# THE COTTAGE GROVE Dentinel

Friends of **Democracy** 

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World **Peace** Day

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Cottage **Grove** 



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# Council looks ahead to stabilize public services, police funding

**CINDY WEELDREYER** Cottage Grove Sentinel

Cottage Grove city leaders are looking to the future to stabilize long-term police and other public services funding.

At its regular meeting Monday night, Sept. 22, the Cottage Grove City Council devoted most of its time to discussing a proposed Urban Renewal District. The staff presentation included materials from Elaine Howard of Elaine Howard Consulting, LLC, a firm specializing in urban renewal and tax increment financing (TIF) across Oregon and Washington.

#### URBAN RENEWAL DISTRICT

Cottage Grove established an Urban Renewal District in 1986 to revitalize the downtown core. It was officially retired in 2011, having funded streetscape improvements, historic preservation and infrastructure upgrades. The newly proposed district is significantly larger—243.71 acres—and includes more diverse project goals, such as emergency preparedness and improvements to the North Gateway corridor to enhance traffic safety.

The boundaries incorporate all of East Main Street from River Road to Thornton Lane, Highway 99 from Woodson Bridge to South 4th Street,



Metro Creative Connection

Cottage Grove city leaders are reviewing long-term funding options for police and other city services.

and extend north of Main on North 16th Street and North Gateway Boulevard.

Public Works Director Faye Stewart told the council the current Main Street reconstruction grant covers about one-third of the capital improvements needed in the downtown area. Urban renewal financing could potentially fund the remaining improvements, including sidewalks and utility upgrades that encourage redevelopment.

Councilor Dana Merryday described urban renewal as a tool for financing capital projects the city cannot fund through traditional property tax revenues. He said those investments could spur new development over the next 30 years and increase the city's tax base for other

Councilor Greg Ervin said, "This is a huge issue. With inflation outpacing the city's three-percent annual growth in property taxes, we have two choices: Find new revenue or cut spending. We need to do something, or things will just get worse."

Councilor Darrell Wilson said, "This is just a draft and not a done deal. I see some benefits to it. We need to work with the impacted taxing districts and find a solution. Moving forward is the best step, understanding that at any point it can come to a screeching halt—and may have to."

Staff emphasized the process does not impose new taxes, but redirects future tax growth away from overlapping taxing districts—such as schools and counties-until the district is retired, typically in 25 to 30 years. Oregon law requires cities to consult with affected districts, though formal approval is not

The impacted taxing districts would include South Lane County Fire & Rescue and Lane County. The approved timeline includes presentations to the Lane County Commission and the local fire board.

Fire Chief John Wooten expressed concern about the long-term financial impact on fire and safety services. Councilors acknowledged the need for new revenue to address infrastructure and attract private development to blighted areas, but

See COUNCIL, Page 4

# Cottage Grove Sentinel employees working remotely

**STAFF REPORT** 

Cottage Grove Sentinel

The Cottage Grove Sentinel newspaper has moved out of the office it had been leasing in the Safeway Shopping Center in Cottage Grove, allowing its employees to work remotely.

The newspaper will continue to be published each Wednesday, although beginning Sept. 22, its employees began working remotely from home offices or from other Country Media newspaper locations. Country Media is the parent company of the Cottage Grove Sentinel.

"Far fewer of our customers are coming into our local offices to do business," said Country Media's chief executive, Joe Warren. "Classified advertising and legal notices, obituaries and subscriptions increasingly are being placed online."

Country Media owns nine community newspapers in Oregon. The company is based in Salem.

"Within our group of newspapers, we're beginning to create a small number of hub locations where we can produce multiple publications," Warren said. "In Tillamook, for example, we oversee news reporting and ad sales not only for the Headlight Herald, but also for our newspapers in Cannon Beach and Manzanita."

Meantime, allowing certain of its employees to work remotely 'will make it easier for Country Media to recruit new workers and also to share resources within the company," said Warren. "It's increasingly difficult to recruit new employees and independent contractors to the small towns where we're located," he said. "Many of them now want to work remotely from home. "As it is, all of the company's accounting, circulation and human resources functions already are going through our central office in Salem, so this move will be of little disruption to our readers and advertising customers."

For questions about subscriptions, or to place an obituary, marriage announcement, or legal ad, contact our team at the Salem corporate office, at 503-444-7924.

Those who need assistance in placing a business advertisement, contact Sales Representative Gary Winterholler at 541-902-3529 or 509-216-1658.

For editorial content and questions, contact Editor Jeremy C. Ruark at 503-510-1450, or email to jruark@countrymedia.net. To reach Reporter Cindy Weeldreyer, call 541-915-0113.

To reach County Media Chief Executive Joe Warren, email jwarren@countrymedia.net.

## WHO WE ARE

# A sweet spot in Historic Downtown Cottage Grove

CINDY WEELDREYER Cottage Grove Sentinel

For one local entrepreneur, the journey from Medicare specialist to caramel artisan began with a dream, a loss, and a neighbor named Ms. Delphine.

Though she grew up in California, Amber Henline—founder of Cottage Caramel Co.—spent childhood summers visiting family in South Lane and North Douglas counties.

"I've always loved Oregon," she said. "The trees, the agricultural abundance and the cozy way of life."

After relocating to Eugene in 1999 and building a career in marketing and sales, Henline found herself at a crossroads following the death of her mother. She realized she wanted a career that allowed her to serve and connect with others.

That realization led her to become licensed in life and health insurance, specializing in Medicare. But between enrollment seasons, another dream began to take shape—a small shop filled with handcrafted caramels and specialty goods. With her daughter and son nearing the end of their studies at North Eugene High School, the time felt right to open a new chapter.

## INSPIRED BY ZUCHINNI

Henline's love of caramel was long-standing, but it wasn't until she met another confectioner that she saw the potential for a business. As she learned the craft, she gained a



Cindy Weeldreyer / Cottage Grove Sentinel

Amber Henline's store is filled with a mix of food and specialty gift items and decorated to compliment its historic building.

deeper appreciation for turning passion into something to share.

The shop's origin story is steeped in memory. As a child, she once lamented to her neighbor that her garden only produced zucchini. Ms. Delphine responded by teaching her to bake zucchini bread.

"That moment taught me to see potential and creativity in everything," Henline recalled. "From

wreaths to crocheted scarves to caramel, that early love of creating and gathering around food carried forward."

## HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

Henline credits Kimberley Westwang for introducing her to the town through a vintage event at Bohemia Park, and Danny and Candace Solesbee for restoring the historic storefront at 16 S. Fifth St., where her shop now resides.

She said she was impressed by Cottage Grove's strong sense of community, rich history and creative energy-qualities that led her to open her dream business here on Sept. 27, 2024.

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**FOLLOW DEVELOPING NEWS** 

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# Local woman arrested following trailer fire

Lane County Sheriff's deputies responded to assist South Lane Fire personnel with a trailer fire in the 35700 block of Shoreview Drive, east of Cottage Grove, at approximately 10 a.m. Sept. 19.

There had reportedly been a dispute at the location prior to the fire.

Deputies located the suspect, 29-year-old Illoria Naomi Anderson, of Cottage Grove,

walking away from the location. After additional investigation, Anderson was arrested and lodged at the Lane County Jail for Arson in the 1st Degree and Assault in the 4th

Oregon State Police, Oregon Department of Forestry, and South Lane Fire assisted with the incident.

## I-5 bridge repair work announced

The Oregon Department of Transportation ODOT) is repairing two bridges, near mileposts 183 and 169, over I-5 that were recently hit and damaged. What to expect:

- Crews working at night from 9:00 pm to 5:00 am Sunday through Thursday.
  - Traffic to shift in the I-5 work zones.
  - Construction noise and delays.

ODOT was scheduled to begin the repair work Sept. 15 plans to start work and complete the work by mid-October. Portions of the bridge work are weatherdependent, and ODOT's schedule may

For the most up-to-date information on traffic and impacts, visit TripCheck.com

## **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, SEPT. 15

00:34: Menacing, 1000 block S. 4th St.

05:40: Shots fired, 700 block South R St.

06:35: Suspicious subject, 1600 block Hwy 99 07:53: Dog at large, 4th/

08:15: Found dog, 900 block S. 4th St.

08:29: Suspicious subject, 100 block S. 10th St. 10:09: Agency assist, 800 block S. 6th St.

10:41: Order violation, 78000 block Hwy 99 10:43: Fraud, 900 block N. Douglas St.

11:51: Animal info, 700 block N. 9th St. 12:16: Alarm, 600 block

E. Jefferson Ave.

12:54: Hit and run, 200 block Gateway Blvd. 13:33: Theft, 700 block S. 13th St.

13:44: Warrant service. 400 block E. Main St. 15:00: Criminal mischief, 1400 block E.

Washington Ave. 15:42: Warrant service, 1300 block E. Main St. 16:49: Agency assist,

800 block S. 6th St. 18:23: Disorderly subject, 1100 block S. 2nd St. 20:23: Disturbance, 1200 block E. Main St.

21:08: Animal info, 400 block S. 2nd St.

## **TUESDAY, SEPT. 16**

01:11: Warrant service, Ostrander/16th

01:39: Disorderly subject, 1500 block Village

02:06: ATL DUII, 1500 block Gateway Blvd.

05:59: Motor vehicle crash, 76000 block Blue Mtn. School Rd.

06:07: Fire, 900 block South V St.

07:56: Dog at large, 400 block E. Main St.

Any service with coupon



12:33: Animal info, 100 block N. 14th St.

13:17: Disturbance, 900 block W. Main St.

14:46: Hit and run, 100 block Gateway Blvd. 14:49: Alarm, 1000

block Taylor Ave. 15:38: Motor vehicle crash, 1500 block Gateway Blvd.

16:43: Motor vehicle crash, 6th/Tobiasson

18:42: Fraud, 800 block Gateway Blvd.

21:12: Fraud, 900 block Row River Rd.

22:30: Abandoned vehicle, 3200 block Row

22:51: Hit and run, 500 block Grant Ave.

23:06: Abandoned vehicle, Harvey/14th

block N. 14th St.

block E. Main St.

10:10: Agency assist,

12:00: Found dog, 400

Exit 174 SB Off Ramp

### block W. Main St. 18:03: Theft, 900 block

Row River Rd. 20:07: Welfare check, 1200 block E. Main St.

12:15: Warrant service,

12:47: Disturbance, 300

13:20: Fire, 2100 block

13:27: Welfare check,

14:18: Alarm, 600 block

14:44: Abandoned vehi-

14:47: Juvenile trouble,

15:26: Abandoned vehi-

15:57: Juvenile trouble,

cle, 1000 block S. 10th St.

17:38: Trespass, 1600

900 block S. River Rd.

cle, 1000 block S. 10th St.

500 block Fillmore Ave.

1200 block E. Main St.

Main/River Rd.

N. Douglas St.

E. Jefferson Ave.

block S. River Rd.

## THURSDAY, SEPT. 18

00:30: Suspicious vehicle, 1300 block E. Main St.

02:42: Business check, 800 block Gateway Blvd. 03:20: Barking dog, 200 block N. 7th St.

06:13: Theft, North I/

09:08: Theft, 1100 block S. 2nd St.

10:28: Abandoned vehicle, 1200 block S. 7th St. 11:21: Traffic hazard, 5th/Main

12:06: Juvenile trouble, 1300 block S. River Rd. 13:19: Disturbance, 100 block Watagua Pl.

13:38: Agency assist,

14:06: Warrant service, 400 block E. Main St. 15:49: Hit and run, 900 block Row River Rd. 16:34: Disturbance,

1300 block E. Main St. 17:24: Assault, 700 block Hwv 99

18:19: Welfare check. 900 block W. Main St.

19:29: Juvenile trouble, 1600 block Daugherty Ave. 19:41: Illegal camping,

300 block S. River Rd. 20:30: Theft, 900 block Row River Rd. 21:02: Motor vehicle

theft, 100 block Gateway Blvd. 21:21: Suspicious vehi-

cle, 100 block Gateway Blvd. 21:51: Assault, 700

block Hwy 99

22:20: Missing person, 400 block E. Main St. 23:10: Trespass, 1300 block E. Main St.

FRIDAY, SEPT. 19 01:39: Welfare check,

500 block E. Madison 02:52: Suspicious con-

dition, 700 block Hwy 99 03:06: Warrant service, 400 block E. Main St. 06:24: Suspicious con-

dition, 400 block Hwy 99 10:09: Fire, 35000 block Shoreview Dr.

10:18: Suicidal subject, 100 block S. 5th St.

10:39: Abandoned vehicle, 500 block Grant Ave. 10:55: Warrant service. 400 block E. Main St.

11:17: Suspicious condition, 3000 block CG Lorane Rd.

13:20: Found property, 400 block E. Main St.

13:29: Warrant service. 400 block E. Main St. 16:17: Missing person, 100 block S. 10th St. 16:23: Dog at large,

1200 block Hwy 99 16:41: Warrant service,

17:19: Welfare check, 6th/Harding

19:43: Juvenile trouble, Main/5th

19:45: Suicidal subject, 1400 block Daugherty Ave.

21:07: Alarm, 1500 block S. 4th St.

21:24: Warrant service, 400 block E. Main St.

21:27: Fire, 200 block N. 12th St. 21:55: Suspicious con-

dition, 200 block Palmer Ave.

22:18: Theft, 500 block Grant Ave.

22:27: Harassment, 1300 block S. River Rd. 22:28: Suspicious vehicle, 100 block S. 10th St. 22:40: Agency assist,

Hwy 99/Rachel Rd.

#### SATURDAY, SEPT. 20

00:14: Suspicious condition, 400 block E. Main

00:19: Disturbance, 700 block Row River Rd. 01:56: Welfare check,

300 block S. 5th St. 02:15: Warrant service,

10:10: Warrant service, 200 block N. 12th St. 10:45: Motor vehicle

400 block E. Main St.

crash, 6th/Main 11:39: Disturbance. 78000 block Cedar Park

Rd. 11:57: Welfare check,

17th/Adams 12:02: Business check,

1600 block E. Main St. 12:18: Juvenile trouble.

700 block Hwy 99 12:33: Suspicious condition, 1900 block S. 6th

12:41: Assault, 1700 block Adams Ave.

13:00: Juvenile trouble. 7th/Taylor

13:54: Disturbance, 800 block N. Douglas St. 15:44: Agency assist,

Hwy 99/Latham 16:34: Assault, 1200 block E. Main St.

16:54: Suicidal subject, 1400 block Daugherty Ave.

18:57: Trespass, 200 block Crestwood Dr. 19:13: Disturbance, 1100 block S. 8th St. 21:40: Warrant service,

1100 block E. Main St.

#### SUNDAY, SEPT. 21 00:49: Death investiga-

tion, 700 block N. 9th St. 01:19: Alarm, 2200 block E. Main St. 08:43: Welfare check, 1200 block Gateway Blvd. 09:10: Warrant service, 400 block E. Main St. 09:57: Overdose, 1300 block E. Main St.

Chamberlain 12:37: Illegal parking, 10th/Grover

12:33: Alarm, 16th/

16:29: Suicidal subject, 1400 block Daugherty

17:14: Agency assist, Row River/Gateway

18:44: Welfare check, 900 block Row River Rd. 19:03: Harassment, 400 block E. Main St.

19:44: Juvenile trouble, 1500 block Fairview Pl. 21:52: Order violation, 600 block Wood Ave. 21:14: Suicidal subject,

Call (866) 249-8679 400 block E. Main St.

No House Repairs

River Rd. WEDNESDAY, SEPT. 01:08: Suspicious subject, 1500 block E. Main 07:27: Theft, 1200 block Gateway Blvd. 07:59: Warrant service, 200 block N. 12th St. 08:30: Barking dog, River Rd/Old Mill Our People Really Make The Difference! 09:17: Warrant service, 400 block N. 14th St. 09:23: Found dog, 400



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# Friends of Democracy form to defend civic freedoms through peaceful action

**CINDY WEELDREYER** Cottage Grove Sentinel

Swift ideological currents continue to swirl through

communities across America. News reports, podcasts, social media, office chats, dinner table and small group conversations are increasingly centered on the concept of democracy and Constitutional freedoms. Those currents surged following the Sept. 10 slaying of conservative activist Charlie Kirk—a flashpoint that has intensified the national debate.

Alarm bells rang months earlier for like-minded friends and neighbors and inspired the birth of Cottage Grove's newest grassroots community action group, Friends of Democracy (FOD). The group began meeting in mid-March at the Cottage Grove Public Market and in Opal Park.

The group's formation followed the Jan. 20 inauguration of President Donald Trump and the subsequent flood of executive orders the group members viewed as threats to democratic norms and institutional integrity. It created a collective desire to band together and "defend and advance democracy through peaceful community action."

As national tensions rise and definitions of patriotism diverge, FOD members are committed to upholding the U.S. Constitution and Bill of Rights, advocating for democracy that includes everyone, not just the wealthy. The FOD mission is to ensure that democracy serves all individuals and

fosters a community where every voice is heard and valued. They "stand steadfastly together to support the rights and freedoms of every citizen".

Elaine Burns is one of the group's founding members. She said the organization's membership spans generations, with participants ranging in age from 35 to 85.

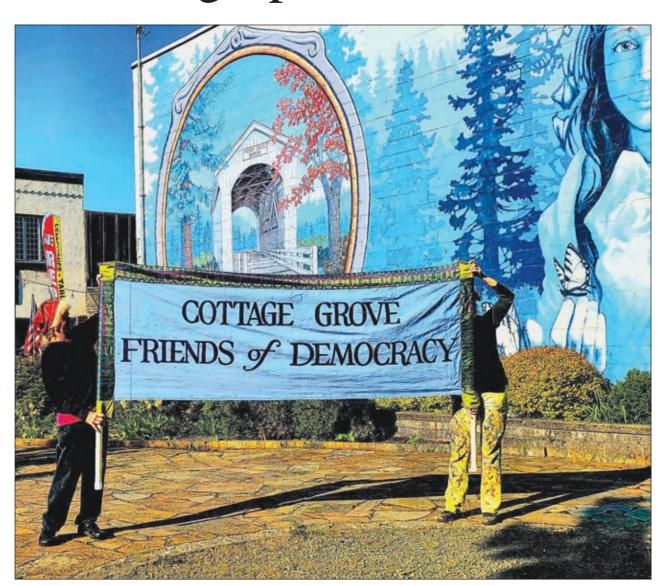
"Walkers, wheelchairs and canes! Anyone who wishes to protect and defend our democracy and our Constitution are welcome to join us," Burns said.

Since its inception, Friends of Democracy has organized or participated in at least six rallies, including a "Hands Off" protest at the post office, a "No Kings" demonstration, and visibility efforts during last spring's school board election.

Members have also joined regional events in Eugene and hosted an overpass rally featuring handmade banners. The group maintains an email list of roughly 100

FOD member Lise Colgan is a committed community bridge builder. In early 2024, she began hosting Living Room Conversations as a tool to construct bridges of understanding in a culturally fractured community by building trust between individuals willing to discover common ground.

She said in those living room conversations she's heard her guests, across the political spectrum, identify values that are important to them. They include individual freedom/sovereignty, the importance of family



Members display the organization's banner at one of the group's early meetings in All America City Square (Opal Park). See more photos with this story at cgsentinel.com.

and community, concern for neighbors, integrity, generosity, the ability to be a good listener and truth-telling. She believes it's how individuals choose to express or exercise these values that causes conflict.

"For me, the essence of democracy isn't a definition or a set of rules," Colgan said. "It's the ability to hold many different perspectives in tension while recognizing that those perspectives represent ways of expressing deeply held (and usually shared) values. I think that's one reason our Declaration of Independence is such a powerful document: it makes shared values the foundation of its political premises. Maybe if we focused more on values and less on opinions. policies, and rules, we could find common ground instead of division."

In that spirit, Burns emphasizes the group is committed to neutrality and inclusion in a politically divided climate.

"We do not wish to alienate or judge," she said. "We welcome the opportunity to discuss our differing opinions while finding the common bond that connects us all."

Meetings are held every Wednesday at 5:30 p.m. at 632 Main Street. The group continues to grow and hopes to expand its reach in the

coming months.

"We're small and mighty," Burns said. "Our hope is to achieve our mission, one human at a time, to make a positive difference in our community and ultimately our nation."

For more information visit: www.cgfriendsofdemocracy.

## **OCTOBER 1**

Oregon Aviation Museum. Open, from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. 2475 Jim Wright Way.

Senior Center Pinochle Games. Begins at 1 p.m. Senior Center, 700 E. Gibbs Ave.

Lego Club. Starts at 2:30 p.m., Cottage Grove Public Library. 700 E. Gibbs Ave. This is for kids.

## **OCTOBER 2**

T.O.P.S. Club. From 9:30-11 a.m. Delight Valley Church of Christ 33087 E Saginaw Rd.

Baby Lap Time. Starts at 11:30 a.m. Cottage Grove Public Library. Event for birth to 2 yrs. Great socializing opportunity for parents and babies.

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

Oregon Aviation Museum. Open from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. 2475 Jim Wright Way.

Teen Gaming. Starts at 4 p.m. CG Public Library 700 E. Gibbs Ave. Youth 11-18 are welcome to socialize and play games.

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

## **OCTOBER 3**

Oregon Aviation Museum. Open from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. 2475 Jim Wright Way

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

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

American Legion Post 32 Bingo, From 5-7 p.m 826 W. Main St.

Elks Lodge Friday Night Community Dinner. From 5-6:30 p.m. 775 N. River Rd. Menu: Chicken Fried Steak, mashed potatoes and gravy, corn, salad and vanilla ice cream. \$10/plate.

Bohemian Tavern Weekly Pool Tournament. Starts at 7 p.m. 48 N. 9th St. Entry Fee: \$5 and BCA Rules.

Cottage Theatre Production: Guys & Dolls. 7:30 p.m. 700 Village Dr. Call for ticket details and any other information at 541-942-8001.

## **OCTOBER 4**

South Valley Farmers Market. From 10 a.m.-2 p.m., Historic Downtown District at 7th and Main Streets. Buy goods directly from local farmers, food producers and artisans.

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

Production: Guys & Dolls 7:30 p.m. 700 Village Dr. KNND Fall Alligator Auction, From 10 a.m.-3 p.m., Tune In: AM1400, FM 99.7, SLTV Channel 47.4 Call in to score great deals on a wide variety of items, favorite local restaurants, services and

destination locations. Call

541-942-2468 for a bid-

www.knnd.com

der number. More info at

Chamber of Commerce "Blockbuster Bash" Bowling Fundraiser. From 7-10 p.m. Cottage Bowl 740 Row River Rd. Teams encourage to dress in a favorite TV show or movie. Prizes for best

use of theme, highest and lowest score. Food and beverages available for purchase. Fee: \$100 to sponsor three-person team that includes 2 games and

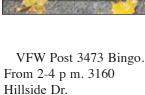
## **OCTOBER 5**

Veterans of Foreign Wars Breakfast Fundraiser. From 7:30-10 a m. VFW Post, 3160 Hillside Dr. Menu: Full Breakfast includes pancakes or French toast, sausage, biscuits and gravy, eggs (cooked to order), juice, coffee or hot tea Cost: \$10/plate Also available: 2 Biscuits and Gravy and 2 sausage links for \$5. For other details, call, 541-942-7099.

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



**COMMUNITY CALENDAR** 



Cottage Theatre

Production: Guys & Dolls.



Jeremy C. Ruark / Cottage Grove Sentinel

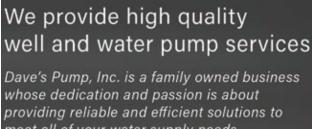
Skatepark Bingo Fundraiser. From 3:30 p.m.-5:30 p.m. Coast Fork Brewing, 106 S. Sixth St.

Village Dr.

Matinee at 2:30 p.m. 700

**OCTOBER 6** 

See CALENDAR, Page 6







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#### **OBITUARIES & NEWS**

## Judith Anne Crenshaw

1943 - 2025

It is with broken hearts and tearfilled eyes that we announce the passing of our beloved mother, Judith Anne Crenshaw. Judith was 82 years old and went to sleep peacefully in her own home where she wished to be when her time came.

She was born on July 25, 1943, to Michael Louis Migas and Priscilla Marie Migas in Richmond, Wisconsin. She was the third of six children. She is predeceased by two brothers: Robert Lee Migas and Michael Allen Migas and one sister Barbara Kay Boyer.

Growing up in a large family, Judith learned the values needed to live an authentic life. Many say she had a heart of gold and made friends wherever she went. She had a big personality in a small package and left a lasting impact on every person she interacted with. She was kind, loving and always full of joy, regardless of what challenges came her way. She lived life to its fullest, celebrating each moment as if it were the most important moment in the world. The lyrics of her favorite song. One Day at a Time, hung on her wall and often you would hear her humming the tune throughout the house. She never focused on past regrets and knew tomorrows were never promised. She kept putting one foot in front of the other and took only one day at a time.

As a child, she dreamed of growing up and becoming a nurse, but instead she became a devoted wife and mother. She embraced this role with the same tenacity she had toward any role she took on. She had a knack for creating a home that felt like the most special place on earth. Her doors were always open, and she welcomed family and friends with open arms. During the holidays, her walls were adorned with magical decorations that glittered and glowed with her own special twinkle. She called her daughters the most important thing she ever did and throughout the years, their happiness is what brought her the most joy. "It doesn't matter where you go or what you do, as long as you are happy," she'd often say.

She collected angels of all shapes and sizes. Some lit up, some played music and some just sat on her shelf as if watching over her. She believed passionately in them and could tell you the story behind everyone she had. There were hundreds of them filling every room in the house. It felt like a private tour of Heaven gazing at shelf after shelf of those cherished cherubs.

Judy was fiercely independent and always said, "I can do it myself," and she did. Cottage Grove was her home for nearly 50 years and if you lived there, you knew here. She was a creature of habit and had a daily routine whether rain or shine. Every morning around nine, she would come rolling into town driving that old white Toyota, ready to spread good cheer to friends and strangers alike. If you needed a smile, she would reach into her pocket full of smiley face balloons to dispense along the way and pull out one just for you. She always hit her favorite shop first, Goodwill. After prowling around for a while, she'd come out with bags of treasures

she didn't need just to give it away when the right person crossed her path. Then

she would stop by the pharmacy to say Hi to Mike and maybe hit the Dollar Tree or Grocery Outlet and always keep her radar on for garage sales along the way. Finally, she would head home for a light lunch and nap. She always claimed, "I'm not sleeping, just resting."

Patience was not her virtue, I truly believe she was never late a day in her life. She prepped for each holiday weeks in advance. Christmas cards started in September, Valentine hearts right after the New Year and the Easter Bunny constantly hung around. The smallest things brought her joy and made those who knew her chuckle, wondering what was next.

She loved collecting greeting cards to mail and always had several ready to go. She would tuck cute photos, heartfelt poems, or funny articles inside each one, anything that might cheer a soul. She would open her address book and start at the beginning. Once she got to the end, she would turn it over and start again. You knew when a card from Judy came as the outside of the envelope was plastered with stickers, lots and lots of stickers. If you were on her list, you most likely have many tucked in your closet. There was always a smile on her face as she worked on the cards, excited to be brightening someone's day.

Three husbands have passed before her but to this day, she will tell you that the true love of her life was, and always will be, Joe Balderston, a Veteran she fell in love with and lost too soon. His is the only picture that still hangs next to her chair.

Judy knew what she wanted and if she wanted it badly enough, she wouldn't wait for anyone else to get it for her. She'd just go get it herself and worry about the consequence later. Anyone who knew her would say she was a character that danced to her own beat and had a generous spirit like no other. "It will be okay," she'd say no matter how dark the cloud you carried was. She could see the rainbow and sunshine through the dark. Mom always did it with a happy heart.

She believed in forgiveness and second chances for all. "Life is too short to hold grudges," she'd say and "You never know what someone else might be going through."

Judy is survived by two daughters, Brandy Anne Kaye and Melinda Marie Owusu, two sisters, Darlene Foster and Debbie Chalmers, three grandchildren Heather Moore, Teresa Montes, and Maria Montes, multiple nieces and nephews, and friends spread across the states. Judy will be truly missed and never forgotten.

Whenever I get into my car, I will hear her say, "Call me when you get there." If we never knew anything else in our life, we always knew our mother's love. We love you,

Arrangements in the care of Smith-Lund-Mills Funeral Chapel and Crematorium, Cottage Grove, Oregon.

## Alta Katherine Cochell

March 3, 1942 - September 12, 2025

Alta Katherine Cochell passed away on September 12, 2025, in Cottage Grove, Oregon, at the age of 83. Born on March 3, 1942, to Ralph and Mabel Sullivan in Sweet Home, Oregon, Alta— known to everyone as Kathy—was the youngest of three children. She grew up in nearby Holley alongside her brothers, Leo and Robert. A graduate of

Sweet Home Union High School in 1960, she married Richard Cochell later that year at Holley Church. The couple made their home in Cottage Grove, where they raised their family. Kathy worked as a teacher's aide at Bohemia Elementary School in Cottage Grove for twenty years. Her coworkers remember her for her positive spirit and genuine concern for the students and staff whose lives she touched. Kathy's greatest loves in life were her Lord Jesus, her husband and her family. She and her family were members of the Church of Christ at 6th and Gibbs where Kathy



often played piano during worship services. She began playing piano as a child and continued to find joy in music throughout her life. She also loved reading and shared this passion with her children and grandchildren. Kathy was preceded in death by her parents and her brothers. She is survived by her husband

of 65 years, Richard; daughter, Lenette Bailey of Cottage Grove; and two sons, Gale Cochell of Oasis, Idaho and Trevor Cochell of Cottage Grove, six grandchildren and five great-grandchildren. Kathy will be remembered by all who knew and loved her as a kind and gentle soul who was dedicated to her Lord and devoted to her family. A celebration of life was held on Saturday, September 20th at 10:00 a.m. at the Church of Christ at 6th and Gibbs in Cottage Grove. Arrangements are in the care of Smith-Lund-Mills Funeral Chapel and Crematorium.

## **Death Notices**

Henry Sutton, 49, of Eugene Oregon, passed away on September 05, 2025. Arrangements are in the care of Sunset Hills Funeral Home, Crematorium & Cemetery.

John Howland, 71, of Eugene Oregon, passed away on September 15, 2025. Arrangements are in the care of Sunset Hills Funeral Home, Crematorium & Cemetery.

Judy Ellen Sturgess, age 78, of Creswell, Oregon, passed away September 9, 2025. Arrangements are in the care of Smith-Lund-Mills Funeral Chapel and Crematorium.

Jack Charles Smith, 56, of Eugene Oregon, passed away on September 8th, 2025. Arrangements are in the care of Sunset Hills Funeral Home, Crematorium & Cemetery.

Art Vilums, 72, of Eugene, Oregon, passed away on September 8th, 2025. Arrangements are in the care of Sunset Hills Funeral Home, Crematorium & Cemetery.

Thomas Wickstrom, 88, of Eugene, Oregon, passed away on September 19, 2025. Arrangements are in the care of Sunset Hills Funeral Home, Crematorium & Cemetery.

## COUNCIL

From Page 1

voiced discomfort with the push to approve the district by year's end to begin accruing revenue.

To continue exploring the opportunity, the council adopted bylaws and appointed Ervin as chairperson and Wilson as vice chairperson of the Urban Renewal Agency. A timeline was approved (see sidebar), with staff noting it could be modified up to the Nov. 24 council meeting.

#### POLICE DEPARTMENT **FUNDING**

The council, Police Chief Cory Chase and City Manager Mike Sauerwein

continued exploring a proposed \$10 utility fee to fund a school resource officer, a second detective and two community service officers.

The department needs stable, long-term and sustainable funding. In the current budget, city officials anticipated property tax revenues at \$6.1 million and budgeted \$5.2 million for the Cottage Grove Police Department.

Chase said the department has underspent its budget the past two years, but without increased revenue, current service levels cannot be maintained. Sauerwein said he will present the third-quarter report on revenues and expenditures in January.

If directed by the council, he will include the dedicated utility fee in his proposed 2026-27 budget for consideration. Although the council has authority to enact the fee, some members felt strongly it should go before voters.

#### **EPUD FEASIBILITY** STUDY DROPPED

Following an Emerald People's Utility District presentation at the Sept. 8 council meeting, staff met with representatives from EPUD and the investor-owned Pacific Power to discuss the

option of changing the electrical utility that serves within the city limits.

During public comment, EPUD Executive Director Kyle Roadman told the council it became clear that any attempted takeover would be extremely divisive, expensive and lengthy-and would outweigh any potential benefits. He said the EPUD board voted not to proceed, stating "the only winners from the effort would be attorneys.'

#### PALLET SHELTERS RETURNED

After discussing logistical challenges of retaining the shelters for emergency use, the council voted unanimously to transfer the remaining "mothballed" units back to Lane County for use by St. Vincent de Paul in the metro area.

#### SKATEPARK AND PICKLEBALL COURTS **TABLED**

Discussion of building a new skatepark and additional pickleball courts at Coiner Park was tabled for a future meeting.

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

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503-444-7924

# **NEWS & VIEWS**

## **STATE NEWS**

## Any Oregonian who wants COVID-19 vaccine can get it, state says

**SHAANTH NANGUNERI** 

Oregon Capital Chronicle

All Oregonians seeking the COVID-19 vaccine can receive it without concerns about cost or liability for nurses, pharmacists or doctors administering the vaccine under highly-anticipated guidance Oregon Gov. Tina Kotek and five state agencies issued on Wednesday.

The announcement comes nearly two weeks after Kotek and the governors of California, Washington and Hawaii formed the West Coast Health Alliance in early September. On Wednesday, Sept. 17, the four-state alliance recommended that all adults and children concerned about the respiratory illness season can receive the COVID-19 vaccine and other common inoculations like the flu vaccine

State agencies that license pharmacists, nurses and doctors and regulate insurers vowed in a joint press release alongside Kotek to make sure the vaccine was covered by insurance and available to those who wanted it.

"At a time when Washington D.C. is undermining our most basic public health safeguards, Oregon is charting a different course: affirming that public health is about protecting people, not playing politics, and ensuring every family who wants protection this respiratory virus season can get it — simply, safely and affordably," said Sejal Hathi, director of the Oregon Health Authority, in a statement.

Kotek described Oregon's response as a "coordinated approach to reduce disruption to COVID-19 vaccine access caused by the Trump administration."

"If you want to get vaccinated before respiratory virus season, you can in Oregon. The confusion created by the Trump administration for simple vaccine administration in states across the country puts people at risk," she said in a statement. "Staying safe shouldn't be hard or expensive — these actions today mean Oregonians seeking a vaccine can do so easily and affordably."

The updated guidance Oregon and other allied western states offered is a rebuke of the June overhaul of the Centers for Disease Controls vaccine advisory committee by U.S. Secretary of Health and Human Services Robert F. Kennedy Jr. The announcement came shortly before the Oregon Board of Pharmacy unanimously approved a carveout allowing patients aged 7 or older to receive the COVID vaccine at a pharmacy in alignment with the coalition's guidance.

As recently as Monday, Kennedy appointed five new members to the panel, some of whom have a history of questioning the efficacy of the COVID-19 vaccines. The West Coast states' newly announced standards rely upon guidance from national organizations such as the American Academy of Family Physicians and American Academy of Pediatrics.

Kotek, Washington Gov. Bob Ferguson, California Gov. Gavin Newsom and Hawaii Gov. Josh Green said in a joint statement that they were putting safety before politics.

"Our states are united in putting science, safety, and transparency first — and in protecting families with clear, credible vaccine guidance," the governors said.

When it comes to the COVID-19 vaccine, the states recommend that any adult ages 18-64 who wants protection from COVID is eligible for the vaccine, specifically identifying those "who are in close contact with others with risk factors."

https://oregoncapitalchronicle.com/2025/09/17/ west-coast-states-recommendcovid-vaccine-amid-cdcturmoil/

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### **FIRST HAND**

# 'To see for myself' State Rep. Gomberg reflects on Israel visit

"What I saw on

the Gaza border

will remain with

me for the rest of

State Rep. David

my life:"

Gomberg

**JEREMY C. RUARK** Cottage Grove Sentinel

Two Oregon legislators have returned from a rare trip to Israel.

Rep. David Gomberg, D-Otis and Rep. Emily McIntire, R-Eagle Point joined a bipartisan delegation of 250 legislators from across the U.S. for the trip.

The visit comes as the Israeli military begins its ground invasion of Gaza City this past week, pushing troops into the war-torn city after nearly two years of raids and bombardment. It also coincides with Oregon's junior U.S. Sen. Jeff Merkley introducing legislation calling for the U.S. to formally recognize a Palestinian state, according to an Oregon

Capital Chronicle report. In his return to Oregon, Gomberg wrote of his experience in his latest newsletter stating that he made the journey to Israel seeking a better understanding of the truth.

"This trip came during a time of profound conflict, crisis, and uncertainty," Gomberg wrote.

"Before I agreed to participate, I made clear to the organizers that my attendance did not constitute an endorsement of Prime Minister Netanyahu's government," he stated. "I am troubled, as are many of you, by the October 7 attacks and Israel's continuing response to them."

In an interview with the Oregon Capital Chronicle during his visit in Israel, Gomberg said the week had been emotional, full of sleepless nights and that he's still processing what he's seen.

He said the group of lawmakers had the opportunity to ask Netanyahu and Israeli President Izaac Herzog questions and visit the music festival site where Hamas militants raided an Israeli community near the Gaza Strip, killing and kidnapping dozens in a

surprise attack on Oct. 7,

2023. At the same time, he said he heard bombs going off in Gaza a mile and a half away.

"I'm not here to support what's

going on," he said. "I'm here to better understand what's going on. I know Oregonians have strong opinions about this, so they deserve to have legislators who care about the facts and care about the people. Getting an opportunity to go to the places where this sad conflict began is very distressing."

Gomberg, who is Jewish, said he understands if constituents and legislative colleagues are upset by his visit to Israel. Outside of the itinerary organized by the Israeli government, he said he and other lawmakers have met with local Israelis who believe the country is guilty of genocide in Gaza.

"Certainly, the government of Israel has an agenda, but that doesn't mean it's my agenda or the agenda of all the legislators that are here," he said. "I think it's time for this conflict to end, and I'm trying to better understand why it's continuing."

Israel hosted Rep. Gomberg, Rep. McIntire, and the other U.S. legisla-

> tors on a trip Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu described as the largestever bipartisan delegation of American lawmakers to visit. The Consulate General of

Israel, calling the trip "50 States, One Israel," is covering the lawmakers' cost of air travel, lodging, ground transportation and meals between Sept. 13 and Sept. 18, according to the Oregon Capital Chronicle report.

See the full Oregon Capital Chronicle story here: https:// oregoncapitalchronicle. com/2025/09/18/twooregon-lawmakers-go-onisrael-sponsored-trip-ascountry-invades-gaza-city/

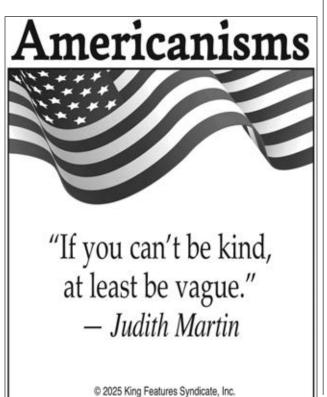
"What I saw on the Gaza border will remain with me for the rest of my life:" Gomberg writes in his newsletter. "Nearby, I could hear the bombing in Gaza. I'm sure there are equally harrowing scenes there."

Since returning home, Gomberg said he has received several emails mostly from outside of the district – advocating that he should have just stayed

"I always appreciate succinct feedback. But avoiding difficult situations is not how I've ever approached my role as a legislator. I'm not going to treat this problem any differently. I am here to gather perspectives, learn all I can, and try to act based on the best available information I can find. I owe it to my constituents who have asked me to better understand this conflict, and I am not going to ignore opportunities to gather more information when I can," Gomberg said. "I'd rather put in the legwork and establish relations with the people I disagree with so I can actually make a difference through dialogue. And as I said before, I don't spend taxpayer dollars on these missions."

Before Gomberg and the other state legislators left Israel, each state was encouraged to plant a tree. Gomberg said he responded to a reporter's question about what the tree planting meant

"People who plant trees think of the future," Gomberg replied. "I plant it today and think of a time in the future when Arab and Jewish children can sit in the shade of this tree in peace and friendship."



## Weekly Online Poll What do like best about the transition into the fall season?

Fall colors

Cooler weather

Pumpkin pie

## Previous Poll Results

Did you participate in Cottage **Grove's World Gold Panning Record event?** 

42.9 % Yes

57.1 % No

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**Public Notices** 

5 p.m. Wednesday prior

## **C**ALENDAR

#### From Page 3

CG Senior Center Bingo. Starts at 12:30 p.m. Community Center 700 E. Gibbs Ave. For senior center members only.

South Lane School Board Meeting 5:30 p.m. South Lane School District Office 455 Adams Ave in Cottage Grove.

#### **OCTOBER 7**

Ukulele Club. Starts at 9 a.m. Cottage Grove Public Library 700 E.

Gibbs Ave. Free for adults of all skill levels.

Oregon Aviation Museum. Open from 10 a.m.- 4 p.m. 2475 Jim Wright Way

Trinity Lutheran Church Free Community Dinner. From 5:15-6:15 p.m. Seventh Street and Quincy Avenue. Take-Out Only.

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

#### **OCTOBER 11**

Harvest Fest. From 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Cottage Grove Public Market 926 E. Main St. Celebrate

what we bring to our tables! Showcase the abundance of farm and food production in our area. Features live music, kids activities, art, produce, food and beverages.

#### **OCTOBER 12-13**

Cottage Theatre's Alice's Adventures in Wonderland Auditions. Sunday 6:30 p.m. and Monday, 6:30 p.m. 700 Village Dr. Directed by Tony Rust, the show runs for three weekends, Dec. 5-21, with a large cast of actors ages 14+. Preregistration is requested and auditioners need only attend one audition day.

More info: www.cottagetheatre.org

#### **OCTOBER 14**

Axe & Fiddle History Pub. From 5-7 p.m. 857 W. Main St. Topic: A Stroll Down Historic Main Street. Local historian Debra Monsive provides historical photos that provide glimpses into the town that was.

#### **OCTOBER 18-19**

Second Annual Shady Oaks Spooktacular Fundraiser. From 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Sunday 10 a.m.-4 p.m. 77380 Highway 99S. Curated vendors offer candies,

baked goods, 3-D figures, home décor, crocheted items, tree ornaments, crystals, tumblers, jewelry, raffles, youth activities, pumpkin patch ride and more. Benefit for local farmers. Vendors can apply at lufkin23@yahoo. com.

#### OCTOBER 18

CG Historical Society Buster Keaton Night. Starts at 7:30 p.m. Community Center Shepherd Room 700 E. Gibbs Ave. Annual tribute to the legendary actor and director who spent the Summer of 1926 in Cottage Grove filming his silent film Masterpiece, The General. Admission \$5/person

#### **OCTOBER 25**

Mayor's Monster Ball. From 5:30-9:30 p.m. Cottage Grove Armory 628 E. Washington Ave. Fundraiser for 2027 Citywide Mural Project and Animal House 50th **Anniversary Celebration** Tickets: \$35/person Live Music: Hot Fuzz. A dance party band 1970s-current covers funk, disco, classic rock, and modern chart-toppers. This event features local food, nohost bar, and surprise entertainment.

## **SPOT**

As Cottage Caramel Co. marks its first anniversary, community support has remained strong.

"Challenges have included road construction and logistics, although I have been very appreciative of how the Wildish crew has worked around my open hours, and some have even become loyal customers. The biggest surprise has been the power of word-of-mouth. Even during the Main Street construction, people made a point to stop by—that speaks volumes about Cottage Grove's spirit."

Henline also expressed gratitude to Georgia Haskell, executive director of the Cottage Grove Area Chamber of Commerce, Downtown Cottage Grove and the Lane Small Business Development Program for hosting the 2024 Cottage Grove Challenge, where she earned second place.

"Julie Johns of Territorial Seed added support before I even had a storefront," she said. "That kind of encouragement showed me I'd made the right decision to open my business here."

The 51-year-old had no idea how to forecast demand. Early weekends often ended in sellouts or caramel wrapping while customers waited. Dedicated production days are now part of her strategy to balance personal life with the demands of a growing

Her advice to aspiring entrepreneurs: lean into the community.

"Grovers genuinely want to support local businesses," she said, "but you have to

Henline said the intentional selection of her business name reflects both place and purpose. "Cottage" ties it to Cottage Grove, but also evokes the warmth and comfort of a cozy kitchen. The shop's branding centers on simplicity, tradition and

### **BUSINESS GROWTH**

Challenges in her first year included road construction and logistics, but the biggest surprise has been the

"The pace of growth has been exciting and humbling," she said. "I believe the new businesses opening on Main Street during the construction will come out stronger from these challenges."

She said each caramel is made in small batches. stirred by hand and wrapped with care. She takes no shortcuts and avoids artificial flavoring. Her proprietary recipe excludes corn syrupa detail many customers appreciate. Flavor decisions are often inspired by customer requests and seasonal trends. Favorites include Sea Salt Vanilla and the new Apple Pie Caramel. She's also considering a Mexican Hot Chocolate flavor based on a recent suggestion.

"Caramel Apple Nachos came from a friend's idea," she said. "More delicious creations will be announced soon."

Moments of pride include seeing regulars return and hearing that some customers travel from out of town just to visit. Henline said it's "incredibly rewarding" to see how local merchants support one another with the shared goal of making Cottage Grove a destination.

One customer told her the caramels reminded them of their grandmother's kitchen.

"That touched me deeply," she said. "Food isn't just about taste-it's about memory and emotion."

## **FUTURE PLANS**

Looking ahead, Henline plans to expand into the specialty food basket industry under a second brand name featuring Cottage Caramel Co. She's also collaborating

with local business T&K Creations for custom laserengraved items to elevate her gift offerings.

Above all, she hopes

"I often tell people I feel movie. Every caramel I make is rooted in appreciation for good food, good company and a community that values both."

#### **COTTAGE** CARAMEL CO.

16 S. Fifth St. (behind the Five Flying Monkeys store) Hours:

Friday-Saturday: noon to 5 p.m.

Sunday: noon to 4 p.m. Thursday

Contact Info Instagram: @ cottagecaramelco

Email: cottagecaramelco@ gmail.com

Phone: 541-653-5553 Who We Are is a frequent Sentinel feature highlighting

the people in our community.

# From Page 1

startup.

show up authentically."

savoring something special.

power of word-of-mouth.

visitors feel welcomed and inspired to slow down.

like I'm living in a Hallmark

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## **PUBLIC NOTICES**

CGS25-181 Public Auction notice Notice is given that the undersigned will hold a public auction on October 9, 2025 At: 11:00 AM At Simply Storage 79177 North River Road Cottage Grove, OR 97424 The personal property heretofore stored with the undersigned by: A07 Katie Humphries E8 James Lilienthal T18 Kristi Ford S26 Jennifer Merrill

## **PUBLIC NOTICES**

CGS25-180 Green Gables Mini Storage will be conducting an online lien auction for the following storage units due to non payment. Auction will be posted at Bid13.com and will begin at 11:00am on 10/1/25 and end at 12:00pm 10/9/25. All units must be cleaned out by 12:00pm 10/13/25. Minimum charge for all units will be \$50.00. The following list of units will

## **PUBLIC NOTICES**

be sold to highest bidder and are all subject to current tenant paying past due amounts in full prior to end of sale on auction end date. Name Unit # Unit Size Amanda Patrick B52A 5 x 5 Mark Robinson B69 10 x 10 Jennifer Gawith B77 10 x 10 David Maury C66 5 x 10 Karissa Ronan C76 10 x 10 Wendi Hilgendorf C109A 5 x 10 Andrew Cook D11 10 x 15 Gary Mclain D29 10 x 30

## **PUBLIC NOTICES**

Gary Quimby Green Gables Mini Storage. 541-942-0291-Office 541-653-2850-Cell greengablesministorage@ gmail.com

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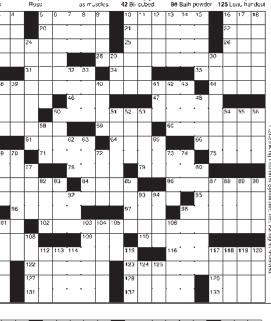
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# World Peace Day



Courtesy from Greg Lee Photography

Morning showers didn't dampen the enthusiasm of those who gathered in Cottage Grove's Coiner Park to celebrate World Peace Day. Students from the Wandering Wolves Forest School, a local private alternative school, led the procession of attendees. The event occurred from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Sunday, Sept.

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children's activities, and information booths hosted by peace-minded organizations. At noon, participants joined others around the globe in observing one minute of silence. Organizers said the local theme, "Peace Through Unity," reflects the broader spirit of the United Nations' International Day of Peace, which was unanimously declared by the UN General Assembly in 1981.

21. The day featured live music, guest speakers,

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