

Trail Ceremony

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Summer Adventures

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Cottage Grove

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Council adopts \$40.3M city operating budget

**CINDY WEELDREYER
JEREMY C. RUARK**
Cottage Grove Sentinel

The Cottage Grove City Council has adopted the city's 2026-27 operating budget on a 5-2 vote, with Councilors Dana Merryday and Jim Settelmeyer opposed. Both objected to the council majority's refusal to transfer additional money from the Housing Development Assistance Fund to support library staffing.

- Final adopted Total City Budget: \$40,320,137
- Final adopted General Fund: \$10,550,338

During the Monday night, June 22 public meeting, the council also allocated Transient Lodging Tax (TLT) Community Promotion funds as follows:

- Bohemia Mining Days – \$10,000
- Community Sharing – \$3,000
- Family Relief Nursery – \$2,000
- South Lane Wheels – \$10,000
- Rural Tourism Projects – \$10,000
- Eugene Symphony Concert – \$5,000
- Downtown Cottage Grove – \$15,000

Cottage Grove Public Works Director Faye Stewart briefed the council on several city-owned properties, including the four-phase Cleveland Street public/private housing development project with Hayden Homes, remaining lots in the Highway 99 Industrial Park, plans to sell the former Highway 99 homeless shelter site, and continued city use of the Douglas Street property next to the city shops. Interim Cottage Grove Finance Director Eric Kytola delivered the third quarter budget report, noting that the city has closed \$1.139 million of last year's \$1.7 million deficit, reducing the gap to \$588,589. He said additional revenues and expenditures are still expected before year end. It was noted that in the current fiscal year the city-owned Middlefield Golf Course revenue is just under \$1 million.

The council awarded a bid to move forward with the Lincoln Middle School Path – Phase I contract. ODOT's Community Pathways Program covers 80% of the \$339,184 project cost. The remaining funds will come from the city's bicycle and footpath, storm drainage and street capital funds.

Councilor Greg Ervin presented a draft letter to Gov. Tina Kotek's Prosperity Council, which was approved with minor edits.

The letter thanked Kotek for recognizing the need to examine the factors contributing to the declining attractiveness of Oregon's business climate, and for establishing the Prosperity Council to advise her on strategies that can strengthen prosperity for Oregonians in the years ahead.

The council's letter shares the city's perspective on the barriers it has identified to the city's local prosperity. The perspectives include land use, forest management, infrastructure, regulatory and taxation environment, homelessness and mental illness.

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Creative Chaos builds community, confidence, a place to belong

CINDY WEELDREYER
Cottage Grove Sentinel

The adaptive theatre troupe Creative Chaos presented its newest play, A Chaotic Christmas Carol, in the Woodard Pavilion at the W. O. E. Fairgrounds, June 19 and 20, before an enthusiastic and supportive audience.

Creative Chaos is more than a theater troupe. It is a creative home for individuals with disabilities, a place where friendships form, confidence grows and every person is invited to step into the spotlight, both on stage and in life.

ROOTED IN COMMUNITY

Carmen Dowell and her longtime friend Monica Venice launched Creative Chaos in 2016, building the nonprofit around their shared dream of a stage where everyone could belong. Their friendship began in childhood at Our Lady of Perpetual Help Catholic Church, where Dowell worked in the nursery and Venice, who has Down syndrome, loved helping her care for the babies. The two became lifelong friends.

A 1991 graduate of Cottage Grove High School, Dowell grew up in Cottage Grove, discovering her creativity in middle school. She later became active in South Lane Special Olympics, where she met her husband, Bill. Her years volunteering backstage at Cottage Theatre introduced Venice to the world of props, cues and backstage magic. When Venice auditioned for a non-speaking role and was not selected, she was heartbroken. Dowell was determined to change that.

Janet Rust, one of Cottage Theatre's directors, offered a solution: if Dowell would stage manage, Venice could have a simple part. Venice's debut drew proud family members from across the country to support her. Special Olympics



Cindy Weeldreyer / Cottage Grove Sentinel

The full 14-member cast makes its final call with Santa

athletes, who watched a dress rehearsal of the play, told Dowell they wanted to be in a play too. That's when Dowell and Venice decided to start their own troupe. Their first production, "What Makes a Play", was performed at the Opal Center's black box theater, and they never looked back.

A CHRISTMAS PLAY IN JUNE

In a recent interview on KNND's Beeper talk show, Dowell explained why the troupe staged a Christmas play in June. The production had been planned for last December, with rehearsals and publicity already complete, when Dowell's son became ill in Florida and she had to leave suddenly to care for him.

"When I returned they kept asking me when we were going to do the play," she said. "So we decided we could do a play about Christmas in June and we called it 'A Chaotic Christmas Carol.'"

She said the decision reflects the way Creative Chaos operates.

"Everything we do is driven by the actors," Dowell said. "When the actor playing Tiny Timmy announced he wanted to wear reindeer antlers, I tried to explain that Tiny Tim traditionally does not have antlers. He said, 'But I want to wear them,'" Dowell recalled. "Everything we do is driven by the actors," Dowell said. "When the actor playing Tiny Timmy announced he wanted to wear reindeer antlers, I tried to explain that Tiny Tim traditionally does not have antlers." He said, "But I want to wear them," Dowell recalled. "So I smiled at him and said, 'Ok, Tiny Timmy is going to wear antlers in our play.'"

A PLACE WHERE EVERYONE CONTRIBUTES

Actors do more than perform. They help create every part of the production — writing scenes, building props, painting sets and shaping the story. The process is collaborative and designed to give each person a voice.

Natasha Cosmos said her favorite part is simple. "My friends. I love my

friends," she said. "I do like Creative Chaos. They give good snacks too."

Shane O'Brien enjoys working behind the scenes. "My dad has a 3D printer and I like making things with him," he said. "For this play we needed a turkey... Then we needed bread, so I helped him make four pieces."

Michael Wilson said the program has helped him grow. "Having a leader like Carmen in an atmosphere of acceptance allows for a comfort in oneself, which opens me up to trying new things and having new experiences, like being in a play."

Dowell remembers Wilson's early days well. "In the first play, I thought Mike was nonverbal. He never spoke, so he played a tree," she said. "Day one of our second play, he walked up to me and said, 'I do not want to be a tree.' He has grown so much."

For Venice, dance is always the highlight. "My favorite memory is

See **CHAOS** Page 6

Library to begin new fiscal year with reduced budget

CINDY WEELDREYER
Cottage Grove Sentinel

The Cottage Grove Public Library begins a new fiscal year this week with reduced funding and a smaller staff, prompting changes in how the department will operate starting July 1.

During public comment at the June 22 Cottage Grove City Council meeting, resident Audrey Malan told the Council that Head Librarian Natasha Chitow had resigned effective June 30, the final day of the fiscal year.

Malan told the Council, "I received word today that the head librarian has resigned effective the end of this fiscal year, June 30. And while we are sorry to see her go and appreciate the good work she did for us, including building the Children's Library, getting us through COVID and doing a fabulous history on our library, [her resignation] can possibly keep three of the remaining staff and ensure two staff members are in the library during operational hours."

The Sentinel contacted Malan to confirm the source of her information and to Chitow for confirmation. Neither had responded before press time.

When asked for comment on Malan's statement, Cottage Grove City Manager Mike Sauerwein said



Cindy Weeldreyer / Cottage Grove Sentinel

the city does not comment on personnel matters. He confirmed that the adopted 2026-27 budget supports 1.7 full time equivalent library staff positions, a reduction from prior years. Sauerwein said the City is working within the staffing levels approved by the Budget Committee and City Council to continue library operations.

CALL FOR A VOLUNTEER COORDINATOR

Also during the council's public comment period June 22, Friends of the Library President Bruce Kelsh and resident Andrew Elliott urged the city to fund a volunteer coordinator to recruit, train and integrate volunteers at the library. Both said

the position could also support other departments that rely on volunteer help.

Elliott told the Council, "Having attended all of the budgetary discussions this year there is unanimous support that the library needs volunteers. It will take some dedicated work to do this. The 2026-27 library staff may be overwhelmed just trying to maintain basic library functions. I propose you allocate a one-time expense of a minimum \$25,000 to hire a volunteer coordinator who would be employed to direct the recruitment, training and integration of volunteers at the library."

Kelsh added, "To have a well-run volunteer program that meets the

necessary legal standards to protect the city and the volunteers needs careful development. The coming fiscal year can be an important one in transitioning to new models of services in many departments."

MAY 19 BUDGET COMMITTEE ACTION

At its final meeting on May 19, the Cottage Grove Budget Committee approved transfers totaling \$50,000 within the proposed 2026-27 budget to increase funding for library personnel. The committee also recommended that the library be open four days a week in the coming fiscal year. The transfers included \$25,000 from the library's materials and services budget, \$17,000 from the City Manager's materials and services budget, and \$8,000 from a City Council travel and food fund.

The funding adjustment followed public support for the library at a city-held town hall and during rallies conducted by library supporters held outside city hall over the past few months.

COUNCIL DEBATES BUT DOES NOT APPROVE ADDITIONAL TRANSFER

At the June 22 council meeting, Councilor Dana Merryday moved, and Councilor Jim Settelmeyer

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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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A CLOSER LOOK

Striking head on business door leads to arrest

The following is from the Cottage Grove Police Department's Weekly Update:

- Officers were called to 7's Deli after a male subject intentionally struck his head against the business' front door, damaging a metal bracket. The individual was located nearby and reportedly displayed signs of narcotics impairment and erratic behavior. After refusing commands and charging toward an officer, he was taken into custody following a brief struggle and lodged at Lane County Jail on charges including Criminal Mischief II, Disorderly Conduct II, Resisting Arrest, and Escape III.

- A report was taken regarding a window that had been shot out with a BB gun sometime within the previous two weeks. The damage occurred during the same timeframe as three other incidents involving a suspect allegedly shooting BB guns at people and property. The case has been linked to those investigations and remains active.

- Officers also responded to a crash near Taylor Avenue

and South 4th Street. During the investigation, the driver displayed signs of impairment, including slurred speech and bloodshot, watery eyes. After consenting to field sobriety tests, she was arrested for Driving Under the Influence of Intoxicants. Further testing showed a blood alcohol content of 0.26% (over three times the legal limit). She was cited for DUII (ORS 813.010), Reckless Driving (ORS 811.140), Operating a Motor Vehicle Without Driving Privileges (ORS 807.010), Driving Uninsured (ORS 806.010), and Failure to Obey a Traffic Control Device (ORS 811.265).

- Officers responded to a disturbance near South River Road and Highway 99. During the investigation, officers contacted a female on the railroad tracks and discovered she had two outstanding Cottage Grove Municipal Court warrants for Reckless Endangering and Criminal Trespass I. She was cited and released without incident.

- Officers responded to 700 East Gibbs Avenue, the

Cottage Grove Public Library, for a reported trespass in progress. The male was contacted on library property and found to be in violation of an active lifetime letter of trespass. The male stated he believed the trespass was only valid for 90 days; however, library staff confirmed the trespass had been in effect since it was originally issued and remained valid. He was cited in lieu of custody for criminal trespass II and issued summons to appear in court. During the investigation, he was also found to have five valid warrants for his arrest through the Eugene Police Department. All five warrants were for failure to appear on criminal trespass II charges. The male subject was taken into custody without incident, transported to Lane County Adult Corrections, and lodged on the outstanding warrants.

- During a patrol check at the 12th Street Camp, officers contacted a male subject with an active Eugene Municipal Court warrant. He was released and transported to Lane County Jail without incident.

| | |
|----------------------------|--------------------------|
| Accidents: 4 | Hit & Run: 1 |
| Arrests: 11 | Suspicious Condition: 11 |
| Disturbance: 8 | Trespass: 5 |
| DUII: 1 | Vehicle Stop: 33 |
| Harassment: 6 | Welfare Checks: 8 |
| Total calls --- 333 | |

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, JUNE 15

00:13: Barking dog, 1200 block Bryant Ave.
 05:00: Alarm, 500 block E. Main St.
 08:23: Abandoned vehicle, 800 block Pierce Ave.
 09:28: Theft, 600 block S. 5th St.
 10:19: Agency assist, 100 block S. 6th St.
 10:28: Abandoned vehicle, 200 block S. 11th St.
 10:39: Theft, 400 block E. Main St.
 12:23: Suspicious subject, 900 block S. River Rd.
 13:03: Abandoned vehicle, 10th/Adams
 14:01: Juvenile trouble, 1000 block S. 1st St.
 16:43: Found property, 1100 block E. Main St.
 17:55: Mental subject, 200 block Palmer Ave.
 20:33: Trespass, 900 block Row River Rd.
 20:56: Disturbance, 1700 block Bryant Ave.

TUESDAY, JUNE 16

01:26: Prowler, 1000 block W. Main St.
 02:29: Warrant service, 400 block E. Main St.
 08:57: Death investigation, 1700 block Hwy 99
 10:17: Theft, 1500 block Village Dr.
 11:20: Abandoned vehicle, 100 block Palmer Ave.
 12:00: Agency assist, 1500 block Village Dr.
 15:55: Fraud, 700 block Row River Rd.
 16:55: Disturbance, 78000 block Layng Rd.
 18:43: Trespass, 700 block Hwy 99
 22:12: Barking dog, 200 block S. River Rd.
 22:50: Agency assist, 1300 block Birch Ave.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 17

03:12: Suspicious subject, 1300 block S. River Rd.
 08:23: Suspicious condition, 400 block S. 10th St.
 13:16: Fire, Sears/Cedar Park
 14:56: Trespass, 900 block Row River Rd.
 15:06: Suspicious condition, 1600 block Samuel Dr.
 15:24: Vicious dog, 600 block Wilson Ave.
 19:25: Theft, 200 block Gateway Blvd.
 19:39: Reckless driving, 100 block Gateway Blvd.
 20:47: Fire, Geer/N. Lane
 23:28: Warrant service, 400 block E. Main St.



THURSDAY, JUNE 18

00:34: Suspicious condition, 100 block Gateway Blvd.
 01:49: Suspicious vehicle, 800 block Row River Rd.
 06:02: Found dog, 700 block Hwy 99
 07:33: Suspicious condition, 900 block W. Main St.
 09:25: Abandoned vehicle, Jefferson/13th
 09:49: Abandoned vehicle, 200 block S. 3rd St.
 09:53: Harassment, 500 block N. River Rd.
 13:02: Trespass, 1700 block Parks Rd.
 13:15: Abandoned vehicle, Harvey/19th
 13:21: Repo, 2000 block S. 8th St.

03:10: Warrant service, 400 block E. Main St.
 07:38: Barking dog, 1300 block W. Main St.
 09:10: Warrant service, 700 block E. Gibbs Ave.
 10:01: Harassment, 800 block W. Main St.
 11:45: Disturbance, 9th/Gibbs
 11:49: Suspicious condition, 1400 block N. Douglas St.
 11:51: Theft, 900 block Row River Rd.
 12:05: Trespass, 700 block Hwy 99
 14:20: Harassment, 100 block Gateway Blvd.
 14:34: Motor vehicle crash, 32000 block Latham Rd.
 14:36: Abandoned vehicle, 600 block S. 2nd St.
 16:57: Illegal camping, Hwy 99/River Rd.
 17:23: DUII, Taylor/4th
 20:56: Animal info, 200 block S. River Rd.
 21:21: Suspicious vehicle, 1100 block Chamberlain Ave.
 21:31: Vicious dog, 13th/Adams
 21:47: Alarm, 1400 block Gateway Blvd

SATURDAY, JUNE 20
 01:00: Motor vehicle crash, Row River Rd/Gateway Blvd.
 06:13: Juvenile trouble, Main/10th
 07:15: Juvenile trouble, Main/12th
 10:01: Warrant service, 1300 block Hwy 99
 11:34: Disturbance, 1300 block Hwy 99
 11:46: Criminal mischief, 100 block N. 8th St.

12:26: Suspicious vehicle, 1200 block Gateway Blvd.
 14:09: Agency assist, Row River Rd/Sears
 14:47: Dog at large, Tyler/10th
 17:13: Fire, Main/S Ct.
 17:30: Disorderly subject, 300 block Hwy 99
 19:01: Harassment, 1600 block Samuel Dr.
 19:21: Firearm purchase denial, 100 block Gateway Blvd.
 19:32: Disturbance, 32000 block Rachel Rd.
 19:43: Agency assist, 76000 block Mosby Cr.
 20:04: Suspicious condition, 100 block Crestview Ter
 22:40: Suspicious condition, 1000 block Cedar Ct.

SUNDAY, JUNE 21

06:43: Suspicious vehicle, 900 block Row River Rd.
 07:08: Found property, 5th/Madison
 11:06: Criminal mischief, 100 block Thornton Ln.
 14:18: Harassment, 100 block Sweet Ln.
 15:34: Abandoned vehicle, 1200 block S. River Rd.
 17:50: Found dog, 600 block S. 7th St.
 21:22: Reckless driving, 1100 block Pennoyer Ave.
 23:17: Disturbance, 1500 block E. Main St.
 23:34: Suspicious subject, 100 block N. 9th St.

Missing elderly woman found deceased



At about 1:30 p.m. on June 22, the Lane County Sheriff's Office was notified Marjorie Ann Gray's vehicle was located in the Mosby Creek Area, east of Cottage Grove.

Her vehicle was found by people working in the area. Gray had been listed as missing since June 17.

Lane County Sheriff's deputies and Search & Rescue (SAR) personnel

responded. Gray's vehicle had become stuck in the trees at the end of a gravel logging road, more than ten miles behind a private gate.

SAR volunteers deployed ground crews and were aided by an OSP search canine. Gray was found deceased several hundred yards from her vehicle in steep terrain.

This case is still being investigated, but there is no indication of any crime at this time.

The Sheriff's Office would like to thank the Oregon State Police, the Douglas County Sheriff's Office, and the Lorane community members who came out to assist in the search.

Cottage Grove Suitcase Art Show

JEREMY C. RUARK
Cottage Grove Sentinel

Eleven local artists from Cottage Grove are entered in the 2026 Cottage Grove Suitcase Art Show.

All competing for 1st, 2nd and 3rd place with cash and gift prizes for the winners. Cottage Grove Mayor Candace Solesbee will pick the Mayor's Certificate Award, Cottage Grove Chief of Police Cory Chase will select the Chief of Police Award and the Cottage Grove Chamber of Commerce will pick their favorite suitcase art.

The theme of the show is centered around scenes

from Cottage Grove and Lane County.

The decorated and painted suitcase art will be displayed at Schweitzer's Work and Western Wear, 730 E. Main Street in Cottage Grove, from June 26 until July 22.

The store is open from 9:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday.

This is the 3rd year for the suitcase art show which is a prelude to Bohemia Mining Days event.

All the artwork suitcase art can be purchased by contacting the artists directly, according to the show coordinator Glenda Wiffler.

This year the art contest was open to the age of 16 and older with no entry fee.

"There was one student that entered the show with her mother. Several of the artists had never entered an art show but were eager to try painting a suitcase, art box, trunk or tote just to see if they could. Others have painted and been in various art shows," Wiffler said. "We received a total of \$150 to be divided with 1st, 2nd, and 3rd, place winners."

The sponsors of the art show include Len Blackstone Windermere Real Estate, Homestead Furniture, Slabtown Coffee, The Flower

Basket, Blacketts Paper Trail, Pleasant View Farms, and Schweitzer's Work and Western Wear.

For more information contact Glenda Wiffler at 458 275 9119.



Courtesy photo

The decorated and painted suitcase art will be displayed at Schweitzer's Work and Western Wear, 730 E. Main Street in Cottage Grove, from June 26 until July 22.

Ribbon Cutting Ceremony for the Dyrol Burleson Trail

JEREMY C. RUARK
Cottage Grove Sentinel

Cottage Grove will honor local legend and record-breaking mile runner, Dyrol Burleson, with a named-running trail and historical kiosk.

City and School officials will join legendary Cottage Grove High School Swim Coach Bud Taylor and members of the community at 11 a.m. July 7, for a ribbon cutting ceremony at the newly installed Dyrol Burleson Kiosk.

The event will take place along the Dyrol Burleson Trail just north of the Cottage Grove High School on the riverside of River Road. Public parking is available at the north end of the Cottage Grove High School parking lot.

The trail was created through a city proclamation by Mayor Candace Solesbee on August 25, 2025.

The kiosk was a joint project of Alice Christianson, graphic designer and historian, Dana Merryday researcher, Alan Schwake master woodworker and builder, and funded by The Woodard Family Foundation. The three panels focus on the phases of his running career, Cottage Grove High School, University of Oregon, and two appearances at the

Olympics representing team USA.

It was long a dream of Coach Taylor to do something to promote the example and methodology of Dyrol Burleson as an inspiration to local youth. Burleson was a local product, born in Saginaw, who used grit, goal setting, hard work, and the supportive environment of a small town to achieve his successes., according to Cottage Grove City Councilor Dana Merryday.

"Bud saw Burley, as did many locals, running along roads as part of his training and wanted to do something to acknowledge and commemorate this to encourage Cottage Grove youth to strive to be their own best," Merryday said. "Young Bud Taylor himself was inspired by the example of Burleson, who was a few years ahead of him in high school and was coached by another force in the history of Cottage Grove Athletics, Wally "Chick" Ciochetti."

All three men are honored inducted into the Cottage Grove HS Athletics Hall of Fame.

Merryday also provide the following high points of Dyrol Burleson's running career:

Sitting in the CGHS library Burleson saw the newly minted Sports Illustrated magazine with Roger Bannister on the cover after running the

world's first sub 4 mile (January 3, 1955 issue), and Dyrol set a goal to run the mile and appear on a SI Cover. Spoiler alert, he did so twice.

Burleson broke the national High School mile record by 3 seconds in 1958.

His CGHS 1500M record still stands. Burleson was offered the first full ride track scholarship under legendary Coach Bill Bowerman - Burley was so grateful that he pledged to never lose a race for UO or Bowerman, and he never did.

Dyrol ran the first sub 4 minute mile at Hayward Field and was the 2nd time an American to do so. While at UO he broke several world records including the 2 mile relay which he is most proud of (The records he made with a team as opposed to his individual records).

Additionally, he competed in the 1960 Rome and 1964 Tokyo Olympic Games and was inducted into both the Cottage Grove High School Athletics Hall of Fame and the National Track and Field Hall of Fame. The proclamation named a portion of his training route as the "Dyrol Burleson Trail." Coach Bud Taylor accepted the award on Burleson's behalf.

"Just as Coach Taylor inspired you to be your best so did Dyrol and



Cindy Weeldreyer / Cottage Grove Sentinel

This is the newly installed Dyrol Burleson Kiosk located along the Dyrol Burleson Trail.

Chick inspire Bud to be who he is and to honor his wish to inspire local youth

we have come together to create a living memorial

to these men," Merryday said.



Ribbon Cutting



On Saturday morning June 20, the new Blackberry Food Cooperative (BFC) organizers, co-op members and community supporters gathered in the Cottage Grove Public Market for this long-anticipated ribbon cutting event. Pictured from left to right are Valeria Clarke, Jim Stevenson, Charlotta Tinlin (holding scissors), Abel Kloster and Ren Gorman. In the spring of 2024, a group of individuals responded to the threat of losing the Coast Fork Farm Stand and committed themselves to transitioning it from private ownership into a food cooperative. They assumed operational responsibility last December. The BFC membership is just over 300 and more are needed to have the money to upgrade some of the store's essential equipment. Information about co-op membership is available at the store register, at 926 E main Street in Cottage Grove.

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OBITUARY

Strong El Niño' forecasted for Pacific NW

Patricia "Patty" Joan Cutts Arp

March 11, 1943 - June 14, 2026

Patricia "Patty" Joan Cutts Arp, 83, passed away peacefully on June 14, 2026, following complications from Alzheimer's disease and dementia. She is now reunited with her beloved husband, Jim, and with her dogs PJ and Shadow, whom she loved unconditionally. Patty had many dogs throughout her life, but PJ and Shadow were pretty special in the hearts of both her and Jim.



cooking breakfasts, driving, coordinating timers, and cheering on the swimmers. She treasured the many camping trips and cabin adventures shared with family and friends, and she built lifelong friendships along the way. Above all, Patty will be remembered for her laughter, which seemed to be heard everywhere she went.

Patty was preceded in death by her parents Robert and Mildred, her beloved husband, Jim, and her brother, Joe Bennett.

She is survived by her brothers, David Cutts and wife Shirley, and Gary Bennett; her daughter, Denise Whittle and husband John of Tennessee; her son, Robert Arp and wife Lisa of Oregon; and her son, James H. Arp and wife Ann of Oregon. She is also survived by her grandchildren, James Whittle and wife Chandra of Nevada, Ben Arp and wife Hannah of Washington, Lena and husband Robby Henry, Katherine Arp, John Arp, and James W. Arp; and by her great-granddaughter, Gwendolyn Henry.

Arrangements are in the care of Andreason's Cremation & Burial Service.

Patty was born on March 11, 1943, in Denver, Colorado, to Robert Cutts Jr. and Mildred Irene Maranvill Cutts Brown. In 1946, the family moved to Cottage Grove, Oregon, where Patty would spend the bulk of her life. She graduated from Cottage Grove High School in 1961 and married James M. Arp on December 30, 1961, in Reno, Nevada.

Cottage Grove was at the center of Patty's life. She raised her family there, supported Jim throughout their marriage, and was a member of Trinity Lutheran Church. As the mother of three swimmers, she became an enthusiastic supporter and volunteer with the Cottage Grove swim team, helping wherever she was needed—

ALEX BAUMHARDT
Oregon Capital Chronicle

Warming temperatures at the equator could paradoxically bring the Northwest a wet fall and high winter snowpack, according to climatologists.

The West is in for "one of the strongest El Niños we've had," Larry O'Neill, Oregon's state climatologist, said Monday. The ocean and atmospheric weather pattern that occurs every few years and touches all parts of the West typically brings with it warmer and drier temperatures from August through winter, but during a super El Niño — of which there have been only three since 1980 — it does the opposite, bringing greater rain and mountain snowpack.

"The very strong ones don't follow the typical rule of thumb," O'Neill said following an online drought and climate outlook meeting hosted by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

That could be great for many drought-stricken parts of Oregon and the region, where heat, record low snowpack, depleted reservoirs and low stream levels have caused Gov. Tina Kotek to declare a drought emergency in nearly half the state's counties. In April, Washington Gov. Bob Ferguson declared a statewide drought emergency for the fourth year in a row, and that

same month Idaho Gov. Brad Little declared a statewide drought emergency for the first time in 25 years.

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration earlier this month said El Niño conditions had formed in the Pacific, with a 63% chance of a "very strong" El Niño peaking by the end of the year.

But, O'Neill also cautioned, recent El Niño events and its counterpart La Niña — typically associated with colder temperatures and snow — have become far more unpredictable under rising global temperatures.

"In the last couple years, the La Niñas haven't really been acting like they usually did. This past year, for instance, we had a weak La Niña, which is supposed to give us a good snow pack, and yet we ended up with our worst snow pack in our recorded history," he said. "So where exactly this El Niño goes is pretty uncertain."

If it's weaker than expected, drought could continue through the winter and spring, exacerbating already low snowpack and water levels. If it is a "very strong" El Niño, depleted reservoirs and mountain snow banks could be refilled and formed, O'Neill said.

Another byproduct of a strong El Niño worth tracking over what's predicted to be

a tough wildfire year: more lightning. O'Neill and his colleagues have been studying decades of lightning patterns in Oregon during El Niño and La Niña events and found that in eastern Oregon there's a slightly higher prevalence of lightning during an El Niño period.

Record heat
Taken together, August through November of 2025 was the record warmest on average across the Northwest in more than 130 years of recordkeeping. NASA scientists, using NOAA records of global average temperatures dating back to 1880, found that November was the third-warmest on Earth, behind only 2023 and 2024.

This October to May was the second warmest on record for Oregon and Idaho, and the third warmest for Washington. May temperatures across the region were about 4.5 degrees Fahrenheit above normal, and nearly 5 degrees above normal in Oregon. And in the last 60 days, Washington experienced its third warmest June and July on record, Oregon its fifth and Idaho its 15th warmest start to summer.

There's a 50% to 70% chance that the region will continue to see above normal temperatures from July to September, scientists at the NOAA meeting said.

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Oregon lawmakers hint at major changes to school funding in 2027

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MIA MALDONADO
Oregon Capital Chronicle

Oregon lawmakers upset about persistently poor education outcomes for many students voted against several of Gov. Tina Kotek's new appointments to the commission that determines the resources needed to create a system of high-quality schools.

The protest votes against three nominees to the state's Quality Education Commission weren't because the candidates weren't qualified, lawmakers said. Rather, they criticized the effectiveness of the commission, hinting at the need for major reform in the 2027 legislative session.

The nominees were among 145 Kotek nominees the Senate confirmed on Wednesday to a slate of councils, boards and commissions.

Most appointments were speedily approved by the Democratic majority, with nearly no debate. Republicans, however, voted against every single appointment in protest of what they

described as a lack of transparency and time to vet the candidates.

Senators voted separately on the Quality Education Commission, which drew the most controversy in a 16-12 vote. Sen. Janeen Sollman, D-Hillsboro, joined all Republicans in voting against confirming Albany Public Schools teacher Dana Lovejoy, Salem-Keizer educator Tyler Scialo-Lakeberg and Coos Bay School District superintendent Gary Roberts.

"The question before us isn't whether these are good people, it's about process," Sollman said as she began debate by criticizing the commission's role in the state's education cost model.

She and Rep. Ricki Ruiz, D-Gresham, earlier this year unsuccessfully led an attempt to overhaul the state's education cost model. That effort contributed to her May primary loss: The Oregon Education Association gave her opponent and union member Myrna Muñoz more than \$75,000, much of it in the form of paid canvassing.

"I do not believe that these appointments, through the positions they hold, will build the Quality Education Commission Oregon needs to generate the data, the rigor and the analysis our school

funding decisions deserve," Sollman said.

Oregon's 27-year-old Quality Education Commission has 11 members and is charged with researching best education practices and determining how much money is needed to meet state education goals, including a 90% graduation rate statewide. The commission presents its findings, known as the Quality Education Model, to the education appropriation committee and governor every two years to guide budget decisions.

But lawmakers recently began questioning if that framework is working. The Oregon Legislature allocated \$11.4 billion for schools during the 2025-26 and 2026-27 school years, and yet recent national test scores show Oregon elementary and middle school students rank among the bottom of states in math and reading.

The Oregon Department of Education allocates money to school districts using a separate distribution formula that relies in part on U.S. Census Bureau data estimates to calculate how many students come from families living in poverty, despite state data often showing numbers much higher than the Census Bureau estimates. Oregon is the only state to follow

this method, the Oregonian reported.

The formula undercounts the true number of students experiencing poverty, school superintendents say, which means districts who serve more of those students aren't receiving the funding needed to support them.

Several Republican lawmakers agreed with Sollman.

"It should not be hard to get this right," said Sen. Noah Robinson, R-Cave Junction. "We continually kick the problem down the road. We're planning to eventually have a plan to fix the problem, and we need more urgency. Our students are being educated now. They're not going to benefit from something that's done in 10 years or even five years from now."

Senators with teaching backgrounds spoke in favor of the appointments while also recognizing the need to reform the cost model. That includes Sen. Lew Frederick, a Portland Democrat and chair of the Senate interim education committee.

"We are all looking at some significant changes, I believe, in the Quality Education Model," he said. "I am optimistic and encouraged by the fact that we have folks in this body who want to make a difference, and I think these three candidates will actually attempt to do just that."

Sen. Courtney Neron Misslin, D-Wilsonville, said the appointees are capable of interacting with research data that can help improve Oregon's education system.

"While I am in full support of modernizing our processes around cost modeling, we must do it in partnership with people doing the work," she said. "The professional judgment we need to include at the quality education table is that of educators."

<https://oregoncapitalchronicle.com/2026/06/17/oregon-lawmakers-hint-at-major-changes-to-school-funding-in-2027/>

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TRANSPORTATION

Fully accessible school bus for students with significant disabilities

Circle of Friends School has secured federal Section 5310 transportation funding through the Lane Transit District (LTD), bringing the organization one step closer to purchasing a fully accessible school bus designed to serve students with significant disabilities.

The funding has been unanimously approved by the LTD Board of Directors following recommendations from the LTD STIF Advisory Committee. The award includes \$179,209 in federal funding toward the purchase of an accessible vehicle that will support student transportation to educational, recreational, cultural, and community-based learning opportunities throughout Lane County.

For Circle of Friends, the award represents far more than a transportation project.

"This is about access, independence, and belonging," Circle of Friends Executive Director Michael Aguilar said. "Our students deserve the same opportunities as any other child to learn in their community, visit libraries and museums, volunteer, explore future career interests, and participate in the world around them. For many of our students, transportation has been one of the greatest barriers to those experiences. This investment helps remove that barrier."

The future vehicle will be uniquely suited to the needs of Circle of Friends students and is expected to accommodate up to ten wheelchair positions, allowing students with significant mobility

needs to travel safely and comfortably together.

Before the vote, Circle of Friends Board Chair Courtney Leonard addressed the LTD Board and shared the perspective of a parent raising a child with disabilities.

"As the stepparent of a daughter who uses a wheelchair, I know firsthand that transportation is never as simple as getting in a car and going," Leonard said. "For many families, transportation becomes the factor that determines whether participation in school and community enrichment is possible at all."

Leonard emphasized that meaningful learning extends beyond classroom walls and that community participation is essential to helping students build communication skills, independence, confidence, and relationships.

"For many of our students, transportation is not just about mobility," Leonard said. "It is about belonging."

The approval was supported by families who attended the LTD Board meeting to advocate on behalf of their children and share the importance of accessible transportation for students with disabilities.

Circle of Friends currently serves students with complex physical, medical, communication, and educational support needs. The school provides highly individualized instruction, nursing oversight, therapy collaboration, and community-based learning opportunities designed to help students build meaningful lives within their communities.

Federal Section 5310 funding requires a local funding match. While LTD will provide \$179,209 toward the purchase, Circle of Friends must raise approximately \$31,828 to complete the project. The organization has launched a community fundraising effort to help secure the remaining funds needed to bring the vehicle into service.

"This accomplishment belongs to our families, our staff, our Board of Directors, and the broader community that continues to believe in a future where disability is not overlooked but embraced," Aguilar said. "The Belonging Bus will help our students access experiences that many people take for granted, and we cannot wait to see where it takes them."

For more information about Circle of Friends or to support the Belonging Bus campaign, visit the organization's website or contact Michael Aguilar at michael@coforegon.org.

About Circle of Friends
Circle of Friends' mission is to advance equitable access to education, mental health, community, and opportunity for youth with disabilities and for those who love them. Based in Cottage Grove, Oregon, Circle of Friends operates a specialized school serving students with complex disabilities and is expanding services to support youth and families throughout Lane County. Guided by the belief that Every Person Has Value, Circle of Friends works to build a world where disability is not overlooked but embraced.

EDITORIAL CARTOON



COMMENTARY

Oregon anti-animal cruelty initiative sounded like a good idea, until learning details

RANDY STAPILUS
Oregon Capital Chronicle

My wife volunteered for years in dog rescue efforts around the region, and her experiences made clear to me that Oregon's animal cruelty and mistreatment laws were inadequate and needed strengthening.

So when Initiative Petition 28, billed as doing something like that, pulled the mass of signatures needed for ballot status, it sounded welcome.

Then I read proposed law and descriptions — especially from the advocates themselves — of what it would actually do. Even its backers acknowledge it's unlikely to pass (once word of the details spreads more widely). If it actually did — and were fully enforced — it would unleash economic and social chaos in Oregon beyond any previous piece of legislation. And it would be intended as a template for any other states so foolish as to follow suit.

Republicans have lined up against it, as in gubernatorial candidate Christine Drazan's statement on X that "Banning hunting, fishing, and basic animal husbandry would kill thousands of jobs and threaten our food supply at a time when we can least afford it."

Republicans may well try to tie the initiative to Democrats, though there's been strong opposition there too. One example is Gov. Tina Kotek, who said: "I know tribal leaders, family farmers and ranchers and Oregonians across the state who care deeply about protecting our land, waters and wildlife. This petition does nothing to help that, and it risks criminalizing common agricultural practices that are critical to Oregon's economy."

What's more notable here is what the advocates themselves say.

IP 28 applies to "any non-human mammal, bird, reptile, amphibian or fish," though insects would be excluded, so swatting a mosquito would remain legal. It does ban any injury to the covered species, the main exception being that humans still would be allowed to act in self-defense. The group said specifically that "we are focused specifically on criminalizing the practice of killing animals."

It said the initiative "would prohibit the intentional injury and killing of animals, as well as the forced breeding of animals." However, IP28 adds a rehabilitation program as an alternative to other criminal penalties. In lieu of a misdemeanor, anyone convicted of animal cruelty could choose to complete supervised community service hours at an animal care facility as well as relinquish ownership of any animals for either five or 15 years, depending on the severity of the conviction.

The list of animal-related actions to be criminalized would be extensive. Fishing and hunting would be illegal and criminal, and that would apply to longstanding agreements with Indian tribes in the state: "There would not be a cultural or religious exemption for injuring, killing, or sexually violating an animal."

Production of meat products (where any vertebrate is involved) in the state would be prohibited. The group said "a rancher would likely no longer have a reason to raise cattle. ... We would encourage ranchers to transition to an alternative agriculture practice."

Easy for them to say, as they did: "A determined soul will always manage."

Use of slaughterhouses and of animals in medical experiments (which in some cases are critical for advancing medical care) would be not

just subject to regulation but banned outright.

You have a mouse or rat infestation in your house? The advocates say "live catch mouse traps" still would be available to you, but most other approaches to combatting the rodents, including anything that might kill them, would not. Your core response — and this approach evidently would be the operative rule for pest control businesses (any that survived) as well — apparently would be "locating the spaces where mice may enter our home or business and blocking the passageway."

People would still be able to own pets, the advocates noted. But clearly the rules surrounding pet ownership would change considerably.

The impacts of this measure, were it to become law, would affect the daily lives of nearly everyone in Oregon. It would wipe out whole categories of industries. It would lead quickly to social chaos — no too extreme a description. Its scope would be breathtaking.

I would have suspected all this as being exaggeration by opponents were it not for the descriptions that come straight from the issue's advocates. It seems an example of what happens when an initially sound idea — avoiding cruelty to animals — is pushed too far and too fast. It may set back that cause by many years.

As a matter of politics, Republicans are on solid ground in opposing the initiative. Democrats will need to act visibly and aggressively against it to ensure they're not handcuffed to it, since to many non-Democrats IP 28 easily could sound like the kind of thing an extremist Democrat might conceive.

See **STAPILUS** Page 6



Courtesy photo

The award includes \$179,209 in federal funding toward the purchase of an accessible vehicle that will support student transportation to educational, recreational, cultural, and community-based learning opportunities throughout Lane County.

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Previous Poll Results

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Quote of the Week

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THE COTTAGE GROVE Sentinel

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NORTHWEST

From Page 4

Low flow

“So not only did we start with below normal snow pack overall, but that snow pack has melted faster than normal as well,” said Karin Bumbaco, Washington’s deputy state climatologist. Snow in Idaho, western Montana, the Washington Cascades and Snake River

Basin melted two to five weeks earlier than normal, and in parts of the Oregon Cascades, mountain snowpack melted two months earlier than normal, Bumbaco said.

In Oregon, this means water reservoirs in Prineville and the Crooked River Basin and Crescent Lake in the Deschutes River Basin are expected to be low or very low by autumn. Crescent Lake is on track to end the season at its lowest

level since the drought of the early '90s, Bumbaco said.

In southern Oregon, some irrigation districts have curtailed junior water rights. In the Klamath Basin, the Klamath Project Drought Response Agency will pay farmers to stop irrigating and leave fields idle to reduce the risk of water shortages.

Oregon is breaking the most records for low streamflow in the region,

and it’s expected to get worse in eastern Oregon and southern Idaho during the next four months, according to Bumbaco.

Low power

That’s a problem for the region’s hydropower system, according to Vince Tidwell and Natalie Voisin of the Pacific Northwest National Laboratory. Between 2003 and 2020, the region lost about 300 million megawatt hours of electricity generation from drought alone,

Tidwell said, costing the sector about \$28 billion.

And despite peak demand for electricity in the region growing by 4.6% since last summer, energy availability has increased by only 1.5%, Voisin said.

“If there was a perfect storm of extreme events, then there is an elevated risk that there could be an energy shortfall,” she said.

<https://oregon-capitalchronicle.com/2026/06/23/>

northwest-potentially-in-for-one-of-the-strongest-el-ninos-weve-had-climatologists-say!

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STAPILUS

From Page 5

As a matter of election, IP 28 would be lucky to get the super-minority vote the transportation funding package got in the primary election — if voters learn the details. But any issue reaching the ballot has to be taken seriously.

One good thing the advocates did was to make that relatively easy.

<https://oregoncapitalchronicle.com/2026/06/11/oregon-anti-animal-cruelty-initiative-sounded-like-a-good-idea-until-learning-details/>

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LIBRARY

From Page 1

seconded, a motion to transfer \$50,000 from the remaining \$83,000 in the Housing Assistance Fund into the library budget to develop a volunteer program. The motion did not pass.

Councilor Greg Ervin said he would not support the

transfer because there were “too many unknowns in the future” and he preferred to approve only the amounts already included in the resolution.

Merryday told the Council, “Up until now, we’ve given some token amounts and cobbled money from other funds. We’ve kinda cannibalized the library’s materials and services budget but we haven’t really clarified

there is enough to support a functioning staff to operate the library going forward. It feels like the cake was baked before we got there and nothing has caused the needle to move. Moving \$50,000 from the housing fund would provide a cushion and give the city manager the tools needed to restructure the department.”

Settelmeyer added that the motion would also “send a

message to the library supporters that they have been heard” and would help build goodwill.

FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY REACTION

Friends of the Library President Bruce Kelsh thanked the community for its advocacy during the budget process.

“The steadfast support for the library was impressive,” Kelsh told the Sentinel.

“That support will be important as the library moves into a new phase of utilizing volunteers as well as staff to provide library services to our community.”

WHAT HAPPENS NEXT

With the fiscal year ending June 30, the City will begin implementing the reduced staffing model approved in the 2026-27 budget. Sauerwein said the

City intends to maintain library operations within the adopted staffing levels, though details about hours and services have not yet been announced.

The Sentinel will continue to follow developments as the transition unfolds. Follow new details online at cgsentinel.com and in the Wednesday print editions of The Sentinel.

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CHAOS

From Page 1

when we were tap dancing to Singing in the Rain,” she said. “I got to wear a yellow jacket and an umbrella just like the movie.”

Ian Miller is an original member and has been in every production. Dowell said his creative mind has come up with some of the “theme” plays we do. He is currently

writing and will be directing their play “The River. The Railroad. The Fishing hole.” at Bohemia Mining Days on Friday from 2-3 p.m.

PARENTS' PERSPECTIVE

Parents see the transformation too. Mitzi Hanenkrat, mother of first time performer Chantell Lemon, said her daughter has become “more outgoing and participates in group activities more.”

Dowell added, “Her smile is contagious. Chantell was the first one to memorize her lines, her actions. I hope we have more people who want to join when they see her on stage having fun.”

Becky Venice, Monica’s mother, said Carmen’s influence has shaped the lives of special needs individuals in

ways that go far beyond the stage.

“Carmen is a very active and loving individual. Her longtime involvement in Special Olympics and Creative Chaos has done more for our special needs population than anyone I have ever known who does not have a child with disabilities. She has made life so much fun for Monica and so many others,” Venice said.

THE TROUPE

Actors: Jill Vaverka, Mystic Debery, Monica Venice, Elaine Coffman, Chantell Lemon, Loren Goodman, Shane O’Brien, Kendall Theil, Ian Miller, Natasha Cosper, Mike Wilson, Rich Coutinh, Carmen and Bill Dowell Helpers: Collette Ernest, Bobbi Durham, Johnna

Miller, Mitzi Hanenkrat, Nicole Lemon, Joelene O’Brien, Debbie Chalmers and Char Toves

WHY DONATIONS MATTER

Dowell said every donation is transformed into opportunities, experiences and memories for the people we serve.

Funds support theatrical productions, summer performance camp, arts and crafts classes, dances, parade participation and special events. Next year, the group will launch a new puppet camp to expand creative opportunities even further.

A recent gift from the Trinity Women in Mission at the Lutheran Church will help ensure Creative Chaos can continue bringing joy, inclusion and connection to the community for years to come.

Dowell believes inclusive arts programs matter deeply. “Creative Chaos gives everyone a chance to be seen, heard and valued,” she said. “When audiences come to our performances, they see ability instead of disability. Inclusive arts programs help build a stronger, kinder and more welcoming community where everyone has a place to shine.”

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BUDGET

From Page 1

The council also adopted the 2026-27 Comprehensive Fees on a 4-3 vote, with Councilors Randell Lammerman, Darrell Wilson, Christine Hynk and Mayor Solesbens voting no due to concerns about fee increases. Following a public hearing with no testimony, the council approved a supplemental budget to receive unanticipated revenue and make internal transfers.

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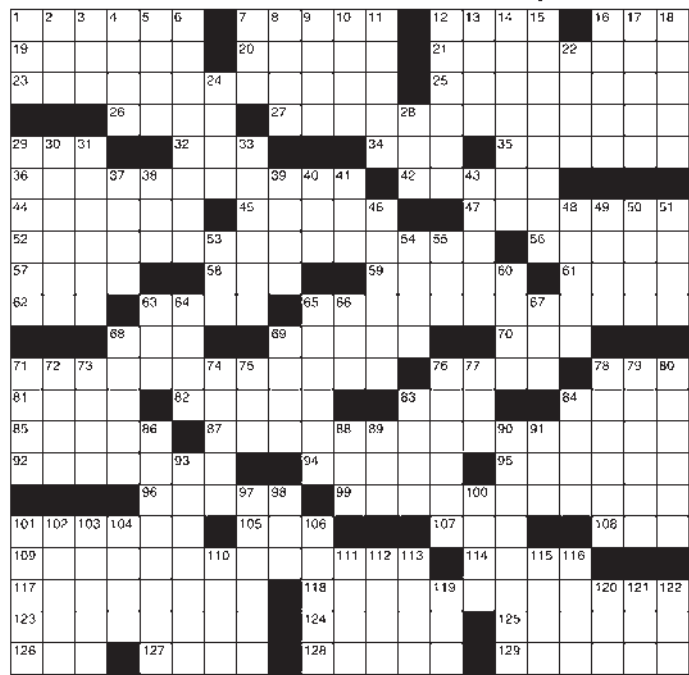
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999 PUBLIC NOTICES

Super Crossword

ACROSS
1 Stressed and "Nuts"
7 President after Bush
12 Japanese soup
15 Beaker: locale
19 Fanatic
20 Boo-boo
21 State of mind
23 "Can this be?"
25 Color close to aqua
26 Leave shore
27 "I'm to blame for" crosby-thing
29 M.I. address
32 Nada
34 "gosh!"
37 "Evidently!"
38 Events that break ground
36 Like K-Cup coffee pots
42 Two-word conjunction
44 So's Greek counterpart
45 Bangor locale
47 Bull
52 2011 Steve Carell film
56 Puppeteer
57 Opera song
58 Gallery work
59 Fox narquois
61 Nest eggs for sss.
62 Flinders on "The Simpsons"
63 Quick, sharp punches
65 Cocktail of bourbon
66 Lemon and mint
68 Purse
69 Boss who ran against Clinton
70 - in the bud
71 It might consist of a dictionary, thesaurus and atlas
76 Pouches
78 Te-ice
81 "You wish!"
82 They may gel slammed
83 Dad on "Plurige"
84 For takeout
85 Fa! to remain calm
87 Annual meeting to the IRS
88 Baskers' goals, often
94 Birth-related
95 Home for French presidents
96 Lemmer's musical collaborator
98 Kind of salute performed at military funerals
101 Cherubs, e.g.
105 Smartphone
107 Emulate
108 Mag bigwigs
109 Horric fighter pilot of the 1940s
114 Sinister
117 Studios with casels
118 Question you might feel like asking after seeing nine key words in his puzzles?
123 Yellow turnip
124 Roast beef last-food chain
125 Big brand of cosmetics
126 Water quality org.
127 Pack neatly
128 L.A.'s region
129 Pitfalls
DOWN
1 German auto
2 Spa agh
3 Material in viral genes
4 Tiny pieces
5 Pro - (in propoction)
6 Post-workout feeling
7 Multivolume Brit. lexicon
8 Malzo
9 In - (stuck) for short
10 Soft shoes.
11 Locations
12 Actress Marlee
13 Agenda unit
14 Slick around to see
15 Fig. accents
16 Dozies
17 Fully grown
18 Borscht base
22 Kind of lit. for downhillers
24 Yalies
28 Mauna -
29 Waste barrel
30 Capital of South Dakota
31 Mounded to a backing for decoration
33 Big-eyed primates
37 Egyptian city with pyramids
38 Myra of old movies
39 Spillbound
40 Roman
41 Finafe
43 Prow pioneer John
45 "Mama" Casa
46 Orang cousin
49 Figure skater Liginiski
50 Epochs
51 Pine
53 Key near O
54 Brewery kiln
55 Actor Sahay who played Lester Patel
59 "Chuck"
60 I - (mouth the words)
63 Parity
64 Container
65 Got older
66 Alternative to Mazels or Orsoo
66 Chalkmagne ruled L. Abbr.
67 Bro's sibling
68 Suit well
69 Orch. section with timpani, cymbals, etc.
71 Performs like Drake
72 Jacob's twin
73 Twain's Huk
74 Clamor
75 Hoodwink
76 Gels litle
77 "La Cage - Follos"
78 Muss, as hair
79 "I concur"
80 Chai dogs
83 Headliner
84 "Ciao 4 now"
86 Beat others in claiming something
88 Dojo surface
89 Old verb suffix
90 Remade musicals, e.g.
91 "Showdown" rock go.
93 "Fazy-peazy" capita!
98 Start for Pen or dermis
100 Barely earns, with "ou"
101 Informed (of)
102 Still in bed
103 Garbo of old movies
104 Singer Fitzgerald
106 Gyro wraps
110 Ship of myth
111 Slock
112 "Fast Money" network
113 "Watermark" singer
115 A party to
116 Constellation next to Hercules
119 Oahu, e.g.: Abbr.
120 Atop, in odes
121 Scot's dessert
122 Rased frams



999 PUBLIC NOTICES

RAISING A RACKET

6 Post-workout feeling
7 Multivolume Brit. lexicon
8 Malzo
9 In - (stuck) for short
10 Soft shoes.
11 Locations
12 Actress Marlee
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121 Scot's dessert
122 Rased frams

Weekly SUDOKU

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| 9 | | | | 8 | | |
| 7 | | 4 | | | | 2 |
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Place a number in the empty boxes in such a way that each row across, each column down and each small 9-box square contains all of the numbers from one to nine.

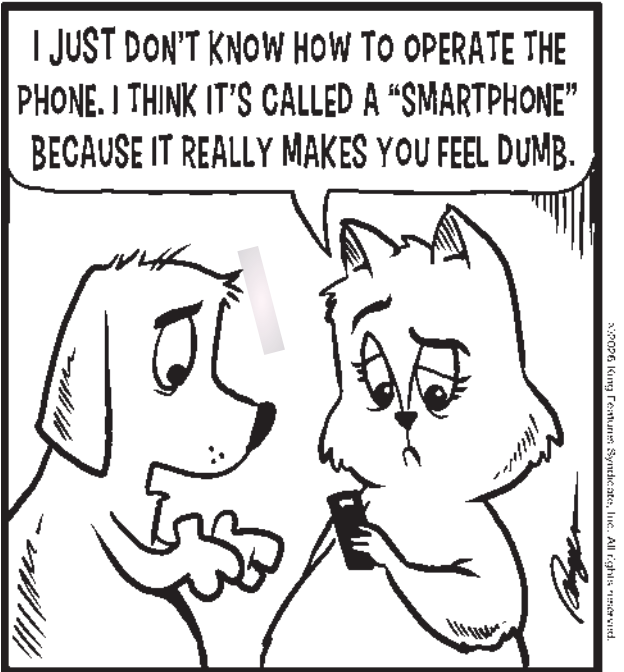
DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ♦♦♦

♦ Moderate ♦♦ Challenging
♦♦♦ HOO BOY!

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Answers on page 8

Just Like Cats & Dogs by Dave T. Phipps



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South Valley Athletics bringing fun in the sun this summer

WILL LOHRE

Cottage Grove Sentinel

For the better part of 60 years, South Valley Athletics has made it its mission to offer fun, active, and engaging programs to youth around Cottage Grove, and this summer is no different. South Valley Athletics (SVA) Program Director Tom Perkins has been involved with the organization since 2006, and for the past few years, he's been in his position as Program Director. SVA has been in the Cottage Grove area under one name or another since 1957, and they are always looking to provide worthwhile activities for local children and adults. In recent years, the SVA has also taken over the library's summer programming, including summer field trips, summer clubs, and original ideas to offer more for youth in the summertime.

At a time when it feels like technology is playing an ever larger role

human interaction is very important."

Perkins said that these days, it seems like technology is making it easier for people to isolate themselves, and for kids, it's crucial to have opportunities to socialize and enjoy time outside.

When school is out for the summer, busy parents need to find healthy and enjoyable options for their children. That's where SVA comes in.

This summer, the organization has brought back its SVA in the Park program. SVA in the Park happens four days a week, Monday through Thursday, from 12:30-3:30. On Monday and Wednesday, the event is hosted at Bohemia Park, and on Tuesday and Thursday, kids can head out to Coiner Park to join the fun.

"So, we set up in the park four days a week. We have arts and crafts. I have two adult employees that sit down there. They have

The program will run through Aug. 20. Over the course of a typical summer, Perkins said, around 500-600 kids come out to SVA at the Park.

"We're giving reassurance that there's a place where their kids can go get out of the house, if only for a couple days or a couple hours, they're putting those electronic devices down, and they're engaging with other people. They're being creative, they're being active. And that's good for healthy lifestyles."

Some of the camps SVA already had this summer included a volleyball camp, golf camp, and a cheer camp. Other upcoming opportunities include single events or recurring weekly activities.

One of the most refreshing is Kona Ice in the Park on Aug. 20, where the first 150 kids to get there will get free snow cones! That



Courtesy photos from Tom Perkins

Photos from some of the fun field trips and day camps that are put on by SVA.

during the concerts in the park, which he said, "is really popular." While the parents watch the show, the kids can pop over and hit a volleyball or kick a soccer ball around.

On Thursdays, Jun. 25 through Aug. 20, the Community Center is the place to be for kids, with a free chess club from 1:30 - 3:30 p.m., and free improv from 4-5 p.m.

To wrap up the week, there are Friday Field Trips. Those run from Jun. 26 through Aug. 21, and registration is available online. Parents drop off their kids at the Community Center around 8:30, and the trips usually last until 2:30 p.m. The return time also pairs well with the Friday movies that are hosted by the library. Perkins usually sticks around for the films and said any are welcome to join him.

Some of the field trip destinations include the Oregon Museum of Science and Industry, Wildlife Safari, the Eugene Science Center, the Raptor Center, Splash, and the Cottage Grove Christian Camp. On field trip days, SVA provides breakfast and lunch.

More local destinations include Singing Creek Farm and London Springs Farm.

"On those ones, we go to the farms in the morning, and then in the afternoon, we go out, and we swim at Dorena Lake and Cottage Grove Lakes," Perkins said.

In addition to standing weekly activities, SVA will also be hosting a day camp in late July, a

pickleball camp in July, and a basketball camp in August. Registration and information for those camps are available at www.southvalleyathletics.org.

While much of the programming is focused on the youth, Perkins said SVA is working on bringing more activities for older age groups. One such event they'll have this year is the SVA's Golf Fundraiser Aug. 23 at Hidden Valley Golf Course.

"We'll have food carts, music, we'll have some raffles. It's not a tournament; it's just a fundraiser. It's a fun, themed golf fundraiser," Perkins said. "This will be our second year doing that fundraiser. And we had a lot of fun last year; we're hoping to make it ramp it up and make it a little bit bigger this year."

Last year, there were about 30 people, as well as the SVA's volunteers.

SVA will also have a presence at the Spirit of the Bohemia Mining Days.

"We're gonna be in the parade. And then on a Saturday, I will have a little fun basketball skills competition at the Coiner Park, and it's part of the Lemati/Slabtown Feud Games," Perkins said. "It's an old tradition they do at Spirit of the Bohemian Mining Days. It's based on an old feud that went on in Cottage Grove. So if you're from one side of Cottage Grove, you're Slabtown, if you're from the other side of Cottage Grove, you're Lemati, and for the kids that come in, they say whether they're

Lemati or Slabtown. Then, how they do in the tournament, if they participate, they get points, and there are points for the winners, and that goes towards who wins the Lemati/Slabtown Feud at the Spirit of the Bohemia Mining Days."

It's a fun way to engage with some of the area's history and partner with the tradition of Spirit of Bohemia Mining Days.

While the SVA is just one of the great organizations helping get the youth active in Cottage Grove, Perkins said it wouldn't be possible without the organization's volunteers or board members. Keeping participation steady and growing is one of their goals, and part of that is increasing community involvement, whether through volunteering or attending the organization's events.

As a volunteer organization, SVA's success is fueled by people coming out to give their time to the community.

"It's important that we have people who are willing to volunteer and give their time to these organizations because they are important for these kids," Perkins said. "So if somebody's wanting to volunteer, or looking for a way to have a positive impact on their community, volunteering with youth recreation and youth sports is one of the best ways you can do it because when you do this stuff, you watch the kids grow in confidence, in skill, life skills, coordination, healthy attitudes, and healthy practices."



in everyday life, Perkins explained why participation in outdoor programs is so crucial for young people.

"It's really easy to let [electronics] take over. They're very addictive for one, they're designed to keep you engaged with them. They're like programs to just feed you, just little tidbits of what you love and what you like, just to keep you engaged with them. So, it's really important that we have these opportunities for kids to shut those things off, put them aside, get out, and get exercise," Perkins said. "Healthy, active lifestyles are very important, and then also the aspect of making friends and

sports equipment. We set up a soccer field. We set up a volleyball net. We have football, Frisbees," Perkins said. "You can feel good about sending kids to the park, knowing that there are people there that will be able to kind of keep an eye on them."

While the SVA employees are not "babysitters," Perkins said SVA at the Park offers a safe place for kids to hang out with other children from around the area. At a recent SVA park event, they had about 25 kids out at Bohemia Park, coloring, painting rocks, and playing volleyball and soccer.

That time in the park offers parents some peace of mind, and it offers the kids a chance to get out.

event will be hosted at Coiner Park. Perkins said that Coiner Park is a great venue because of the tennis and basketball courts.

One of the hit weekly options is the weekly bowling at Cottage Bowl. Starting Jun. 30, SVA holds a bowling event on Tuesdays starting at 2 p.m. The first 25 kids to arrive get to bowl for free, which includes shoe rental and two games. Perkins provides the snacks.

In addition to the SVA at the Park, on Wednesdays, Perkins sets up volleyball and soccer



Why Dot Cakes Are the Perfect Dessert for America's 250th Birthday

For America's 250th birthday, I had visions of creating something historically significant. Perhaps a colonial recipe. Maybe a dessert inspired by early American kitchens.

Then reality arrived carrying a deadline.

Instead, I found myself making the internet's latest obsession: The Viral Dot Cake.

The funny thing is that the more I learned about the trend, the more appropriate it seemed. Dot Cakes aren't fancy. They're layers of cake, frosting and colorful sprinkles. They're cheerful, nostalgic and designed to be shared. In a year filled with grand celebrations, perhaps that's exactly the kind of dessert we need.

Sometimes the things that bring people together are surprisingly simple. Here's the funny part: The internet's favorite dessert isn't an elaborate goldleaf freckled showpiece or a complicated bakery creation requiring trips to three stores and a monastery.

It's basically birthday cake. Like the kind of cake that we remember from childhood. Colorful, affordable, nostalgic and easy to share, Dot Cake captures something we often forget: Joy doesn't have to be expensive or complicated.

The original viral Dot Cakes are typically made in small cups or jars with

layers of cake and frosting topped with a thick blanket of colorful nonpareils. For Independence Day, I gave mine a patriotic twist by tinting the cake batter red and blue and topping each cake with nonpareils or dots.

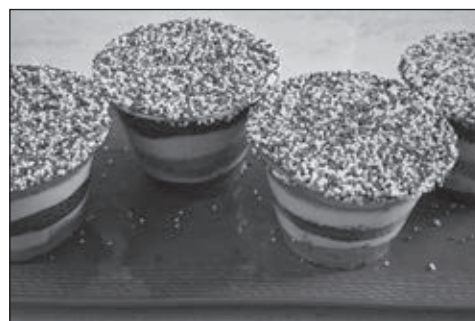
The beauty of Dot Cakes is that they're more about fun than perfection. Use a homemade cake or a boxed mix. Make frosting or open a can. The goal is a familiar birthday-cake flavor, plenty of frosting and a festive sprinkle topping that makes people smile.

PATRIOTIC DOT CAKES

Yield: 4 (9-ounce) cakes
Total Time: 40 minutes plus cooling
1 white cake mix, plus ingredients called for on package
Red and blue gel food coloring
1 batch frosting (recipe follows) or 1 container prepared frosting
1 cup nonpareil sprinkles, aka dots
4 clear jars, cups or ramekins (8- to 10-ounce size)

QUICK & EASY FROSTING

8 ounces cream cheese, softened
3 tablespoons butter, softened
1 (7-ounce) container marshmallow creme



www.JasonCoblentz.com

The Dot Cake gets a red, white and blue makeover just in time for Independence Day.

Preheat oven to 325 F. Prepare a half-sheet pan (13 inch by 18 inch by 1 inch) with non-stick spray and line

it with parchment. Alternatively, use a 9 by 13 cake pan.

Prepare cake batter according to package directions. For thin red and blue layers, divide the batter between two bowls. Tint one bowl red and the other blue using gel food coloring.

Spread the colored batters side by side in the sheet pan and bake for 20 minutes.

Alternatively, simply bake the cake according to package directions in a 9-by-13-inch pan. Bake until done and cooled completely.

To make the frosting, beat cream cheese, butter and marshmallow creme with an electric mixer until smooth and fluffy. Refrigerate. This frosting firms up beautifully when cold.

To Assemble:

Using a round cutter slightly smaller than your serving cups, cut cake rounds. Place one round in the bottom of each cup. Add a layer of frosting. Repeat with additional cake and frosting layers as desired.

Finish with a smooth layer of frosting on top. Use an offset spatula to get a perfectly smooth surface. Pour sprinkles onto a plate and gently turn each cake upside down and press the tops of the cakes into the sprinkles until completely covered.

Refrigerate for at least 1 hour or up to overnight before serving.

These cakes travel beautifully, making them perfect for potlucks, picnics and Independence Day celebrations.

Lifestyle expert Patti Diamond is the penny-pinching, party-planning, recipe developer and content creator of the website *Divas On A Dime* — Where Frugal, Meets Fabulous! Visit Patti at www.divasonadime.com and join the conversation on Facebook at *DivasOnADimeDotCom*. Email Patti at divapatti@divasonadime.com

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