

THE COTTAGE GROVE

Sentinel

Heritage Fair Guide



Team Botswana in Cottage Grove



74
55

Cottage Grove

Wednesday, Aug. 19, 2026
Partly Cloudy



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Wednesday August 19, 2026 | 137 years

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Courtesy photo

Lane County recorded 56 traffic deaths in 2022. 89% of these crashes involved impairment and or speed. Lane County recorded 41 deaths in 2023 and 49 deaths in 2024, According to the Oregon Department of Transportation.

‘High-risk driving behaviors’ increasing in Lane County

JEREMY C. RUARK
Cottage Grove Sentinel

Lane County has consistently ranked among the top three highest counties in Oregon for fatal crashes. According to the Oregon Department of Transportation, Lane County recorded 56 traffic deaths in 2022. 89% of these crashes involved impairment and or speed. Lane County recorded 41 deaths in 2023 and 49 deaths in 2024. “The reality is, high risk driving behaviors, especially speeding, are still increasing,” Lane County Sheriff’s Office (LCSO) Sgt. Levi McKenny said. “Lane County continues to make an impact and try to improve roadway safety through public education and enforcement.” LCSO deputies are continuing to utilize grant funding to show an increased presence on county roads, according to McKenny. “LCSO does not have a full-time dedicated traffic enforcement unit,” he said. “Most offenders get stopped simply because the deputy happened to be in the right place at the right time and was in between priority calls-for -service. This only raises more concerns about how often these dangerous driving behaviors go undetected.” The Lane County Sheriff’s Office is asking for every driver’s assistance to help keep the roads safe. “Please plan ahead. Give yourself extra travel time. Practice patience. Remember we all share the roadway with drivers of all ages and varying levels of experience. Together, we can reduce speeds and make Lane

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‘It’s the unknown that is concerning to us’

JEREMY C. RUARK
Cottage Grove Sentinel

While the majority of the summer wildfires in Oregon have been on the east side of the Cascades, continued hot, dry weather, drought conditions, and the threat of lightning, will heighten the fire danger in Western Oregon, including Lane County. “It is the unknown that is concerning to us,” South Lane County Fire & Rescue (SLCFR) Deputy Chief Justin Baird said. “It’s hot and dry and we have not had any moisture for a long time, so as we get into late summer, dry lighting starts to come in and that will be a concern.” The lack of snowpack over the winter and the continued dry conditions locally combined with east winds that likely occur in late summer are the driving actors that Baird said are heightening the wildfire danger. “Those east wind events, where the wind is coming of the high desert, and the winds can pick up burning embers,” he said. “That’s what causes these big fires. High heat, low humidity, and a strong wind. The embers are thrown ahead of the fire.” Resources to battle wildfires are also of concern to local firefighters. “Resources across the state are pretty thin right now, because there are a lot of fires throughout the state of Oregon” Baird said. “We are still at our normal capacity as far as response goes.” SLCFR also has partnership agreements for mutual aid from surrounding districts including the Oregon Department of Forestry. Baird emphasized that residents and visitors to the area need to know the evacuation levels in the case of a wildfire.



Courtesy from the Oregon department of Forestry

The Wasco County Grasshopper Fire on Wednesday, Aug. 13, reached 83,642 acres. At that time, the fire was 20 percent contained with 1,832 personnel assigned to the incident.

“People need to pay attention to the evacuation levels and have personal belongings and valuables packed up that are easy to grab when there is an evacuation alert, especially if you live closer to the edge of the forest,” he said. Baird also cautions the public about knowing the safest route out of an area when a wildfire occurs. “Lane County Sheriff’s Office Search and Rescue provides route maps for the safest places to go when there is an evacuation order, so we work hand-in-hand with LCSO when it comes to evacuations,” he said. Often, when there is a major emergency, such as a wildfire, traffic away from the danger zone can be hectic and congested.

“Be patient,” Baird said.” Be aware of your surroundings and know what’s going on. Just being informed and being aware in the big thing.” Baird also recommends property owners take steps to protect their property from wildfires by keeping lawns well-watered and removing overgrown brush. More prevention information can be found at the Oregon State Fire marshal’s website. The Oregon Department of Emergency Management (OEM) urges everyone to prepare for wildfires and other emergencies by knowing evacuation levels, staying informed, having a plan, and having a go-kit ready. The Oregon Evacuation Levels

- Oregon follows a three-level evacuation notification system, each structured around safety threat level. Be Ready. Be Set. Go Now.
- Oregonians should become familiar with “Be Ready, Be Set, Go!” evaluation levels to make informed decisions when receiving evacuation notices.
- OEM urges people to evacuate whenever they feel unsafe, conditions can change rapidly; individuals should always make the best decision for their safety.
- Following evacuation, people should not return to the area until public safety officials state it is safe.

Oregon has set a historic high number of acres burned during the 2026 summer wildfire season at 2.3 million acres.

Rapid attack stops nearby Harness wildfire

CINDY WEELDREYER
Cottage Grove Sentinel

A warm, breezy Tuesday afternoon turned uneasy when a plume of white smoke rose over the ridge south of Cottage Grove. Nearly an hour before the smoke became visible from town on Aug. 11, subscribers to the Watch Duty mobile app received an alert at 1:35 p.m. that a fire had been detected about 16 miles to the south. The fire, originally named the Big Baldy Fire and later renamed the Harness Fire by the National Interagency Fire Center, was burning in a reproductive timber unit approximately 16 miles south of Cottage Grove. The fire was first detected by the University of Oregon’s Oregon Hazards Lab camera network, which monitors remote terrain through high resolution mountaintop cameras capable of spotting smoke within minutes. The alert was confirmed through Watch Duty, a



Courtesy photo from the University of Oregon

The fire burned in a reproductive timber unit approximately 16 miles south of Cottage Grove.

mobile app that provides real time wildfire updates from trained volunteers and retired emergency personnel, along with the statewide Alert Oregon system that distributes emergency notifications to the public.

The Oregon Hazards Lab operates a statewide network of wildfire cameras that provide real time visual monitoring to fire agencies and emergency managers. Watch Duty is a nonprofit organization with a national network that delivers

real time wildfire alerts, scanner updates and verified incident reports to the public via the free phone app. AJ Eccles is the senior digital communications manager for Watch Duty. He told The Sentinel, “If an incident we are monitoring has a threat to life or property, we notify the public through the app. Our platform serves users nationwide and has become a critical source of intelligence for residents and emergency managers during fast moving fire events.” The Douglas Forest Protective Association (DFPA) mounted a well-coordinated initial attack near the Lane and Douglas County line. At 2:04 p.m., DFPA reported that the fire was in a remote area with no structures threatened and that it was located within a mutual aid response area, with resources from

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WHO'S THE BEST
IN SOUTH LANE COUNTY?

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A CLOSER LOOK

‘Destressed child’ rescued

The following is from the Cottage Grove Police Department’s Weekly Update.

- A two-vehicle motor vehicle accident was reported in the Safeway parking lot. Officers assisted both drivers with exchanging the appropriate information.

- Multiple calls brought officers to the designated camp at 12th Street in one day regarding harassment, disturbances, and the burning of miscellaneous items. During two separate incidents, two females were arrested. One female was transported to the Lane County Jail on a charge of Disorderly Conduct in the Second Degree (ORS 166.025). The other female was later issued citations in lieu of custody for three Cottage Grove Municipal Court warrants.

- A report of a white vehicle driving on the bike path at North Regional Park led to a traffic stop. The driver displayed signs of impairment, and a strong odor of an alcoholic beverage was detected

coming from the vehicle. Dispatch also advised that the driver had a suspended driver’s license and was required to have an Ignition Interlock Device in the vehicle. The driver refused to participate in Field Sobriety Testing and was eventually transported to the police department, where he provided a breath sample indicating a blood alcohol concentration of 0.08%. He was issued citations in lieu of custody for DUII (ORS 813.010) and Reckless Driving (ORS 811.140).

- A reported non-injury, non-blocking collision involving a semi-truck and minivan occurred on private property in a driveway near the KFC/truck stop. While no enforcement action was required, the involved drivers were assisted with exchanging information.

- A report of an illegal campsite near Hole 9 of the disc golf course brought officers into the wooded area on the north side of the course. Approximately one mile down the path, officers

located the reported yellow and gray tent and contacted two individuals. Their identities were confirmed, DMV photographs were matched, and both individuals were advised regarding the illegal camping before the area was cleared.

- A stressful situation at Walmart involving an infant accidentally locked inside a vehicle required a quick response. When officers arrived, the child was visibly in distress. Using a window punch, a vehicle window was broken and the child was safely removed. Officers used water and damp cloths to help cool the child while waiting for medics to arrive. Medics provided additional care before releasing the child back to the parent.

- Officers assisted Oregon State Police with clearing a US Forest Service building that was found to have a broken window and a door kicked in. The building was cleared and confirmed to be vacant.



- Officers responded to Middlefield Oaks Senior Living involved a female who had previously been trespassed from the business and was reportedly found

inside an employee room, where she had helped herself to food. The female had left the building and surrounding area prior to arrival. A police report was completed, and a

charge of Criminal Trespass in the Second Degree was added to her local file so a citation can be issued during the next contact.

POLICE BLOTTER

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

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

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

COTTAGE GROVE POLICE

MONDAY, AUGUST 3

08:58: Theft, 900 block Row River Rd.
09:42: Suspicious subject, 100 block S. 10th St.
11:53: Suspicious condition, 100 block S. River Rd.
12:03: Shots fired, 500 block E. Main St.
12:14: Theft, 900 block Row River Rd.
12:35: Dog at large, 1400 block N. Douglas St.
12:49: Trespass, 900 block Row River Rd.
13:40: Theft, 100 block Gateway Blvd.
14:08: Abandoned vehicle, 700 block E. Gibbs Ave.
14:22: Agency assist, 400 block E. Main St.
14:39: Dog at large, 300 block S. River Rd.
15:17: Suspicious condition, 300 block Coop Ct.
15:40: Theft, 900 block Row River Rd.
15:51: Hit and run, 1200 block Hwy 99
16:30: Fraud, 1000 block E. Jackson Ave.
16:57: Abandoned vehicle, 1400 block E. Madison Ave.
18:21: Abandoned vehicle, Anthony Ct/Anthony Ave.
19:09: Suicidal subject, 32000 block Rachel Rd.
22:59: Suspicious vehicle, 1500 block Gateway Blvd.

23:22: Suspicious subject, 1300 block E. Main St.

TUESDAY, AUGUST 4

01:33: Suspicious subject, Oswald West/Gateway Blvd.
06:54: Trespass, 1500 block Village Dr.
09:27: Trespass, 200 block S. 6th St.
09:57: Agency assist, 34000 block Shoreview Dr.
10:18: Criminal mischief, 2800 block Row River Rd.
13:42: DUII, 1800 block N. Douglas St.
14:03: Suspicious vehicle, Hwy 99/Main
15:32: Theft, 100 block Gateway Blvd.
16:43: Abandoned vehicle, 1900 block S. 6th St.
17:10: Suspicious condition, 900 block Row River Rd.
17:42: Harassment, 1500 block Fairview Pl.
18:35: Suspicious subject, 1500 block Red Hills Pl.
18:36: Disturbance, 32000 block Rachel Rd.
18:58: Abandoned vehicle, N. River Rd/Holly
19:07: Disturbance, 37000 block Row River Rd.
19:28: Warrant service, 400 block E. Main St.

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 5

00:16: Suspicious subject, 1000 block W. Main St.
08:59: Warrant service, 400 block E. Main St.
14:30: Alarm, 700 block E. Main St.
14:34: Suspicious subject, 1400 block N. Douglas St.
14:36: Alarm, 3000 block Row River Rd.
17:53: Harassment, 1300 block Pennoyer Ave.
19:50: Suspicious condition, 200 block N. 10th St.
22:45: Order violation, 200 block S. River Rd.

23:20: Disturbance, 900 block Blue Sky Dr.

THURSDAY, AUGUST 6

00:04: Disturbance, 1000 block Adams Ave.
07:15: Abandoned vehicle, 5th/Monroe
09:47: Harassment, 100 block Gateway Blvd.
11:12: Criminal mischief, 1000 block Adams Ave.
12:57: Juvenile trouble, 400 block E. Main St.
13:33: Disturbance, 1300 block Birch Ave.
16:24: Disturbance, 1200 block Adams Ave.
16:50: Motor vehicle crash, 33000 block Howe Ln.
17:06: Disorderly subjects, 200 block N. 9th St.
17:18: Warrant service, 400 block E. Main St.
17:35: Hit and run, 1600 block E. Main St.
18:38: Disturbance, 1200 block Adams Ave.
18:57: Wanted subject, 400 block E. Main St.
19:21: Animal info, 900 block Row River Rd.
19:39: Disorderly subject, 200 block N. 9th St.
20:41: Suspicious condition, 500 block N. Douglas St.
21:19: DUII ATL, 500 block Gateway Blvd.
21:39: Disorderly subject, 100 block S. 10th St.
23:14: Warrant service, Exit 174 SB Offramp
23:43: Suspicious condition, 800 block W. Main St.
23:57: Warrant service, 400 block E. Main St.

FRIDAY, AUGUST 7

02:10: Barking dog, 200 block Hayes Ave.
03:00: Barking dog, 200 block Hayes Ave.
03:51: Suspicious condition, 1100 block S. 8th St.
05:51: Fire, 14th/Harvey
06:22: Disturbance, 100 block Taylor Pl.

STAFF REPORT Cottage Grove Sentinel

A Cottage Grove resident faces multiple charges following a law enforcement pursuit along Bryson Sears Road.

At Approximately 8:45 pm, July 27, Lane County Sheriff’s Office (LCSO) deputies spotted an individual who had active felony warrants. The male, 40-year-old Kyle Littleton Lasater, was driving a vehicle on Bryson Sears Road at the time.

Deputies attempted to stop Lasater’s vehicle, but he

06:30: Suspicious condition, 100 block Palmer Ave.
07:44: Disorderly subject, 1100 block E. Main St.
08:13: Warrant service, 400 block E. Main St.
08:53: Trespass, 1100 block Hwy 99
10:35: Criminal mischief, 800 block Row River Rd.
10:50: Barking dog, 900 block South T Ct.
12:15: Theft, 900 block W. Main St.
15:41: Warrant service, 400 block E. Main St.
16:11: Harassment, 800 block N. Douglas St.
16:20: Trespass, 1200 block E. Main St.
16:43: Illegal camping, 2100 block N. Douglas St.
18:55: Warrant service, 400 block E. Main St.
20:05: Suspicious subject, 1200 block Gateway Blvd.
20:21: Fire, 400 block N. 14th St.
20:40: Disorderly subject, 200 block S. River Rd.
21:27: Suspicious condition, Cherry/Wood
22:07: Warrant service, 200 block S. River Rd.
22:24: Barking dog, 1200 block Bryant Ave.
23:53: Fire, 2100 block Wilson Ct.

SATURDAY, AUGUST 8

02:52: Suspicious condition, Connector

attempted to elude deputies, leading to a vehicle pursuit, according to LCSO Sgt. Levi McKenny.

“Lasater ran from the vehicle in the 78000 block of Bryson Sears Road. Deputies established a perimeter deployed a Lane County K9. With the help of LCSO K9 Tito, Lasater was found a short time later.

Lasater was arrested and lodged at the Lane County Jail. He has been charged with the below listed crimes.

• Forgery in the First Degree

- Felon in Possession of a Weapon (2 counts)
- Criminal Mischief in the First Degree
- Attempting to Elude a Police Officer Felony (3 counts)
- Attempting to Elude a Police Officer Misdemeanor
- Reckless Driving (2 counts)
- Reckless Endangering (3 counts)
- Violation of Restraining Order
- Assault in the Fourth Degree

03:18: Warrant service, 400 block E. Main St.
03:55: Suspicious subject, 800 block Gateway Blvd.
04:37: Warrant service, 400 block E. Main St.
10:35: Wanted subject, 1100 block Lane Ct.
10:47: Agency assist, 1400 block Daugherty Ave.
10:53: Assault, 1500 block Edison Ave.
12:11: Burglary, 1500 block Edison Ave.
12:54: Animal info, 800 block S. 3rd St.
16:21: Motor vehicle crash, 1500 block E. Main St.
16:55: Disorderly subject, 100 block N. 9th St.
18:38: Suspicious vehicle, 1500 block Gateway Blvd.
18:53: Suspicious subject, 200 block Gateway Blvd.
18:57: Disorderly subject, 200 block N. 12th St.
19:50: Barking dog, 200 block South N St.
20:10: Suspicious vehicle, Adams/10th

23:32: Suspicious vehicle, 1300 block E. Main St.

SUNDAY, AUGUST 9

01:35: Shots fired, 37000 block Row River Rd.
01:58: Suspicious subject, 1300 block E. Main St.
03:55: Disturbance, 900 block Arthur Ave.
04:05: Warrant service, 200 block N. 12th St.
09:02: Repo, 2400 block E. Whiteaker Ave.
09:14: Theft, 900 block Row River Rd.
11:22: Illegal camping, 1400 block N. Douglas St.
14:04: Disturbance, 900 block Row River Rd.
14:34: Motor vehicle crash, Gateway/Row River Rd.
16:16: Disturbance, 100 block S. 21st St.
20:26: Warrant service, 400 block E. Main St.
22:08: Illegal camping, 3200 block Row River Rd.

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U20 Botswana squad finishes competing at championships

WILL LOHRE
Cottage Grove Sentinel

The Botswana Track and Field team that the City of Cottage Grove hosted competed with the best under-20 athletes in the world at the 21st World Athletics U20 Championships at Hayward Field.

Their time in Cottage Grove was spent training and enjoying many of the experiences that made the previous visit by a Botswana delegation so successful. City of Cottage Grove Project Coordinator Shauna Neigh helped coordinate the team's visit, and she was happy with how it turned out.

While the athletes needed a little more rest during their abbreviated stay this time around, they still got plenty of hearty hospitality.

"We went to the speedway, we went to the lake, they got to go to the arcade at the arcade downtown. So, we were able to do some fun things before we sent them off to do what they had to do in Eugene," Neigh said. "It was a nice visit. Completely different crew, different people, but just as wonderful."

After training at the high school during their few-day-long stay, the team put their best foot forward on the track. The delegation was made up of 11 athletes, including 10 male and 1 female, along with four team officials. Competing on the

big stage in Eugene, they had athletes in the 100m, 200m, 400m, 4x100m Relay, and 4x400m Relay.

In the first event, the 100m, which took place Aug. 5, Wazha Matakule finished third in both the first and semifinal rounds to qualify for the finals. His first-round time was a new personal best, finishing in 10.39, a mark he surpassed in the semifinals, running 10.28. While he finished 9th in the event in the final on Aug. 6, his qualifying time for the final was a big achievement.

In the 400m on Aug. 6, Botswana had two athletes competing. In the first round, Tsaone Dintwa was disqualified in the first heat, but Junior Phatisma finished third in his heat with a time of 47.05, qualifying for the next round. In the semifinal, Phatisma finished 5th, not getting a spot in the finals, but topping his previous time with a 46.32.

The next day, Aug. 7, the team had representatives in both the mens and womens 200m. In the men's, Jack Newman finished 5th with a time of 21.18. On the women's side, Same Amantle Mhutsiwa also finished 5th with a time of 24.08. Wazha Matakule was also to compete in the 200m, but he did not register a time due to a DQ.

The final events for the team were relays, both in the

men's 4x100 and 4x400. The men's 4x400 team of Warona Mbigi Mokgosi, Phatsima, Mabua Resego, and Tsaone Dintwa had one of the highlights of the weekend, finishing first in the first round with a season-best time of 3:08.22, qualifying for the final. In the final, the team took sixth, with a time of 3:05.80, another new season best.

In the 4x100, the team, comprising Kopano Mpitsang, Wazha Matakule, Lucky Knight Chivero, and Jack Newman, finished fourth in their heat, missing out on the final with a time of 39.84. Still, it marked a new National Under 20 record for the program.

It was a whirlwind for the team, and for Neigh and the city, it was fun to keep the connection between the country and the city strong. Neigh described how significant the experience was.

"It means so much to me and our city to be able to host these future Olympic athletes. These races are designed to prepare these young kids to be in the Olympics," Neigh said. "It was really an honor to be able to spend some time with that class of athletes and see them work, and the coaches work, and the relationships that they have with the athletes, and the respect they have for each other."

The Chamber of Commerce and the Bookmine



Courtesy photo from Shauna Neigh

A moving moment for the team when the members came to the Cottage Grove City Council chambers and saw the signed Botswana team jersey that graces the wall there.

hung photos of the team in their windows, and when the team saw them, they were excited about the gesture of recognition.

"We were able to go downtown while the farmers market was going on, and the team was able to sit in front and take some pictures of themselves in front of their photos in the window. They were really happy to be kind of celebrities for a little bit," Neigh said.

Another moving moment came when the team came to the Cottage Grove City Council chambers and saw the signed Botswana team jersey that hangs there. It features all the signatures from the senior team that the city hosted in 2022, including that of Letsile Tebogo. Seeing some of the names they idolized was a special reminder of the connection between the two communities.

"That was really a touching moment for me to watch

the coach talk to them about what he had accomplished, and see what's possible if you're dedicated. And they were all in awe of the different times, and it was really a pretty neat experience," Neigh said.

Hopefully, the tie between Botswana and Cottage Grove stays strong, and there will be plenty more partnerships in the future; the foundation that exists already shows promise for an expanding legacy.

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

AUGUST 19
• 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.
• Summer Reading Wrap up Party. 2:30–3:30 p.m. Cottage Grove Public Library, 700 E. Gibbs Ave.
• Chamber Concerts in the Park: Perfect Flavor (pop, country & blues)
Bohemia Park Amphitheater. Vendors 5:30–8 p.m. Concert 6:30–8 p.m.
• Acoustic Jam with Gregg Biller. 6–7:30 p.m. Coast Fork Brewing.
• Axe and Fiddle Game Night. 6:30–9:30 p.m. Free
• Elks Lodge Bingo. Early Bird 6:30 p.m. Regular Games 7 p.m. Elks Lodge.
• Concerts in the Park After Party 8–9 p.m. Cottage Grove Public Market.

AUGUST 20
• 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.
• Community Center Table Tennis. 4–6 p.m. Community Center
• Bread Club. 5–7 p.m. CG Public Market.
• Celebrate Recovery. 5:15 p.m. Calvary Chapel. 1447 Hwy 99N.
• Stone Hart (rock). 6–8 p.m. CG Public Market.
• Paul Prince (slide guitarist). 6–8 p.m. Coast Fork Brewery.
• Open Mic Night. 7 p.m. (Sign Up 6:30 p.m.) Axe and Fiddle.
• Cottage Theatre Play: "I Hate Hamlet", 7:30pm, 700 Village Drive
• Arthur Buezo (savage folk). 8:30–10:30 p.m. Axe and Fiddle.

AUGUST 21
• W.O.E. Heritage Fair. 10 a.m. – 8 p.m. Fairgrounds. 2000 N. Douglas St.
• Bohemia Gold Mining Museum Yard Sale. 10 a.m.–4 p.m. 308 S. 6th St.

• Storytime. 11:30 a.m. CG Public Library.
• CG Library Free Family Movie. 3–5 p.m.
• American Legion Bingo. 5–7 p.m. American Legion Post 32. 826 W. Main St.
• Elks Lodge Steak Dinner. \$14. 5:30–7 p.m. 775 N. River Rd. \$12
• Saginaw Vineyard Friday Night Live. 6–9 p.m. 80247 Delight Valley School Rd.
• Jackson's Pub Karaoke Night with Jesse Hart. 6:30 p.m. CG Public Market. 912 E. Main St.
• The Regulars (Americana). 6:30–9:30 p.m. Coast Fork Brewery.
• Weekly Pool Tournament. 7 p.m. Bohemian Tavern. \$5 entry. BCA rules.
• Cottage Theatre Play: "I Hate Hamlet", 7:30pm, 700 Village Drive
• DuBb Central (reggae). 8:30–10:30 p.m. Axe and Fiddle.

AUGUST 22
• Share Fair, 9 a.m. 1133 E. Main St.
• South Valley Farmers Market. 10 a.m.–2 p.m. 7th and Main Street.
• W.O.E. Heritage Fair. 10 a.m. – 9 p.m. Fairgrounds. 2000 N. Douglas St.
• Cottage Grove Museum. 1–4 p.m. Birch Avenue and H Street.
• Cottage Bowl Open Bowling. 4–10 p.m. 740 Row River Rd.

• Cottage Grove Speedway Back to School Night. 6 p.m.
• AIAnon "Courage to Change." 7 p.m. Sinclair Room. City Hall.
• Cottage Theatre Play: "I Hate Hamlet", 7:30pm, 700 Village Drive
• Nat Lefkoff (folk, Americana, indie rock). Axe and Fiddle.
AUGUST 23
• W.O.E. Heritage Fair. 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. Fairgrounds. 2000 N. Douglas St.
• Cottage Grove Museum. 1–4 p.m. Birch Avenue and H Street.
• VFW Bingo. 2–4 p.m. VFW Post 3473. 3160 Hillside Dr.
• Cottage Theatre Play: "I Hate Hamlet", 2:30pm, 700 Village Drive
• South Valley Athletics Bingo Fundraiser. 3:30–5:30 p.m. Coast Fork Brewery.
• Walker T. Ryan (blues). 6–8 p.m. Axe and Fiddle.

AUGUST 24
• Cottage Bowl Open Bowling. 1–5:30 p.m. 740 Row River Rd.
• Senior Center Bingo. 12:30 p.m. Cottage Grove Community Center.
• Gardeners Meeting. 5:30–7:00 p.m. Coast Fork Brewery.

AUGUST 25
• Ukulele Club. (for adults) 9 a.m. CG Public Library.

• Bilingual Story Time. 5 p.m. CG Public Library.
• Trinity Lutheran Free Take-Out 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.



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Welcome to Western Oregon Exposition Heritage Fair 2026



A Living Landmark: Western Oregon Exposition Marks Its 94th Year

For nearly a century, the Western Oregon Exposition (W.O.E.) has stood as one of Cottage Grove’s most enduring community institutions—a place where heritage, creativity, and connection come together. Now marking its 94th year, its Heritage Fair continues a tradition that began long before the Fairgrounds existed and has been shaped by the people and industries that built South Lane County. Its story begins in 1932, when local Granges and civic groups organized small exhibitions to celebrate the region’s agricultural and logging heritage. These early fairs were nomadic, held in lumberyards, garages, parks, and school buildings—wherever space could be found. The Dorena, London, Hebron, and North Douglas Granges played a pivotal role, creating a gathering place where farmers, homemakers, gardeners, and 4 H youth could exhibit their skills and share their work with neighbors. The Western Oregon Exposition was formally incorporated in 1955, marking a turning point in its history. Thanks to a land

donation from Stanley E. Daugherty, the fair found a permanent home next to the Cottage Grove Speedway. With a dedicated site, the Exposition grew into a beloved annual tradition, expanding its exhibits, entertainment, and community partnerships while staying true to its roots. Today, the historic W.O.E. Fairgrounds on North Douglas Avenue serve not only as the home of the Heritage Fair but as a year round hub for community events. The Fairgrounds host car shows, dog shows, holiday bazaars, nonprofit fundraisers, and private rentals such as weddings and reunions. These events reflect the same spirit of volunteerism and community pride that launched the Exposition in the 1930s. The Heritage Fair remains the centerpiece of the Fairgrounds’ mission. Each August, the grounds come alive with music, hands-on demonstrations, competitions, old-fashioned games and exhibits that honor the region’s past while engaging new generations. The Logging Show is one of the

Fair’s most iconic traditions, featuring hot saw and stock saw cutting, double buck races, axe throwing, and divisions for women and kids. As one of the last logging shows in Oregon, it attracts international competitors. As W.O.E. Board President Ken Schwieger explained, “It’s more than just a show—it’s a living tribute to our roots.” The fair also celebrates Cottage Grove’s creative and agricultural heritage through exhibits, youth activities, and hands on demonstrations. Children enjoy sack races and haystack treasure hunts, meet farm animals, and participate in old fashioned games. Exhibitors display hand-made crafts, homegrown produce, photography, textiles, and baked goods—continuing the tradition of showcasing local talent. Schwieger said, “This fair isn’t just memorable—it’s meaningful... It’s a place where we come together, celebrate our shared story, and support one another.” Behind the scenes, the Fairgrounds are sustained by volunteers, sponsors, and community partners. Longtime supporters like the



Three-legged race is a popular event during the fair.

Woodard Family Foundation and Starfire Lumber help ensure the fair remains free for all ages. Their support, along with the dedication of volunteers, keeps the Fairgrounds thriving and accessible all year long. From its humble beginnings in Grange halls to its present day role as a community gathering place, the Western Oregon Exposition remains a living

legacy—one that honors Cottage Grove’s past while welcoming new memories year after year. **KEY MILESTONES IN W.O.E. HISTORY** 1932 Local Granges launch the first Western Oregon Exposition exhibitions. 1930s–1950s Fairs held in lumberyards, garages, parks, and schools.

1955 W.O.E. incorporates; Stanley E. Daugherty donates land for permanent Fairgrounds. 1960s–1990s Exhibits expand; logging competitions and youth programs grow. 2000s Fairgrounds become a year round venue for car shows, dog shows, bazaars, and fundraisers. 2026 W.O.E. Heritage Fair celebrates its 94th year.

W.O.E. 2026 Heritage Fair Sponsors

The Heritage Fair is made possible through the generosity of local businesses, organizations, and community partners who generously invest in keeping this tradition alive. Their support helps bring music to the stages, activities to the Fairgrounds, and opportunities for families to enjoy a full and memorable weekend together. We gratefully acknowledge these sponsors for their commitment to our community.

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T + K Creations
The Bookmine
The Burger Cart
Valley Fitness
Woodard Family Foundation

WOE PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE

Welcome to our Heritage Fair! It is my pleasure, on behalf of our Fair Board and volunteers, to welcome families, friends, neighbors, and visitors to another wonderful Heritage Fair. This special event is more than just a gathering—it is a celebration of our community, our traditions, and the experiences that bring generations together. Our hope is that every family who attends will create memories that last a lifetime. From the excitement on a child’s face as they see live animals, to the laughter shared over good food, music, and activities, the Fair offers something for everyone. These are the moments that become treasured family stories and traditions passed down from one generation to the next. One of the most rewarding parts of our Fair is seeing young people experience things they may not encounter every day. Our youth have opportunities to learn, explore, ask questions, and discover new interests. Whether they are watching the logging show, seeing farm animals up close, visiting exhibits, or enjoying the

many activities throughout the Fairgrounds, we want every young person to leave with a new experience and perhaps a little more appreciation for the people, skills, and traditions that helped shape our community. Our Heritage Fair also honors the past while celebrating the present. The traditions represented here remind us of the hard work, creativity, and determination of those who came before us. The logging show is a wonderful example of that heritage, providing entertainment while demonstrating skills and equipment that have played an important role in our region. It is enjoyed by both adults and children and helps connect today’s families with our area’s history. Throughout the Fair, you will find exhibits and displays that are both educational and creative. They showcase the talents, knowledge, accomplishments, and interests of people in our community. We encourage you to take your time, look around, talk with exhibitors, and discover something new. Of course, no Fair would be complete

without great food! Our food vendors offer a variety of favorites and delicious treats, while our other vendors provide opportunities to browse, shop, and support local businesses and organizations. And then there is the music—the sounds of talented performers adding energy, enjoyment, and a little extra spirit to our celebration. We hope you will find a place to sit, listen, and enjoy the music with family and friends. Putting on an event of this size takes the dedication of many people. I extend my sincere appreciation to our volunteers, exhibitors, vendors, performers, sponsors, participants, and everyone who works behind the scenes to make this Fair possible. Thank you for being part of our Heritage Fair. We invite you to slow down, enjoy the day, make memories, celebrate our traditions, and experience all that our community has to offer. Welcome, and enjoy the Fair! Ken Schwieger President, Western Oregon Expo Heritage Fair



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Potluck: August 23 at 4:30 p.m.
and Service: 6 p.m.
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Thank you!



Welcome to Western Oregon Exposition Heritage Fair 2026



Western Oregon Exposition 2026 Heritage Fair Schedule of Events

August 21-23 Schedule of Events

FRIDAY, AUGUST 21
Fairgrounds open 10:00 am–8:00 pm
Ongoing: Exhibit Displays, Vendors, and Demonstrations

STARFIRE STAGE
• Youth Variety Show featuring Sean Brennan Students, 10 a.m.
• The Huckleberrys: Blues to Bluegrass, 5:00–8:00 pm

WOODARD PAVILION
• Cottage Grove Historical Museum display
• Demonstrations

BUILDING 2
• AWANA Grand Prix, Build your own race car
• Logging Display, historic equipment

• Train Display, Don Williams’ Steam Engine Big Boy
• Oregon State University Extension Service

SATURDAY, AUGUST 22
Fairgrounds open 10:00 am–9:00 pm
Ongoing: Exhibit Displays

FRONT STAGE
• Creative Chaos Play Performances, 11:00 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.
• Dr Delusion’s Illusions, 3:30-4:30 p.m.

STARFIRE STAGE
• Jimmy and Friends, (Americana, bluegrass) 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.
• Linda Diaz and Breaking the Sound Barrier Deaf Choir 11:30-11:50 a.m.
• Annie Mae Rhodes Band (bluegrass, country, gospel), 2:00-3:30 p.m.
• Zephry (rock), 6:00–9:00 p.m.

VENDOR AREA
• Live music with Dakota Harris

LOGGING COMPETITION
• Back area of Fairgrounds, 3:00–6:00 pm (Sign up day of event)

WOODARD PAVILION
• Cottage Grove Historical Museum display
• Demonstrations

BUILDING 2
• AWANA Grand Prix Racing for Kids
• Logging Display
• Don Williams’ Train Display
• OSU Extension Information

SUNDAY, AUGUST 23
Fairgrounds open 10 a.m.–4 p.m.
Ongoing: Exhibit Displays

STARFIRE STAGE
• Bradly Shepherd’s Perfect Flavor (vintage music and new songs) 2-4 p.m.

KID’S LOGGING COMPETITION
Back area of Fairgrounds, Noon–2 p.m.
Sign up day of event

WOODARD PAVILION
• Cottage Grove Historical Museum display
• Demonstrations

BUILDING 2
• AWANA Grand Prix
• Logging Display
• Train Display
• OSU Extension

FIELD AREA / GROUNDS
• Bohemia Mine Owner’s Association
• Log House Plants

Family Fun Stuff

AWANA Pinewood Derby
Free event presented by Cottage Grove Bible Church. Kids customize pre-made cars on Friday and Saturday then return on Sunday to compete in heat races to declare the 2026 Champion.

Kids Fruit and Veggie & Dress-Up Contest
Celebrates a mix of fresh produce and creativity! Kids can bring in their entry dressed and ready for the competition or can dress their entry at the Fair.
Judging takes place Friday and Saturday at 4 p.m.
Three categories: 6-years and younger, 7-10 year-olds, and 11-13 year-olds. Winners receive ribbons.
Americana-style Competitions
Barn Animal Competitions
Sack Race
Tug-O-War
Wishing Hay Stack

Special Attractions
Antique Steam Engines
Bohemia Mine Owners Association Panning for Real Gold (fee)
Don Williams’ Miniature Train Display
Dr. Delusion’s Illusions Magic Show
Log House Plants: make take home flower baskets
Logging Show (Adults on Saturday & Kids on Sunday)
Monkey Bridge

Entertainment:
Add Ryan Birdseye 2pm-4pm Friday vendor area
Milestones: celebrates 94th year

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

The Heritage Fair fills the Fairgrounds with music, magic, and hometown talent all weekend long. From local bands and youth performers to specialty acts and classic fair favorites, each stage offers something new to enjoy throughout the day. Settle in, stroll by, or follow the sound — the Fair’s live entertainment brings the celebration to life.

FRIDAY, AUGUST 21
10 a.m. Youth Music Variety Show featuring Sean Breannan Students
Starfire Stage
2-4 p.m. Ryan Birdseye (multi-genres)

Vendor Area
5-8 p.m. The Huckleberry’s Blues to Bluegrass featuring Larry Barkemeyer
Starfire Stage

SATURDAY, AUGUST 22
10 a.m. – 1 p.m. Jimmy and Friends (good friends, great guitars & awesome music) Starfire Stage
11 a.m. – 1:30 p.m. Creative Chaos Play Performance (adaptive theatre troupe) Front Stage
11 a.m. – 2 p.m. Dakota Harris (Americana/country)

Vendor Area
11:30 – 11:50 a.m. Breaking the Sound Barrier (deaf choir directed by Linda Diaz) Starfire Stage
2 – 3:30 p.m. Annie Mae Band (bluegrass blends) featuring Annie Mae Rhodes
Starfire Stage
3:30 – 4:30 p.m. Dr. Delusion’s Illusions Magic Show

Front Stage
6-9 p.m. Zephry (rock-n-roll)

Starfire Stage
SUNDAY, AUGUST 23
2-4 p.m. Bradly Shepherd’s Perfect Flavor (vintage music and new songs)
Starfire Stage

Daily Headliner Performers
The Huckleberrys
Friday 5-8 p.m.
[A local favorite with deep Cottage Grove roots, The Huckleberrys blend bluegrass, folk, and classic Americana into an easygoing, front porch sound. Their harmonies, upbeat instrumentals, and hometown charm make them a natural fit for the Heritage Fair, where their music has become part of the weekend tradition.

Zephry
Saturday 6-9 p.m.
Returning again this year with a new name, Zephry offers an energetic blend of modern rock and heartfelt originals. Their dynamic style and strong community following make them a standout addition as Saturday’s headliner band.

Bradly Shepherd’s Perfect Flavor
Sunday 2-4 p.m.
Offers a smooth blend of blues, jazz, and re imagined favorites, Bradly Shepherd’s Perfect Flavor brings an easy-going, versatile sound shaped by years of performing at local venues, vineyards, and community events. Their warm style and wide repertoire make them a crowd pleasing addition to this year’s Heritage Fair.

Dakota Harris
Saturday 11 a.m. – 2 p.m.
Dakota Harris is a Eugene based Americana/country musician whose vintage influenced style and new album Skoden have made him a rising name in the Lane County music scene.

W.O.E. Heritage Fair Vendors

The Western Oregon Exposition’s annual Heritage Fair brings together a lively mix of artisans, makers, community groups, and small businesses from across South Lane County and beyond. This year’s vendor lineup features a variety of food and beverages, handcrafted goods, home grown creations, local services, and family friendly activities spread throughout the fairgrounds. Whether you’re browsing for unique gifts, sampling treats, or meeting the people who help keep our region’s heritage alive, you’ll find something special in every corner of the year’s Fair.

Commercial and Community Information Booths
• Anna’s Krunchie Kreations
• Bags Bling Quilt Things
• B&D Custom Designs
• Christys Creations
• Cornerstone Creative
• Country Cravings
• Crazy’s Gemstone Bracelets and More
• Eugene Psychic
• Filigree Rose
• Flowe Shoppe
• Fonda and Wade
• Granny C’s and Grandpa D’s Handmade Treasures
• Grammy’s Snap Jewelry
• Grove Beauty Lounge
• Grove Made Crafts
• Grounded Remedies by Phoenix
• Harley’s Goods
• Homemade Haven
• Jacquie’s Designs
• Leaf Home

• Log House Plants
• Lotus Petal Crystals & More
• Lulu’s Lair
• Make a Wish
• Morning Star Boutique & Face Painting
• Oregon State University Extension Service
• Paws and Whiskers Society (PAWS)
• Quilts of Valor
• Raven’s Chylde
• Rd Side by Side Creations
• Scented Bliss
• Spectrum International
• That Baker Girl
• That’s A Wrap Handcrafted Jewelry
• The Dilly Boutique
• Twin Rose Creations and Boutique
• Vinyard’s Country Crafts

Food Vendors
A delicious selection of local favorites and fair day treats awaits visitors throughout the Fairgrounds. From sweet indulgences to hearty classics, these food vendors bring the flavors that make the Heritage Fair a community tradition.
• Branam’s Burgers
• Fairy Floss
• Handyman Frito Boats
• Hot Poppin Concession
• King Whippy
• London Grange Pie Ladies
• Random Acts of Cookies
• Rogue Sushii
• Soul Sweets and Things
• The Burger Cart
• The Corndog Company
• Twist and Tap



Bradley Shepherd



The Huckleberrys.

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Old Schoolmates gather for annual reunion

CINDY WEELDREYER
Cottage Grove Sentinel

Approximately 220 graduates of Cottage Grove High School returned to their alma mater on the annual first Friday of August reunion to maintain connections to their cherished classmates.

Jerry Settelmeyer served as the evening's master of ceremonies. He said attendance was down a bit from last year but the number of scholarships for graduating seniors was up.

As members of the oldest classes dwindle in size, on the 50th anniversary of graduation, a new class is inducted

into the Old Schoolmates organization. This year the Schoolmates welcomed the 1976 grads as its "Honored Class."

The two-day reunion begins in the high school cafeteria with a social and meal catered by food service staff. The program recognizes the oldest members, thanks alumni for generously donating money to offer multiple scholarships and ends with an enthusiastic rendition of the Lions' Fight Song.

Last year, four \$1,000 scholarships were given to graduating seniors by the Old Schoolmates, in addition to

a \$1,000 scholarship from the Class of 1975 and three \$1,000 scholarships from the Class of 1970 for a total of \$8,000.

On Saturday morning, members of the Prospectors and Gold Diggers Club served their legendary "Miners Breakfast on the Mountain" menu to 150 alumni. Several individual classes held their own reunion in multiple indoor and outdoor venues around town.

Cindy Weeldreyer / Cottage Grove Sentinel

This year the Schoolmates welcomed the 1976 grads as its "Honored Class."



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The main reunion was conducted inside Cottage Grove High School.

Cindy Weeldreyer / Cottage Grove Sentinel

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HARNESS
From page 1

DFPA and the ODF South Cascade District working to gain access.

Responding resources included aviation, engines, dozers and overhead command staff. DFPA Air Attack was over the fire conducting aerial reconnaissance and reported moderate spread at the time. Ground crews worked the timber and brush while aircraft drew water from Cottage Grove Lake to

cool the most active edges and support line construction.

The fire was estimated at five acres when first detected and expanded to 55 acres by mid-afternoon. With a coordinated attack from engines, hand crews and aircraft drawing water from Cottage Grove Lake, firefighters reduced the burn area to 25 acres by early evening.

By 6:30 p.m. firefighters had a solid line around the burn area and were focused on cooling hot spots and reinforcing containment. At press time, it was still considered

an active fire and was holding within established lines.

Ken Schweiger and Alice Nowicki, organizers of the W.O.E. Heritage Fair, were busy preparing for next week's event when they received a Lane Alert message that a fire had been detected nearby and that they should be ready in case an evacuation was necessary. As helicopters passed low over the trees, the couple began unloading fair supplies from their vehicles and replacing them with personal items in case the evacuation level increased.

"It was scary not knowing if or how fast the fire would move in our direction," Nowicki said. "We were just so grateful to see those helicopters going back and forth to get water from the lake to protect us. The early alerts were much appreciated."

Fire danger remains high across Lane and Douglas counties due to ongoing drought and extreme heat.

Follow future wildfire developments online at cgsentinel.com and in the Wednesday print editions.

Worship Guide

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DRIVING
From page 1

County's roads safer for everyone," McKenny said.

OSP OBSERVATION
In a one-on-one published interview with The Sentinel earlier this summer, Oregon State Police (OSP) Lt. Logan Denney shared his agency's concerns about the increasing high-risk driver behavior.

"Our greatest concerns relate to the Fatal 5 SOLID behaviors, which are statistically linked to serious injury and fatal crashes: Speed, Occupant Safety, Lane Safety, Impaired Driving, and Distracted Driving," Denny said.

SPEED:
Please drive the speed limit and give yourself plenty of time. Check Oregon Trip Check for travel distances, congestion, and delays, especially in areas expecting heavy event or holiday traffic.

OCCUPANT SAFETY:
Always wear your seatbelt and ensure children are secured in approved car seats or appropriate passenger safety devices.

LANE SAFETY:
Two lane corridors see a high number of dangerous passing attempts, especially during heavy traffic. These preventable actions can contribute to fatal or serious

injury crashes. Following too closely also reduces reaction time and increases crash risk.

IMPAIRED DRIVING:
For festivities and holidays, plan ahead for a sober ride home. There is no excuse to drive while impaired. Remember: If you feel different, you drive different. Fatigue or drowsiness also reduces focus. Take breaks or switch drivers if needed.

DISTRACTED DRIVING:
Never drive distracted, especially with a cell phone (ORS 811.507). Hand your phone to a passenger and keep your attention on the road. Watching entertainment on in car screens or other devices while driving is also illegal (ORS 815.240).

Denny added that the presumptive fines for road rage, speeding, tailgating, and for reckless driving can be expensive.

"Fines can range from \$100 to more than \$1,000, depending on the violation and circumstances," Denny said, adding that the relevant laws include:

- ORS 811.135 – Careless Driving
- ORS 811.100 – Violation of Basic Rule (Speed)
- ORS 811.111 – Exceeding Speed Limit
- ORS 811.485 – Following Too Closely
- ORS 811.370 – Failure to Drive Within Lane
- "Reckless Driving (ORS 811.140) is a crime and may result in arrest, a vehicle tow, and a required court appearance," Denny said.

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For Classifieds, Legal ads and Obituaries is the Wednesday prior to publication date

999 PUBLIC NOTICES

CGS26-144
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Penelope C. Scott has been appointed Personal Representative of the Estate of Vernon Robert Scott, deceased, Lane County Circuit Court Case No. 26PB06357. All persons having claims against the estate are required to present the same within four months from the first date of publication of this notice to the Personal Representative at 777 High St., #300, Eugene, OR 97401, or they may be barred. Any person whose rights may be affected by these proceedings may obtain additional information from the records of the above-entitled Court or from the Personal Representative or from the Personal Representative's attorneys, Luvaas Cobb, P.C. DATED and first published: August 19, 2026. /s/ Penelope C. Scott Personal Representative 08/19/26, 08/26/26, 09/02/26

CGS26-145
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Rebecca Grosso has been appointed Personal Representative of the Estate of JEFFERSON LEON DOREMUS GROSSO, deceased, Lane County Circuit Court Case No. 26PB06818. 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: August 19, 2026. /s/ Rebecca Grosso, Personal Representative. 08/19/26

Reduce • Recycle • Reuse

Answers

Super Crossword

Super Crossword

TOOTIN' MAD

- ACROSS

1 Lie down in rest

7 Pedometer unit

11 Trial fig.

14 Pig in a kids' series

19 A bit coarse, as humor

20 — sapiens

21 Informal talks

23 Personae non — (unwelcome sorts)

24 At the summit

25 Nielsens, e.g.

26 Start of a riddle

29 Granola bit

30 Goose of Hawaii

31 Many a craft brew, in brief

32 — center (play area)

33 Thru. follower

36 "That's — blow!"

38 Riddle, part 2

43 Suffix with billion

45 High-IQ crew

46 Harp relatives

47 Uncouth sorts

50 Ortiz of "Ugly Betty"

52 City near Seattle

56 Riddle, part 3

62 Hat for Indiana Jones

63 Esther of "Good Times"

64 China's Chou En- —

65 Uncertainties

68 Very last part

70 Opus

72 Freaks out

75 Goro, Roker and Pacino

76 Relative of .edu or .org

78 Base for head hair

80 Like many Coast Guard rescues

81 Riddle, part 4

86 Feature of the word "jot"

87 Execs' mag

88 Idea sources

89 Skylit lobbies

92 Project deets

96 James of "Alien Nation"

98 End of the riddle

103 Pirate's drink

107 Bunch

108 "Deck the Halls" contraction

109 Mined stuff

110 Egyptian canal

112 Year, in Brazil

113 Riddle's answer

119 Like the work of insurance risk calculators

121 "Bye-bye!"

122 Walk really quietly

123 Lambastes

124 Pre-'91 empire

125 "7 Rings" singer

126 Applesauce brand

127 "Fancy that!"

128 Chinese dog, in brief

129 Became taut

DOWN

1 Singer Belle or Spektor

2 Lengthy reprimand

3 Beseech

4 Recently

5 Reminger of film

5 Former teen idol Cassidy

6 Glasses and contacts

7 Unselfish sort

8 Carry around

9 Like theatrical behavior

10 Appear like a jack-in-the-box

11 Last part of some plays

12 Saloon

13 Castle tower

14 Org. against leather

15 Estrada of empire

16 Miss larrially

17 Tent stake

18 Hoofed boast

22 Nickname for Louis Armstrong

27 Make beloved

28 Sculling tools

34 Comic Issa

35 SSNs, e.g.

37 Artist Andy

39 Iconic "Dragonet" line

40 Granola bits

41 Often-tickled Muppet

42 With

48-Down, "Barry Lyndon" star

44 French river or department

47 U.K.'s counterpart to an Oscar

48 See 42-Down

49 A bit strange

51 Neither's partner

53 Ocean east of Ga.

54 Mined stuff

55 Columbus citizen

57 Mexican general Villa

58 Donovan of "Clueless"

59 Decide (to)

60 Decompose

61 " — Cousins" (Elvis Presley film)

66 Grazing area

67 Doesn't leave

69 Mail slot spot

71 Plaza Hotel

73 Rho follower

74 Botching

77 "Rocky III" co-star

79 Wordplay bit

82 "That so?"

83 Persian ruler

84 Like a snoop

85 Build up, as interest

89 Piercing tool

90 Even if, in brief

91 Snare drum sound

93 Inadequate

94 Annual basketball contest on the Continent

95 Silk

97 Proficient in

99 Pong maker

100 Clamping down on

101 Lordly home

102 Beachward

104 Believers in Jah, informally

105 Common soccer score

106 Conk out, as a machine

111 Old name of the Congo

114 "Hooper" star

115 Junior miss

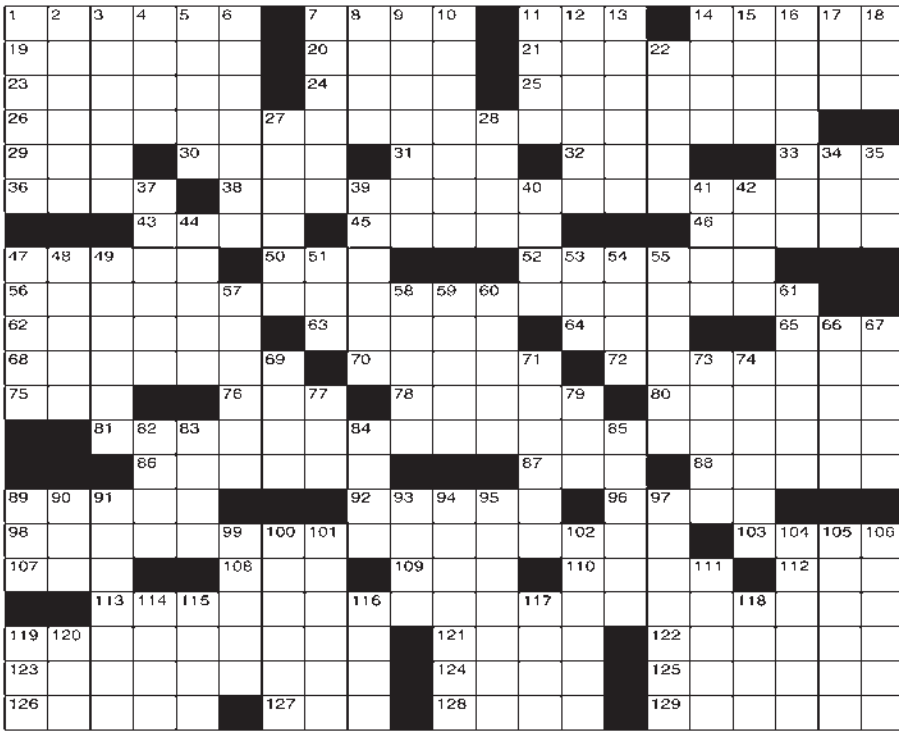
116 Big ice mass

117 Bit of work

118 Revolve

119 It's pressed for cash

120 Co. big shot



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The Chronicle closes after years of financial strain

CINDY WEELDREYER
Cottage Grove Sentinel

The Chronicle, a longtime hyperlocal newspaper serving the Southern Willamette Valley, has ceased publication after years of financial strain, the paper announced last week on its Facebook page.

Executive editor and part owner Erin Tierney Heggenstaller said the

decision followed “years of barely hanging on” as the paper struggled to recover from the economic fall-out of the pandemic. She said the team had “clung by the tips of our fingers” while trying to sustain independent journalism in small communities with limited media options.

The Chronicle’s financial challenges intensified when federal pandemic era

loan relief ended in March 2025. Before the change, borrowers could make reduced payments. When the relief expired, Tierney Heggenstaller said the paper’s monthly payments returned to full principal and interest, consuming a large share of its revenue.

The paper gave up its brick and mortar newsroom in an effort to stay afloat, shifting

to a community newsroom model with staff working from libraries, coffee shops and bookstores. Rising newsprint costs and disruptions to the U.S. Postal Service added further pressure, along with declining subscriptions and reduced advertising from local businesses.

Tierney Heggenstaller said the staff continued producing award winning hyper-local

news despite the strain, often working for what she described as a “hometown discount” because they believed in the mission.

“When a local newspaper dies, a community loses far more than just ink on paper,” she wrote.

Noel Nash and his wife, Denise, purchased the newspaper from Scott and Jeanne Olson in 2019, overseeing

its expansion into Pleasant Hill and Springfield while maintaining its hyper-local mission.

Founded in 1909 as The Creswell Chronicle, the award-winning newspaper served South Lane County for more than a century. The paper published its final edition on August 13.

Measles cases in 2026 surpass Oregon’s peak measles year

MIA MALDONADO
Oregon Capital Chronicle

Oregon has officially surpassed the number of measles cases it had during its peak outbreak year two years ago.

Oregon reported having 45 confirmed measles cases since the start of 2026, according to the Oregon Health Authority’s latest count Wednesday. That’s 14 more than in all of 2024. In 2025, there was just one confirmed measles case in Oregon.

Oregon, like the rest of the country, is experiencing a rise in measles cases as the Trump administration overhauls longstanding pediatric vaccine recommendations for children and after years of falling childhood vaccination rates.

As of Aug. 6, there were 2,465 confirmed measles cases reported in the United States, nearly 200 more than there were in all of 2025, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Nearly half of those cases occurred in people between 5 and 19 years old.

Most measles cases in Oregon have been reported in Multnomah County, though public health officials have tracked measles in the wastewater of at

least four other counties since Aug. 1, including Washington, Polk, Marion and Klamath.

That indicates that there was at least one person with measles living in that area recently, said Dr. Dean Sidelinger, state health officer and epidemiologist for the Oregon Health Authority.

Local health departments are feeling the strain of more measles cases, as many lost funding following the expiration of federal COVID-19 dollars.

“Traditionally, a measles case was an immediate emergency,” Multnomah County spokesperson Dennis Theriault said. “With the sustained increase in cases and reduced funding for public health, we do not have the resources to respond in the same way.”

The Oregon Health Authority implemented changes to its measles investigation guidelines to reduce the burden on local health departments. The changes allow local health departments to focus less on the active monitoring of cases and finding the source of infection, Theriault said.

State epidemiologist criticizes federal government for promoting ‘false narratives’

Measles was declared “eliminated” from the U.S. since 2000, meaning the country hadn’t seen large outbreaks for at least 12 months or more.

Now, that status is at risk.

There have been 38 new outbreaks reported in the U.S. in 2026, according to the CDC. The states with the largest measles outbreaks are South Carolina, Texas, Utah, Arizona, Virginia and Florida.

“It is more than likely that come this fall, we will officially lose our measles elimination status as a country,” Sidelinger said.

Sidelinger said he encourages parents who initially held off on the measles vaccine for their children to talk to their health care providers again.

“The risk of potential exposure to measles and the complications that could happen for your child are much greater today than they were a few years ago, and the vaccine is incredibly safe,” he said.

Sidelinger criticized federal officials for minimizing the need for vaccines and promoting what he said are false narratives.

Last summer, U.S. Secretary of Health and Human Services Robert F. Kennedy Jr. overhauled the CDC’s vaccine advisory



Courtesy from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

Measles rashes usually appear as flat red spots that appear on the face at the hairline and spread downward to the neck, trunk, arms, legs and feet.

committee with people who have a history of questioning the efficacy of the COVID-19 vaccines. Six months later, the CDC cut back on recommendations for all children to receive vaccines such as hepatitis A, hepatitis B, rotavirus, meningococcal disease, influenza and COVID-19 — recommending the vaccines only for high-risk children.

Additionally, President Donald Trump signed an executive order Monday recommending separating the measles, mumps and rubella (MMR) vaccine into three different shots and administering all

childhood immunizations at separate appointments whenever possible. During the signing, Trump and Kennedy repeatedly suggested vaccines could be linked to autism, despite decades of studies finding no connection.

“Do we need to invest resources as a country to try and identify the genetic and environmental causes of autism? Absolutely. Is it vaccines? No,” Sidelinger said.

Federal health officials should be promoting policies that prevent suffering, hospitalizations and death from preventable illnesses in childhood, he said.

What to know about back to school

Oregon requires that children entering kindergarten have two doses of the measles vaccine, though parents can opt-out by obtaining a medical or nonmedical exemption. Measles vaccination is also required for children attending child care facilities and for students in post-secondary colleges or universities.

Exemption rates, particularly for nonmedical exemptions, have risen in recent years. In the 2025-26 school year, nearly 11% of kindergarteners held nonmedical exemptions. Combined with students who received medical exemptions for conditions like severe allergies to vaccine ingredients or weakened immune systems from chemotherapy, the rising nonmedical exemption rate meant only 85.6% of kindergarteners were up to date on required vaccines, well below the 93% vaccination rate doctors

say is necessary to prevent outbreaks.

Oregon law also mandates that any unvaccinated person exposed to a preventable infectious disease stay away from schools, childcare facilities and healthcare settings for 21 days.

Parents can look up vaccination rates by school on the Oregon Health Authority’s website.

Sidelinger said parents whose children are fully vaccinated and don’t have a disease that causes problems with their immune system shouldn’t be worried.

One dose of the measles vaccine provides 95% protection against the disease. A second dose boosts effectiveness to 97% for the remainder of a person’s lifetime

“If you’re a parent who’s chosen not to vaccinate your children, or you’re a parent who has a child who may be immunocompromised because they’re receiving chemotherapy for a cancer diagnosis, there is a chance of being exposed to measles,” Sidelinger said.

<https://oregon-capitalchronicle.com/2026/08/13/measles-cases-in-2026-surpass-oregon-peak-measles-year/>

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COMMUNITY EVENT

Proposed change coming to the Northwest Forest Plan

KEN MCCALL
Cottage Grove
Sentinel Guest Column

The United States Forest Service is proposing to amend the Northwest Forest Plan (NWFP) to allow cutting older trees across the western portion of Washington, Oregon, and Northern California.

As a hunter, fisherman, recreationist and fifth generation native of the west coast, I have spent a lifetime in these forests as a private citizen and a 40 plus year career as a U.S. Forest Service employee specializing in forestry and forest engineering.

The primary proposed change in the 19.4 million acres of forestlands is to allow cutting trees up to 120 years old compared to the current cutting age limit of 80 years. Conservatively speaking, 90 or more percent of the old growth forests in the NWFP area were clearcut in the logging and road building boom from 1950 to the mid 1990's. The result leaves those same acres of forest as predominantly single species conifer tree plantations

lacking in diversity that is beneficial for wildlife.

The U.S. Forest Service likely lacks the experienced staff needed to carry out the proposed increase in timber harvest. Years of NWFP implementation, combined with recent federal workforce reductions, have significantly weakened the agency's institutional knowledge. With that loss of experience, the kind of harvest increase envisioned in this proposal would be difficult to achieve.

Over the past two decades, I have observed many western forests shifting single-species conifer plantations toward more diverse forest conditions through selective logging. While these actions have shown some benefits, western Oregon forests currently yield a dearth of early seral habitat on which hundreds of wildlife species rely. It is possible to retain old growth stands, while actively managing landscapes which will produce economic benefits and provide quality early seral habitat.

USFS should focus on landscape-scale projects that reduce tree canopy cover,

increase forage for wildlife, retain old growth forests and refrain from replanting monocultures of tree species after treatments.

Models of this management approach can be found where the agencies and local communities have partnered to build coalitions of people who support smart resource management in the communities directly affected by forest management.

This type of forest planning requires collaborative involvement in local communities directly connected to these forests, from agency representatives to recreation interests, woods workers, local business and more. One example tested is the forest stewardship program on the Siuslaw National Forest on Oregon's central coast; others can be reviewed with minimal research.

Please get involved in the process to shape the NWFP amendment over the next year by following the process and engaging to represent your interests.

Ken McCall is retired from the US Forest Service.

EDITORIAL CARTOON



GUEST COLUMN

The math on Kotek lawsuit doesn't add up for salmon or power bills

KEITH TYMCHUK
Cottage Grove Sentinel
Guest Column

I've been fly fishing Oregon's rivers much of my life.

This summer, like every summer for the last three decades, I will spend weeks on the North Umpqua, wading out at first light in search of summer steelhead. So when people hear I oppose Gov. Tina Kotek's support for a federal lawsuit that's caused more dam spillage, a move billed as help for salmon, some assume I've made peace with fewer fish in our rivers.

What I want is honesty about the price tag this policy has for our rural community.

Just this month, Gov. Kotek said Oregon must "keep working families and small businesses from absorbing" costs that aren't theirs to bear. I couldn't agree more — which is exactly why her hydropower litigation is so hard to square with her stated priorities.

Here's what almost nobody talks about: This is already a low-water year across the Northwest. That matters twice. It means less water for affordable, carbon-free power generation right now, and even less water will be available by September when both power demand and our state's wildfire season peaks. That's because the outcome of this lawsuit is that more water is released now over the spillways instead of through the power generation turbines.

The tradeoff is that Bonneville Power Administration (BPA), which Central Lincoln and most Oregon utilities purchase power from, must then buy power on the open market where it's more expensive. BPA estimates this will cause a significant rate increase in the next year, and much of that will be passed onto rate-paying customers.

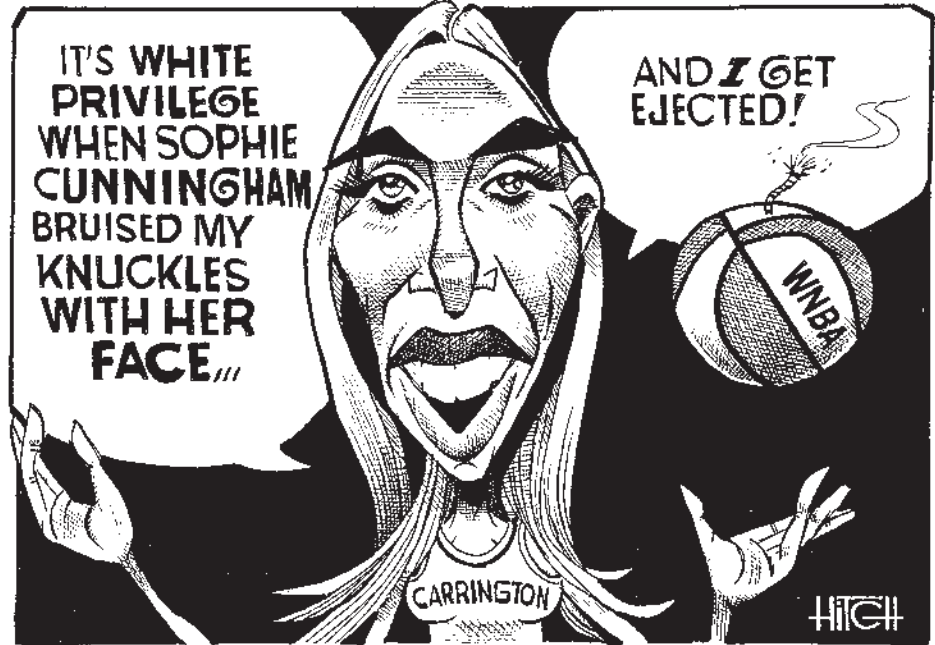
Central Lincoln PUD is known for keeping the lights on and rates predictable — as a consumer-owned utility, we have no shareholders to absorb rising costs. That's gotten harder every year, and Gov. Kotek's support for this litigation makes it harder still.

The governor is effectively asking families already stretching to pay their bills to absorb a rate increase for something that might not even help the fish.

If the Governor is serious about affordability, the answer is working with the people paying the cost of this lawsuit every day — not more litigation that guarantees higher bills with no promise of higher fish counts.

Keith Tymchuk is the board president for Central Lincoln Electric Cooperative, which serves portions of Lane County.

Americanisms



Do you believe global warming is contributing to Oregon's wildfire seasons?

Yes

No

Are you planning a late summer get-away vacation?

20% yes

70% No

Quote of the Week

"Conquering the world on horseback is easy; it is dismounting and governing that is hard."

Genghis Khan

THE COTTAGE GROVE Sentinel

THE FIRST AMENDMENT

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