

THE COTTAGE GROVE Sentinel

Food Co-Op
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CGHS Softball Team
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53
36

Cottage Grove
Wednesday, April 15, 2026
Rain

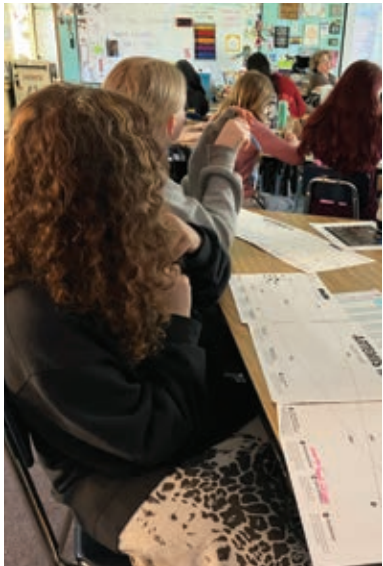


Wednesday APRIL 15, 2026 | 137 years

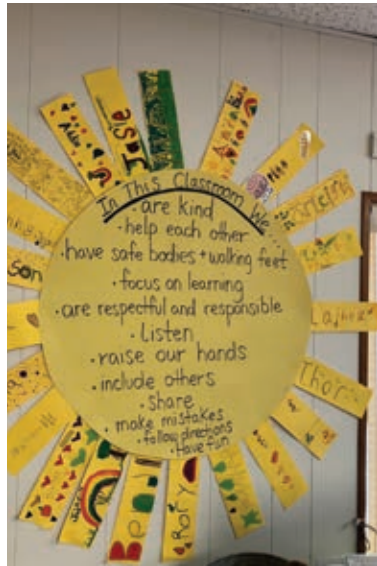
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Dorena School earns national recognition



Cindy Weeldreyer / Cottage Grove Sentinel
Students in Mrs. Molloy's middle school class interactively engage with NASA's history-making space mission around the moon.



Cindy Weeldreyer / Cottage Grove Sentinel
Each classroom has its own social/emotional learning wall display reminding students of the school's expectations.

ideas: a focus on learning, decisions based on evidence, a collaborative culture, and shared accountability for student growth.

"Every student needs to be learning at a high level," Pixton said, "and there can't be an excuse for why they are not."

When Pixton arrived in 2020, Dorena faced significant challenges. Staff morale was low, instructional practices were inconsistent, and the school carried a reputation as a "throwaway" rural school for students and staff. The pandemic intensified those pressures. Because many families lacked reliable internet access, nearly all students came to campus for limited in person instruction in 2020. The focus that year was on care and connection—ensuring students had food, support, and a familiar adult to greet them each day.

As the school transitioned back to full classrooms, Pixton and her team began reshaping expectations. Math instruction, which had previously been offered only every other day in some grades, became consistent. Staff committed to common goals and shared strategies. Old assumptions were replaced with a belief that all students could grow, regardless of background or circumstance.

CULTURE CHANGE AND BELONGING

A survey at the end of the pandemic revealed that Dorena School had some of the lowest staff morale scores in the school district. Pixton made rebuilding trust and unity a priority.

"The belonging piece came later after the culture work," she said.

Today, Dorena has the highest staff 'sense of belonging' in the district, based on surveys given

at the beginning and end of each school year. In education, belonging refers to whether staff feel valued, supported, and connected to their school community. Research shows that when adults experience strong belonging, collaboration improves and student learning rises.

The school's staff of 20 operates with a collective mindset. "Everyone here is recognized as a teacher," Pixton said. "Kids don't even know who is certified and who is classified."

ACADEMIC GROWTH AND ENROLLMENT GAINS

Academic results reflect that commitment. When Pixton arrived, only 26 percent of students were reading at grade level. Today, more than half are meeting benchmarks. Enrollment has grown from 65 students to 116, including 17 in PreK. The school's literacy specialists work intensively with students who miss class time to prevent them from falling behind.

"It takes everyone on our staff and positive parental involvement to ensure student success," Pixton said.

Dorena's whole child approach is another key factor. Social and emotional learning is woven throughout the day, helping students regulate emotions, advocate for themselves, collaborate with peers, and stay organized. A simple break system allows students to signal when they need time to reset or celebrate progress.

STRONGER FAMILY CONNECTIONS

Community engagement has also strengthened. Many families were initially hesitant to participate in

school events due to past experiences or discomfort with public education. Dorena responded by creating low pressure, student led gatherings where parents could simply show up, share a meal, and enjoy the atmosphere. Attendance grew quickly, and today the school hosts an annual end of year celebration that brings families together in a relaxed, welcoming setting.

"It feels like a family," Pixton said.

DISTRICT RECOGNITION AND LEADERSHIP PRAISE

Dorena's achievement was highlighted at the South Lane School Board's April meeting. Director of Teaching and Learning Jeremy Smith introduced the award presentation and praised the school's

See **RECOGNITION** Page 6

School district prepares for tighter 2026-27 budget

Board hears update on revenue pressures, staffing costs, and long term stability

CINDY WEELDREYER
Cottage Grove Sentinel

Early budget projections show South Lane School District facing a significant deficit next year, and district leaders say reductions will be part of the work ahead.

Superintendent Todd Miller presented a high level update on the 2026-27 budget outlook, noting that staff were already deep into next year's planning. At the April 6 meeting he walked the board through revenue trends, expenditure pressures, and the steps the district was taking to stabilize the General Fund.

BUDGET OUTLOOK FOR 2026-27

Administrators developed a proposed budget they will share with staff in each building in a series of after school "budget roadshow" sessions. Miller said the goal was to provide transparency, answer questions, and gather input before final decisions are made.



Courtesy photo
The district's focus remains on protecting the student experience and supporting the staff who make that work possible.

See **SD 2026-27** Page 6

Remembering the 56: Society Unveils WWII Honor Project

CINDY WEELDREYER
Cottage Grove Sentinel

The Cottage Grove Genealogical Society will host a Military Day Open House on Monday, April 22 from 1 to 6 p.m. in the Shepherd Room at the Community Center.

The free event invites the public to walk the Society's Honor Gallery, explore military displays, ask research questions, and learn how to preserve family service records. The afternoon will also include informational handouts, a community raffle, refreshments, and brief remarks from former mayor Jeff Gowing honoring local veterans.

Behind the scenes, members have spent months working on a major World War II project that has grown far beyond its original scope. Society President Debra Monsive said the effort began with a single collection, the World War II clippings saved by longtime resident Phyllis Pruitt. After Pruitt passed away, the Society inherited her files. Member Carolin Pettit suggested transcribing the clippings into a booklet. What they discovered changed the direction of the project entirely.

"We realized the clippings were only the tip of the iceberg," Monsive said. "When Carolin and I started researching, we kept finding more and more young men who were Killed In Action. I decided we needed to do something to honor their sacrifice and started making the posters."

The project expanded quickly as more volunteers joined the work. Pettit, Monsive, Rick Hazeltine, Robin Jackman, Casey Woodard, and videographer Jim Lockhart have spent months documenting the stories of local servicemen and women from South Lane and North Douglas

Counties. Lockhart has produced a video featuring all 56 memorial posters created for the young men who died in the war. The video is expected to go live on the Society's YouTube channel the day of the event.

The group has also been assembling a comprehensive book titled Veterans of World War II, South Lane and North Douglas Counties, Oregon. The manuscript stands at 613 pages without the index. Although the book will not be ready in time for the April 22 event, members say the work has been deeply meaningful.

Monsive said the research process has been both rewarding and emotionally difficult. "I found out I didn't know as much as I thought about WWII," she said. "When researching the 56 young men, I found resources that helped me identify where they were when they lost their lives. I can't unread some of what I read. I have cried more in the last six months than I have in years."

The project uncovered stories of sailors, pilots, and ground crew who served in major battles including Iwo Jima, Bataan, Luzon, and Biak. More than half of the men documented are buried overseas. One is entombed on the USS Arizona. Monsive said an original WWII poster loaned by the Cottage Grove Museum has brought visitors to tears.

To build the book, members reached out to families directly, searched social media for relatives, and used forensic genealogy to confirm connections. "People would ask if we had their Uncle or that their Mother served, and then we made sure we had them in our book," Monsive said.

At the April 22 event, the Society will display many of the posters and



Copy of original
WWII Poster
Courtesy of
Cottage Grove Museum

Courtesy photo from the Cottage Grove Museum

A reproduction WWII poster on loan from the Cottage Grove Museum will be featured in the Honor Gallery.

family boards created by members. Community members are welcome to bring military items to display, although the Society notes it cannot guarantee the safety of personal artifacts. Raffle prizes include DNA kits from MyHeritage and AncestryDNA, a Spa Day gift basket, books, locally

produced videos, and a genealogy starter file box. Additional prize donations are welcome.

Monsive said the group is excited to share the work even though the book is not yet complete. "We are honored to tell their stories and to remember those who gave their all," she said.

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



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

Parks monument damaged by vandalism

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department (OPRD) officials are asking the public for assistance in finding the person or persons responsible for damage to the Jessie M. Honeyman State Park Monument at Florence.

According to the ODP, the bronze monument dedicated in honor of state park namesake Jessie Honeyman was damaged last month.

"The monument located near the Cleawox Day-use parking area was vandalized in an apparent attempted theft between Monday evening, March 2 and Tuesday

morning March 3," the OPRD said in a release. "The monument's structure appeared to be knocked over and cut in two places, resulting in significant damage."

The bronze "Eye of the Needle" monument was dedicated to honor Jessie M. Honeyman in 1986, recognizing her tireless advocacy for Oregon's natural resources and scenery along the state's highways. The statue sculpted by Gordon Newell is a registered art piece with the Smithsonian.

Park staff have removed the monument for public

safety and to prevent further harm as they evaluate the extent of the damage and develop a plan for repairs.

"At this time, there is no established timeline for the monument's repair or reinstallation, the release states.

The department asks that anyone with information regarding this incident contact the Oregon State Police, referencing case number SP26072324. Community assistance is appreciated to help protect Oregon's special places.



Courtesy photo

The monument's structure appeared to be knocked over and cut in two places, resulting in significant damage, OPRD officials said.



Courtesy photo

Park staff have removed the monument for public safety and to prevent further harm as they evaluate the extent of the damage and develop a plan for repairs

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

MARCH 30

- 08:27: Illegal dumping, Tyler/Gateway
- 08:52: Disturbance, 8100 block Sears Rd.
- 10:16: Abandoned vehicle, 1700 block Harvey Rd.
- 12:17: Trespass, 900 block S. 8th St.
- 13:53: Theft, 1200 block N. Douglas St.
- 14:23: Dog at large, 9th/Pennoyer
- 15:11: ATL DUII, 1200 block Hwy 99
- 15:24: Dog at large, R/Carnegie
- 15:32: Welfare check, 1700 block Hwy 99
- 15:39: Suspicious subject, 100 block Village Dr.
- 15:43: Suspicious condition, 1200 block Hwy 99
- 18:21: Juvenile trouble, Main/R
- 18:51: Suspicious condition, 200 block N. River Rd.
- 18:53: Suspicious vehicle, 900 block S. 6th St.
- 20:17: Wanted subject, 200 block Buttercup Lp.
- 20:32: Disturbance, 1000 block S. 4th St.
- 21:41: Disturbance, 100 block Gateway Blvd..

MARCH 31

- 02:54: Suspicious vehicle, 200 block Gateway Blvd.
- 03:32: Suspicious vehicle, 33300 block Row River Rd.
- 03:59: Warrant service, 1300 block E. Main St.
- 05:13: Fire, 33000 block Row River Rd.
- 08:20: Criminal mischief, 1400 block E. Madison Ave.
- 09:09: Theft, 900 block Row River Rd.
- 10:15: Illegal dumping, 400 block N. Douglas St.
- 11:24: Welfare check, 400 block E. Main St.
- 16:15: Agency assist, Hwy 99/Lord
- 16:40: Hit and run, 7th/Main
- 16:59: Drug activity, 1300 block E. Main St.
- 17:20: Warrant service, 400 block E. Main St.
- 17:58: Wanted subject, 900 block Row River Rd.
- 19:13: Disturbance, 1500 block Hwy 99
- 20:01: Suspicious vehicle, 500 block E. Madison Ave.
- 20:34: Disorderly subject, 1700 block W. Main St.
- 22:02: Warrant service, 100 block Gateway Blvd.
- 22:20: Suspicious subject, 200 block Gateway Blvd.
- 22:26: Theft, 700 block Row River Rd.
- 22:45: Theft, 1100 block S. 8th St.

APRIL 1

- 00:21: Suspicious vehicle, 1700 block E. Main St.
- 00:37: Suspicious vehicle, 2800 block Row River Rd.
- 00:39: Suspicious subject, 6th/Whiteaker

- 01:07: Suspicious vehicle, 300 block S. 6th St.
- 01:12: Warrant service, Main/5th
- 08:49: Theft, 1300 block S. River Rd.
- 08:53: Suspicious subject, 1400 block Adams Ave.
- 09:26: Agency assist, 300 block Quincy Ave.
- 09:26: Found dog, 200 block N.12th St.
- 10:06: Suspicious condition, 100 block Gateway Blvd.
- 13:31: Found property, 1100 block Hwy 99
- 14:28: Theft, Gateway/Tyler
- 16:37: Juvenile trouble, 1300 block S. River Rd.
- 20:26: Trespass, 1100 block S. 4th St.
- 20:42: Suspicious condition, 1500 block Hwy 99
- 21:46: Suspicious condition, 1500 block Hwy 99
- 22:46: Disturbance, 300 block N. 7th St.
- 23:23: Warrant service, 400 block E. Main St.

APRIL 2

- 02:03: Fire, 200 block N. 12th St.
- 02:35: Fire, 1000 block Hwy 99
- 07:26: Juvenile trouble, 1300 block S. River Rd.
- 09:40: Illegal dumping, Harvey/19th
- 11:13: Disturbance, 400 block E. Main St.
- 13:28: Trespass, 1500 block E. Main St.
- 14:14: Agency assist, 9th/Chadwick
- 14:42: Suspicious subject, Taylor/13th

- 15:08: Fraud, 200 block N. 16th St.
- 15:36: Harassment, 100 block Gateway Blvd.
- 17:24: Trespass, 900 block Row River Rd.
- 18:50: Vicious dog, 1900 block Pleasant View Dr.
- 20:56: Disturbance, 78000 block Layng Rd.

APRIL 3

- 00:20: Warrant service, 1300 block E. Main St.
- 01:02: Reckless driving, Patrick/Kathleen
- 11:28: Assault, 100 block Gateway Blvd.
- 14:19: Juvenile trouble, 1500 block S. 4th St.
- 17:43: Warrant service, 400 block E. Main St.
- 18:43: Trespass, 1100 block S. 4th St.
- 18:53: Disturbance, 110 block Pennoyer Ave.
- 20:44: Warrant service, 1500 block Hwy 99
- 21:33: Nuisance, Riverwalk/2nd

APRIL 4

- 00:17: Suspicious condition, 800 block Gateway Blvd.
- 00:31: Disorderly subject, 100 block S. River Rd.
- 03:12: Suspicious vehicle, 16th/Grover
- 03:17: Motor vehicle crash, London/Reservoir Rd.
- 09:43: Suicidal subject, 78000 block Downens Rd.
- 13:07: Mental subject, 900 block Gateway Blvd
- 15:57: Juvenile trouble, 100 block S. 10th St.
- 16:15: Disorderly subject,



Courtesy Photo

M/Birch

- 16:23: Suspicious condition, 400 block Hwy 99
- 16:51: Disturbance, 1700 block S. 5th St.
- 17:34: Harassment, 1500 block Hwy 99
- 17:52: Intoxicated subject, 1300 block E. Main St.
- 18:25: Juvenile trouble, 100 block Gateway Blvd.
- 18:51: Unlawful entry into motor vehicle, 300 block S. River Rd.
- 19:23: Agency assist, Main/10th
- 20:03: Nuisance, 3rd/Madison
- 20:34: Wanted subject, 100 block N. 9th St.
- 20:50: Harassment, 1500 block Hwy 99
- 20:57: Suspicious subject, 100 block Village Dr.
- 21:40: Wanted subject, 900 block S. 6th St.
- 22:36: Suspicious subject, 13th/Madison
- 22:54: Suspicious vehicle, 100 block S. 10th St.
- 23:10: Warrant service, Hwy 99/Lord
- 23:16: Warrant service, 400 block E. Main St.
- 23:25: Juvenile trouble, 100 block S. 10th

APRIL 5

- 00:29: DUII ATL, 600 block S. 5th St.
- 02:23: Suspicious condition, 800 block E. Quincy Ave.
- 04:00: Warrant service, 800 block Gateway Blvd.
- 08:39: Warrant service, 400 block E. Main St.
- 09:13: Abandoned vehicle, 80 block E. Quincy Ave.
- 13:46: Vicious dog, 5th/Adams
- 14:04: Theft, 100 block Gateway Blvd.
- 14:32: Welfare check, 1500 block Gateway Blvd.
- 17:26: Trespass, 900 block Row River Rd.
- 17:30: Fire, 1700 block S. 6th St.
- 18:56: Alarm, 3300 block Row River Rd.
- 19:06: Disorderly subject, 100 block S. River Rd.
- 19:22: Juvenile trouble, 15 NB 174
- 20:58: Harassment, 1500 block E. Main St.
- 23:17: Disturbance, 800 block E. Quincy Ave.

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

APRIL 15

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

APRIL 16

- T.O.P.S. Club. 9:30-11 a.m. Delight Valley Church of Christ, Saginaw.
- Baby Laptime. 11:30 a.m. CG Public Library.
- Cottage Grove Lions Club. Noon. Axe and Fiddle.
- Teen Gaming. 4 p.m. CG Public Library.
- Community Center Table Tennis. 4-6 p.m. Community Center, 700 E. Gibbs Ave.
- Celebrate Recovery. 5:15

p.m. Calvary Chapel, 1447 Hwy 99N.

- Rotary Club of Cottage Grove. Social 5 p.m., Meeting 5:30 p.m. El Tapatio.
- Bradley Shepherd (Americana) 5:30-7:30 p.m. Coast Fork Brewery
- Tappin' Talent Search. 6-8 p.m. Axe and Fiddle
- Brad Byrd (indie rock/alt country) 6-8 p.m. Axe and Fiddle

APRIL 17

- Storytime. 11:30 a.m. CG Public Library.
- Elks Lodge Steak Feed. 5:30-7 p.m.
- American Legion Bingo. 5-7 p.m. American Legion Post 32, 826 W. Main St.
- Inner Limits (jazzy contemporary) 6-9 p.m. Coast Fork Brewery
- Weekly Pool Tournament. 7 p.m. Bohemian Tavern. \$5 entry; BCA rules.
- Saginaw Vineyard Friday Night Live. 6-9 p.m. 80247 Delight Valley School Rd.
- Spinning Gold (Ameri-

cana) 8-10 p.m. Axe and Fiddle

APRIL 18

- Cottage Bowl Open Bowling. 4-10 p.m. 740 Row River Rd.
- Parker Galactic (folk rock/Americana) 6-9 p.m. Coast Fork Brewery
- AlAnon "Courage to Change." 7 p.m. Sinclair Room, City Hall.
- Kegs of Comedy with Ralph Abernathy (21+ content) 8-10 p.m. Axe and Fiddle.

APRIL 19

- Bradley Shepherd (mixed genres) 11 a.m.-4 p.m. Coast Fork Brewing.
- VFW Bingo. 2-4 p.m. VFW Post 3473. 3160 Hillside Dr.
- South Valley Athletics Bingo Fundraiser. 3:30-5:30 p.m. Coast Fork Brewing.

APRIL 20

- Cottage Bowl Open Bowling. 1-5:30 p.m. 740 Row River Rd.
- Senior Center Bingo. 12:30



Cindy Weeldreyer / Cottage Grove Sentinel

- p.m. Cottage Grove Community Center.
- Gardeners Meeting. 5-7 p.m. Coast Fork Brewing.
- Monday Movie Night: "The General" 8 p.m. Axe & Fiddle.

APRIL 21

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

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Blackberry Food Co-op marks key milestone



Courtesy photo from the Blackberry Food Cooperative

The Co-Op offers farm fresh food, a wide variety of choices in the bulk section and hand crafted items



Courtesy photo from Rebecca Allen Lamptey

Scott and Rachel Watkins of Eugene moved their food truck to Cottage Grove because the community is very supportive of local businesses.



Courtesy photo from Rebecca Allen Lamptey

One of the specialties from the Harley Q's Barbecue food truck.

Market vendors and food trucks help build steady momentum

CINDY WEELDREYER
Cottage Grove Sentinel

Harley Q's Barbecue rolled into the Cottage Grove Public Market last year, and the food truck's steady following reflects the growing energy inside the community driven space.

On most afternoons, visitors drift between the food trucks outside and the vendors inside the former Covered Bridge Brewery building, a space steadily transforming into a cooperative hub for local food, makers, and community events.

A LEAN HISTORY AND A NEW BEGINNING

The Coast Fork Farm Stand, a longtime source of healthy food in Cottage Grove, moved into the former brewery building in 2024 after losing its lease on South 10th Street. The larger space made a sole proprietor model unsustainable, but it also opened the door to a bigger vision for a community driven market and cooperative grocery.

Longtime customer Kathy Carbone has watched the Farm Stand evolve for more than two decades. "I have shopped at the farm stand longer than I can remember, maybe 20 years," she said. "I started when Scott was under

a canopy in a parking lot on Main Street. I love the low key vibe, small, cozy and friendly. I love finding local products, farm fresh food, the wide variety of choices in the bulk section and hand crafted items."

CO OP COMPLETES ITS TRANSITION

That vision reached a major milestone this spring. The interim management team has completed the transition, and the store is now operating fully as Blackberry Food Co op.

When asked what feels most significant right now, transition team member Valeria Clarke said, "That we are officially our own entity." For volunteers who have spent months stabilizing the store and building a foundation for long term sustainability, the milestone represents a turning point.

The co op now has 250 member owners, a number that continues to grow as the community learns about the transition. Clarke said many residents are still discovering the change and that the next phase depends on regular shoppers and new members. Membership also provides capital for equipment upgrades, including an additional produce cooler expected in the next couple of months. Applications are available at the register or online.

"People are excited to see our vision come into being," Clarke said. "Our biggest challenge is having folks visit

us regularly and fill up their baskets."

A VISION ROOTED IN LOCAL FOOD

The co op's mission centers on access to healthy, local food and supporting local producers.

"Our goal is to create a food co op that provides Cottage Grove with fresh, natural, and organic foods at fair prices," Clarke said. The store prioritizes local meats, cheeses, dairy, produce, and bulk items, with an emphasis on supporting small farmers and regional producers. "Becoming a member means investing in local food security," she said.

A MARKET STILL TAKING SHAPE

Day to day activity is centered around the food trucks, Jackson's Pub, the family friendly bar offering beer, wine, cider and non alcoholic options, and the Blackberry Food Co op, a combination that continues to draw steady foot traffic even as the larger Market vision unfolds.

Weekly live music has become a staple, thanks to local musicians who volunteer their time. The Market has also opened event rental opportunities, making its conference room, open space, and courtyards available for workshops and celebrations. A community wide logo competition is underway, inviting artists of all ages to help shape the Market's visual identity.

The Market's home at 926 E. Main St., managed by the nonprofit Twinberry Commons, has created opportunities for expanded programming, shared space and a more stable long term model, but the transition has required months of volunteer labor, financial restructuring and community support.

VENDORS EXPANDING THE MIX

New vendors continue to join the Market. Brandywine Fisheries, a well established Springfield seafood business, now offers seasonal fish, crab, shrimp, and smoked seafood. The bar has transitioned to new operator Jackson Wallace Walters, who is curating a selection of regional beer, cider, and wine.

Food trucks remain a major draw. Cocina Mi Pueblo offers scratch made Mexican dishes, including the tamales owner Maria has been known for over 11 years. Phat Turk brings Mediterranean cuisine, with grilled skewers prepared to order. Harley Q's Barbecue, recently ranked second in Lane County, is known for high quality smoked meats and creative sides. Scott Watkins, owner of Harley

Q's, said he moved his truck from Eugene because "people here really support small businesses." The Market is recruiting a fourth truck, ideally one offering breakfast or something not yet available in Cottage Grove.

PARTNERSHIPS STRENGTHENING THE FOUNDATION

Early support from Hummingbird Wholesale founders Charlie Tilt and his wife helped establish operational systems and provided guidance during the transition. The Woodard Family Foundation has also been instrumental, offering financial support and mentorship. Market leadership said the foundation's involvement reflects "a commitment to community centered development."

LOOKING AHEAD

Together, the Public Market and the Blackberry Food Co op form a connected ecosystem that supports local producers, keeps food dollars circulating locally, and

creates a shared space where food, art, music, and culture come together. Clarke said the long term vision is clear. "Food security and resilience, building our food web, helping the local economy, creating jobs."

As spring unfolds, vendors set out their displays, food trucks fire up their grills, and families wander through the space that has become a small but meaningful anchor in the heart of downtown on the corner of Main Street and Hwy. 99. With the co op's milestone achieved and new vendors joining the mix, the Market is poised for its next chapter, one shaped by collaboration, community ownership, and the shared belief that local food matters.

Blackberry Food Co op

- Hours: Monday-Friday, 12 p.m. to 6 p.m.; Saturday and Sunday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.
- Website: www.BlackberryFood.coop

Cottage Grove Public Market

For event info: www.facebook.com/CGPublicMarket

Fatal Fire Victim Id'ed



Cindy Weeldreyer / Cottage Grove Sentinel

An early morning fatal fire at the Relax Inn on April 2 was first spotted by a Cottage Grove police officer on routine patrol. Firefighters quickly arrived and extinguished the blaze. Investigators later identified the victim as 66-year-old Theresa Lynn Fusselman, of Cottage Grove. Three others were injured in the blaze. The cause of the fire was not immediately available. The motel was built in 1966.

No Kings Rally



Courtesy photo from Greg Lee Photography

More than 250 local residents marched through downtown and assembled at Coiner Park along Main Street in Cottage Grove on Saturday, March 28, holding American flags and colorful handmade signs as part of a nationwide "No Kings" demonstration. Those attending the rally called for changes to federal policies and an end to the conflict in Iran



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OBITUARIES

Robert “Bob” Bottorff

September of 1954 - March 8, 2026

Robert “Bob” Bottorff of Cottage Grove, OR passed away on March 8, 2026 from the effects of Vascular Dementia. He was preceded in death by his wife (Sue) in 2021. He is survived by his daughter Pam Bottorff and Allen (Angela) Bottorff, 8 grandchildren (Brandon, Chelsey, Celeste, Chad, Carter, Joe, Grace and Sophie), and 8 great-grandchildren, as well as sister Teri Bolton and brother Scott (Kelly) Bottorff. He was preceded in death by his sister Toni Hanley.



life. He relocated to Klamath Falls and started a small logging company, and was named “Operator of the Year” in 2005 by the AOL for his conscientious work and meticulous forestry practices.

Bob and Sue returned to Cottage Grove as they neared retirement to be closer to their extensive and growing family. He spent most of his free time with Sue, kids and grandchildren. He enjoyed golfing, hunting and fishing, attending baseball/football games, as well as woodworking. A small ceremony will be held April 25, 2026 at Riverside Community Church of God in Cottage Grove at 1pm. Arrangements by Smith-Lund-Mills Funeral Chapel. Private Inurnment, Fir Grove Cemetery, Cottage Grove, OR.

Bob was born in September of 1954 to Jack and Joanne Bottorff in Pasadena, CA. He spent his childhood in Yucca Valley, Blue River and then Cottage Grove, where he attended High School and met Sue, whom he married in 1973. He was a logger and equipment operator his entire

Angus “Mac” Clive MacDonald

January 25, 1937 - February 2, 2026

Angus “Mac” Clive MacDonald, known to family and friends as Mac, passed away on February 2, 2026, in Eugene, Oregon, at the age of 89. He was born on January 25, 1937, in Oregon City, Oregon, to Arthur S. and Jeanette (Brown) MacDonald. Mac lived a full and meaningful life marked by devotion to his service, education, and community.



his steady presence, quiet wit that wouldn't disappoint, his sense of humor, and the warmth he brought to everyday moments.

Outside of work, Mac enjoyed a wide range of interests that reflected his curiosity. He loved golf and enjoyed playing in fantasy football leagues. He took pride in gathering firewood, using his chainsaw, splitting and stacking wood, and making

After graduating from Oregon City High School, Mac attended the University of Oregon, where he earned a Master's degree in history in 1959. During his years at the university, he was a member of the U of O Delta Upsilon Fraternity from 1955 to 1959 and managed the Webfoot's football team from 1957 to 1958. His time at the university reflected the energy, loyalty, and commitment that would remain hallmarks of his life. He also served in the United States Army as a PVT in administration during the Korean War, answering the call to serve with quiet dedication and responsibility.

fires in the fireplace. He was interested in studying U.S. history and World War II, and he also enjoyed music, acting, singing, gambling at the casino, watching television, and doing crossword puzzles. These pastimes brought him joy and gave him many opportunities to connect with others.

Mac was also active in his community and was proud of the associations and honors that marked his years of involvement. He was a member of the Cottage Grove Elks Lodge, which was his home away from home. The lodge had a table plaque made for Mac that says, “Mac's Home Office and Living Room.” He received Elk of the Year in 2005.

In 2015, he was inducted into the Cottage Grove High School Hall of Fame, a recognition that reflected the respect he earned through his years of service and leadership. His life was one of purpose, accomplishment, and enduring connection to the people and places he loved.

Mac will be remembered by those who loved him as a steady, boisterous presence, quick wit that never disappointed, and his friendliness. His passion and intelligence shaped the lives of many, and his legacy will live on in the memories of his family, friends, students, and colleagues.

Mac devoted much of his professional life to education. He taught in the South Lane School District at Lincoln Junior High, where he shared his knowledge of social studies with generations of students. He later coached high school football as head coach from 1969 to 1979 and also taught U.S. Military History along with various other classes at the high school. His students and athletes knew him as a passionate, and friendly man who brought both high standards and genuine care to everything he did. He was a larger than life presence who filled the room with his energy and personality, and he left a lasting impression on those fortunate enough to know him.

Mac married Stacey Boustead on December 14, 2019, in Cottage Grove, Oregon, and they shared 31 years together. Their life together was built on companionship, mutual support, and many shared memories. He valued his family deeply and carried that devotion throughout his life. Those who loved him will remember

There will be a Celebration of life at the Cottage Grove Elks Lodge, Saturday, May 23, 2026 at 2:00 PM. 755 N. River Rd., Cottage Grove, Oregon.

Arrangements are in the care of Smith-Lund-Mills Funeral Chapel and Crematorium.

DEATH NOTICES

Patricia Bean, 76 of Cottage Grove, Oregon passed away April 7, 2026. Arrangements are in the care of Smith-Lund-Mills Funeral Chapel and Crematorium.

Rebecca Ann Hurd-Thompson, 58 of Drain, Oregon passed away March 23, 2026. Arrangements are in the care of Smith-Lund-Mills Funeral Chapel and Crematorium.

See all obituaries online at cgsentinel.com

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700 East Gibbs Avenue

To the Citizens of Cottage Grove and All Who Enter Here:

It is with reverence, gratitude, and deep civic pride that we present this exhibit honoring our heroes of the Second World War. Their names belong to this community as surely as they belong to history, and it is our solemn privilege to ensure that neither shall be forgotten.

The fifty-six portraits and records assembled in these rooms tell the stories of sons, brothers, neighbors, and friends – young men who walked these same streets, attended our schools, and worshipped in our churches before answering the call of their country in its hour of greatest need. They served across every theater of that terrible conflict, on the beaches of the Pacific, across the fields of North Africa, through the forests of Europe, and in the skies above them all. Each gave what none can restore.

This exhibit is offered not as an act of mourning alone, but as a testament to valor and to the enduring bond between a community and those it sends forth in its name. The families of these honored dead have contributed photographs, letters, and personal effects that bring each young man's story to life with an intimacy that no official record can fully capture. We are deeply grateful for their trust and their generosity in sharing what is most precious to them.

Let all who pass through these halls do so with the awareness that freedom is never freely given, and that the liberties we hold today were purchased at a price paid by those whose youth is preserved forever on these walls. May we carry their memory with the same quiet courage with which they carried our nation's cause.

We commend this exhibit to your contemplation, and we commend the souls of these brave men to your grateful remembrance. From such honored dead, we who are living take renewed devotion to our community, our country, and to one another.

Faithfully and Gratefully Yours,
 Debra Monsive, President, Cottage Grove Genealogical Society
www.cggenealogy.org

◆ **IN HONOR AND IN MEMORY** ◆

COMMENTARY

It's time to discuss Oregon's urban growth boundaries

RANDY STAPILUS
Oregon Capital Chronicle

Sooner or later, the Oregon Legislature will have to face up to redesigning a state creation that now looks like two icebergs on a collision course.

One iceberg is the wildly high cost of housing along with other living costs including electric power and water; the other, the need to grow the state's economy and shore up its softening base in the technology sector.

The locus for this conflict: Urban growth boundaries.

UGBs are one of those Oregon peculiarities, dating from the Tom McCall era and the 1973 enactment of Senate Bill 100, which framed the state's land use system. Under its terms, urban areas in the state have to periodically estimate their needed growth for the coming 20 years and draw growth boundaries outside of city limits. The process is overseen by the Land Conservation and Development Commission.

The Oregon Encyclopedia says that generally, "Housing tracts, shopping malls, and other kinds of urban development are not allowed to sprawl past that boundary, while agricultural lands and open space outside a UGB are preserved." The idea was partly to preserve open and farm spaces and partly to curb suburban sprawl, encouraging compact development to reduce infrastructure and other costs.

They have succeeded to a great degree, but bugs have begun to multiply in the system. Some of those were hinted at in one national study noting that critics say UGBs "can stifle economic growth and development

within the designated areas. Restricting the amount of land available for businesses and industries to expand can limit job growth and economic opportunities."

Hillsboro, in central Washington County, offers the best current case study.

That city has been growing as tech businesses like (most notably) Intel have sometimes expanded and more recently struggled. Hillsboro also has become a major center, even from a national perspective, for large data centers; as many as 20 are located in the area. These are heavy consumers of resources like electricity and water. Available space for ongoing expansion within the UGB has been limited.

The process for expanding a UGB is complex and difficult, and requires demonstration of a need for growth and evidence it can't be met within existing limits. Cities are supposed to review them every five years. But the DLCDC reports that "Since 2016, when the Land Conservation and Development Commission adopted revised rules regarding urban growth boundary expansions, cities and counties in Oregon have successfully approved 46 expansions or adjustments to their urban growth boundaries." That's not a lot.

One academic study suggested UGBs began to have a "binding impact" on growth starting in the 1990s.

Hillsboro Mayor Beach Pace and area legislators in recent years have pressed what was called the Oregon Jobs Act, sponsored by Senator Janeen Sollman of Hillsboro, which sought to expand local growth areas by

about 1,700 acres, to allow for industrial growth. But opposition became so fierce the measure died in the legislature this session. Much of that pushback focused on data centers and other developments; one report even highlighted a "spider's web" of links between corporate and local government officials.

Nellie McAdams, executive director of Oregon Agricultural Trust, opined Sollman "heard loud and clear not only from her constituents but from people all over the state that we're not interested in poorly planned economic development that doesn't result in jobs and destroys farmland."

UGBs, then, have become a brake point for many Oregonians concerned about data centers. But limitations on them have other impacts as well.

One study of UGBs said a key criticism was that they "can lead to increased housing costs within the boundary area. By restricting the amount of land available for development, the law of supply and demand can come into play, driving up property prices and making housing less affordable for residents."

Many Oregon communities have hit, or are approaching, that wall. Some smaller cities are surrounded, or nearly so, by farm and other open lands, and expanding UGBs into those areas involves clearing hurdles.

The Legislature has acted on some of this. It passed in 2024 a measure planned to help communities where rents were especially high to make a one-time expansion of its boundaries. But at least one poster child city for the effort, Woodburn, still

EDITORIAL CARTOON



Jordan Gale / Oregon Capital Chronicle

Construction was ongoing near Hillsboro's urban growth boundary on Feb. 27, 2023. The city of Hillsboro is seeking state approval to allow the semiconductor industry to build outside the urban growth boundary

was unable to accomplish its hoped-for expansion. In this year's session a follow up bill was passed which may help with Woodburn's issues.

The problem for the legislature, however, is larger than these local small-bore efforts suggest. So far the question of how to treat UGBs and who uses them and for what, has been dealt with piecemeal. A larger frame

for the subject needs to be developed.

This could turn into a battle of more than housing versus economic growth, if only because those two things are related. Oregonians are going to face some hard choices if they're going to untangle the web.

<https://oregoncapitalchronicle.com/2026/04/02/>

its-time-to-discuss-oregon-urban-growth-boundaries/ 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.

How to use mindfulness in your daily living

STAN POPOVICH
Cottage Grove Sentinel Guest Column

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

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

1. Find a comfortable place: You'll want to find a comfortable seat in a relaxed and stress-free environment. Sit on a couch or chair with your feet on the ground. Allow your head and shoulders to rest comfortably; place your hands on the tops of your legs with your upper

arms at your side. Put your upper arms parallel to your upper body. Rest the palms of your hands on your legs.

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

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

Gently return your focus to your breath.

4. Tune into your senses: Sometimes, when we're stressed, focusing on what's happening right in front of us can be a challenge in and of itself. Our minds are drawn to thinking about the future and all the bad things that are or could happen.

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

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

7. Pay attention: It's hard to slow down and notice things in a busy world. Take the time to experience your

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

8. Enjoy the small moments: Small moments in our lives include those that we don't typically notice and those we take for granted. A small moment may be having a cup of coffee or a cool glass of water, spending a moment with a child or pet, or performing any everyday activity that goes by without our attention. Enjoyment, peace and serenity in life happen in the small moments.

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

Stan Popovich is the author of "A Layman's

Guide to Managing Fear" which covers 200+ techniques that can drastically improve your mental

health. For more information, visit website at <http://www.managingfear.com>

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Weekly Online Poll

Are you concerned about losing your voting freedom under the Trump administrations executive order and proposed voting regulations?

Yes No

Previous Poll Results

Are you registered and interested in voting in the May primary and local elections?
100% - Yes 0% - No

Quote of the Week

"The day the power of love overrules the love of power, the world will know peace."
Mahatma Gandhi



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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CGS26-120 IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE STATE OF OREGON FOR THE COUNTY OF LANE (PROBATE DEPARTMENT) IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF ROY F. GOODE, DECEASED.

Case No.: 26PB02527 NOTICE TO INTERESTED PERSONS NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Laura Darger has been appointed personal representative. All persons having claims against the estate are required to present them, with vouchers attached, to the Decedent's Personal Representative's attorney, Cassie N. Hutton-Ross, Howard Law Group, LLC, at 1114 12th Street SE, Salem, OR 97302, within four months after the date of first publication of this notice, or the claims may be barred. All persons whose rights may be affected by the proceedings may obtain additional information from the records of the court, the personal representatives, or the lawyer for the personal representatives, Cassie N.

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MISC SERVICES

Hutton-Ross, 1114 12th Street SE, Salem, Oregon 97302. Dated and first published on April 15, 2026. /s/ Cassie N. Hutton-Ross, OSB No. 191678 Attorney for Personal Representative

CGS26-117 FOR THIS LEGAL-PUBLICATION OF THIS SACROSANCT-MATRIMONY-STATUS:

HUSBAND: Nicholas-Ryan: Riggle's-KNOWLEDGE AND WIFE: Marcy-Roxanne: Riggle's-KNOWLEDGE IS WITH THIS DATE--22--MARCH--2026-CLAIM OF THE SACROSANCT-MATRIMONY-CONTRACT/CEREMONY WITH THE BILL OF THE LAD-ING: GLOBAL-POSTAL-[U]NION-JOURNAL-MAIL-CORPORATION-STAMP: 000-000-940 WITH THE PERFORMANCE-PUBLICATION BY THIS HUSBAND: Nicholas-Ryan: Riggle's-KNOWLEDGE AND WIFE: Marcy-Roxanne: Riggle's-KNOWLEDGE. 4/01/26, 04/08/26, 04/15/26

CGS26-115 TRUSTEE'S NOTICE OF SALE TS NO.: 185648 APN: 0513810

Reference is made to that certain deed made by Stacy Archer and Jack Archer, wife and husband as Grantor to First American Title, as Trustee, in favor of Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc. as designated nominee for Quicken Loans, LLC as Beneficiary, dated 06/09/2021, recorded 06/09/2021, in the official records of Lane County, Oregon as Instrument No. 2021-038299 in Book xx, Page xx covering the following described real property situated in said County and State, to wit: Beginning at a point at the Southerly Southeast corner of the W. G. Simpson Donation Land Claim No. 55, Section 25, Township 17 South, Range 6 West of the Willamette Meridian; and running thence South 81° 15' East 195.8 feet; thence North 195.8 feet; thence North

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PUBLIC NOTICES

81° 15' West 195.8 feet; thence South 195.8 feet to the place of beginning, in Lane County, Oregon. Commonly known as: 88859 Fountain Rd, Elmira, OR 97437 The current beneficiary is Rocket Mortgage, LLC f/k/a Quicken Loans, LLC pursuant to assignment of deed of trust recorded on 03/11/2025 as Inst No. 2025-006876 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 02/01/2025 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 fol-

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PUBLIC NOTICES

lowing, to wit: Principal balance in the amount of: \$255,007.69; 2. Interest through 12/31/2025 in the amount of: \$7,958.08 3. MIP/PMI Advances in the amount of: \$0.00 4. Recoverable balance in the amount of: \$1,979.50 5. Suspense balance in the amount of: -\$840.26 6. Total Fees in the amount of: \$122.00 7. Late Charges in the amount of: \$1,227.59 8. Total NSF Charge Fees in the amount of: \$125.00 9. Escrow Advances in the amount of: \$2,036.27 10. Together with the interest thereon at the rate 3.7500000% 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 \$255,007.69 together with the interest thereon at the rate 3.7500000% per annum from 01/01/2025 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 05/06/2026 at the hour of 1:00 PM, Standard of Time, as established by Section 187.110, Oregon Revised Stat-

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PUBLIC NOTICES

utes, at the front entrance of the 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

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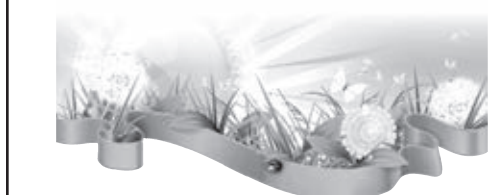
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Cottage Grove grabs first wins



Courtesy photo from the Cottage Grove HS Softball Facebook page
Cottage Grove's softball team poses in front of the scoreboard after their 14-3 win against Creswell on Apr. 3.

WILL LOHRE
Cottage Grove Sentinel

It was a good day for the Lions on the baseball diamond and the softball field on Apr. 3, as both programs earned their first and second wins of the season in Friday doubleheader action.

The baseball team did its work at home, beating Coquille 10-0 and 14-3 to taste victory for the first time in 2026. For the softball squad, a trip to Creswell proved fruitful, as they won their first game 11-8 and their second 14-3.

Let's take a look back at those results and dive into the performances that netted those first Ws.

Dominant Lions best the Red Devils

The Lions welcomed the Red Devils on Apr. 3, and Cottage Grove put together two complete games to earn those first two wins. It was a quick start for Cottage Grove, and they never looked back.

Lead-off Lions' hitter Andrew Horner got on base with a single and worked his way around the diamond, stealing second and third in the subsequent at-bat. He was sent home by a Nikai Bridgens single. After a walk and an error loaded the bases, Bridgens scored off a passed ball, and Sal Sisson drove in the other two runners with a hard groundball single. After just one inning, the Lions were up 4-0.

Elijah Cushman was pitching for Cottage Grove, and he brought his full array of pitches to bamboozle the Red Devils. He struck out six batters in the first two innings, giving up just one single,

with four of the swingers striking out looking.

In the bottom of the second, the Lions doubled their lead. Bridgens got back on base with another single, this one from a bunt. He finished the game with two hits and an RBI. With the bases loaded a few at-bats later, Evan Emmick fired a fly ball into left field for a double and two RBIs. Kellen Hurst got in on the action, batting in two more runs to extend the lead to 8-0.

After remaining scoreless in the third, Cottage Grove killed the game off in the fourth. After reaching base on a single, Emmick got all the way around the base-paths and scored on a passed ball. The final run was batted in by Hunter Rhodes, who sent Kellen Hurst home with a double, Cottage Grove's second double of the game.

The game was ended due to the double-digit scoring margin after the fifth inning, as Coquille couldn't muster an answer. Cottage Grove amassed 10 hits during the game, and it ended 10-0.

In the second leg of the back-to-back, the Lions came out sharp again. The Lions had four hits in the inning, sparked by Horner and Bridgens, who got lead-off hits for the second game in a row. The Lions batted in three runs, with Nolan Spears, Emmick, and Rhodes registering RBI.

Neither team scored in the second, and Coquille got its first two runs of the matchup in the third. But Cottage Grove answered dominantly with a seven-run, bottom of the third.

Nolan Spears got things started with a double and was shortly

batted home by Emmick. The Lions connected with five more pitches in the inning, and pretty soon they were out of sight with a 10-2 lead.

The Lions totaled 12 hits in the game and finished the game in the bottom of the sixth, with the score standing at 14-3. Emmick, Horner, and Bridgens each had two hits for the Lions, with Emmick leading the team with three RBI. Emmick also led the team with three steals, and Bridgens was close behind with two.

After scoring those two wins, Cottage Grove didn't have as much success against Glide on Apr. 7, falling 15-5. They will be back in action against Newport on Apr. 10.

Softball wins big

In a doubleheader matchup with Creswell away from home, the Lions had a showdown that had just about everything, from homers to errors.

The Lions got the scoring started in the first inning, with Jayda Bruner and Shae Richardson hitting back-to-back doubles and batting in two runs. Creswell answered right back with two runs of their own in the bottom of the first.

After Alexis Woody started the second with a single, Torri Noffsinger kept the double train rolling, sending home Woody with a line drive to center field, taking a 3-2 advantage. The Lions held the Bulldogs scoreless in the second, and then Richardson stepped up for her second at-bat.

She ended up smashing the ball and got a solo trip around the bases, a homerun, the only hit of the inning, putting the Lions up

4-2. Creswell kept the gap close in when their turn came, scoring a run to make it 4-3 after three.

The fourth and fifth innings for the Lions were without action, as only one of their seven batters in those innings reached base. Creswell was next to apply pressure, with a homerun in the bottom of the fifth to tie the game at 4-4. A costly error with two outs allowed Creswell to take the lead, and the Bulldogs held a 6-4 lead heading into the sixth.

June Thornton stepped up to get a big double for the Lions at the top of the sixth, meaning that Cottage Grove had runners on second and third. This time, the Lions were the beneficiaries of an error, scoring two runs off an error from the Bulldogs. Cottage Grove would score three more runs off an error later in the inning, and would add a cherry on top with a single from Woody to drive in a sixth run in the sixth.

Though Creswell would score two runs in the bottom of the sixth to make it 10-8, the final player to cross home plate was a Lion, with Thornton scoring a run to bring the score to its final tally of 11-8. Tori Noffsinger pitched the entire game for Cottage Grove, finishing with six strikeouts, 10 walks, and four earned runs against.

If the first game left any doubt, the second game did not. The Lions showed their claws early and never let the Bulldogs get close.

The Lions loaded up the bases early, with one single from Macey Basting and two walks. Val Aura and Makya Alsop each singled to send a runner home, bringing the score to 2-0, then three more runs followed with one batter being hit

by a pitch, and two more being walked. The backbreaker came when Woody hit a single that drove in three runs, bringing the score to 8-0.

Woody would end the game with two hits, two bases on balls, and four RBI. Aura also had a fantastic game, with three hits and three RBI, including a double. Rounding out the hitting leaders for the Lions was Makya Alsop, who had three hits, including two doubles, batting in two runs.

Creswell did get on the board with two runs in the third inning, but Cottage Grove stayed well in control, adding one run in the fourth and another in the fifth. With the score at 10-3 heading into the top of the sixth, the finishing touches were applied by Aura, Alsop, and Noffsinger. Aura batted in two runs with a single, Alsop got an RBI double, and Noffsinger

got an RBI single, making it three hits in a row to go up 14-3.

Noffsinger pitched the full six innings, bringing her pitch count to 233 in the two games; 116 of those were strikes. In the second game, Noffsinger added four more strikeouts while giving up three earned runs.

In the next game on Apr. 7, the Lions lost to Harrisburg 13-10, bringing their record to 2-8 so far this season. They'll look to add to their win total against Hidden Valley on Apr. 14.

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