

Plane
Crash Near
Cottage Grove
Page 3



Lions
Cross
Country
See page 8



81
49

Cottage
Grove
Wednesday,
Oct. 7, 2026
Sunny



Historic District bustles with Fall events

CINDY WEELDREYER
Cottage Grove Sentinel

Cottage Grove’s Historic District saw one of its busiest days of the year on the last Saturday of September as Oktoberfest, the South Valley Farmers Market Fall Festival and the Cottage Grove Community Cookoff combined to create a full district celebration.

Organizers said turnout exceeded expectations, with crowds stretching along Main Street from 5th Street to Highway 99 and on Washington Avenue between 5th and 7th streets. Businesses reported steady foot traffic throughout the day.

OKTOBERFEST

This year’s expanded Oktoberfest footprint was the result of months of planning by a team that included 15 businesses and 18 individual volunteers. Emily McDaniel of Coast Fork Brewing, one of the event’s lead organizers, said the response was immediate once the festival opened. She said one of the biggest successes was seeing the entire downtown function as a unified festival space.

“We were thrilled to see the newly renovated downtown crowded with community members,” McDaniel said. “The energy was extremely positive both from business owners and visitors.”

Organizers spent months designing the layout but weren’t sure how it would feel once crowds arrived, she said. The integration worked, and the festival’s mix of vendors, music, family activities, three beer gardens and new additions such as the Duck Game Watch Party helped keep visitors engaged throughout the day.

Looking ahead, McDaniel said organizers hope to continue building Oktoberfest into a signature Cottage Grove tradition.

FARMERS MARKET

The South Valley Farmers Market anchored the morning hours with its Fall Festival. Market representative Richard Sedlock said the event featured 53 vendors plus 16



downtown shops, far more than the market’s typical Saturday average of 30 vendors. Regular vendors were distributed throughout downtown and mixed with drop in booths, shop owners and sponsor tables, creating a broader footprint than usual.

Sedlock said the market’s information booth at 7th and Main helped both regular customers and new visitors navigate the expanded layout.

See more EVENTS
On Page 6

Cindy Weeldreyer / Cottage Grove Sentinel

(Top) Beef-loving crowds lined up to support South Valley Athletics. (Bottom) The Valancy Family shows their Oktoberfest spirit.



“Day of comments seemed very positive from both shoppers

and vendors,” he said. “Some regular customers were briefly



Courtesy from the City of Cottage Grove
Ward 2 Councilor Randell Lammerman resigned from the Council at the Sept. 28 meeting citing family reasons.

Lammerman resigns from City Council

CINDY WEELDREYER
Cottage Grove Sentinel

The announcement at Monday night’s City Council meeting came as a surprise to many in the room.

At the start of the Sept. 28 meeting, Council President Greg Ervin said Councilor Randall Lammerman had submitted a letter of resignation.

Lammerman was appointed to the Ward 2 seat on Sept. 23, 2024, to fill a vacancy created when Jon Stinnett resigned and moved out of the community. He then won election on Nov. 5, 2024, securing the seat for a four year term scheduled to run through December 2028. His resignation now leaves the remainder of that term open for council action.

The Council voted at its Sept. 28 meeting to formally declare the seat vacant. City Attorney Carrie Connelly told councilors the 70 day window for candidates to appear on the Nov. 3 general election ballot has already passed. City staff will now issue a call for Ward 2 residents to apply, with the Council expected to appoint a replacement. The appointed councilor will serve until the next general election in 2027, completing the remainder of the term ending in December 2028.

Lammerman said family reasons prompted his decision to step down. In an official statement provided to The Sentinel, he wrote, “To my neighbors and friends in Ward 2, serving as your councilor has been an honor I’ll always carry with me. For personal family reasons I must step away from this role. Please know I remain grateful for your trust, your voices, and your care for our community. I leave with deep respect and warm regards.”

CELL TOWER DECISION APPEALED

The controversial cell phone tower proposed for the City’s Industrial Park is now headed to the state’s Land Use Board of Appeals (LUBA) after two residents filed challenges to the City Council’s approval of the application. The Council voted to uphold the application at its Aug. 27 meeting, clearing the way for Verizon to construct a 100 foot tower on a parcel bordering Sweet Lane residential properties on the south edge of the city.

The approval immediately drew objections from nearby residents who argued the tower’s location would create significant visual impacts and conflict with surrounding land uses. In their filings to

Community steps up as preparedness gaps grow

CINDY WEELDREYER
Cottage Grove Sentinel

Cottage Grove officials say the community remains vulnerable heading into fall and winter hazards, with aging emergency plans, limited CERT training, and strained agency resources leaving gaps that volunteers may be best positioned to fill.

As wildfire seasons grow longer, storms intensify, and infrastructure challenges persist, local leaders are urging residents to take a more active role in readiness—because in a major disaster, help may not arrive quickly.

That reality motivated long-time volunteer and Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) trained responder Andrew Elliott to launch the Cottage Grove Community Preparedness Initiative (CGCPI), a grassroots effort designed to strengthen neighborhood level readiness and support the City’s Emergency Operations Plan (EOP). After South Lane Fire and Rescue discontinued CERT training due to budget constraints, Elliott said he saw a widening gap between what agencies can realistically provide and what residents assume will be available during a crisis.



Cindy Weeldreyer / Cottage Grove Sentinel

The January 2024 Ice Storm destroyed many trees in Coiner Park.

“People think emergency services will be there right away,” Elliott said. “But in a large-scale disaster, they’re overwhelmed almost immediately. Communities have to be ready to help themselves and each other.”

The Cottage Grove resident completed CERT training more than a decade ago and later appeared in OPB’s documentary Unprepared, which examined Oregon’s vulnerability to major disasters. Over the

years, he continued volunteering with local agencies and nonprofits, eventually recognizing that Cottage Grove needed a more structured, community driven approach—one that didn’t rely solely on agency staffing or budgets.

CGCPI formed earlier this year with support from the Woodard Family Foundation and in partnership with the Row River Valley Community Project. The program focuses on practical, accessible

training for residents, starting with the “Be 2 Weeks Ready” campaign, which teaches households how to assemble supplies, plan communication strategies, and prepare for extended disruptions. Elliott said the goal is to build a pipeline of volunteers who can eventually take on more advanced roles, including neighborhood response teams aligned with the City’s EOP.

“We’re not replacing emergency services,” Elliott said. “We’re reinforcing them. We’re giving people the skills and confidence to act when every minute counts.”

CITY IDENTIFIES KEY VULNERABILITIES AHEAD OF WINTER

City Public Works Director Faye Stewart agrees that community involvement is essential. Stewart said the City’s EOP, last formally updated in 2016, remains functional but needs modernization to reflect current hazards, technology, and infrastructure realities. Portions of the plan have been updated through

See More Community
On Page 6

See more Council
on page 6

INDEX

Police Blotter
Calendar of Events
Opinion
Classifieds
Sports

2
3
5
7
8

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Police Beat

Small plane crashes near Cottage Grove

JEREMY C. RUARK
Cottage Grove Sentinel

The pilot of a small plane that crashed in rural Lane County suffered minor injuries, according to the Lane County Sheriff's Office (LCSO). The LCSO received a report of the plane crash in the 79800 Block of Sears Road, northeast of Cottage Grove, at approximately 12:10 p.m. Sept. 27.

"The caller was a passerby who reported observing a person sitting in a field next to an airplane," LCSO Sgt. Levi McKenny said. "Fire personal with South Lane Fire and Rescue arrived

first and treated the pilot. Thankfully the pilot suffered only minor injuries"

The investigation revealed the pilot was alone in the downed plane. The aircraft was being followed by another aviator who witnessed the event. Deputies relayed what they learned to the National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) and the investigation is ongoing.

Specific details of what caused the craft to crash, and the identification of the pilot, were not immediately available.

This is the second plane crash in Oregon in the past several days. On

Sept. 21, a small plane crashed into the ocean west of Newport. The pilot, a 78-year-old former Newport City Councilor, was missing following that crash.

An extensive search by the U.S. Coast Guard and other first responders was discontinued several hours later after no success in finding the pilot.

Courtesy photo

The pilot was able to escape this crash with only minor injuries.



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, SEPTEMBER 21

01:05: Warrant service, 1300 block E. Main St.

06:04: Trespass, 1600 block S. 4th St.

07:38: Theft, R/Main

08:00: Abandoned vehicle, 700 block E. Gibbs Ave.

10:57: Fraud, 1600 block E. Gibbs Ave.

11:00: Abandoned vehicle, 400 block Monroe Ave.

13:00: Juvenile trouble, Hwy 99/Saginaw

13:11: Theft, 1500 block E. Main St.

15:05: Theft, 900 block Row River Rd.

16:51: Suspicious subject, 1800 block W. Main St.

18:59: Agency assist, 1100 block Hwy 99

19:13: Welfare check, Hillside/Taylor

22:02: Fire, 77000 block S. 6th St.

22:54: Trespass, 1000 block E. Main St.

22:59: Illegal camping, 200 block N. 12th St.

23:59: Warrant service, 400 block E. Main St.

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 22

01:29: Suspicious condition, 900 block N. 16th St.

04:55: Warrant service, 400 block E. Main St.

06:17: Wedged dog – released unharmed, 1000 block W. Main St.

07:18: Hit and run, 900 block E. Main St.

09:09: Hit and run, 1500 block Hwy 99

12:29: Disturbance, 1500 block E. Main St.

14:03: Warrant service, 400 block E. Main St.

14:59: Assault, 500 block Grant Ave.

17:54: Firearm purchase denial, 100 block Gateway Blvd.

19:50: Suicidal subject, 1900 block W. Harrison Ave.

20:34: Alarm, 1900 block S. 4th St.

21:42: Suicidal subject, 400 block E. Main St.

22:45: Warrant service, Crestview/Whiteaker

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 23

01:07: Warrant service, 400 block E. Main St.

01:23: Warrant service, 400 block E. Main St.

05:17: Motor vehicle crash, Mosby Creek/Center

08:07: Agency assist, 200 block N. 12th St.

10:55: Disturbance, 200 block S. River Rd.

11:29: Abandoned vehicle, Pennoyer/99

11:37: Suicidal subject, 200 block S. 3rd St.

12:18: Theft, 1600 block Curry Ave.

13:49: Found property, N. Douglas/Chamberlain

14:20: Juvenile trouble, 700 block Hwy 99

14:41: Hit and run, Grocery Outlet

15:17: Juvenile trouble, 1900 block W. Harrison Ave.

16:17: Mental subject, 200 block S. 3rd St.

16:18: Theft, 900 block Row River Rd.

16:21: Suspicious subject, 1500 block Village Dr.

17:17: Theft, 200 block S. 3rd St.

17:47: Disturbance, 1100 block E. Harrison Ave.

17:58: Barking dog, 900 block South T Ct.

18:53: Disturbance, 76000 block London Rd.

22:47: Nuisance, 1300 block E. Main St.

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 24

03:14: Suspicious vehicle, 900 block Row River Rd.

03:32: Warrant service, 400 block E. Main St.

04:02: Repo, 1400 block Clark Ave.

09:21: Trespass, 100 block S. 7th St.

10:13: Suspicious subject, 400 block E. Main St.

10:25: Abandoned vehicle, 200 block S. 13th St.

10:29: Abandoned vehicle, 1300 block N. 19th St.

11:17: Criminal mischief, 2600 block E. Main St.

12:51: Disturbance, 200 block S. 3rd St.

14:13: Harassment, 500 block Grant Ave.

15:06: Welfare check, 1500 block Gateway Blvd.

15:38: Welfare check, 200 block S. 3rd St.

16:00: Welfare check, 100 block S. 17th St.

17:06: Theft, 900 block Row River Rd.

17:12: Disturbance, 1500 block S. 4th St.

17:35: Suspicious subject, 700 block S. 13th St.

19:36: Disorderly subject, 900 block Row River Rd.

20:03: Trespass, 1600 block Samuel Dr.

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 25

00:08: Shots fired, J/Chestnut

03:20: Death investigation, 400 block Landess Rd.

10:39: Disturbance, 300 block E. Madison Ave.

11:48: Assault, 8th/Harrison

14:46: Warrant service, 400 block E. Main St.

15:37: Juvenile trouble, 1400 block Madison Ave.

15:59: Motor vehicle crash, 80000 block Hwy 99

16:07: Harassment, 300 block E. Monroe Ave.

18:47: Disturbance, 87000 block Territorial Hwy

18:56: Hit and run, 300 block North J St.

19:29: Disturbance, 700 block S. 8th St.

20:54: Trespass, 900 block Gateway Blvd.

21:57: Suspicious subject, 100 block N. 6th St.

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 26

02:01: Suspicious condition, 1800 block E. Main St.

10:09: Trespass, 1000 block E. Main St.

10:58: Criminal mischief, Sweet/99

13:21: Disturbance, 1500 block Gateway Blvd.

14:08: Agency assist, 100 block S. 6th St.

14:15: Motor vehicle crash, 5th/Washington

15:20: Disturbance, 200 block N. 14th St.

17:43: Theft, 1900 block W. Harrison Ave.

18:32: Disorderly subject, 200 block N. 16th St.

21:52: Intoxicated subject, 600 block N. 10th St.

22:52: Disorderly subject, 100 block Palmer Ave.

23:36: Suspicious vehicle, 1300 block S. River Rd.

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 27

00:54: Disturbance, 200 block S. 16th St.

01:00: Alarm, 100 block Palmer Ave.

13:34: Warrant service, 400 block E. Main St.

13:47: Suspicious subject, 100 block Gateway Blvd.

17:24: Found property, 1400 block Daugherty Ave.

18:53: Suspicious subject, 78000 block Cedar Park Rd.

19:45: Disturbance, 600 block Row River Rd.

20:04: Warrant service, 2300 block E. Whiteaker Ave.

It's not over yet, fire season still ongoing

JEREMY C. RUARK
Cottage Grove Sentinel

The Oregon Department of Forestry's (ODF) Western Lane and South Cascade Districts and the Lane Fire Defense Board (LFDB) have issued a fire season advisory for Lane County.

There is no fixed date when fire season will end, but the ODF and LFDB advisory states that current conditions suggest the fire season could run until mid-October at the earliest.

The end of fire season is based on factors like rainfall, temperatures, and fuel moisture returning to safe levels. Until the end of fire season, all backyard debris burning, regulated by the Lane Regional Air Protection Agency (LRAPA), remains prohibited for all of Lane County.

This summer was one of Oregon's most severe fire seasons on record, with more than 2.5 million acres burned statewide. Recent rain and cooler temperatures have lowered the wildfire risk;



however, there is not significant precipitation expected in the extended weather forecast, the advisory cautions.

"The rain in September was very welcomed given the record-breaking fire season. However, we will need more precipitation and better fuel conditions to end fire season," ODF Western Lane District Forester Ole Buch said. "Restrictions associated with fire season are in

place as a fire prevention tool to protect Oregon's natural resources and communities."

Outdoor yard debris burning is always prohibited during an active fire season, even when fire danger is rated low. Residents who start a wildfire in Oregon can be held responsible for the cost of putting it out.

"Some people have the misperception that Oct. 1 is a hard start date for backyard burning," LRAPA Public Affairs Manager Matt Sorensen said. "It's not — Oct. 1 is simply the earliest possible date LRAPA's rules allow. Wildfire smoke is the number one driver of poor air quality, and it only takes one escaped fire to cause really bad air quality impacts.

That's why ODF, the Lane Fire Defense Board, and LRAPA are asking everyone to be patient and wait for the end of fire season."

The ODF and the Lane Fire Defense Board advisory states that the exact date for the end of fire season will be made public as soon as it is determined.

Even after fire season officially ends, residents should check local fire restrictions and fire danger levels (<http://www.oregon.gov/odf/fire/pages/restrictions.aspx>) before lighting any fire, the advisory urges.

Wildfire prevention best practices:

- Outdoor yard debris burning remains the number one cause of human-caused fires in

Oregon and is prohibited during fire season. Cover your pile and wait until fire season is declared over before burning.

A dry, covered pile is cleaner and safer to burn in the late fall and winter. Visit beforeyouburn.net for real-time updates on burning regulations and safe burning practices.

- Never leave a fire unattended.
- Make sure your fire is OUT COLD. Drown it with water, stir the ashes, and repeat the process until it is cold to touch. Any warmth means it can reignite later.

For real-time burning regulations, visit beforeyouburn.net. For more wildfire prevention tips, visit keeporegongreen.org.

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Community Calendar

OCTOBER 7

- Cottage Bowl Open Bowling. 3–5:30 p.m. 740 Row River Rd.
- Senior Center Pinochle Games. 1 p.m. Senior Center. 700 E. Gibbs Ave.
- Acoustic Jam with Gregg Biller. 6–7:30 p.m. Coast Fork Brewing.
- Elks Lodge Bingo. Early Bird 6:30 p.m. Regular Games 7 p.m. Elks Lodge.
- Board Game Night with Ayla. 6:30–9:30 p.m. Axe and Fiddle.

OCTOBER 8

- T.O.P.S. Club. 9:30–11 a.m. Delight Valley Church of Christ, Saginaw.
- Baby Laptime. 11:30 a.m. CG Public Library.
- Bohemia Gold Mining Museum. 1–4 p.m. 308 S. 10th St.
- Community Center Table Tennis. 4–6 p.m. Community Center.
- Bread Club. 5–7 p.m. CG Public Market.
- Emergency Preparedness Class. 5–7 p.m. Adventist Church. 820 S. 10th St. \$15
- Celebrate Recovery. 5:15 p.m. Calvary Chapel. 1447 Hwy 99N.

- LB and Friends (Americana). 5:30–7:30 p.m. Coast Fork Brewery.
- Stone Hart (rock). 6–8 p.m. The Public (CG Public Market).
- Open Mic Night. 7–9:30 p.m. Axe and Fiddle. Sign Up begins at 6:30 p.m.
- Cottage Theatre Play: “The Addams Family Musical”. Performances: Thu–Sat at 7:30 pm and Sun at 2:30 pm.

Tickets: \$32 adults/\$20 students at www.cottagetheatre.org.

OCTOBER 9

- Storytime. 11:30 a.m. CG Public Library.
- Bohemia Gold Mining Museum. 1–4 p.m. 308 S. 10th St.
- American Legion Bingo. 5–7 p.m. American Legion Post 32. 826 W. Main St.
- Elks Lodge Fundraising Dinner: Ham or Pasta Dinner. 5–6:30 p.m. \$12
- Definite Maybe (genre?). Saginaw Vineyard Friday Night Live. 6–9 p.m.
- Long Distance Bluegrass (string band). 6–9 p.m. Coast Fork Brewery.



Cindy Weeldreyer / Cottage Grove Sentinel

Sunrise along the Weeldreyer Hill at Cottage Grove.

- Weekly Pool Tournament. 7 p.m. Bohemian Tavern. \$5 entry. BCA rules.

- Sassafras! (folk rock/Americana). 8–10 p.m. Axe and Fiddle.

- Share Fair. 9 a.m. 1133 E. Main St.
- AARP Fraud Fighter Workshop. 9 a.m.–Noon, Community Center.
- Library/Community Volunteer Fair. 10 a.m.–2 p.m. Community Center.
- South Valley Farmers Market. 10 a.m.–2 p.m. 7th and Main Street.
- KNND Fall Alligator Auction. 10 a.m.–3 p.m. 1400AM. Call 541-942-2468 for Bidder#.
- Cottage Grove Museum. 1–4 p.m. Birch Avenue and H Street.
- Bohemia Gold Mining Museum. 1–4 p.m. 308 S. 10th St.
- 2nd Annual Harvest Fest. 2–6 p.m. The Public (CG Public Market). 923 E. Main St.
- Inner Limits (Contemporary). 6–9 p.m. Coast Fork Brewery.
- Kegs of Comedy: Jake Woodmansee. 8–10 p.m. Axe and Fiddle.

OCTOBER 11

- Cottage Grove Museum. 1–4 p.m. Birch Avenue and H Street.

- The Regulars (Americana). 1–3 p.m. Covered Bridge Brewery
- VFW Bingo. 2–4 p.m. VFW Post 3473. 3160 Hillside Dr.
- Wes Urbaniak and The Mountain Folk (folk). 7–8 p.m. Axe and Fiddle \$12-\$15

OCTOBER 12

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

OCTOBER 13

- Ukulele Club. (for adults) 9 a.m. CG Public Library.
- Bilingual Story Time. 5 p.m. CG Public Library.
- History Pub. 5–7 p.m. Axe & Fiddle. Topic: Woodard Mill Log Flume
- Trinity Lutheran Free TakeOut Dinner. 5:15–6:15 p.m. 675 S. 7th St.
- Trivia & Games with Gerald and Cribbage with Ted. 6–8 p.m. Coast Fork Brewing.
- Liana Gabel and the Human Beings (folk). 8– 10 p.m. Axe and Fiddle

OCTOBER 10

Volunteer Fair showcases opportunities for community service

CINDY WEELDREYER
Cottage Grove Sentinel

This Saturday’s Cottage Grove Public Library Volunteer Fair offers residents of all ages a chance to learn more about local organizations seeking like-minded volunteers to support their missions.

The Oct. 10 event runs from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the Community Center Reception Hall, 700 E. Gibbs Ave. Attendees can visit tables hosted by each participating group to learn about ongoing projects, upcoming events and ways to get involved.

Librarians Mary Love and Clarena Pinckney coordinated the fair in response to a City

Council directive encouraging greater volunteer engagement in library operations. They expanded the idea to include all community organizations.

“We are hoping that this year we can build a better contact list with organizations and make the volunteer fair a tradition,” Love said. “We have been excited to do more community outreach to try and help build back Cottage Grove’s volunteer culture.”

As of press time, participating organizations include: The Genealogical Society, Community Sharing Educational Garden, Cottage Grove Museum, League of Women Voters, Lane County History Museum, SMART

Reading, Cottage Grove Community Preparedness Initiative, Friends of the Cottage Grove Public Library, South Valley Athletics, The Scouts, OSU Extension, Family Relief Nursery, Row River Grange, Blackberry Food Co Op and Lions. Organizers say additional groups are welcome. To table at the fair, send an RSVP to holds@cottagegroveor.gov.

Mayor Candace Solesbee said volunteering remains one of the most meaningful ways to support neighbors and strengthen the community. She hopes younger residents will take part.

“We’d love to see some new faces, especially more young people,” Solesbee said. “Many of us grew up learning to pitch in, and I hope we can pass that spirit along. I encourage parents and grandparents to bring their kids along and help them find a way to get involved. Whether they’re creative, good with numbers, great at organizing

or ready to roll up their sleeves, there’s a place for everyone — and every helping hand matters.”

Pinckney said establishing the fair as an annual event would help deepen connections with community partners.

“If we make this an annual event, it means by next year our community building

muscles will be a lot stronger when it comes to contacting our community partners and advertising,” she said. “With the restructuring of the library we have been quite busy learning new duties and skills, but we are excited to still be here and develop new ways to support our community organizations.”

SMART Reading seeking volunteers

SUBMITTED

For 35 years, SMART Reading, Oregon’s largest volunteer-driven literacy nonprofit, has proven that one hour a week can change a child’s life.

Now, as the organization prepares to launch programs for the 2026-27 school year, Cottage Grove community members have an opportunity to step up and empower the next generation of readers by volunteering to read weekly with students at Harrison Elementary.

Since launching in 1992, SMART Reading has reached landmark milestones across the state, pairing over 164,000 volunteers with more than 357,000 Oregon children and putting over 5.1 million books directly into children’s homes. This year, SMART plans to serve 966 students and distribute nearly 7,000 books in Lane, Linn, and Benton counties ensuring local kids have the tools and support they need to succeed.

“For 35 years, our volunteers have been the heart of everything we do,” says SMART Reading’s Regional Director, Leona Westdahl. “Sitting down with a child and encouraging them, helping them find books they love, and giving them an opportunity to practice the skills they’re learning in the classroom is a simple, but powerful way to set them on a path for success in school and beyond. Plus, it’s so much fun!”

Volunteer Reader Opportunity: Commit one hour a week to read with a child at



a local school. No prior teaching experience is required, and full training is provided.

According to the Oregon Department of Education, 60% of Oregon third-graders are currently reading below grade level. Data collected from teachers annually consistently shows that nearly 90% of SMART Reading participants demonstrate measurable growth in reading comprehension, vocabulary, motivation, and confidence.

To learn more about volunteer opportunities or sign up today, visit www.SMARTReading.org/volunteer or call 541-600-8035.

About SMART Reading
SMART Reading is a statewide children’s literacy nonprofit celebrating 35 years of serving kids in Oregon’s highest-need schools and communities. SMART delivers two ingredients critical for learning success: shared reading time and personal book ownership.

By mobilizing volunteers to read with PreK through third-grade students, SMART builds confidence, literacy skills, and a lifelong love of reading. Visit www.SMARTReading.org or call 541-600-8035 to learn more.

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Obituaries / News

Richard Wayne Morss

June 30, 1940 - September 18, 2026

Richard Wayne Morss, a longtime resident of Cottage Grove, Oregon, passed away on September 18, 2026, from heart failure. He was 86 years old.

Richard was born on June 30, 1940, to Leon and Katherine Morss at Sacred Heart Hospital in Eugene, Oregon. He grew up in Dorena, Oregon, attending Dorena School before graduating from Cottage Grove High School in 1958. Upon graduation, he enlisted in the Army National Guard where he served and advanced to the rank of Sergeant. In his early years he worked at Richfield Service Station, at Weyerhaeuser, and at Keith Roberts Ford Garage. He attended Lane Community College and graduated from the American Institute of Banking (PCBS).

Richard began his career in banking with US Bank in 1967, advancing from collections to management. He was later recruited by Centennial Bank, where he rose to Vice President. Upon returning to Cottage Grove, he served as Manager and then Vice President for both Cottage Grove Bank and Western Oregon Community Bank, in addition to working with Umpqua Valley and Siuslaw Valley Banks. As a real estate agent, he joined his wife Mary to establish Western Oregon Properties, where he made countless contacts and lasting friendships.

A devoted community member, Richard was active in the Lions Club, where he served as President, and he also participated



in the Elks Lodge, the Jaycees, and the Kiwanis Club. He had a gift for making friends and was cherished for his sense of humor, his remarkable memory for family history, and his talent for telling jokes and stories. In his free time, he enjoyed his vintage cars, music, cooking, golf, hunting, fishing, cheering for the Seattle Seahawks, Kansas City Chiefs, and Oregon Ducks, and caring for his many beloved pets over the years.

Richard is survived by Mary Evenson-Morss; his daughter, Katrina Morss (Gerard “Rod”) Commesso; his brother, William “Bill” Morss; his grandchildren, Olivia, Ryan (Kayce), and Graham Commesso; and his great-grandchildren, Angelo and Charlotte “Lottie” Commesso, in addition to his many nieces, nephews, and cousins. He was preceded in death by his father, Leon Morss Sr.; his mother, Katherine Gildersleeve Morss; and his brother, Leon “Lynn” Morss Jr.

A service will be held on October 10, 2026, at 10 a.m. at Smith-Lund-Mills Funeral Chapel in Cottage Grove, Oregon, with a reception to follow immediately. A graveside service will take place at 12:00 p.m. at Fir Grove Cemetery, also in Cottage Grove.

Richard’s warmth, humor, and love of family and friends will be deeply missed by all who knew him.

And that’s his story and he’s sticking to it.

Bridge work east of Cottage Grove

Lane County Parks is working to stabilize Currin Covered Bridge and Stewart Covered Bridge, both east of Cottage Grove.

The bridges have been closed to vehicle traffic for many years and are bypassed by concrete bridges. Both bridges remain closed to pedestrian access.

During the stabilization work, one lane of Layng Road and one lane

of Garoutte Road near the construction may be closed at times. Traffic will be controlled by flaggers as needed.

- Locations:
- Currin Covered Bridge is located alongside the intersection of Layng Road and Row River Road
 - Stewart Covered Bridge is located alongside the intersection of Garoutte Road and Mosby Creek Road

Dates and Times: Now through December 31, 2026, Monday–Friday, between 7 a.m. and 7 p.m.

- Alternate Routes:
- Currin Covered Bridge can be avoided by accessing Layng Road from Mosby Creek Road
 - Stewart Covered Bridge can be avoided by accessing Garoutte Road from Shoreview Drive



Metro Creative Connection

During the stabilization work, one lane of Layng Road and one lane of Garoutte Road near the construction may be closed at times. Traffic will be controlled by flaggers as needed.

DEATH NOTICE

Gary K. Williams, 64, of Eugene, Oregon, passed away on September 17th, 2026.

Arrangements are in the care of Sunset Hills Funeral Home, Crematorium & Cemetery.

Here’s how Oregonians want the state to address its transportation budget crisis

MIA MALDONADO
Oregon Capital Chronicle

Oregonians ranked maintaining and bridges and improving safety as the top priorities they think the Oregon Department of Transportation should focus on as it looks to resolve a \$200 million budget gap in the 2027-29 budget cycle.

Between August and September, the group Gov. Tina Kotek tasked with vetting solutions to the state’s transportation budget crisis surveyed Oregonians about what they think the state’s spending priorities should be. The Oregon Capital Chronicle obtained a copy of the survey responses, as well as an analysis of the responses compiled by Department of Transportation staff.

About 8,650 Oregonians from all counties except Wheeler County responded to the survey. More than 60% of respondents live in the Portland metro area, according to the survey analysis. In 2024, nearly half of Oregon’s population lived in the Portland metro area, according to a state economic analysis.

Survey comments express frustration with spending, emphasize public transit

The first question in the survey asked respondents to rank six transportation priorities:

- Improving safety
- Reliable public transit
- Easier to bike and walk
- Better traffic flow
- Maintaining the system, such as fixing potholes, clearing debris and snow

- Preserving key assets, such as bridges and roads needing replacement

Maintaining the transportation system was ranked as the top priority in the survey, followed by preserving key assets, improving safety, making it easier to bike and walk, reliable public transit and better traffic flow.

Nearly 4,600 people included comments in their answers to this question, including hundreds who expressed their frustration with cuts to TriMet, Portland’s public transportation system. Many of them said they rely on public transportation because they cannot afford a car or because of health issues.

The department did not include commenters’ names in its records release, or any other identifying information aside from each respondent’s zip code.

“I’m an avid public transportation user because my life was altered by a driver hitting

me while I was cycling in the bike lane during the day,” a person wrote. “Making the roads safer for all, especially pedestrians and cyclists, is important. Public transit is the greenest and most viable option, especially when coupled with reliability and safety.”

Nearly 40 comments said they want the state to focus on increasing wildlife crossings, which wasn’t listed as a priority option in the survey.

Other comments expressed frustration with the department’s financial efficiency, asking that it creates more cost-effective ways to complete projects.

“No new taxes,” a person wrote. “There are too many taxes in Oregon. Reduce expenses first. Increase efficiency,” another person wrote.

The second question in the survey asked Oregonians how they would allocate transportation funding, asking them to put the percentage of funding they think each priority

category should receive. The survey analysis shows respondents said the transportation agency should focus its funding on maintaining its infrastructure, followed by focusing on preserving assets and public transit.

The third question asked respondents about what type of transportation service reductions would impact them the most. The answers mirrored responses to the first question, saying not maintaining the system, preserving key assets and improving safety would impact them the most.

The last question was an optional and open-ended question, asking Oregonians what a well-managed transportation system looks like to them.

Of the more than 6,800 responses to this question, an analysis conducted by Oregon Department of Transportation staff found that 20% of responses want a transportation system that offers different transit options that works for people of all income levels and communities.

“A successful transportation system gives people the freedom to choose what transportation mode they wish to use by equally investing in making them all safe and reliable,” one respondent wrote.

Another 19% of responses called for more reliable public transit options, while 17% of

responses said the transportation agency should focus on budgeting and delivering projects.

The remaining responses asked the agency to focus on maintaining roads and bridges, improving traffic flow and eliminating perceived wasteful spending.

“Stop pushing ridiculously expensive freeway expansion projects that do nothing at all to address safety, congestion, connectivity or reliability in our transportation system...” a person wrote. “Develop and maintain a transportation system that provides options people can afford, rather than mandate car ownership.”

Kotek’s workgroup will hear the results of the findings at its next meeting on Oct. 9. The group has until the end of the year to present its transportation funding recommendations to the governor.

<https://oregoncapitalchronicle.com/2026/09/29/heres-how-oregonians-want-the-state-to-address-its-transportation-budget-crisis/>

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Life Saving

AEDs donated to OSP Lane County

STAFF REPORT
Cottage Grove Sentinel

Oregon State Police (OSP) patrol and fish and wildlife vehicles in Lane County now have an automated external defibrillator (AED), thanks to a generous donation from the Oregon Community Credit Union Foundation and the PeaceHealth Sacred Heart Medical Center Foundation.

Thirty-nine AEDs have been deployed to troopers in the Springfield, Oakridge, and Florence patrol offices.

About 30 times every year, troopers throughout the state respond to incidents requiring cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR). In 2026, troopers have already performed CPR more than 20 times. Particularly in rural areas, if a trooper receives notification of a cardiac arrest, they can often respond in minutes and start CPR or deploy an AED while EMS is en route.

Having AEDs in the hands of law enforcement responders helps get critical care to patients quickly. The sooner an AED is deployed to help re-establish a normal heart rhythm, the more likely the patient is to have a meaningful recovery. The AEDs have a QR code that EMS can scan to give hospital staff and emergency room doctors real-time access to the patient's heart rhythm, according to a release from OSP.

"I've been in law enforcement for nearly three decades, and AEDs weren't available when I first became a police officer. Now, we have an

opportunity for troopers in rural areas of the state to respond to medical calls, make a difference, and potentially save someone's life," OSP Central Region Captain Ryan Martin said.

Earlier this summer, troopers responded to a medical call near John Day for an elderly man who was unresponsive and not breathing. Two troopers took turns giving chest compressions and rescue breaths while delivering six shocks from an AED before paramedics arrived. After paramedics delivered two more shocks, the patient began showing a pulse and started breathing. The patient was transported to a local hospital and survived.

"We're grateful to the OCCU Foundation and PeaceHealth Sacred Heart Medical Center Foundation for this generous donation," OSP's EMS Coordinator Sr. Trooper Todd Larsen said. "About 40 to 50 patrol troopers a year perform CPR. Having an AED is a significant improvement when responding to cardiac incidents."

OSP troopers are non-transport pre-hospital providers, with about 20 troopers certified as EMTs and a few as paramedics throughout the state. From pre-academy to annual training, troopers receive CPR and other first-aid training throughout their careers with OSP. As part of the EMS program, OSP has a medical director and maintains medical protocols.

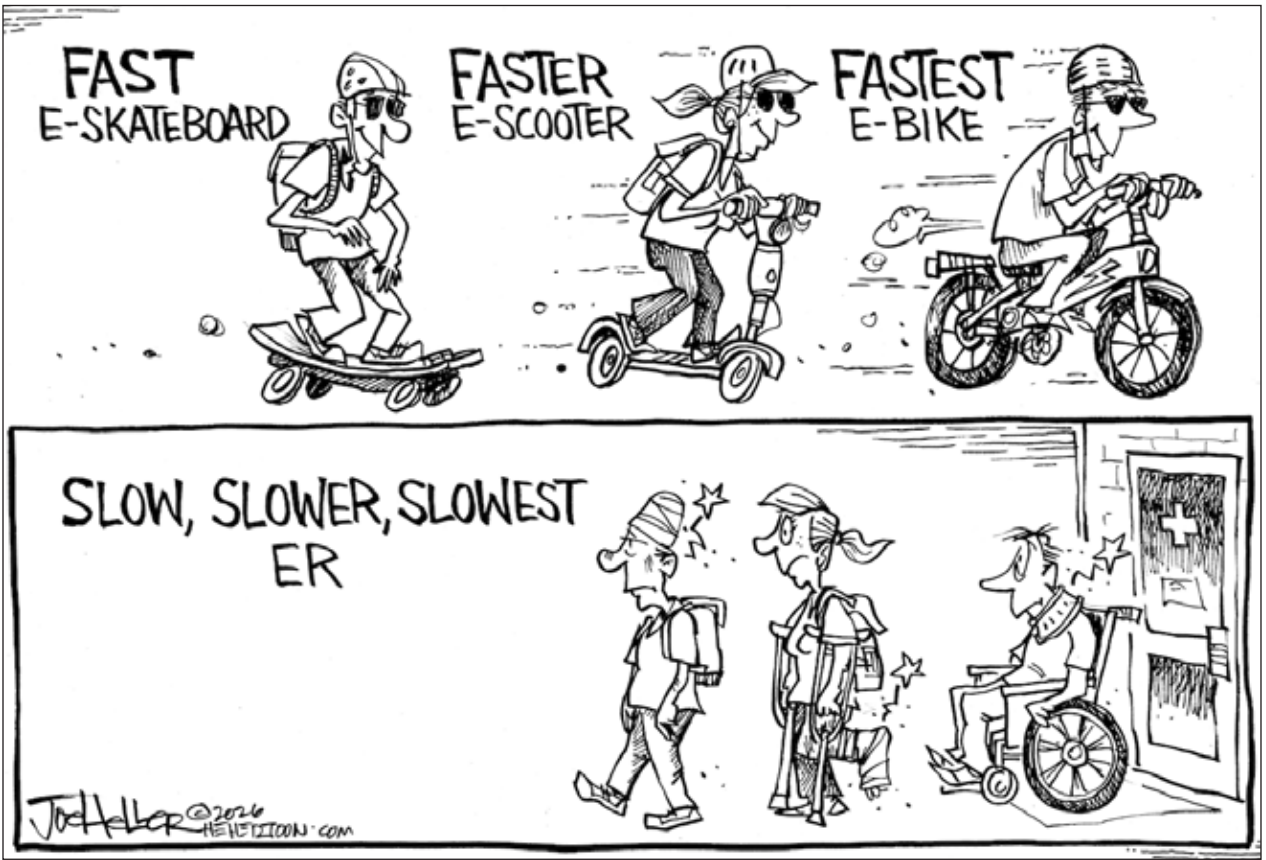


Courtesy photo

OSP received AED donation from Eugene area foundations.



Editorial Cartoon



Commentary

The forests Oregon ‘protected’ are burning

**CHRIS EDWARDS
TRAVIS JOSEPH**

Oregon Capital Chronicle

Oregon made history this summer, and not the celebratory kind. It's a wakeup call: The system is broken and fixing it requires new thinking.

Over 2.5 million acres burned — more than any in recorded history, and 92% are on public lands. In the last decade, almost all catastrophic wildfire originated on public lands.

Something needs to change, and the now mostly contained Grasshopper Fire in the Mt. Hood National Forest is a prime example.

Beginning in 2019, the Wasco County Forest Collaborative — with representation from tribes, timber, conservation, state agencies and local groups — worked with the U.S. Forest Service on the Grasshopper Restoration Project to reduce hazardous fuels and wildfire risk.

After four years, the collaborative reached consensus on treating 5,280 acres — roughly one-half of 1% of the Mt. Hood National Forest — using Biden administration funds for high wildfire risk landscapes. Professional foresters and scientists concluded treatments would reduce wildfire risk.

One activist group was invited to participate, declined and then sued over the project. The Forest Service settled, making minor changes and paying the group's attorneys \$55,000 in taxpayer dollars. They celebrated "halting the logging of mature and old growth trees" in their annual report.

Now those "protected" acres are burning in the nearly 94,000-acre Grasshopper Fire, and years of collaboration were wasted.

Oregonians should be outraged.

No one is satisfied with summers defined by wildfire. We all want healthier forests and fewer catastrophic fires. That's not controversial.

But here's where the conversation gets uncomfortable.

When a proposed solution includes the word "logging," many Democrats recoil. We say this as two native Oregonians who have worked within the Democratic Party.

That response is rooted in outdated ideology. A lot has changed in 50 years, including the climate and science-based forest practices. We can actively manage forests and protect the environment.

Policies born from debates in the 1970s shouldn't be untouchable in 2026.

Case in point: In 2022, the timber industry worked with environmental groups to overhaul environmental protections on Oregon's private forestlands. It was the most sweeping change to forest practices in 50 years. We rewrote laws dating to 1971, expanded environmental protections and secured the ability to keep operating.

Why can't we have that conversation about federal forests?

If 2.5 million burned acres don't make us question old assumptions, what will?

Numbers don't lie: It's not actively managed acres that are primarily burning. When private forests burn,

landowners salvage burned trees, turn them into lumber and replant, turning those forests green again within years.

That largely doesn't happen on federal land, in part because of outdated policies. Many federal forests are unnaturally overstocked and lack the access needed to manage forests and fight fires effectively.

Active management does not mean managing national forests like industrial timberlands. It means giving public land managers the tools and access to thin overcrowded forests, reduce hazardous fuels and respond to wildfire.

We're not alone in asserting that active forest management activities like mechanized harvest and controlled burns reduce wildfire risk. Moderate conservation groups and wildlife organizations recognize the importance of these tools.

But anti-forestry groups have gained influence within the Democratic Party, contributing to a political culture where logging is viewed exclusively as an environmental threat.

The Grasshopper should cause Democrats to reconsider old assumptions. And Grasshopper is not an anomaly.

Breakthrough Institute found 10 organizations files 67% of forest management lawsuits examined. They won fewer than 25% of their cases, yet even unsuccessful lawsuits delayed implementation an average 3.7 years. During those delays, wildfire steps in.

Democrats serious about climate change should support active management tools

before wildfire determines what these landscapes look like for generations. That includes cutting trees, and it must be economically viable.

California Democrats are leading by suspending environmental regulations to expedite wildfire mitigation. Oregon Democrats should consider ideas like this.

The party should also reconsider the influence anti-forestry groups have on forest policy. Collaboration means different interests working through disagreements to find common ground — not obstructing progress in court while forests burn.

Democrats can lead on this issue. Protecting Oregon's forests today requires more active management, modernized policies and greater trust in professional land managers.

Chris Edwards is the president of the Oregon Forest Industries Council and a former Democratic legislator in the Oregon Legislature.

Travis Joseph is president and CEO of the American Forest Resource Council and former senior policy adviser to Democrats on the U.S. House Natural Resources Committee.

<https://oregoncapitalchronicle.com/2026/09/25/the-forests-oregon-protected-are-burning/>

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New Poll

How confident are you in the integrity of Oregon's mail-in voting system?

- Very confident
- Somewhat confident
- Not that confident
- Not at all confident

Last Week's Poll Results

Has the increasing price of gasoline made you alter your driving habits?

- Yes - 50%
- No - 50%.

Quote of the Week

"By signing this bill, we are signaling the profound role journalists play to cover essential issues like local schools, city halls, courts, public safety agencies, businesses and neighborhoods."

California Governor Gavin Newsom



THE FIRST AMENDMENT

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

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COMMUNITY
From page 1

event notes and operational adjustments, but a full rewrite requires funding and specialized expertise.

“We’re doing what we can with the resources we have,” Stewart said. “But a comprehensive update is a big lift. We’re watching for grant opportunities that would allow us to bring in an emergency management specialist.”

Stewart outlined several vulnerabilities the City continues to monitor. Generator refueling remains a challenge during prolonged outages, especially for facilities requiring continuous power. Supply access on the west side of town is limited during certain emergencies, and the City is exploring options for a portable water treatment plant to ensure safe drinking water if infrastructure is compromised. Cell service outages—common during storms—remain a concern for communication reliability.

Seasonal hazards also shape the City’s priorities. Flooding and freezing weather dominate winter planning, while wildfire risk increases in spring and summer. Cottage Grove has faced major winter events before, including “Snowmageddon 2019,” when 18-24 inches of heavy snow brought down trees, blocked roads, and left many residents without power for days. More recently, during the January 2024 ice storm, tree limbs snapped

and crashed across town for three days, trapping hundreds of people in dark, unheated homes as overnight temperatures dropped into the 20s. Rural residents in surrounding areas after both storms remained without power for weeks.

Stewart emphasized that trained volunteers can play a critical role in addressing these gaps. “Community members are often the first ones on the scene,” she said. “Having people who understand basic response, communication, and safety makes a huge difference.”

She also noted that South Lane Rural Fire received a Firewise Grant to support wildfire risk reduction work for county residents. The grant helps fund defensible space education and home hardening efforts, complementing broader regional wildfire preparedness goals.

The Sentinel reached out to South Lane Fire and Rescue for this story. At press time, no response was received.

TRAINING AND EVENTS OFFER NEW PATHS TO READINESS

Elliott said CGCPI’s work is designed to support—not duplicate—agency efforts. By training residents in practical skills such as first aid, situational awareness, neighborhood coordination, and resource management, the initiative aims to create a network of volunteers who can assist during emergencies and help reduce strain on first responders.

“Preparedness isn’t about fear,” Elliott said. “It’s about empowerment. It’s about knowing you can



Cindy Weeldreyer / Cottage Grove Sentinel

The 2019 Snowmeggedon buried the community under 18-24 inches of snow.

take care of yourself, your family, and your neighbors when systems are stretched thin.”

CGCPI workshops have drawn residents from across Cottage Grove and nearby rural areas, many of whom say they want to be better prepared but haven’t known where to start. Elliott said the program’s strength lies in its accessibility—training is designed for all ages, abilities, and experience levels.

Country Media, Inc., which owns The Sentinel, recently published a Community Preparedness Guide in its weekly newspapers in Western Oregon. Copies are available at the Chamber of Commerce

office, Community Center, City Hall, The Bookmine, KNND, Vintage Inn Restaurant and the Cottage Grove Public Market Blackberry Co Op.

To expand outreach, CGCPI volunteers will be at the Oct. 10 Volunteer Fair at the Cottage Grove Library, where residents can learn more about the program and sign up for upcoming workshops. Elliott said the fair is an opportunity for people to ask questions, explore volunteer roles, and see how community driven preparedness fits into the larger emergency response picture.

Residents will also have an opportunity to learn preparedness skills tomorrow

(Oct. 8). Cottage Grove Women’s Ministries is hosting “Get Your Ducks in a Row,” a practical emergency preparedness class covering household plans, communication, evacuation, food and water storage, power outages, wildfire and smoke, important documents, medications, pets, and other special needs. The class runs from 5–7 p.m. at 820 S. 10th Street. Registration is \$5 for dinner and the class, with optional starter kits available for an additional \$10. To register, call Tawny at 541 401 2521.

Stewart said she welcomes the partnership. “We need community involvement,” she said. “Preparedness is

strongest when everyone participates.”

As Cottage Grove faces increasingly complex hazards—from wildfires to winter storms to infrastructure challenges—both City leaders and volunteers agree that readiness must be a shared responsibility. Elliott hopes CGCPI will help shift the culture from reactive to proactive, giving residents the tools they need long before disaster strikes.

“Our goal is simple,” he said. “Move Cottage Grove from ‘unprepared’ to ‘prepared.’ If we can do that—one household, one neighborhood at a time—we’ll be a stronger, safer community,” Elliott said.

EVENTS
From page 1

where to find their favorite booths, but no one seemed discouraged, and the broader visibility helped introduce the market to new attendees.”

Founded in 2016, the Farmers Market marked its tenth year with one of its largest single day vendor counts.

COMMUNITY COOKOFF

Washington Avenue between 5th and 6th streets was packed with people of all ages for the 4th Annual Cottage Grove Community Cookoff, which brought brisket, friendly competition and hundreds of tasting plates to Cascade Home Center.

Organizer Tobi D’Amore said this year’s event included 74 sponsors and more than 50 volunteers, with South Valley Athletics (SVA) handling months of behind the scenes work. Last year’s benefactor, Slabtown BMX, returned to help run the root beer float stand.

SVA Board President Samantha Duncan said being chosen as this year’s youth organization to receive the proceeds was “a fantastic opportunity.”

“We are so happy to be a part of this,” she said. “Tobi and Cascade Home Center have been so supportive of what we are doing. We sold 750 plates, and most of the money will go to provide participation fee scholarships. We offer year round

activities, and we don’t turn away any kids for lack of ability to pay.”

Langham’s Quality Meatworx in Drain donated 725 pounds of beef brisket for the competition. This year’s celebrity judges were Danny Solesbee of South Lane Fire, Georgia Haskell of the Chamber of Commerce, City Councilor Greg Ervin and Matthew Hewlett representing Spirit of BMD.

Judges awarded four honors:

- Iron Man Award: Paul Frye of Bohemia Electric
- Pit Masters Choice: The Bearded Brothers
- Best in Show: Kyle Kishen Construction
- People’s Choice: Kyle Kishen Construction



Greg Lee Photography

Eugene’s Highlanders Bagpipe Band perform traditional songs Sat. Morning.

D’Amore said the event served about 750 plates, roughly 100 more than last year, with late day visitors stopping by for floats and the last of the brisket.

“We can always count on our community to show up,” D’Amore said.

Next year marks the Cookoff’s fifth anniversary, and organizers expect

continued growth. Cascade Home Center remains committed to choosing youth focused beneficiaries and works directly with community members and local organizations to determine how funds can be used most effectively.

With three major events happening within walking distance, the Sept. 26

celebration offered Cottage Grove a full day of fall tradition, local business support and community connection. With activities running from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m., organizers said the day showcased the Historic District’s renewed energy and the community’s enthusiasm for gathering downtown.

Worship Guide

COTTAGE GROVE:

COTTAGE GROVE FAITH CENTER
33761 Row River Rd.
541-942-4851
Lead Pastor: Kevin Pruet
www.cg4.tv
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DELIGHT VALLEY
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33087 Saginaw Rd. East
541-942-7711 • Pastor: Bob Friend
Two Services:
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10:30am - Contemporary in the Auditorium

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Youth Worship Sundays: 11a (all ages welcome)
Mondays: 5:30p (6th-12th grades)

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Sunday – 8 am & 10:30 am
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Confession: 4 PM to 5 PM Saturdays or by appointment

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All Welcome

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541-942-5213
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Worship Service: Saturday, 10:40
Mid-week Service: Wednesday, 1:00

TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH
6th and Quincy
541-942-2373
Pastor: John Westhafer
Sunday School and Adult Education 9:15 a.m.
Sunday Worship 10:30 a.m.
Comm. Kitchen Free Meal Tuesday 5:15 p.m. to 6:15 p.m.
TLC Groups tlccg.com

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
334 Washington 541-942-3033
Worship 10am umcgrove.org

CRESWELL:

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website www.creswellpres.org

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COUNCIL
From page 1

LUBA, both appellants said the City erred in granting the permit.

Kevin Solonsky, whose property borders the proposed tower site, said Verizon failed to comply with Cottage Grove’s requirements to minimize visual impacts and

evaluate alternative locations, calling the structure “a permanent eye sore” that would dominate the skyline for dozens of nearby homes. Johanna Zee said she appealed because she believes city staff mishandled the application, adding that officials “are not listening to the people of Cottage Grove” or using every lawful means to protect the community’s interests.

LUBA is a state level review body that doesn’t reconsider the merits of a project, but instead examines whether a city followed the correct procedures and applied its land use laws properly. The board reviews the record created during local hearings, evaluates whether the city made legal or factual errors, and can affirm the decision, reverse it, or send it back to the city for correction. Appeals move on a strict timeline, with written briefs, a review of the evidence already submitted, and a final written order issued by the board. State law requires LUBA to issue its final decision within 120 days.

IN OTHER COUNCIL BUSINESS

- Interim Finance Director Eric Kytola presented a first quarter budget update and said revenues and expenditures remain consistent with last spring’s projections, with no concerns at this time.
- South Valley Athletics Program Director Tom Perkins updated the Council on SVA’s summer activities and thanked the City for financially supporting the nonprofit’s programs.
- The Council unanimously approved the annexation of two properties at 77918 Highway 99 and an adjacent unaddressed parcel.

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CGS26-154
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Laurie Christine Wakeman has been appointed Personal Representative of the Estate of GORDON JAY WAKEMAN, deceased, Lane County Circuit Court Case No. 26PB08314. All persons having claims against the estate are required to present them within four months from the date of the first publication of this Notice to the Personal Representative at Willamette NW Law Firm, LLC, 735 W. 7th Avenue, Eugene, OR 97402, or they may be barred. Any person whose rights may be affected by these proceedings may obtain additional information from the records of the Court, the Personal Representative, or from the Personal Representative's attorney. DATED and first Published: 10/07/2026. /s/ Laurie Christine Wakeman, Personal Representative. 10/07/26

CGS26-156
IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE STATE OF OREGON FOR THE COUNTY OF LANE In the Matter of the Estate of Scott Wilfred Flackman, Deceased. Case No. 26PB08047
NOTICE TO INTERESTED PERSONS NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Kay L. Pierce has been appointed Personal Representative. All persons having claims against the estate are hereby required to present them, with proper vouchers, within four months after the date of first publication of this notice, as stated below, to the Personal Representative at 711 Country Club Road, Suite 200, Eugene, Oregon 97401, or they may be barred. All persons whose rights may be affected by the proceedings in this estate may obtain additional information from the records of the Personal Representative, the Court, or the attorney for the Personal Representative, K.C. Huffman. Dated and first published: October 07, 2026. PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE: Kay L. Pierce 2259 Devon Avenue, Eugene, Oregon 97408 541-790-9377 ATTORNEY FOR PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE: K.C. Huffman, OSB No. 002854 Bromley Newton Huffman 711 Country Club Road, Suite 200, Eugene, Oregon 97401 541-343-4700 541-343-4713 Fax kc@bromleynewton.com 10/07/26

Super Crossword JOURNALISTIC SET

ACROSS

1 Principal part of a ship's rigging

9 Glucose and dextrose

15 Want greatly

20 Phrase before a memoir co-author

21 Result of iron deficiency

22 Opponent

23 Question to someone barking orders

26 Wriggly fish

27 Extinct bird

28 Swerving billiards shot

29 Teeny

30 Suspenseful NFL periods

33 CIA worker

35 PC fixer, e.g.

37 "Hey, amigo"

39 Highest price customers are amenable to paying

47 "Less filling" Miller beer

48 Prefix similar to "equi"

49 Vaccination fluids

50 Neighbor of Monterey Park, Calif.

51 Connections

53 Maximum

56 Plastic hotel

58 Lean — (simple huts)

59 Time to steel oneself and power through

66 Congregated

67 Goes past the time limit

68 Cold shoulder preventer?

69 A humidifier moistens it

71 Suddenly blazing stars

73 Pungent salad veggie

77 Lhasa — (small dogs)

80 Official assisting a referee

83 "Rapa- " (1994 Esai Morales film)

84 Classic Maurice Sendak book

89 Cabinet dept. focused on homes

90 "— culpa"

91 Wedge for filling a gap

92 Show fatigue reflexively

93 Mother on "Bewitched"

97 Aruba, e.g.

100 Steal from

102 Medicine bottle

104 Jesus' words after "My God, my God, my God!" in Matthew

109 "You bet!" in Baja

110 Favorite cereal of a "silly rabbit"

111 "I'm — loss for words"

112 Pub barrel

113 "La-la" lead-in

116 "Jay . . . Garage"

119 Best draft status

121 Business mag

123 Response upon hearing about an astonishing feat

130 "Aida," e.g.

131 Dogs from Japan

132 They often get mashed

133 Stopwatch button

134 Despotism

135 They begin this puzzle's long answers

DOWN

1 Greedy gullet

2 Fire residue

3 Figure skater

4 Central point

5 Superlatively snaky

6 University on Long Island

7 "— be an honor"

8 Put freight in

9 Less happy

10 Opens with a key

11 "Well, I'll be!"

12 Radio toggle letters

13 Actress Hayworth

14 Gives a quick greeting

15 Disney villainess De Vil

16 Chest bone

17 Stale boldly

18 Rose holder

19 Otherwise

24 — bene

25 "— Mio"

30 Hooting bird

31 Toward thoro

32 Feeling of fullness

34 Sycophantic guys

36 Bray syllable

38 Crunches tone them

40 High schooler, e.g.

41 Some rock band synthe-sizers

42 Calc. prereq

43 Subsidies

44 Caesar's final reproach

45 Bump on —

46 Unduly quick

52 Zebra

53 Put freight in

54 Shortly

55 Resort town near Rome

57 High degree

59 H-bomb, e.g.

60 "Lummox" author Fannie

61 "A Town Like Alice" author

62 Large pianos

63 Clingy wrap

64 Like a banjo's sound

65 On in years

70 Bern's river

72 Cornie Rogon

74 Very shortly

75 "Smili" is the commonest one in the United States

76 Hasten

78 Resistance until

79 Understand the point

81 Bake, as an egg

82 Brunch cocktail

84 "Close call" again?"

85 "Come Water swirl

87 Do laundry

88 Gaudie's goal

94 Elle King's "Ex's & —"

95 Lambastes

96 Valuable trait

98 Auction unit

99 Former Volkswagen seven-seater

101 "Freedom" singer Jon

103 Shin's place

105 Soldier's steel helmet

106 Best in quality

107 Yaks, e.g.

108 Wichita site

113 Thunder god

114 Lasso, e.g.

115 Stupefies

117 Tasting of wood, as wine

118 Move a bit

120 Session with a dr., e.g.

122 — field (Mrs. Met's home)

124 Deep anger

125 Greek vowel

126 "La-la" lead-in

127 Fight like Ali

128 Actor Ayres

129 Snaky letter

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Sports

Both Cottage Grove XC teams take second at Woahink Lake



Courtesy photo from the CGHS XC website
The girls grabbed silver, with two racers finishing inside the top 10. (Courtesy photo from the CGHS XC website)

Will LOHRE
Cottage Grove Sentinel

Cottage Grove’s varsity cross country teams were back on the run at the Woahink Lake Invitational, winding through the beautiful but tricky course to each earn second-place finishes. The meet was held on Sept. 26 near Woahink Lake, with the course featuring varied terrain, including an open park, dirt trails, two paved bridges, and a campground. Heading into the race, Head Coach Ricky Knutson expected slower times and a more focused approach to race strategy execution, but his runners showed no signs of

slowing down. Despite a race filled with twists, turns, and a few hills, 20 Lions posted new personal-best times for the season, and both teams saw that success translate to the podium. And it wasn’t just the varsity teams that showed their speed! Both the boys and girls JV teams won their meets at Woahink, making it a day of triumphs for the whole program. For the girls, the race marked a return for Carly Knutson, and she immediately made her presence felt, pacing the Lions with a fourth-place finish. She finished the 5,000-meter course in 20:31.5, more than an 80-second

improvement on her time at Woahink last year. Rowyn Earl wasn’t far behind for Cottage Grove, finishing seventh in 20:50.1. Cottage Grove’s remaining scorers were Hailey Ferguson, Cally Bickford, and Natalya Thompson. The trio finished 14th, 17th, and 19th, with their times within 21 seconds of one another. The group’s finishes were good enough to earn them second place among the five teams, and Philomath took first. The JV girls took first in a two-team field, but their depth showed in the fact that seven of the top 12 placers were Cottage Grove athletes. One



Courtesy photo from the CGHS XC website
The boys team took second place at the Woahink Invitational, navigating a tricky course en route to silver. (Courtesy photo from the CGHS XC website)

highlight for the program was seeing 13 of their racers post season-best times on the challenging course at Woahink. On the boys side, they placed second in the six-team field, trailing only Siuslaw. Jennings Albrecht led the pride of Lions, taking third place with a time of 16:48.1. Three other Cottage Grove runners placed in the top 10, and Remington Sharkey crossed the finish line next for the Lions. Sharkey finished 5th in

17:13.6, followed by Jose Calvario in 8th (17:36.0) and Braeden Bomar in 10th (17:49.8). Each took home a medal, and Bomar ran the race of his life, posting his best time ever on the trail at Woahink. Micah Hanke rounded out the top five finishers for Cottage Grove, taking 15th in 18:18.5. The JV boys put in a great shift in the race, beating Pleasant Hill and Marshfield for first place. Seven of the top 11 runners were Lions, and on

top of that, six of the runners posted lifetime best times, despite the challenging course. The Woahink Invitational was another great stepping stone for the Lions, and they looked to build on it at the Flight 7 race at Richardson Park on Oct. 2. See results at osaa.org. Cottage Grove will keep pushing as they continue to improve in preparation of the important races in late October.

Popular splash pad closed for winter

JEREMY C. RUARK
Cottage Grove Sentinel

The City of Cottage Grove has closed its popular splash pad at the Bohemia Park Plaza. As temperatures continue to decline and the fall season approaches; the Bohemia Park Splash Pad is closed for the winter. “We appreciate the community’s participation throughout the season and thank you for making it a successful year of water play. We look forward to welcoming you back next spring,” the city states in a release. The park splash pad, restrooms, and mural at the plaza were the center of community attention in July of 2025 during a ribbon

cutting ceremony marking the competition of Phase 3 of the park improvements. **BACKGROUND** The overall purpose for the park’s front entry is to capture people’s attention and draw them into Bohemia Park. An area that was inviting and supported a higher level of use, such as vendor booths, kids play, restrooms, etc, according to city officials.

Cindy Weeldreyer / Cottage Grove Sentinel
Children enjoying the splash pad during a hot summer day.





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