

# THE COTTAGE GROVE Sentinel

**Latham School Future**  
See page 3



**CGHS Track & Field Honors**  
See page 8



**Cottage Grove**

78  
47

Wednesday, May 6, 2026  
Mostly Sunny

Wednesday May 6, 2026 | 137 years

www.cgsentinel.com

\$2.00

## Community out in force to city's budget Town Hall meeting

CINDY WEELDREYER  
Cottage Grove Sentinel

Approximately 300 Cottage Grove residents filled the Community Center delivering a unified message to the city's Budget Committee: the Warren H. Daugherty Aquatic Center and the Cottage Grove Public Library are essential public services, not optional amenities.

The 90-minute meeting Thursday evening, April 23, drew one of the largest turnouts in recent memory, with speakers ranging from longtime residents to newcomers, young families to seniors. Many wore t-shirts supporting the pool and library as they urged the committee to reconsider deep cuts proposed in the first draft of the 2025-26 city budget.

City Manager Mike Sauerwein opened the meeting by explaining that the city's budget crisis stems from an accounting error in which a property purchase was recorded as an asset without recording the accompanying debt. That mistake led department heads to believe more money was available than actually existed. Sauerwein emphasized that no funds were stolen or misused and said two independent CPAs are now working to correct the city's financial practices.

The draft budget reduces library staffing from 4.4 full time equivalent positions to just one and dramatically cuts the Community Promotions fund — the line that supports the pool, the Chamber of Commerce, Bohemia Mining Days, South Valley Athletics and other community programs. Those cuts drew sustained and passionate opposition from nearly every speaker.

**A POOL BUILT BY THE COMMUNITY, FOR THE COMMUNITY**

Andrew Elliot, co-chair of the Friends of the Warren H. Daugherty



Cindy Weeldreyer / Cottage Grove Sentinel

**(Top) Approximately 300 people attended the city's April 23 Town Hall meeting at the Armory about the draft 2026-27 budget. (Bottom) Library supporters express their opposition to proposed cuts to library services in front of the Town Hall location at the Cottage Grove Armory.**

Aquatic Center, reminded the committee that the pool was built in the early 1950s through a door-to-door fundraising effort so every resident would have a place to swim. It opened in 1955 and has been supported for generations by citizens, foundations, the city, and the South Lane School District.

Elliot said the pool serves an unusually broad cross section of the community — from infants



in baby swim programs to high school athletes, seniors managing chronic pain, and people recovering from injuries. He announced that the Friends group, with more than 300 people on its mailing list, will launch a fundraising campaign and called on the city to match the community's effort with maximum support.

Several speakers echoed those themes. One woman described how

three years of regular pool sessions prepared her to trek through the Himalayas. Another explained that the pool's programs are interdependent — strong swim lesson enrollment feeds youth teams, which feed the high school program, which produces the lifeguards and instructors who keep the system running.

See **COMMUNITY** Page 6

## WFF honors local changemakers

**Eight local projects show how long-term investment continues to strengthen Cottage Grove**

CINDY WEELDREYER  
Cottage Grove Sentinel

Cottage Grove looks the way it does today, with its festivals, history projects, safety networks and gathering places, because the Woodard Family Foundation (WFF) has spent more than 80 years investing in the people who keep this community moving forward. That quiet engine of local philanthropy was on full display at WFF's annual Luncheon with Friends, where eight organizations showed how WFF's support is helping each group grow, adapt and serve across South Lane County.

At this year's gathering, WFF invited eight organizations to share how its support is helping them build capacity, preserve community history, strengthen public safety and expand opportunities across the region. Their projects range from wildfire protection to heritage preservation to cooperative food access. Each one reflects WFF's belief that investing in people creates strong and resilient communities.

WFF's defining philosophy has remained steady since its founding in 1952 by Walter A. Woodard. For more than seven decades, it has invested in the people and organizations that help define Cottage Grove and South Lane County. In recent years, WFF has sharpened its focus in a way that sets it apart from traditional philanthropy.

Board member Dena Woodard McCoy described the new focus: "The goal is to help charitable organizations build the capacity to meet present and future needs by investing in people, not buildings or line items."

The luncheon highlighted both long running partnerships and new efforts taking shape across the region. Four flagship Impact Grants have already demonstrated what that philosophy can achieve.

### SPRIT OF BMD

Spirit of Bohemia Mining Days received a grant to help transform Cottage Grove's largest annual event into a year round cultural institution. The organization has grown from a festival committee into a heritage focused nonprofit offering school visits, youth leadership programs, senior outreach, a podcast and a weekly video series that reaches more than 5,000 viewers. This year's Bohemia Mining Days festival celebrates its 67th anniversary July 16 to 18 with the theme "Rivers, Rails and Reels," marking the 100th anniversary of Buster Keaton's film "The General."

### ROW RIVER RURAL FIRE RESPONSE

RRFR Executive Director Kathleen Istudor and Board President Reta Cochrane said the WFF grants helped them believe a formal fire protection district for the rural communities east of Cottage Grove was possible. In May 2024, Row River Valley residents voted to create the Row River Rural Fire Protection District through a dedicated property tax. The district is

See **WFF** Page 6

## Fire district warns of service cuts if levy fails

CINDY WEELDREYER  
Cottage Grove Sentinel

The South Lane County Fire & Rescue District has submitted a money measure to voters in the May 19 election.

Measure 20-383 is a five-year local option tax for general operations allowing the District to impose \$0.94 per \$1,000 of assessed value for five years beginning 2026-2027 to fund general operations.

South Lane County Fire & Rescue leaders warned the Cottage Grove City Council on April 13 that the district is nearing collapse under rising medical calls and chronic understaffing. They said that without new funding from levy 20 383 on the May 19 ballot, ambulance service will be cut on July 1 to keep a fire engine staffed.

Fire Chief John Wooten told the Council the district now responds to 15-16 calls a day with only five responders on duty, and some days see as many as 30 calls. He said the district serves 33,000 people across a 132 square mile fire district and an 800 square mile ambulance district that includes rural communities and remote county areas with no other EMS provider. Division Chief Justin Baird stood with Wooten during the briefing but did not address the Council.



Cindy Weeldreyer / Cottage Grove Sentinel

**The South Lane County Fire & Rescue main station is located at 233 E Harrison Avenue in Cottage Grove.**

"We have a desperate need to add staffing," Wooten said. "We have not added staffing since 2018, yet call volume has gone up 62 percent."

He said the district operates with the second lowest permanent tax rate in Lane County and relies on property taxes and limited ambulance revenue. "The property taxes

that support district operations were never meant for emergency services but for fire protection," he noted.

See **LEVY** Page 6

### INDEX

- Police Blotter 2
- Calendar of Events -
- Opinion 5
- Classifieds 7/8
- Sports 8

We're always interested in hearing about news in our community. Send us your news, photos, and videos and let us know what's going on! Email us your submission!



Latest news can be found online at:

www.cgsentinel.com



6 18134 42405 2

Phone Number: 503-444-7924 • Email: cgsentinelofficemanager@countrymedia.net

## A CLOSER LOOK

The following weekly update is from the Cottage Grove Police Department's Facebook page

-We're excited to welcome our newest police officer to the City of Cottage Grove— Officer Coons! Please join us in giving him a warm welcome and wishing him the best of luck as he heads to Salem this week to attend the Department of Public Safety Standards and Training. He'll be taking part in the 16+ week basic police academy course. We're proud to have him on the team and look forward to his service to our community!

- Officer Sall was presented with his Basic Police Certificate. Congratulations Officer Sall!

- Circle of Friends School recently visited the Police Department to meet Chief Chase, Captain Passadore, Evidence Coordinator Shawna Bailey, and Dispatcher Shanice Roselle. Throughout the month of April, students have been learning about trusted community helpers and exploring their neighborhood on walks. We truly enjoyed their visit! Permission was granted to share photos from this event.

- Officers responded to a report of a verbal disturbance near Coiner Park. Upon arrival, they contacted two individuals involved. Dispatch conducted records

checks and determined that one individual had previously been listed as a missing person through the Eugene Police Department. Dispatch was then advised that the individual could be removed from the missing persons database.

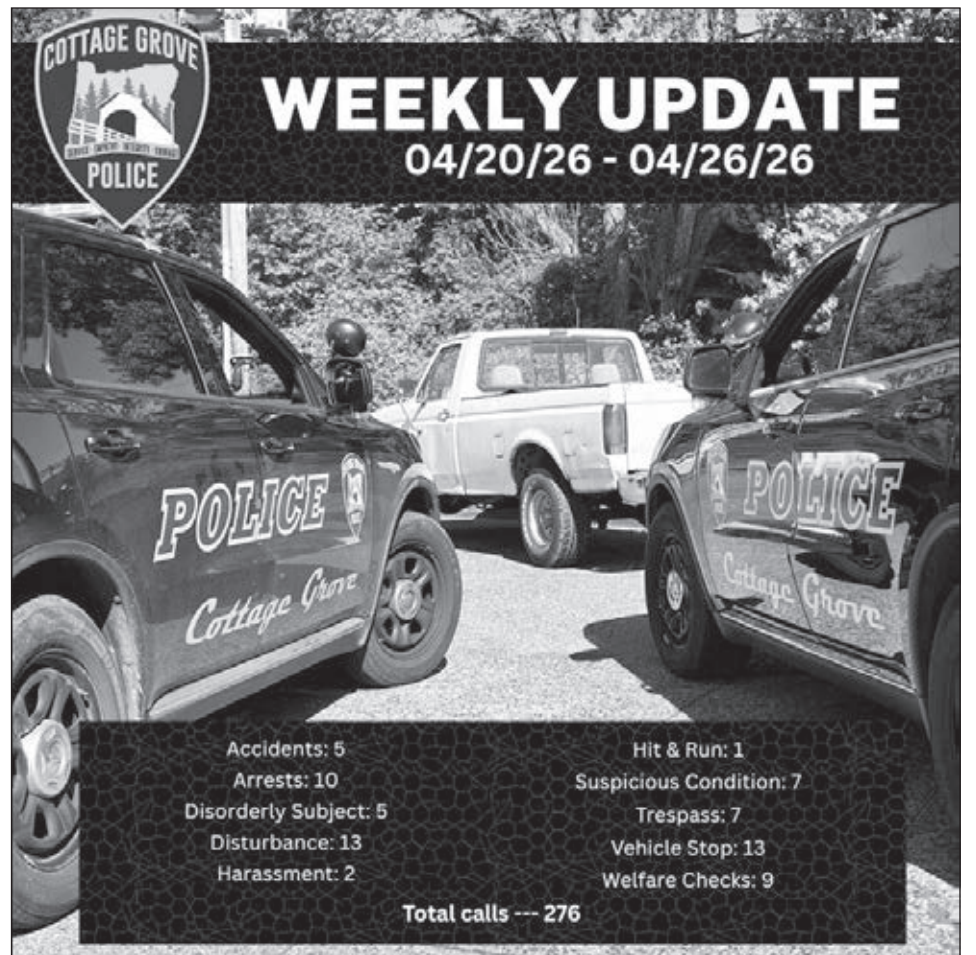
- Officers recovered a stolen vehicle at the truck stop area of Chevron Market Express. They approached the vehicle cautiously and confirmed it was unoccupied. The driver's side door was unlocked, allowing officers to obtain the VIN for verification. The registered owner was notified and made arrangements to retrieve the vehicle. Officers also reviewed security footage from the business and are working to identify the suspect.

- Officers were notified by Lane County Parole and Probation of a fully extraditable felony warrant out of San Diego, California for Assault on a Peace Officer with a Deadly Weapon. In coordination with Parole and Probation, a parole violation detainer was issued. Later that day, the subject arrived at the police department to collect personal property and was taken into custody without incident. He

was transported to the Lane County Jail and lodged on the detainer.

- During a routine patrol check shortly after midnight, officers observed a suspicious vehicle parked on the south side of Dairy Queen. Both the nearby skate park and business were closed at the time. Upon closer inspection, the vehicle appeared to be occupied, with windows covered and the interior concealed. After officers knocked and announced their presence, a male subject exited from the rear passenger area. The officer recognized the individual from prior contacts. A records check revealed an active warrant out of Reedsport Justice Court for Failure to Appear - Driving While Suspended or Revoked. The subject was taken into custody without incident and transported to the Lane County Jail.

- Officers responded to a hit-and-run collision involving a bicyclist and a truck near the intersection of S. River Road and E. Harrison Avenue. The bicyclist sustained a leg injury and was transported to the emergency room by a family member. Anyone with information about this incident is encouraged to contact the non-emergency line at (541) 942-9145



Courtesy photo from the CGPD

and reference case number 2026-0562.

- Dispatch received a report of a trespasser inside an abandoned machine shop. The reporting party

observed an adult male enter the building. Officers found the door secured from the inside and knocked while announcing their presence. The individual eventually

exited and was recognized by officers from prior contacts. He was arrested and issued a citation in lieu of custody for Criminal Trespass in the Second Degree.

## 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, APRIL 20

00:23: Suspicious condition, 100 block N. 6th St.  
02:49: Suspicious vehicle, Hwy 99/ S. River Rd.  
08:53: Theft, 1200 block Hwy 99  
08:55: Juvenile trouble, 100 block S. 10th St.  
09:44: Agency assist, 600 block E. Main St.  
10:57: Juvenile trouble, 1000 block Taylor Ave.  
13:33: Dog at large, 1300 block E. Main St.  
13:57: Suspicious condition, 1500 block Hwy 99

14:27: Suicidal subject, 1100 block E. Harrison Ave.  
14:37: Motor vehicle crash, I5 SB 171  
19:24: Disturbance, 1300 block E. Main St.  
19:49: Suspicious condition, 1700 block E. Main St.  
19:51: Disturbance, 1300 block E. Main St.  
20:29: Warrant service, 400 block E. Main St.  
21:46: Disturbance, 100 block South S St.  
23:16: Found Property, 400 block E. Main St.

#### TUESDAY, APRIL 21

03:55: Illegal camping, 200 block N. 12th St.  
04:22: Suspicious vehicle, 1200 block Hwy 99  
08:11: Suspicious condition, 1300 block E. Main St.  
08:45: Theft, 100 block Gateway Blvd  
08:51: Fraud, 500 block S. 5th St.  
09:03: Warrant service, 400 block E. Main St.  
12:47: Dog at large, 6th/ Patrick Ln.  
14:12: Abandoned vehicle, Fillmore/5th



Jeremy C. Ruark / Sentinel

16:14: Warrant service, 400 block E. Main St.  
17:22: Trespass, 1400 block Birch Ave.  
17:30: Juvenile trouble, 100 block Gateway Blvd.  
18:49: Mental subject, 1100 block Ostrander Ln.  
19:22: Agency Assist, 33000 block Whetham Wy  
20:18: Disturbance, 300 block S. River Rd.  
21:59: Suspicious subject, 100 block Gateway Blvd.  
22:01: Suspicious vehicle, N. Lane/Chamberlain  
22:14: Disorderly subject, 600 block E. Main St.  
22:24: Alarm, 1500 block Gateway Blvd.  
22:52: Suspicious condition, Cemetery/ Ash  
23:31: Suspicious vehicle, 900 block Row River Rd.

#### WEDNESDAY, APRIL 22

06:53: Illegal camping, 900 block S. River Rd.  
08:01: Disturbance, 1300 block E. Main St.  
11:08: Juvenile trouble, 1300 block S. River Rd.

11:30: Abandoned vehicle, Harvey/16th  
12:31: Fraud, 700 block Row River Rd.  
12:53: Motor vehicle crash, 100 block N. 9th St.  
14:07: Illegal camping, 200 block N. 12th St.  
15:27: Wanted subject, 1500 block Cottage Heights Lp.  
16:43: Warrant service, 400 block E. Main St.  
17:44: Disorderly subject, 700 block E. Main St.  
20:44: Warrant service, 200 block N. 12th St.  
22:34: Fire, 800 block S. 6th St.  
23:35: Disturbance, 1500 block Hwy 99

#### THURSDAY, APRIL 23

01:57: Suspicious vehicle, Patrick/Kathleen  
02:48: Fraud, 1500 block S. 8th St.  
04:44: Suspicious vehicle, 800 block Row River Rd.  
06:10: Disturbance, 100 block S. 21st St.  
09:55: Abandoned vehicle, 200 block S. 3rd St.  
11:57: Criminal mischief, 100 block Village Dr.

12:25: Warrant service, 400 block E. Main St.  
13:27: Unlawful entry into motor vehicle, 1700 block Washington Ave.  
17:52: Juvenile trouble, 200 block N. 16th St.  
18:30: Trespass, 1200 block Hwy 99  
20:58: Trespass, 1700 block Parks Rd.  
22:17: Alarm, 1300 block Birch Ave.  
22:28: Order violation, 900 block Hwy 99

#### FRIDAY, APRIL 24

02:14: Suspicious vehicle, 200 block Gateway Blvd.  
02:57: Trespass, 900 block Row River Rd.  
03:58: Warrant service, 400 block E. Main St.  
09:45: Death investigation, 1500 block Village Dr.  
11:00: Harassment, 1500 block Red Hills Pl.  
11:29: Criminal mischief, 600 block N. Douglas St.  
12:39: Order violation, 900 block Hwy 99  
12:44: Warrant service, 100 block Gateway Blvd.  
13:14: Disturbance, 80000 block Davisson Rd.

13:29: Disturbance, 400 block E. Main St.  
13:32: Harassment, 800 block S. 3rd St.  
13:50: Reckless juvenile Bike Riding, Main/M  
15:24: Wanted subject, 400 block E. Main St.  
15:29: Suspicious vehicle, 500 block Kathleen Dr.  
16:14: Animal info, 1300 block E. Main St.  
17:02: Disorderly subject, 100 block Gateway Blvd.  
17:46: Juvenile trouble, South R/Sweet Ln.  
19:49: Abandoned vehicle, R.Carnegie  
20:11: Barking dog, 13th/ Van Buren  
20:44: Suspicious subject, 1800 block Bryant Ave.  
21:17: Disturbance, 1500 block E. Main St.  
22:55: Nuisance, 1300 block Birch Ave.

#### SATURDAY, APRIL 25

00:40: Warrant service, 700 block Hwy 99  
07:22: Warrant service, 400 block E. Main St.  
07:29: Agency assist, 300 block N. 7th St.  
09:56: Theft, 100 block Village Dr.  
10:16: Mental subject, 200 block S. River Rd.  
12:31: Wanted subject, 500 block Gateway Blvd.  
14:56: Trespass, 200 block N. 10th St.  
15:30: Disturbance, 1200 block  
15:51: Suspicious condition, 100 block Gateway Blvd.  
16:07: Stolen vehicle recovery, 1200 block Gateway Blvd.  
18:57: Warrant service, 1300 block E. Main St.  
21:04: Wanted subject, 1300 block E. Jefferson Ave.  
22:06: Nuisance, 1100 block S. 4th St.

#### Sunday

02:27: Disorderly subject, 100 block N. 9th St.  
02:42: Trespass, 1300 block E. Jefferson Ave.  
06:30: Suspicious condition, 300 block Adams Ave.  
09:35: Found dog, Taylor/ Gateway  
11:44: Disturbance, 600 block E. Main St.  
12:15: Disturbance, 200 block S. River Rd.  
13:30: Trespass, Hayes/4th  
15:45: Suspicious vehicle, 200 block Gateway Blvd.  
17:12: Drug activity, 1200 block E. Main St.  
17:38: Fire, 500 block Boardwalk Pl.  
17:55: Hit and run, Harrison/River Rd.  
22:52: Disorderly subject, 1500 block E. Main St.

**Donate Your Vehicle**  
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

# Americanisms

"The women that inspire me, to be honest, are the women that struggle."  
— Cardi B

© 2026 King Features Syndicate, Inc.

**Let your loved ones care for you - and get paid!**

Funded by Medicaid, choose FAMILY or FRIENDS as your paid caregiver. Your caregiver gets paid same day!

★★★★★ OVER 5,000 5-STAR REVIEWS! FreedomCare

Find out if you are eligible today.  
**CALL 855.994.1589**

GENERAC

**#1 standby generator worldwide.**

Get whole-home power, automatically.

Call 877-557-1912 to schedule your free quote today!

\*Terms & conditions apply

# Decision pending about Latham School future

CINDY WEELDREYER  
Cottage Grove Sentinel

The South Lane School Board has yet to make a decision about the future of Latham School.

District Maintenance Supervisor Matt Allen provided the South Lane School Board with a requested update on the shuttered Latham School, a 10.48 acre property south of town near the Weyerhaeuser mill. The district owns the site, and seven of the acres are considered developable. The land is zoned R-2, which allows two acre residential development.

Allen said soon after the school closed eight years ago the boiler stopped working and the cost to replace it was not practical and with no heat the interior is deteriorating. He said the annual cost to

pay for electricity, the security system, mowing, weeding and addressing ongoing issues with vandalism is \$16,052. During the 2023-24 school year he received an estimate of \$652,000 to do asbestos abatement and then demolish it.

Board members thanked staff for the summary of the school's 127-year history and Miller noted the emotion surrounding the school is great. Its multiple levels of construction makes part of the building inaccessible by ADA standards.

Several board members noted it was a liability to the district as it is. Board member Chris Holloman said he believes the building is salvageable only if it is purchased by a nonprofit organization that has access to historic preservation grants.

Board Chair Bill Parsons said the school sits on a prime piece of real estate and his biggest concern was arson given the extensive amount of vandalism happening there. It was suggested the district explore leasing it, however the poor condition of the building would make that improbable.

Parsons said given the deep personal attachment many former students and staff have for the "big little school" that he wants to involve citizens in the decision about its fate.

The board accepted the invitation to tour all of the district's undeveloped properties, including Latham School.

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

# In the Garden: These tips help Oregon gardeners grow better tomatoes

KIM POKORNY  
Cottage Grove Sentinel Guest Column

Nothing challenges Oregon vegetable gardeners quite like coaxing a ripe tomato from the vine.

Between unpredictable weather, pests and disease, it can be a test of patience — and persistence.

"Everyone wants to grow tomatoes," said Amy Jo Detweiler, horticulturist with the Oregon State University Extension Service. "It's a universal food people tend to like."

Still, wanting to grow tomatoes and successfully doing it are two different things. Short growing seasons on both sides of the Cascade Range — and limited sunlight on the coast — often mean tomatoes take their time to ripen, if they ripen at all.

Choose varieties suited to Oregon's climate

When shopping for tomato starts, Detweiler recommends choosing varieties that mature in 60 to 70 days rather than those that take 70 to 100.

"Some of those are 'Legend,' 'Early Girl' and 'Siletz,' all developed by Oregon State," Detweiler said.

Cherry tomatoes such as 'Sun Gold,' 'Gold Nugget' and 'Sweet Million' also ripen early and are great choices for beginning gardeners. Large beefsteak types can be rewarding but are more challenging in Oregon's climate.

Tomatoes come in two main growth habits. Indeterminate varieties continue to grow and ripen fruit throughout the season. Determinate types ripen most of their fruit at once,



making them ideal for canning and sauces. For detailed information and recipes for preserving tomatoes, visit the OSU Extension guide Canning tomatoes and tomato products.

Give tomatoes protection in cooler regions

In colder parts of the state — such as Central and Eastern Oregon — tomatoes benefit from protection to extend the growing season.

"If you don't have a greenhouse, use a cloche or row cover," Detweiler said. "When plants are young, water rings are helpful. They absorb heat during the day and release it at night."

Plastic mulch or sheeting around plants can also help retain soil warmth and moisture.

Amy Jo Detweiler's tips for growing tomatoes

- Select sturdy, healthy plants.

- Choose a site that gets at least six hours of full sun each day.

- Plant in well-drained soil amended with compost or well-rotted manure.

- Remove lower leaves and bury the stem 5 to 10 inches deeper than it was in the pot. Roots will form along the buried stem. As the plant

grows, remove leaves near the ground to reduce soil-borne diseases.

- Space plants far enough apart for good air circulation and sunlight penetration. Vigorous plants are better able to resist pests and diseases.

- Use a strong tomato cage or trellis for support.

- Start fertilizing about two weeks after planting with a 5-10-10 or 5-10-5 fertilizer. Follow label directions and feed about every three weeks until fruit begins to ripen.

- Water deeply every two to three days — more often in very hot weather — but don't let the soil dry out completely between waterings.

- Pinch off side shoots (suckers) that have no blossoms where they meet the main stem. This directs energy toward fruit development instead of foliage.

For more information about growing tomatoes, consult the OSU Extension publication *Grow your own tomatoes and tomatillos* or contact a local OSU Extension Master Gardener.

Kim Pokorny writes for the Oregon State University Extension Service.

## COMMUNITY CALENDAR

### MAY 6

- T.O.P.S. Club. 9:30–11 a.m. Delight Valley Church of Christ, Saginaw.
- Elks Lodge Blood Drive. 10 a.m.–4 p.m. 755 N. River Rd. Schedule appt at [www.BloodworksNW.org/giveblood](http://www.BloodworksNW.org/giveblood)
- Baby Laptime. 11:30 a.m. CG Public Library.
- Teen Gaming. 4 p.m. CG Public Library.
- Community Center Table Tennis. 4–6 p.m. Community Center, 700 E. Gibbs Ave.
- Bread Club. 5-7 p.m. CG Public Market
- Celebrate Recovery. 5:15 p.m. Calvary Chapel. 1447 Hwy 99N.
- Bradly Shepherd & Friends (country, blues, rock). 5–7:30 p.m. Coast Fork Brewery
- Stone Hart (rock). 6–8 p.m. CG Public Market
- MoonShroom (Americana). 8–10 p.m. Axe and Fiddle.

### MAY 7

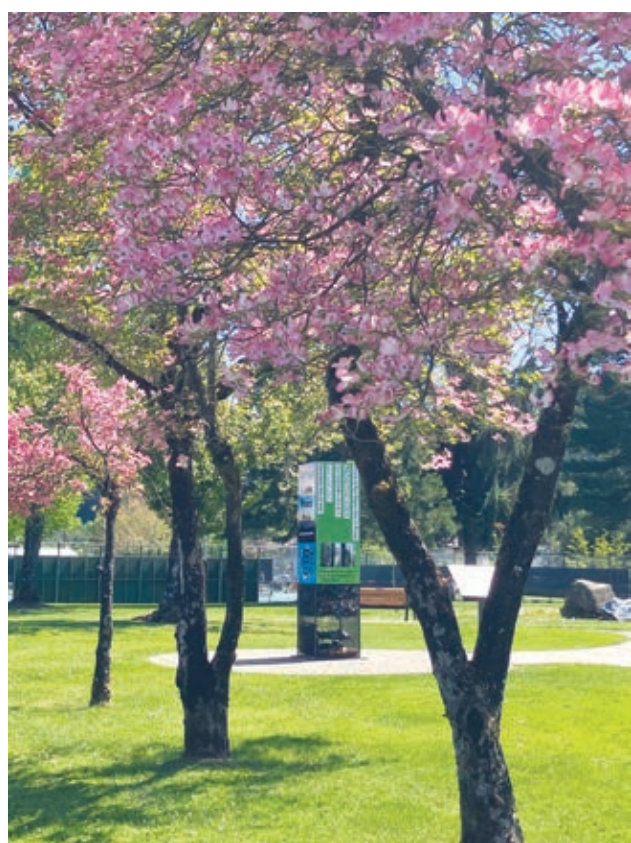
- Trinity Lutheran Church Spring Garage Sale. 9 a.m.–5 p.m. Sixth and Quincy
- Storytime. 11:30 a.m. CG Public Library.
- American Legion Bingo. 5–7 p.m. American Legion Post 32, 826 W. Main St.
- Elks Lodge Community Baked Ham Dinner. 5:30–7 p.m.
- Saginaw Vineyard Friday Night Live. 6–9 p.m. 80247 Delight Valley School Rd.
- Brewkats. (rock/blues). 6:30–9:30 p.m. Coast Fork Brewery
- Weekly Pool Tournament. 7 p.m. Bohemian Tavern. \$5 entry; BCA rules.
- Kegs of Comedy: Tony Meyer and Eleanor Ryan. 8-10 p.m. (Adv \$10/Door \$15)

### MAY 8

- Share Fair USA. 9 a.m. 1133 E. Main St. (free stuff giveaway behind Dirt Cheap Copies)
- Trinity Lutheran Church Spring Garage Sale. 9 a.m.–3 p.m. Sixth and Quincy
- Cottage Bowl Open Bowling. 4–10 p.m. 740 Row River Rd.
- Eel Sallad (PNW Grunge Folk). 6:30–9:30 p.m. Coast Fork Brewery
- AIAnon "Courage to Change." 7 p.m. Sinclair Room, City Hall.
- Brian James and The Revival (blues/rock). 8–10 p.m. Axe and Fiddle.

### MAY 9

- Row River Sunshine Club Spring Rummage and Bake Sale. 9 a.m. –2 p.m. Row River Christian Fellowship Church, Dorena



Cindy Weeldreyer / Cottage Grove Sentinel

### The Cottage Grove Peace Pole in Springtime.

- Bradly Shepherd (blues, country & rock). 11 a.m.–3 p.m. Coast Fork Brewing.
- VFW Bingo. 2–4 p.m. VFW Post 3473. 3160 Hillside Dr.
- CG Speedway Mom's Night Out. Hot Laps 5 p.m. Racing 6:30 p.m. 2150 N. Douglas Ave.
- Mother's Day at CG Public Market. 5-8pm, 926 E. Main St. Live music, food trucks, mechanical bull, raffle prizes
- Fern Spores (folk/rock). 8–10 p.m. Axe and Fiddle.

### MAY 10

- Cottage Bowl Open Bowling. 1–5:30 p.m. 740 Row River Rd.
- Senior Center Bingo. 12:30 p.m. Cottage Grove Community Center.
- The Regulars (Americana) 1–3 p.m.
- Mother's Day with Haley Johnsen (indie singer/songwriter). 6–8 p.m. Axe and Fiddle

### MAY 11

- Ukulele Club (for adults) 9am, CG Public Library
- Bilingual Story Time, 5pm, CG Public Library
- Trivia & Games with Gerald and Cribbage with Ted. 6–8 p.m. Coast Fork Brewing.
- Trinity Lutheran Free Take Out Dinner. 5:15–6:15 p.m. 675 S. 7th St.



## Local Fiber Internet

Built Here. Connected Here.

Fast, reliable internet built for the way Cottage Grove lives and connects.

**DFN**  
Fast. Reliable.  
Fiber Internet Service.

DFN.NET | (541) 673-4242



Check Availability Now

**Spring Subscription Special**

**20% OFF**  
One Year Subscription  
Just mention this ad

The **COTTAGE GROVE Sentinel**

**541-649-1616**  
For new and returning subscribers only, offer good through 5/26/26

[www.cgsentinel.com/subscribe](http://www.cgsentinel.com/subscribe)

OBITUARIES/NEWS

Jeannine Linnea Giles-Shultz

June 13, 1963 - April 24, 2026

Jeannine Linnea Giles-Shultz, age 62, of Cottage Grove, Oregon passed away doing what she loved, riding her ATV on April 24, 2026. She was a beloved daughter, wife, mother, grandmother, sister, and friend whose life was marked by faith, courage, and a wonderful sense of humor.



Jeannine was a faithful member of the Powers Baptist Church, where her faith was an important part of her daily life. She was remembered by those who knew her as funny, faith-filled, and courageous, qualities that shone through in the way she lived and loved. Her strength and grace touched everyone around her, and her presence brought comfort, laughter, and encouragement to her family and friends.

Jeannine was born on June 13, 1963, in Cottage Grove, Oregon, to Gary and Karen (Anlauf) Giles. She grew up in the community she loved and graduated from Cottage Grove High School. Her roots in Cottage Grove remained an important part of her life, and she carried with her the values of hard work, kindness, and devotion to family that were instilled in her from an early age.

On December 13, 2025, Jeannine married Dean Shultz, and together they celebrated 18 years of life shared side by side. Their bond was one of love, companionship, and devotion.

She is survived by her husband, Dean; her daughters, Jamie and Brittany Bolding; her parents, Jim and Karen Koch; her brother, Tony, and wife Tina Lefler; her sister, Kelly Lefler; step-children Dylan and his wife Jamie Millsaps, Shylby Shultz, Sydney Shultz, Johnny Shultz, and 17 cherished grandchildren. She also leaves behind many extended family members and friends who will forever cherish her memory.

Throughout her life, Jeannine was known for her warm spirit and her ability to make others feel welcome. She worked as a barista at the Red Barn in Cottage Grove, where her friendly nature and cheerful personality left a lasting impression on those she served. She also found joy in the simple and meaningful parts of life, including sewing, baking, decorating, shopping, swimming, camping, crafts, homemaking, being outside, attending church, and taking evening drives with her husband. Above all, she treasured time spent with her grandchildren, who brought her immense happiness and pride.

There will be a celebration of life held on May 9, 2026 at 1:00 PM at the Cottage Grove Faith Center.

Arrangements are in the care of Smith-Lund-Mills Funeral Chapel and Crematorium.



Courtesy from the campaigns for Melissa Bird, Daniel Bahlen and U.S. Rep. Val Hoyle  
From left to right, Melissa Bird, a business owner with a social work background, and Daniel Bahlen, a former behavioral health worker, are challenging incumbent U.S. Rep. Val Hoyle for the Democratic nomination in the May primary.

Two Oregon Democrats are challenging U.S. Rep. Val Hoyle in May primary

MIA MALDONADO  
Oregon Capital Chronicle

Two Democrats are challenging U.S. Rep. Val Hoyle in the primary to represent Oregon's 4th Congressional District, which includes the central and southern coast and parts of the Willamette and Umpqua River Valleys.

Hoyle, a former state lawmaker and labor commissioner from Lane County, has held the seat since 2023. Her campaign has raised nearly \$1 million since January 2025, and she has slightly more than \$500,000 left in her campaign account as of March 31, according to the Federal Election Commission.

Her past electoral success came from listening to and earning the trust of Republicans and nonaffiliated voters, she told the Capital Chronicle in a statement, and she intends to do the same if elected again.

"I am running for reelection to Congress because this is a time when ordinary people need someone who can fight for them," Hoyle said.

Hoyle said she has the experience and relationships across the district and political spectrum to serve as a liaison between her constituents and federal agencies. She supports bipartisan legislation and investments that help the district, as well as fighting back against unconstitutional attacks from the Trump administration, she said.

Corvallis small business owner Melissa Bird

and Eugene resident Daniel Bahlen are challenging Hoyle in the Democratic primary.

The winner will face the winner of the Republican primary — either Monique Despain, an Air Force veteran from Eugene who lost to Hoyle in 2024, or Stefan Strek, a Southern Oregon University student who has run unsuccessfully for governor and Congress in past elections.

The state will begin mailing ballots to voters on Wednesday ahead of the May 19 primary.

Meet the challengers  
Melissa Bird  
Age: 51  
Residence: Corvallis  
Education: Bachelor's degree in human development and family studies and master's degree in social work from the University of Utah and a doctoral degree in social work from the University of Southern California

Current occupation: Small business owner  
Prior elected experience: None  
Fundraising: Bird has raised nearly \$54,300 as of March 31, and has \$2,500 left in her campaign account, according to the Federal Election Commission.

After receiving a doctoral degree in California, Melissa Bird moved to Corvallis 10 years ago with her three children to support her husband's education at Oregon State University.

She owns a small business training government and nonprofit organizations about leadership and community building. She filed to run for Congress in October because she felt it needed more working class people who understand what it's like to live in the current economy.

Bird is originally from Utah and spent years there doing social work and political advocacy. As a former lobbyist for Planned Parenthood advocating for homeless and LGBTQ+ youth, she said she grew familiar with talking to conservative lawmakers — a skill she said could help her if elected to Congress.

Her identity would also help her represent marginalized people in her district, she said. She is a descendant of the Shivwits Band of Paiutes and married to a disabled veteran.

"I grew up as a non-Mormon, Native person and I'm part of the LGBTQ+ community," she said. "When you grow up different in a world that expects you to be something that you just aren't, you forge a fire in yourself, and I had to fight for everything that I've gotten."

If elected, Bird said she'd prioritize housing, healthcare, rural economic development, water infrastructure and the environment and reducing political polarization.

She criticized Hoyle for accepting money from political action committees funded by corporations, saying she is out of touch with people

in her district. Bird's said her campaign is not accepting corporate money.

Candidates can't accept money directly from corporations or unions, though they can take money from political action committees funded by those groups. Data from OpenSecrets, a nonprofit that tracks money in politics, shows that Hoyle has broad support from unions representing transportation, retail, grocery and construction workers.

"I'm running because I believe that we need people in Congress who are going to fight like hell against the rising tide of fascism," Bird said.

Daniel Bahlen  
Age: 48  
Residence: Eugene  
Education: Bachelor's degree in psychology from Fort Lewis College, a master's degree in clinical mental health counseling from Prescott College and a doctoral degree in behavioral health from Arizona State University  
Current occupation: Unemployed  
Prior elected experience: None  
Fundraising: Bahlen has not reported any fundraising to the Federal Election Commission. Candidates are only required to report fundraising if they've raised or spent more than \$5,000 on their campaign.

Daniel Bahlen's faith called him to run for Congress, he said, and he is running because he wants to overcome a legacy of Native American exclusion. He quit his job in January at recycled plastics manufacturer PakTech to focus on his campaign.

Bahlen grew up in foster care and was homeless for many years as a youth. After pursuing his education in Colorado and Arizona, he worked in behavioral health at the San Carlos Apache Indian Reservation — the tribe he is a part of. However, he had to agree to not renew his license for at least five years after receiving a driving under the influence charge in 2022.

He moved to Oregon in 2023 after visiting it a year prior while helping a former coworker move to the state. He also moved because he was inspired by his faith.

"I was reading the Bible and I saw Jesus moved around, and something just kind of came out at me to just move up here," he told the Capital Chronicle.

He ran as a Libertarian candidate for the district in the 2024 election while he was finishing his doctorate and living in a homeless camp along Oregon Route 99.

"In the summer of 2024 I saw the Trump-Biden debate and I was kind of blown away by what I saw," he said. "So I was like, if this

DEATH NOTICE

Michael Erp, 67, of Oregon, passed away on April 21, 2026. Arrangements are in the care of Sunset Hills Funeral Home, Crematorium & Cemetery.

Oregon to appeal hazard mitigation grant denial

The December storms caused widespread damage across nine Oregon counties, including Lane County.

Oregon to appeal hazard mitigation grant denial  
The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) informed Gov. Tina Kotek that Oregon will not receive funding under the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program as part of the 2025 December storms major disaster declaration.

The December storms caused widespread damage across nine Oregon counties. Gov. Kotek has instructed the Oregon Department of Emergency Management to file an appeal of this decision.

The President approved the Governor's request for a major disaster declaration on April 7, 2026, authorizing Public Assistance for Clackamas, Hood River, Lane, Lincoln, Linn, Polk, Tillamook, Union and Yamhill counties. However, the denial of hazard mitigation funding leaves a significant gap in Oregon's ability to reduce long-term risk and strengthen community resilience.

OEM Director Erin McMahon emphasized that hazard mitigation funding is essential for Oregon communities already strained by repeated severe weather.

See STORMS, Page 8

Why Pre-Plan?

- Pre-Planning makes matters easier for those you love.
- Pre-Planning allows you to provide guidance to your family after your death.
- Pre-Planning allows you to control potential expenses of a funeral and disposition.
- Pre-Planning provides an advanced opportunity to assemble life data.



(541) 942-0185  
123 S. 7th St., Cottage Grove

Visit smithlundmills.com for more information.

The Flower Basket and Gift Boutique  
"A Flower Shop and so much more"

- Accessories
- Jewelry
- Balloons
- Home Decor
- Fine Gifts
- Floral Arrangements
- Boutique Clothing

Deliveries Locally and Worldwide  
Locally owned and operated since 1984  
Quality and Satisfaction Guaranteed  
119 South 6th Street • 541-942-0505  
www.cottagegroveflowerbasket.com

We provide high quality well and water pump services

Dave's Pump, Inc. is a family owned business whose dedication and passion is about providing reliable and efficient solutions to meet all of your water supply needs.

Dave's Pump, Inc.  
Call Today!  
Cottage Grove & Creswell: 541-942-9635  
Text: 541-954-7724

QC QUALITY CLEANING Since 1991

- Carpet Cleaning
- Tile & Grout
- Area Rugs
- Upholstery
- Pet Odor Treatments
- Mattresses

Carpet Cleaning Specialists  
541-942-0420  
www.qualitycleaninginc.net

COMMENTARY

# The untold story of school funding in Oregon

**KRISTA PARENT**  
*Oregon Capital Chronicle*

When students walk through their classroom doors each morning, a day of learning is just the start of what schools provide. From meals to health services and academic interventions, districts have taken on expanded responsibilities because they know learning is deeply tied to a student's well-being.

But as these demands grow, funding has not kept pace. Districts have long been asked to do more with less, and in Oregon, that approach is no longer sustainable. Schools remain committed to supporting every student, but they need the resources to do it.

The funding struggles Oregon school districts face continue to compound year after year. The Public Employees Retirement System, for instance, was designed with good intentions but without an adequate legacy formula to meet pension promises. At a district level, nearly 30% of state school fund allocations now pay for PERS liability with zero benefit to the students they currently serve.

In addition, policy mandates are often rushed through legislation without a thorough cost analysis, which can overlook the true financial impact on school districts. The new Paid Leave Oregon plan provides 12 weeks of paid, job-protected family leave, a valuable and much-needed benefit for educators. However, employers with more than 25 employees, including school districts, must cover 40% of the cost without any additional state support.

Finally, it's crucial to take a closer look at Oregon's enrollment decline to understand where students are going and what that means for funding, accountability and long-term system sustainability. Like many districts nationwide, Oregon is losing students to virtual and charter schools, which receive the same funding per child as brick-and-mortar schools but operate with lower overhead costs. In some districts, families who switch to virtual schooling receive up to \$3,500 a year, which helps cover the cost of at-home technology.

Legislators can take a more deliberate and equity-driven approach to rebuilding funding structures, ensuring every school has the resources in



place to help all students succeed.

Strengthening public K-12 and securing the funding necessary for meaningful change demands a unified front across the state's 197 school districts. But a plan of that magnitude has to start with overcoming a steep learning curve. Over the past six years, 185 new superintendents have taken the helm of their districts and few have been immersed in the goals and purpose of the state's Quality Education Commission and model or the history and complexities of its State School Fund formula.

Over the past year, the Coalition of Oregon School Administrators has met with 400 leaders across the state's 12 different regions to deepen their understanding of school funding realities and work collectively to address ongoing challenges. Their insights will help COSA shape a strategic blueprint for districts that prioritize initiatives based on connections between education, workforce readiness and the state's economic future, positioning superintendents to better partner with legislators on securing sustained investment in Oregon's students.

One of public education's most compelling success stories is how Oregon districts have simultaneously launched successful Career and Technical Education programs across the state. Cottage Grove High School, for example, offers pathways in computer science, manufacturing, culinary arts, health occupations and construction technology that prepare students for high-wage careers.

Research shows that students who complete at least three CTE credits graduate at a higher rate than their classmates, and states receive \$10 in economic output for every dollar they spend on CTE programs. The results demonstrate that investing in students delivers high

economic returns by building a strong workforce and lowering dependency on public welfare programs.

Along with CTE funding, spending on teacher recruitment and leadership development programs, wrap-around services that address the whole child and targeted academic interventions that narrow the achievement gap is necessary.

At Oregon's most recent Legislative Days, a state legislator said to me, "If I gave you \$20 billion tomorrow, you would be back the next day asking for more." What struck me at that moment is that many lawmakers have yet to understand the true cost structure of our current public education system. Classroom funding is increasingly stretched as districts work to meet rising obligations and mandated costs, creating real challenges in maintaining core services and limiting opportunities to fully support students' needs.

Reversing this trend demands that legislators, state leaders, school boards and educators take an honest look at the challenges districts face and work together to define a clear, shared vision for the future we want for every student.

*Krista Parent serves as executive director of the Coalition of Oregon School Administrators, where she leads the statewide vision, advocacy strategy and professional learning systems that support Oregon's school leaders.*

<https://oregoncapitalchronicle.com/2026/04/22/the-untold-story-of-school-funding-in-oregon/>  
*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.*

EDITORIAL CARTOON



VOICES OF THE COMMUNITY

### Disservice to the taxpayers

As the owner of Cottage Grove Garbage Service for over 50 years, I've seen administrators and commissioners come and go. I've seen policy shifts that worked and many that didn't. But what I am witnessing right now from Lane County Administrator Steve Mokrohisky is something entirely different—and frankly, it's a disservice to the taxpayers.

Earlier last week on KNND, Steve was in full campaign mode, seemingly more interested in saving Commissioner Heather Buch's political career than providing honest facts to the

public. He used his airtime to push a narrative about waste management issues that can only be described as misinformation.

For decades, the Waste Management Department was a source of pride for this county. It was the only department that consistently operated in the black. We had a system that worked because of strong partnerships and fiscal responsibility. However, under the leadership of Steve and Commissioner Buch, those bridges have been burned. Their approach has alienated long-standing partners, and as a result, the county has watched millions of dollars vanish.

The root of this crisis isn't a mystery. The financial

bleeding stems back to the massive rate increases forced upon our residents to fund the CleanLane boondoggle. Instead of listening to the experts and the people who have been in this industry for half a century, they doubled down on a project that has become a sinkhole for public funds.

After 50 years of serving this community, it breaks my heart to see a once-thriving department dismantled by poor management and political posturing. The residents of Lane County deserve transparency, not a taxpayer-funded campaign speech.

*Garland Burback  
Owner, Cottage Grove  
Garbage Service*



PRIMARY  
From Page 4

is the way it's going down, I might as well jump in."

Bahlen lives in a hut supported by the Eugene-based housing solutions nonprofit Community Supported Shelters.

If elected, Bahlen said he would prioritize housing and

employing homeless people, returning the land that the United Nations sits on in New York City to local tribes and moving the headquarters to Israel, disaster

and earthquake preparedness and addressing student debt.

<https://oregoncapitalchronicle.com/2026/04/28/two-oregon-democrats-are-challenging->

[u-s-rep-val-hoyle-in-may-primary/](https://oregoncapitalchronicle.com/2026/04/28/two-oregon-democrats-are-challenging-u-s-rep-val-hoyle-in-may-primary/)

*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.*

Weekly Online Poll

Will you vote for or against the South Lane Fire & Rescue District money measure in the May 19 election?

For  Against

Previous Poll Results

How often do you read a book?  
42.9% - Frequently  
28.6% Sometimes  
28.6% - Not often

Quote of the Week

"I must say I find television very educational. The minute somebody turns it on, I go to the library and read a book."



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](http://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  
Monthly.....\$10

DIGITAL ONLY

Electronic edition annually.....\$75  
Electronic edition monthly.....\$9

LOCAL MAIL SERVICE:

Call 541-649-1616 if you don't receive your Cottage Grove Sentinel on the day of publication.

Advertising Ownership: All advertising copy and illustrations prepared by the Cottage Grove Sentinel become the property of the Country Media, Inc. and may not be reproduced for any other use without explicit written prior approval.

Copyright Notice: Entire contents Copyright 2024 Country Media, Inc.

How to Reach Us

Joe Warren | Chief Executive  
[jwarren@countrymedia.net](mailto:jwarren@countrymedia.net)

Newsroom

Jeremy C. Ruark | News Editor  
[jruark@countrymedia.net](mailto:jruark@countrymedia.net)

Display Advertising

Gary Winterholter/Advertising  
[gwinterholter@countrymedia.net](mailto:gwinterholter@countrymedia.net)

Classified Line Advertising

[cgsentinelofficemanager@countrymedia.net](mailto:cgsentinelofficemanager@countrymedia.net)

Advertising Deadlines

Retail Display Ads  
12 p.m. Wednesday

Classified Display Ads

5 p.m. Wednesday prior

Classified Line Ads

5 p.m. Wednesday prior

Public Notices

5 p.m. Wednesday prior



# Classified Advertising Opportunities

NEW

Advertising Opportunities

Contact us today to learn more and reach more local customers!

541-649-1616

## 109 CONSTRUCTION SERVICES

**LADD CONSTRUCTION, LLC** New or remodel, decks, siding, windows, doors, shops, fences. 541-913-1541 ccb# 239015

**Audien Hearing.** The world's first hearing aid with touchscreen controls. No tiny buttons, apps or prescriptions. 45-day risk free trial. Free shipping. Lifetime support. More than 1.5 million happy customers. Call Audien 1-844-387-1163.

**Consumer Cellular** - the same reliable, nationwide coverage as the largest carriers. No long-term contract, no hidden fees and activation is free. All plans feature unlimited talk and text, starting at just \$20/month. For more information, call 1-855-504-6496.

**DIRECTV OVER INTERNET** Get your favorite live TV, sports and local channels. 99% signal reliability! CHOICE Package, \$84.99/mo for 12 months. HBO Max and Premium Channels included for 3 mos (w/CHOICE Package or higher). No annual contract, no hidden fees! Some restrictions apply. Call IVS 1-855-602-2009.

**DIVORCE \$130.** Complete preparation. Includes children, custody, support, property and bills division. No court appearances. Divorced in 1-5 weeks possible. 503-772-5295. www.paralegalalternatives.com.legalalt@msn.com.

Donate your car, truck, boat, RV and more to support our veterans! Schedule a FAST, FREE vehicle pickup and receive a top tax deduction! Call Veteran Car Donations at 1-866-695-9265 today!

**FreedomCare.** Let your loved ones care for you and get paid! ~ Paid by Medicaid. Choose family or friends as your paid caregiver. Check your eligibility today! Call FreedomCare now! 1-855-994-1589.

Get a break on your taxes! Donate your car, truck, or SUV to assist the blind and visually impaired. Arrange a swift, no-cost vehicle pickup and secure a generous tax credit for 2025. Call Heritage for the Blind Today at 1-844-533-9173 today!

Get Boost Infinite! Unlimited Talk, Text and Data For Just \$25/mo! The Power Of 3 5G Networks, One Low Price! Call Today and Get The Latest iPhone Every Year On Us! 844-955-3417.

Get DISH Satellite TV + Internet! Free Install, Free HD-DVR Upgrade, 80,000 On-Demand Movies, Plus Limited Time Up To \$600 In Gift Cards. Call Today!

## 700 MISC SERVICES

1-866-373-9175.

**Jacuzzi Bath Remodel** can install a new, custom bath or shower in as little as one day. For a limited time, waiving ALL installation costs! Additional terms apply. Subject to change and vary by dealer. (Offer ends 12/27/26.) Call 1-855-341-5268.

No more cleaning out gutters. Guaranteed! LeafFilter is backed by a no-dog guarantee and lifetime transferrable warranty. Call today 1-855-536-8838 to schedule a FREE inspection and no obligation estimate. Get 15% off your entire order. Plus, Military & Seniors get an additional 10% off. Limited time only. Restrictions apply, see representative for warranty and offer details.

**Portable Oxygen Concentrator** May Be Covered by Medicare! Reclaim independence and mobility with the compact design and long-lasting battery of Inogen One. Free information kit! Call 855-839-0752.

Prepare for power outages today with a Generac Home Standby Generator. Act now to receive a FREE 5-Year warranty with qualifying purchase. Call 1-877-557-1912 today to schedule a free quote. It's not just a generator. It's a power move.

Repairing or replacing appliances and home systems like heating and cooling can be costly. A home warranty plan can help. Start saving and get 30% off any plan today. Workmanship Guarantee included. Terms apply. Call Cinch Home Services 1-855-907-9919.

The bathroom of your dreams in as little as 1 day. Limited Time Offer - \$1000 off or No Payments and No Interest for 18 months for customers who qualify. BC Bath & Shower. Many options available. Quality materials & professional installation. Senior & Military Discounts Available. Call Today! 1-844-847-9778.

We buy 8,000 cars a week. Sell your old, busted or junk car with no hoops, haggles or headaches. Sell your car to Peddle. Easy three step process. Instant offer. Free pickup. Fast payment. Call 1-855-980-4382.

**YMT Vacations.** Over 50 guided tours available. Affordable, social and stress-free travel designed for mature travelers. Our tours include accommodations, transportation, baggage handling, sightseeing, entrance fees, a professional Tour Director and select meals. For a limited time SAVE \$250 on all tours. Call YMT today. 1-866-335-3689.

## Super Crossword

**ACROSS**

1 Huntville's state  
8 They will  
13 Watched a child for play  
20 Recurrence  
21 Bodily harm  
22 French writer  
23 '983 film for which Robert Duvall won Best Actor  
25 Holy within  
26 -- Ball  
27 Building cry  
28 legal trade  
30 Common  
31 med. science  
32 "The Beatles"  
33 "I've Just --"  
34 Mary a morrow  
35 Fick's sister  
36 Prowler  
37 release of a new product  
38 Hardship  
39 Vid shooters  
40 He alive of  
41 "TK"  
42 Further  
43 Access Blair  
44 "Spam!"  
45 creator title

**DOWN**

1 Part of B.A.  
2 Onion cousin  
3 Day 5 target

**CHARACTER-BUILDING**

4 Be a sign of  
5 "Hill, Ness"  
6 From sea  
7 L.a. go, ornate warbrub  
8 Mason of  
9 Member of "The Squad"  
10 D.C. for short  
11 Furr'y group  
12 Iahni  
13 Reverse soe  
14 Abnormalities  
15 Dagan fruit  
16 Rare-earth element  
17 Livish  
18 I cannot  
19 Gabus sheath  
20 Revolver  
21 Lupo (l-d of espresso)  
22 "The M..."  
23 "I..."  
24 Dom...  
25 Euro div.  
26 Olen-refined  
27 Word before  
28 Jock or truck  
29 Fanter unit  
40 Model Rank  
41 Take your  
42 Zagreb's land  
43 --Puckard  
46 Road of  
47 Bug King  
50 Ward with  
51 Tim L.  
52 Boy pharaoh  
53 Trap a net  
54 Hunks  
56 Phia with  
57 Grex H  
58 Hunks  
59 Weep audibly  
60 "Freaky"  
61 Tausie's ad  
62 Furl product  
65 Znal  
66 Fresh  
67 Other "reined"  
68 "miracle"  
69 Rota, storo's  
70 "beg..."  
71 Serp out  
72 Derae  
73 Italian luxury cars, for short  
74 Reasoning of military  
75 Joe no  
76 Jock or truck  
77 "J..."  
85 Duces  
86 Lucy's  
87 Picnic  
88 --Puckard  
90 Stagnant  
93 William  
94 Proyl  
95 Hog "aven"  
97 Trap a net  
98 With a bit of  
99 crying  
100 Cnial of  
101 Mrs., in Me? (10)  
102 Salsicles  
103 Salsicles  
104 Dnugh  
105 "Thal hunt"  
106 "Mon Deu"  
107 Croc solin  
108 Borer  
109 "miracle"  
110 Mr., - Bortn  
111 Serp out  
112 rdy 500, e.g.  
113 Lack r' vidn  
114 and depth, for short  
115 "vengeance"  
116 address issa  
117 Jock or truck  
118 Jock or truck  
119 Jock or truck  
120 Jock or truck  
121 Jock or truck  
122 Jock or truck  
123 Jock or truck  
124 Jock or truck

## Weekly SUDOKU

4		5	6					
1		8			2			
8					6	9		
		7	2		8	4		
			5	4				
1	6				9			
	9	7					6	
9	2	6	1		8	7		
2	6	4	8					



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

### DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ♦♦♦


- ♦ Moderate
- ♦♦ Challenging
- ♦♦♦ HOO BOY!

© 2026 King Features Synd., Inc.

## Reduce • Recycle • Reuse

**Dealers**



**Brad's Chevy**  
COTTAGE GROVE CHEVROLET, INC.

**GMC • Chevrolet • Chevy Trucks**  
SALES & SERVICE  
2775 Row River Rd • 541-942-4415

# GALLERY OF SERVICES

### ABATEMENT

Available **NOW** for inspection and abatement of:  
• Asbestos • LEAD Base Paint • Mold  
Residential & Commercial

Serving the Willamette Valley for over 30 Years.

• Asbestos • LEAD • Mold Abatement & Inspections

(541) 995-6008 • atez@atezinc.com • CCB#46090

### HEATING & A/C

Free Estimates  
24 HOUR EMERGENCY SERVICE  
Residential & Commercial

541-942-8577

**ALPINE**  
Heating & Air Conditioning

CCB#193386

### INSURANCE

**SHELLY D INSURANCE, INC.**  
HEALTH • LIFE • MEDICARE  
LONG TERM CARE

541-942-3191

Shelly Dement - Independent Agent  
Over 30 Years Experience

### REAL ESTATE

**SUSAN BENNETT**  
Real Estate Broker  
(541) 743-1331

Eugene Track Town Realtors LLC  
250 Oakway Center, Eugene 97401

Building stronger communities through home ownership.

### AUTOMOTIVE

**Brad's Autobody**  
Ron Hilgendorf, Manager  
541-649-1311

96 Palmer Ave.  
Cottage Grove, OR 97424  
ronhilaendorf@bradschevy.com

## TO ADVERTISE IN THIS SERVICE GUIDE CALL

# 541-649-1616

### PROPERTY MANAGEMENT

**JIM DOWNING Realty**

REAL ESTATE • PROPERTY MGMT  
WWW.JIMDOWNINGREALTY.COM

**Property Management Specialists**  
Honesty • Reliability • Integrity

Jim Downing, GRI - Principal Broker  
downingjim@live.com • Cell: 541-953-0325

Luke Whitten, Broker  
wekul@live.com • Cell: 541-556-6899  
Off: 541-942-6077 • Fax: 541-942-3496  
616 E. Main Street  
Cottage Grove, OR 97424

### ROOFING

**FOUNTAIN GUTTERS LLC**

Quality Service & Installation • Repairs  
Seamless 5" K-Style • Pre-painted Steel • Colors  
Free Estimates • Gutter Protection Systems

541-729-9515

Licensed • Bonded • Insured • CCB# 169540

### NORTHWEST

Family owned and operated for over 40 years!  
Licensed • Bonded • Insured • ccb #107081  
Free Estimates - Transferable Warranties  
541-689-3151 1-800-643-3340 WWW.no1northwest.com

SPORTS

# Cottage Grove track and field podium placements

WILL LOHRE  
Cottage Grove Sentinel

The Lions varsity track and field team has had its fair share of highlight podium placements this season, with several Cottage Grove athletes placing well at three of the biggest meets of the season so far.

On April 11, Cottage Grove competed at the Aaron and Marie Jones Invitational at the McKenzie Community Track and Field outside of Eugene. Both the boys and girls earned team podium placements among more than 20 opponents, with the boys taking second with 115 points and the girls taking third with 83.5 points.

There was a bevy of great performances to get those team scores, headlined by some top-three showings.

Micah Hanke grabbed first in the 800m, Cottage Grove's only individual gold at the event, finishing in 2:00.23. His time was more than 2 seconds better than the second-place finisher. Also in the top three for the Lions were Remington Sharkey in the 1500m and Braedon Bomar in the 3000m. Sharkey finished third, and Bomar took second. Also shining in a distance event was Frank Garcia in the 2000m Steeplechase, taking third. In the field, sophomore Justin Calvert finished with a bronze in the

javelin toss, just ahead of teammate Atlas Daves.

In the men's relays, Cottage Grove turned in two excellent showings. CJ Dugas, Jacob Dugas, Isiah Grogan, and Lucas O'Hara placed second in the 4x100, almost taking first with less than a second difference between the two places. In the 4x400, Cottage Grove grabbed first, with Peyton Ellison, Remington Sharkey, Lucas O'Hara, and Micah Hanke finishing almost six full seconds ahead of the second-place team.

For the girls, Carrissalynn Height stole the show, taking first in two events and posting two new personal bests. The freshman took first in the javelin and shot put, taking her high scores to new heights. Makya Alsup placed second in the javelin behind Height. Rounding out the podium placers in the field were Samara Lidstrom and Scarlett Garcia, who took third in the pole vault and long jump. The Lions' track results were headlined by a second-place finish in the 1500m by Ella Cardwell and a third-place finish in the 4x400 by Emmerson Bickford, Rowyn Earl, Carly Knutson, and Cardwell.

A week later, Cottage Grove headed to the Roseburg Twilight Invitational on April 18. Competing against 19 other schools, Cottage Grove

finished 10th in the men's division and 8th in the women's division.

Four Lions placed in the top three at the meet, with the girls excelling on the track and the boys taking flight in the field. Lucas O'Hara took third in the high jump with a season-best jump of 5' 10". In the shot put, Caleb Bruner had another solid showing, throwing the 12-pound shot 42' 8", good for third out of 37. The girls' top three podium efforts came on the track. Carly Knutson put together a fast showing in the 800m, putting up a 2:29.35 time, which was just .10 behind the first-place time of Glide's Clara Kercher. Ella Cardwell built off her third place on April 11 with a second place in Roseburg. Cardwell ran a season best 4:57.15 in the 1500m, earning a runners-up spot on the podium in a field of 31 athletes.

The next big meet for Cottage Grove's varsity squads was the Meet of Champions at Sweet Home on April 25. It was another packed field, with 33 teams in the men's division and 26 teams in the women's. Cottage Grove's boys took 11th, and the girls finished 17th.

There were some more top performances from some of Cottage Grove's top Lions, and Cottage Grove had three



Courtesy photo from CG Track and Field/Cross Country's Facebook page

Cottage Grove's top three placers from the Roseburg Twilight Invitational, Lucas O'Hara, Carly Knutson, Ella Cardwell, and Caleb Bruner.

top-three placements across the 17 events.

Micah Hanke was back on the podium again, an occurrence that seems to be becoming routine. The junior took second in the 800m but was oh so close to snagging the top spot. Hanke finished with a 2:00.25 time, just fractions away from the top time of 2:00.08, which Pleasant Hill's Gage Roper posted.

Cottage Grove's other top performers were Ella Cardwell and Sadie Cardwell. Ella Cardwell is no stranger to the upper reaches of the podium, and the Meet of Champions was no different. She took second in the 3000m with a season-best mark, finishing near the top in a 21-person field. For her part, Sadie Cardwell took third in the pole vault. She posted a new personal best

in the event, registering an 8' 6" record and finishing third among the 17 competitors.

As April wraps up, there's been no shortage of memorable Lions' performances, and now it's time for Cottage Grove to keep the momentum going into May.

Follow results for the Cottage Grove Track and Field program at [Athletic.net](http://Athletic.net).

# Flag football on pace to for sanctioning by OSAA

Jerry ULMER  
OSAAtoday

In its second year as an OSAA emerging activity, girls flag football not only has taken a major step toward sanctioning, but it continues to evolve on the field.

Participation has grown from 32 schools in 2024 to 47 last year and 58 this year, surpassing the 50-school threshold needed for a vote on sanctioning. And with a new rule book from NFHS – the national governing body for high school sports – teams are adapting their strategies.

Pending approval from the delegate assembly in October, flag football can become an official OSAA sport in 2027. Organizers

like their chances of clearing that hurdle.

"I tend to be an optimist," said Liberty coach Rebecca Brisson, a driving force for the sport in Oregon. "I would like to think it's a no-brainer. It's a pretty low-cost sport. My heart will be broken if it's not sanctioned."

Flag football could become the third sport to gain sanctioning by the OSAA in recent years, following girls wrestling (2023-24) and boys volleyball (2026). Before that, the last sport to become sanctioned was softball in 1979.

Flag football added 20 new schools this year, more than compensating for schools that dropped out. Organizers are hopeful

that sanctioning will result in explosive growth next year.

In the Portland area, schools fielding teams for the first time this year include Wells, Nelson, Putnam, Sandy and Horizon Christian. Growth has extended to east with Bend, Madras, Mountain View, The Dalles, and south with North Medford, South Medford, Grants Pass, Eagle Point and Coquille.

Among the other new schools is Amity, which is filled with athletes from the 3A champion soccer and basketball teams. Despite having only a few practices before the season, the Warriors have been dominant, outscoring opponents 285-20 in a 6-0

start. They are No. 1 in the OSAA power rankings.

"It turns out they're pretty good at flag football, too," said Amity assistant Jed McMullen, the head coach for girls basketball. "They're just so dynamic athletically. There were zero expectations. It was all about them having as much fun as possible."

Amity's games are drawing crowds.

"A lot of people in the community are coming," McMullen said. "They're like, 'Hey, that's fun to watch.' The girls are having fun with the success. For the seniors, it's a good way for them to kind of wind it down."

Flag football is surging in popularity nationwide. It

will debut as an Olympic sport in 2028. Colleges continue to add programs, adding incentive for high school girls to participate.

"It feels like every week a college is announcing that they're offering scholarships," Brisson said. "It's now not just going to be something fun to do. It's like, 'I can do this in college and get my education paid for.'"

The NFHS rule book gives the high school game a much-needed set of guidelines. Brisson, a longtime official for boys high school football, is the state rules interpreter for flag football. She helped get officials and coaches up to speed with video conferences leading up to the season.

The rule book establishes the first national 7-on-7 standard for the sport.

"It has been really well received," Brisson said. "We don't have to cobble something together. All the states have had various books in the past, and now they will slowly be transitioning to the NFHS one. I think that's huge."

One of the biggest changes is an adjustment of the rush line. In the past, defenders rushing the quarterback had to start from five yards off the line of scrimmage. The new rule calls for a one-yard rush line.

"That was a big adjustment for teams to figure out what to do," Brisson said.

**Donate Your Car**  
Imagine the Difference You Can Make

Vehicle donations are fully tax-deductible and the proceeds help provide services to help the blind and visually impaired.

**FREE TOWING & TAX DEDUCTIBLE**

When you donate your car, you'll receive:  
✓ a \$200 restaurant voucher & ✓ a 2-night, 3-day hotel stay at one of 50 locations

**Call 1-844-533-9173**

Help Prevent Blindness  
Get A Vision Screening Annually

Heritage for the Blind

Discover the Beauty & Durability of PuroStone

**CALL NOW (844) 847-9778**

**\$1500 OFF\***

PLUS ZERO Interest, ZERO Payments Financing for 12 Months\*\*  
Military & Senior Discounts Available

\*Includes labor and product; bathtub, shower or walk-in tub and well surround. This promotion cannot be combined with any other offer. Other restrictions may apply. This offer expires 6/30/26. Each dealership is independently owned and operated. \*\*Third party financing is available for those customers who qualify. Participating dealers only. See your dealer for details. ©2026 Both Concepts Industries, LLC.

## STORMS

From Page 4

"Our communities are doing the hard work of recovery, but they cannot reduce future risks alone," McMahon said. "Federal mitigation funding is essential to protect infrastructure, safeguard lives and support long-term resilience throughout Oregon. We are committed to advocating for this support."

Severe impacts from December storms

The December 2025 atmospheric river brought record rainfall, destructive winds, widespread flooding, landslides and mudslides across the state. More than 300,000 Oregonians lost power at the height of the

storm, numerous highways and interstates were closed, and one fatality occurred in Yamhill County.

A joint preliminary damage assessment identified more than \$15.4 million in eligible public infrastructure damages, with Tillamook County experiencing the highest per-capita impact at \$154.29 per person.

This is the second time in the past year a major disaster declaration has been approved without mitigation funding. This move is historically unusual, as it was previously thought mitigating from future repeats of the same disaster was a prudent cost saving measure.

Also, for the first time, the state has not received any FY25 funding for post-fire mitigation (HMGP-PF) work. HMGP-PF funding is traditionally made

available alongside Fire Management Assistance Grants (FMAGs)—but despite Oregon receiving five FMAGs last year, no HMGP-PF money was made available. FEMA has provided no specific reason for this change in precedent, other than stating the program is under broader review.

Why hazard mitigation funding matters

Hazard mitigation funding is designed to reduce or eliminate long-term risk to people and property from natural hazards. Projects typically include:

- Stabilizing landslide-prone hillsides
- Elevating or relocating repeatedly flooded structures
- Strengthening critical infrastructure such as utilities, bridges and transportation corridors

• Improving stormwater systems and restoring natural floodplains

• Hardening facilities that provide essential services during emergencies

Oregon has a demonstrated record of successful mitigation projects in communities including Reedsport, Coos Bay, Tillamook and Vernonia. FEMA estimates that every \$1 invested in hazard mitigation saves \$6 in future disaster costs.

"Without federal mitigation dollars, local governments lack the resources to build safer and more resilient systems," McMahon said. "These projects reduce the impacts of future storms, save taxpayer dollars and prevent loss of life."

Next steps in the appeal process

OEM will submit the state's appeal and supporting documentation to FEMA and will continue working with federal partners throughout the review process. If the appeal is approved, Oregon will be able to pursue mitigation projects that reduce long-term risks in the counties impacted by the December storms.

More information about Oregon's disaster recovery efforts and emergency preparedness resources is available at [Oregon.gov/OEM](http://Oregon.gov/OEM).

**YES on 20-380**

**SUPPORT LANE COUNTY**

**4-H & Extension**

<https://sites.google.com/view/yeson20-380>

**15% OFF**

Any service with coupon  
**Schedule your appointment Today!**  
Not Valid on any service Exceeding \$100  
Not valid with any other offer.

**Our People Really Make The Difference!**

**Brad's Chevy**  
COTTAGE GROVE CHEVROLET, INC.

541-942-4415 • 2775 Row River Road • [bradschevy.com](http://bradschevy.com)