

THE COTTAGE GROVE

Sentinel

Bohemia
Nugget

Inside



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Splash

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Cottage grove Police have
launched an investigation
into a window breaking spree
throughout the city.

Police
launch
window
breaking
spree
investigation

JEREMY C. RUARK
Cottage Grove Sentinel

After receiving numerous citizens' reports in late June about a series of damaged windows, Cottage Grove Police Department (CGPD) investigators launched an investigation and requested the public's help identifying the person or persons responsible.

"In many of these cases, it appears the windows were broken by either a slingshot firing off small ball bearings or a BB gun," the CGPD stated in a release.

Police said there were two separate incidents within a short distance of each other in which windows were broken with chrome ball bearings.

The Sentinel reached out to CGPD's Brooke Crow for insight into the vandalism investigation.

The Sentinel: What locations has the CGPD received reports from about the window breakings?

Brooke Crow: The incidents that have been reported throughout town, primarily in the areas of N 8th Street, S 8th Street, N 16th Street, the designated camp at 12th Street, and near Safeway.

The Sentinel: What is the estimated damage caused by this vandalism?

Crow: The estimated cost of damage to the vehicles ranges from approximately \$300 to \$500 per vehicle. For the businesses that reported similar damage to their windows, repair costs are estimated to range from \$1,000 to \$1,200 per business.

The Sentinel: Has anyone been injured in the cases and wouldn't you say this could be dangerous, especially to small children and the elderly?

Crow: Yes, this is extremely dangerous for everyone.

The Sentinel: Have you received any tips since the CGPD Facebook posting?

Crow: Unfortunately, no leads have been received by our social media posting.

The Sentinel: Any arrests or suspect identification?

Crow: No descriptive details have been given regarding the suspect(s).

The Sentinel: What would be the presumptive fine for such vandalism?

Crow: Officers have probable cause to charge the involved

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Summer tourism rising in Cottage Grove

JEREMY C. RUARK
Cottage Grove Sentinel

"I am really excited about this summer. There is so much going on," Cottage Grove Chamber of Commerce Executive Director Georgia Haskell said. "We are seeing more visitors, and we are definitely ahead of last summer. That's for sure."

More visitors to Cottage Grove translates into increasing revenue for local business owners.

"June was a great month. We had lots of people here," Haskell said, adding that the Oregon Gran Fondo, a bicycle race that rolls through the city, and the celebration of the multi-million-dollar Main Street Revitalization project were key events that drew visitors and locals alike last month.

"We are in full summer mode," she said. "People are here, and people are happy."

Haskell said beyond the consistent community events, Cottage Grove is a unique, and welcoming destination location for visitors.

"We are in the perfect spot," she said. "We are close to the mountains. We are close to the ocean. We have two lakes, three rivers, seven waterfalls. We've got the bridges. We have two local theaters. We've got everything you need to have an amazing time without having to go very far."

Haskell said the city's variety of restaurants and coffee shops are also a key visitor attraction.

"We not only have fresh-made amazing food, but we also have people at our businesses serving you who care about you and enjoy conversations with you. That definitely makes it a place you want not only to visit, but to live," she said. "We are extremely lucky to live here."

Specific visitor counts were not immediately available at the time of this writing, but Haskell estimated tourism in Cottage Grove is up approximately 20% over last year at this time.



Cindy Weeldreyer / Cottage Grove Sentinel

The splash pad at the entrance of Bohemia Park is an attraction for both visitors and locals in Cottage Grove.

An edge for Cottage Grove is the city's unique specialty shops, especially along Main Street in the city's Historic District.

"You have to have such diversity in such a small town like this," she said. "Especially in the wintertime when it dies down. You have to be flexible."

The annual Rodeo, the Spirit of Bohemia Days, with the city parade, Summer Concerts in the Park, the KKND Roll 'N' Rumble Car Show, are just a few of the traditional events that continue to draw visitors to Cottage Grove, according to Haskell. She added that the current revitalization of older buildings in the city, such as the development of the Bohemia Inn along Main

Street is also key elements in attracting tourists.

"Any revitalization of an old building that isn't being used is definitely a benefit, and when the

Bohemia Inn opens, it will be a game changer. I think we are all in for a surprise when that opens. It will contribute just perfectly with the historic charm that we already have in downtown. It's

going to fit right in." Haskell compliments the city's efforts to develop new affordable housing to help sustain and grow the local economy.

According to Haskell, the development of 100-plus homes currently in progress right now demonstrates how the city is working to meet the local housing needs.

"It is incoming new available housing from low income to people that can afford a big guy," she said. "It's not just cookie-cutter. They've really put thought into the housing that we need, and they are executing that plan. When you've reached your boundary limit, there is only so much that you can do. They are really surprising us with all the hard work that they are doing and what they are accomplishing."

When it comes to overall challenges in sustaining the visitor flow, and attracting more tourists, Haskell said:

"I don't think we are going to have any challenges at all. We have an event planned every single weekend. There is going to be zero problems in attracting and keeping people here. The only thing that would inhibit us would be smoke from wildfires. So, environmental issues would be the only thing."

Burback to lead BMD 2026 Parade

CINDY WEELDREYER
Cottage Grove Sentinel

The Bohemia Mining Days Leadership Team has selected local businessman and longtime community volunteer Garland Burback as the Grand Marshal of the 2026 Grand Miners Parade.

The selection honors a lifetime of service by Burback that has shaped Cottage Grove for more than 50 years.

Burback was born in Portland in 1942 and grew up in a close knit extended family of Russian immigrants. Many relatives owned waste disposal companies, and he entered the industry early. As a teenager in Eugene, he rode and later drove garbage trucks for his father and uncle, learning the value of hard work and responsibility long before he graduated from South Eugene High School in 1960. He married his high school sweetheart, Darlene, in 1963, beginning a partnership that would last 58 years.

His career took a major step forward in 1973 when he became one of four general partners who formed Sanipac in Eugene. The following year he purchased Cottage Grove Garbage Service from Fred and Jack Spady and moved his young family to Cottage Grove in January 1974. Garland and Darlene raised three daughters and taught them, by



Cindy Weeldreyer / Cottage Grove Sentinel

Local businessman and community volunteer Garland Burback leads the BMD 2026 Grand Miners Parade as its Grand Marshal.

example, that community service is not optional. It is a responsibility.

Darlene's contributions to Cottage Grove were extensive. She was deeply committed to supporting young people and helped found the Drug Action Council in the 1980s to protect youth from choices that could derail their futures. She served on many Bohemia Mining Days planning committees, preparing the festival site with help from

the family business and organizing games. In the early 1990s, she and her oldest daughter, Kimberly, introduced the first Little Miss Bohemia pageant. She loved being a mother and grandmother and treasured the time her family spent enjoying everything Bohemia City offered. Darlene died from cancer in 2021, ending her long marriage to Garland and leaving a legacy of service that continues through her family.

For generations, the Burback family and Cottage Grove Garbage Service have supported countless nonprofit organizations and donated trash receptacles to community events, including Bohemia Mining Days. Garland's civic involvement expanded beyond his business. He served on the South Lane School District Board of Directors and was later elected to the Cottage Grove City Council, serving from 2010 to 2018. During his tenure he championed moving council meeting start times from 7:30 p.m. to 7 p.m., a small but meaningful change appreciated by city staff and meeting participants.

Burback continues his community service as a City Planning Commissioner and serves on the Community Sharing and South Lane Wheels boards of directors. His approach has always been steady, practical, and focused on helping the community function well.

"I love Bohemia Mining Days and how our community benefits from it in so many ways," Burback said. "I enjoy the parade and the music and, most importantly, it creates opportunities to see and visit with people you don't see very often anymore. It also draws visitors here

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Cindy Weeldreyer / Cottage Grove Sentinel

The Eugene Symphony performed at the Cottage Grove Concerts in the Park Monday evening, July 22, 2024.

Outdoor Concerts announced

JEREMY C. RUARK
Cottage Grove Sentinel

The annual summer Cottage Grove Concerts in the Park are back at Bohemia Park.

The concerts are free and held at Bohemia Park, 101 N.

10th Street, in Cottage Grove on Wednesdays from 6:30 – 8 p.m. through August.

The music events include food and beverage vendors that open service at 5:30 p.m.

The concerts are made possible with financial support

through sponsorships from Cottage Grove Chamber of Commerce member businesses.

This summer’s lineup includes Floral HZ July 15, and Greg Nestler on July 29.

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2026**

June 10	Rockin Rewind
June 17	Inner Limits
June 24	The Regulars
July 1	Blue Skies Big Band
July 8	Coupe de Ville
July 15	Floral HZ
July 22	Greg Nestler
July 29	The Huckleberrys
Aug 5	The Luke Cole Band
Aug 12	Andre Andrew
Aug 19	Bradly Shepherd's Perfect Flavor
Aug 26	RIFFLE

BOHEMIA PARK

COTTAGE GROVE

**Food & Beverage
Vendors
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at 5:30 PM**

**Concert
Starts at 6:30 PM
Ends at 8:00 PM**

The Adams Family auditions open

Cottage Theatre has scheduled auditions at 2 p.m. Saturday, July 18, and at 3 p.m. Sunday, July 19, for its October production, The Addams Family Musical.

This wacky musical starring TV’s favorite spooky family will run for four weekends from October 2 - 25, 2026. Interested actors are encouraged to register for the audition date which best suits their schedule. Auditions will take place at Cottage Theatre, 700 Village Drive in Cottage Grove.

ABOUT THE PLAY
In The Addams Family Musical, Wednesday Addams, the quirky and independent daughter of the world’s most macabre family, falls in love with someone shockingly normal. When the Addams clan invites her boyfriend’s strait-laced family over for dinner, one “normal” night spirals into an uproarious evening full of shocking secrets, awkward encounters, and laugh-out-loud mayhem.

With its eerie charm, larger-than-life characters, unforgettable melodies—and a story that’s both



wacky and surprisingly touching—The Addams Family Musical is a wildly entertaining reminder that every family is a little weird in their own way.

Cottage Theatre’s production is directed and choreographed by Marc Siegel.

More information and a registration link are available on the Cottage Theatre website, www.cottagetheatre.org. Advance registration is requested.

ABOUT COTTAGE THEATRE

Cottage Theatre, founded in 1982, produces a year-round season of plays and musicals featuring talented Lane County performers. The theatre

also offers educational programs for youth.

A member of the American Association of Community Theatre (AACT), Cottage Theatre was one of just six theatres in the country selected to produce a world premiere as part of the AACT 2024 NewPlayFest. The theatre is known for its strong production values, in keeping with its mission of “engaging and enriching our community through the magic of live theatre.”

Cottage Theatre is located at 700 Village Drive in Cottage Grove. To reach the Theatre call, 541-942-8001.

Flapjacks at 5,000 feet: 62nd Miners Breakfast

CINDY WEELDREYER
Cottage Grove Sentinel

Each July, the Prospectors and Gold Diggers welcome hundreds of people to Bohemia Saddle Park for one of Cottage Grove’s longest running community traditions, the Miners Breakfast on the Mountain.

The event began in the mid-1960s, specifically 1964, when club members recreated a miner’s camp and served a high mountain breakfast to celebrate the region’s mining heritage. More than sixty years later, the breakfast remains a highlight of Bohemia Mining Days weekend and continues to draw families, volunteers and newcomers to the 5,000 foot ridge.

This year marks the first breakfast under new club president Howard Sunkler, a retired Lane County heavy equipment operator who has been connected to the event for decades. Long before helping produce the breakfast, Sunkler and his road crew graded the mountain roads ahead of the event each summer. That work gave him his first connection to the tradition and eventually led him to bring his family up the mountain every year. He and his wife, Lori, volunteered for many years before they were invited to join the club in 2021. Members elected him president in January.

MEMORIES MADE BEFORE SUNRISE

Some of Sunkler’s favorite memories come from the years he brought his grade school age children to help serve breakfast. He recalls waking them at 3:30 a.m. on Sunday morning already dressed and ready to go. They would take their blankets and pillows and sleep in the truck for the hour and a half drive



Courtesy from Greg Lee Photography

For 62 years, the Prospectors and Gold Diggers Club has hosted its legendary high mountain breakfast and the menu is unchanged.

it takes to drive 28 miles to Lane County Parks only high alpine park.

“I was impressed with them because you do not even get up that early for deer hunting,” he said. “Those early mornings, surrounded by volunteers and mountain scenery, helped shape our family’s connection to the event.”

A LEGACY BUILT OVER DECADES

While Sunkler now serves as club president, the breakfast itself continues to be led by longtime former president Bruce McDonald, who has anchored the event for more than 25 years despite a near fatal accident several years ago.

McDonald still directs the breakfast team and oversees

purchasing, a responsibility he shares with his daughter, Sheila Healy. Their work ensures the breakfast is produced almost exactly the same way it has been for more than a half century. There have been no changes to the menu, the cookshack routine or the way volunteers move through the morning’s tasks.

It has always been a large scale operation and remains the club’s biggest fundraiser of the year. Proceeds are used to provide scholarships to local graduating seniors and to maintain the historic Dr. Snapp House on South River Road.

Under McDonald’s direction, the breakfast requires

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OBITUARY

Wilbur Leon (Butch) Eastman

May 3, 1942 – June 29, 2026

In Loving Memory -Wilbur Leon "Butch" Eastman

Wilbur Leon "Butch" Eastman, beloved husband, father, brother, papa and friend to many, passed away peacefully on June 29, 2026, at the age of 84. Born in Cottage Grove, Oregon, Butch graduated from Cottage Grove High School in 1960 and spent much of his working life employed in veneer mills throughout Oregon, where he was known for his strong work ethic and dedication. Butch deeply loved his family and found great joy in the outdoors. He enjoyed fishing, hunting and spending time



and Danielle; his three great-grandchildren; and his sister, Verva Tarwater. Butch will be deeply missed and lovingly remembered by his family, friends and the many lives he touched over the years.

at shooting clubs. He had a gift for making people feel welcome, and his wisdom, humor and gentle spirit left a lasting impression on all who knew him.

He is survived by his loving wife, Illona "Loni" Eastman; his daughter, Tami Jernberg (Mike); his daughter, Karalee VanCleave (Dave); his grandchildren, Nicholas, Lauren, Madison, Meghan, and Danielle; his three great-grandchildren; and his sister, Verva Tarwater. Butch will be deeply missed and lovingly remembered by his family, friends and the many lives he touched over the years.

BLM announces timber sale revenue figures

STAFF REPORT

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) generated more than \$10.7 million in revenue from timber sales during the second quarter of 2026.

The BLM said the sale supports American jobs and increasing domestic timber supply.

During the quarter, the BLM sold approximately 41 million board feet of timber across 1,500 acres in Oregon and California.

That amount of lumber is enough to build nearly 2,600 homes and supports local economies and well-paying jobs in logging, milling, and construction, the BLM states in a release.

The quarterly results come as recently confirmed BLM Director Steve Pearce visited western Oregon to meet with BLM employees, industry partners, and local mills about the BLM's timber program and the work happening to support domestic timber production.

"This was such an important trip for me to take," Pearce said. "It was great to see Americans doing real work on the ground. These folks are part of a crucial industry that is helping rebuild the economy from the ground up."

The BLM plans to hold six timber sales in July 2026 to offer 31 million board feet



Metro Creative Connection

More information about BLM's timber plans and results can be found at <https://www.blm.gov/programs/natural-resources/forests-and-woodlands/timber-sales>.

of timber across almost 835 acres.

More information about BLM's timber plans and results can be found at <https://www.blm.gov/programs/natural-resources/forests-and-woodlands/timber-sales>.

BACKGROUND

The BLM manages 58 million acres of forests—including 2.4 million acres in western Oregon—of some of the most productive forests in the world, and is committed to supplying a reliable, secure, and resilient domestic supply of timber, according to the release.

BLM forestry supports economic security, reduces risks from wildfire, conserves fish and wildlife habitat, and decreases costs of energy production. Local communities rely on jobs that come from BLM forests, and timber from public land feeds local industry.

More than 20% of BLM-managed lands are forest and woodland ecosystems. The BLM said it ensures the health and resilience of these public forest lands as well as the availability of traditional forest products, such as timber.

Oregon lawmakers say they'll prioritize bipartisanship in 2027 transportation funding plan

MIA MALDONADO

Oregon Capital Chronicle

Bipartisanship and earlier deliberations over transportation funding are a priority in the 2027 legislative session, a mostly Democratic group of lawmakers told the business and transportation experts tasked with vetting and recommending ideas to solve the Oregon Department of Transportation's impending funding shortfall.

For a third year in a row, lawmakers in January will meet in Salem knowing the state's transportation agency can't afford to maintain its current services levels without new funding.

But this time, lawmakers hope they'll have a clearer, sustainable plan with guidance from Gov. Tina Kotek's 12-member "Rebuilding our Transportation Vision" workgroup. In its third meeting, the workgroup Tuesday invited seven lawmakers for a roundtable to reflect on past legislative mistakes and the policy ideas they think could reach across party lines.

"I'm looking for something that can garner not just the majority, but something close

to a consensus and to do so in a bipartisan way," said Rep. David Gomberg, D-Otis.

Sens. Anthony Broadman, D-Bend; Khahn Pham, D-Portland; Chris Gorsek, D-Gresham; and Bruce Starr, R-Dundee and Reps. Susan McLain, D-Forest Grove and Mark Gamba, D-Milwaukie, joined Gomberg.

Starr, the lone Republican lawmaker on the panel, said he was encouraged by his colleagues' bipartisan goals.

"I'm really hopeful that the work that you'll do will help to inform a bipartisan consensus-based package that comes forward potentially, but let's not kid ourselves about the challenges facing us," he told the workgroup.

After Democrats in a fall 2025 special session passed a scaled-down, highly unpopular transportation plan to raise \$4.3 million over the next decade, Starr alongside Rep. Ed Diehl, R-Scio and Taxpayer Association of Oregon founder Jason Williams spearheaded a petition that successfully blocked hikes to the gas tax and other transportation fees after a referendum vote in May.

Oregonians overwhelmingly voted against those tax and fee hikes, and the state's massive transportation agency still doesn't have a permanent director. Starr reminded the group. The agency is on its second interim director after former director Kris Strickler retired from the public sector last year.

Oregon lawmakers brainstorm ways to relieve gas tax reliance

Many lawmakers agreed that Oregon's transportation system overrelies on the gas tax.

Half of the money raised from the gas tax goes to the state, and the remaining is split between cities and counties. But as more Oregonians drive electric vehicles and the cost of transportation materials and labor increases, the state and localities have gradually collected less revenue from the gas tax despite fuel-efficient vehicles contributing to the wear and tear of public roads.

Democrats suggested indexing the gas tax so it's proportional to inflation, taxing the sale of new vehicles or drivers who buy a new car worth more than \$75,000.

Another suggestion was finding a way to tax tourists who contribute to wear and tear on state roads.

The workgroup and lawmakers also concluded that Oregon's transportation agency has too much responsibility on its hands and not enough money. Both Starr and Gomberg poked at the idea of splitting some of the department's responsibilities into their own agencies.

"I think we need to reimagine the department of transportation," Starr said. "Does it make sense to have DMV as part of the department of transportation? Does it make sense to have a rail division as part of the transportation department? You can pull out rail and transit as a separate standalone agency. I think we need to think about those bigger questions."

Many in the roundtable supported the idea of implementing road user charges, or

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GUEST COLUMN

Cottage Grove Garbage Service responds to Lane County

TIM ALVERSON
Cottage Grove Guest Column

Cottage Grove Garbage Service is responding to recent statements by Lane County suggesting that the company that serves as the franchised hauler for the City of Cottage Grove “refuses” to dispose of solid waste collected within the City of Cottage Grove at Lane County’s Short Mountain Landfill and implying that this decision is a contributing factor to reductions in County services caused by a budget deficit.

That characterization omits an important fact: Lane County’s disposal fees are approximately 36 percent higher than the disposal option Cottage Grove Garbage Service currently uses for solid waste generated in the City of Cottage Grove.

Cottage Grove Garbage Service has a responsibility to provide reliable and cost-effective service to its customers. The financial benefit of using a lower-cost disposal option is passed on to the ratepayers within the City of Cottage Grove.

The decision to utilize a more economical disposal option is not a refusal to

support Lane County. It is a responsible business decision made in the interest of the customers we serve which include Lane County residents, businesses and non-profits.

When a public disposal facility charges substantially more than available alternatives, waste haulers with access to lawful and economically viable disposal options must consider those alternatives. Lane County’s pricing decisions have made Short Mountain less competitive for haulers that have other disposal choices.

It is therefore misleading to suggest that haulers choosing lower-cost disposal options are responsible for Lane County’s budget challenges without acknowledging the significant difference in disposal costs that influenced those decisions.

Lane County establishes its own disposal rates and manages its own budget. Cottage Grove Garbage Service does not set Lane County’s disposal fees, nor does it control the County’s financial decisions.

We believe the public deserves a complete explanation of this issue.

The central question is not why Cottage Grove Garbage Service would choose a lawful disposal option that costs approximately 36 percent less and benefits local ratepayers. The appropriate question is why Lane County’s disposal rates have become sufficiently uncompetitive that haulers with other options are economically incentivized to take their waste elsewhere.

Cottage Grove Garbage Service remains committed to providing dependable service while responsibly managing costs on behalf of the residents and businesses of Cottage Grove.

We welcome a factual and transparent discussion about waste disposal costs, County policies, and the decisions that affect local ratepayers. That discussion should include all relevant facts and should not place responsibility for Lane County’s budget challenges on businesses that make lawful and financially responsible decisions that benefit the customers they serve.

Tim Alverson is the General Manager/Owner of Cottage Grove Garbage Service.

EDITORIAL CARTOON



COMMENTARY

Two simple prosperity proposals

RANDY STAPILUS
Oregon Capital Chronicle

Not everything in the newly-released report of the Governor’s Prosperity Council is uncontroversial, or should be, or points specifically to major systemic problems that limit Oregon’s economic growth.

But some do. Two general proposals especially, which may at first sound almost like anodyne boilerplate, seem on reflection like matters of real significance and specific relevance to the way Oregon works, or doesn’t.

And in theory at least, both ought not to be non-controversial because they touch on matters of simple competence and fairness.

Gov. Tina Kotek formed the 15-member council, which includes a number of business leaders around the state, in January to “recommend actionable steps to accelerate Oregon’s economy, create good paying jobs, and recruit and grow Oregon’s businesses.

It didn’t stint on recommendations: The report runs 452 pages. Some of its ideas are very specific, such as those concerning taxes and spending, and some still seem a little more vague, even if numbers are attached (such as a recommendation to reduce regulations by a set percentage, without more specificity on which regulations exactly should be dropped).

But at least two ideas have deeper implications for the way things are or should be done in Oregon.

The topline for the first: “The state should transform Business Oregon [a state economic development organization] into the Oregon Commerce Authority, governed by a board of business and innovation leaders and the Governor ...”

Which sounds like: “Great, let’s set up a committee and slap a new name on it.”

Except that’s not what the report was getting at. (The new name would be beside the point.) There’s an underlying problem in Oregon’s economic development system

this proposal is designed to address:

“More than 850 organizations make up Oregon’s economic development system, all broadly focused on business growth and job creation. However, consistent collaboration around shared priorities is the exception, not the norm. For businesses of all sizes, this fragmentation can make it difficult to identify a clear entry point, navigate available programs, or receive coordinated support.”

The simple number of 850 economic development organizations in Oregon suggests the issue: Clearly the problem doesn’t involve inadequate resources or effort, but rather the lack of a unified effort. If Oregon’s economic development efforts are that fractured, that incoherent, there should be little argument the system presents a real handicap to economic growth.

The point of the Authority would be to place someone in actual charge, someone setting a consistent approach and message and harnessing the grab-bag of small pieces into a larger, comprehensive effort.

It went on: “The Authority should establish measurable statewide economic development goals and maintain a public-facing dashboard tracking key metrics such as business growth, job creation, project timelines, regional investment, customer response times, and economic competitiveness outcomes to improve transparency and accountability ...”

Simple provision of coordination and competence could help quite a bit. It’s not that all those people working in economic development aren’t capable; lots of them surely are. But if they’re not working together, the state isn’t going to get traction from them.

The argument for the second point may be a little less clear cut for some people, but the underlying principle should not be: Justice delayed is justice denied.

This relates to the state’s overall system — not so much its content, but its process — of regulation. The Council said

that people commenting on it around the state said much of the statewide regulatory system is “fragmented, lengthy, inconsistent, and costly.”

That assessment probably wouldn’t draw a serious argument broadly around the state, and across a large number of agencies, and it would apply to individuals and non-profits as well, and really almost anyone other than people trying to use the flaws in the cumbersome system to achieve a result not through merit but through wearing down the opposition.

Those too-frequent realities of the system build distrust generally in government systems, and ought to be something advocates of government action would want to address as well.

The proposed solutions involve setting action deadlines and even penalties for unnecessary delays: “The process should prevent projects from being delayed indefinitely and should include accountability measures such as public reporting and partial fee refunds when deadlines are missed.”

The idea is for greater efficiency and timeliness in addressing regulatory issues, not merely as an aspiration but backed up with legal teeth and top-level enforcement. A more rigorous system surely would provide economic benefits, but the positive implications would ripple beyond that.

These are things a governor and Legislature should be able easily to do. They seem clear and obvious enough, and the benefits seem direct enough if the rules are strong enough and they are enforced from the top down.

<https://oregoncapitalchronicle.com/2026/07/02/two-simple-prosperity-proposals/>

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LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Thank you, Oregon

Dear Oregonians

I want to thank you for doing your part in this year’s Primary Election—for casting your ballot and making your voice heard. Thank you for participating in our democracy.

Voting is safe and convenient here in Oregon thanks to our vote-by-mail system. We consistently have some of the highest voter turnout in the country because of it, and this election was no exception. More than 1.28 million eligible Oregonians voted in this year’s primary. That’s the highest turnout we’ve ever seen in a midterm primary election.

And with several important measures and candidate races on the ballot, Oregonians showed up to shape the future of their communities and our state. Together, you decided who we’ll see on the

November ballot and helped chart the course Oregon will take in the years ahead.

I cannot overstate how meaningful that is.

Voting is how we hold politicians accountable. It’s how we elect representatives to advocate for our communities. It’s how we shape the future of our state, and our country.

Your vote is your power. That’s exactly why our most fundamental right—has come under increasing attack in recent months.

We’ve seen unconstitutional executive orders that threaten the integrity of our elections get issued. We’ve seen lawsuits aimed at undermining vote-by-mail get filed. We’ve seen repeated efforts aimed at making Americans question whether their vote truly matters.

But our democracy holds strong.

We’ve gotten a lot of great news in the past few weeks, and I hope you’ll take a moment to read more on that below, but here’s the bottom line: your vote matters, and you can trust that it will be counted this November.

Just remember to vote early, and use an official ballot drop box whenever possible.

As we ring out our nation’s 250th anniversary, the semiquincentennial, we’re reminded that the work of building a more perfect union belongs to all of us.

Every election provides us with another opportunity to do that work together, and I look forward to joining you in that effort this November.

Sincerely,
Tobias Read
Oregon Secretary of State



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Quote of the Week

“Innovation distinguishes
between a leader and a
follower.”

Steve Jobs



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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Public Notices

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BREAKFAST
From Page 5

approximately 25 volunteers to produce. Four generations of the McDonald family now participate, reflecting the deep roots the event has grown over time.

The shopping list alone shows the scale of the work. Volunteers prepare 190 dozen eggs, 14 hams, 36 cases of pancake mix, six cases of regular syrup, six bottles of sugar free syrup, 140 ten ounce cans of orange juice concentrate and three 3-pound cans of Folgers coffee, which brews about 50 gallons.

Over the two decades before the pandemic, attendance averaged around 850 people per year, and some years approached 1,000. McDonald estimates the crew served 68,000 pancakes during that period. One year, a hungry young man took full advantage of the all you can eat tradition and ate 27 pancakes.

KEEPING THE TRADITION ALIVE THROUGH CHALLENGES

The pandemic forced the club to cancel the public breakfast in 2020 and 2021,

but members refused to break the tradition. A small group drove up the mountain and shared breakfast together to keep the unbroken streak of eating breakfast on the third Sunday in July.

In 2024, a forest fire forced another last-minute change. With food purchased to feed 1,000 people, the club quickly relocated to the Cottage Grove High School parking lot. Thanks to the South Lane School District, volunteers were able to serve breakfast in town. The pivot allowed the event to continue and gave some diners their first chance to attend after years of wanting to make the trip up the mountain. That now remains Plan B if conditions force the event to stay in town.

WHY PEOPLE KEEP COMING BACK

Sunkler said the breakfast is special because of the volunteers who make it happen. The work is demanding, from hauling equipment up and down the mountain to standing on their feet for hours, but the camaraderie keeps the tradition strong.

“Our club members are some of the nicest and most hardworking, history loving volunteers I know,” he said. “First and foremost, we are

committed to have a good time together and that spirit of fun spreads to our guests who also stand for a long time to get up to the cookshack for their food.”

The scenic alpine setting is part of the appeal. “And hey, where can you drive to around here and eat breakfast at 5,000 feet?” he added.

PREPARING FOR A BIG TURNOUT

The club is prepared to serve 1,000 people this year and hopes for a strong turnout. Sunkler says the weather looks favorable and volunteers are ready. Many will arrive Friday and stay through the weekend, enjoying the scenery and the fellowship that has always been part of the event.

The cookshack crew heats up the griddles before dawn and turn them off after 1 p.m. Pancakes, eggs, ham, juice and coffee make up the traditional menu, and volunteers move with practiced efficiency to serve the long line of guests who arrive throughout the morning. An estimate suggests the all-you-can-eat flapjacks deal means the club has served tens of thousands of flapjacks to their hungry guests since 1964.

A COMMUNITY RITUAL THAT ENDURES



Courtesy from Greg Lee Photography

Making the trek to the Bohemia Mining District to enjoy the Miners Breakfast on the Mountain is a not-to-be-missed family tradition for generations regional families.

The Miners Breakfast on the Mountain remains one of Cottage Grove’s most recognizable traditions. It blends history, hospitality and the shared experience of gathering in a place that has meant something to generations of local families. For Sunkler and the volunteers who make it happen, the goal is simple, welcome people to the mountain, serve a hearty breakfast and keep a tradition alive that has endured for more than sixty years.

WHEN: 6 a.m. to 1 p.m. Sunday, July 19

WHERE: Bohemia Saddle Park, Bohemia Mining District, 38 miles southeast of Cottage Grove

COST: Adults 15 dollars, Kids ages 3 to 12 ten dollars, Kids under 3 free (cash only)

MENU: All you can eat flapjacks, eggs, ham, juice and coffee

DIRECTIONS: Drive east on Row River Road and follow the signs, do not use GPS A map is available at www.spiritofbmd.com

FYI: Event memorabilia will be for sale. For more information call Cindy at 541-915-0113

PLAN
From Page 4

charging drivers based on the number of miles they travel rather than the amount of fuel they purchase.

Some shared concerns about how the state would track people’s vehicle mileage and privacy concerns without creating more bureaucracy. Those concerns, Starr said, can be addressed if the state were to contract with an outside vendor.

The state already offers electric vehicle drivers the option to pay per mile or pay higher fees at registration to account for not paying a gas tax.

Oregon lawmakers reflect on transportation funding mistakes

Lawmakers emphasized the need to introduce their transportation funding legislation much earlier in the process than they did in 2025.

“The bill has to come out at the end of January,

beginning of February,” Gamba said. “That’s how early so that we have the time to work it through it.”

Lawmakers and work-group members also agreed that a new transportation funding package shouldn’t commit to projects before having an accurate cost estimate, pointing to the uncompleted Interstate 5 Rose Quarter and Interstate 205 Abernethy Bridge projects met with staggering cost overruns surpassing initial legislative estimates.

“I’d like to see that to make sure that we can really make sure we’re preserving our existing road system first before we over commit our state and then our debt and bond capacity,” Pham said.

Broadman said he sees 2027 as a clean slate for lawmakers to address the state’s transportation woes.

“I would love to leave the politics of 2025 behind,” he said. “I don’t want to leave the work behind.”

[https://oregoncapitalchronicle.com/2026/07/07/oregon-lawmakers-say-](https://oregoncapitalchronicle.com/2026/07/07/oregon-lawmakers-say-theyll-prioritize-bipartisan-ship-in-2027-transportation-funding-plan/)



Mia Maldonado / Oregon Capital Chronicle

Rep. Susan McLain, D-Forest Grove, alongside a panel of lawmakers, addresses Gov. Tina Kotek’s “Rebuilding Our Transportation Vision Workgroup” at the Association of Oregon Counties office in Salem on Tuesday, July 7, 2026.

theyll-prioritize-bipartisan-ship-in-2027-transportation-funding-plan/

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BURBACK
From Page 1

and gives a boost to our local economy.”

Spirit of Bohemia Mining Days Executive Director Matthew Hewlett said the selection of Burback as this year’s Grand Marshal was straightforward.

“Garland Burback is one of the reasons Spirit of Bohemia

Mining Days exists today,” Hewlett said. “He was part of the miracle that allowed the 60th Anniversary tribute to happen in 2024 after it was officially cancelled.”

Hewlett said Burback’s support went beyond encouragement.

“He wrote the check that paid for the liability insurance that allowed our hastily organized effort to go forward. So be sure to give him a thank you wave when he passes by on Saturday morning.”

Burback’s selection recognizes a lifetime of service, leadership, and quiet dedication to the community he loves. On Saturday morning, he will lead the parade he has supported for decades, carrying forward the tradition he and his family helped strengthen for generations.

Read more about the Bohemia Mining Days in a special section in this edition of the Cottage Grove Sentinel.

POLICE
From Page 1

individuals with Criminal Mischief in the First Degree (ORS 164.365) and Criminal Mischief in the Second Degree (ORS 164.354).

CGPD investigators are asking anyone who may have any information regarding these ongoing incidents, to contact the CGPD non-emergency dispatch line at 541-942-9145, ext. 1.

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

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PUBLIC NOTICES

6. Unit # D-320 Michele Martinez .Misc. Goods 7. Unit # G-108 David Sutton .Misc. Goods 8. Unit # D-231 Donald Brown. .Misc. Goods 9. Unit # A-040 Michele Gatewood. .Misc. Goods UNLESS PAYMENT IN-FULL IS MADE BEFORE THE TIME OF AUCTION. 1520 Highway 99 N, Cottage Grove, Oregon 97424, Phone (541)942-6996 SEALED BIDS ON ENTIRE UNIT DUE IN OFFICE NO LATER THAN 11:30AM "CASH ONLY" BID DATE: July 25th, 2026 NOTIFICATION DATE: July 1, 2026 07/08/26, 07/15/26

999
PUBLIC NOTICES

Super Crossword CHARGING JOE
ACROSS
1 Reserves of stock
9 Person applying a nasal stick-on
16 Understands
20 Address
21 Popsom personage
22 Out of the wind, nautically
23 Start of a riddle
25 Watson
26 Was bested
27 Bug threads
28 Emo of a very comedy
30 Crazy plans
34 Army of 1
35 Have in mind
36 King - Paris
37 Middle, part 2
41 Unhappy
44 Almonds, e.g.
45 See
46 Jamaican
47 Alpine
48 Extra NFL periods
51 Address Long of Miss ing
53 Hope at Behr
54 Rags, part 3
60 The Taking of — 123
61 Creek
62 Pre-2001
63 With
64 Across, informed on the latest
67 Lacking living organisms
69 Shampoo brand
71 Vidal
72 Was bested
73 Some till b is
74 He "m e g
76 Doi in the season
78 P to sound
79 Riddle, part 4
82 Pong
86 Tarts cousin
87 Capable to his pals
88 "The First 48"
89 Picky
90 Mann's mid boy band
91 "Sir"
95 Hey there
97 Wee child
98 End of the riddle
102 Yoga chants
103 Looser up
104 Tokenology
105 To some degree
109 Popular rum brand
111 Suing
112 Determines the sum of
113 Heavily
114 Scroop (out)
115 Riddle's answer
120 Give for a
121 Determines the sum of
122 The's
123 Uno + des
124 Some tax cheat's
125 Lays out for printing
DOWN
1 Cries loudly
2 Like a one-off committee
3 Fa' suddenly
4 Pumping
5 Precept
6 "Warzone" singer Yako
7 Waldbes
8 Narcissist's
9 People crying
10 Maple lu d
11 Greed for wealth
12 Russian-built fighter jets
13 Alaric's ap-
14 Fanned a secret union?
15 Ginger's trait
16 Scottish Cell
17 Suburb of Phoenix
18 Pennington
19 Ocean
20 Coast
24 "White Flag" singer of 2003
25 Have in mind
26 For fear I'll
27 To the extent
28 Aussie b r
33 New Jersey's — Hall
35 Smaller than
38 Lens aperture
39 Russo of "The Irony"
40 Hitch movie effects
41 Hold to one's decision
42 Nove st
43 Buy and sell
48 Edsel of the Musketeers
50 Sudden y
51 Sings the
52 Wants and
55 Pat in "Per-
56 Song line
58 "Beauty"
59 Poetic Muse
63 Oo Glory's land
64 Really strong
65 City in Spe-
66 A short round of tennis
68 A who drew the Yokems
70 For fear I'll
72 To the extent
75 Ben's land
77 A Java + Zoo
79 Not as messy
80 Harvest
81 The F g
82 Banjo's in-
83 Once infusing device
84 Cuckoo from a film director
85 Long to undo
86 Hunk Hogan's
87 "My trou-
88 Alternatives to GIFs or
89 JPEGS
90 Outwit
91 one's sniveling
92 Hunk Hogan's
93 "My trou-
94 Alternatives to GIFs or
95 JPEGS
96 Hunk Hogan's
97 "My trou-
98 Alternatives to GIFs or
99 JPEGS
100 Really strong
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102 Wants and
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105 To some degree
109 Popular rum brand
111 Suing
112 Determines the sum of
113 Heavily
114 Scroop (out)
115 Riddle's answer
120 Give for a
121 Determines the sum of
122 The's
123 Uno + des
124 Some tax cheat's
125 Lays out for printing

Americanisms

"I don't have pet peeves like some people. I have whole kennels of irritation."
— Whoopi Goldberg

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Answers

Super Crossword

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19

20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31 32 33 34 35 36 37 38 39 40 41 42 43 44 45 46 47 48 49 50 51 52 53 54 55 56 57 58 59 60 61 62 63 64 65 66 67 68 69 70 71 72 73 74 75 76 77 78 79 80 81 82 83 84 85 86 87 88 89 90 91 92 93 94 95 96 97 98 99 100 101 102 103 104 105 106 107 108 109 110 111 112 113 114 115 116 117 118 119 120 121 122 123 124 125

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Summer of swim for Cottage Grove

WILL LOHRE
Cottage Grove Sentinel

If you're looking to escape the heat this summer, you can dive into the pool at Warren H. Daugherty Aquatic Center, where there is no shortage of fun on the calendar in July and August.

Rebecca Ramirez is the Aquatic Coordinator for the facility, and she's excited about a lot of what's going on this summer.

One of the most popular is the developmental program for kids from third grade through high school. It's a program offered throughout the school year, but due to demand, they also offer it during the summer.

"They do swimming and water polo. It is wonderful. It is six weeks at a time, so the summer session has already started, but it's only \$20 for the whole time," Ramirez said. "They also have swim meets that they're going to be going to as well. So, that's one of our really fun programs that we have."

The program is set to be offered four days a week, and Ramirez said about 25 kids are signed up, but there's plenty of room for more to join. Ramirez said that number is in line with the typical turnout for the developmental program. However, it usually depends on how many people show up in a given week,

considering that summer is a popular time to travel.

Something that Ramirez is excited about this summer is the Sea Stars program, which is new this year.

"That is for children that are neurodivergent, or autistic. And they come in and get one-on-one instruction on water safety and floating and things like that," Ramirez said. "For the Sea Stars, it's only on Fridays, and you sign up each Friday, and right now, I'm not full all the way, so we can always take more, but you can register on our website."

The goal is to "give as many children the embracing and freeing experience that only water can provide." It's a cool program that aims to be an inclusive opportunity for children ages 6-17.

Another new Friday program is the Adult Water Confidence course.

"It's essentially like swim lessons for adults; so for people that maybe don't know how to swim but want to go out and be safe," Ramirez said. "We have an instructor that does one-on-ones with groups of people, and I think we take up to 10 people in that. And that's walk-in basis."

These new programs aim to make the pool accessible to all, young and old, regardless of their comfort level in the water.

While there's tons of fun programming going on, Ramirez wanted to make sure people know there are extended recreational swim hours at the pool for the summer. Throughout the year, recreational swim is offered at night on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday, from 6:45-8:15, but during the summer, the aquatic center is offering additional time on Tuesdays and Thursdays.

"We have recreational during the summer on Tuesdays and Thursdays between 1 and 2:30. So during the days if you want to bring your kid in on Tuesday and Thursday, that would be a great time to do that," Ramirez said.

The aquatic center is more than just a swimming pool: it's a place where people can come create community, exercise, and enjoy themselves. Ramirez said many adults and seniors come in and use the pool as part of their routines and lives. There are plenty of programs running, and Ramirez said attendance has been rising in recent years, with anywhere from 12 to 25 people in these classes. There are also opportunities for independent workouts, and those tend to fill up as well.

Ramirez said that the folks who come to Warren H. Daugherty Aquatic Center aren't just people from Cottage Grove; there are also people from Pleasant Hill,



Courtesy photo from the South Lane School District Facebook page
Warren H. Daugherty Aquatic Center is located at 1440 S 8th St. in Cottage Grove.

Eugene, Springfield, and beyond.

"It's been a really good community, and everyone seems to enjoy each other, and they socialize, and it gives them a place to come and exercise and be social all at the same time," Ramirez said. "We're doing great here,

and everything is going really well at the pool."

While there's plenty of fun in store, one important set of dates to keep in mind is when the pool will be closed from July 31 until August 16. During that period, the pool will be drained, and they will perform routine maintenance,

including addressing rust issues in the lap pool.

Other than that two-week closure, the fun won't be stopping any time soon, and Ramirez hopes the community will come out and take advantage of all the available opportunities.

Oregonians love their state parks according to survey

JEREMY C. RUARK
Cottage Grove Sentinel

Oregonians deeply value their state parks, are increasingly noticing signs of wear across the park system and support exploring additional ways to provide stable, long-term funding, according to a new statewide survey released by Environment Oregon.

The findings were released along with a national Investing in Nature report, which examines maintenance backlog trends and how states are addressing those backlogs.

With more than 250 parks spanning 113,000 acres — including over 50 campgrounds — Oregon's park system offers something for every kind of outdoor enthusiast, according to the report. In 2024 alone, the parks welcomed more than 53 million daytime visitors and 2.8 million overnight campers, consistently ranking among the top 10 most-visited state park systems in the nation. Oregonians' enduring love for these special places is clear: Our parks aren't just popular — they are among the state's most cherished public treasures.

"Oregonians love their state parks —that's the message that came through loud and clear in our survey," Environment Oregon Conservation Advocate Justin

Boyles said. "Whatever differences we may have, our state parks provide common ground we can all stand on, together."

Over the past two years, Environment Oregon traveled across the state hosting community events and talking with Oregonians, particularly in the rural communities closest to many of Oregon's state parks. Surveying more than 1,000 people in and around state parks and online throughout 2025 and early 2026, with nearly half of respondents coming from rural communities.

Oregon's state parks currently face an estimated \$345 million deferred maintenance backlog while continuing to manage rising operating costs and record visitation, according to the Environmental Oregon report. The new national Investing in Nature report found a similar picture of aging infrastructure and growing maintenance backlogs at state parks across the country.

"The survey tells us Oregonians not only love these places, they also want to ensure they're protected for future generations," Boyles said. "We hope this survey will encourage legislators to provide stable funding for our parks, long into the future."

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department



Courtesy photo
The proposed ordinance will be reviewed at the Toledo City Council regular meeting scheduled for 6 p.m. July 15, and through the Zoom video meeting platform. Meeting details are available at <https://toledo.portal.civicclerk.com/>

(OPRD) is primarily funded through a combination of state lottery revenue, user fees and other income. According to OPRD's 2025-27 biennial budget, those sources account for 91% of their revenue, while a combination of Oregonians' tax dollars from the general fund (2%) and federal grants (7%), make up the remainder.

This is an agency tasked with "providing and protecting outstanding natural, scenic, cultural, historic

and recreational sites for the enjoyment and education of present and future generations" — operating on a budget of less than \$200 million annually, where less than \$4 million comes from Oregonians' tax dollars, the Environment Oregon report states.

REPORT CONCLUSION

Oregon's state parks are a defining part of what makes our state special. From the coast to the high desert, these places offer Oregonians a

shared inheritance of natural beauty, recreation, and refuge. The findings of this survey confirm what many already know intuitively: Oregonians deeply value their state parks, visit them often, and overwhelmingly believe they are worth protecting. Across geography, background, and patterns of use, respondents consistently rated Oregon's parks highly and identified natural preservation as the most important part of OPRD's mission.

The survey results show strong, consistent support for a proven alternative: Offering residents the opportunity to support state parks through a voluntary, vehicle-registration-based program. Across urban, suburban and rural respondents, nearly half said they would be "very likely" to participate.

See the full report at: <https://environmental-america.org/oregon/resources/oregon-state-parks-survey/>

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Oregon to receive over \$52M to support vital services

STAFF REPORT

Counties throughout Oregon, including Lane County, will receive a combined total of \$52,016,022 in Payments in Lieu of Taxes (PILT) funding for 2026, according to Oregon's U.S. Senators Jeff Merkley and Ron Wyden.

Lane County will receive \$3,573,364. Because local governments cannot tax federal lands,

annual PILT funding helps to defray the costs associated with maintaining important community services in counties with federal lands.

"Rural communities shouldn't have to wonder if they will have the resources they need to pay for essential services and infrastructure," Merkley said.

Merkley serves as Ranking Member of the Interior-Environment Appropriations

Subcommittee which funds PILT.

"PILT funds schools, fire-fighters, law enforcement, and road construction—I'll keep working to fully fund PILT so communities and families across Oregon have the resources they need to thrive," he said.

"At a time when local budgets throughout Oregon are tight, it's more important than ever to provide these federal investments that support public education, public safety and transportation statewide," Wyden said. "I'm glad these resources are heading to make our state an even better place to live and work, and I'll keep battling both to protect and to strengthen this lifeline."

PILT compensates counties for tax-exempt federal lands administered by federal agencies, including the Bureau of

Land Management, Bureau of Reclamation, National Park Service, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the U.S. Forest Service, and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. Payments are calculated based on the number of acres of federal land within each county or jurisdiction and the population of that county or jurisdiction.

Individual payments may vary from year to year as a result of changes in acreage data, prior-year federal revenue-sharing payments reported annually by the governor of each state, and inflationary adjustments using the Consumer Price Index and population data.

Senators Merkley and Wyden said they continue to monitor PILT allocations closely and will continue to ensure fair payments for every county.

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