole in the city's budge.

The accounting errors were outlined before the Cottage Hrove City Council by Interim Finance Director Eric Kytola Monday night, Jan. 26.

The discovery stems from years of incorrect entries, missing transfers, and unrecorded expenditures in the city's accounting software — problems Kytola described as "substantial" and already affecting multiple funds.

HOW THE ERRORS WERE DISCOVERED

Kytola said he first identified major discrepancies in September 2025 while preparing for the long delayed FY 2024 audit. As he reviewed the city's financial data, he found that supplemental budgets had not been fully entered, debt payments were not recorded in the software, and a $2.9 million land purchase for Project Sparrow had been logged incorrectly.

The land purchase error alone caused the General Fund to appear nearly $3 million healthier than it actually was.

"That entry was created in September 2023 and the mistake was never caught or fixed," Kytola said. "This should not happen."

Because the FY 2026 budget was built using outdated audited data from FY 2022 — and incomplete internal data from FY 2023 and FY 2024 — the errors compounded over time.

Four Funds Ended FY 2025 in the Red

"The balanced budget we present for 2026–27 will attempt to resolve these issues. That means some significant cuts."

Mike Sauerwein, Cottage Grove City Manager

The misreported Beginning Fund Balances (BFB) created a ripple effect across city accounts. By the time FY 2025 closed, four funds had slipped into negative territory:

- Street Fund: –$271,192
- Water Fund: –$9,052
- Industrial Park: –$98,587
- General Reserve: –$187,644

Directors are not at fault, Kytola emphasized. They followed the adopted budget, unaware that the resources they were planning around were inaccurate.

"Because the spending occurred as planned but resources weren't what was communicated, this is going to result in overspending," he said.

CORRECTIVE ACTIONS UNDERWAY

See **BUDGET** Page 6

Metro Creative Connection
The discovery stems from years of incorrect entries, missing transfers, and unrecorded expenditures in the city's accounting software, according to Cottage Grove Interim Finance Director Eric Kytola.

INSIDE

News — 1-3
Opinion — 5
Death Notice — 6
Classifieds — 7
Sports — 8

FOLLOW DEVELOPING NEWS@ cgsentinel.com

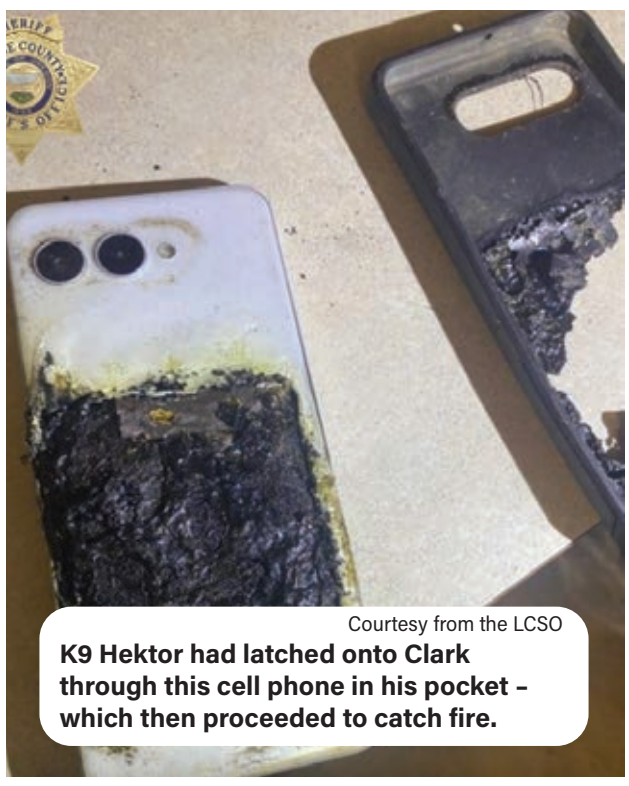
6 18134 42405 2

Cottage Grove man apprehended by K9

Courtesy from the LCSO
Lane County Sheriff's Officer K9 Hektor.

Lane County Sheriff's deputies responded to a residence in the 31800 block of Cottage Grove Lorane Road at 5 p.m. Jan. 26, to look for 44-year-old Robert David Clark, of Cottage Grove.

Clark had warrants for his arrest out of Umatilla County for Trespass in the 1st Degree and Theft in the 3rd Degree, and out of Morrow County for Trespass in the 1st Degree, Trespass in the 2nd Degree, and Unlawful Entry into a Motor Vehicle.



Courtesy from the LCSO
K9 Hektor had latched onto Clark through this cell phone in his pocket – which then proceeded to catch fire.

Deputies contacted Clark at the front door of the residence. Instead of cooperating, he ran out the back door. A sergeant responded with K9 Hektor and began searching the area. Clark was eventually located by K9 Hektor hiding in the shed of a nearby property

Clark refused to exit, and attempted to hold the door closed despite admonishments that a K9 would be deployed. K9 Hektor made entry and apprehended Clark.

Deputies saw smoke start to rise from behind the door and heard a hissing noise. Once Clark was in custody, deputies discovered K9 Hektor had latched onto Clark through a cell phone in his pocket – which then proceeded to catch fire.

Clark was cleared on scene by medics and lodged at the Lane County Jail on the warrants and an additional charge of Trespass in the 2nd Degree.

K9 Hektor was uninjured.

POLICE BLOTTER

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

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

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

COTTAGE GROVE POLICE

JANUARY 19

- 02:20: Warrant service, 400 block E. Main St.
- 06:53: Welfare check, 900 block W. Main St.
- 09:37: Abandoned vehicle, 700 block Gibbs Ave.
- 10:49: Warrant service, I5 NB 175
- 12:14: Theft, 900 block Row River Rd.
- 13:03: Agency assist, 1700 block S. 10th St.
- 13:08: Suspicious subject, 400 block E. Main St.
- 13:32: Suspicious condition, 700 block Row River Rd.
- 13:33: Trespass, 33000 block Walden Ln.
- 13:37: Suspicious condition, 1000 block Adams Ave.
- 17:01: Welfare check, 100 block Gateway Blvd.
- 17:31: Warrant service, 400 block E. Main St.
- 21:13: Warrant service, 200 block N. 12th St.
- 23:46: Disturbance, 1000 block S. 6th St.

JANUARY 20

- 00:51: Disturbance, 900 block S. 6th St.
- 05:32: Homicide, 1500 block Hwy 99
- 11:10: Suspicious subject, 2000 block S. 8th St.
- 12:27: Agency assist, 6th/Washington
- 14:38: Trespass, 700 block S. 8th St.
- 16:16: Agency assist, 600 block Benjamin Ave.
- 17:26: Fraud, 1800 block E. Main St.
- 19:37: Runaway juvenile, 700 block N. 16th St.
- 20:18: Suspicious vehicle, 900 block N. 16th St.

JANUARY 21

- 00:15: Business check, 1200 block Gateway Blvd.
- 01:20: Suspicious condition, 1100 block E. Washington Ave.
- 07:07: Alarm, 100 block Village Dr.
- 08:12: Fraud, 1800 block E. Main St.
- 09:32: Trespass, 600 block S. 7th St.
- 11:05: Agency assist, 500 block Grant Ave.
- 11:54: Warrant service, 400 block E. Main St.
- 11:57: Agency assist, 1200 block Ostrander Ln.
- 12:01: Agency assist, 77000 block S. 6th St.
- 12:19: Abandoned vehicle, 1800 block Harvey Rd.
- 13:35: Welfare check, 600 block Benjamin Ave.
- 13:56: Abandoned vehicle, 300 block E. Washington Ave.
- 16:19: Vicious dog, 1200 block E. Jefferson Ave.
- 17:27: Trespass, 100 block N. 9th St.

JANUARY 22

- 02:16: Disturbance, 600 block S. 12th St.
- 07:01: Alarm, 1700 block E. Main St.
- 07:36: Agency assist, 10th/Main
- 08:38: Criminal mischief, 100 block Crestview Ter.
- 09:02: Suspicious subject, 900 block W. Main St.
- 09:53: Warrant service, 1500 block E. Main St.
- 09:59: Agency assist, 400 block N. 16th St.
- 11:37: Abandoned vehicle, 100 block N. 16th St.
- 12:49: Abandoned vehicle, 700 block E. Gibbs Ave.
- 13:36: Abandoned vehicle, Benjamin/Wilson
- 14:47: Abandoned vehicle, Kalapuya/Holly
- 14:50: Warrant service, 600 block S. 5th st.
- 15:20: Theft, 1500 block E. Main St.
- 15:42: Motor vehicle crash, Main/15th
- 15:50: Trespass, 1600 block Gateway Blvd.
- 16:27: Agency assist, 400 block Boardwalk Pl.
- 19:25: Warrant service, 400 block E. Main St.
- 21:47: Agency assist, 31000 block CG Lorane Rd

JANUARY 23

- 00:34: Burglary, 100 block E. Jackson Ave.
- 07:26: Alarm, 1400 block Gateway Blvd.
- 08:59: Warrant service, 1000 block Tyler Ave.
- 12:05: Disorderly subject, 80000 block Davisson Rd.
- 12:52: Fraud, 700 block Hwy 99
- 13:42: Suspicious condition, 1400 block Ash Ave.
- 15:27: Suicidal subject, 900 block Kristen Way
- 17:42: Welfare check, 1100 block Chamberlain Ave.
- 21:32: Warrant service, 400 block E. Main St.
- 21:35: Alarm, 5th/Monroe

JANUARY 24

- 00:28: Disturbance, 100 block North I St.
- 03:48: Suspicious condition, 2000 block S. 6th St.
- 07:37: Warrant service, 400 block E. Main St.
- 08:32: Warrant service, Main/10th
- 09:21: Alarm, 1600 block Curry Ave.
- 09:57: Motor vehicle crash, 38000 block Row River Rd.
- 10:43: Criminal mischief, 1st/Quincy
- 12:33: Motor vehicle crash, 74000 block London Rd.
- 12:37: Disturbance, 31000 block CG Lorane Hwy
- 13:33: Alarm, 900 block South T Ct.
- 13:39: Agency assist, 900 block Row River Rd.
- 15:32: Assault, 1100 block E. Harrison Ave.
- 16:23: Criminal mischief, 800 block S. 6th St.
- 17:23: Disorderly subject, 500 block N. Douglas St.
- 18:31: Warrant service, 400 block E. Main St.
- 18:40: Harassment, 1200 block E. Madison Ave.
- 20:34: Alarm, 100 block Hwy 99

Courtesy of CGPD

- 21:47: Disturbance, 800 block Gateway Blvd.
- 22:07: Welfare check, 300 block S. 5th St.

JANUARY 25

- 00:41: Nuisance, 8th/Taylor
- 00:48: Missing person, 1400 block Daugherty Ave.
- 01:24: Burglary, 78000 block Thornton Ln.
- 10:28: Fire, 200 block Hayes Ave.
- 10:52: Suspicious condition, 2000 block S. 8th St.
- 13:04: Dog at large, 77000 block Layng Rd.
- 14:46: Assault, 900 block S. 6th St.
- 18:44: Suspicious vehicle, 100 block S. 10th St.
- 21:36: Suspicious condition, 1000 block Taylor Ave.

COFFEE SHOP

From Page 1

local bakers. When one of their primary bakers closed unexpectedly, they shifted to producing pastries in house.

"What we initially thought was a setback ended up being an amazing setup for success," Quimby said. "The change allowed us to experiment with recipes and respond more quickly to customer preferences."

They continue to partner with Cottage Grove bakers for specialty items and look for products not available elsewhere in town. They also stock handcrafted goods from local makers to highlight small scale artisans and offer customers unique items.

DESIGN AND ATMOSPHERE

Pennington and Quimby curated the shop's interior with repurposed pieces that reflect both history and creativity. They installed an antique church pew from Portland for bench seating, added a salvaged countertop from an auto garage in Eugene, and refinished a discarded dresser to serve as the checkout counter.

They also added an art bar where customers can draw or create. The feature has become a quiet corner for adults and children alike, reflecting their hope that the café encourages creativity and connection.

"We wanted to create a space that felt like home," Pennington said.

COMMUNITY RESPONSE

Customers regularly comment on the shop's atmosphere and attention to detail. Last summer, a visitor from out of state told the owners the shop had "set a precedent" for Main Street, even as construction continued outside. Pennington said the comment encouraged and humbled them.

Their first year anniversary and ribbon cutting ceremony in 2024 drew a standing room only crowd and showed how deeply the shop had become part of people's routines.

CUSTOMER PERSPECTIVES

Regular customer Christi Fields says she has been coming to Pour 818 often since it first opened. She describes the shop as "genuinely welcoming," with an interior that feels "comfortable and inviting." It has become her default meeting place. "The coffee is consistently excellent, and you can tell it's run with care," she said.

Fields also sees the café as a gathering place beyond home. She points to the vendor fairs the owners host, which give local makers and hobbyists a chance to share and sell their work. "They support other small businesses in town and that brings people together," she said.

She knew Quimby before the shop opened and was acquainted with Pennington. What stands out now, she said, is the character both women bring to the business: "Humility, kindness, and steady care for people and what they serve… it's the same tone you feel the moment you walk in."

Customer Savannah Matthews echoed that sense of comfort. "It just feels good to be there," she said. "The vibe is cozy, the drinks are always good, and it's an easy place to hang out or get stuff done without feeling rushed."

Matthews sees Pour 818 as a natural meeting point downtown. "It's where people meet up, catch up, and actually connect. I appreciate the way the owners highlight local products and give local makers a place to share what they create."

SURVIVING MAIN STREET RECONSTRUCTION AND LOOKING AHEAD

Quimby said the timing of the Main Street construction project worked in their favor because they had already built a base of regular customers who continued to support them. Many customers went out of their way to navigate detours and limited parking to keep visiting.

As they look ahead, the owners hope the completed project will bring more visitors to the Historic Downtown District and attract additional businesses. They believe a strong mix of shops, restaurants, and services will benefit the entire area.

They plan to introduce new toast options, expand use of their overflow room, rent the café for private events, participate in the monthly Art Walk, and host "POUR After Hours" events such as game nights, art workshops, and tea gatherings.

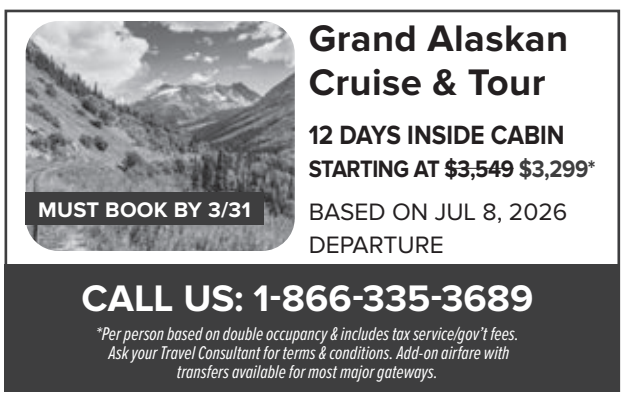
ANNIVERSARY REFLECTIONS

Quimby describes the second anniversary as "a longtime dream realized." Both owners say they remain grateful for the community support that has sustained the business and helped them navigate challenges.

"As we now move into our third year, the support from our customers and the community means everything to us."

Located at 818 E. Main St. Hours: Tuesday–Saturday from 7:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. and closed Sunday–Monday.

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



Fewer immigrants are seeking Oregon health care benefits under Trump

MIA MALDONADO
Oregon Capital Chronicle

Thousands fewer people are receiving health care through a Medicaid-like Oregon program that's open to income-eligible people regardless of immigration status than were six months ago, state data shows.

Two years after its launch, the Healthier Oregon program reached peak enrollment of 107,000 people in June, according to data from the Oregon Health Authority. That includes people who have refugee status, lawful permanent residents, those enrolled in Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals, work or student visa holders and others who would otherwise qualify for Medicaid if it weren't for their immigration status.

Enrollment dropped to 97,000 people in January, according to state health officials, who attributed the change to concerns about data privacy and increasing immigration enforcement under the Trump administration.

"We're seeing a real drop in enrollment in Healthier Oregon, likely due to all the federal changes and people being very concerned about signing up for Healthier Oregon," OHA Deputy Director for Policy and Programs Dave Baden told lawmakers earlier this month. "And we're also seeing less utilization, so even someone that is in Healthier Oregon is not coming to the doctor."

Federal health officials in June began sharing Medicaid data with Immigration and Customs Enforcement to track non-citizens in states where eligibility for the low-income health program does not depend on immigration status.

Oregon is one of five states in the U.S. that offers health care coverage for all income-eligible adults regardless of their immigration status, according to the health policy nonprofit KFF. Several other states offer similar programs to specific groups such as pregnant women, children and elderly adults.

State dollars cover most Healthier Oregon services, except for emergency health care visits, which are paid for with federal dollars.

Under federal law, hospitals must stabilize anyone needing emergency care — no matter their immigration status — and Medicaid must reimburse hospitals for this legally required care. This means that when a Healthier Oregon recipient uses an emergency service, their information is included in files shared with the federal government, OHA spokesperson Amy Bacher told the Capital Chronicle.

The data exchange prompted Oregon and 21 other states and the District of Columbia to file a lawsuit, asking a judge to block the Trump administration from sharing Medicaid data with deportation officials. A federal judge in December ruled that ICE can pull Medicaid data including addresses, phone numbers, birth dates and citizenship or immigration status to use in its deportation proceedings.

"From the state's perspective, we will do everything we can to only share the data that we need to share," Gov. Tina Kotek told reporters at a Saturday press conference.

Federal immigration efforts impeding immigrants from seeking care

Nearly half of likely undocumented immigrant adults say they have avoided seeking medical care since January 2025 because of immigration-related concerns, according to a survey from the New York Times and KFF.

The Trump administration in January rescinded a policy that previously protected hospitals, schools and places of worship against immigration enforcement.

ICE agents may access public spaces such as lobbies and waiting rooms without a warrant, but under the Constitution no law enforcement can enter places where a person has a "reasonable expectation of privacy" without a warrant — such as examination rooms, staff offices and patient rooms. Despite this protection, health care providers have reported cases of ICE agents entering medical exam rooms without a warrant.

Federal immigration agents have also appeared near hospitals in Oregon. On Jan. 8, a Border Patrol agent shot two Venezuelan immigrants near Adventist Health Portland. Then on Jan. 16, Border Patrol agents detained a 7-year-old girl and her parents in the same hospital's parking lot before the family, who came to the U.S. in late 2024 from Venezuela, could seek health care for the child.

Kotek urged health care providers to communicate with Oregonians about providing safe health care for people.

"Because of the fear and the chaos that is being created by the Trump administration and the lawful immigration enforcement, people are scared," Kotek said. "They're not seeking the medical care that they need, and that is hurting our communities."

https://oregoncapitalchronicle.com/2026/01/28/fewer-immigrants-are-seeking-oregon-health-care-benefits-under-trump/

Oregon Capital Chronicle is part of States Newsroom, a network of news bureaus supported by grants and a coalition of donors as a 501c(3) public charity. Oregon Capital Chronicle maintains editorial independence. Contact Editor Lynne Terry for questions: info@oregoncapitalchronicle.com.

Alex Baumhardt/ Oregon Capital Chronicle

Department of Homeland Security police, along with other federal police, push and tackle protesters at the Immigration and Customs Enforcement facility south of downtown Portland on Sunday, Oct. 12, 2025.

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Jeremy Ruark / Cottage Grove Sentinel

FEBRUARY 4

- Oregon Aviation History Museum. 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tuesday-Saturday. 2475 Jim Wright Way. Donation.
- Cottage Grove Public Library Hours Today.11 a.m. –7 p.m. 700 E. Gibbs Ave. For information call: 541-942-3828.
- Coast Fork Kiwanis Club. Noon My Boys Pizza. 96 N. Mill St. Creswell.
- Senior Center Pinochle Games. 1 p.m. Senior Center. 700 E. Gibbs Ave.
- Lego Club for Kids. 2:30 p.m. Cottage Grove Public Library. 700 E. Gibbs Ave.
- Open Bowling. 3-5:30 p.m. Cottage Bowl. 740 Row River Road. Info: 541-767-2695 or www.thecottagebowl.com
- Elks Bingo. 5 p.m. Elks Lodge. 775 N. River Rd. Doors and lounge open at 5 p.m. Early Bird Bingo begins at 6:30 p.m. Regular games begin at 7 p.m. Food and beverages available for purchase.
- Rotary Club of Cottage Grove. Social at 5 p.m. Meeting at 5:30 p.m. El Tapatio Restaurant. 725 E. Gibbs Ave.
- Acoustic Jam with Gregg Biller. 6-7:30 p.m. Coast Fork Brewing. 106 S. 6th St.
- AWANA. 6:30-8 p.m. Cottage Grove Bible Church. 1200 E. Quincy Ave. A midweek discipleship ministry for youth from Age 3 thru 8th grade that meets during the school year.
- Axe and Fiddle Game Night w/Ayla. 6:30 – 10 p.m. Axe and Fiddle. 657 E. Main St. Free.

FEBRUARY 5

- CG Public Library Hours Today.10 a.m. – 6 p.m. 700 E. Gibbs Ave. For information call: 541.942.3828
- Baby Laptime. 11:30 a.m. Cottage Grove Library. 700 E. Gibbs Ave. Birth to 2 yrs.
- Bohemia Gold Mining MuseumOpen. 1-4 p.m. Thursday-Saturday. 308 South 10th St. Across from Bohemia Park.
- Community Center Table Tennis. 4-6 p.m. Reception Hall. 700 E. Gibbs Avenue. Tables, paddles, and balls provided.
- Celebrate Recovery. Soup dinner 5:15 p.m. Meeting 6 p.m. Calvary Chapel. 1447 Hwy 99N. CR is a Christian-based recovery program for any hurt, habit, or hang up that is based on 8 Principles and 12 Steps for more information call 541-554-8135.
- Pilates/Yoga Class. 5:30-6:30 p.m. Row River Grange. 34360 Row River Rd. Build strength, improve flexibility and balance in warm and welcoming class taught by Courtney. To register before the first class: alignyourlifecoach@gmail.com Fee: Five class passes $60.
- Karaoke Night. 9 p.m. to Midnight. Bohemian Tavern. 48 N. 9th St.

FEBRUARY 6

- CG Public Library Hours Today.10 a.m. – 6 p.m. 700 E. Gibbs Ave. For information call: 541.942.3828
- Baby Laptime. 11:30 a.m. Cottage Grove Library. 700 E. Gibbs Ave. Birth to 2 yrs.
- Community Center Table Tennis. 4-6 p.m. Reception Hall. 700 E. Gibbs Ave. Tables, paddles, and balls provided.
- Hi-Fi Friday, 4:30 p.m. Cottage Grove Public Library. 700 E. Gibbs Ave.
- Celebrate Recovery. Soup dinner 5:15 p.m. Meeting 6 p.m. Calvary Chapel. 1447 Hwy 99N. CR is a Christian-based recovery program for any hurt, habit, or hang up that is based on 8 Principles and 12 Steps for more information call 541-554-8135.
- Pilates/Yoga Class, 5:30-6:30 p.m. Row River Grange. 34360 Row River Rd. Build strength, improve flexibility and balance in warm and welcoming class taught by Courtney. To register before the first class: alignyourlifecoach@gmail.com Fee: Five class passes $60
- LB and Company (country/rock/blues). 6-9 p.m. Coast Fork Brewery. 106 S. 6th St.
- Weekly Pool Tournament 7 p.m. Bohemian Tavern. 48 N. 9th St. Entry Fee: $5 and BCA Rules.
- Cottage Theatre Play: A Piece of My Heart. 7:30 p.m. 700 Village Dr.More info: www.cottagetheatre.org A drama about six women who served in Vietnam, tracing their experiences before, during, and after the war. Runs weekends through Feb 22. Thu-Sat at 7:30 p.m. and Sunday at 2:30 p.m.
- Black Box Burlesque. 7:30 p.m. Opal Center. 513 E. Main St. Also Saturday. More info: www.opalcentercg.org "Lovesick Discotheque." A scintillating night of seduction, silliness, sparkles, and surprises.

FEBRUARY 7

- Share Fair USA. 9 a.m. 1133 E. Main St. (covered parking area next to Urban Kitchen) Reserve a space and share from your abundance with neighbors who are in need. Load up your unwanted items to give away for free (no bartering). Details about the weekly event is on Share Fair USA Facebook page or send email to eventsbyananda@gmail.com
- Cottage Grove Public Library Hours Today. 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. 700 E. Gibbs Ave. For information call: 541-942-3828.
- Storytime. 11:30 a.m. Cottage Grove Public Library, 700 E. Gibbs Ave. All ages welcome.
- American Legion Post 32 Monthly Meeting. Noon. 826 W. Main St. All veterans are invited.
- Cottage Grove Museum Open. 1-4 p.m. Corner Birch Avenue and H St.
- Historic Rodeo Royalty Coronation. 5:30 p.m. Cottage Grove Armory. 628 E. Washington Ave. Oregon's first Little Miss Rodeo Oregon, Lynlee Jo Perini, will be celebrated with food, drinks, and silent and live auctions supporting her inaugural year wardrobe and travel.
- Buffalo Moon (Americana). 6-9 p.m. Coast Fork Brewery. 106 S. 6th St.
- AlAnon Meeting. 7 p.m. Sinclair Room. Cottage Grove City Hall. 400 East Main St. A 12-step group for family members and friends of alcoholics/addicts offering mutual support and a design for living in spite of what the alcoholic may or may not do. For more information call Saunders at 541-255-7648.

FEBRUARY 8

- The Regulars (Americana). 1-3 p.m. Coast Fork Brewery. 106 S. 6th St.
- Cottage Grove Museum Open. 1-4 p.m. Corner Birch Avenue and H St.
- VFW Bingo. 2-4 p.m. VFW Post 3473.3160 Hillside Dr. Cards: 50-cents. Free coffee & popcorn. Payout is 75% per game. Proceeds supports veterans in our community.
- South Valley Athletics Bingo Fundraiser. 3:30-5:30 p.m. Cards $1/each for 10 rounds.
- Super Bowl: AFC Champion New England Patriots vs. NFC Champion Seattle Seahawks Kickoff at 3:30 p.m.

FEBRUARY 9

- Cottage Grove Public Library Hours Today. 10 a.m.—6 p.m. 700 E. Gibbs Ave. For information call: 541-94-3828.
- Cottage Grove Senior Center Bingo. 12:30 p.m. Community Center, 700 E. Gibbs Ave. Senior center members only.
- Gardeners Meeting. 5:30-7 p.m. Coast Fork Brewery, 106 S. 6th St. All are welcome.

FEBRUARY 10

- Cottage Grove Public Library Hours Today. 10 a.m.—6 p.m. 700 E. Gibbs Ave. For information call: 541-942-3828.
- S.T.E.A.M. Activities for Kids. 3 p.m. Cottage Grove Public Library. 700 E. Gibbs Ave.
- Bilingual Story Time. 5 p.m. Cottage Grove Public Library. 700 E. Gibbs Ave.
- History Pub. 5-7 p.m. Axe and Fiddle. 657 E. Main St. Topic: Kenneth O'Connell shares a lively look at 100 years of the University of Oregon's Department history (1914–2014), including the artists, ideas, and colorful characters that shaped the program.
- Trivia, Chess and Games with Gerald. 6-8 p.m. Up to 7 trivia players on a team. Coast Fork Brewing. 106 S. 6th St..

FEBRUARY 11

- CG Public Library Hours Today.11 a.m. –7 p.m. 700 E. Gibbs Ave. For information call: 541.942.3828
- Senior Center Pinochle

See more **CALENDAR,** Page 4

15% OFF
Any service with coupon
Schedule your appointment Today!
Not Valid on any service Exceeding $100
Not valid with any other offer.
Our People Really Make The Difference!
Brad's Chevy
COTTAGE GROVE CHEVROLET, INC.
541-942-4415 • 2775 Row River Road • bradschevy.com

QUALITY CLEANING
• Carpet Cleaning
• Area Rugs
• Upholstery
• Pet Odor Treatments
• Mattresses
• Tile & Grout
Carpet Cleaning Specialist
541-942-0420
www.qualitycleaninginc.net

The Bath or Shower You've Always Wanted
IN AS LITTLE AS A DAY
$1,500 OFF*
PLUS
ZERO Interest, ZERO Payments financing for 12 Months**
OFFER EXPIRES 3/30/2026
BATH CONCEPTS AUTHORIZED DEALER
CALL NOW (844) 847-9778
*Includes labor and product; bathtub, shower or walk-in tub and wall surround. This promotion cannot be combined with any other offer. Other restrictions may apply. This offer expires 3/30/26. Each dealership is independently owned and operated. **Third party financing is available for those customers who qualify/Participating dealers only. See your dealer for details. ©2026 Bath Concepts Industries.

The Flower Basket
and Gift Boutique
"A Flower Shop and so much more"
Accessories
Jewelry
Balloons
Home Decor
Fine Gifts
Floral Arrangements
Boutique Clothing
Deliveries Locally and Worldwide
Locally owned and operated since 1984
Quality and Satisfaction Guaranteed
119 South 6th Street • 541-942-0505
www.cottagegroveflowerbasket.com

Oregon's high school graduation rate inches up to record high

ALEX BAUMHARDT
Oregon Capital Chronicle

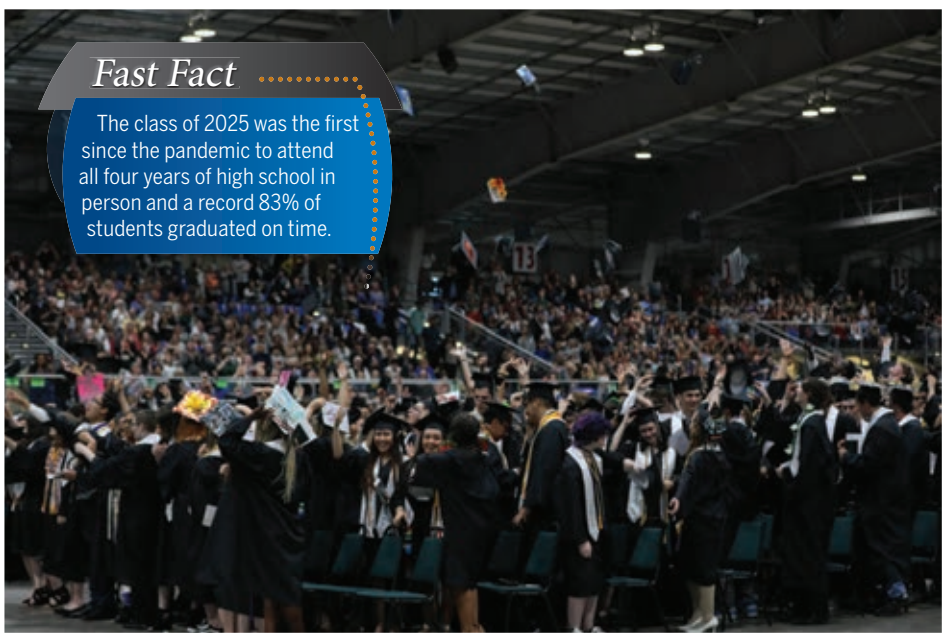
Oregon high schoolers in the class of 2025 graduated at all-time highs for the state but still at a lower rate than recent national averages, according to the latest state data.

Despite stubbornly small gains in student proficiency in key subject areas since the pandemic, and consistently high absenteeism rates, more than 40,300 students graduated from Oregon's public schools in 2025, reaching an 83% four-year graduation rate, the Oregon Department of Education announced Thursday.

It's an increase of 9 percentage points over the last decade and 1 percentage point over the previous year, equivalent to about 500 more students graduating in 2025 than in 2024. It's the highest graduation rate ever recorded in the state, besting the previous record of 82.6% achieved by the class of 2020.

But it's still below national averages in recent years that have hovered around 87% according to data from the National Center for Education Statistics and the U.S. News and World Report. The National Center for Education Statistics has not published a nationwide average graduation rate since 2023.

Oregon's class of 2025 was the first to have attended all four years of high school in person since the COVID pandemic shut down schools and moved students to remote learning. Among the 23 different student groups the education department tracks, 19 saw record graduation rates, including among migrant students, students in special education programs, foster students and students experiencing poverty and houselessness.



Courtesy photo from the Salem-Keizer School District

Salem-Keizer High School graduation. Oregon's class of 2025 reached a record high graduation rate for the state.

Charlene Williams, director of the Oregon Department of Education, said at a news conference Tuesday ahead of the data release that squaring rising graduation rates with stagnant student proficiency levels, as measured by state assessment data, has less to do with real learning challenges than with Oregon schools' and parents' attitudes towards state testing.

Oregon's participation rates in state assessment tests are among the most inconsistent in the nation, state education officials have said, because Oregon allows parents to opt their kids out of taking them.

"I think there are two things that can be true in this moment. Our graduation rate, I believe, does reflect real progress in supporting students to stay in and complete school," she told reporters. "The reconciling is: We have more work to do to ensure that we are taking those assessments seriously, and that our teachers and our students have what they need to perform well on those state assessments."

Williams and state education officials highlighted the growing number of Oregon high schoolers participating in college-level coursework and taking Advanced Placement exams, up 70% since 2021, and gains made across all student groups who took at least two career and technical education classes, or CTE classes.

Graduation rates were 20 percentage points higher for American Indian and Alaska Native students who took CTE classes than their peers who did not.

Williams said it was "clear evidence that relevant hands-on learning, connected to future careers, makes a difference."

Of Oregon's 115 school districts with more than 50 high school graduates, 20% saw record graduation rates in 2025, including small districts like St. Helens and Banks that saw double-digit growth in their graduation rates.

In November, state education officials shared that a record 86.6% of Oregon's 9th graders during the 2024-25 school year were on track to graduate in four years.

"That is a powerful indicator that more students are starting high school with the momentum they need to succeed," Williams said. "Today's graduation results show what happens when that momentum is sustained."

https://oregoncapitalchronicle.com/2026/01/29/oregons-high-school-graduation-rate-inches-up-to-record-high/

Oregon Capital Chronicle is part of States Newsroom, a network of news bureaus supported by grants and a coalition of donors as a 501c(3) public charity. Oregon Capital Chronicle maintains editorial independence. Contact Editor Lynne Terry for questions: info@oregoncapitalchronicle.com.

Credit union offering scholarships

SELCO Community Credit Union is accepting applications for nearly $80,000 in SELCO Steps Up scholarships. Credit union offering scholarships

The application window will remain open through Tuesday, March 31.

SELCO will award 20 eligible students with a $3,500 scholarship. Additionally, one Lane County student will receive the $7,500 Richard Metzler Opportunity Scholarship, awarded to a student who has demonstrated excellence in education, leadership, or civic responsibility despite adversity or a lack of opportunity.

In all, SELCO will award $77,500 in scholarships to eligible students, which include high school seniors planning to attend an accredited two- or four-year college, as well as vocational, continuing, and nontraditional students. Graduate students are not eligible.

"Students approach education differently than they once did," said Craig Carpenter, SELCO's Senior Vice President of Lending & Business Banking. "It's why SELCO's scholarship program evolved to support a diverse cross-section of students, including those planning to attend technical school or returning to finish their degree. As a credit union founded by teachers 90 years ago, meaningful student and educator support will continue to be foundational to how we give back."

Now in its 36th year, SELCO's scholarship program is part of the SELCO Steps Up philanthropy initiative that the credit union launched in 2024. In 2025 alone, SELCO reinvested nearly $415,000 in the communities it serves through educator grants, scholarships, and impact-driven sponsorships, while SELCO team members committed nearly 1,700 volunteer hours.

Whether it's support for students or teachers, many of the Steps Up programs seek to address issues in education. SELCO's scholarship program aims to address the cost of school, which is the most often cited barrier for those who wish to attend college but don't. SELCO's scholarships can also be used for any educational-related expense, so they are uniquely suited to help students meet the demands of rising educational costs.

Ethan Amato, a University of Oregon freshman from North Bend, earned a SELCO scholarship in 2025 and is now studying pharmacology. He said that the scholarship has "helped relieve the stress" of meeting educational costs.

"It was a huge sigh of relief when I found out I'd received the SELCO scholarship," said Amato, who also helped found UofO's first-ever Pharmacy Club for future pharmacists and serves as the organization's co-president. "The scholarship has really helped relieve the burden of paying for college—not just for me, but for my parents as well."

Courtesy

SELCO will award 20 eligible students with a $3,500 scholarship.

To qualify, applicants must:

- Plan to attend a vocational school or an accredited two- or four-year college/university.
- Be a SELCO member or an immediate family member of a SELCO member. SELCO membership is open to anyone who lives or works in one of the 27 Oregon counties SELCO serves.
- Have earned a GED or a cumulative GPA of 3.0 or higher from a four-year accredited high school.

SELCO's Scholarship Panel will review each application, and funds will be released to scholarship recipients by the end of June. The Richard Metzler Opportunity Scholarship winner will be selected from Lane County applicants. Prospective students are asked to apply online at selco.org/scholarships by March 31.

For more information about the scholarship program or other SELCO Steps Up programs, visit www.selco.org/steps-up.

COMMUNITY CALENDAR CONT.

Games. 1 p.m. Senior Center. 700 E. Gibbs Ave.

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

FEBRUARY 12

- Cottage Grove Public Library. 10 a.m. – 6 p.m. 700 E. Gibbs Ave. For information call: 541-942-3828.
- Oregon Aviation Museum Open. 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. 2475 Jim Wright Way Donation.
- Baby Laptime. 11:30 a.m. Cottage Grove Library. 700 E. Gibbs Ave. Birth to 2 yrs.
- Cottage Grove Lions Club. Noon. Axe & Fiddle. 657 E. Main St.
- Bohemia Gold Mining MuseumOpen. 1-4 p.m. Thursday-Saturday. 308 South 10th St. (across from Bohemia Park)
- Community Center Table Tennis. 4-6 p.m. Reception Hall. 700 E. Gibbs Ave. Tables, paddles, and balls provided.
- Celebrate Recovery. Soup dinner 5:15 p.m. Meeting 6 p.m. Calvary Chapel. 1447 Hwy 99N. CR is a Christian-based recovery program for any hurt, habit, or hang up that is based on 8 Principles and 12 Steps for more information call 541-554-8135.
- Pilates/Yoga Class. 5:30-6:30 p.m. Row River Grange. 34360 Row River Rd. Build strength, improve flexibility and balance in warm and welcoming class taught by Courtney. To register before the first class: alignyourlife-coach@gmail.com Fee: Five class passes $60.
- LB and Friends. (Americana). 5:30-7:30 p.m. Coast Fork Brewery. 106 S. 6th St.
- Karaoke Night. 9 p.m. to Midnight. Bohemian Tavern. 48 N. 9th St.

FEBRUARY 13

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

FEBRUARY 14

- Share Fair USA 9 a.m. 1133 E. Main St. Covered parking area next to Urban Kitchen. Reserve a space and share from your abundance with neighbors who are in need. Load up your unwanted items to give away for free (no bartering). Details about the weekly event is on Share Fair USA Facebook page or send email to eventsbyananda@gmail.com
- Cottage Grove Public Library. 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. 700 E. Gibbs Ave. For information call: 541-942-3828.
- Storytime. 11:30 a.m. Cottage Grove Public Library, 700 E. Gibbs Ave. All ages welcome.
- Cottage Grove Museum. Open Saturday-Sunday 1-4 p.m. Corner pf Birch Ave. and H St.
- Gregg Biller's Valentine Plugged In Jam (Americana) 6-9 p.m. Coast Fork Brewery. 106 S. 6th St.
- AlAnon Meeting. 7 p.m. Sinclair Room. Cottage Grove City Hall. 400 East Main St. A 12-step group for family members and friends of alcoholics/addicts offering mutual support and a design for living in spite of what the alcoholic may or may not do. For more information call Saunders at 541-255-7648.

FEBRUARY 15

- The Great Backyard Bird Count. 8-11 a.m. Row River Nature Park (east of town next to BMX track) For details go to www.coastfork.org or call Grace at 817-975-4936.
- VFW Bingo. 2-4 p.m. VFW Post 3473.3160 Hillside Dr. Cards: 50-cents. Free coffee & popcorn. Payout is 75% per game. Proceeds supports veterans in our community.
- Bradly Shepherd (blues, country, rock) 10 a.m. – 3 p.m. Coast Fork Brewery. 106 S. 6th St.

FEBRUARY 16

- CG Public Library. 10 a.m.—6 p.m. 700 E. Gibbs Ave. For information call: 541.942.3828
- CG Senior Center Bingo. 12:30 p.m. Community Center, 700 E. Gibbs Ave. Senior center members only.

FEBRUARY 12

- CG Public Library. 10 a.m.—6 p.m. 700 E. Gibbs Ave. For information call: 541-942-3828.
- Bilingual Story Time. 5 p.m. Cottage Grove Public Library. 700 E. Gibbs Ave.
- Trivia, Chess and Games with Gerald. 6-8 p.m. Up to 7 trivia players on a team. Coast Fork Brewing. 106 S. 6th St.

Why Pre-Plan?

Pre-Planning makes matters easier for those you love.
Pre-Planning allows you to provide guidance to your family after your death.
Pre-Planning allows you to control potential expenses of a funeral and disposition.
Pre-Planning provides an advanced opportunity to assemble life data.

Smith·Lund·Mills
FUNERAL CHAPEL • CREMATORIUM
People you know, people you trust.℠
(541) 942-0185
123 S. 7th St., Cottage Grove
Visit **smithlundmills.com** for more information.

Backer FAMILY DENTAL
New Patients Welcome • Anesthetic-Free Laser Dentistry • Same Day Crowns
Cottage Grove
1551 E. Main Street
(541) 942-8437
Eugene
401 E. 10th Ave. Suite 300
(541) 344-3333

COMMENTARY

Individuals struggling for oxygen need Congress to step up

KEITH NELSON
Sentinel Guest Column

I have hiked dozens of 14,000-foot peaks and completed nearly 800 deep-sea dives, so I am not averse to a challenge.

Now living with a chronic lung disease, I face my biggest challenge yet: accessing the most basic human necessity, oxygen.

Shortly after moving to Newport in 2015, I noticed that hikes became more physically challenging. Then came the day that changed my life forever. During a scuba diving trip in 2018, just after my ascent from the water, I began to struggle to swim and was unable to move my lower body. I was immediately put on emergency oxygen, rushed ashore, taken to the emergency room and then a decompression chamber—twice. Since I had 796 dives under my belt, I was determined to find out why this happened. After several tests and a second opinion, I was diagnosed with pulmonary fibrosis, a chronic and progressive lung disease.

Over the next few years, as my breathing started to decline, I was prescribed supplemental oxygen. Unfortunately, because of my insurance coverage, I was only able to get large steel oxygen tanks, which need to be moved around on a cart, rather than lighter, more portable modalities like liquid oxygen that can be easily transported.

Because my active lifestyle is so important to me, I spent nearly $4,000 out of pocket to purchase a state-of-the-art oxygen concentrator that I can easily wear as a backpack.

Despite covering the high cost of this equipment, I still encountered problems in accessing care. I was once made to wait four days for more oxygen when my oxygen concentrator was no longer sufficient, and I was running out of air. It was an unnecessary healthcare mess that left me literally breathless.

Unfortunately, my story is not unique. More than 1.5 million people in the U.S. rely on supplemental oxygen, and too many of them face similar challenge

This is why I am fighting for solutions in Congress like the Supplemental Oxygen Access Reform (SOAR) Act (S. 1406/H.R. 2902) to help people like me get access to the right type and level of oxygen we need. This bipartisan bill would help ensure people with complex respiratory conditions can access appropriate supplemental oxygen equipment and services.

Like many on supplemental oxygen, I need to calculate where I am going, how long I will be gone, and the effort it will take to ensure that I have enough oxygen while I am out. No one should be trapped in their homes, especially when solutions like liquid oxygen and other portable oxygen modalities are available to support living active, independent lives.

Fortunately, the SOAR Act offers hope. This bipartisan bill would improve access to liquid oxygen for whom it is medically necessary, enhance access to respiratory therapy, and create a standardized template for oxygen prescriptions to protect oxygen users. By establishing a separate payment rate for liquid oxygen and permanently removing oxygen from Medicare's competitive bidding program – which historically has caused accessibility issues for individuals with high-flow oxygen needs – more people would be able to access the care they need to move, breathe, and live freely.

I am calling on Senators Ron Wyden and Jeff Merkley to cosponsor this bill and help push it across the finish line. For individuals needing supplemental oxygen, the SOAR Act will offer a chance to be more active, more independent, and more secure in their ability to breathe.

Keith Nelson is a Newport resident and an advocate for the American Lung Association living with pulmonary fibrosis.

EDITORIAL CARTOON

Lane County employers added 800 payroll jobs in December

STAFF REPORT
Cottage Grove Sentinel

Lane County's seasonally adjusted payroll employment increased by 800 in December after a loss of 400 November and a gain of 500 in October, according to the Oregon Employment Department.

In the not seasonally adjusted private-sector industries in December, there was a gain of 300 in financial activities. There were relatively large seasonal losses in construction (-300) and leisure and

hospitality (-300).

Government gained 400 jobs in December due to a gain of 200 in local education and gains of 100 each in federal government and noneducation local government.

When comparing December 2025 with December 2024, total nonfarm employment dropped 200 jobs on a seasonally adjusted basis for a loss of 0.1%. There were relatively large gains in private education and health services (500) and retail trade (200). There were relatively large losses in construction (- 400) and professional and business services (-300).

There was an over-the-year loss of 800 in government in December from a loss in local education (- 900) that was countered by a gain in noneducation local government (100).

Lane County's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate held steady at 5.2% in December compared to November. The rate was up from 4.4% in December 2024. The Oregon not seasonally adjusted December rate was 5.2% and the U.S. rate was 4.4%.

OREGON UNEMPLOYMENT

Oregon's unemployment rate was 5.2% in both November and December.

In December, Oregon's seasonally adjusted nonfarm payroll employment dropped by 2,200 jobs, following a gain of 800 jobs, as revised, in November. December's gains were largest in professional and business services (+1,100 jobs) and government (+500). Losses were largest in construction (-2,500 jobs); retail trade (-900); and transportation, warehousing, and utilities (-900).

Professional and business services added 1,900 jobs during the last two months of 2025, recovering some of the jobs it lost during the first half of the year. Each of its three component industries rose between October and December, with administrative and waste services growing the fastest (+900 jobs, or 0.9%).

Construction cut 3,000 jobs during the last two months of 2025, following relatively strong growth during July through October. At 113,900 jobs in December, it is close to its spring level, and slightly below its three-year average of 116,900 jobs during 2022 through 2024.

Holiday hiring in retail trade was 1,200 jobs below the normal seasonal pattern during the last two months of the year. Since early 2023, retail trade has trended downward. It employed 199,200 in December, which was 11,300 jobs, or 5.4%, below three years prior.

Transportation, warehousing, and utilities cut 1,400 jobs during November and December, following growth of a similar amount during the summer. It employed 78,200 in December, which was close to its three-year average of 78,500 jobs during 2022 through 2024.

The U.S. unemployment rate was 4.5% in November and 4.4% in December.

Metro Creative Connection

The Oregon Employment Department reports 180,876 employed and 9,595 unemployed in December in Lane County. Statewide, there were 2,102,054 employed and 112,319 unemployed in December.

READ ALL ABOUT IT
The Cottage Grove Sentinel
www.cgsentinel.com

Weekly Online Poll

Should Oregon's sanctuary laws be changed to allow federal law enforcement to address public safety concerns?
❑ Yes ❑ No

Previous Poll Results

What is your favorite 'Wake Up' beverage each morning?

64.3% Coffee 14.3% Tea
7% Juice 14.3% Other

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!

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.

PUBLISHED WEEKLY AT:
1498 E. Main Street, STE 104, Cottage Grove, OR 97424
The Cottage Grove Sentinel website **www.cgsentinel.com**.
All subscriptions must be paid prior to beginning the subscription and are non-refundable.
Periodicals postage paid at Cottage Grove, Oregon.

SUBSCRIPTION RATES
Annually.....$90
6 months.....$65
Monthly.....$10

DIGITAL ONLY
Electronic edition annually.....$75
Electronic edition monthly.....$9

LOCAL MAIL SERVICE:
Call 541-649-1616 if you don't receive your Cottage Grove Sentinel on the day of publication.

Advertising Ownership: All advertising copy and illustrations prepared by the Cottage Grove Sentinel become the property of the Country Media, Inc. and may not be reproduced for any other use without explicit written prior approval.
Copyright Notice: Entire contents Copyright 2024 Country Media, Inc.

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
cgsentinelofficemanager@countrymedia.net

Advertising Deadlines
Retail Display Ads
12 p.m. Wednesday

Classified Display Ads
5 p.m. Wednesday prior

Classified Line Ads
5 p.m. Wednesday prior

Public Notices
5 p.m. Wednesday prior

OBITUARIES

Phillip Lamar Vaught

1939-2026

Phillip Lamar Vaught, 86, of Cottage Grove, Oregon, died on January 22, 2026.

He was born October 9, 1939 in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma to Hazel Margaret (Fields) and Wayne Lamar Vaught.

The Vaughts packed up and moved to California in 1940 with 1 year old Phillip and not much else, settling in the Venice/Santa Monica area. Brother Thomas came along five years later.

Phil attended and graduated from Santa Monica High School.

He served as a Drill Sergeant in the United States Marine Corps Reserves and was stationed out of Camp Pendleton in San Diego, CA from 1962-1968.

In 1964 Phil married Nancee Jayne Galloway in Venice, CA and had two daughters Kellie in 1965 and Kimberlie in 1969. It was a good life until Kimmie's tragic death at age two and a half of complications from a heart defect. The marriage didn't survive, but Phil continued to raise Kellie on his own and he was the best dad anyone could ever have. He loved taking the Sunnyside kids in the neighborhood to Disneyland & water-skiing at the lake on weekends.

Phil had a long career in the motion picture industry working mainly as a Cine Technician in the machine shops of Disney Studios, Technicolor, Chem Labs, Warner Brothers, and ultimately retiring from Paramount Studios after working there alongside his dad Lamar for many years. He built all sorts of TV & movie props and kept the editorial department running smoothly.

In 1986, after 10 years together, Phil finally married family friend Virginia Mae Hawkins and they enjoyed another 15 years of marriage. They attended Venice United Methodist Church, and served as youth leaders. They both retired early in life after full careers, and moved to Cottage Grove, Oregon in 1991. They bought his parents land and built their dream home. They had fun sailing around Marina del Rey, Catalina and Ensenada. Also, snowmobiling and boating at their cabin outside of Chester, CA near Lake Almanor and traveling around the country and exploring Oregon in their 5th wheel. Sadly, Virginia passed from cancer in 2001.

Phil joined the LA Parrot Head Club with Kelli & Steve in the late 90's and had so much fun going to Jimmy Buffett concerts, and club meetings & charity events like Migration and Phins to the West. He loved the ocean and he loved music. He always said no-one was ever unhappy at a Jimmy Buffett show.

In 2004 Phil met Linda Ann Raade. They married two years later. Linda brought the gift of grandchildren into his life. Phil and Linda enjoyed many good times with their Bounder RV club camping, playing cards, and traveling whether it was to Hawaii, cruising Alaska, California, the Oregon coast or across the country to visit with both sides of the family. He loved his tree farm and every dog he ever met.

Phil attended Trinity Lutheran Church in Cottage Grove with his wife Linda & family.

He was a member of the American Legion Post 32 and loved calling bingo for them every Friday night.

He will be deeply missed by so many.

Phil is pre-deceased by his parents Hazel and Lamar, daughter Kimmie, 1st wife Nancee, 2nd wife Virginia, brother & sister-in-law Tom & Turid.

Phil is survived by his wife Linda (Stacks) Raade-Vaught, his daughter Kelli (Vaught) Wesolowski and husband Steve, stepson Joe Raade and wife Lynn, stepdaughter Sophia Raade and Ryan Williams, and grandchildren Jarett Raade and wife Brooklin, Tori Raade Dukes and husband Ian, MJ Raade, Summer Lebow, Seth Lebow, Sy Williams and wife Leah and Eli Williams. As well as Brother of 56yrs Marty Wittman, many extended family members and lifelong friends. Arrangements are in the care of Smith-Lund-Mills Funeral Chapel.

Dawn Elaine McKnight

October 4, 1932 - January 5, 2026

Dawn Elaine McKnight Obituary

Dawn (McAlpine) Trembley McKnight, beloved mother, grandmother, and friend, passed away on January 5, 2026, in La Conner, Washington. She was born on October 4, 1932, in Cottage Grove, Oregon, to Floreine Strausen and George McAlpine.

Dawn cherished her early years in Cottage Grove, fondly recalling stories of her beloved Grandma Grace, life on the family's ranch and in their hotel, and the many friends she made there. At age ten, she moved to Seattle to join her mother, stepfather George Trembley, and sister Judy. She grew up in Madison Park and was proud to be named Miss Madison Park during the 1940 Seattle Seafair celebration.

A graduate of Garfield High School, Dawn attended the University of Washington, where she studied theatre and drama and was a member of Alpha Xi Delta Sorority. It was during these years that she met Richard McKnight, a fellow Garfield alum. The two married, settled in Madison Park and later moved to Sunnyvale, California, where they raised three sons: Shannon, Brian, and Scott.

After the couple separated, Dawn returned to Bellevue to be closer to family and to raise her boys. Dawn was a fiercely devoted mother who cheered loudly from the sidelines and opened her home and heart to her sons' friends. She was employed for 28 years at Overlake Medical Center, where she was admired for her work ethic, kindness, and dry sense of humor.

Dawn loved the outdoors and found joy in the simple beauty of nature. She was an avid reader, favoring the works of Louis L'Amour and Tony Hillerman, and nurtured a lifelong affection for the desert Southwest. She collected rocks and agates and delighted in the hunt for natural treasures. A passionate fisherman, she spent countless happy days fishing with her stepfather and sons at Sekiu and in the San Juan Islands. Her adventurous spirit never faded—she proudly landed her last salmon at age 92 with her son Scott near Eagle Point in the San Juans.

Dawn is survived by her sons Shannon, Brian, and Scott (Kelly); her grandchildren Robert (Allison), Christopher (Tara), Galen (Kasey), Kyle (Raelyn), Katherine (Jake), and Jessica (Jeff); and nine great-grandchildren who brought her joy. She was preceded in death by her parents and her sister, Judy.

Dawn will be inurned at Pleasant Ridge Cemetery, and a private family gathering will be held in her honor.

Dawn will be remembered for her stories, her laughter, her fierce love of her boys, and her indomitable spirit. She lived her life with grit, curiosity, and a twinkle in her eye — and we will carry her memory with us always.

DEATH NOTICE

Ronald "Ron" Scott Hober, 62 of Cottage Grove, Oregon passed away January 16, 2026. Arrangements are in the care of Smith-Lund-Mills Funeral Chapel and Crematorium.

BUDGET

From Page 1

Working with City Manager Mike Sauerwein and Public Works Director Faye Stewart, Kytola rebuilt the FY 2026 budget framework using corrected BFB numbers. To stabilize the current year, the team reduced expenditures in this order: contingency, ending fund balance, capital outlay, and materials and services.

More than $2.5 million in capital projects were paused or reduced immediately — a change that does not require council approval.

Three funds will require short term interfund loans to avoid ending FY 2026 in the red:

- Water Fund: $200,000
- Industrial Park: $181,000
- Street Fund: $150,000

A supplemental budget will be brought to council for approval.

City Manager Mike Sauerwein told the Council, "This is the beginning not the end. The city's financial team was brought in "to clean up a mess," and the presentation represented the first full accounting of what they uncovered.

"This is a lot to take in, and you're seeing it for the first time," he said. "The balanced budget we present for 2026–27 will attempt to resolve these issues. That means some significant cuts."

He praised the finance team's work, noting that without their corrections, the city would have unknowingly spent far beyond its means.

"When you find yourself at the bottom of a hole, the first thing to do is stop digging," Sauerwein said. "Well, we've stopped digging."

COUNCILORS REACT

Council members expressed a mix of disbelief and appreciation for the transparency.

Councilor Christine Hynk called the situation "embarrassing," adding, "I'm cautiously optimistic going forward. I'm sure glad we don't have that leadership in place anymore."

Mayor Candace Solesbee questioned how such large discrepancies went unnoticed.

"It's alarming to me how that could go under the radar," she said. "How does that happen?" Kytola agreed: "It is alarming, and I don't know how it happened. At least two people should have looked at that $2.9 million entry and caught the mistake."

Councilor Dana Merryday thanked Kytola for delivering "unwelcome but necessary news," while Councilor Jim Settelmeyer praised the clarity of the presentation.

"You've given us the solid ground we need to move forward," Settelmeyer said. "Although it was not the solid ground we were seeking."

WHAT COMES NEXT?

Kytola said he is willing to provide monthly financial reports to help rebuild trust and keep the council informed as audits catch up. He emphasized that while the situation is serious, the city acted early enough to prevent a crisis in the current fiscal year.

"I feel like we caught it in an early enough time that we're not going to be in a lot of trouble this year," he said.

Sauerwein said more information will emerge as audits progress, but the city is committed to transparency.

"We're bringing you the facts as we uncover them," he said. "There will be more to come."

IN OTHER COUNCIL BUSINESS

Budget Committee Appointments: The Council appointed the following citizens to its Budget Committee: Johanna Zee (reappointment), Linda Olson and Joyce Settelmeyer to the term expiring in 2028. Chris Wagner for term expiring in 2027 and Ryan Birdseye to the term that expires in 2026.

Amended Comprehensive Fee Schedule in 5-1 vote with Randell Lammerman voting no. Notable changes included changing debit/credit charges to a 3-percent flat fee for most uses. Increased curb cuts and sidewalk fees to charge the actual expense for inspections. Increased the System Development Charges (SDCs) by 3.6-percent to reflect higher construction costs.

Follow city of Cottage Grove developments online at cgsentinel.com and in the Wednesday print editions of The Sentinel.

WILSONS

From Page 1

John Jr. (1937), Darlene (1938), and Betty (1941).

After serving in the U.S. Navy during WWII, John returned to Cottage Grove and resumed his postal career. Not long after, he borrowed $50 to buy a power saw and began cutting small trees left behind by earlier logging operations. When John Jr. reached high school, he joined his dad on these re logging jobs, selling the logs to the Chapman Brothers mill. Those early efforts eventually grew into the John W. Wilson and Son mill on Mosby Creek Road, which operated for six decades producing lumber, railroad ties and cross arms, and later fence posts.

John Sr. loved telling stories from his youth — especially about landing a small part in Buster Keaton's silent film The General, shot in Cottage Grove in 1926, and the fun he had playing baseball with Keaton between takes.

Local historian Steve Williamson said he cherished John Sr.'s stories, especially those about Opal Whiteley.

"John told me his people came to Oregon in 1852, and he was probably related to nearly everyone in town. He said he met Opal when he was a youth and once made her very mad. He and another boy discovered her collection of live butterflies and let them all out — a prank Opal clearly did not appreciate!"

He added, "Without John Wilson there is no Steve Williamson, historian. He was my mentor in community history and taught me how to introduce myself to people and ask to see their precious family history."

John Williams Wilson Jr. (1937–2025)

John Jr. was born at the McFarland Maternity Home on Feb. 4, 1937. He graduated from Cottage Grove High School in 1955 and completed his machinist training at Oregon Technical Institute in 1957.

Like his father, he met his first wife, Karen Oatney, in the Baptist Church youth group. They had two daughters, Sonja and Shelbie, and moved to California, where John worked with scientists in a small nuclear reactor at the Lawrence Livermore Laboratory for two years. After the couple divorced, he returned to Oregon to help his father with the family mill and his daughters spend their summers here.

John said he and his father watched in disbelief from a clearcut as the grove of old growth trees they were just hunting in snapped in half during the 1962 Columbus Day Storm. With so much timber blown down, John Sr. realized that if John Jr. used his machinist skills and built a small sawmill, they could capitalize on the smaller logs larger mills wouldn't want — and the strategy paid off.

John Sr. died in 1996, and John Jr. continued operating the mill with the help of his nephew Andy Schrenk, Betty's son. When the pandemic closed their last customer's fence manufacturing company in 2020, the family mill fell silent after six decades.

In my last interview with John, I asked him to reflect on his life and all he and his father had accomplished.

"All in all we had a good life despite the industry's ups and downs," he said. "In the end, the industry went off and left us behind and it was time to call it quits."

EARLY FAMILY LIFE

Betty, John little sister, described what life was like for their family of five growing up on 5.5 acres along Silk Creek between M and R Streets. In the 1930s, the young family lived in a fruit drying shed in a large orchard. They didn't have a well and only had running water in the kitchen, supplied by a rain barrel outside. Betty said they used an outhouse into the late 1940s. Kids entertained themselves by making homemade cars to race and wooden rafts to float down Silk Creek to the Coast Fork River. In 1957, after John Sr. retired as a mail carrier, the family moved to a home near the corner of Ash Avenue and N Street.

COMMUNITY REFLECTIONS

To write this story, I asked nearly a dozen of John's family and friends how the father and son should be remembered. The most common answers were: First and foremost, everyone said they were avid hunters and fishermen. They enjoyed working together and found success by pivoting for 60+ years in the changing wood products industry. They were kind and loving husbands, fathers and grandfathers who were deeply committed to living a Christ centered lifestyle. And nearly everyone I spoke to noted they were both very entertaining storytellers.

In a town built on hard work, faith, and family, the Wilsons lived those values across four generations.

Classified Marketplace

The Cottage Grove Sentinel

Classifieds • 541-649-1616

Trivia test by Fifi Rodriguez

1. GAMES: What color is Sonic the Hedgehog in the video game?
2. GEOGRAPHY: What is the former name of the U.S. Virgin Islands?
3. MOVIES: What are the colors of the striped sweater Freddy Krueger wears in "A Nightmare on Elm Street"?
4. MEDICAL TERMS: What is a more common name for pneumothorax?
5. HISTORY: By which name is Martha Jane Canary more commonly known?
6. TELEVISION: What is Hawkeye Pierce's real first name in the "M*A*S*H" series?
7. ANIMAL KINGDOM: What is a group of larks called?
8. AD SLOGANS: Which car company uses the ad slogan "Driven by passion"?
9. MYTHOLOGY: What is the head of the Egyptian god of death, Anubis?
10. GENERAL KNOWLEDGE: What is the currency of Japan?

Answers

1. Blue.
2. The Danish West Indies.
3. Red and green.
4. Collapsed lung.
5. Calamity Jane, a sharpshooter in Western history.
6. Benjamin.
7. An exaltation.
8. Fiat Automobiles.
9. A jackal.
10. The yen.

© 2026 King Features Synd., Inc.

109 CONSTRUCTION SERVICES

LADD CONSTRUCTION, LLC
New or remodel, decks, siding, windows, doors, shops, fences. 541-913-1541 ccb# 239015

150 MISC SERVICES

DIRECTV OVER INTERNET Get your favorite live TV, sports and local channels. 99% signal reliability! CHOICE Package, $84.99/mo for 12 months. HBO Max and Premium Channels included for 3 mos (w/CHOICE Package or higher.) No annual contract, no hidden fees! Some restrictions apply. Call IVS 1-855-602-2009.

DIVORCE $130. Complete preparation. Includes children, custody, support, property and bills division. No court appearances. Divorced in 1-5 weeks possible. 503-772-5295. www.paralegalalternatives.com legalalt@msn.com.

Donate your car, truck, boat, RV and more to support our veterans! Schedule a FAST, FREE vehicle pickup and receive a top tax deduction! Call Veteran Car Donations at 1-866-695-9265 today!

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

Get Boost Infinite! Unlimited Talk, Text and Data For Just $25/mo! The Power Of 3 5G Networks, One Low Price! Call Today and Get The Latest iPhone Every Year On Us! 844-955-3417.

Get DISH Satellite TV + Internet! Free Install, Free HD-DVR Upgrade, 80,000 On-Demand Movies, Plus Limited Time Up To $600 In Gift Cards. Call Today! 1-866-373-9175.

Jacuzzi Bath Remodel can install a new, custom bath or shower in as little as one day. For a limited time, waiving ALL installation costs! Additional terms apply. Subject to change and vary by dealer. (Offer ends 12/31/25.) Call 1-855-341-5268.

No more cleaning out gutters. Guaranteed! LeafFilter is backed by a no-clog guarantee and lifetime transferrable warranty. Call today 1-855-536-8838 to schedule a FREE inspection and no obligation estimate. Plus get 75% off installation and a bonus $250 discount! Limited time only. Restrictions apply, see representative for warranty and offer details.

Portable Oxygen Concentrator May Be Covered by Medicare! Reclaim independence and mobility with the compact design and long-lasting battery of Inogen One. Free information kit! Call 855-839-0752.

Prepare for power outages today with a Generac Home Standby Generator. Act now to receive a FREE 5-Year warranty with qualifying purchase. Call 1-877-557-1912 today to schedule a free quote. It's not just a generator. It's a power move.

Safe Step. North America's #1 Walk-In Tub. Comprehensive lifetime warranty. Top-of-the-line installation and service. Now featuring our FREE shower package and $1600 Off for a limited time! Call today! Financing available. Call Safe Step 1-833-395-1433.

The bathroom of your dreams in as little as 1 day. Limited Time Offer - $1000 off or No Payments and No Interest for 18 months for customers who qualify. BCI Bath & Shower. Many options available. Quality materials & professional installation. Senior & Military Discounts Available. Call Today! 1-844-847-9778.

We buy 8,000 cars a week. Sell your old, busted or junk car with no hoops, haggles or headaches. Sell your car to Peddle. Easy three step process. Instant offer. Free pickup. Fast payment. Call 1-855-980-4382.

We Buy Houses for Cash AS IS! No repairs. No fuss. Any condition. Easy three step process: Call, get cash offer and get paid. Get your fair cash offer today by calling Liz Buys Houses: 1-866-249-8679.

300 ANNOUNCEMENTS

IF YOU WERE EMPLOYED BY
The City of Cottage Grove on their engineering or construction team between 1980-1990 please call Nicole at 971-494-1752. Thank you!

999 PUBLIC NOTICES

CGS26-103 NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT STEVEN D. HARTSELL has been appointed and has qualified as the personal representative of the Estate of Edna Marie Stam, deceased, in Lane County Circuit Court Case No. 26PB00585. All persons having claims against the estate are hereby required to present their claims, with proper vouchers, within four months after the date of publication of this notice, as stated below to the personal representative c/o Hamilton W. Budge, Jr., P.O. Box 10567, Eugene, OR 97440, or the claims may be barred. All persons whose rights may be affected by the proceedings in this estate may obtain additional information from the records of the court, the personal representative, or the attorney for the personal representative. Date of publication: February 04, 2026. Steven D. Hartsell, Personal Representative c/o Hamilton W. Budge, Jr., Attorney at Law P.O. Box 10567 Eugene, OR 97440

CGS26-104 NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that James Cheterian has been appointed Personal Representative of the Estate of ALBERT VINCENT CHETERIAN, deceased, Lane County Circuit Court Case No. 26PB00146. All persons having claims against the estate are required to present them within four months from the date of the first publication of this Notice to the Personal Representative at Willamette NW Law Firm, LLC, 735 W. 7th Ave, Eugene, OR 97402, or they may be barred. Any person whose rights may be affected by these proceedings may obtain additional information from the records of the Court, the Personal Representative or from the Personal Representative's attorney. DATED and published: 02/04/2026. /s/ James Cheterian, Personal Representative

REDUCE
REUSE
RECYCLE

The Garden Bug

The rose variety **"Gertrude Jekyll"** was named "World's Favourite Rose" by the World Federation of Rose Societies at its May 2025 convention held in Fukuyama, Japan. Rose enthusiasts all over the world love its vibrant pink color, its elegant shape, large blooms loaded with petals from late spring through fall, and its exquisite perfume. A Gertrude Jekyll rose needs a minimum of 4 hours of sunlight per day during the growing season, well-draining soil and adequate air circulation around it.

– Brenda Weaver

Source: theflorajournal.international, www.bhg.com, www.worldrose.org

© 2026 by King Features Syndicate, Inc. World rights reserved.

CAR CARE

Dealers

Brad's Chevy
COTTAGE GROVE CHEVROLET, INC.

GMC • Chevrolet • Chevy Trucks
SALES & SERVICE
2775 Row River Rd • 541-942-4415

GALLERY OF SERVICES

ABATEMENT

Available ***NOW*** for inspection and abatement of:
• Asbestos • LEAD Base Paint • Mold
Residential & Commercial
ATEZ
Serving the Willamette Valley for over 30 Years.
• Asbestos • LEAD • Mold Abatement & Inspections
(541) 995-6008 • atez@atezinc.com • CCB#64090

HEATING & A/C

Free Estimates
24 HOUR EMERGENCY SERVICE
Residential & Commercial
541-942-8577
ALPINE
Heating & Air Conditioning
CCB#193586.

INSURANCE

SHELLY D INSURANCE, INC.
HEALTH . LIFE . MEDICARE
LONG TERM CARE
541-942-3191
Shelly Dement - Independent Agent
Over 30 Years Experience

REAL ESTATE

SUSAN BENNETT
Real Estate Broker
(541) 743-1331
Eugene Track Town Realtors LLC
250 Oakway Center. Eugene 97401
Building stronger communities through home ownership.

AUTOMOTIVE

TO ADVERTISE IN THIS SERVICE GUIDE CALL 541-649-1616

PROPERTY MANAGEMENT

JIM DOWNING Realty
REAL ESTATE • PROPERTY MGMT
WWW.JIMDOWNINGREALTY.COM
Property Management Specialists
Honesty – Reliability – Integrity
Jim Downing, GRI – Principal Broker
downingjim@live.com • Cell: 541-953-0325
Luke Whitten, Broker
wekul@live.com • Cell: 541-556-6899
Off: 541-942-6077 • Fax: 541-942-3496
616 E. Main Street
Cottage Grove, OR 97424
MLS

ROOFING

FOUNTAIN GUTTERS LLC
Quality Service & Installation • Repairs
Seamless 5" K-Style • Pre-painted Steel • Colors
Free Estimates • Gutter Protection Systems
541-729-9515
Licensed • Bonded • Insured • CCB# 169540

#1 NORTHWEST
Family owned and operated for over 40 years!
Licensed –Bonded –Insured • ccb #107081
Free Estimates –Transferable Warranties
541-689-3151 1-800-643-3340 WWW.no1northwest.com

SPORTS

CGHS basketball teams capturing big wins

WILL LOHRE
Cottage Grove Sentinel

The Cottage Grove High School varsity basketball seasons are chugging along, and both the boys and girls have had their fair share of big wins in the New Year.

The boys started league play with a 2-3 record, and the two wins have both been tight games that came down to the final seconds to decide. Just a couple of days after fending off a furious Junction City comeback to earn their first Sky Em League win, Cottage Grove bagged their second victory in a thriller against North Bend on Jan. 16.

With the score knotted at 52-52 in the closing seconds, sophomore Ethan Valdez snatched control of the game at the very end. With North Bend looking to inbound the ball for a last-second heave, Valdez pressured the inbounds pass. Valdez swiped the ball and quickly put up a midrange jumper with the game on the line. The basket was good, and Valdez let out a triumphant roar as the Lions' fans celebrated.

The 54-52 win over North Bend was the second time in two games that Cottage Grove won by just a single basket. In the next two matchups with Marist Catholic and Marshfield, the Lions would end up just coming short.

The loss to Marist Catholic on Jan. 23 was close throughout, but the Spartans chipped away at an early Lions lead and ended up winning 48-41. Three days later, Cottage Grove played against Marshfield, and this time they ended up on the other side of a two-point margin. Cottage Grove played Marshfield to open the Lions' Sky Em ledger this season, and this result was a big improvement over the 52-67 defeat they suffered at the hands of the Pirates in the first matchup. Cottage Grove ended up losing 47-49, but will have a chance to face off with the Pirates again on Feb. 13. The losses brought Cottage Grove's league record to 2-3 and the Lions' record to 4-13 on the season. The team is trending in the right direction, having now won three of their last seven games after starting 1-9.

Results from the varsity boys games against Junction City and North Bend on Jan. 30 and Feb. 3 are unavailable at the time of press.

The girls varsity team has continued to enjoy a resurgent season in league play and by overall record. At the time of writing, the Lions held an 11-6 overall record and sat 3-2 in Sky Em play. The transformation has been nothing short of miraculous, as after going 0-12 in league play last season, Cottage Grove has already grabbed more wins (3) than they have in the Sky Em since the 2021-2022 season.

With 11 victories in their first 17 games, Cottage Grove needed just four wins in their last eight games to match the total number of wins they had in the 2023-2024 season, when they made the state playoffs after a 15-win season.

Metro Creative Connection

Follow game results at osaa.org and see CGHS sports features online at cgsentinel.com and in the Wednesday print editions of The Sentinel.

Cottage Grove opened the season with wins against Marshfield and Junction City before losing back-to-back games against North Bend and Marist Catholic. The loss to North Bend was especially close, with the Bulldogs narrowly escaping Cottage Grove with a 45-42 win. Despite suffering two consecutive losses, the Lions showed their resilience by beating Marshfield for the second time this season, grabbing control of the three-game season series.

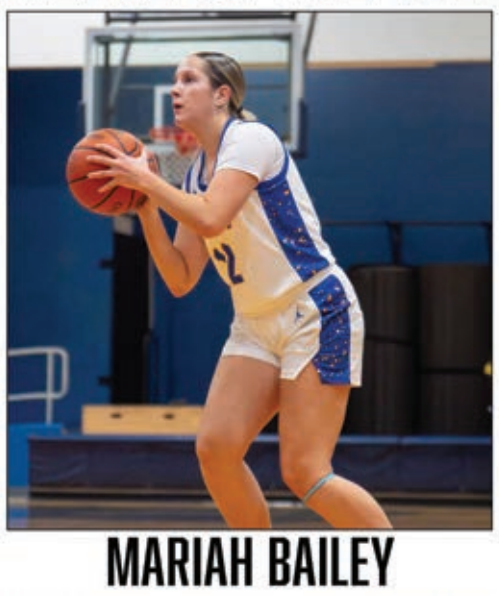
The 3-2 start put Cottage Grove smack dab in the middle of the Sky Em League, sitting below Marist Catholic (4-0, 10-4) and North Bend (4-1, 15-3), but comfortably ahead of Junction City (1-4, 5-13) and Marshfield (0-5, 3-13). Only two teams from the Sky Em will automatically qualify for the state tournament, so Cottage Grove will need to hope to leapfrog at least North Bend in the standings, or they'll have to rely on getting an "at large" playoff qualification based on their state-wide ranking.

Prior to playing Junction City on Jan. 30, the Lions were ranked #15 in OSAA's 4A rankings.

Follow game results at osaa.org and see CGHS sports features online at cgsentinel.com and in the Wednesday print editions of The Sentinel.

The Cottage Grove Sentinel

ATHLETE OF THE WEEK



MARIAH BAILEY

MARIAH BAILEY IS THIS WEEKS CG SENITNEL ATHLETE OF THE WEEK BECAUSE OF HER RECENT ACCOMPLISHMENT OF REACHING 1000 CARRER POINTS AGAINST MARSHFIELD

Cottage Grove Online
For information about Cottage Grove 24/7 catch us Online cgsentinel.com

IN THE GARDEN

Tiny gardens, big impact:

how to make (and care for) a terrarium

KYM POKORNY
Sentinel Guest Column

If you don't have space for a garden — or even if you do — a terrarium may be in your future.

"Terrariums are an easy way to have some greenery," said Brooke Edmunds, a horticulturist with the Oregon State University Extension Service. "And they're fun to make."

A terrarium can also reflect the personality of its maker. With stones, moss, seashells, tiny pieces of driftwood, doll furniture and other accessories, you can put your own stamp on it. Let kids gather favorite items — they'll enjoy helping.

Start with a clear glass container. You may already have one at home; thrift shops are a good source for low-cost options.

Choose the smallest plants you can find.

"You don't want plants to grow too big and out of the terrarium too fast, so get very small ones and don't fertilize too much," Edmunds said. "But eventually they'll need to be replaced. Think of them as fleeting beauties."

For beginners, select open containers. Closed terrariums trap humidity, which can lead to disease or algae.

Skip gravel; use charcoal

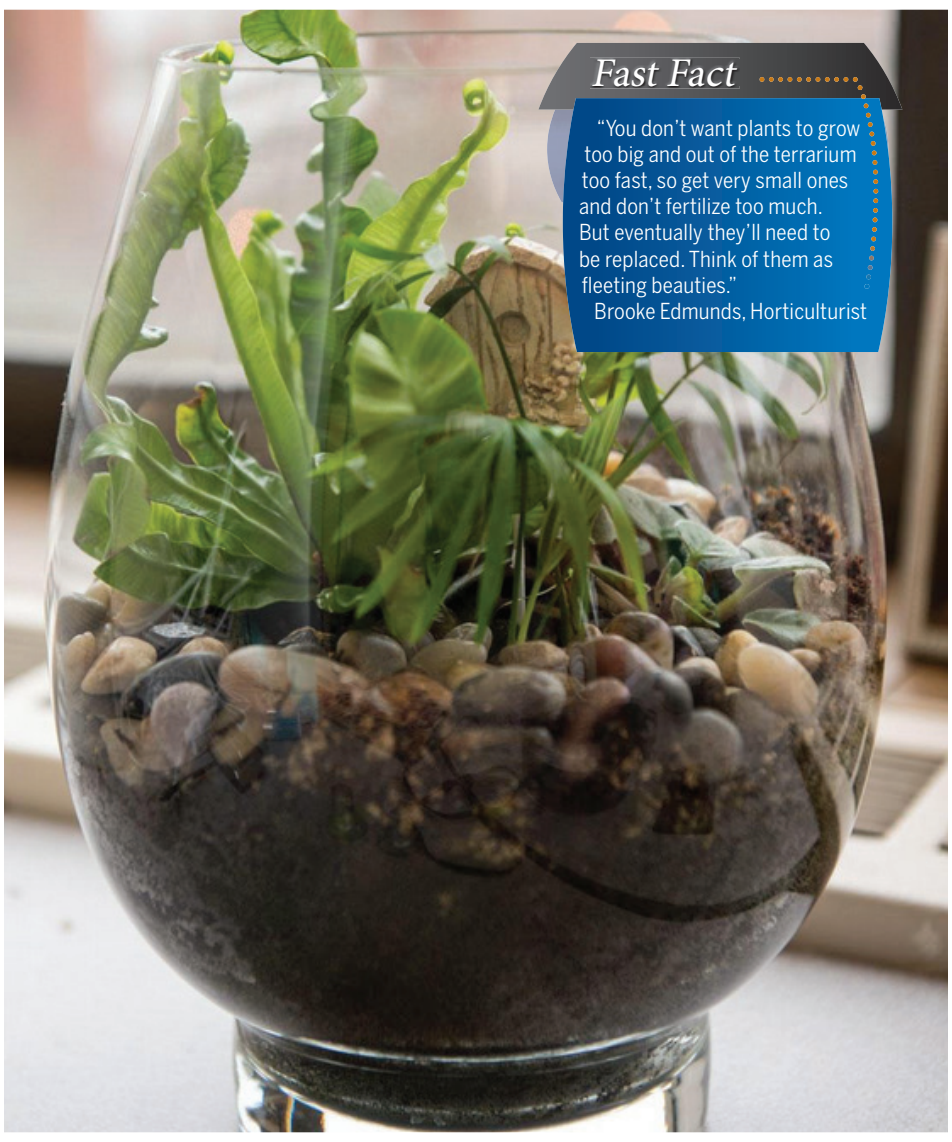
Avoid a bottom layer of stones that can allow water to pool and cause root rot. Instead, begin with horticultural charcoal, which helps absorb runoff and odors and discourages bacterial growth.

Mix and match textures — and consider air plants

When shopping, look for varied textures and colors. If you choose succulents or cacti, use a potting mix formulated for them and water much less than other plants — often once a month or less. Let the soil dry completely before watering. Use a container with a wide opening to keep humidity low.

Air plants (Tillandsias) add contrast with spiky forms and gray-green foliage. They don't grow in soil; in nature they perch on trees and absorb moisture from the air. Place them in the terrarium, then remove once a week to mist thoroughly or soak for 30 minutes. Hang upside down to dry before returning them so moisture doesn't collect in the crown.

When buying air plants, avoid brown tips, which signal neglect. Outer brown leaves can be trimmed. For all plants, choose healthy specimens with similar light and water needs. If you're unsure, ask nursery staff for guidance. Small plants are an investment — often about $5 each — so select carefully.



Courtesy photo from Stephen Ward

By using a variety of stones, moss, seashells, tiny pieces of driftwood, doll furniture and other accessories, you can put your stamp on a terrarium.

How to make a terrarium
Materials

- Clear glass container. Choose a size you can reach into for planting.
- Horticultural charcoal (garden centers).
- Soilless potting mix.
- Tiny plants (call ahead to confirm availability).
- Small decorative rock (craft stores).
- Chopstick or large knitting needle.
- Optional decorations: driftwood, seashells, pinecones, small toys.
- Preserved green moss (live moss usually needs more water than other plants).
- Watering can with a narrow spout.
- Water-soluble fertilizer.

Instructions

1. Wash and dry the container.
2. Add 1 to 1½ inches of horticultural charcoal.
3. Add 3 to 4 inches of soilless potting mix (depth depends on container and root size).
4. Use a chopstick, knitting needle or your fingers to make planting holes. Set plants, then gently tamp soil around roots.
5. Add a top layer of small decorative rock. Keep the layer thin near plant crowns.
6. Finish with found objects and small accessories.
7. Water plants lightly.
8. Place the terrarium where light suits your plant choices. Many do well in an east window; some tolerate brighter light.

Maintenance

- Water: Once a week or less, depending on container size and light. Check moisture by inserting a finger to the first knuckle. Target water to the base of each plant.
- Fertilizer: Use a water-soluble fertilizer diluted to half strength about once a month. To keep plants small longer, skip fertilizer.
- Succulents/cacti: Water sparingly; allow soil to dry between waterings.
- Air plants: Remove weekly to mist well or soak for 30 minutes, then dry upside down before returning.

Give it a try — you may be surprised how easy and satisfying a tiny, living landscape can be.

Kym Pokorny writes for the OSU Extension Service.