

Wildfire Risk
Decreases
Timber Value
See pages 6



Prep
Soccer
At State
See page 8



61
48

Cottage Grove
Wednesday, November 12, 2025
P.M. Showers

Cottage Grove business owner arrested, released by ICE

JEREMY C. RUARK
Cottage Grove Sentinel

A Cottage Grove resident is recovering following an alleged arrest and release by agents believed to be from the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) Nov. 5 just off Highway 99 in Cottage Grove.

The incident was caught on tape as the women’s daughter, Emely Augstin, documented the arrest.

The woman, Juanita Avila, a local business operator, said the incident was surprising and scary and took place early Wednesday morning, Nov. 5, as she was driving to meet and translate for another person allegedly stopped by federal officials.

“I was driving along Highway 99 in Cottage Grove and all of a sudden I saw the light, and I was being pulled over by who I thought were police,” she said. “I opened my window, and all of a sudden I saw somebody in a green jacket and other people with masks.”

Avila said one of the people identified themselves as police as asked where she was from.

“I asked why they pulled me over, and they told me they were officials and that I was under arrest,” she said. “So, I grabbed my

phone to record, and they grabbed by phone out of my hand and pulled me from my car and threw me down to the ground. I was scared, and I was screaming for help, asking why there were arresting me. They put their knees all over my body and told me I had a warrant.”

“I AM SCARED FOR ME, FOR EVERYBODY.”

-JUANITA AVILA, COTTAGE GROVE BUSINESS OPERATOR

The agents cuffed Avila and placed her into one of the suspected ICE vehicles. Her daughter had been following Avila in her car, and during the incident kept yelling to the agents asking why they were arresting her mother and that she was a green-card citizen.

“They didn’t answer me. It was scary,” daughter Emely said.

Eventually, the agents confirmed that Avila was a legal citizen and did not have a warrant. She was uncuffed and released.

“I told them that I had my green card in my pocket, and you didn’t even ask for it,” she said

Avila went to the hospital to be treated for bruises and cuts she said she suffered in the incident, adding that the incident has left her shaken, unsettled, and worried about the future for her and her three children.

“I moved to Cottage Grove because I thought it was a safe place for my kids to live in,” she said.

“People here need to be really careful. These people are really aggressive and unprofessional. They know when people are going to work here, and they are stopping all the vans. They are coming from out of state and abducting people just because we look Hispanic. I am scared for me, for everybody.”

Cottage Grove Police Chief Cory Chase issued the following statement Nov. 6.

The Cottage Grove Police Department is aware of an operation that took place yesterday November 5, 2025 in the City of Cottage Grove involving the Department of Homeland Security. Just before 5 a.m. an agent with DHS notified on-duty staff with the Cottage Grove Police Department that they were in the city for official business. No further details were provided to the Cottage Grove Police Department and our agency



This is a screen shot from video take by the daughter of the woman alleged to have been detained by ICE agents in Cottage Grove.

See ICE Page 6

WHO WE ARE



Courtesy photo from Lisa Dean

In one month, Eagle Scout Kyle Dean, center, collected 2000+ pounds of pet food and supplies and handmade cat scratching posts for P.A.W.S., a local animal welfare non-profit organization.

Scout’s Eagle project delivers 2,600 pounds of help for animals

CINDY WEELDREYER
Cottage Grove Sentinel

Kyle Dean’s Eagle Scout project began with a simple idea: help animals in need.

What followed was a month-long donation drive that brought in more than 2,600 pounds of supplies for Paws and Whiskers Society (PAWS), a local organization that provides food and spay-and-neuter assistance.

Dean, a student at Pleasant Hill High School and member of Troop 61, launched the effort on September 25 and wrapped it up by Halloween. He created fliers with QR codes linked to an Amazon wish list, emailed businesses, and rallied support from family, friends, fellow scouts, and community members.

“I wanted to do something different than the usual bridge building or trail clearing,” Dean said. “This helps in a different way—and I really like animals.”

His original goal was 1,000 pounds. Final totals more than doubled that:

- 1,272 pounds of dog food
- 805 pounds of cat food
- 530 pounds of cat litter
- More than 90 toys
- 10 pounds of treats
- \$300 donation to PAWS from Moose Lodge 1726

Dean also organized a work party with other scouts to build 12 cat scratching posts.

“I want to thank all the donors,” he said. “With their help, so many animals get another meal.”

Janetta Overholser is the president of the local animal welfare nonprofit organization. She said PAWS volunteers are aware of pet owners in our community who are struggling to make ends meet for the two and four-legged members of their family.

See EAGLE Page 6

Voters turn down South Lane Fire & Rescue levy

JEREMY C. RUARK
Cottage Grove Sentinel

The South Lane Fire & Rescue District’s (SLFR) funding request in the Nov. 4 Special Election has failed, according to unofficial voting results.

The unofficial results from the Tuesday, Nov. 4 Special Election show for Measure 20-372 failing with 2,971 (54.3%) votes against and 2,502 (45.7%) in favor.

The measure is a five-year local option tax levy of \$0.94 per \$1,000 of assessed value to fund the South Lane Fire & Rescue District general operations beginning in 2026/27. Administrators said the measure would be used to add more staffing to meet increasing public calls for services.

“We are disappointed that the levy failed,” District Chief John Wooten said. “The voters get to determine the level of service. I think we were pretty clear that there would be cuts to service. So, we are now lining up what that looks like. Anything that is a non-emergency type call, include some transfers, we are not going to respond to those calls in order to prioritize emergency responses only with the staffing that we have.”

Wooten said when the staffing level is limited, it will be challenging to maintain fire suppression capabilities and emergency ambulance services.

“That will mean much of the stuff we do in the community we are not going to do anymore,” he said. “That includes not staffing an ambulance at the Speedway and we probably won’t be doing transfers from Cottage Grove Hospital when we are at minimum staffing. We won’t be responding to unknow injury motor vehicle crashes. Lift assists and managed



Jeremy C. Ruark / Cottage Grove Sentinel

The South Lane Fire & Rescue Board may review a recommendation to return to voters next spring for funds to support additional staffing.

care facilities, we won’t be responding to those. It’s going to hurt. We will now have to do everything we can to ensure that we have response capability for actual life-threatening emergencies.”

Wooten said he will recommend to the district board that it send out another funding request in the May 2026 election. The board could review that recommendation when in meets in January.

“I have to plan, that if the voters turn it down again in May, the priority will be responses to actual life-threatening emergencies and that will mean we will get out of the non-emergency business. I respect what the voters decide. We are a special district. A stand-alone government. I don’t know if folks actual understand that. I want folks to know we are still going to make every effort to do what we do,

but we are going to have to redirect resources.

BACKGROUND

The South Lane Fire & Rescue District Board placed the levy on the ballot levy in an effort to fund six new full-time positions and one additional apprentice. This would bring daily staffing from 7 personnel to 10 personnel, allowing the district to staff a third full-time paramedic ambulance.

The district operates four stations in Cottage Grove, Creswell, and surrounding areas. The downtown Creswell station and the Cottage Grove station are staffed 24-hours a day. The Saginaw station is supplemented with a residential volunteer. The fourth station is near Camas Swale Road.

SLFR Deputy Chief Justin Baird said the district’s call volume has been increasing since 2014 by 62%.

“This year we will probably be close to 6,000 calls for service,” he said. “We are averaging g about 15 calls each day. When we are fully staffed with have seven staff members. Minimum managing is five staff per day. We are augmented by typically one residential volunteer student.”

The district covers 130 square miles for fire service, and the ambulance service covers 800 square miles. That works out to be services for approximately 33,000 people, according to Baird, who added it is not unusual for the crews to respond to multiple calls at the same time, leaving one or possibly two people to respond from the four stations.

Follow developments online at cgsentinel.com and in the Wednesday print editions of The Sentinel.

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School district faces budget shortfalls, tough decisions ahead

CINDY WEELDREYER
Cottage Grove Sentinel

South Lane School District leaders are bracing for difficult financial decisions after budgetary assumptions made last spring fell short, according to Superintendent Todd Miller.

The board adopted a \$57.3 million budget for the 2025–26 fiscal year in June, but updated figures presented at the Nov. 3 board meeting show significant shortfalls in grant funding and rising costs for special education services.

BY THE NUMBERS
Three major grants came in below projections: the Student Investment Act fell short by \$187,249, High School Success by \$65,582, and the Early Literacy Grant by \$13,714. In addition, costs for special education placements through Lane Education

Service District exceeded budgeted amounts by \$254,255. Another \$520,800 in other funding sources is projected to fall short of budgeted expectations.

“We cannot sustain current funding and also move all these overages into the State School Fund,” Miller said. “There comes a point where it is not prudent to make up the shortfalls with our budgeted reserves.”

Miller said the district is monitoring enrollment trends and awaiting updated state funding estimates, expected in December. He warned that if shortfalls persist, cuts may be necessary.

“We have to look at everything,” he said. “The first step would be to cut supply budgets. Last step would be to cut staff or school days.”

The district is exploring ways to reduce costs, including shifting special

education models to reduce out-of-district placements. Miller noted that additional students from a new apartment complex may generate more revenue next year, but state forecasts remain uncertain and federal dollars are declining.

“I don’t believe the shortfall in our three largest grants can be made up,” Miller said. “It’s not like it’s a one-year thing. We are going to have to right-size funds going forward.”

The board will continue receiving monthly budget snapshots as district staff works to close the gap and avoid deeper cuts.

IN OTHER BOARD BUSINESS
Operating agreements and 2025–26 goals adopted: The board approved documents outlining member conduct and the specific goals Superintendent Miller will

be evaluated on at the end of his first year.

District Nurse Update: During public comment, former district nurse Bonnie Schrouder explained her recent resignation, citing a conflict between her core values and the district’s expectations. She expressed concern about administrators directing clinical judgment and emphasized that student safety should determine nurse placement—not headcounts or budget constraints. Schrouder also noted the district lacks a current health services plan that meets state standards, which require site-specific, prevention-oriented plans reviewed annually.

In his report, Miller said the district is advertising for a new nurse and has contracted temporarily with David Sanderbrink, a Cottage Grove High School graduate and experienced school nurse. His

goals include updating student health plans and training staff in medication administration and delegated duties. Miller said an analysis is underway to identify improvements and missed opportunities.

Facilities update: Maintenance staff believe they have fixed a persistent leak in the ridge of the Cottage Grove High School gym roof that previously required a tarp to protect the floor. The class bell and PA systems failed and have been repaired. London School will soon receive a small protective fence between the parking lot and student areas.

CTE Update: Assistant Superintendent Brian McCasline briefed the board on progress toward District Goal #3: “Bridge student strengths, passions and interests with the current skills and knowledge necessary to enter high-wage, high-demand careers

reflective of the global marketplace.” The 2025–26 action plan includes publishing a K–12 career plan, hosting a districtwide elementary career field day, and collecting data to measure future progress.

District and school communications: Miller described the district’s current multiple communication tools. He said staff is exploring ways to balance the volume of information sent to families—especially those with children in multiple schools. The strategy to ensure a balance between too much and not enough information and provide greater transparency includes reviewing best practices from other districts and creating a districtwide communications plan.

Follow developments online at cgsentinel.com and in the Wednesday print editions of The Sentinel.

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

NOV. 12
Oregon Aviation Museum Open. 10 a.m.–4 p.m. 2475 Jim Wright Way
Senior Center Pinochle Games. 1 p.m. Senior Center. 700 E. Gibbs Ave.
Acoustic Jam with Gregg Biller. 6-7:30 p.m. Coast Fork Brewing. 106 S. 6th St.
NOV. 13
T.O.P.S. Club. 9:30-11 a.m. Delight Valley Church of Christ, 33087 E. Saginaw Rd. Weight loss support group.
Baby Lap Time (birth to 2 yrs). 11:30 a.m. Cottage Grove Public Library, Great socializing opportunity for parents and babies.
Bohemia Gold Mining Museum Open. 1-4 p.m. 308 S. 10th St.
Oregon Aviation Museum Open, 10 a.m.–4 p.m. 2475 Jim Wright Way.
Cottage Grove Lions Club. Noon. Axe and Fiddle, 657 E. Main St.
Teen Gaming Thursday, 4 p.m., CG Public Library, 700 E. Gibbs Ave. Youth 11-18 are welcome to socialize and play games.
Table Tennis, 4-6 p.m. Community Center Reception Hall. 700 E. Gibbs Ave. Tables, paddles, and balls provided.
Bohemian Tavern. Football and Karaoke. Kickoff at 4:15 p.m. and Karaoke at 9 p.m.
Celebrate Recovery. 6 p.m. Calvary Chapel. 1447 Hwy 99N. CR is a Christian-based recovery program for any hurt, habit, or hang up that is based on 8 Principles and 12 Steps. A soup dinner is served at 6:15 p.m. and the large group begins at 7 p.m.
LB & Friends (Americana). 5:30-7:30 p.m. Coast Fork Brewing. 106 S. 6th St.
NOV. 14
Oregon Aviation Museum. 10 a.m.–4 p.m. 2475 Jim Wright Way.
Cottage Grove Public Library Storytime. 11:30 a.m. 700 E. Gibbs Ave. All ages welcome).
Bohemia Gold Mining Museum Open. 1-4 p.m. 308 S. 10th St.
American Legion Post 32 Bingo. 5 p.m. - 7 p.m. 826 W. Main St.
Eel Sallad (Pacific NW Americana). 6-9 p.m. Coast Fork Brewing, 106 S. 6th St.
Weekly Pool Tournament, 7 p.m. Bohemian Tavern, 48 N. 9th St. Entry Fee: \$5 & BCA rules.
NOV. 15
The Row River Sunshine Club Fall Rummage and Bake Sale. 9 a.m. – 2 p.m. Row River Christian Fellowship Church in Dorena. All rummage items are only 25 cents. BBQ lunch. All



Cindy Weeldreyer / Cottage Grove Sentinel

Old barn near London Springs.

Veterans receive free lunch and gratitude for their service to our country.

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

CG Historical Society Presentation. 10 a.m. Community Center Shepherd Room. 700 E. Gibbs Ave. Topic: Log House Plants celebrates 50 years in Cottage Grove. All are welcome to come and learn more about local history.

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

23rd Annual Elks Club Veterans Appreciation Dinner and USO Show, 3-5 p.m. 775 N. River Rd. Spaghetti Feed with garlic bread, salad and dessert. Cost: Free to veterans | \$10/non-vets. USO Show begins at 4 pm. Non-veterans get \$2 discount with donation of two non-perishable food items for club’s Christmas baskets.

AIAnon Meeting. 7 p.m. Sinclair Room. Cottage Grove City Hall. 400 East Main St. “Courage to Change” is a 12-step group for family members and friends of alcoholics and addicts offering mutual support and a design for living despite what the alcoholic may or may not do. All are welcome.

The Regulars (multi-genre) 6-9 p.m. Coast Fork Brewing, 106 S. 6th St.

NOV. 16
Cottage Grove Museum Open. 1-4 p.m. Corner Birch Avenue and H St.
VFW Post 3473 Bingo. 2-4 p.m. 3160 Hillside Dr.
South Valley Athletics Bingo Fundraiser. 3:30-5:30 p.m. Coast Fork Brewing. 106 S. 6th St.
Game Night (hosted by Ayla). 6:30 p.m. Axe & Fiddle. 657 E. Main St.

NOV. 17
CG Senior Center Bingo 12:30 p.m. Community Center, 700 E. Gibbs Ave. Senior center members only.
Seventh-day Adventist Produce and More Giveaway. 1 p.m.-3 p.m. 820 S. 10th St. Walk-ups welcome. No qualification requirement. To reserve a box: text or call Judy at 541.228.5401

Coast Fork Brewing Garden Club. 5:30-7 p.m. 106 S. 6th St. Discover the joy of gardening with a passionate community of gardeners

interested in cultivating vegetables, fruits, or flowers. Great place to learn and grow together through engaging discussions and expert advice. All gardeners are welcome.
Row River Grange.

Meeting begins at 5:30 p.m. and potluck begins at 6:30 p.m. 34360 Row River Rd.
NOV. 18

Ukulele Club (free for adults of all skill levels) 9 a.m. Cottage Grove Public Library 700 E. Gibbs Ave.
Oregon Aviation Museum Open. 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. 2475 Jim Wright Way.

Trinity Lutheran Church Free Community Dinner. 5:15 p.m. - 6:15 p.m. Seventh & Quincy Avenue. (Take-Out Only)

Trivia Night. 6-8 p.m. Coast Fork Brewing. 106 S. 6th St. (Up to 7 players on a team).

Veterans of Foreign Wars Community Fundraising Dinner. 4:30 p.m. - 6 p.m. 3160 Hillside Dr. Menu: Thanksgiving Dinner includes roast turkey, stuffing, mashed potatoes and gravy, veggie, salad, coffee and tea. Cost: \$10/person

Trivia, Chess and Games with Gerald. 6-8 p.m. (Up to 7 trivia players on a team) Coast Fork Brewing. 106 S. 6th St

NOV. 19
Coast Fork Kiwanis Club. Noon. Sol Azteca Mexican Restaurant. 3015 Row River Rd.

The Rotary Club of Cottage Grove. Networking time 5 p.m. Meeting begins at 5:30 p.m. El Tapatio Restaurant Banquet Room, 725 E. Gibbs Ave.

NOV. 20
Veterans of Foreign Wars Community Fundraising

See **CALENDAR**, Page 4

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OBITUARIES & NEWS

Richard Gerald (Jerry) Howard

November 26, 1942 - October 7, 2025

Jerry passed away October 7, 2025, in Keizer, Oregon. He was born November 26, 1942, in Eugene to Dick and Marjorie Howard of Harrisburg. Jerry spent most of his youth in Sutherlin and Cottage Grove, where he graduated from high school in 1961. He then served in the U.S. Air Force from 1961 to 1966 at Bergstrom AFB, Austin, Texas.

Jerry graduated from the University of Oregon and spent many years teaching, coaching, and umpiring baseball, basketball, and football. He was elected to the Cottage Grove High School Athletic Hall of Fame in 2011.

Jerry had one career for over 25 years



with R.J. Reynolds. But his last position, and the one he cherished the most, was with the Salem-Keizer Volcanoes baseball team, as the Marketing Manager. Jerry expanded the position year after year celebrating America's Veterans.

Jerry is survived by two daughters, Terra of Henderson, Nevada and Cari of Dallas, Texas, and one brother, Jim of Cameron Park, California. He was preceded in death by his wife Bea, his parents, and two brothers, Jon and Mark.

Internment took place at the Willamette National Cemetery in Portland. Memorial donations may be made to the Oregon Paralyzed Veterans of America.

Darby Raymond Ladd

November 27, 2007 - October 29, 2025

Darby Raymond Ladd, of Cottage Grove, Oregon, passed away on October 29, 2025. He was born on November 27, 2007, at McKenzie Willamette Hospital in Springfield, Oregon, to his loving parents, Joel and Brandi Ladd.

Darby was known for his kind and caring heart. He loved his family, friends, and football, and his big smile and warm nature touched everyone around him. He enjoyed hunting, fishing, and camping with his family

and was an anchor to both his family and his team.

He is survived by his parents, Joel and Brandi Ladd; brothers, Luke Ladd, Jacob Ladd and Cody Sapp (and wife Izzy).

A celebration of Darby's life was held on Saturday, November 8th at 11:00 a.m. at Living Faith Assembly in Cottage Grove, Oregon.

Long Live Darby.
#73Forever

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

Death Notices

Trudy Kay Thompson, 61, of Cottage Grove, Oregon passed away November 1, 2025. Arrangements are in the care of Smith-Lund-Mills Funeral Chapel and Crematorium.

Robert Leon Gordineer, 86, of Creswell, Oregon passed away November 2, 2025. Arrangements are in the care of Smith-Lund-Mills Funeral Chapel and Crematorium.

Study paints detailed picture of forest canopy damage caused by ‘heat dome’

STEVE LUNDEBERG
Leader Guest Article

A satellite imagery analysis shows that the 2021 “heat dome” scorched almost 5% of the forested area in western Oregon and western Washington, turning foliage in canopies from a healthy green to red or orange, sometimes within a matter of hours.

Damage to foliage leads to a range of problems for trees including reduced photosynthesis and increased vulnerability to pests and disease, scientists at Oregon State University say.

The study by researchers at OSU and the U.S. Forest Service identified 293,546 hectares of damaged forest, a total area of more than 1,000 square miles that’s nearly the size of Rhode Island. They took a deep dive into the affected areas to learn the factors that made some stands more vulnerable than others to the extreme heat event experienced by the Pacific Northwest in June 2021.

Over three days, the heat dome brought temperatures as high as 116 degrees Fahrenheit in Portland, 117 in Salem and 121 in Lytton, British Columbia, the highest temperature ever recorded in Canada. The coastal town of Quillayute, Washington,

checked in at 110 – 45 degrees above its average high temperature for the day.

The forest analysis showed that sun exposure, microclimate and aspect – the direction a slope faces – were factors that made some areas more sensitive to the heat dome. Other factors were tree species, stand age, the timing and pattern of budburst – when dormant buds open and begin to grow – and the presence of foliar pathogens such as the fungus that causes Swiss needle cast in Douglas-fir trees.

“The extent of foliar mortality shown in this study, particularly in iconic, old-growth forests, suggests that longer-lasting or hotter heat waves in the future could lead to even more widespread impacts on invaluable Pacific Northwest forests,” said OSU College of Forestry doctoral graduate Adam Sibley.

The researchers found that culturally and economically significant species like western redcedar, western hemlock and Sitka spruce were disproportionately prone to heat damage, including in old-growth stands where they dominate the canopy. The scientists say the findings highlight the multifaceted

challenges posed to forests by extreme heat waves, as well as the need to better understand their impact on forest ecosystems as the climate warms.

“The heat dome was an uncontrolled test of the thermal tolerance of trees in their native environments,” said Chris Still, a tree physiologist in the College of Forestry. “To our knowledge, there are no examples of heat wave-induced foliar death at this scale in the historical record. This study provides the first spatially comprehensive estimate of forest canopy damage from the heat dome and provides land managers with important information in advance of future extreme heat waves.”

The research revealed extensive foliar scorch on Washington’s Olympic Peninsula, home to Olympic National Park, recognized as both a World Heritage Site and an International Biosphere Reserve. Sixty-nine percent of the park’s forest is old growth dominated by western hemlock, western redcedar and Sitka spruce, among the species shown to be most sensitive.

“If heat waves increase in frequency and severity, we may see major



Courtesy from Dave Shaw / OSU College of Forestry

Douglas-fir on left and western hemlock (the thin tree) on right. Note the new growth on the Doug fir seems most impacted. See more photos with this story online at cgsentinel.com

changes in the composition of old-growth forests, as well as reduced productivity for plantation forests,” said Sibley, a former research associate at Oregon State and now a remote sensing scientist at Chloris Geospatial in Boston.

Also contributing to the study were the College of Forestry’s

Matthew Gregory, David Shaw, Nina Ferrari, Alex Dye and Mark Schulze; David Rupp of the College of Earth, Ocean, and Atmospheric Sciences; and Chris Daly of the College of Engineering.

The National Science Foundation, the U.S. Geological Survey and the Forest Service’s

Pacific Northwest Research Station funded this research, which was published in *Global Change Biology*.

Steve Lundeberg is a news and research writer at Oregon State University. He may be reached at Steve.Lundeberg@oregonstate.edu

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CALENDAR
From Page 3

Dinner, Thursday, 4:30-6 p.m. 3160 Hillside Dr.

Thanksgiving Menu: roasted turkey dinner with mashed potatoes, stuffing, gravy, veggie, roll salad, coffee and tea. Cost: \$10/ person.

Chamber of Commerce Business After Hours. 5:30-7 p.m. Monthly networking opportunity hosted by Chamber members.

NOV. 23

The Regulars (multi-genre) 6-9 p.m. Coast Fork Brewing, 106 S. 6th St.

NOV. 25

Science on Tap, 5-7 p.m. Axe and Fiddle. 657 E. Main St. The Coast Fork Willamette Watershed Council monthly informational series. Format: 5-6pm Trivia, prizes and project updates | 6-7 p.m. Presentation. \$5 suggested donation. Topic: Short film about Gentle Forestry in Hokkaido, Japan followed by Q&A Session. 10% of food

and beverages purchased during event will be donated to the Council’s work.

Dementia Support Group. 6:30-7:30 p.m. Magnolia Gardens Senior Living, 1425 Daugherty Ave. Provides assistance to navigate through the dementia process with your loved one and connect you with other caregivers and spouses supporting their loved ones.

NOV. 28

Art Walk. 6-8 p.m. Downtown Cottage Grove comes alive on the last Friday of each month with this free

community event showcasing local artists, live music, and extended hours at participating businesses. Visitors can meet creators and enjoy a festive atmosphere that celebrates the city’s creative spirit.

NOV. 29

12th Annual Christmas Gift Boutique. 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Shady Oaks Plants & Produce. 77380 Hwy 99S. Shop among 15+ vendors to find the perfect gift those on your holiday gift-giving list.

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COMMENTARY

Honoring Jane Goodall by protecting Oregon’s wildlife

SRISTI KAMAL
Oregon Capital Chronicle

Jane Goodall bridged language and culture barriers when she inspired me, a young girl in small-town India, to care about wildlife, value all living things and dream about protecting them.

Watching her on TV taught me about wildlife conservation before I knew the word “conservation.” Thirty-something years later, hearing the news of her passing as I stood in the Oregon Capitol advocating for wildlife, was particularly sad and nostalgic.

A renowned primatologist, author, advocate, and educator, Goodall’s discoveries filled us with wonder, and she changed the world through her brilliance and care.

“You cannot get through a single day without having an impact on the world around you. What you do makes a difference, and you have to decide what kind of difference you want to make,” she said, not once but many times throughout her extraordinary 91 years.

When her passing flooded the news this fall, millions of people offered tributes to her enduring message of hope. But the public response rose above that, too.

As a lifelong wildlife champion, Goodall spoke candidly about the inherent value of all creatures. Driven by scientific curiosity and empathy, she called for people to embrace their capacity to do better — to be human and nature — rather than condemning human nature itself.

It can be tempting to blame people’s worst qualities. A sixth mass extinction is underway, with 48% of species diminishing worldwide and monitored wildlife populations declining by a devastating 73% since 1970. Oregon reflects much of the same story. Our latest State Wildlife Action Plan, an assessment and strategic conservation document for species and habitats statewide, now classifies more than 300 species as needing urgent action to avoid extinction. To make matters worse, the plan never receives state funds, and the little funding it does get from the federal government will likely be slashed for 2026.

We can be certain Goodall would agree: Giving up isn’t an option, and adaptation often gives rise to strength. The latest state wildlife plan illustrates the necessary

actions for species and habitat recovery; but a plan is only as good as the funding to implement it. Oregon made a bold proposal in the 2025 legislative session with House Bill 2977, called 1% for Wildlife.

The bill, expected to be reintroduced next year, would have funded conservation priorities through an approximately 1% increase to our state’s transient lodging tax, charged on stays at hotels and other short-term lodging.

The logic here is simple: Tourists in Oregon, the majority — about 65% — of whom are from out of state, would pay a marginal fee to protect the resources that draw them to Oregon in the first place, from our breathtaking landscapes to the fish and wildlife that call it home. With the third-lowest transient lodging tax in the country (a ranking that wouldn’t change with the proposed increase), Oregon is currently leaving out-of-state money on the table. Meanwhile, our species and habitats continue to decline, putting a big question mark on their ability to sustain the pressures of our ever-increasing outdoor based tourism in the future.

Uniting a diverse, bipartisan coalition of supporters statewide, 1% for Wildlife passed the House and nearly became law in 2025. In 2026, it’s ready to go all the way. If you’ve been asking yourself how to honor Goodall’s legacy during tumultuous times, consider this: She believed we still have time to slow climate change and biodiversity loss by taking collective action now. For Oregonians, 1% for Wildlife is a unique opportunity to do just that in the 2026 session — for Goodall, for wildlife, and for our shared futures.

Sristi Kamal is deputy director of the Western Environmental Law Center and holds a Ph.D. in Ecology from Jagiellonian University, with research work conducted at the Yale School of Forestry and Environmental Studies.

<https://oregoncapitalchronicle.com/2025/11/05/honoring-jane-goodall-by-protecting-oregons-wildlife/>

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EDITORIAL CARTOON



GUEST COLUMN

Stop talking about “protests”

PETER BERGEL
Sentinel Guest Column

I am tired of hearing about “protests” and “protesters.” Those terms sound whiney and powerless to me.

“Protest” means to object, which is, of course, what we are doing when we hit the streets, but we’re doing something equally — or I would say more — important. We are demonstrating. What are we demonstrating?

We are demonstrating support for our issue and point of view. We are saying “here is a crowd of people who agree that (insert the issue).” We want those who hold the power in our society to change something. That’s more than just objecting to the status quo — more than just “protesting.” It is articulating a vision of something more satisfactory.

Why is this important? The key dynamic is the perception of who holds the ultimate power. Is it those “in power,” or is it the people? It is demeaning for the people to plead with their elected officials for a little more this or a little less that. They are our servants and are supposed to work to deliver what the majority of us want. That’s what democracy means.



Ultimately, we elect those who do what we want and unelect those who do not. (We all know that money from the wealthy and the corporations perverts this idealistic model in practice, but let us set that aside for the moment.)

The media have veered away from the terms “demonstration” and “demonstrators” which were once common. When they instead call our actions “protests” and those who participate “protesters,” they are casting us in the role of supplicants to masters. When we ourselves use those “protest” terms, we accede to the perception of ourselves as supplicants. In other words, we give our power away. While we are in the very act of asserting that we are powerful, we accept a description that paints us as powerless.

Let’s believe in our own assertion of power and redouble our efforts to demonstrate it, not only by behaving as if

we were powerful, but also by claiming a powerful name for one of our mass action tactics. We are not “protesters,” we are “demonstrators,” and we are demonstrating our strength.

And while we are thinking about demonstrating our strength, let’s think one step further. Demonstrating is a numbers game. Demonstrations that increase in size over time demonstrate increasing support for our issue(s). And if that is true, what do demonstrations that decrease in size say?

One general rule (to which there may be occasional exceptions) is “if your next

demonstration is not going to be larger than your last demonstration, don’t do it!” That may sound like anathema to some organizers, but we must think strategically rather than tactically. To be effective, we should always let our strategy dictate our tactics, not the other way around. We demonstrate if it serves our overall purpose, not just because we decide we want to.

Peter Bergel is a retired director of Oregon PeaceWorks, a veteran of many public interest campaigns and the editor of The PeaceWorker, an online peace magazine.

Americanisms

“Roses are red, mud is brown, the woods are better than any night on the town.”

— Earl Dibbles Jr.

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Clarification

The Sentinel wants to clarify information printed in the Oct. 15 issue in a story about the Community Strong Education Forum on Oct. 1. The Academy for Character Education (ACE) Charter School offers multiple programs to students and their families. The school offers small class sizes and wait lists are based on the number of classroom slots available. Please check with the school to determine if there are openings.

Weekly Online Poll

Do you believe the current federal ICE enforcement is necessary and justified?

☐ Yes

☐ No

Previous Poll Results

Who’s to blame for the federal government shutdown and the adverse impacts from the shutdown?

☐ 41.7% Democrats

☐ 30.6% Republicans

☐ 19.4% President Trump

☐ 8.3% All of the above

THE COTTAGE GROVE
Sentinel

THE FIRST AMENDMENT

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

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Wildfire risk making timberland less valuable

STEVE LUNDEBERG
Sentinel Guest Article

Rising wildfire risk in the Pacific Northwest combined with notoriously volatile timber pricing may lower forestland values by as much as 50% and persuade plantation owners to harvest trees much earlier than planned, a new analysis of Douglas-fir forests shows.

Under the worst-case scenarios, modeling by researchers at Oregon State University suggests harvesting trees at 24 years would make the most economic sense. Absent wildfire risk, the optimal age would be 65 years.

Generally, private landowners harvest between those two ages, but it's not a surprise for the optimal rotation age to go down in these scenarios, the scientists say.

“Basically, under high wildfire risk that rises with stand age, every year you wait to harvest you're rolling the dice,” said Mindy Crandall, an associate professor in the OSU College of Forestry.

Earlier harvesting reduces both long-term timber revenue and carbon storage potential, as well as impacting wood quality, adds study co-author Andres Susaeta.

“Our research highlights that traditional forest valuation methods, often based on fixed timber prices, fail to capture the financial uncertainty caused by fluctuating markets and growing wildfire danger,” said Susaeta, an assistant professor in the College of Forestry. “By integrating both wildfire risk and timber price volatility into forest management

models, policymakers can design smarter tax systems, insurance programs and carbon market incentives that adapt to the changing conditions we are seeing and that are expected to worsen.”

Forests cover nearly half of Oregon's 96,000 square miles, and Douglas-fir accounts for roughly 65% of the state's timber stock. It's the backbone of an \$18 billion timber industry, and Douglas-fir forests also provide a range of ecosystem services including wildlife habitat and carbon sequestration, a key factor in mitigating climate change.

Susaeta, Crandall and doctoral student Hsu Kyaw, who led the project under Susaeta and Crandall's supervision, say their findings point to several strategies for strengthening forest resilience and economic returns.

Fuel reduction programs such as thinning and prescribed burns, they note, can lower fire risk and help landowners extend harvest cycles, capturing higher returns from mature timber.

“Improved salvage logging operations and wildfire-adjusted insurance programs could also help recover postfire losses and stabilize landowner income,” Susaeta said. “It's important



Steve Lundeberg / OSU

Rising wildfire risk in the Pacific Northwest and volatile timber pricing may lower forestland values by as much as 50% and force plantation owners to harvest trees much earlier than planned, a new analysis of Douglas-fir forests shows.

to note that our study shows that higher carbon prices can encourage longer rotations and boost land values – but these benefits diminish under high wildfire risk. Expanding carbon offset programs to include wildfire mitigation and salvage credits could better align climate goals with economic incentives.”

The researchers say that reducing fire exposure while maintaining forest productivity requires a mix of adaptive zoning, cooperative fuel management and diversified forest composition.

Adaptive zoning refers to the flexible, dynamic allocation of management zones within a forest landscape based

on changing environmental or socioeconomic conditions, and cooperative fuel management is a collaborative approach among multiple stakeholders to reduce fire risk by managing forest fuels across property boundaries.

Forests have a diversified composition when they feature a variety of tree species, age classes and structural features. The diversity enhances their economic value as well as their resilience and ecological function, Susaeta said. In addition, longer rotations improve the odds of having valuable material to salvage.

However, the way financial risk is usually considered has an even bigger impact on

landowners' decisions than potential salvage value, he said. This is particularly important for landowners who are cautious about risk.

“Overall, our work underscores that managing forests under climate uncertainty requires integrating economic and ecological risks,” Susaeta said. “By balancing wildfire resilience with market adaptation, forest policies can better protect both the environment and rural livelihoods.”

Findings were published in Forest Policy and Economics.

Steve Lundeberg is a news and research writer at Oregon State University. He may be reached at Steve.Lundeberg@oregonstate.edu

EAGLE

From Page 1

“Kyle's love for animals touched the hearts of other animal lovers and the response was amazing,” Overholser said. “The variety of items his Eagle Scout project collected for us was much needed and very appreciated.

We will make sure it all goes to where it is needed most.”

She added, “In this day and age, it is so heartwarming to see young people like Kyle with such a strong commitment to community service and animal welfare.”

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

ICE

From Page 1

did not request any further details at the time of the notification.

The Department of Homeland Security did not request any information or resources from the Cottage Grove Police Department.

The Cottage Grove Police Department did not participate in any operations with the Department of Homeland Security. We continue to follow Oregon laws and our department policy regarding immigration matters. A copy

of our policy regarding immigration violations and our compliance with State law is attached for your review as well.

The Sentinel has reached out to the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement for a response to the incident. We had not received a reply at press time.

U.S. Representative Val Hoyle (OR-04), U.S. Senator Ron Wyden, State House Speaker Julie Fahey, State Senate President Pro Tempore James Manning Jr., State Senator Floyd Prozanski, State Representatives Lisa Fragala, Nancy Nathanson,

and John Lively, Lane County Commissioners Heather Buch and Laurie Trieger, Eugene Mayor Kaarin Knudson, Eugene City Councilor Lyndsie Leech, and Springfield City Councilor Kori Rodley issued the following statement after several people were detailed in lane county by ICE agents on Nov. 5.

“We are alarmed by the reported actions carried out by ICE yesterday in Lane County, which included the violent detention of several Oregonians, and by the ongoing reports of individuals not receiving their

constitutionally protected rights to due process and legal representation. This was only the most recent in a series of aggressive raids carried out across the state in recent months. We are working together with community leaders and local law enforcement to learn more and ensure that all of our

constituents are accounted for.

“Every Oregonian and every person in the United States, regardless of immigration status, is entitled to the full protections guaranteed by the Constitution. We will use all tools at our disposal as representatives of this community to ensure that those

protections are upheld for the individuals detained today and for any Oregonian subjected to unjust or unlawful enforcement actions by ICE.”

Follow developments online at cgsentinel.com and in the Wednesday print editions of The Sentinel.



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CGS25-185 State of Minnesota District Court County of: Redwood Judicial District: Fifth Judicial District Court File Number: 64-JV-25-52 Case Type: CHPS - Permanency In the Matter of the Welfare of the Children of: Kathleen Marie Eastman, Mother, Ronald Lawrence Merrick, Adjudicated Father, Tommie Fosberg, Adjudicated Father, and Michael Loren Wyman, Adjudicated Father Summons and Notice Transfer of Permanent Legal and Physical

999 PUBLIC NOTICES

Custody Matter (CHP-117) NOTICE TO: MICHAEL WYMAN, Above-named parent(s) or legal custodian(s). A Petition to Transfer Permanent Legal and Physical Custody has been filed in the Juvenile Court. This petition asks the court to permanently transfer the parent/guardian's legal and physical custodial rights to a relative. This is your notice that this Transfer of Permanent Legal and Physical Custody case is scheduled for a remote hearing before the Juvenile

999 PUBLIC NOTICES

Court located at Redwood County Courthouse, 250 S Jefferson, PO Box 130, Redwood Falls, MN 56283, on November 25, 2025 at 10:30 a.m. or as soon after as the case can be heard. Please contact court administration to get the remote hearing information. YOU ARE ORDERED to appear before the Juvenile Court at the scheduled time and date. You have a right to be represented by counsel. If you fail to appear at the hearing, the Court may still conduct the hearing and grant

999 PUBLIC NOTICES

appropriate relief, including permanently transferring the legal and physical custodial rights of the above-named parent(s) or legal custodian(s) or permanent out-of-home placement of the child(ren). Dated October 29, 2025 BY: Patty Amberg Redwood County Court Administration 250 S Jefferson PO Box 130 Redwood Falls MN 56283 507-616-4800

Super Crossword

ACROSS

1 Soft —
4 GPS display
7 GPS display
10 Fuming so.
13 Fused
16 Re-
18 Entertainer
20 Titled a con.
22 Twice
23 Acknowledg-
24 To see two
25 "We are the
26 Opera solos
28 Chastise —
29 College r-
30 Laid lawg-
31 Sister of Eva
32 Zia Zia
33 Approaching
34 Person
35 A can
36 Prosky's
37 Aerie babies
40 "I'm a
41 So many
42 Ure VPs

DOWN

1 Seaborn
2 Address
3 Large yard
4 1,760 yards
5 French buddy
6 Tending to
7 Laid highly
8 Nani's
9 Irish Gaelic
10 Urman's
11 Music style
12 Bob Marley's
13 Not nearly
14 Graceland
15 "Shark Tank"
16 Laid on a ship
17 Phone book
18 1990s
19 PC game
20 Light house
21 SSS "older
22 Discipline
23 "The Blues"
24 "The Blues"
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28 "The Blues"
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41 "The Blues"
42 "The Blues"

E-CONTENT

88 Shop
89 "Easy"
90 "Easy"
91 "Easy"
92 "Easy"
93 "Easy"
94 "Easy"
95 "Easy"
96 "Easy"
97 "Easy"
98 "Easy"
99 "Easy"

Just Like Cats & Dogs

by Dave T. Phipps

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by BUD BLAKE

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Answers

1. Soft —
4. GPS display
7. GPS display
10. Fuming so.
13. Fused
16. Re-
18. Entertainer
20. Titled a con.
22. Twice
23. Acknowledg-
24. To see two
25. "We are the
26. Opera solos
28. Chastise —
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30. Laid lawg-
31. Sister of Eva
32. Zia Zia
33. Approaching
34. Person
35. A can
36. Prosky's
37. Aerie babies
40. "I'm a
41. So many
42. Ure VPs

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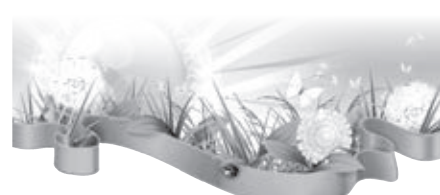
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Lions make state soccer playoffs, end season with loss to The Dalles

MIKE WEBER
Sentinel Guest Article

The Cottage Grove High School Lions certainly enjoyed success in OSAA Class 4A boys soccer as they reached the OnPoint Community Credit Union State Championship Tournament.

The No. 16-ranked Lions (6-7) took third place in the Sky Em League standings (5-3) to qualify for the 16-team state playoffs for a third straight year and the fourth time in the last five years.

The Lions faced a pretty tough opponent though in a first round road game against the No. 2-ranked, unbeaten Tri-Valley Conference Champion The Dalles High Riverhawks (15-0-1) on Nov. 5.

The Lions, guided by third-year Coach Jaime Urenda, were hoping to get an upset win over the Riverhawks. It was clearly evident from the outset that an upset wasn't about to happen for the Lions, as they lost 7-0 Nov. 5 in The

Dalles, which marked the end of their season.

"We had a great season and I couldn't be more proud of these guys, especially for everything that they've been through this year with all the setbacks and adversity that we faced," said Urenda. "To make the playoffs was a good testament to their character."

The Riverhawks had the momentum going their way from start-to-finish as they dominated the contest to get the win on a rainy day in the Columbia Gorge.

The Riverhawks built a 3-0 halftime advantage and then they continued utilizing a solid offensive (4.5 goals per game average) while outscoring the Lions 4-0 in the second half for the one-sided victory. It marked the most lopsided loss for the Lions this season.

"It's the first time we've ever played in The Dalles and it's much different playing on a grass field, which is much different that our home field of artificial turf," Urenda said. "We tried to prepare ourselves by practicing on grass. Obviously, it's an advantage for them (Riverhawks) because they



Courtesy from Mike Weber

The Cottage Grove Lions on the field in the state championship against The Dalles.

play on grass all the time. It was definitely a challenge for us to get accustomed to their field and it was kind of slippery for us at times during the game. I think The Dalles has a good chance to go to finals (Nov. 15) and they probably could even win the state championship."

The Lions concluded the season with three straight defeats, which included a nonleague 5-1 loss Oct. 27 to Class 3A St. Mary's High Crusaders (9-3-1), followed by a 1-0 home loss Oct.

29 to the Gladstone High Gladiators (9-3-2).

The playoffs marked the conclusion of their Cottage Grove High School soccer career for nine Lions seniors. Those players include Nery Perez-Ramirez, Nelson Martin-Lopez, Felix Garza, Johnny Sweezy, Elijah Smith, Emmanuel Rea, Jack Allen, Ben Stewart and Evan Bunce.

"I'm absolutely going to miss the seniors and we'll certainly have a much younger squad next year," Urenda said. "The work that

they've done over the last four years is a testament to what they've done while helping us reach the state playoffs again."

For nine Lions players, they capped the season by earning prestigious Sky Em League All-League Awards. Smith and Rea earned First Team Awards. Stewart, Perez-Ramirez and freshman Daniel Torralba earned Second Team Awards. Garza, Sweezy, Allen and freshman Franci Matias-Mendoza each received Honorable Mention Awards.



Courtesy from Mike Weber

The players competed in the state championship game in The Dalles during a rainstorm.



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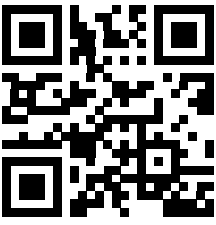
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