

THE COTTAGE GROVE Sentinel

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Deadline**
See page 4



**New
Coaches**
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Wednesday January 7, 2026 | 137 years

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\$2.00

YEAR IN REVIEW: COTTAGE GROVE 2025



Cindy Weeldreyer / Cottage Grove Sentinel

Main Street looking east before the multi-million-dollar revitalization.



Cindy Weeldreyer / Cottage Grove Sentinel

Main Street looking east following the revitalization project.

CINDY WEELDREYER
Cottage Grove Sentinel

Cottage Grove closed out 2025 with the near completion of a major public works project, civic leadership transitions, new business openings and a full slate of community events that generated memories and smiles.

Here's a look back at the Sentinel stories that shaped the year.

MAIN STREET REVITALIZATION PROJECT

The top story of 2025 was the Main Street Revitalization Project, which closed Main Street to two

way traffic for most of the year. The five block overhaul brought new sidewalks, much needed ADA upgrades, landscaping, lighting and street furnishings to the Historic Downtown District.

Business owners praised Wildish Construction employees, the Chamber of Commerce's creative weekly contests and loyal customers for helping them make the best of a challenging financial situation. Although a ceremonial ribbon cutting on Dec. 12 reopened the street to two way traffic, the project remains a work in progress. The projected \$6.25 million project leveraged a \$5 million federal EDA

grant with a \$1.25 million match from the city's Street Fund.

While there is no final price tag or completion date, city officials report the most significant downtown investment in decades is under budget and far ahead of schedule.

BUSINESS

The business scene saw new retail and food establishments open, the closure of Stacy's Covered Bridge Restaurant after more than three decades downtown and the transition of the Coast Fork Farm Stand into the Blackberry Food Cooperative at the Cottage Grove Public Market.

Despite road construction, more than a half dozen new small businesses added fresh energy to the commercial core. On Main Street, five new shops opened: White Rabbit Gifts and Goods, a curated gift and artisan goods boutique; The Quarter Drop, a retro arcade; Cottage Groove, a books and music shop specializing in used books, vinyl and CDs; Mother Load, a vintage and resale shop; and Blackett's Paper Trail, a paper and stationery store.

Along Hwy. 99, The Grove Beauty Lounge opened with a wide range of services, and Bean There Done That began selling antiques,

crafts and collectibles while serving coffee at the South Sixth Street intersection.

COMMUNITY EVENTS

Legacy Summer Events: The 93rd annual W.O.E. Heritage Fair, the 78th annual Cottage Grove Rodeo and the 66th annual Bohemia Mining Days Celebration — drew thousands of locals and visitors for old fashioned family fun. Two newer annual events — the Cascade Home Center Community Cookoff and Oktoberfest on Sept. 27 — also drew large crowds.

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WHO WE ARE

Grassroots effort fills void for holiday community meals

CINDY WEELDREYER
Cottage Grove Sentinel

Hope Rides Again has played a central role in organizing this year's free Thanksgiving and Christmas community dinners.

The organization, a relatively new all volunteer nonprofit now based in Cottage Grove, is led by

husband and wife team Edward Chartrand and Jennifer Ferraez. The two who bring decades of combined experience working with unhoused individuals.

BACKGROUND

The roots of the nonprofit trace back to October 2019, when

Chartrand's car broke down in front of Hope Community Church in Springfield. After many years of homelessness and four decades of addiction, he accepted the church's offer of a place to stay and began what he describes as a healing journey.

When COVID 19 shut down public meals soon after, Chartrand saw that people living on the streets had nowhere to eat or even access drinking water. He began serving meals out a window of the small church building where he slept.

As neighbors noticed improvements in the area, community

members began donating food and volunteering.

Hope Rides Again became a 501(c)(3) nonprofit in 2022. During this period, Chartrand built an online following of supporters who believed in his approach to using food as a "tool of engagement" — a way to build trust and help people move toward stability rather than deeper dependency.

One of those who connected with him was Ferraez, a Cottage Grove social worker who has spent her career working alongside unhoused individuals. She shared her long held dream of opening a local drop in center where people could access food and resource support. The two began collaborating, married the following year, and shifted the nonprofit's focus to Cottage Grove, Chartrand's hometown.

In exploring local needs, the couple observed growing divisions in



Photos by Cindy Weeldreyer / Cottage Grove Sentinel
Leandra Matson and her son Jakonah were among the 20 volunteers to who served the 120 free holiday meals at the Cottage Grove Public Market on Christmas Day from 1-4 p.m.



On Dec. 21, a small and intimate local observance of the National Homeless Persons' Memorial Day was held in Cottage Grove's All America City Square (Opal Park) to honor loved ones who died from consequences of being homeless.



On Christmas Day, a steady stream of diners went through the buffet between 1-4 p.m. at the Cottage Grove Public Market and enjoyed a free holiday meal offered by a coalition of community groups who provided the food and volunteers needed to ensure its success.



Alex Baumhardt / Oregon Capital Chronicle
Department of Homeland Security police, along with other federal police, push and tackle protesters at the Immigration and Customs Enforcement facility south of downtown Portland on Sunday, Oct. 12, 2025.

ICE arrests in Oregon 2025

The Immigration and Customs Enforcement agency arrested 807 people in Oregon between Sept. 1, 2023 and Oct. 15, 2025, with nearly 660 people of those arrested in the first 10 months of 2025 alone, according to data from the Deportation Data Project.

The above graph shows ICE arrests in Oregon from Sept. 1, 2023 to Oct. 15, 2025. The data is from the Deportation Data Project, which uses data from public records released in the Homeland Security Freedom of Information Act. The chart shows the number of arrests per month, with a significant spike in October 2025.

Source: Deportation Data Project

Chart: MIA Maldonado/Oregon Capital Chronicle • Source: Deportation Data Project • Get the data • Credit: Datawrapper

Count of arrests

Oct 2023

Jan 2024

Apr 2024

Jul 2024

Oct 2024

Jan 2025

Apr 2025

Jul 2025

Oct 2025

Jan 2026

Apr 2026

Jul 2026

Oct 2026

Jan 2027

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Apr 2044

Jul 2044

Oct 2044

Jan 2045

Apr 2045

Jul 2045

Oct 2045

Jan 2046

Apr 2046

Jul 2046

Oct 2046

Oregon to receive \$197.3M federal investment in rural healthcare

Oregon will receive \$197.3 million in 2026 to improve rural healthcare and could receive more in the following four years, the U.S. Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services has announced.

Oregon Health Authority (OHA) will invest the federal funding in community-driven projects that improve healthcare access, boost chronic disease management and prevention, grow and sustain the healthcare workforce, and expand the use of health technology and data in Oregon's rural and frontier communities.

The Oregon Rural Health Transformation Program includes a dedicated Tribal initiative that will provide direct funding for the Nine Federally Recognized Tribes in Oregon to improve their own healthcare access and health outcomes in a way that honors the government-to-government relationship with the Tribes.

Oregon is centering the unique needs and perspectives of people in rural communities for this effort. OHA conducted statewide engagement to develop its original funding proposal, and will continue to closely collaborate with hospitals, clinics, providers, patients and others in rural Oregon as it implements the program during the next five years.

"Oregon is resolved to steward this funding effectively, ensuring it benefits rural communities across the entire state," Oregon



The federal funding will be used in Oregon community-driven projects that improve healthcare access, boost chronic disease management and prevention, grow and sustain the healthcare workforce, and expand the use of health technology and data in the state's rural and frontier communities. Metro Creative Connection

Gov. Tina Kotek said. "We look forward to working in partnership with the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services to advance rural health transformation and improve the lives of our rural and frontier residents."

"Everyone deserves access to quality healthcare, no matter where they live," OHA Health Policy & Analytics Director Clare Pierce-Wrobel said. "OHA is honored to partner with rural communities through the Rural Health Transformation Program. While this much-needed

boost can't make up for the substantial federal funding cuts we anticipate in the coming years, OHA is committed to using this opportunity to support as many promising and sustainable rural health solutions as possible."

The federal funding is being awarded through the Rural Health Transformation Program, which was established under House Resolution 1, the federal government budget reconciliation bill that became law in July 2025. The federal program will distribute a total of \$50

billion nationwide between 2026 and 2031.

The total amount that individual states will receive is subject to change. The federal government will revisit funding awards every year after reviewing each state's progress. OHA will review the terms and conditions of Oregon's award and work with the federal government to finalize the program budget in January.

The Rural Health Coordinating Council, which advises the Oregon Office of Rural Health, will also advise

the Oregon Rural Health Transformation Program.

OHA will move as fast as possible to distribute funding and plans to make two sets of awards in quick succession during 2026. Early on, OHA will stand up management structures to ensure proper oversight and fiscal stewardship of these federal funds as well as coordination with the federal government and community engagement.

OHA will first distribute funding through Immediate Impact Awards that will be given to strategic projects

that can begin within two months of receiving funding. By mid-2026, Catalyst Awards will be made to ready-to-go projects following a formal application process. OHA expects to begin accepting Catalyst Award applications by spring 2026. In later years, further funding will be awarded through a competitive process to projects that are focused on long-term sustainability, shared infrastructure and cross-sector collaboration.

Oregon initially requested \$200 million annually, or a total of \$1 billion over five years, from the federal program. OHA will scale down its original proposal to fit its given budget.

More information is on the OHA Rural Health Transformation Program webpage. Organizations interested in applying for funding are encouraged to sign up for email updates through the webpage.

The Oregon Rural Health Transformation Program is supported by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) as part of a financial assistance award totaling \$197,271,578, with 100 percent funded by CMS/HHS. The contents of this release are those of OHA and do not necessarily represent the official views of, nor an endorsement by, CMS/HHS or the U.S. Government.

POLICE BLOTTER



Jeremy C. Ruark / Cottage Grove Sentinel

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

Cottage Grove Police

DECEMBER 22

03:51: Suspicious vehicle, 900 block E. Main St.
08:06: Illegal camping, N. Douglas/99
08:20: Dog at large, 9th/ Grover
09:29: Welfare check, 1300 block Monroe Ave.
10:38: Hit and run, 200 block Hwy 99
12:36: Dog release, 400 block N. 14th St.
13:29: Trespass, 1100 block Hwy 99
13:30: Warrant service, 200 block N. 12th St.
15:46: Found dog, 16th/ Harrison
15:56: Suspicious subject, 100 block S. 10th St.
16:00: Fraud, 500 block Grant Ave.
17:41: Alarm, 1500 block S. 4th St.
18:26: Welfare check, 100 block Hwy 99
20:09: Order violation, 300 block N. 7th St.
20:11: Disturbance, 1300 block E. Main St.
20:16: Warrant service, 400 block E. Main St.
22:57: Suspicious subject, 5th/Whiteaker

DECEMBER 23

06:20: Suspicious subject, 1100 block Hwy 99
07:28: Suspicious condition, 100 block Crestview Terrace
03:50: Criminal mischief, 100 block North J St.
07:37: Warrant service, 400 block E. Main St.
08:31: Theft, 100 block S. 6th St.
09:28: Illegal dumping, 1400 block N. Douglas St.
11:09: Dog at large, 200 block N. 8th St.
12:19: Disturbance, 1800 block E. Main St.
13:22: Warrant service, 400 block E. Main St.
14:34: Welfare check, 1200 block W. Main St.
15:23: Order violation, 300 block N. 7th St.
15:54: Suspicious condition, 1000 block N. 9th St.
16:33: Trespass, 700 block E. Gibbs Ave.

23:01: Disturbance, 1300 block E. Main St.
23:16: Nuisance, Harrison/1st

DECEMBER 25
00:31: DUII, 100 block Village Dr.

01:41: Warrant service, 400 block E. Main St.

07:30: Disturbance, 100 block s. 10th St.

10:33: Disturbance, 500 block N. Douglas St.

10:40: Warrant service, 400 block E. Main St.

11:22: Disturbance, 1200 block N. Douglas St.

11:33: Alarm, 100 block Village Dr.

13:04: Fire, 1200 block E. Van Buren Ave.

16:37: Suspicious condition, 1400 block Birch Ave.

16:39: Disturbance, 100 block Gateway Blvd.
18:48: Assault, 2200 block Ibsen Ave.

18:58: Overdose, 900 block S. 6th St.

20:50: Disorderly subject, 100 block Crestview Terrace

DECEMBER 26
00:00: Welfare check, 1800 block E. Main St.

08:35: Found dog, Hwy 99/Carnegie

08:39: Agency assist, 400 block E. Main St.

13:29: Disorderly subject, 1700 block E. Main St.

14:12: Explosive device, 900 block Row River Rd.

14:19: Assault, 1500 block Gateway Blvd.

16:05: Welfare check, 100 block S. 10th St.

17:28: Suspicious condition, 900 block N. Douglas St.

19:01: Criminal mischief, 200 block S. 11th St.

19:51: Motor vehicle crash, Main/10th

21:19: Suspicious condition, 700 block Hwy 99

21:54: Reckless driving, 700 block E. Main St.

23:37: Welfare check, 1200 block Gateway Blvd.

DECEMBER 27
02:11: Trespass, 700 block E. Main St.

02:25: Trespass, 1300 block E. Main St.

02:41: Suspicious subject, 1300 block E. Main St.

02:45: Suspicious vehicle, 900 block E. Main St.

10:52: Welfare check, 700 block E. Gibbs Ave.

14:59: Abandoned vehicle, 1400 block N. Douglas St.

17:17: Disturbance, 1100 block S. 8th St.

18:38: Suspicious condition, 700 block South R St.

20:54: Criminal mischief, 800 block E. Whiteaker Ave.

22:27: Suspicious condition, 900 block N. Douglas St.

23:47: Disturbance, 100 block South S St.

DECEMBER 28

00:10: Disturbance, 100 block Karen Ct.

00:36: Nuisance, 200 block South M St.

06:56: Burglary, 200 block Hwy 99

10:54: Alarm, 1100 block N. 16th St.

12:34: Warrant service, 400 block E. Main St.

12:45: Dog at large, Main/99

13:26: Welfare check, 100 block Taylor Pl.

14:17: Suspicious condition, 600 block Row River Rd.

14:42: Fire, 15 172 NB

15:28: Assault, E. Harrison/River Rd

18:11: Disorderly subject, 600 block S. 5th St.

19:13: Trespass, 900 block Row River Rd.

19:22: Juvenile problem, 200 block N. 10th St.

19:35: Mental subject, 800 block Birch Ave.

21:57: Warrant service, 400 block E. Main St.

Bob's BASEBALL Tours

June 2-7, 2026
See MLB games in Minnesota, Milwaukee and both a day and night game at Wrigley Field in Chicago.
Tour begins at hotel near Minneapolis-St. Paul International Airport
\$1,700/person based on double hotel occupancy
Travel by deluxe motor coach - Each night in a quality hotel - Good game tickets!
For free brochure, please call or text 507.217.3262

August 1-10, 2026
See games in Pittsburgh, Philadelphia, Baltimore, Boston & New York (Yankees and Mets). Free time at Niagara Falls and Baseball Hall of Fame in Cooperstown, NY. Sightseeing in Manhattan, Philadelphia & Baltimore.
Tour begins at hotel near Newark Liberty International Airport and ends near Pittsburgh International Airport
\$3,200/person based on double hotel occupancy

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Call (866) 695-9265 to donate your car, truck, boat, RV, and more today!

■ Support Veteran Nonprofits.
■ Free Pickup & Towing.
■ Top Tax Deduction.

Donate Your Vehicle Today
866-695-9265
www.veterancardonations.org/dnt20

Travelers are responsible for getting to starting point of each tour

While we appreciate every donation, in some cases, we find that we are unable to accept certain vehicles, watercraft, and/or recreational vehicles due to the prohibitive costs of acquisition. If you have any questions, please give us a call at (866) 695-9265.

Greenhill releases animal care report

STAFF REPORT *Cottage Grove Sentinel*

Greenhill Humane Society has provided care for over 5,750 animals and 17 different species in 2025, according to a release from the non-profit animal shelter.

The shelter prioritizes helping pets and people locally. 99% of the pets helped this year came from Lane County residents and situations within Lane County.

Greenhill Humane Society is a life-saving animal shelter and provides high-level medical and behavioral care for each pet it cares for. 83% of the funding for the organization comes from donations and grants and 17% from contracts and fees for service.

This year, Greenhill Humane Society received a \$15,000 grant investment from national nonprofit Petco Love in support of their lifesaving work for pets in Lane County.

"The work we do to help animals and people locally wouldn't be possible without the community's generous donations and investments by national nonprofits such as Petco Love," Greenhill Executive Director Cary Lieberman said.

Petco Love is a national nonprofit leading change for pets by harnessing the power of love to make communities and pet families closer, stronger, and healthier. Since its founding in 1999, Petco Love has invested more than \$430 million in adoption and other lifesaving efforts. And

Petco Love helps find loving homes for pets in partnership with Petco and more than 4,000 organizations — like Greenhill Humane Society — across North America, with more than 7.1 million pets adopted and counting.

"Our investment in Greenhill Humane Society is part of more than \$12M in investments recently announced by Petco Love to power local organizations across the country as part of our commitment to create a future in which no pet is unnecessarily euthanized," Petco Love President Susanne Kogut said. "Our local investments are only part of our strategy to empower animal lovers to drive lifesaving change right alongside us. We launched Petco Love Lost, a free national lost and found database that uses photo-matching technology to simplify the search for lost pets."

One pet helped by Petco Love's investment is Law. Law has been with Greenhill Humane Society since early October. A goofy and affectionate 2-year-old Rottweiler mix, Law craves human attention.

Greenhill staff and volunteers provide him with daily enrichment and novelty including fun toys to play with. Law is currently at Greenhill awaiting the right person or family to adopt him. Lieberman said that Law would do best in a home with other dogs who can handle his energetic behavior. He has



Courtesy photo

One pet helped by Petco Love's investment at Greenhill is Law, who is described as a goofy and affectionate 2-year-old Rottweiler mix.

an unknown history with cats and children.

Law is neutered, micro-chipped, and up to date on vaccines. Families interested

in meeting Law or any of the other adoptable pets in Greenhill's care can visit the shelter 7 days a week from 11 a.m. until 4 p.m.

For more information about Greenhill Humane Society, visit green-hill.org. Learn more about Petco Love here: petcolove.org.

Greenhill is located at 88530 Green Hill Road in Eugene.

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

JANUARY 7

- Senior Center Pinochle Games. 1 p.m. Senior Center. 700 E. Gibbs Ave.

- Lego Club for Kids. 2:30 p.m. Cottage Grove Public Library. 700 E. Gibbs Ave.

- Rotary Club of Cottage Grove Meeting. Social at 5 p.m. and meeting begins at 5:30 p.m. El Tapatio Restaurant. 725 E. Gibbs Ave.

- Acoustic Jam with Gregg Biller. 6:7:30 p.m. Coast Fork Brewing. 106 S. 6th St.

- AWANA. 6:30-8 p.m. Cottage Grove Bible Church. 1200 E. Quincy Ave. A mid-week discipleship ministry for youth from Age 3 thru 8th grade that meets during the school year.

JANUARY 8

- Baby Laptimes (birth to 2 yrs). 11:30 a.m. Cottage Grove Public Library. 700 E. Gibbs Ave.

- Lions Club Meeting. Noon. Axe and Fiddle. 857 E. Main St.

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

- Teen Thursdays. 4 p.m. Cottage Grove Public Library. 700 E. Gibbs Ave.

- Karaoke Night. 9 p.m. to Midnight. Bohemian Tavern. 48 N. 9th St.

JANUARY 9

- Storytime (all ages welcome) 11:30 a.m. Cottage Grove Public Library. 700 E. Gibbs Ave.

- Elks Club Community Dinner. 5:6:30 p.m. 775 N. River Rd. Info: 541-942-3554. Menu: Baked ham, scalloped potatoes, glazed carrots, salad, and ice cream. Cost: \$10/person.

- Friday Night Live. 6-9 p.m. Saginaw Vineyard. 80247 Delight Valley School Rd. Call 541-942-1364 for performer info.

- Weekly Pool Tournament. 7 p.m. Bohemian Tavern, 48

N. 9th St. Entry Fee: \$5 BCA Rules.

JANUARY 10

- Share Fair USA 9 a.m. 1133 E. Main St. (covered parking area next to Urban Kitchen) Reserve a space and share from your abundance with neighbors who are in need. Load up your unwanted items to give away for free (no bartering). Details about the weekly event is on Share Fair USA Facebook page or send email to eventsby-ananda@gmail.com

- Storytime. 11:30 a.m. Cottage Grove Public Library. 700 E. Gibbs Ave. All ages welcomed.

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

- Cottage Grove Museum Open. 1-4 p.m. Corner Birch Avenue and H St.

- Open Bowling. 4-10 p.m. Cottage Bowl. 740 Row River Road. Info: 541-767-2695 or www.thecottagebowl.com

- Storytime. 11:30 a.m. Cottage Grove Public Library. 700 E. Gibbs Ave. All ages welcomed.

- Royal Rangers. 6:30-8 p.m. Living Faith Assembly, 467 S. 10th Ave. A scouting-style Christian youth development program for K-12 students.

JANUARY 11

- The Regulars (Americana). 1-3 p.m. Coast Fork Brewing. 106 S. 6th St.

- Cottage Grove Museum Open. 1-4 p.m. Corner Birch Avenue and H St.

- Cottage Theatre Auditions for Cabaret. 2 p.m. 700 Village Dr. (Show runs four weekends from April 3-26). For more specific information or to pre-register for the audition go to: www.cottagetheatre.org

- The Regulars (Americana). 1-3 p.m. Coast Fork Brewing. 106 S. 6th St.

- Acoustic Jam with Gregg Biller. 6:7:30 p.m. Coast Fork Brewing. 106 S. 6th St.

- AWANA. 6:30-8 p.m. Cottage Grove Bible Church. 1200 E. Quincy Ave. A mid-week discipleship ministry for youth from Age 3 thru 8th grade that meets during the school year.

- Friday Night Live. 6-9 p.m. Saginaw Vineyard. 80247 Delight Valley School Rd. Call 541-942-1364 for performer info.

- South Valley Athletics Bingo Fundraiser. 3:30-5:30 p.m. Coast Fork Brewing. 106 S. 6th St. Cards/\$1 Play 10 games.

JANUARY 12

• CG Senior Center Bingo. 12:30 p.m. Community Center, 700 E. Gibbs Ave. (senior center members only)

- Coast Fork Brewing Gardeners Club. 5:30-7 p.m. 106 S. 6th St.

JANUARY 13

- Ukulele Club. 9 a.m. Cottage Grove Public Library. 700 E. Gibbs Ave. For adults.

- Open Bowling. 1-5:30 p.m. Cottage Bowl. 740 Row River Rd. Info: 541-767-2695 or www.thecottagebowl.com

- Bilingual Story Time. 5 p.m. Cottage Grove Public Library. 700 E. Gibbs Ave.

- History Pub. 5-7 p.m. Axe & Fiddle. 657 E. Main St. Topic: "Memories of the Road: Retracing my Ancestors Journey" by Bill Hoyt. CG Genealogical Society.

- Royal Rangers. 6:30-8 p.m. Living Faith Assembly, 467 S. 10th Ave. A scouting-style Christian youth development program for K-12 students.

JANUARY 14

- Senior Center Pinochle Games. 1 p.m. Senior Center. 700 E. Gibbs Ave.

- Open Bowling. 3-5:30 p.m. Cottage Bowl. 740 Row River Rd. Info: 541-767-2695 or www.thecottagebowl.com

- S.T.E.A.M. Activities for Kids. 3 p.m. Cottage Grove Library. 700 E. Gibbs Ave.

- Acoustic Jam with Gregg Biller. 6:7:30 p.m. Coast Fork Brewing. 106 S. 6th St.

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- Elle Sallad (Pacific NW Americana). 6-9 p.m. Coast Fork Brewing. 106 S. 6th St.

- The Gem Tones Concert. 7:30 p.m. Sunday. 2 p.m. Opal Center. 513 E. Main St. Suggested donation: \$15/person at the door or online at www.opalcentercg.org

- Friday Night Live. 6-9 p.m. Saginaw Vineyard. 80247 Delight Valley School Rd. Call 541-942-1364 for performer info.

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SNAP deadline extended

If you live in one of 19 Oregon counties and lost food bought with Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits because of recent storms and power outages, you now have more time to ask for replacement benefits.

The Oregon Department of Human Services (ODHS) has extended the deadline to 30 days for people whose food was lost or spoiled due to power outages Dec. 17, 2025.

Households in the counties listed below have until Jan. 16, 2026, to report food losses and request replacement SNAP benefits.

Counties included in the extended deadline:

- Benton
- Clackamas
- Clatsop
- Columbia
- Coos
- Douglas
- Hood River
- Jefferson
- Klamath
- Lane
- Lincoln
- Linn
- Marion
- Multnomah
- Polk

- Tillamook
- Wallowa
- Washington
- Yamhill

What if I live in another county?

If you live outside these counties, the usual rule still applies.

You must report food losses within 10 days of the incident. ODHS may ask for proof.

How to request SNAP replacement benefits

If your food was lost because of the storms or power outages, you can request replacement benefits in any of these ways:

- Calling 800-699-9075, relay calls welcome
- Filling out a request form and emailing it to oregon.benefits@odhs.oregon.gov
- Visiting a local ODHS office
- By mail:
ONE Customer Service Center
PO Box 14015
Salem, OR 97309
(Mail must arrive by the deadline)
- Online: Log in to your ONE Online account

Once approved, replacement benefits are added to the household's existing Electronic Benefits Transfer (EBT) card. The maximum replacement amount is the cost of the food

lost, not to exceed the household's normal monthly SNAP benefit.

Resources to help meet basic needs

- Find a food pantry: Visit oregonfoodbank.org

• Learn about government programs and community resources for older adults and people with disabilities: Call 1-855-673-2372 or visit adrcoforegon.org.

- Find more resources near you: Dial 211, text your zip code to 898-211, or visit 211info.org

When does the extended deadline end?

The extended deadline ends Jan. 16, 2026.

After that date, the 10-day reporting rule will apply again.

Administered by ODHS, SNAP is a federal program that provides food assistance to approximately 1 in 5 eligible, low-income families and individuals in Oregon, including many older adults and people with disabilities. Individuals in need can apply for benefits, including SNAP, child care, cash assistance and Medicaid.

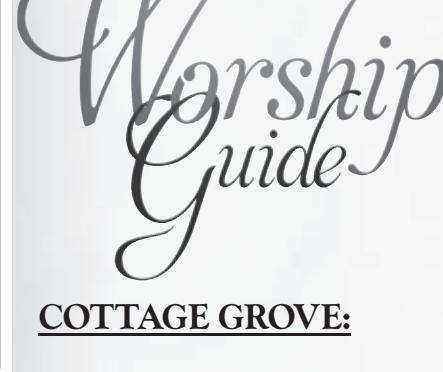
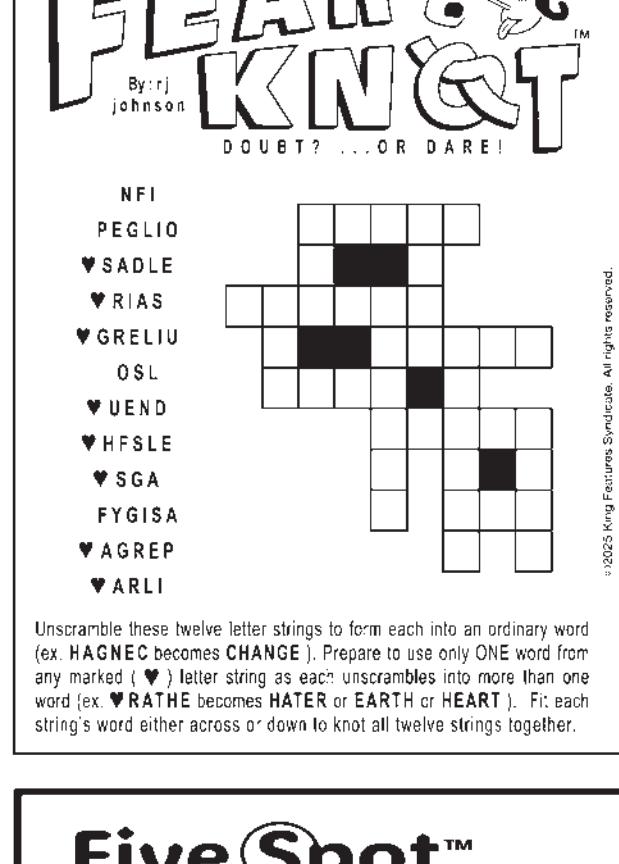
Learn more at benefits.oregon.gov



Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program

Courtesy photo

SNAP is an assistance program designed to help approximately 1 million eligible, low-income families and individuals in Oregon, including many older adults and people with disabilities, with emergency food allotments and other benefits.



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02543

Weekly Online Poll

Will you vote to support or reject the law referred to voters next November that raises transportation taxes and fees?

Support
 Reject

Previous Poll Results

How are you feeling about the New Year ahead?

71.4% - Confident and positive
Optimistic but cautious
28.6% Pessimistic and not hopeful
I don't know how to feel

If your congregation would like to be a part of this worship directory, contact us today!

Death Notices

Carla Diane Gonterman,
79 of Florence, Oregon
passed on December 28, 2025.
Arrangements are in the care
of Smith-Lund-Mills Funeral
Chapel and Crematorium.

Joseph Wilson Blanchard
II, age 80, of Cottage
Grove, Oregon, passed
away December 27, 2025.
Arrangements are in the care
of Smith-Lund-Mills Funeral
Chapel and Crematorium.

See all
obituaries
online at
cg sentinel.com

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Wendy Jo Cooper

December 29, 1969 - December 24, 2025

for animals—especially her beloved pug, Oliver. Wendy spent her final years surrounded by love and comfort in the care of her aunt and uncle, Lorry and Mike Russel.

Wendy married Robby Kephart in August 1995 at Saginaw Walker Church in Oregon. She is survived by her husband, Robby; her daughter, Jessica Marie Cooper of San Diego, California; her sisters, Kendra Russell (James), Tammy Cox (Doug), and Brenda McDonald (Greg); and her grandmother, Jane Cooper, age 100. She was preceded in death by her beloved sons, Nathan Scott Cooper and Kody Wayne Cooper.

A Celebration of Life will be held at a later date. The family extends heartfelt gratitude to Pete Moore Hospice House. Wendy will be remembered for her faith, her voice, her laughter, and the deep love she shared with all. Arrangements are in the care of Smith-Lund-Mills Funeral Chapel.

Wendy Jo Cooper, 55, of Cottage Grove, Oregon, passed peacefully on December 24, 2025, and is now resting in the loving arms of the Lord. She was born on December 29, 1969, in Reedsport, Oregon, to Wendal Lee Cooper and Barbara Kay Boyer (Migas), and was raised with strong family values that guided her throughout her life. Wendy attended Cottage Grove High School.

Wendy devoted much of her life to hospitality housekeeping in Humboldt County, where she took pride in serving others by creating clean, welcoming spaces. She found joy in music and loved to sing, lifting spirits with her voice. Wendy cherished time with her family and friends, especially her grandbabies, and was known for her joyful laughter, lively presence, and generous heart.

She found peace in nature through gardening, caring for her yard, and foraging for mushrooms, and she had a special love

NEWS AND VIEWS

I'm thankful for telehealth, Oregon must protect access

ASHLEY CRAMER
Sentinel Guest Column

My first holiday season in Oregon was not planned. I did not move here for a new job, family or a change of scenery. I came because I had to. I was fleeing a domestic violence situation with my two young children. I arrived in crisis, hoping the hardest part was behind me. It was not.

In those first weeks, even getting out of bed felt impossible. I was taking care of my two young kids while fighting an inner battle of hopelessness. I called clinic after clinic, desperate for help, and heard the same response: "I'm sorry, we don't have anyone available." Each rejection pushed me further down. At my lowest, I was about to give up and still could not access care.

Then one receptionist at a clinic offered something different. She told me about a virtual intensive outpatient program called Charlie Health. For the first time, I had a real option. And that option saved my life.

More than 850 Oregon families will set a holiday table this year with one chair permanently empty because of suicide, according to data from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Our state has the 13th highest suicide rate in the country, and nearly one in



Getty Images

A small study of Oregon Health & Science University patients treated for a drug addiction through video visits faced less stigma than if they saw the provider in person and sat in a waiting room with others.

three Oregonians report struggling with mental health.

There is no one-size-fits-all approach that works for a million people. Telehealth was not just the right fit for me, but the only fit for me. And research shows I'm not alone: studies demonstrate that telehealth-delivered cognitive behavioral therapy can significantly reduce suicide attempts and suicidal thoughts, and that patients receiving more telehealth services have better continuity of care.

When I started treatment, I couldn't imagine leaving the house. Some days I couldn't imagine even showering.

With virtual care, I didn't have to. I cooked dinner for my kids between groups. I didn't need to find child care or get dressed. And I wasn't

alone: I was surrounded by other single mothers who were struggling.

The program and telehealth gave me my life back. One piece of the program that always resonated with me was a trauma-healing graph that showed recovery isn't linear. Sometimes you slide back, but you keep going. The tools I gained didn't just empower me, they empowered my children too. Now my 4-year-old daughter will say, "Mom, I need a breath that helps me," and we do box breathing together, a technique I learned during treatment.

Today my life looks completely different. I am in school to become a dental hygienist. I have a car in my name. I get up, I take care of myself, and I am building



a future for my kids. Most importantly, I am here. And because of telehealth, I always will be.

Despite this, Oregon's virtual mental health services operate in a legal gray area. Providers face complicated and inconsistent regulations, including shifting rules on licensing and approval of fully virtual programs that have not kept pace with how many Oregonians rely on them. These gaps create real uncertainty, leaving patients like me worried that the support we depend on could be taken away at any moment. Every year it feels as if access is at risk.

Oregon's leaders, including Gov. Tina Kotek, have acknowledged that mental health support must be accessible to every community in the state regardless of income or location. But

acknowledgement alone is not enough. In a statewide

Oregonian has the same chance.

This column originally appeared in the Oregon Capital Chronicle.

Ashley Cramer is a caregiver, student, single mother and mental health advocate who lives in Portland with her 2 children.

<https://oregoncapitalchronicle.com/2025/12/23/this-holiday-season-im-thankful-for-telehealth-oregon-must-protect-access/>

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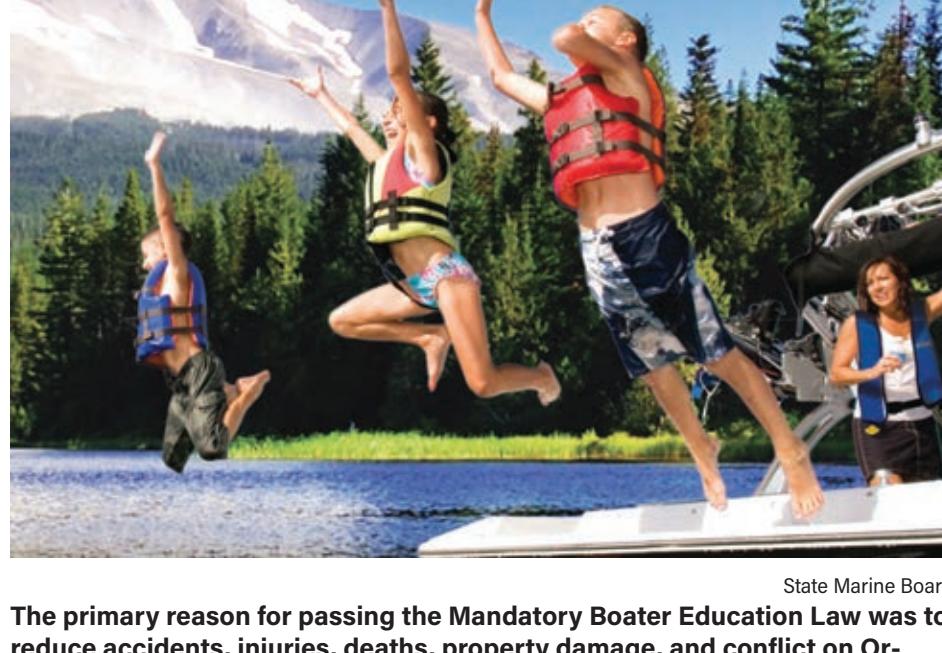
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Contact Editor Lynne Terry

for questions: info@oregon-capitalchronicle.com.

Boating Safety Education Milestone: 25 years of improving Oregon waterway safety



State Marine Board

The primary reason for passing the Mandatory Boater Education Law was to reduce accidents, injuries, deaths, property damage, and conflict on Oregon's waterways.

ORE STATE MARINE BOARD
Sentinel Guest Column

In 1999, the Oregon Legislature passed HB 2977, Mandatory Boater Education, requiring operators of motor-boats with engines greater than 10 horsepower and youth 12-15 years of age operating any size motor-boat, to take a course on basic boating skill and/or pass an equivalency exam to demonstrate basic boating knowledge.

The primary reason for passing the law was to reduce accidents, injuries, deaths, property damage, and conflict on Oregon's waterways. Oregon was the first state west of the Mississippi to enact an education requirement. Today, there are more than 45 states and U.S. territories that require some form of boating safety education. Back in 1999, the Oregon Legislature gave the agency three years to implement the program, first offering

a home-study and mail-in application option between 2000 and 2003. Then in 2003, the age phase-in began and ended in 2009, when all boaters, regardless of age, had to meet the education requirement.

From the beginning, the Marine Board wanted to have plenty of options for boating safety education by offering internet, in-person classroom, and equivalency exams for boaters to choose from. When the age phase-in began

in 2003, there were three approved Internet course providers. The Marine Board also partnered with the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary, US Power Squadrons (America's Boating Club), and the Red Cross to offer classroom courses around the state.

Additionally, the agency developed its own volunteer instructor program with certified instructors teaching the "Boat Oregon" classroom course. The third option available for boaters included equivalency exams, offered through certified Boat Oregon instructors or county Sheriff's Offices with approved marine patrol proctors.

The three options remain today, and approved internet courses have expanded, including courses in Spanish. Virtual classes are also offered throughout the year in partnership with the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary.

Of note, when the law was passed in 1999, the accident reporting threshold was set at \$500. In 2001, the threshold was increased to \$2,000 to reduce the number of reports for minor damage and to align with changes in the cost of boat repairs. This reporting change is evident in a significant drop (in the chart below) in 2001. What's more, the data below for accidents

(incidents) and fatalities includes non-motorized boaters per reporting requirements for the U.S. Coast Guard.

Since 2010, paddling in Oregon and across the nation has shown exponential growth. Motorized boating incidents and fatalities have been declining on average over the last 15 years.

The inference can be made based on submitted boating incident reports, indicating whether the boat operator did not have a boating safety education card.

Very little has changed in the Marine Board's administrative rules for the program in reference to ORS 830.082 for the Mandatory Boating Safety Education Program. The program has been self-supporting through boating education card fees with very little agency administration and does not rely on other funding.

In the past 25 years, the price of the lifetime card increased once, from \$10 in 2000 to \$20 in 2020. Replacement cards increased from \$8 in 2000 to \$16 in 2020. The increase was due to other rising costs in US mail postage, other supplies, and the card printing itself.

Course options remain the same, although approved internet courses have

modernized, giving the student an interactive learning experience. Oregon-specific course content and testing are routinely updated to remain relevant to current national standards or changes in state boating laws. The agency now offers a digital Boat Oregon classroom course manual, also available in Vietnamese, Simple Chinese, Russian, and Spanish.

With the popularity and growth in paddling, the agency encourages people who recreate in kayaks, canoes, rafts, and stand up paddleboards to take advantage of FREE online paddling safety courses. They're fun, interactive, and outline not only Oregon state boating laws, but also other important tips to reduce accidents out on the water.

Currently, over 439,700 education cards have been issued, and Oregon's boating safety education program continues to be a model for other states and territories.

The BEC is a lifetime card and must be carried by the operator when the boat is in use. The BEC must be shown to a marine law enforcement officer upon request.

Visit Boat.Oregon.gov to learn more about all things recreational boating.

THE COTTAGE GROVE Sentinel

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.

PUBLISHED WEEKLY AT:

1498 E. Main Street, STE 104, Cottage Grove, OR 97424

The Cottage Grove Sentinel website www.cgsentinel.com

All subscriptions must be paid prior to beginning the subscription and are non-refundable.

Periodicals postage paid at Cottage Grove, Oregon.

SUBSCRIPTION RATES

Annually.....	\$90
6 months.....	\$65
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DIGITAL ONLY

Electronic edition annually.....	\$75
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Electronic edition monthly.....	\$9
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Cindy Weeldreyer / Cottage Grove Sentinel

The new South Lane School District Superintendent Todd Miller took the administrative reigns on July 1 with a promise to work collaboratively with faculty, staff, administrators, parents, students and the community to shape a new era of success for the school district.

YEAR IN REVIEW

From Page 1

Holiday celebrations: The annual Mayor's Ball transformed the Armory into a Halloween themed Monster Ball that raised planning funds for two major 2027 events: the 50th anniversary of the filming of Animal House and the Walldogs' Muralfest. The Chamber's Downtown Halloween Trick or Treat, undeterred by Main Street construction, drew thousands of families. Attendance was high at communitywide events on Dec. 6 to welcome Santa Claus and kick off the Christmas season.

World Record Broken: On Saturday morning, Sept. 13, the City of Cottage Grove made its debut in the Guinness World Record Book with 375 successful participants of all ages setting a new record for simultaneous gold panning by using the road dirt in front of City Hall that local miners sprinkled with real gold.

Legacy Summer Events: The 93rd annual W.O.E. Heritage Fair, the 78th annual Cottage Grove Rodeo and the 66th annual Bohemia Mining Days Celebration — drew thousands of locals and visitors for old fashioned family fun. Two newer annual events — the Cascade Home Center Community Cookoff and Oktoberfest on Sept. 27 — also drew large crowds.

A major change occurred for Bohemia Mining Days (BMD) this year. Management of the annual summer event shifted from a stand-alone event into a new year-round nonprofit organization, Spirit of BMD. SBMD is a heritage hub that celebrates the people, places, and stories of the Bohemia Mining District through living history, education, events, media, and hands-on experiences.

EDUCATION

South Lane School District experienced one of its largest leadership transitions in years, hiring Superintendent Todd Miller and seating five new school board members. In early December, Miller released proposed cuts aimed at stabilizing



Jeremy C. Ruark / Cottage Grove Sentinel
Local political activists flew American flags on the I-5 Saginaw Overpass in 2025. Pictured is the Veterans Day observance.

spending, protecting instructional and student support programs, maximizing existing staff and closing a projected multi-million dollar shortfall before June 30.

The Food Service Department received an award for serving the most "cooked from scratch" meals among all Oregon school districts.

Multiple Cottage Grove High School athletes and teams competed in statewide post season play, including state meet qualifiers in wrestling, swimming, track and field, tennis, golf, equestrian competition and chess. The fall season was highlighted by dual OSAA state trophies in cross country, with the boys placing third and the girls fourth — the best combined finish in program history.

ENVIRONMENT

CleanLane: Lane County advanced its controversial waste management project to build a public private waste and recycling facility in Goshen, which opponents claim carries a \$174 million price tag. While environmental and economic development advocates supported it, strong opposition from Goshen residents, the Lane County Garbage & Recycling Association and the Emerald People's Utility District led to a series of denied appeals to local and state land use agencies and the Oregon Legislature. On Dec. 16, county commissioners voted 3-2 to amend their contract with Bulk Handling Systems and approved \$1.3 million in additional engineering costs to relocate the project to the Short Mountain Landfill.

CO2 Trust: A collaborative manufacturer of environmentally friendly biochar, opened on Row River Road in the former Umpqua National Forest Ranger Station. The facility packages and distributes enriched biochar for retail and large-scale agricultural uses, with future plans to scale up and hire local workers.

Water Quality Study: The City of Cottage Grove sought a \$125,000 state grant to determine whether algae blooms in Dorena Lake could allow cyanotoxins into the municipal water system. Public Works Director Faye Stewart said the study is a proactive step to ensure long term water safety. Although no toxins have been detected, he said the city must be prepared to take corrective measures.

GOVERNMENT

A new council was sworn in following the November election, setting the stage for policy changes in 2025. Budget pressures intensified throughout the year, with rising costs and stagnant revenues prompting difficult discussions about service levels and fee adjustments.

To support economic development and community improvements, the city created an Urban Renewal District to use tax increment financing over 30 years to fund civic improvements without raising taxes.

In a 5-2 vote on Nov. 25, the council ended its partnership with Community Sharing to offer free showers at the non-profit's Birch Avenue site. Community Sharing asked the city



Photo Courtesy of Greg Lee Photography

A total of 375 gold panners of all ages broke the world record for simultaneous gold panning on Sept. 13.

to donate the trailer to continue the program, but citing budget challenges, a majority of councilors directed staff to reclaim the city owned trailer and send it to public auction.

POLITICS

Reflecting state and national events, hundreds gathered in Bohemia Park to honor Charlie Kirk, the national political activist assassinated on Sept. 10. The Friends of Democracy took to the streets several times to oppose actions of President Donald Trump's administration. Fiscal conservatives collected a record number of signatures to place Governor Tina Kotek's transportation funding bill on the November 2026 ballot. Many Grovers gathered to observe World Peace Day in Coiner Park on Sept. 21.

RECREATION

The long anticipated splash pad opened in Bohemia Park just in time for summer heat. The Slabtown BMX Track project received \$5,298 from the Community Cookoff and benefited from a large supply of dirt from construction of the Pine Springs Apartments on the former Village Green Resort site. Planning continued for a larger, more functional skatepark for youth on multiple types of wheels. South Valley Athletics offered six sports throughout the year, numerous free summer-time activities in local parks and partnered with the Cottage Grove Public Library to offer free family movies during winter and spring breaks.

LOOKING AHEAD

Cottage Grove's 2025 news cycle reflected public works projects, business changes, community traditions, school district transitions and policy debates. These developments set the stage for continued work in 2026, and the Sentinel will use its website, Facebook page and print editions to keep its readers well-informed in the New Year.

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on January 8, 2026 at 11 am at: Simply Storage, 79177 North River Road, Cottage Grove, OR 97424. The personal property heretofore stored with the undersigned by VO2 Nancy Kreamer D05 Karen Morris S26 Jennifer Merrill U22 Carletta Pfeiffer Y17 Will Chamy D08 Kathy Self A06 Adam McDaniels C20 Audry Payne F4 Sidney Schultz

CGS25-194 TRUSTEE'S NOTICE OF SALE TS NO.: 25-5768

Reference is made to that certain Deed of Trust (hereinafter referred to as the "Trust Deed") made by SAMANTHA MORRIS as Grantor to FIDELITY NATIONAL TITLE COMPANY OF OREGON, as trustee, in favor of Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc. ("MERS"), as designated nominee for CMG MORTGAGE, INC DBA CMG FINANCIAL, beneficiary of the security instrument, its successors and assigns, as Beneficiary, dated 1/31/2020, recorded 2/3/2020, as Instrument No. 2020-005520, modified by Loan Modification Agreement recorded as Instrument number 2023-008943 on 4/5/2023, in mortgage records of Lane County, Oregon covering the following described real property situated in said County and State, to-wit: LOT 5 AND THE WEST ONE-HALF OF LOT 6, BLOCK 2, MEADE ADDITION, IN THE CITY OF COTTAGE GROVE, AS PLATTED AND RECORDED IN BOOK 13, PAGE 12, LANE COUNTY OREGON PLAT RECORDS,

CGS25-199 GREEN GABLES MINI STORAGE

will be conducting an online lien auction for the following storage units due to non payment. Auction will be posted at Bid13.com and will begin at 11:00am on 1/8/26 and end at 11:00am on 1/14/26. All units must be cleaned out by 3:00pm on 1/17/26. Minimum charge for all units will be \$50.00. The following list of units will be sold to highest bidder and are all subject to current tenant paying past due amounts in full prior to end of sale on auction end date. Name Unit # Unit Size

999 PUBLIC NOTICES

IN LANE COUNTY, OREGON. The street address or other common designation, if any, for the real property described above is purported to be: 1160 GEER AVE COTTAGE GROVE, OREGON 97424. The Tax Assessor's Account ID for the Real Property is purported to be: 889962 / 20-03-28-13-03400. Both the beneficiary and the trustee, ZBS Law, LLP have elected to foreclose the above referenced Trust Deed and sell the said real property to satisfy the obligations secured by the Trust Deed and a Notice of Default and Election to Sell has been recorded pursuant to ORS 86.752(3). All right, title, and interest in the said described property which the grantors had, or had power to convey, at the time of execution of the Trust Deed, together with any interest the grantors or their successors in interest acquired after execution of the Trust Deed shall be sold at public auction to the highest bidder for cash to satisfy the obligations secured by the Trust Deed and the expenses of sale, including the compensation of the trustee as provided by law, and the reasonable fees of trustee's attorneys. The default for which the foreclosure is made is: The monthly installment of principal and interest, which became due on 4/1/2025, late charges, and all subsequent monthly installments of principal and interest. You are responsible to pay all payments and charges due under

999 PUBLIC NOTICES

the terms and conditions of the loan documents which come due subsequent to the date of this notice, including, but not limited to, foreclosure trustee fees and costs, advances and late charges. Furthermore, as a condition to bring your account in good standing, you must provide the undersigned with written proof that you are not in default on any senior encumbrance and provide proof of insurance. Nothing in this notice should be construed as a waiver of any fees owing to the beneficiary under the deed of trust, pursuant to the terms and provisions of the loan documents. The amount required to cure the default in payments to date is calculated as follows: From: 4/1/2025 Total of past due payments: \$10,146.15 Late Charges: \$158.08 Additional charges (Taxes, Insurance, Corporate Advances, Other Fees): \$2,299.00 Trustee's Fees and Costs: \$637.00 Total necessary to cure: \$13,240.23 Please note the amounts stated herein are subject to confirmation and review and are likely to change during the next 30 days. Please contact the successor trustee ZBS Law, LLP, to obtain a "reinstatement" and or "payoff" quote prior to remitting funds. By reason of said default the beneficiary has declared all sums owing on the obligation secured by the Trust Deed due and payable. The amount required to discharge this lien in its entirety

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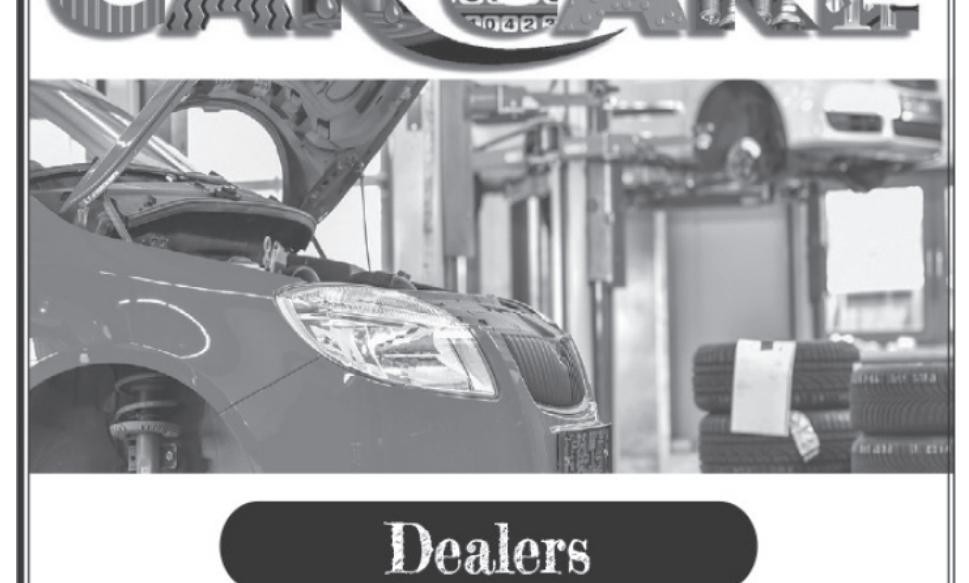
to date is: \$228,158.84

Said sale shall be held at the hour of 10:00 AM on 2/27/2026 in accord with the standard of time established by ORS 187.110, and pursuant to ORS 86.771(7) shall occur at the following designated place: Inside the main lobby of the Lane County Court House, 125 E 8th Ave, Eugene, OR 97401 Other than as shown of record, neither the said beneficiary nor the said trustee have any actual notice of any person having or claiming to have any lien upon or interest in the real property hereinabove described subsequent to the interest of the trustee in the Trust Deed, or of any successor(s) in interest to the grantors or of any lessee or other person in possession or occupying the property, except: NONE Notice is further given that any person named in ORS 86.778 has the right, at any time prior to five days before the date last set for sale, to have this foreclosure proceeding dismissed and the Trust Deed reinstated by payment to the beneficiary of the entire amount then due (other than such portion of the principal as would not then be due had no default occurred) and by curing any other default complained of herein that is capable of being cured by tendering the performance required under the obligation(s) of the Trust Deed, and in addition to paying said sums or tendering the performance necessary to cure the default, by paying all costs

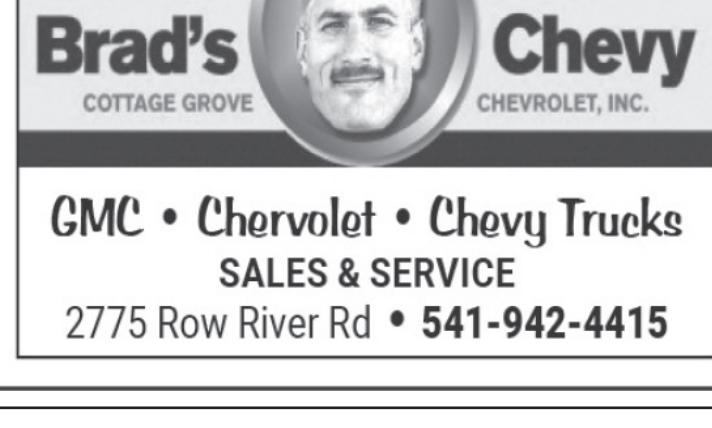
999 PUBLIC NOTICES

and expenses actually incurred in enforcing the obligation and Trust Deed, together with the trustee's and attorney's fees not exceeding the amounts provided by ORS 86.778.

The mailing address of the trustee is: ZBS Law, LLP, 5 Centerpointe Dr., Suite 400 Lake Oswego, OR 97035 (503) 946-6558. In construing this notice, the masculine gender includes the feminine and the neuter, the singular includes plural, the word "grantor" includes any successor in interest to the grantor as well as any other persons owing an obligation, the performance of which is secured by said trust deed, the words "trustee" and "beneficiary" include their respective successors in interest, if any. 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 methamphetamine, 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. Dated: 10/14/2025 ZBS Law, LLP: Amber L. Labrecque, Esq., OSB#094593 ZBS Law, LLP. Authorized to sign on behalf of the trustee EPP 45529 Pub Dates 12/17, 12/24, 12/31, 01/07/2026



Dealers



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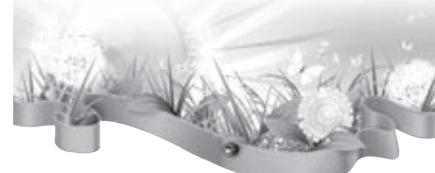
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CGHS coaching announcements



The photo that accompanied the press release announcing Aaron Merrill as the new baseball head coach.

WILL LOHRE
Cottage Grove Sentinel

Cottage Grove High School has announced two more coaching changes heading into the New Year.

On Dec. 19, the school revealed that it had hired Nate Farrell to be the new football coach and that Aaron Merrill was chosen to take over the Lions' baseball program.

Both press releases were posted on the Cottage Grove High School Sports Athletics Facebook page, with each outlining the new coaches' backgrounds and the school's excitement to have them on board.

Football Head Coach Nate Farrell is in his second year as a manufacturing teacher at Cottage Grove High School, and is a school and football program alumnus. Farrell graduated in 2018, and he competed in football, wrestling, and golf as a Lion. As an offensive lineman for the football team, Farrell won the state championship in 2017 and played on the 2016 Lion team that finished as runner-up. In wrestling, he was a state qualifier.

In addition to his new post as football Head Coach, Farrell also serves as the Head Boys Golf Coach and an assistant coach in the CGHS wrestling program. He has also previously served as an assistant coach in the CGHS football program.

A committee of current CGHS head coaches, parents, teachers, school administrators, and football student-athletes aided in the hiring process with the goal of "ensuring broad representation and a

comprehensive, thoughtful selection process."

"From the very beginning of the process, Nate stood out for his preparation, clarity

of vision, and genuine passion for Cottage Grove," CGHS Athletic Director Garrett Bridgens said in the release. "There was a shared sense of excitement and confidence in his plan for the program, his ability to build strong relationships, and his understanding of what it means to lead within this community."

Farrell's vision for the football program is centered around creating culture, accountability, player development, and "alignment from youth through varsity-grounded in pride for Cottage Grove High School and a commitment to serving student-athletes both on and off the field."

"I am incredibly excited and grateful for the opportunity to lead the Cottage Grove football program. As a former player and lifelong Lion, this community and its traditions mean everything to me. We will compete with integrity, commit to relentless effort, and uphold a shared standard of excellence on and off the field. Go Lions!" Farrell said in the release.

For the baseball team, Aaron Merrill will be stepping up to the plate this season. Merrill brings 37 years of coaching experience to the table, coaching youth, high school, and athletes during that span. His background includes extensive involvement with Kidsports, Babe Ruth Baseball, and Babe Ruth All-Stars in Eugene. In addition to developing in Oregon, Merrill has honed his coaching chops in California, serving as a field coach at El Camino Junior College for two years, Dominguez Hills College for one year, and the Mark Creese School of Baseball in Irvine for two years.

At the high school level, Merrill served as the Head Baseball Coach at Springfield High School from 2018 to 2022. Most recently, he spent the past two seasons at South Eugene



Courtesy photo

Head Coach Nate Farrell's welcome graphic that accompanied the announcement on Facebook.

High School as the Head Junior Varsity Coach.

Merrill, like Farrell, was selected after an extensive hiring process, which included being assessed by a committee of included baseball

student-athletes, parents, school administrators, school staff, and a current CGHS head coach.

The release stated that the committee was impressed by Coach Merrill's "depth of experience, his thoughtful plan for program development, and his clear vision for supporting student-athletes beyond the field."

"We were impressed not only with Aaron's extensive baseball background, but with his commitment to developing young people into responsible, well-rounded adults," Bridgens said via the release. "His emphasis on academics, family, and baseball aligns strongly with our values and the expectations we have

for our athletic programs. It was also clear throughout the process that Aaron genuinely wants to be here to lead the Lions and to support the growth and development of our youth baseball community."

For his part, Merrill shared his excitement and vision for the program, and was quoted as stating, "Success doesn't come from the wins and loss column—it comes from the quality of the student-athlete you put out into the real world. We are going to compete every day to be the best we can be in school, in baseball, and in life, while building a program grounded in accountability, growth, and pride in wearing the Lion uniform. Go Lions!"

Follow Cottage Grove High School game results at osaa.org and see sport features online at cgssentinel.com and in the Wednesday print editions of *The Sentinel*.

COMM. MEALS

From Page 1

how the community approaches homelessness. They continued to see shared meals as a way to bring people together — both those being served and those doing the serving.

"Our goal is to help our community heal and to help the homeless find a way off the streets into a life of accountability and responsibility," Chartrand said. "We believe people are capable. They just need someone to believe in them and show that change is possible."

NATIONAL HOMELESS PERSONS' MEMORIAL DAY LOCAL OBSERVANCE

National Homeless Persons' Memorial Day Dec. 21 is recognized across the United States as National Homeless Persons' Memorial Day, observed annually on or around the winter solstice — the longest night of the year. It has been organized since 1990 by the National Coalition for the Homeless, the National Health Care for the Homeless Council, and partner organizations.

In conjunction with this national observance, Hope Rides Again volunteers participated in an evening candlelight vigil in All America City Square (Opal Park), to remember loved ones who died while living on the streets.

In a social media post after the event Chartrand wrote, "My father, Kenny, and my brother, John, died homeless and trapped by poor decisions they made. I'm also a recovering meth addict who was also homeless for many years stuck in addiction. I am so grateful during this time of remembrance one of our homeless reached out for real help. I want to thank the Eugene Mission for rescuing this man off the streets and to thank my wife, Jennifer, for being able to transport him there."

He added, "This is why Hope Rides Again was formed. To share hope and resources that lead to a better life. I'm so grateful this man is making decisions that could save his life. God is so good."

ORGANIZATIONAL GOVERNANCE

The nonprofit is supported by a diverse board of directors and several community

partners, including First Presbyterian Church's Committee for Earth & Social Justice, the Rural Organizing Project, the Cottage Grove Public Market, and the Row River Grange. Individual donors and volunteers also play a significant role.

FUTURE PLANS

Looking ahead, Hope Rides Again plans to launch a weekly drop in center at the Rural Organizing Project's building at 632 E. Main St. The center would offer hot meals and resource navigation support. Chartrand is a longtime volunteer Recovery Coach, and Ferraez is a licensed clinical social worker.

Several volunteers from the holiday meals

have also expressed interest in helping.

The couple's long term vision includes establishing a "bridge house" — a short term transitional space for people who reach a moment of clarity and want to take the first steps out of homelessness. Certified Recovery Mentors would live onsite to help residents set goals, build insight, and prepare for placement in sober living, treatment programs, or longer term housing within six months.

Hope Rides Again does not receive government funding and relies entirely on private donations. Those interested in supporting the organization can send an email to hoperidesagainnp@gmail.com.

Who We Are is a *Sentinel* feature highlighting the people in our community.

ARRESTS

From Page 1

of 2025, according to the Deportation Data Project.

The project's dataset doesn't include arrests after mid-October, but U.S. Border Patrol Chief Michael Banks said on the social media platform X that federal agents arrested more than 560 people in Portland in October alone. Immigration experts assume his estimate is accurate, and the Portland Immigration Rights Coalition, which became a statewide hotline this year for Oregonians to report ICE sightings, confirmed with the

Oregon Capital Chronicle that it reported more than 1,000 arrests this year.

The rise came after Trump in the spring raised the national daily ICE arrest quota from 1,000 to 3,000 per day. Regional director Camilla Wamsley, responsible for ICE operations in Oregon, Washington and Alaska, also set an internal goal of 30 arrests per day for the region — double the daily goal the regional agency had in 2024.

ICE did not respond to the Capital Chronicle's request for comment.

"The data shows arbitrary quotas were imposed by Trump in June 2025 and

apprehensions spiked and then in September 2025, they spiked again, and on October 15, 2025 they surged off the chart," Manning told the Capital Chronicle.

While ICE has claimed its crackdowns are catching criminals, the data shows that only 32% of people arrested in 2025 had criminal convictions. That's down from 45% of the people ICE arrested in Oregon in 2024, according to the Deportation Data Project.

People arrested by ICE came from at least 45 different countries, with the most people coming from Mexico, followed by Honduras, Venezuela, Guatemala and China.

About 84% of those arrested in the first 10 months of the year were male.

Roughly two-thirds of people detained were between the ages 19 and 40. The youngest person detained was 4-years-old.

Cities, counties respond to ICE action in Oregon

Portland Immigrants Rights Coalition Coordinator Alyssa Walker Keller said there

will be "many hard months" ahead. The group anticipates a looming eviction and hunger crisis for families who lost their breadwinners.

"It will be important for local and state governments to invest in stabilizing, for mutual aid groups to

supplement that support, and for all of us to be thinking about strategies of how to stabilize these families whose

entire worlds have been rocked by their loved one being stolen away," she told the Capital Chronicle.

Cities and counties including Portland, Salem, Forest Grove, Woodburn and

Multnomah and Washington

counties have responded to ICE's increased presence in their communities by declaring

local emergencies, ordering training for local staff on how to follow Oregon's

sanctuary law or allocating funds to support immigrant and refugee communities.

<https://oregoncapitalchronicle.com/2025/12/29/oregon-saw-1100-immigration-arrests-in-2025/>

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

Read previous *Sentinel* coverage involving the federal immigration operations in Cottage Grove at cgssentinel.com and follow developments in the Wednesday print editions of *The Sentinel*.