

# THE COTTAGE GROVE Sentinel

**Roadway Improvements**  
See page 3



**CGHS Basketball Season Ends**  
See page 8



**Cottage Grove**

52  
36

Wednesday, March 25, 2026  
AM Showers

Wednesday March 25, 2026 | 137 years

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## Huge turnout signals momentum for Walldogs muralfest

CINDY WEELDREYER  
Cottage Grove Sentinel

More than 100 people packed into the Community Center's Shepherd Room on March 16 for Mayor Candace Solesbee's "Volunteer Round Up," the first community planning meeting for next summer's combined Walldogs Muralfest and Animal House 50th anniversary celebration.

The room reached standing room only capacity, with attendees lining the back wall and spilling into the hallway to hear details about what organizers describe as one of the largest community driven projects Cottage Grove has undertaken in decades.

With two All America City awards, Cottage Grove has earned national recognition for its ability to collaborate on projects that create long term, positive impacts on local quality of life. Monday's turnout reflected that reputation, drawing residents, business owners, committed volunteers, and civic leaders.

Solesbee opened the meeting with an overview of how Cottage Grove

secured the Walldogs event. The international muralist organization rarely selects towns under 25,000 residents for its festivals; Cottage Grove's population is roughly 12,000. Solesbee said the group was persuaded by the city's track record of volunteerism, its historic downtown, the community's demonstrated ability to complete large scale projects — and its enthusiasm for what organizers hope will become the world's largest toga party.

The tentative dates for the combined events are August 27–30, 2027.

Solesbee explained that Walldogs typically assign one of their "Legends" — artists with well established, award winning international reputations — to oversee a muralfest. Cottage Grove will have a Legend assigned to each of the 15 planned murals, an unusually high level of artistic investment for a town of its size.

Applications from muralists around the world have already begun arriving, and organizers expect to cap the number of

participating artists due to space and logistical constraints.

In addition to the mural festival, the event will include a major celebration marking the 50th anniversary of the filming of Animal House, which used several Cottage Grove locations in 1977. Oregon film industry veteran Katherine Wilson, who worked on the original production, provided an update on efforts to reunite surviving cast members who are able to travel.

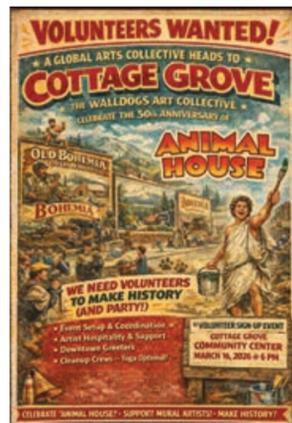
She said she is also coordinating plans for encore performances by Otis Day and The Knights and The Kingsmen, both of whom performed during the original filming and at past anniversary events. Organizers also hope to reclaim the world record for the largest toga party, a title Cottage Grove previously earned in 2003.

During the question and answer portion of the meeting attendees asked questions about mural locations, artist housing, traffic impacts, and event logistics.



Cindy Weeldreyer / Cottage Grove Sentinel

The informational meeting drew a standing room crowd in the Community Center's Shepherd Room on March 16



Cindy Weeldreyer / Cottage Grove Sentinel

Mayor Candace Solesbee presided over the well-attended information meeting.

This is the invitation poster for first planning meeting of this significant event in August 2027.

See MURALFEST Page 5

## Cans, cookies and commitment LMS students fundraise for East Coast trip



Courtesy photo from Casey Kerns

LMS students on a prior East Coast Trip at New York City's Central Park



Courtesy photo from Casey Kerns

Students on prior trip at the Washington Monument

CINDY WEELDREYER  
Cottage Grove Sentinel

Lincoln Middle School students are deep into a year of fundraising as they work toward the school's 2027 East Coast trip — scheduled for June 21–26, 2027 — a long running tradition that blends hands on history, real world learning, and the kind of independence that stays with students long after middle school.

Co coordinators Casey Kerns and McKenzie Ourada, both LMS teachers, believe the trip offers educational value that can't be replicated in a classroom.

"When students see these places in person, it makes it more than just something that happened in their notes," Kerns said. "It makes it real." She added that the experience also teaches responsibility and time management, especially for students traveling without their parents for the first time.

Ourada agreed. "Students get to experience history and culture in person rather than only reading about it in a textbook," she said. "Being able to walk through museums, stand in historic locations, and see the places they've studied helps make their learning feel real and meaningful."

For many students, the trip is also their first time flying or navigating large cities. Ourada said it is always impressive to see how students rise to the occasion. "They step up responsibly and take on the challenges with maturity and curiosity."

**COST, PLANNING, ACCESSIBILITY**

The total cost of the trip is \$4,000 for early registrants and \$4,159 for those who join later. The school maintains a ratio of one adult chaperone per ten students; with 34 students currently registered, four full chaperones will accompany the group, along with additional parents who assist with supervision.

Accessibility is a core priority for the co coordinators.

"One of the first steps we took was offering the trip every two years instead of every year," Kerns said. "It gives families more time to plan and fundraise." This year, the trip was also opened to all students affiliated with South Lane School District, including online and Dorena students.

"The travel company we work with also values making these experiences accessible for students," Ourada said. "They offer flexible

"This trip becomes one of the most memorable and impactful parts of their middle school years. Support from our community truly helps make that possible."  
McKenzie Ourada, LMS Teacher

payment plans for families and, early in the sign up period, provide income based scholarships that families can apply for." As former students who couldn't afford similar trips themselves, both co coordinators are committed to making the experience accessible. "We want every student who is interested to have the chance to go," she said. "We do everything we can to make the process manageable for families."

**A YEAR OF FUNDRAISING**

Students have been busy since the fall with a wide range of fundraisers. So far, they have sold wreaths, cookie dough, candles, and room sprays; hosted the middle school Winter Formal at the Armory (raising more than \$4,000); and worked concessions at University of Oregon women's basketball games — an

See FUNDRAISE Page 6

## 12th Street homeless camp to continue through summer



Cindy Weeldreyer / Cottage Grove Sentinel

The camp is located in this vacant area off 12th Street in Cottage Grove.

JEREMY C. RUARK  
Cottage Grove Sentinel

Cottage Grove's homeless camp will continue to operate at the 12th Street site this spring and summer, according to Cottage Grove City Manager Mike Sauerwein.

The fenced-in site, in a vacant lot along at the end of 12th Street, is opened and closed by the Cottage Grove Public Works Department staff. "The camp is in operation from 5 p.m. to 8 a.m. daily," Sauerwein said. "The concerns that people have had have been about folks leaving some of their stuff laying around at places around town and having to clean up after people."

But citizens' concerns continue to surface about homeless individuals filtering into local neighborhoods when the 12th Street camp is close.

During a city council session in November, concerns about the impacts of unhoused individuals on Cottage Grove's quality of life dominated the discussion. Issues raised included missed municipal court appearances, discarded needles and trash in public parks, a new camp on South Gateway Boulevard

Abby Jacobs, an emergency room nurse at Cottage Grove Hospital, and her father in law, Jack Jacobs, described how unhoused individuals are affecting daily life. They said families avoid Coiner Park because



Cindy Weeldreyer / Cottage Grove Sentinel

These signs are posted at the camp.

See COMPLAINTS Page 6

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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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# State agency to conduct in-person Fraud-Fighter events

The Oregon Division of Financial Regulation (DFR) has partnered with AARP the past several years on Scam Jam events throughout the state to inform consumers on the most common scams taking place in Oregon and nationwide.

This year, the focus is on Fraud Fighter events, and several such events are planned throughout Oregon. The DFR conducted a toll-free Tele Town Hall March 19.

According to the Federal Trade Commission (FTC), Oregonians lost more than \$133 million to fraud in 2025. Along with this Tele Town Hall, DFR and AARP are coordinating several in-person Fraud Fighter events

in April on the following dates, including an event April 11 in Springfield.

## Springfield In-Person Fraud-Fighter Event

• 8:30 a.m. to 12 p.m. at RiverBend Hospital Annex, 123 International Way, in Springfield.

The event is hosted by AARP Oregon.

Such public events will also be held in April 17 in Medford and April 28 in Portland.

Hear from Oregon's fraud prevention experts as they discuss today's most common scams, how they work, and what warning signs to watch for. You will learn about tools and tips to stay one step

ahead of the criminals. This morning's event features a resource table, presentations, and an expert panel to answer your questions.

Each of those events will begin at 8:30 a.m. with check-in, followed by a 9 a.m. to noon town hall with presentations, question and answer time, and panel discussions.

The events come on the heels of National Consumer Protection Week earlier this month, as well as numerous educational outreach events and press releases DFR has done on everything from romance scams to health insurance-related scams

"We hear about people every day who are hit by

scammers and have hard-earned money taken from them," Oregon Insurance Commissioner and DFR Commissioner TK Keen Keen said. "We want to continue to get the word out, to get in front of as many people as possible about all the ways scammers are trying to reach people."

If you ever believe you are or have been a victim of fraud, you can call one of DFR's consumer advocates at 888-877-4894 (toll-free) or email [dfr.financialeserviceshelp@dcbs.oregon.gov](mailto:dfr.financialeserviceshelp@dcbs.oregon.gov).

**ABOUT THE DFR**  
The Division of Financial Regulation protects consumers and regulates insurance,

depository institutions, trust companies, securities, and consumer financial products and services. The division is part of the Department of Consumer and Business

Services, Oregon's largest consumer protection and business regulatory agency. Visit [dfr.oregon.gov](http://dfr.oregon.gov) and [dcbs.oregon.gov](http://dcbs.oregon.gov).



Courtesy photo  
**The Springfield In-Person Fraud-Fighter is scheduled April 11 at from 8:30 a.m. RiverBend Hospital Annex, 123 International Way, in Springfield.**

## A CLOSER LOOK

# Sleeping under the gazebo leads to arrest

STAFF REPORT  
Cottage Grove Sentinel

The following is the weekly update from the Cottage Grove Police Department's Face-book page.

- Lane County Sheriff's Office (LCSO) requested assistance in a residential neighborhood to locate a wanted female subject. The female had an active warrant through LCSO for Failure to Appear on a traffic offense, as well as a warrant through our agency for Failure to Appear - Driving While Suspended. The female was contacted and issued a criminal citation for the Cottage Grove Municipal Court warrant and was

then taken into custody by the Lane County Sheriff's Deputy.

- Officers responded to the Post Office during the early morning hours for a report of a male subject sleeping inside the building with his pants pulled down. Upon arrival, officers located the male sleeping under a desk inside the building. Approximately two weeks prior, the same male had been contacted while sleeping inside the building and was advised at that time that he was trespassing from the location outside of normal business hours.

Officers instructed the male to gather his belongings and accompany them outside. Once

outside, officers issued him a Citation in Lieu of Custody for Trespass in the Second Degree (ORS 164.245). He was advised he remains trespassed from the business unless he is there to conduct legitimate business related to sending or re-receiving mail.

- Police Dispatch advised officers that there were two individuals sleeping under the gazebo in sleeping bags. When they arrived, one of the male subjects identified himself and dispatch found two active warrants for his arrest. One warrant is out of Eugene Municipal Court for Failure to Appear on a Criminal Trespass in the Second Degree, while the other is

out of Clackamas County Sheriff's Office for Failure to Register as a Sex Offender. He was transported to the Lane County Jail to be lodged.

- Dispatch received multiple 911 calls reporting a Hispanic female lying in the roadway on the freeway just north of the 174 southbound exit. The Oregon State Police (OSP) requested assistance with checking on the female while a Trooper was in enroute to the area. Officers responded and located the female lying on the shoulder of the free-way on the bridge just north of town. Officers made contact with the

See **ARREST**, Page 5

**WEEKLY UPDATE**  
03/09/26 - 03/15/26

Accidents: 1	Disturbance: 11
Arrests: 11	Suspicious Condition: 8
Burglary: 2	Trespass: 8
Criminal Mischief: 2	Vehicle Stop: 21
Disorderly Subject: 3	Welfare Checks: 10

Courtesy from the CGPD Total calls --- 280

## POLICE BLOTTER

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

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

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

### COTTAGE GROVE POLICE

#### MARCH 9

- 05:35: Criminal mischief, 1500 block S. 4th St.
- 08:59: Suspicious condition, 600 block S. 5th St.
- 11:09: Suspicious condition, 1400 block E. Washington Ave.
- 12:20: Trespass, Patrick Lp/6th St.
- 12:26: Agency assist, 200 block N. 16th St.
- 12:47: Fire, 1700 block Harvey Rd.
- 13:07: Juvenile trouble, R/Sweet
- 16:29: Warrant service, 400 block E. Main St.
- 19:06: Fire, 1700 block Curry Ave.
- 22:20: Illegal camping, 1300 block E. Main St.
- 23:03: Warrant service, 400 block E. Main St.
- 23:59: Trespass, 1300 block E. Main St.

#### MARCH 10

- 10:00: Dog at large, 800 block N. 11th St.
- 10:14: Juvenile trouble, 700 block South R St.
- 10:16: Alarm, 1400 block

E. Main St.

- 11:09: Theft, 100 block S. 10th St.
- 12:04: Warrant service, 1300 block E. Jefferson Ave.
- 12:46: Theft, 900 block Row River Rd.
- 13:24: Dog at large, 800 block N. 11th St.
- 13:28: Disorderly subject, 100 block S. 21st St.
- 14:29: Motor vehicle crash, 1500 block E. Main St.
- 14:47: Alarm, 1200 block S. River Rd.
- 14:50: Abandoned vehicle, 16th/Gibbs
- 16:54: Fraud, 1900 block W. Harrison Ave.
- 18:36: Welfare check, 1600 block Prithcett Pl.
- 19:05: Disturbance, 1500 block E. Main St.
- 20:30: Dog release, 400 block N. 14th St.
- 21:08: Warrant service, 600 block Wood Ave.

#### MARCH 11

- 01:37: Suspicious vehicle, 3200 block Row River Rd.
- 03:44: Trespass, 100 block N.14th St.
- 08:18: Missing person, 100 block E. Madison Ave.
- 08:20: Welfare check, 200 block N. 12th St.
- 10:38: Trespass, 1500 block Hwy 99
- 12:06: Abandoned vehicle, Fairview Lp/R
- 14:23: Juvenile trouble, 100 block S. 10th St.
- 14:58: Trespass, 2000

block Cemetery Rd.

- 15:06: Fraud, 1100 block Hwy 99
- 16:03: Mental subject, 300 block Coop Ct.
- 17:12: Juvenile trouble, 1700 block Curry Ave.
- 18:12: Burglary, 200 block Quincy Ave.
- 18:45: Reckless driving, Kathleen DR/Patrick Ct.
- 19:13: Disturbance, 400 block N. 16th St.
- 21:51: Welfare check, 900 block Row River Rd.

#### MARCH 12

- 01:37: Suspicious condition, 1000 block W. Main St.
- 02:09: Warrant service, 1300 block E. Main St.
- 10:15: Juvenile trouble, 1100 block Geer Ave.
- 11:11: Suicidal subject, 1100 block Hillside Dr.
- 12:54: Abandoned vehicle, 7th/Whiteaker
- 13:43: Theft, 1200 block N. River Rd.
- 16:16: Fire, 1000 block N. Douglas St.
- 16:21: Welfare check, 1200 block Birch Ave.
- 17:30: Agency assist, 800 block S. 14th St.
- 17:58: Dog at large, 100 block Adams Ave.
- 20:06: Disorderly subject, 1500 block E. Main St.
- 20:20: Disorderly subject, 100 block Palmer Ave.
- 21:04: Warrant service, 400 block E. Main St.
- 22:34: Juvenile trouble, 1900 block W. Harrison Ave.

#### MARCH 13

- 01:01: Suspicious condition, 900 block Row River Rd.
- 08:49: Missing person,



- 09:44: Harassment, 400 block E. Main St.
- 10:17: Repo, 100 block Karen Ct.
- 11:38: Theft, 600 block S. 5th St.
- 11:55: Agency assist, 77000 block Layng Rd.
- 12:06: Disturbance, 1700 block Hwy 99
- 13:15: Suspicious condition, 700 block Hwy 99
- 15:11: Criminal mischief, 200 block South M St.
- 15:38: Welfare check, 1500 block E. Main St.
- 16:15: Abandoned vehicle, 1300 block E. Main St.
- 16:59: Suspicious subject, 1300 block E. Main St.
- 17:26: Warrant service, 400 block E. Main St.
- 17:34: Trespass, 900 block S. 6th St.
- 18:40: Found dog, 400 block Boardwalk Pl.
- 18:43: Disturbance, 600 block Benjamin Ave.
- 19:30: Trespass, 900 block S. 6th St.

- 21:32: Dog release, 400 block N. 14th St.
- 22:36: Disturbance, 1500 block E. Main St.

#### MARCH 14

- 00:05: Theft, 500 block Landess Rd.
- 00:38: Suspicious vehicle, 100 block S. 10th St.
- 02:42: Assault, 900 block S. 6th St.
- 07:17: Trespass, 1500 block Village Dr.
- 11:13: Theft, 1000 block Villard Ave.
- 12:30: Disturbance, 74000 block Simpson Ct.
- 13:03: Fire, 2000 block Patrick Lp.
- 13:24: Abandoned vehicle, 1800 block Harvey Rd.
- 13:29: Disturbance, 800 block W. Main St.
- 13:37: Stolen vehicle recovery, 2300 block E. Whiteaker Ave.
- 14:30: Order violation, 500 block Landess Rd.
- 14:46: Welfare check, 400

- block E. Main St.
- 14:50: Disturbance, 700 block E. Whiteaker Ave.
- 18:45: Suspicious condition, 100 block South S St.
- 22:35: Fire, 100 block Village Dr..

#### MARCH 15

- 00:46: Warrant service, 1500 block E. Main St.
- 04:05: Dog at large, 5th/Adams
- 09:26: Burglary, 100 block North L St.
- 12:03: Suspicious condition, 100 block Quincy Ave.
- 13:34: Agency assist, 78000 block Currin Blvd.
- 17:06: Warrant service, 400 block E. Main St.
- 17:26: Disturbance, 1100 block Lord Ave.
- 19:12: Fire, Main/River Rd.
- 19:27: Disturbance, 300 block Hwy 99

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# ODOT launches curb ramp improvements at Cottage Grove

**JEREMY C. RUARK**  
Cottage Grove Sentinel

The Oregon Transportation Department (ODOT) is starting work to improve the curb ramps along Highway 99 in Cottage Grove.

The project is designed to add Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) upgrades and install new curb ramps to improve accessibility. Work in Cottage Grove will continue in phases and is expected to be completed in 2027.

"This work is part of a larger multi-city effort to update curb ramps in Astoria, Corvallis, Cottage Grove, Independence, Monmouth, Newberg, Salem, Keizer and Springfield," ODOT Public

Information Officer Mindy McCartt said. "The combined design and construction cost for the program is about \$156.2 million. Funding comes from the Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (STIP)."

**As the construction resumes in Cottage Grove, travelers can expect:**

- Daytime work Monday through Thursday.
- Occasional night work or Friday work as needed.
- Lane shifts, shoulder closures and occasional lane closures.
- Flaggers directing traffic.
- Businesses remaining open during construction.

• Some delays and construction noise, particularly during saw cutting.

**Why curb ramps are important**

Curb ramps make it easier for people to move between the sidewalk and road, according to McCartt. This can be helpful for those who have trouble stepping up and down high curbs. It's also helpful for people using wheelchairs, strollers, walkers, hand carts and bicycles. "By making curb ramps gently slope to the road, it improves accessibility and makes it easier for everyone to get around, whether they have a disability or not," McCartt said.

Another upcoming project in the area is the I-5: Cottage Grove- Martin Creek Road Repairs.

"This project will repave I-5 in both directions between mileposts 169.2 and 175.02. Construction is expected to start on the bridge repair portion in April with the paving happening this summer," McCartt said.



Courtesy photo

**The project is estimated to cost \$19.7 million and will:**

- Remove the existing pavement and repave the roadway.
- Add new permanent striping.
- Restore shoulder rumble strips.

**ODOT crews are conducting the curb ramp improvements across state at various locations.**

- Repair bridge surfaces and joints as needed.
- Repair or replace guardrail.
- "The pavement in this section of I-5 is rapidly deteriorating, and these repairs will extend the life of the roadway and bridges while providing a smoother ride," McCartt said.
- "The shoulder rumble strips will also help alert drivers who drift out of their lane."
- Drivers and pedestrians are encouraged to use caution in the work zones.

## COMMUNITY CALENDAR

### MARCH 25

- Cottage Bowl Open Bowling. 3-5:30 p.m. 740 Row River Rd.
- Senior Center Pinochle Games. 1 p.m. Senior Center, 700 E. Gibbs Ave.
- Food For Lane County Mobile Pantry. 3:30-5:30 p.m. 7th & Whiteaker.
- Acoustic Jam with Gregg Biller. 6-7:30 p.m. Coast Fork Brewing.
- Game Night with Ayla. 6:30-9:30 p.m. Axe & Fiddle.
- Wino Bingo with Bradly Shepherd. 6-8 p.m. Cottage Grove Public Market.
- Craft Tutor. 2:30 p.m. CG Public Library.

- T.O.P.S. Club. 9:30-11 a.m. Delight Valley Church of Christ, 33087 E. Saginaw Rd., Saginaw.
- Community Center Table Tennis. 4-6 p.m. Community Center, 700 E. Gibbs Ave.
- Cottage Grove Lions Club. Noon. Axe & Fiddle.
- Baby Laptime. 11:30 a.m. CG Public Library.
- Teen Gaming. 4 p.m. CG Public Library.
- Open Mic Night hosted by Bradly Shepherd. 7 p.m. Axe & Fiddle.
- Bread Club featuring Stone Hart. 6-8 p.m. Cottage Grove Public Market.
- Karaoke Night. 9 p.m.-Close. Bohemian Tavern.
- Celebrate Recovery. 5:15 p.m. Calvary Chapel, 1447

Hwy 99N.

### MARCH 27

- Elks Lodge Fish Fry Dinner. 5:30-7 p.m.
- Storytime. 11:30 a.m. CG Public Library.
- Art Walk. 6-8 p.m. Historic District Participating Businesses.
- The Huckleberrys. 6-9 p.m. Coast Fork Brewing.
- Joshua Thomas. 6-8 p.m. Cottage Grove Public Market.
- Friday Night Live at the Vineyard. 6-9 p.m. Saginaw Vineyard.
- Marv Ellis & DJ Dv8. 8 p.m. Axe & Fiddle.
- Weekly Pool Tournament. 7 p.m. Bohemian Tavern. \$5 entry; BCA rules.

### MARCH 28

- Cottage Bowl Open Bowling. 4-10 p.m. 740 Row River Rd.
- Herbalista Class with Ry. Noon-2 p.m. Cottage Grove Public Market.
- The Regulars. 6-9 p.m. Coast Fork Brewing.
- Natsukashii Soul. 7:30 p.m. Axe & Fiddle.
- AlAnon "Courage to Change." 7 p.m. Sinclair Room, City Hall.

### MARCH 29

- Elks Lodge Breakfast. 8-11 a.m. Elks Lodge.
- Solo Sunday with Melody Jordan. 6-8 p.m. Axe & Fiddle.

### MARCH 30

- .

### MARCH 31

- Cottage Bowl Open Bowling. 1-5:30 p.m. 740 Row River Rd.
- Trivia & Games with Gerald. 6-8 p.m. Coast Fork Brewing.
- Ukulele Club. 9 a.m. CG Public Library.
- Bilingual Story Time. 5 p.m. CG Public Library.
- Trinity Lutheran Church Free Take Out Dinner. 5:15-6:15 p.m. 675 S. 7th St.
- Dementia Support Group. 6:30-7:30 p.m. Magnolia Gardens Senior Living.

### APRIL 1

- Cottage Bowl Open Bowling. 3-5:30 p.m. 740 Row River Rd.
- Senior Center Pinochle Games. 1 p.m. Senior Center, 700 E. Gibbs Ave.
- Veterans Service Officer



Cindy Weeldreyer / Cottage Grove Sentinel

Available. 10 a.m.-1 p.m. VFW Post 3473.

- Acoustic Jam with Gregg Biller. 6-7:30 p.m. Coast Fork Brewing.
- Coast Fork Kiwanis Club. Noon. My Boys Pizza, Creswell.
- Rotary Club of Cottage Grove. Social 5 p.m., Meeting 5:30 p.m. El Tapatio.
- Ukulele Club. 9 a.m. CG Public Library.

Bilingual Story Time. 5 p.m. CG Public Library.

### APRIL 2

- T.O.P.S. Club. 9:30-11 a.m. Delight Valley Church of Christ, Saginaw.
- Community Center Table Tennis. 4-6 p.m. Community Center, 700 E. Gibbs Ave.
- Baby Laptime. 11:30 a.m. CG Public Library.

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# Oregon gas tax opponents file another lawsuit in federal court

MIA MALDONADO  
Oregon Capital Chronicle

**Fast Fact**

Filing comes less than a week after a Marion County judge ruled the gas tax question will remain on May ballot.

Opponents of gas tax hikes are once again suing the state of Oregon over a law that rescheduled the date of a gas tax referendum from November to May.

The Right to Vote on the Gas Tax Political Action Committee — organized by Sen. Bruce Starr, R-Dundee; Rep. Ed Diehl, R-Scio, and the Taxpayer Association of founder Jason Williams — filed a new lawsuit Tuesday in the U.S. District Court of Oregon in Portland one week after a Marion County judge denied their original claims, ruling that the gas tax vote would remain on the May ballot.

The lawsuit alleges Oregon Secretary of State Tobias

Read violated the First and 14th amendments of the U.S. Constitution, as well as the Americans with Disability Act because it didn't provide Oregonians with enough time to collect the 500 signatures needed to get an argument into the Oregon Voters' Pamphlet before the March 12 deadline if they can't pay the alternative \$1,200 fee.

"Oregonians were told they have a voice, then the state put a \$1,200 price tag on it," Diehl said in a statement. "That's not democracy. That's a pay-to-play system designed to shut out ordinary citizens."

Four people and an unspecified number of unidentified people who intended to file arguments but missed the March 12 deadline are also listed as plaintiffs.

"We will continue to follow the law as it is set out by the Constitution, the legislature and the courts," Read said in a statement. "We hope this issue will be resolved quickly because there are rapidly approaching deadlines

for elections officials to produce the voters' pamphlet in a timely manner."

The lawsuit stems from when Oregon Democrats on March 2 secured enough votes to pass a law rescheduling the date Oregon voters can approve or reject parts of a controversial 2025 transportation law that would raise the gas tax by six cents, double the payroll tax used for public transit and increase title and registration fees.

No Republican in either chamber supported the bill. Just one Democratic senator and five House Democrats voted against it. Gov. Tina Kotek signed the bill into law immediately.

Lawmakers blew past a Feb. 25 suggested deadline Read gave them to pass the law to allow time for Oregonians to collect signatures. The lawsuit says Read admitted that lawmakers compressed the timeline for Oregonians to include their arguments in the voter pamphlet after missing the deadline.

"Senate Bill 1599A collapsed the existing statutory framework meant to provide robust public processes related to explanatory and fiscal statements, racial impact statements, and avenues for citizens to engage in pure political speech," the lawsuit reads.

The plaintiff's claims are similar to those made by Mary Martin, a disabled senior living in Klamath Falls who filed a lawsuit in federal court and argued that the state violated federal disability rights by requiring she quickly submit 500 signatures or pay the \$1,200. The judge in that case ordered Read to let her submit her argument against the measure without a fee or gathering signatures.

Tuesday's lawsuit is at least the fourth lawsuit filed after lawmakers changed the date of the gas tax referendum, the Statesman Journal first reported.

[https://oregoncapitalchronicle.com/2026/03/18/oregon-gas-tax-opponents-](https://oregoncapitalchronicle.com/2026/03/18/oregon-gas-tax-opponents-file-another-lawsuit-in-federal-court/)



Alex Baumhardt / Oregon Capital Chronicle

**A gas station in Portland on March 14, 2022, where a gallon of regular inched towards \$5. The Right to Vote on the Gas Tax Political Action Committee in late 2025 successfully collected enough signatures to pause a 2025 transportation law**

file-another-lawsuit-in-federal-court/

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public charity. Oregon Capital Chronicle maintains editorial independence. Contact Editor Lynne Terry for questions: [info@oregoncapitalchronicle.com](mailto:info@oregoncapitalchronicle.com).

# Oregon's senior U.S. senator, secretary of state warn of fed voter suppression under SAVE Act

ALEX BAUMHARDT  
Oregon Capital Chronicle

Oregon's top election official and senior U.S. senator warn that congressional Republicans' efforts to end mail-in voting and impose strict voter ID requirements are voter suppression tactics disguised as election integrity.

At a news conference Friday, March 13, in North Portland's Albina Library, Sen. Ron Wyden and Secretary of State Tobias Read, both Democrats, raised alarms about the SAVE Act. It's a priority for President Donald Trump and congressional Republicans, who have introduced several versions of the measure in recent years. The most recent, a House amendment to an unrelated Senate bill, passed the House

earlier in February and is expected to come up for a vote in the Senate next week.

Read said the bill would create chaos for election workers and disenfranchise millions of voters in the runup to a federal midterm election that's expected to go poorly for Republicans. He added that it would saddle states with massive costs in the middle of an election year, requiring them to remake voter registration systems.

"All of this while doing nothing to address the actual threats to our elections — cyber security and misinformation and the violence and harassment that election workers are facing in the real world," he went on.

Wyden vowed to fight the bill in the Senate, where it's expected to get a vote



Lindsey Toomer / Colorado Newslines

**Oregon's Secretary of State is recommending voters submit ballots to county drop boxes to ensure they are counted in time during the upcoming May and November primaries.**

next week, and he and Read vowed to protect Oregon's decades-old vote-by-mail system. Wyden in 1996 was

the first federal official to be elected entirely by mail ballots. By the 1998 primary election, Oregon became

the first state to have more ballots cast by mail than at polls, and a ballot initiative to move to 100% mail-in voting passed later that year. Oregon became the nation's first all vote-by-mail state in 2000.

The measure isn't expected to pass the Senate, where Republicans hold 53 of 100 seats but it takes 60 to end debate and reach a vote on most legislation. President Donald Trump at a GOP conference in Florida Monday said he won't sign any new legislation until the SAVE Act passes, adding that passing it would "guarantee the midterms."

"What a staggeringly brazen disclosure," Wyden said. "We've never had a president of the United States of any party say something like this."

Wyden's latest warning comes on top of concerns shared earlier this week that wide-scale changes to when the U.S. Postal Service collects mail and postmarks envelopes could also jeopardize voters in Oregon and other states.

<https://oregoncapitalchronicle.com/2026/03/13/oregons-senior-u-s-senator-secretary-of-state-warn-of-fed-voter-suppression-under-save-act/> Oregon Capital Chronicle is part of States Newsroom, a network of news bureaus supported by grants and a coalition of donors as a 501c(3) public charity. Oregon Capital Chronicle maintains editorial independence. Contact Editor Lynne Terry for questions: [info@oregoncapitalchronicle.com](mailto:info@oregoncapitalchronicle.com).

# BLM seeks seasonal volunteer camp hosts across Oregon, Washington

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) is seeking seasonal volunteer hosts for several recreation sites in Oregon and Washington.

Hosts will help connect visitors to public lands during a milestone year as the nation celebrates its 250th anniversary, and the BLM celebrates its 80th anniversary.

Campground hosts play an important role in the visitor experience. They offer

information about recreation opportunities, answer questions about the area, and help ensure campgrounds remain clean and safe. Light maintenance tasks—such as tidying restrooms, collecting trash, and keeping signs and information boards up to date—are part of the daily routine.

This is a live-in volunteer position, and hosts must provide their own self-contained RV. Volunteers may be

eligible to receive a daily per diem reimbursement while serving on site.

Season lengths and schedules vary by location, with most positions running from late spring through early fall. Some locations can accommodate couples who want to host together and share responsibilities. All volunteer campground hosts must complete a federal background check.

Those interested in learning more or applying can visit Volunteer.gov and search for "BLM Oregon" or "BLM Washington" to view current openings.

The BLM manages about 245 million acres of public land located primarily in 12 western states, including Alaska, on behalf of the American people.

The BLM also administers 700 million acres of

sub-surface mineral estate throughout the nation.

The BLM's mission is to sustain the health, diversity, and productivity of America's public lands for the use and enjoyment of present and future generations.



Courtesy photo

**This is a live-in volunteer position, and hosts must provide their own self-contained RV. Volunteers may be eligible to receive a daily per diem reimbursement while serving on site.**

# City sets town hall to discuss budget issues

JEREMY C. RUARK  
Cottage Grove Sentinel

Facing a general fund budget shortfall of \$1.6 million, and a total budget deficit of over \$4 million, Cottage Grove city officials have scheduled the city's first budget committee meeting for April 21 and a town hall for April 23.

"I encourage everyone to attend," Cottage Grove City Manager Mike Sauerwein said. "We want to get public

feedback. We want the budget process to be open and as transparent as possible, so we are hoping in that first budget committee meeting to introduce the budget to the city, and we are hoping that people will come to the town hall to let us know what they think."

Sauerwein said he'll be providing the budget committee with thick notebooks outlining the financial situation and options to clear up the red ink during a city council session April 13.

Telling The Sentinel the specific options were still being assembled as of press time, Sauerwein acknowledged that service cuts and employee layoffs could be considered.

"There will be some hard choices to be made. I don't want to sugar-coat it. This is going to be some tough decisions for the budget committee and city council," he said.

Sauerwein said he will not be proposing any additional revenue sources.

"I won't be proposing any in this year's budget, no," he said. "Like I said, there is going to have to be some tough decisions to be made."

In January, The Sentinel reported that newly uncovered accounting errors revealed a \$4.5 million hole in the city's budget.

The discovery stems from years of incorrect entries, missing transfers, and unrecorded expenditures in the city's accounting software — problems Cottage Grove

*"There will be some hard choices to be made. I don't want to sugar-coat it."*  
Mike Sauerwein, Cottage Grove City Manager

City Council by Interim Finance Director Eric Kytola described as "substantial" and already affecting multiple funds.

Follow the city's budget process online at [cgsentinel.com](http://cgsentinel.com) and in the Wednesday print editions of The Sentinel.



Metro Creative Connection  
**Budget Town Hall**  
6 p.m., April 23

**Cottage Grove City Hall**  
400 E main Street  
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**Home & Garden Show**

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**COMMENTARY**

# Making the red flag fly: Examining a nearly decade-old law

**RANDY STAPILUS**  
*Cottage Grove Sentinel*  
Guest Column

Another legislative session is over and new laws are about to go into effect that will change things, some things, in Oregon. Right?

What people around government know and everyone else should, is that passing a law is one thing and getting it to work as intended is a whole different matter.

Consider legislation from nine years ago and working only in part: the red flag law.

A decade ago, many Second Amendment advocates argued that the problem with persistent shooting deaths was not so much the broad availability of guns as the ability of specific dangerous people to get hold of them. A response to that emerged around the country in the form of red flag laws, which provide for removal of weapons (mostly but not exclusively firearms) from people who seemed at high risk of harming themselves or others.

Oregon's track record on shootings tends to follow national rates, by population. It does have a below-average number of shootings of one person by another, but also has an especially high rate of suicide by firearm.

So far, 22 states including Oregon have enacted red flag-type laws. (Those without are mainly Republican-led states, and one, Oklahoma, has a law generally barring them.)



Aristide Economopoulos / NJ Monitor  
**Guns are shown at Caso's Gun-A-Rama in Jersey City, New Jersey, which has been open since 1967.**

Some of these laws refer to Extreme Risk Protection Orders (that's the proper name in Oregon), and others refer to Risk Warrants, Gun Violence Restraining Orders or Extreme Risk Firearm Protection orders. The operating idea is similar.

The process for using it starts with someone either in law enforcement or in the family or household of the person thought to be a hazard applying to a court for an order. If the order is approved, notice is served on the person. Any readily available firearms must be turned over either to law enforcement or a third party, who could be a friend or relative.

A judge considering an order has to consider risk factors specified in state law, including reports of threats of suicide or violence (or past history of those things), lawbreaking involving violence or drug abuse or other indicators.

In August 2023, the Secretary of State's Office reviewed the results so far of the 2017 Oregon red flag law, which took effect in 2018. The resulting report sounded ambiguous: The red flag concept had potential which was so far unfulfilled, the report suggested.

"In the first 4 and a half years that Oregon's ERPO [Extreme Risk Protection Orders] law was in effect a total of 564 petitions were filed, with the vast majority requested by local law enforcement," the report said. "Respondents only requested a hearing to challenge an order in about a third of these cases, with the orders being upheld about half of the time. ERPO use has varied widely among counties, with seven counties not having any since the law was implemented."

As national use has varied — states such as Indiana and Florida use it more than Oregon — so do Oregon's 36 counties vary not only

**EDITORIAL CARTOON**



widely but unexpectedly. You might guess heavier use of it in Multnomah County than elsewhere, but the numbers of red flag orders issued was higher in raw totals (and much higher per capita) in Washington and Deschutes counties and much higher per capita.

The highest number of orders in any county in Oregon per capita was — brace yourself — in Lake County (with 99 orders per 100,000 people). The second-highest per capita rate was in another haven for the Second Amendment, Josephine County.

Why the disparity? When Portland City Councilor Steve Novick recently reviewed the state red flag report, he was puzzled by the low Portland rate.

In a March 3 email, Novick said "After doing some reconnoitering, I concluded that a major likely reason for that is that the Portland Police Bureau never

prioritized training officers on the existence and use of the law, which was passed in Oregon in 2017. The PPB Behavioral Health Unit is trained in the law, and actually files the paperwork to initiate what are called "Extreme Risk Protective Orders," or ERPOs — but they are largely dependent on patrol officers to identify and inform them of situations where ERPOs might be appropriate."

Novick convened a group to review this, and invited a police officer from Bend who talked about how the red flag law was used more there. Since, Novick said he received a note from Sergeant Josh Silverman of the Behavioral Health Unit, who said, "BHU officers and I are starting next month to teach a one-hour, in-person ERPO class at in-service to every sworn member of the bureau. It will take until December to get everyone trained up, as we're running about one

session a week for groups of 20–40 officers."

That may have some practical effect. The lower use of red flag capabilities probably isn't due either to an inability or unwillingness to use it, but to a failure to build it into a standing part of police procedure. Once it's there, it may be used more often.

And a considerable number of lives may be saved, through a law put into effect as it was, so many years ago, originally intended.

<https://oregoncapitalchronicle.com/2026/03/12/making-the-red-flag-fly-examining-a-nearly-decade-old-law/>  
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**VOICES OF THE COMMUNITY**

# Supports Jake Pelroy

East Lane County voters need better representation on the Lane County Board of Commissioners than the tax and spend ideas of the incumbent running for re-election.

Candidate Jake Pelroy has extensive experience regarding policy issues and he wants to

bring a pro-business and pro-private property rights perspective to the board.

It is very difficult in Lane County for business owners and property owners to operate their businesses and use their land because of the onerous regulations that Commissioners

like Heather Buch have pushed on local residents. She would like property owners and business owners to shut up and pay higher taxes instead of giving them a voice regarding local regulations that impact them.

Pelroy wants to change the priorities of the Board of Commissioners to be more responsive to local businesses that provide jobs for local residents. He also wants to make it

easier for property owners to use their property as they choose.

Pelroy is also in favor of increasing the Lane County Sheriff patrols to make the county safer for its residents. A vote for Pelroy is a vote to improve Lane County government for its residents.

*Suzanne L. Penegor*  
*Eugene*

**ARREST**  
From Page 2

female, detained her, and escorted her off the freeway for safety reasons. While officers waited for the responding OSP Trooper, the female was advised she had previously been trespassed from Sunshine Market and Middlefield Oaks earlier in the day for Criminal Trespass. A Trooper with OSP arrived on scene shortly thereafter and took custody of the female.

- During a routine traffic stop, officers contacted the occupants of the vehicle and identified the passenger. Dispatch was requested to conduct a records check on the passenger. Dispatch advised the passenger had two outstanding warrants for his arrest for Failure

to Appear related to DUII charges. The male was issued a Uniform Traffic Citation for Failure to Appear on a DUII charge through Linn County Circuit Court. The citation was served, and the male was released from the scene.

- Dispatch received multiple 911 calls reporting a disturbance at a local park involving an adult male attempting to take a basketball from several juveniles. Callers further reported the adult male appeared to have a bloody nose and was walking toward Dari Mart, and that two juveniles followed the male to the store and began actively assaulting him by kicking him.

Officers responded to the area and located the male victim lying on his back and initially unresponsive. Emergency medical

personnel responded to the scene and assessed the victim. Based on the victim's condition, medics determined he required further medical evaluation and that he should be transported to RiverBend.

While the victim was being transported, officers began an investigation by gathering witness statements and reviewing available CCTV footage. Based on the information obtained, probable cause was developed to arrest a male juvenile for Assault in the Fourth Degree (ORS 163.160) and Disorderly Conduct in the Second Degree (ORS 166.025). The juvenile was contacted by officers, detained without incident, and transported to the Serbu Juvenile Detention Center where he was lodged.

**MURALFEST**  
From Page 1

Howard Sunkler, president of the Prospectors and Gold Diggers Club, said he thought the meeting was well organized and informative, and that it successfully generated excitement among attendees.

"I enjoyed the video on the Walldogs Muralfest in The Dalles. It blows me away to think of the logistics involved to organize that many people to paint more than a dozen murals in just a few days."

He added, "Our club has the capacity to feed more than 1,000 people in seven hours at our Breakfast on the Mountain during Bohemia Mining Days, and we would love to help feed all these people."

The Western Oregon Exposition, which produces the W.O.E. Heritage Fair on the third weekend of August, also expressed support. Ken

Schwieger and Alice Nowicki, who have shared leadership roles with the nonprofit for more than a decade, said Solesbee agreed it was best to keep the two events on separate weekends. This allows the WOE to offer campsites and facilities during the Walldogs/Animal House weekend, helping the organization raise funds for year round fairgrounds operations.

Nowicki said, "The Mayor took us up on our offer to help with the information meeting, and just about everyone that came through the door signed the volunteer sheet. Many organizations have a difficult time getting volunteers, so that was impressive."

City staff and volunteers emphasized that the success of the event depends on broad community participation. With 15 murals planned, concerts, cast appearances, and a four day festival footprint, organizers described the effort as "all hands on deck."

Solesbee said, "I woke up Tuesday morning — still feeling the energy from the meeting — nearly 150 people came out, excited, engaged, and ready to give their time. It was a powerful reminder that this isn't just an event — it's a community coming together to create something lasting, and they want to say 'I was part of that!' I am so proud of Cottage Grove."

The March 16 meeting was designed to be informational. The next meeting, scheduled for April 20, will focus on forming the logistical planning committees that will manage the many details required to ensure the success of this large community event next summer. More information about volunteer opportunities, mural sites, and event schedules will be released in the coming months as planning committees begin meeting regularly.

Follow developments online at [cgsentinel.com](http://cgsentinel.com) and in the Wednesday print editions of The Sentinel

**Weekly Online Poll**

**How much has the recent increase in gasoline prices affected you?**

- Somewhat, I drive regularly
- Not at all, I don't drive
- Hardly at all, I don't drive much

**Previous Poll Results**

**Do you plan to vote in May to repeal last year's state transportation funding package?**

**83% - Yes 16.7% - No**

**Quote of the Week**

**"May your troubles be less and your blessings be more, and nothing but happiness come through your door."**  
Irish blessing



**THE FIRST AMENDMENT**

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

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**OBITUARIES**

**Edith Louise Thompson**

October 9, 1943 - February 25, 2026

Edith Louise Thompson, 82, of Pendleton, Oregon, passed away peacefully from Alzheimer's Disease on February 25, 2026. Born on October 9, 1943, in Leona, Oregon, to William and Alice (Clark) Traylor.



Rodney, she was the best cook in the world, and he delighted in every meal she prepared. Her famous rule was that no one could have a second helping until they waited 20 minutes according to her sister Dorothy.

In 1964, Edith married the love of her life, Rodney Errol Thompson, in Yoncalla, Oregon. Their story began with Rodney winning a big red teddy bear at a carnival shooting range before they began dating. Edith adored the bear, affectionately calling it "Teddy" and it became a sweet reminder of the beginning of their relationship.

Edith also had a rare and unique talent that always amazed others, she could sit across from a client and write upside down so they could read along effortlessly and follow along with her instructions.

Edith graduated from Drain High School in 1960 and attended the University of Oregon for 3 years before earning her bachelor's degree in home economics from Oregon State University in 1965. She then completed her dietetic internship in Reno, becoming a Registered Dietician. As a Dietician, Edith traveled across Oregon, forming genuine connections with the many people she served. Her work with the Umatilla Tribe was especially meaningful to her.

Edith is survived by Rodney, her husband of 61 years, her son Steven and his wife Colleen of Springfield, OR her daughter Christina and her husband David of Ontario, OR, exchange student Erik Westerberg of Sweeden, sister Dorothy Cooper and her cherished granddaughters, Sawyer Rose Thompson and Celia Alice Youhui Thompson.

At home, Edith's passion for nutrition blended with her love of cooking. To

A funeral service was held March 9, 2026, at 1:00 PM at the Drain Church of Christ. Interment was at East Drain City Cemetery.

Arrangements are in the care of Smith Lund Mills Funeral Chapel and Crematorium in Cottage Grove, Oregon.

**JoAnn Elizabeth Heritage**

August 28, 1927 - January 11, 2026

JoAnn Elizabeth Heritage was born August 28, 1927, in Auburn, Washington. JoAnn's mother died when JoAnn was only 18 months old. She was raised by her single father until age 9, when she moved in with a neighbor, "Aunt" Alice.



JoAnn and Gordon moved to Sutherlin, Oregon in 1979, where they built a house. JoAnn was involved with the community, running a bicycle business and joining the American Field Service (AFS). She hosted two exchange students. She served as secretary of the Sutherlin Chamber of Commerce and received their Outstanding Service Award in 2004.

As a child of the depression, JoAnn developed a life-long strong work ethic. She worked picking green beans and cutting gladiolus. With her earnings she purchased a bicycle to ride to work. She started taking piano lessons from Elizabeth Heritage, a local teacher. When Elizabeth's son came home from WW2, she arranged for him to meet her student, JoAnn, home from her studies at Washington State University. The two fell in love.

JoAnn and Gordon were active in the Oakland Presbyterian Church, where he played the organ and she served as a deacon. She helped organize and run a Friday after school program, Kid's Space. JoAnn loved visiting with family and friends. She enjoyed gardening, sewing, cooking, and community service.

Gordon and JoAnn married June 11, 1947. They welcomed a daughter, Lillian, in 1948 and a son, Charles, in 1950. They were married for 59 years. Gordon died in 2006.

In 2024 JoAnn moved to Cottage Grove to be closer to her son Charles and his family. She remained vibrant, involved, and active, regularly mailing cards to friends and family, and reading voraciously. JoAnn passed away peacefully on January 11th, 2026. She is survived by her daughter Lillian (Jim) and her son Charles (Chris), four grandchildren, and three great grandchildren.

JoAnn spent the children's early years as a homemaker. The family eventually settled in Fremont, California, where Gordon taught school and they were active in the First Christian Church. JoAnn returned to college, earning a Home Economics degree from San Jose State. She taught at Washington High School in Fremont from 1965 until 1979. She retired as head of the Home Economics department.

A memorial service is planned on March 31st, 2026, at 4 p.m. at Cottage Grove First Presbyterian Church. Memorial gifts may be made to the Deacons Fund at the church.

**FUNDRAISER**

From Page 1

effort that brought in about \$12,600.

The group also maintains an active BottleDrop account, with students collecting cans and bottles year round.

Kerns leads the fundraising efforts, while Ourada manages logistics and itinerary planning. Ourada said Kerns is exceptional at finding fundraisers that help students earn the most money possible. "She really puts a lot of effort into making sure the opportunities benefit the entire group," she said.

Community support has been steady. Residents have donated cans and bottles, contributed funds, and participated in events. Blue BottleDrop bags are available in the LMS office,

where donations can also be dropped off. As spring approaches, students are planning car washes and other outdoor fundraisers.

"The Cottage Grove community has always been incredibly supportive of our students," Ourada said. "That kind of involvement makes a huge difference."

**STUDENT VOICES: RESPONSIBILITY, PRIDE AND ANTICIPATION**

For eighth grader Skylar Hersh, fundraising is about taking ownership. "Since it is my trip, I should work to make it easier on my parents," he said. Hersh, who was born in Florida, is most excited to see the Holocaust Museum and the Statue of Liberty. "Fund-raising has taught me responsibility,"

he said. "If you stay on top of it, the large amount of money begins to seem more manageable."

Izabelle Riggs said she joined the trip because it felt like a once in a lifetime opportunity. "The fundraisers are a good way to learn skills I may need for my future," she said. "You have to understand your coworkers and work with them. It shows that I have responsibility, and it's cool to see my hard work paying off."

Samantha Mallory said fundraising has taught her follow through. "Once I make arrangements with people for can and bottle donations, I need to show up at the arranged time," she said. "It makes me feel good that I am working toward this goal instead of just being handed the money."

**FORMER STUDENTS**

**COMPLAINTS**

From Page 1

of discarded needles, and homeowners are investing in security systems to protect children and property from theft and harassment.

Sauerwein echoed a statement about the long-term solution to the city's homelessness issues.

"The city of Cottage Grove is going to follow state law," he said. "Whatever the state statutes are those are the rules that we are going to follow. We continue to enforce the camping regulations

throughout the city and folks that are staying at the dusk to dawn camp can be anywhere else in the city just like any other community member during the day."

Sauerwein said the number of individuals using the 12th Street camp varies daily.

**DEATH NOTICES**

Jon M. Adams, 76, of Eugene, Oregon, passed away on March 05, 2026. Arrangements are in the care of Sunset Hills Funeral Home, Crematorium & Cemetery.

Lyn Rene Triolo, 78, of Eugene, Oregon, passed away on March 8th, 2026. Arrangements are in the care of Sunset Hills Funeral Home, Crematorium & Cemetery.

Roddy E. Adams, 69, Creswell, passed away on March 9th, 2026. Arrangements in the care of Sunset Hills Funeral Home, Crematorium & Cemetery.

**REFLECT**

Past participants say the trip left a lasting impact — especially the Holocaust Memorial Museum.

"It made me realize the importance of history," said Kailee Drescher, CGHS Class of 2028. "While we learn about this in school, it brings me back to the museum and makes me realize the impact a place can have on someone."

Ava Jones, CGHS Class of 2029, said the museum was equally meaningful for her.

"It was so impactful to see all the stories and images of real things that happened," she said. Jones has been helping her younger brother fundraiser by working UO basketball games and collecting cans.

**LOOKING AHEAD**

With more than a year to go, students will continue fundraising through spring and fall. The co coordinators said the work is worth it — not just for the trip itself, but

for the confidence and skills students gain along the way.

"This trip becomes one of the most memorable and impactful parts of their middle school years," Ourada said. "Support from our community truly helps make that possible."

For more information about the trip, or to make a donation of cash or cans and bottles, call and leave a message for Casey Kerns at 541-942-3316.



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the camp make it impossible for people like her to get out of the situation she's in. The woman said she feels trapped and hopeless.

**BACKGROUND**

Cottage Grove Police shut down the larger 12th Street site and a similar location on Douglas Street on August 22, 2024. A smaller version of the 12th Street camp was established in the fall of 2025.

"It was a significant process," Chase said during a September 2024 city council meeting. "We just wanted to get them closed as peacefully as possible and to facilitate a peaceful transition out of those sites and make it as seamless as possible."

Chase led a team of seven Cottage Grove police officers during a six-hour operation at the sites Aug. 22, amounting to a total of 42-police staffing hours.

"It was a lot of staff and a lot of resources," Chase said. "I think the end result is what we were looking for, which was the ability to close the camps and not to have any enforcement action taken, but to do it as peacefully as possible, and that is what we ended up doing."

Chase told the council, that during two-week period leading up to the closure, Cottage Grove Police responded to 14 calls for service at the 12th Street site. The two weeks after the closure, officers responded to nine calls for service at the site.

Cottage Grove Public Works Department Director Faye Stewart told the city council during a public session Sept. 9, 2024, that the cost for the overall two-camp site cleanup amount to \$44,929.95.

Reporter Cindy Weeldreyer contributed to this update. Read previous coverage online at [cgsentinel.com](http://cgsentinel.com) and follow developments in the Wednesday print editions of The Sentinel.

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CGS26-115 TRUSTEE'S NOTICE OF SALE TS No.: 185648 APN: 0513810 Reference is made to that certain deed made by Staci Archer and Jack Archer, wife and husband as Grantor to First American Title, as Trustee, in favor of Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc. as designated nominee for Quicken Loans, LLC as Beneficiary, dated 06/09/2021, recorded 06/09/2021, in the official records of Lane County, Oregon as Instrument No. 2021-038299 in Book xx, Page xx covering the following described real property situated in said County and State, to wit:

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Beginning at a point at the Southerly Southeast corner of the W. G. Simpson Donation Land Claim No. 55, Section 25, Township 17 South, Range 6 West of the Willamette Meridian; and running thence South 81° 15' East 195.8 feet; thence North 195.8 feet; thence North 81° 15' West 195.8 feet; thence South 195.8 feet to the place of beginning, in Lane County, Oregon. Commonly known as: 88859 Fountain Rd, Elmira, OR 97437 The current beneficiary is Rocket Mortgage, LLC f/k/a Quicken Loans, LLC pursuant to assignment of deed of trust recorded on 03/11/2025 as Inst No. 2025-006876 in the records of Lane, Oregon. The beneficiary has elected and directed successor trustee to sell the said real property to satisfy the obligations secured by said trust deed and notice has been recorded pursuant to Section 86.752(3) of Oregon Revised Statutes: the default for which the foreclosure is made is the grantor's failure to: Make the monthly payments commencing with the payment due on 02/01/2025 and continuing each month until this trust deed is reinstated or goes to trustee's sale; plus a late charge on each installment not paid within fifteen days following the payment due date; trustee's fees and other costs and expenses associated with this foreclosure and any further breach of any term or condition contained in subject note and deed of trust.

1. By the reason of said default the beneficiary has declared all obligations secured by said deed of trust immediately due and payable, said sums being the following, to wit: Principal balance in the amount of: \$255,007.69; 2. Interest through 12/31/2025 in the amount of: \$7,958.08 3. MIP/PMI Advances in the amount of: \$0.00 4. Recoverable balance in the amount of: \$1,979.50 5. Suspense balance in the amount of: -\$840.26 6. Total Fees in the amount of: \$122.00 7. Late Charges in the amount of: \$1,227.59 8. Total NSF Charge Fees in the amount of: \$125.00 9. Escrow Advances in the amount of: \$2,036.27 10. Together with the interest thereon at the rate 3.7500000% per annum until paid; plus all accrued late charges thereon; and all trustee's fees, foreclosure costs and any sums advanced by the beneficiary pursuant to the terms of said deed of trust. The principal sum of \$255,007.69 together with the interest thereon at the rate 3.7500000% per annum from 01/01/2025 until paid; plus all accrued late charges thereon; and all trustee's fees, foreclosure costs and any sums advanced by the beneficiary pursuant to the terms of said deed of trust. Whereof, notice hereby is given that the undersigned trustee will on

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05/06/2026 at the hour of 1:00 PM, Standard of Time, as established by Section 187.110, Oregon Revised Statutes, at the front entrance of the Courthouse, 125 East 8th Avenue, Eugene, OR 97401, County of Lane, State of Oregon, sell at public auction to the highest bidder for cash the interest in the said described real property which the grantor had or had power to convey at the time of the execution by him of the said trust deed, together with any interest which the grantor or his successors in interest acquired after the execution of said trust deed, to satisfy the foregoing obligations thereby secured (and the costs and expenses of sale, including a reasonable charge by the trustee). Notice is further given that any person named in Section 86.778 of Oregon Revised Statutes; has the right to have the foreclosure proceeding dismissed and the trust deed reinstated by payment to the beneficiary of the entire amount then due (other than such portion of said principal as would not then be due had no default occurred), together with the costs, trustee's and attorney's fees and curing any other default complained of

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in the Notice of Default by tendering the performance required under the obligation or trust deed, at any time prior to five days before the date last set for the sale. In construing this, the masculine gender includes the feminine and the successor in interest to the grantor as well as any other person owing obligation, the performance of which is secured by said trust deed; the words "trustee" and "beneficiary" include their respective successors in interest, if any. Pursuant to Oregon Law, this sale will not be deemed final until the Trustee's deed has been issued by Prime Recon LLC. If any irregularities are discovered within 10 days of the date of this sale, the trustee will rescind the sale, return the buyer's money and take further action as necessary. If the sale is set aside for any reason, including if the trustee is unable to convey title, the Purchaser at the sale shall be entitled only to a return of the monies paid to the Trustee. This shall be the Purchaser's sole and exclusive remedy. The purchaser shall have no further recourse against the Trustor, the Trustee, the Beneficiary, the Beneficiary's Agent, or the Beneficiary's

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Attorney. Also, please be advised that pursuant to the terms stated on the Deed of Trust and Note, the beneficiary is allowed to conduct property inspections while there is a default. This shall serve as notice that the beneficiary shall be conducting property inspections on the referenced property. Without limiting the trustee's disclaimer of representations or warranties, Oregon law requires the trustee to state in this notice that some residential property sold at a trustee's sale may have been used in manufacturing methamphetamines, the chemical components of which are known to be toxic. Prospective purchasers of residential property should be aware of this potential danger before deciding to place a bid for this property at the trustee's sale. NOTICE TO RESIDENTIAL TENANTS The property in which you are living is in foreclosure. A foreclosure sale is scheduled for 05/06/2026 (date). The date of this sale may be postponed. Unless the lender that is foreclosing on this property is paid before the sale date, the foreclosure will go through and someone new will own this property. After the sale, the new owner is required to




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CLASSIFIEDS - continued from page 7

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provide you with contact information and notice that the sale took place. The following information applies to you only if you are a bona fide tenant occupying and renting this property as a residential dwelling under a legitimate rental agreement. The information does not apply to you if you own this property or if you are not a bona fide residential tenant. If the foreclosure sale goes through, the new owner will have the right to require you to move out. Before the new owner can require you to move, the new owner must provide you with written notice that specifies the date by which you must move out. If you do not leave before the move-out date, the new owner can have the sheriff remove you from the property after a court hearing. You will receive notice of the court hearing. PROTECTION FROM EVICTION IF YOU ARE A BONA FIDE TENANT OCCUPYING AND RENTING THIS PROPERTY AS A RESIDENTIAL DWELLING, YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO CONTINUE LIVING IN THIS PROPERTY AFTER THE FORECLOSURE SALE FOR: 60 DAYS FROM THE DATE YOU ARE GIVEN A WRITTEN TERMINATION NOTICE, IF YOU HAVE A FIXED TERM LEASE; OR AT LEAST 30 DAYS FROM THE DATE

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YOU ARE GIVEN A WRITTEN TERMINATION NOTICE, IF YOU HAVE A MONTH-TO-MONTH OR WEEK-TO-WEEK RENTAL AGREEMENT. If the new owner wants to move in and use this property as a primary residence, the new owner can give you written notice and require you to move out after 30 days, even though you have a fixed term lease with more than 30 days left. You must be provided with at least 30 days' written notice after the foreclosure sale before you can be required to move. A bona fide tenant is a residential tenant who is not the borrower (property owner) or a child, spouse or parent of the borrower, and whose rental agreement: Is the result of an arm's-length transaction; Requires the payment of rent that is not substantially less than fair market rent for the property, unless the rent is reduced or subsidized due to a federal, state or local subsidy; and Was entered into prior to the date of the foreclosure sale. ABOUT YOUR TENANCY BETWEEN NOW AND THE FORECLOSURE SALE: RENT YOU SHOULD CONTINUE TO PAY RENT TO YOUR LANDLORD UNTIL THE PROPERTY IS SOLD OR UNTIL A COURT TELLS YOU OTHERWISE. IF YOU DO NOT PAY RENT, YOU CAN BE

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EVICTED. BE SURE TO KEEP PROOF OF ANY PAYMENTS YOU MAKE. SECURITY DEPOSIT You may apply your security deposit and any rent you paid in advance against the current rent you owe your landlord as provided in ORS 90.367. To do this, you must notify your landlord in writing that you want to subtract the amount of your security deposit or prepaid rent from your rent payment. You may do this only for the rent you owe your current landlord. If you do this, you must do so before the foreclosure sale. The business or individual who buys this property at the foreclosure sale is not responsible to you for any deposit or prepaid rent you paid to your landlord. ABOUT YOUR TENANCY AFTER THE FORECLOSURE SALE The new owner that buys this property at the foreclosure sale may be willing to allow you to stay as a tenant instead of requiring you to move out after 30 or 60 days. After the sale, you should receive a written notice informing you that the sale took place and giving you the new owner's name and contact information. You should contact the new owner if you would like to stay. If the new owner accepts rent from you, signs a new residential rental agreement with you or does not notify you in writing within 30

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days after the date of the foreclosure sale that you must move out, the new owner becomes your new landlord and must maintain the property. Otherwise: You do not owe rent; The new owner is not your landlord and is not responsible for maintaining the property on your behalf; and You must move out by the date the new owner specifies in a notice to you. The new owner may offer to pay your moving expenses and any other costs or amounts you and the new owner agree on in exchange for your agreement to leave the premises in less than 30 or 60 days. You should speak with a lawyer to fully understand your rights before making any decisions regarding your tenancy. IT IS UNLAWFUL FOR ANY PERSON TO TRY TO FORCE YOU TO LEAVE YOUR DWELLING UNIT WITHOUT FIRST GIVING YOU WRITTEN NOTICE AND GOING TO COURT TO EVICT YOU. FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR RIGHTS, YOU SHOULD CONSULT A LAWYER. If you believe you need legal assistance, contact the Oregon State Bar and ask for the lawyer referral service. Contact information for the Oregon State Bar is included with this notice. If you do not have enough money to pay a lawyer

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and are otherwise eligible, you may be able to receive legal assistance for free. Information about whom to contact for free legal assistance is included with this notice. OREGON STATE BAR, 16037 S.W. Upper Boones Ferry Road, Tigard Oregon 97224, Phone (503) 620-0222, Toll-free 1-800-452-8260 Website: <http://www.oregon-lawhelp.org> The Fair Debt Collection Practices Act requires that we state the following: this is an attempt to collect, and any information obtained will be used for that purpose. If a discharge has been obtained by any party through bankruptcy proceedings: This shall not be construed to be an attempt to collect the outstanding indebtedness or hold you personally liable for the debt. This letter is intended to exercise the note holders right's against the real property only. NOTICE TO VETERANS If the recipient of this notice is a veteran of the armed forces, assistance may be available from a county veterans' service officer or community action agency. Contact information for a service officer appointed for the county in which you live and contact information for a community action agency that serves the area where you live may be obtained by calling a 2-1-1 information service. Dat-

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ed: 12/30/2025 Prime Record LLC By: Carmen Robinson, Authorized Signer Prime Record LLC 27368 Via Industria, Ste 201 Temecula, CA 92590 Phone number for the Trustee: (888) 725-4142 A-FN4862134 03/25/2026, 04/01/2026, 04/08/2026, 04/15/2026

CGS26-116 NOTICE OF BUDGET COMMITTEE MEETING A public meeting of the Budget Committee of the Lane County Fire Protection District, Lane County, State of Oregon, to discuss the budget for the fiscal year July 1, 2026, to June 30, 2027, will be held at the Fire Station at 80287 Old Lane Road. The meeting will take place on the 9th day of April 2026 at 6:30 PM. The purpose of the meeting is to receive the budget message and to receive comments from the public or the budget. A copy of the budget document may be inspected or obtained on April 6, 2026 at the Fire Station at 80287 Old Lane Road, between the hours of 8:00 AM and 8:00 PM. This meeting is a public meeting where deliberation of the Budget Committee will take place. Any person may appear at the meeting and discuss the proposed programs with the Budget Committee.

# Cottage Grove hoops wrap up



Courtesy photo from the OSAA

The 2025-2026 Cottage Grove Girls Basketball team.



Courtesy photo from OSAA

The 2025-2026 Cottage Grove Boys Basketball Team.

**WILL LOHRE**  
*Cottage Grove Sentinel*

It's almost baseball and softball season for the Cottage Grove Lions, but before we start skipping around the basepaths, let's take a look back at the boys' and girls' basketball seasons for CGHS, and see where the teams stacked up at the end of the season.

**GIRLS REGISTER WINNING SEASON**

All in all, it was a great first season for Head Coach Kim Beer, as the team registered a 13-12 overall record and

posted one of its best league marks in years, finishing 5-7 in the Sky Em. When the rankings froze on March 3, Cottage Grove was ranked as the #15 team in the state.

Looking at the Sky Em League overall, Cottage Grove was somewhat unlucky not to finish third, as they concluded the season in fourth behind Junction City, which shared the same 5-7 record but had a worse overall record of 9-16.

It was a big jump for the Lions after they finished 0-12 in the Sky Em last season, and hadn't won five games in the conference since the

2021-2022 season, when they went 5-5.

With it being the first season under Beer, it bodes well for what future seasons may look like. Cottage Grove's biggest win of the season came against Marshfield on opening night, when they beat them 47-11. One of the season's major victories came against North Bend on Feb. 19.

North Bend finished the season as the second-ranked team in the Sky Em League, and after the Lions lost to them by just three points in their first matchup, Cottage Grove got some well-deserved revenge. The Lions won 58-50 at home to show

they could hang with top teams in the league, the first win over the Bulldogs since January of 2024.

While the Lions will definitely miss their six seniors, Emmy Bickford, Malorie Cleveland, Makya Alsup, Valerie Aura, Mariah Bailey, and Viviana Menchaca next season, there are plenty of sophomores and freshmen ready to fill the void.

**BOYS BASKETBALL**

After earning a play-in game last season, the Lions couldn't quite reach the same heights in 2026.

Cottage Grove finished the season with a 5-19 record overall, while notching three wins and nine losses in the Sky Em League. The Sky Em was brutally competitive this season, with the top three teams, Junction City, Marshfield, and Marist Catholic, each ending the season ranked inside the top eight in the state.

Down the stretch, things didn't really go Cottage Grove's way, as they lost their final five games of the season, but there were still some highlight moments for the Lions this year.

The biggest triumph came when they beat the eventual

league champions Junction City on Jan. 13. Cottage Grove grabbed a hard-fought, razor-thin margin 49-47 win to hand Junction City its first loss of the season, and show they can compete with anyone across the league.

The Lions will graduate four seniors this year, including Cade May, Lucas O'Hara, Van Norris, and Robert Warner.

Follow Cottage Grove High School sports features online at [cgsentinel.com](http://cgsentinel.com) and in the Wednesday print editions of The Sentinel.

## These state parks will have parking fees by the end of the month

**MIA MALDONADO**  
*Oregon Capital Chronicle*

Visitors will have to pay parking fees at 22 more Oregon state parks by the end of the month.

The Oregon Parks and Recreation Department requires day-use parking permits at 46 parks and waives fees at more than 150 parks across the state, and on March 30, the department will add parking fees at an additional 22 day-use parks to help pay for the maintenance and operations of amenities at those locations.

About 35% of funding for Oregon State Parks comes from these parking fees, and the fee changes are to protect the experience at these locations, interim department director Stefanie Coons said in a statement.

"We know fee changes are tough, and we truly

appreciate the support from visitors," Coons said. "These changes help us take care of things people count on like restrooms, boat ramps and trails, so we can keep parks safe, clean and welcoming for everyone."

Access to state parks remains free for visitors arriving without a car. Oregon residents must pay \$10 to park a car while out-of-state visitors must pay \$12 for the entire day of purchase.

For frequent park visitors looking to save on parking, an annual parking permit costs \$60 for Oregon residents and may be purchased online. See the link with this story at the Lincoln County leader website.

March 30 also marks the start of a \$10 fee at 19 RV dump stations across the park system. This fee helps cover the cost of maintaining this

amenity and supports efforts to ward more sustainable operations.

State parks with parking fees added March 30 include:

- Agate Beach State Recreation Area
- Angel's Rest Trailhead
- Banks-Vernonia State Trail

- Bob Straub State Park
- Brian Booth State Park
- Bridal Veil Falls State Scenic Viewpoint
- Cape Blanco State Park
- Cape Meares State Scenic Viewpoint
- Carl G Washburne Memorial State Park

- Devil's Punchbowl State Natural Area
- Elijah Bristow State Park
- Fogarty Creek State Recreation Area
- Gleneden Beach State Recreation Area
- Governor Patterson Memorial State Recreation Site
- Lake Owyhee State Park
- Latourell Falls Trailhead at Guy Talbot State Park
- Molalla River State Park
- Oceanside Beach State Recreation Area
- Roads End State Recreation Site
- Umpqua Lighthouse State Park
- Wallowa Lake State Park
- William M Tugman State Park

For more information about day use fees at Oregon State Parks, visit the Oregon Parks and Recreation Department website.

<https://oregoncapitalchronicle.com/briefs/these-oregon-state-parks-will-have-parking-fees-by-the-end-of-the-month/>

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Julia Shumway / Oregon Capital Chronicle  
Devils Punchbowl State Natural Area on the Central Oregon Coast is one of several Oregon state park sites to add parking fees at the end of the month.

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