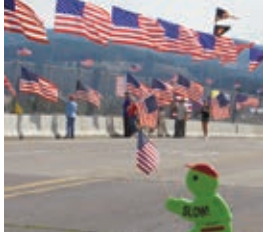


Labor Day Tradition
See page 3



Youth Sports Betting Concerns
See page 8



72
53

Cottage Grove

Wednesday, September 10, 2025
Partly Cloudy

New clinic expands rural access, workforce training

CINDY WEELDREYER
Cottage Grove Sentinel

A local center has taken what organizers said is a major step forward in health care equity. Supporters and dignitaries gathered Aug. 28 to formally dedicate the South Lane Community Health Center—a long-awaited clinic designed to serve rural residents with accessible, integrated care. Speakers at the event showcased both civic leadership and community care, reflecting on 17 years of collaboration, advocacy, and shared vision. Lane County Commissioner Heather Buch honored Lane County and Cottage Grove’s tradition of community-driven solutions. Eve Gray, Director of Lane County Health and Human Services, described the clinic as a “first place” for care and noted it has already served more than 3,000 patients since opening last October. It also maintains the lowest no-show rate among Lane County’s health centers. The South Lane Clinic is one of nine federally qualified health centers operated under the Community Health Centers of Lane County



Russ Pierson, Dean of the Cottage Grove Center, presents Tara DaVee with college swag at the conclusion of her tour of the LCC side of the remodeled building.

umbrella. Located inside Lane Community College’s (LCC) Cottage Grove Center, it is the County’s first rural clinic—designed to better serve South Lane County residents.

LCC President Stephanie Bulger and Cottage Grove Center Dean Russ Pierson praised the strategic partnership and framed the clinic as a transformative training site for future health professionals. Caitlyn McCabe, healthcare aide for U.S. Rep. Val Hoyle, acknowledged essential federal support and emphasized the clinic’s alignment with broader health equity goals. Jim Gilroy, co-founder of the Be Your Best Coalition, spoke about the group’s decade-long journey and the clinic as a milestone in collective impact. Rich Swanson, vice president of the Lane Community Health Council, honored colleagues lost during the clinic’s development with a memorial bench and reflected on the legacy of care it represents. LOCATION AND HISTORY LCC’s Cottage Grove Center, located at 1275 South River Road, opened in 2002 to serve South Lane and North Douglas County residents with credit classes, GED prep, and community education. It also strengthened ties with Cottage Grove High School (CGHS)

See CLINIC, Page 6



Metro Creative graphic

Timber sales bring in \$14.3M, secures local mill jobs

STAFF REPORT
Cottage Grove Sentinel

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) sold 55.1 million board feet of timber across 2,281 public acres for \$14,343,372 between nine timber sales in western Oregon during August. The sales will feed local mills and support about 770 jobs in western Oregon communities, according to a release from the BLM. “The production of timber, lumber and other wood products from public lands is critical to our Nation’s well-being, including local job creation,” BLM OR/WA State Director Barry Bushue. “Timber production also supports forest management and wildfire risk reduction projects can save American lives and communities.”

The Coos Bay District sold 3.2 million board feet of timber across 118 public acres in the Soup Bones CT timber sale to Morrell Logging, LLC, of Pleasant Hill for \$229,195. The Lakeview District sold 1.9 million board feet across 490 acres in the Bryant timber sale to Upland Forest Services, LLC, of Klamath Falls for \$13,162. The Northwest Oregon District in Salem sold 7.7 million board feet across 183 acres in the For Granite timber sale to Freres Lumber Co., Inc., of Lyons for \$2,074,718; 7.3 million board feet across 167 public acres in the Riley Coyote timber sale to Hampton Tree Farms, LLC, of Salem for \$2,321,169; and 6.7 million board feet across 160 public acres in the Deer Slide timber sale to Stella-Jones Corporation of Eugene for \$3,078,509. The Northwest Oregon District in Springfield sold 8.7 million board feet across 368 acres in the Dueling Elk timber sale to Freres Lumber Co., Inc., of Lyons for \$1,312,313; and 5.5 million board feet across 193 public acres in the Shotgun Formation timber sale for \$1,510,245 and 6.3 million board feet across 219 public acres in the Creat-Panther timber sale for \$1,710,739 to

See TIMBER Page 4

FROM WELDING TO WORSHIP

Cottage Grove pastor leads new church

CINDY WEELDREYER
Cottage Grove Sentinel

During one of the recent blazing hot days with temperatures in the upper 90s. Members of the new Coast Fork Church decided to offer a cooling center for families in the community to enjoy. The members rented a large water slide, served hamburgers and hot dogs and offered a cool welcoming place to escape the heat on Saturday Aug. 23. Pastor Bill King grew up in Lebanon, Ore. and attended the Assembly of God Church there with his family. After graduating from high school in 1970, he joined the U.S. Air Force and was stationed at Mountain Home Air Force Base in Southwestern Idaho. At the Assembly of God Church there he met his future wife, Vickie, the daughter of a master sergeant. “It’s a funny story how I met my wife,” King recalled. “Her family owned a pool table and often had people over. One night a friend invited me to go check it out. I met her there and the rest they say is history. We got married in 1972 and remained active in the Assembly of God church until I was transferred to Goose Bay Labrador, Canada, where our oldest son was born. It was pretty cold up there.” Their family expanded with another son, who now lives in Texas, and a daughter who lives in Cottage Grove.

“We’re a bit spread out, but we stay close,” he said. “All of our kids have supported us in this faith journey.” Following his military service, King attended an Assembly of God Bible College in Springfield, Mo. He turned down an offer to serve as an associate pastor in Missouri, choosing instead to return to Oregon to be closer to his family. When work in his home state proved scarce, he moved to Tacoma, Wash., to work in the shipyards using the welding skills he learned in the Air Force. The Kings eventually moved back to Oregon and opened a welding shop in Creswell in 2001. During the years he owned his shop, he occasionally filled in on Sunday mornings when needed at the request of local pastors. Four years ago, he retired, sold his shop, and began leading a Thursday Bible study in the Riverstone Mobile Home Park’s community room. About 18 months ago, he and Vickie began a study in their home on Monday nights. King said members of the two Bible study groups expressed interest in merging together and the search was on to find a home for the new congregation. They liked the visibility of the former Knecht’s Auto Parts building on Highway 99 but it was financially out of reach. So the group kept praying. An unexpected phone call led them to 913 South Sixth Street—a building with deep spiritual roots.



Cindy Weeldreyer / Cottage Grove Sentinel

(Top) Pastor Bill King and his wife, Vickie. (Bottom) Ryan Stroud, 12, splashes down on the water slide the new Coast Fork Church provided as part of a community cooling center on Aug. 23 when afternoon temperatures soared to 97 degrees.

Originally a Free Methodist Church, and most recently Victory Country Church, the building sat empty since the death of Pastor Barbara Dockery. King had occasionally filled in for Dockery and was familiar with the space. After months of prayer and negotiation with the California attorney managing the lease, Coast Fork Church members held their first service there on June 1.



There are two Sunday services at 10:30 a.m. and 6 p.m. The worship service blends traditional hymns with contemporary worship and a time for sharing and prayer. King’s preaching centers on forgiveness, love, and the family of God. He said

See CHURCH Page 6

INSIDE

- News — 1-3

Obituaries — 4

Death Notice — 4
- Opinion — 5

Classifieds — 7

News — 8



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6 18134 42405 2

New scam impersonating Oregon attorneys

The Oregon Department of Justice’s Consumer Hotline is warning Oregonians about a new scam involving scammers impersonating Oregon lawyers to target victims.

In the two cases reported, victims lost hundreds of thousands of dollars to scammers pretending to be attorneys, according to a release from the Oregon Department of Justice.

In the first case, a fraudulent website impersonating

an Oregon attorney successfully scammed victims out of hundreds of thousands of dollars. One victim obtained the “attorney’s” information through a person she met on the dating app Hinge – and believing the individual to be a real attorney offering investment services, she transferred funds with the expectation of receiving returns.

In a separate incident, a consumer lost over \$700,000



Courtesy photo

In the two cases reported, victims lost hundreds of thousands of dollars.

when scammers gained unauthorized access to both the attorney’s and the client’s email accounts. Scammers were aware that the client was expecting a substantial settlement, so they impersonated the client to provide false wiring instructions, and they impersonated the attorney to cancel a scheduled meeting.

Although the deception was discovered shortly after the transfer and a hold was reportedly placed on the funds, it remains unclear how much, if any, of the money has been or will be recovered, according to the release. This matter is under investigation by the FBI and the involved financial institutions.

“Scams are becoming increasingly sophisticated, predatory, and cruel,” Oregon Attorney General Dan Rayfield said. “This is a reminder to practice extreme caution when it comes to money, even if something

– or someone – seems legitimate.”

In a PSA earlier this month, the FBI warned of scammers impersonating lawyers and reaching out to victims of past scams, falsely offering to help them recover previously stolen funds.

If you have been impacted by this scam:

- File a report with the FBI Internet Crime Complaint Center as quickly as possible
- File a police report with your local police department
- If money was delivered via wire, contact your bank and file a “Suspicious Activity Report”
- File a report with the FDIC regarding wire fraud
- File a report with the U.S. Office of the Comptroller of the Currency (OCC) as they investigate banks for unsafe or unsound practices, compliance violations, or breaches of fiduciary duty
- File a report with the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (CFPB)

If you are an attorney who has been impersonated:

- Report the incident to the Oregon State Bar
 - File a police report with your local police office and provide the imposter website
 - File a report with the FBI Internet Crime Complaint Center and provide the imposter website
- Additional precautions for attorneys:
- In transactions involving wiring funds, obtain and confirm wiring instructions in-person, whenever possible.
 - If wiring instructions are received via email or another indirect method, verify them using a known and trusted phone number before initiating any transfers.

Scams are becoming increasingly sophisticated — and staying informed is one of the best ways to protect yourself, according to Rayfield.



Police issued phone fraud warning

The Cottage Grove Police Department (CGPD) has issued a warning about phone scammers impersonating the CGPD Chief and other department personnel. “We want to remind you that no one from the Police Department will ask you for gift cards, or for you to take out money to pay fines and/or court fees,” a CGPD Facebook post states. “If you receive a scam call, report it to the FBI IC3 Form.”

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

MONDAY, AUGUST 25

- 02:24: Suspicious subject, 700 block E. Main St.
- 02:54: Suspicious condition, 900 block Row River Rd.
- 03:13: Suspicious vehicle, 3200 block Row River Rd.
- 03:34: Suspicious condition, 200 block N. 10th St.
- 04:13: Agency assist, Row River Rd/Snauer
- 05:37: Drug activity, 400 block North J St.
- 06:34: Suicide, 700 block S. 13th St.
- 07:53: Motor vehicle crash, I-5 SB 177
- 08:26: Drug activity, 1600 block Curry Ave.
- 08:32: Criminal mischief, 1500 block S. 4th St.
- 09:42: Dog at large, 700 block South R St.

- 09:49: Harassment, 200 block South N St.
- 09:56: Business check, 1200 block Hwy 99
- 10:07: Fire, 80000 block Delight Valley School Rd.
- 10:11: Disturbance, 3300 block Row River Rd.
- 10:33: Found dog, Thornton/Main
- 10:36: Fire, 32000 block Taylor Butte Rd.
- 10:44: Fire, 76000 block London Rd.
- 11:55: Fraud, 1100 block S. 10th St.
- 11:57: Warrant service, 400 block E. Main St.
- 12:03: Warrant service, 400 block E. Main St.
- 12:38: Warrant service, 100 block N. 14th St.
- 13:25: Found property, 100 block N. 14th St.
- 14:34: Barking dog, 700 block S. 2nd St.
- 15:04: Fire, 79000 block Sears Rd.
- 15:15: Disorderly subject, 1300 block E. Main St.
- 15:46: Warrant service, 400 block N. 10th St.
- 18:01: Drug activity, 1600 block Curry Ave.
- 19:59: Animal info, 100 block Village Dr.
- 21:21: Warrant service, 400 block E. Main St.
- 22:51: Warrant service, 200 block N. 12th St.

TUESDAY, AUGUST 26

- 03:50: Suspicious vehicle, 1500 block E. Main St.
- 04:16: Suspicious condition, 10th/Washington

- 04:19: Suspicious vehicle, 1500 block E. Main St.
- 04:29: Warrant service, 1300 block E. Main St.
- 08:01: Abandoned vehicle, 800 block S. 10th St.
- 08:03: Disturbance, 200 block N. 12th St.
- 08:37: Illegal camping, 1000 block Ostrander Ln.
- 08:49: Disturbance, 1300 block E. Main St.
- 08:52: Found property, River Rd/Madison
- 09:32: Warrant service, 6th/Cleveland
- 10:05: Suspicious condition, 1500 block E. Main St.
- 12:04: Criminal mischief, 100 block S. 10th St.
- 12:26: Welfare check, 100 block Davis Pl.
- 12:44: Theft, 1000 block Tyler Ave.
- 12:45: Business check, 1200 block E. Main St.
- 14:07: Trespass, 100 block Gateway Blvd.
- 15:25: Harassment, 1000 block S. 8th St.
- 16:28: Disorderly subject, 1300 block E. Main St.
- 17:34: Alarm, 100 block Gateway Blvd.
- 17:38: Disorderly subject, 1500 block E. Main St.
- 17:43: Suicidal subject, 1100 block S. 2nd St.
- 17:54: Death investigation, 2000 block S. 8th St.
- 17:58: Disturbance, 77000 block Dugan Ln.
- 22:15: Trespass, 100 block South M St.

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 27

- 07:07: Warrant service, 100 block Gateway Blvd.
- 09:38: Welfare check, Landess/Gateway
- 09:47: Criminal mischief, 1700 block Clark Ave.
- 10:21: Alarm, 700 block Row River Rd.
- 12:15: Alarm, 2700 block Mosby Creek Rd.
- 13:35: Fraud, 1500 block Gateway Blvd.
- 13:48: Trespass, 200 block Gateway Blvd.
- 15:47: Warrant service, 1100 block Hwy 99
- 16:20: Fraud, 300 block N. 8th St.
- 17:58: Warrant service, 400 block E. Main St.
- 19:17: Welfare check, 2200 block Cemetery Rd.
- 21:29: Disturbance, 600 block E. Main St.
- 22:02: Motor vehicle theft, 1300 block E. Jefferson Ave.

THURSDAY, AUGUST 28

- 07:45: Disorderly subject, 100 block Gateway Blvd.
- 07:52: Unlawful entry into a motor vehicle, 2100 block Ash Ave.
- 11:45: Abandoned vehicle, Jefferson/1st.
- 12:07: Suicidal subject, 100 block Gateway Blvd.
- 13:50: Abandoned vehicle, 100 block N. 6th St.
- 14:12: Theft, 2100 block Carver St.
- 15:52: Harassment, 700 block Row River Rd.
- 16:17: Illegal camping, 300 block S. River Rd.

- 17:13: Disturbance, 1400 block E. Madison Ave.
- 17:48: Wanted subject, 900 block N. Douglas St.
- 18:18: Illegal dumping, 100 block Davis Pl.
- 18:26: Harassment, 1100 block E. Harrison Ave.
- 18:53: Motor vehicle crash, Taylor/Gateway
- 21:12: Disturbance, 76000 block Mosby Creek Rd.
- 23:03: Disturbance, 1300 block E. Main St.

FRIDAY, AUGUST 29

- 01:39: Suicide, 1100 block W. Main St.
- 02:53: Motor vehicle crash, Columbia Ct/Villard Ave.
- 10:12: Warrant service, 400 block E. Main St.
- 10:29: Suspicious condition, 1400 block Parks Rd.
- 12:18: Found dog, 900 block Row River Rd.
- 14:24: Motor vehicle crash, Woodson/9th
- 15:44: Animal info, 1400 block S. 7th St.
- 16:51: Missing person, 1300 block S. River Rd.
- 17:52: Welfare check, 400 block E. Main St.
- 18:55: Suspicious condition, 800 block Gateway Blvd.
- 19:14: Juvenile problem, 100 block 17th St.
- 19:20: Business check, 1200 block Gateway Blvd.

SATURDAY, AUGUST 30

- 02:12: Barking dog, 100 block Gateway Blvd.
- 03:24: Business check, 900 block E. Main St.
- 08:09: Dog at large, Kathleen/Patrick Ct.
- 08:45: Welfare check, 200 block Bluebird St.
- 09:36: Found property, 400 block E. Main St.
- 12:07: Assault, 900 block S. 6th St.
- 15:24: Welfare check, 1700 block Hwy 99
- 17:37: Disturbance, 600 block Benjamin Ave.
- 18:19: Business check, 900 block E. Main St.
- 18:30: Fire, 300 block E. Monroe Ave.

- 18:41: Stolen vehicle recovery, 400 block E. Main St.
- 18:49: Motor vehicle crash, South R/Sweet Ln.
- 19:13: Disturbance, 700 block Hwy 99
- 20:30: Disturbance, 600 block Johnson Ave.
- 20:35: Alarm, 1400 block Gateway Blvd.
- 22:23: Reckless driving, 400 block N. 14th St.
- 22:25: Welfare check, 400 block E. Main St.

SUNDAY, AUGUST 31

- 01:00: Suspicious vehicle, 1300 block E. Main St.
- 01:08: Trespass, 1300 block E. Main St.
- 01:31: Suspicious vehicle, 1700 block E. Main St.
- 01:57: Suspicious vehicle, 700 block N. River Rd.
- 02:10: Suspicious vehicle, 1300 block S. River Rd.
- 02:36: Suspicious vehicle, 200 block Gateway Blvd.
- 03:50: Suspicious vehicle, 800 block E. Whiteaker Ave.
- 03:55: Business check, 900 block E. Main St.
- 12:54: Suspicious condition, 200 block Buttercup Ln.
- 13:44: Repo, 33000 block Row River Rd.
- 14:02: Warrant service, 100 block South S St.
- 17:05: Welfare check, 100 block N. 6th St.
- 18:39: Business check, 90 block E. Main St.
- 18:51: Suspicious condition, 600 block E. Jefferson Ave.
- 19:22: Trespass, 2400 block S. 6th St.
- 19:51: Found dog, E. Harrison Ave/S. River Rd.
- 20:16: Welfare check, 1200 block Gateway Blvd.
- 22:12: Barking dog, 300 block N. 8th St.
- 22:55: Warrant service, 900 block E. Main St.

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LABOR DAY TRADITION

Flags about the highway

American pride and support for veterans could be seen in the form of red, white, and blue, on the Saginaw overpass at Interstate 5 just north of Cottage Grove Saturday, Aug. 30.

Dozens of large American flags were erected along the overpass and organizers stood on the bridge waving to passing drivers.

The event coincides with observances across the state and throughout the nation during the Labor Day weekend holiday.

Organizers of the event on the Saginaw overpass, South Lane Freedom Keepers, said the event marks their support for the United States Armed Forces, veterans, and to remember those military men and women lost in conflicts.

A similar flag raising event was conducted Monday, Sept. 1 on the Saginaw overpass by citizens supporting democracy and unions.



Jeremy C. Ruark / Cottage Grove Sentinel

The flags attached to the Saginaw overpass fly proud and true. See more photos with this story at cgsentinel.com.

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

COTTAGE GROVE HISTORIC DISTRICT

Businesses are open during the Main Street Revitalization construction. Keep shopping in Historic Downtown Cottage Grove and get stamps. Turn the stamps in at the Cottage Grove Chamber of Commerce at 836 E Main Street for a chance to win \$500 in local gift cards each week until construction is finished. Details at <https://www.cgchamber.com/shoplocal/> or call 541-942-2411.

SEPTEMBER 10

Oregon Aviation Museum. Open from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. 2475 Jim Wright Way in Cottage Grove.



Cindy Weeldreyer / Cottage Grove Sentinel

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OBITUARIES & NEWS

Delferd B Kelley

March 30, 1936 - August 23, 2025

Delferd B. “Kelley,” 89 of Cottage Grove, Oregon passed away August 23, 2025. He was born on March 30, 1936 in Rhame, North Dakota to parents Lyal and Fern (Wick) Kelley. He married Ellen C. Beers on December 2, 1955 in Cottage Grove, Oregon. They celebrated 67 years together. Kelley enjoyed traveling throughout the United States, and spending time at the Oregon Coast with his wife, the love of his life. His greatest joy was being surrounded by his family, especially



his grandchildren. Kelley is survived by his son Michael (Katrina) Kelley of Cottage Grove, OR; daughter Jill Lindsay of Eugene, OR; son Daniel Kelley of Cottage Grove, OR; 7 grandchildren and 17 great-grandchildren, and 1 great-great grandchild. Kelley is preceded in death by his wife Ellen on February 26, 2023. There will be no services at this time. Arrangements are in the care of Smith-Lund-Mills Funeral Chapel and Crematorium.



Mia Maldonado / Oregon Capital Chronicle

A researcher holds a hatchery juvenile spring Chinook salmon in Oregon.

FBI seeks information from potential victims in health care fraud

The FBI is seeking information from potential victims as part of a health care fraud investigation against Bene Market Group or any of the companies it operates, one of which the Oregon Division of Financial Regulation (DFR) issued a cease-and-desist order against in 2024.

The division revoked the licenses of Seguro Medico LLC (doing business as Quick Health) and Arthur Walsh, who was Seguro’s partial owner, for violations of the Oregon Insurance Code. The order also permanently barred Walsh, Seguro Medico, and any related entities from getting an insurance license in Oregon.

DFR’s investigation found that Seguro enrolled consumers in insurance plans without their knowledge, sent inappropriate and inaccurate text communications, used false statements in sales scripts, used Walsh’s



Courtesy photo

The FBI asks that anyone victimized by the Bene Market Group or any of the companies it operated (Seguro Medico, Nation Insurance Brokers of America [NBOA], Benefits Now LLC, Bene Market LLC, Quickhealth, Q Health, and Express Benefits) or who has information relevant to the investigation to complete a short form at <https://forms.fbi.gov/victims/phhcfvictims>.

credentials to submit applications for other agents, and forged a former employee’s signature to submit applications. Seguro and Walsh also failed to report to DFR on orders against them in other

states, did not reply truthfully to division inquiries, and did not update their address with DFR.

In May, the United States Attorney’s Office in the Eastern District of Pennsylvania charged Walsh and three others, as well as corporate defendants Seguro Medico LLC and Bene Market LLC with conspiracy and wire fraud offenses in connection with their execution of a nationwide telemarketing fraud scheme.

The FBI asks that anyone victimized by the Bene Market Group or any of the companies it operated (Seguro Medico, Nation Insurance Brokers of America [NBOA], Benefits Now LLC, Bene Market LLC, Quickhealth, Q Health, and Express Benefits) or who has information relevant to the investigation to complete a short form at <https://forms.fbi.gov/victims/phhcfvictims>.

To help with the investigation, the FBI also asks consumers to email a copy of any documents they received from the Bene Market Group, as well as any prior complaints they made, to phhcfvictims@fbi.gov and include their first and last name in the subject line.

The DFR order against Seguro Medico LLC and Walsh is available on the DFR website.

ODFW’s list of species at risk surpasses 300

MIA MALDONADO
Oregon Capital Chronicle

More than 320 species of plants and animals living in Oregon are in need of greater protection, according to the state’s Department of Fish and Wildlife, up from 294 about a decade ago, the last time the agency updated its State Wildlife Action Plan.

The 2026 plan, adopted by the state’s Fish and Wildlife Commission on Aug. 15, outlines what the state’s conservation priorities should be to maintain healthy fish and wildlife populations. The last time it was updated was in 2016. Since then, 27 species were added, including porcupines, Western grebe, California condors and sea otters.

States must update their wildlife action plans every 10 years to qualify for federal and tribal wildlife grants. Oregon’s fish and wildlife agency has until October to submit their updated plan to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service for approval.

Despite being billed as an action plan, the state fish and wildlife department does not get consistent, dedicating funding to undertake conservation and species protection

work. Lawmakers earlier this year introduced a bill that would have increased the state’s transient lodging tax from 1.5% to 2.5% to ensure regular and robust funding for wildlife conservation programs meant to address the needs of species on the state’s list. The bill passed the Oregon House, but it died upon adjournment before it could reach the Senate.

“Oregon is home to some of the most iconic wildlife in the country, from puffins to pika, salmon to sand hill cranes,” Oregon Wild Wildlife Program Manager Danielle Moser said in a statement, “but our wildlife is facing a very real extinction crisis. Without dedicated funding, Oregon’s conservation plan is just words on paper.”

Oregon is 5th among states with the highest number of at-risk animals in the U.S., according to a 2023 report by Virginia-based nonprofit conservation group NatureServe. More than half of Oregon’s amphibian species, 10% of the state’s bird species and 20% of all reptile species are already in decline.

Meanwhile, federal support for conservation is facing cuts. Trump administration

officials have proposed cutting U.S. Fish and Wildlife’s 2026 budget by \$170 million and proposed rolling back species protections enshrined under the Endangered Species Act.

“The Trump administration’s attacks on wildlife conservation make clear: the federal government is abandoning its responsibility, and states like Oregon will need to step up,” Moser said.

<https://oregoncapitalchronicle.com/briefs/oregon-department-of-fish-and-wildlifes-list-of-species-at-risk-surpasses-300/>

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

To learn more about the State Wildlife Action Plan, visit the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife website.

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TIMBER

From Page 1

Sierra Pacific Industries of Eugene.

The Roseburg District sold 7.8 million board feet across 383 acres in the Noble Steed timber sale to Sierra Pacific Industries of Eugene for \$2,093,322.

In western Oregon, the BLM manages 2.4

million acres of some of the most productive forests in the world, and is committed to supplying a reliable, secure, and resilient domestic supply of timber. BLM forestry supports economic security, reduces risks from wildfire, conserves fish and wildlife habitat, and decreases costs of energy production. Local communities rely on jobs that come from BLM forests, and timber from public land feeds local industry.

Each year, sales managed by the BLM’s forestry program in Oregon and Washington support

approximately 2,000 local jobs and generate more than \$1 billion for local economies. Revenue from timber sold on O&C lands is shared between the U.S. Treasury and 18 western Oregon counties.

This funding provides local communities with the means to construct new county buildings; develop fairgrounds and museums; support libraries, schools, and jails; and build flood-control dams and reservoirs, according to the BLM release.

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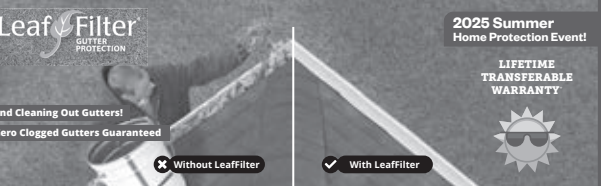
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DROUGHT RELIEF



Courtesy photo

The loan amount can be up to \$2 million.

Small businesses, private nonprofits offered financial relief from drought

The U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) has announced the availability of low interest federal disaster loans to small businesses and private nonprofit (PNP) organizations in Oregon to offset economic losses caused by drought beginning June 17.

The declaration covers the Oregon counties of Benton, Clackamas, Clatsop, Columbia, Lane, Lincoln, Linn, Marion, Multnomah, Polk, Tillamook, Washington and Yamhill, as well as the Washington counties of Clark, Cowlitz, Pacific and Wahkiakum.

Under this declaration, SBA’s Economic Injury Disaster Loan (EIDL) program is available to small businesses, small agricultural cooperatives, nurseries, and PNPs including faith-based organizations with financial losses directly related to the disaster. The SBA is unable to provide disaster loans to agricultural producers, farmers, or ranchers, except for small aquaculture enterprises.

EIDLs are available for working capital needs caused by the disaster and are available even if the business or PNP did not suffer any physical damage. The loans may be used to pay fixed debts, payroll, accounts payable and other bills not paid due to the disaster.

“Through a declaration by the U.S. Secretary of Agriculture, SBA provides critical financial assistance to help communities recover,” SBA Office of Disaster Recovery and Resilience Associate Administrator Chris Stallings said. “We’re pleased to offer loans to small businesses and private nonprofits impacted by these disasters.”

The loan amount can be up to \$2 million with interest rates as low as 4% for small businesses and 3.625% for PNPs with terms up to 30 years. Interest does not accrue, and payments are not due until 12 months after the date of the first loan disbursement. The SBA sets loan amounts and terms based on each applicant’s financial condition.

To apply online, visit sba.gov/disaster. Applicants may also call SBA’s Customer Service Center at (800) 659-2955 or email disastercustomerservice@sba.gov for more information on SBA disaster assistance. For people who are deaf, hard of hearing, or have a speech disability, please dial 7-1-1 to access telecommunications relay services.

Submit completed loan applications to SBA no later than April 13, 2026.

EDITORIAL CARTOON



COMMENTARY

Oregon’s different way on liquor store privatization

RANDY STAPILUS
Oregon Capital Chronicle

Along a remote and deep-sunk crook of the Deschutes River, in the small town of Maupin, you can find a state liquor store. But to find it you’ll need to make sure your vision encompasses legal theory.

The Maupin Market does indeed sell liquor, along with related products, a few steps away from groceries and other goods. Walking from the general goods side of the store to the liquor store side is just a matter of walking through a large doorway; you have to read the posted sign to tell when you’ve crossed over. It is a legal liquor store, legally separate, but it has the feel of being part of a normal retail operation.

Why Maupin’s example isn’t more the rule than the exception in Oregon could be a political question this year, as it last was in 2022.

Most Oregon liquor stores are stand-alone operations, separate from other retail operations and under strict state control.

The Oregon Liquor and Cannabis Commission describes the difference between larger and smaller operations: “There are two types of liquor stores to serve the public: exclusive and non-exclusive. Exclusive stores are generally located in metropolitan areas and are high volume businesses whose primary function is selling liquor. Exclusive stores may also sell authorized related items such as glassware, mixers and items used in preparing a drink. Non-exclusive stores are operated in conjunction with another business such as hardware, drug or grocery stores. Non-exclusive stores usually serve smaller communities and unique settings.”

It also says, “The State owns the distilled spirits in each store. The OLCC appoints liquor store operators who are responsible for the stores’ daily operations. The liquor store operator and personnel are part of a small business operation and are not state employees. Which seems like a strange mix of public agency and private business.

The Oregon approach is not unique. About a third of the country, most often in southern states, does something similar.

But most western states, including California, Washington and Nevada allow liquor sales in private retailers like grocery stores. Washington state made the change, after a successful initiative campaign, in 2011. Oregon’s system is more like those in Idaho and Montana. Many Oregonians, especially on the west side, might puzzle over that.

The possibility of changing this approach to broader retail sales has come up this year because two Portlanders, David John Allison and Kyle LoCascio, have filed an initiative proposal intended for the November 2026 ballot. It has gotten as far as an approved ballot title, issued by the attorney general’s office on August 8. The measure would allow liquor sales in stores which could obtain a license to do so. It is initiative proposal 43.

It probably won’t make the ballot, at least based on campaign activity so far, of which there hasn’t been much. Little or no spending on the measure has been reported by its backers, who appear to have no organized campaign or even a website. Strong organization would be needed, as it would be for any ballot measure, to gather the 117,173 petition signatures needed for a spot on the ballot.

The language on the petition is not even original: It comes from a 2022 initiative effort by the Northwest Grocery Association, whose members would like to be able to sell liquor. A spokesman said at the time “Oregonians firmly believe that we should be able to buy liquor along with beer and wine at their local grocery stores as our neighbors in Washington and California are able to do.”

The association said legal battles and delays were among the reasons the petition didn’t reach the ballot in 2022. But it didn’t try again in 2024, and its spokesmen have said it has nothing at all to do – not even giving permission to use the same initiative language as in 2022 – with the Allison and LoCascio effort this year.

Four years ago, whatever the background, the group was unable to collect the needed petition signatures, and efforts before that also fell short.

So why has active support for the idea been so much less in Oregon than in its neighboring states – excepting the one least like it politically, Idaho?

The existing stores and their operators do make up a political constituency of their own, and they may have been making their own case over time. Possibly, not so many Oregonians are displeased with the current system and simply aren’t excited about changing it.

Or maybe Oregon really isn’t so different from California or Washington. Maybe a properly organized and well-scheduled effort could succeed if it is tried again.

But that will take work, effort and money. As matters sit, that may not be until 2028. At the earliest.

<https://oregoncapitalchronicle.com/2025/08/28/oregons-different-way-on-liquor-store-privatization/>

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Americanisms



Weekly Online Poll

How often do you and your family share dinner at home together?

☐ Every evening

☐ Frequently, when everyone is home

☐ Not often

Previous Poll Results

Are you ready for the change of seasons, from summer to fall?

☐ Yes 100%

☐ No 0%

THE COTTAGE GROVE

Sentinel

THE FIRST AMENDMENT

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CALENDAR

From Page 3

Senior Center Pinochle Games. Begins at 1 p.m. Senior Center, 700 E. Gibbs Ave. in Cottage Grove.

CG Speedway. Qualifying starts at 5 p.m. Racing begins at 6:30 p.m. Mayhem Season Finale. Classes: IMCA Modifieds, IMCA SportMods, Street Stocks, IMCA Sport Compact, Junior. The speedway is located at 2150 N. Douglas Ave. in Cottage Grove.

SEPTEMBER 11

Chamber of Commerce Breakfast Club. From 8-9:30 a.m. Coast Fork Brewing, 106 S. 6th St. in Cottage Grove. Business networking

opportunity open to members and non-members.

Baby Lap Time. Starts at 11:30 a.m. at the Cottage Grove Public Library. Event for birth to 2 yrs. Great socializing opportunity for parents and babies.

Cottage Grove Lions Club. Meets at noon at the El Tapatio Restaurant, 725 E. Gibbs Ave. in Cottage Grobe. Optional: \$12 for lunch.

Bohemia Gold Mining Museum. Open from 1-4 p.m. 308 S. 10th St. in Cottage Grove.

Oregon Aviation Museum. Open from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. 2475 Jim Wright Way in Cottage Grove.

Teen Gaming Thursday.> Starts at 4 p.m. at the Cottage Grove Public Library, 700 E. Gibbs Ave. Youth 11-18 are

welcome to socialize and play games.

Table Tennis. From 4-6 p.m. Cottage Grove Community Center Reception Hall, 700 E. Gibbs Ave. Tables, paddles, and balls provided.

Coast Fork Public Market “High Vibe Gathering” and Bread Club. From 5-7 p.m. 926 E. Main St. in Cottage Grove. Opportunity for like-minded people to connect and create in a positive atmosphere.

SEPTEMBER 12

Oregon Aviation Museum. Open 10 a.m.-4 p.m., 2475 Jim Wright Way in Cottage Grove.

Storytime at the library. Begins at 11:30 a.m. Cottage Grove Public Library, 700 E. Gibbs Ave. All ages welcome.

Bohemia Gold Mining Museum. Open from 1-4 p.m. 308 S. 10th St. in Cottage grove.

American Legion Post 32 Bingo. From 5-7 p.m. 826 W. Main St. Cottage Grove.

Elks Lodge Friday Night Community Dinner. From 5-6:30 p.m., 775 N. River Rd. in Cottage Grove. Menu: Ham Dinner Cost: \$10.

Bohemian Tavern Weekly Pool Tournament. Starts at 7 p.m. 48 N. 9th St. in Cottage Grove. Entry Fee: \$5 and BCA Rules.

SEPTEMBER 13

Second Annual Willamette Card Trade Show. Open from 8 a.m.-5. p.m. Elks Lodge, 755 N. River Rd. Cottage Grove. Free event featuring card vendors of all types.

Gold Panning World Record Breaking Event. Begins at 10 a.m. in the Historic Downtown District of Cottage Grove. Attempt to break the existing record of 300 people simultaneously gold panning.

South Valley Farmers Market. Open from 10 a.m.-2 p.m., Historic Downtown District at 7th and Main St. in Cottage Grove. Buy goods directly from local farmers, food producers and artisans.

Bohemia Gold Mining Museum. Open from 1-4 p.m. 308 S. 10th St. in Cottage Grove.

CG Speedway. Championship Night #2 and Boat Races. Qualifying at 5p.m. Racing at 6:30 p.m. Racing Classes: 360 Sprints, IMCA Modifieds, IMCA

SportMods, IMCA Sport Compact. 2150 N. The raceway is located at Douglas Ave. in Cottage Grove. Call 541-942-7561 for more details.

SEPTEMBER 14

Cottage Grove Museum. Open from 1-4 p.m., Corner Birch Avenue and H Street in Cottage Grove.

VFW Post 3473 Bingo. From 2-4 p.m. 3160 Hillside Dr. in Cottage Grove.

SEPTEMBER 15

CG Senior Center Bingo. 12:30 p.m., Cottage Grove Community Center, 700 E. Gibbs Ave. Senior center members only.

Coast Fork Brewing Garden Club. From 5:30-7 p.m. 106 S. 6th St. in Cottage Grove. All are welcome.

CHURCH

From Page 1

he emphasizes the importance of working together as brothers and sisters in Christ to share Jesus’ love and promise of eternal life with those

seeking to make a positive change in their lives.

On Wednesday evenings, members gather to share a meal and study the Bible. He feels blessed the congregation now includes some former members of Victory Country Church and new attendees from the community.

“As a boy I accepted Jesus Christ as my personal Savior and made a commitment to do whatever Jesus asked me to do,” King said. “I believe He has led me in this season of my life to step out in faith and reopen an empty church. It’s been a walk of faith for us the last three months. We’ve seen God move in mighty

ways and we’ve had some tremendous things happen.”

He said they have already witnessed moments of transformation. One new family requested baptism shortly after attending. The day after the Saturday Cooling Center, the water slide’s splash pool was used to honor this request.

“Father, mother, and son—it was wonderful,” he said.

Plans for a musical community outreach event in mid-October are in the works. In the meantime, they invite individuals and families to visit and be inspired by the acoustic-style worship and in-depth teaching for all ages.

“Our church is built on connection, compassion and a commitment to Christ,” King explained. “We love people and believe in the power of prayer to change lives and our community.”

For more information, call 541-954-7031 or visit the website at www.coast-forkchurch.com

CLINIC

From Page 1

students taking college preparatory classes.

More than two decades—and a global pandemic—later, shifts in LCC’s course delivery and Lane County’s urgent need for rural health infrastructure prompted the college to reconfigure its facility to house the clinic. In 2012, the Children’s Dental Clinic opened in the building to provide free dental care to uninsured and underserved children across the South Lane, Creswell, and North Douglas school districts.

CURRENT AND PLANNED SERVICES

Clinic Operations Manager Jenny Dail said the facility currently employs a team of 14, offering primary care, behavioral health, and dental services—all under one roof. While the clinic emphasizes care for low-income families and those facing transportation challenges, Dail noted it serves everyone, regardless of income. It now accepts some private insurance.

A new dental wing, still in the planning phase, is expected to expand access for both children and adults—addressing a long-standing gap in regional oral health care.

Also in development is a training classroom for CGHS and LCC students pursuing careers in health-care. The partnership is designed to strengthen

the local workforce while expanding care options for the region. South Lane School Superintendent Todd Miller said the close proximity of the buildings “sets up amazing synergies for students.”

FAMILIAR FACE JOINS MEDICAL TEAM

Dr. Thea Petersen, a seasoned family medicine physician with more than 18 years of experience, joined South Lane Clinic’s medical team in January after many years with the PeaceHealth Cottage Grove Community Medical Center. She described the transition as bittersweet.

“It was a very hard decision to make because I love all my PeaceHealth patients,” Petersen said. “I started my career in a community health center, and its

mission really speaks to me. The only way we grow is through change.”

She added, “It’s a new challenge that allows me to do something a bit different while still serving in my community. I’m glad some of my former PeaceHealth patients moved over here, and I’m meeting lots of new ones.”

HONORING THE CLINIC’S LEGACY

Valeria Clarke, a founding member of the Be Your Best (BYB) Coalition, recalled the early days of the grass-roots effort. Launched in 2013–14 to advance health and well-being in South Lane County, BYB began

with conversations among a handful of local advocates. Those early exchanges, Clarke said, laid the foundation for the coalition’s long-term work.

“I’m happy to be here today to celebrate all that we’ve accomplished to make this much-needed clinic a reality. Yet I feel sad, too, because there are people who were so engaged at the beginning of this endeavor and aren’t here today,” Clarke said. “The loss of Tom Wheeler (South Lane Mental Health founder and executive director) was huge. He would’ve been so proud to be here.”

Commissioner Buch acknowledged the investment of prior East Lane County Commissioners and the many community members who worked tirelessly over the years to bring this vision to life. “For them, today is a promise fulfilled.”

According to supporters, the ribbon cutting was more than ceremonial—it was a celebration of persistence, partnership, and the belief that rural communities deserve high-quality care and now have the opportunity to receive it.

Following the Aug. 28 dedication ceremony, those attending the event were given a tour of the facility.

Worship Guide

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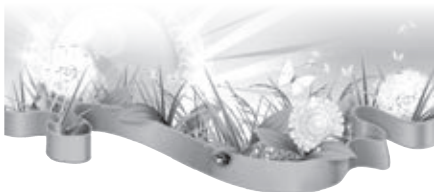
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Sports betting rising among young adults, conversations about risks, resources encouraged

As thousands of Oregon students head to college this fall many will live away from parental oversight for the first time. With the return of football and other sports, the Oregon Health Authority (OHA) is raising awareness about a growing trend-increasing sports betting among young adults-and encouraging families to talk about gambling risks before students leave home. “Many states are dealing with the rise in sports betting among college students, and Oregon is right there with them,” OHA Problem Gambling Program Manager said. “We have to start talking about risky behaviors early on and make sure young people know there’s support if gambling becomes a problem.” A 2023 NCAA survey found that sports gambling is widespread among college students, with 67% of college students living on campus admitting to placing sports bets. Additionally, 16% reported engaging in at least one risky gambling behavior, and 6% said they lost more than \$500 in a single day. To address this growing concern, OHA encourages young people to connect with these free resources:

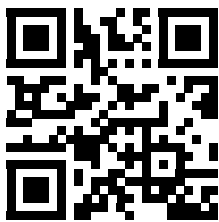
- GamFin is a confidential counseling service that helps individuals and families navigate gambling-related financial challenges.
- Evive App offers personalized support whether



Metro Creative Connection

A 2023 NCAA survey found that sports gambling is widespread among college students, with 67% of college students living on campus admitting to placing sports bets.

someone wants to manage their gambling, reduce it, or stop entirely. “I encourage people to keep the lines of communication open with those they care about,” Coe said. “If it seems like sports betting may be becoming a problem, don’t hesitate to reach out. Help is available, and you are not alone.” For more information, visit [Oregon’s gambling support resources website at opgr.org](#). See a [OHA video about sports gambling concerns with this story at cgsentinel.com](#)



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CGHS Soccer Schedule

STAFF REPORT <i>Cottage Grove Sentinel</i>	5 p.m. Sept. 24 CGHS vs. Marist Catholic	6 p.m. Sept. 16 CGHS @ Molalla / Colton
If you’re excited about Cottage Grove High School Lions Soccer, log these dates in your calendar, or keep an eye on the OSAA website to make sure you don’t miss changes to the schedule. Follow game results at osaa.org .	5 p.m. Sept. 29 CGHS vs. Marshfield	7 p.m. Sept. 24 CGHS vs. Marist Catholic
	4:30 p.m. Oct. 1 CGHS @ Junction City / Harrisburg	7 p.m. Sept. 29 CGHS vs. Marshfield
	4 p.m. Oct. 6 CGHS @ North bend	6 p.m. Oct. 1 CGHS vs. Junction City
	7 p.m. Oct. 13 CGHS at Marist Catholic (Kevin Teller Turf Field)	6 p.m. Oct. 6 CGHS @ North Bend
	6:30 p.m. Oct. 15 CGHS @ Marshfield	5 p.m. Oct. 13 CGHS @ Marist Catholic (Kevin Teller Turf Field)
CGHS Boys Soccer Team	TBN Oct. 20 vs. Junction City / Harrisburg	4:30 p.m. Oct. 15 CGHS @ Marshfield
6 p.m. Sept. 16 CGHS vs. Moalla	7 p.m. Oct. 22 CGHS vs. North Bend	4:30 p.m. Oct. 20 CGHS @ Junction City
		5 p.m. Oct. 22 CGHS vs. North Bend
	CGHS Girls Soccer Team	
	6 p.m. Sept. 11 CGHS @ Sweet Home	





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