

New Sheriff in Town  
See page 3



CGHS Chess Teams at State  
See page 8



6446

Cottage Grove

Wednesday, March 26  
Sun through clouds



Jeremy C. Ruark / Cottage Grove Sentinel  
The January-February edition of 1859 Oregon's Magazine features Cottage Grove as a small town to explore in 2025.

# Cottage Grove gets 1859 Magazine exposure

JEREMY C. RUARK  
Cottage Grove Sentinel

Cottage grove is featured in the 1859 Oregon's Magazine January-February editions.

A short three-paragraph feature highlights the city as one of the Small Towns to Explore in 2025 in the magazine article. The half page feature shows the Chambers Railroad Coverage Bridge and a photo of the Cottage Grove Historic Downtown sign spanning Main Street.

"We liked Cottage Grove for the things it has as much as for the things it doesn't have," 1859 Oregon's Magazine Editor Kevin Max told The Sentinel. "Cottage Grove is an exceptional escape from bustle. It's a pastoral setting where covered bridges allow us to time travel, perhaps to a better time. The historic downtown is a great landing pad for visitors to explore good food, drink and antiques. Cottage Grove is also dear to us for what is doesn't have—crowds and an overblown tourist siege."

Max added that the trend for travelers today has shifted.

"We think travelers are looking for escape and education about the way things were," Max said. "Parents are a nostalgic cohort. It's only recently that television shows have drawn the younger generations into curiosity about how we used to live, even the '80s. We are also looking for new ways to get off our butts, and cycling is an accessible and inclusive way for families to come together in recreation. Even better if you can cycle between covered bridges."

When asked what small towns, such as Cottage Grove, can do to bring in more visitors to help boost the town's economy, Max responded with the following:

"For tourism revenue, I'm a firm believer in places being their authentic selves," he said. "Find what Cottage Grove does best and become a world class experience in that space. Aim to be number one, so that even if you slip, you'll still make the podium."

See 1859, Page 6

# Continuing rain, flooding, mudslides challenge residents

CINDY WEELDREYER  
JEREMY C. RUARK  
Cottage Grove Sentinel

Area residents are clearing up following the March 15-16 rainstorms that swelled local streams and rivers causing flooding and mudslides.

An atmospheric river moved across Southwest Oregon bringing wind gusts and heavy, continuous rain.

## EVACUATION NOTICES ISSUED

Throughout the weekend, residents living in low-lying areas along the Row River and the Coast Fork Willamette River and tributary creeks watched with alarm at how fast the waterways were rising.

The National Weather Service issued a Flood Warning on Saturday, March 15, for Lane County that extended until Monday morning. Heavy rainfall on Saturday and Sunday caused flooding in isolated areas throughout Lane County and motivated county officials to issue a Level One (Be ready) Evacuation Notice for areas of Cottage Grove and in the Mohawk Valley, north of Springfield.

The Lane County Sheriff's Office issued a Level 1 (Be Ready) Evacuation Notice for all areas south of Silk Creek to Bryant Avenue on the west side of town and for the Riverstone Mobile Home Park on South 6th Street. A Shelter in Place order was issued for all areas north of Silk Creek Road accessed by Cemetery Bridge Road.



Courtesy photo from Nancy Ryan

Residents of Riverstone Mobile Home Park sheltered in place until the floodwaters of the nearby Coast Fork Willamette River receded. See more photos with this story at cg sentinel.com.

## RAIN INTENSIFIES

According to Cottage Grove Public Works Director Faye Stewart, 4.58 inches of rain fell locally between Friday evening and midday Sunday. The amount of rain over that period of time was considered equivalent to a 50-year event. The city storm drainage system is designed to handle regular daily rain up to a 15-year flood.

Just after 8 a.m. Stewart received a call from a property owner experiencing flooding at the corner of Taylor and 7th Street. Public works staff assessed the situation and reported there was street flooding on East Main Street at Walgreens and on West Main Street at the Silk Creek Bridge and Cemetery Road.

The utility worker on call confirmed that all the drains were operational and flowing. The water

continued to rise along Silk Creek from Cemetery Road to the Coast Fork River. By 10:30 a.m. Cemetery Road was unpassable and several homes along the creek were flooding. City utility staff opened a secondary road access connecting Cemetery Road with W. Main Street allowing emergency vehicles and property owners to access

See FLOODING, Page 6

# New blueprint for Cottage Grove's future economic growth revealed

CINDY WEELDREYER  
Cottage Grove Sentinel

Cottage Grove city leaders are taking critical steps in efforts to develop future economic growth for the community.

The Cottage Grove City Council and Cottage Grove Planning Commission have reviewed the completion of a state-mandated Economic Opportunities Analysis (EOA). A grant from Oregon's Department of Land Conservation and Development (DLCD) allowed city leaders to hire ECONorthwest to complete the first EOA since 2009.

An advisory committee of elected and appointed officials, community members and stakeholders met with ECONorthwest consulting staff to create the hefty 132-page document. Beth Goodman, the consulting firm's project director, walked the council members and planning commissioners through the details of the document prior to the council's March 10 regular city meeting.

## BACKGROUND



Metro Creative Connection

The report listed numerous factors that make Cottage Grove attractive to residents and businesses that want a high quality of life where they live and work, including easy transportation access, water and wastewater services, small town charm and strong local services and amenities such as a hospital, library, school and recreation programs, and a nationally recognized historic downtown that provides a mix of specialty retail, restaurants, and public spaces that serve residents and visitors.

For most of the 20th century, Cottage Grove was a bustling lumber town filled with plentiful timber-dependent family-wage jobs. Mills were so prevalent it was often said the town had "a mill on nearly every corner." In the 1980's federal timber policies changed significantly to protect the habitat of the spotted owl

after it was added to the list of endangered species.

This shift in public policy seriously reduced the ability to cut timber on vast tracts of publicly owned land. It became a complex and highly politicized issue that severely reduced the supply of raw timber to support Cottage Grove mills of all sizes.

Gradually, only the largest mills, with their privately owned timberland, weathered the economic disruption. Today, nearly 40 years later, leaders of Oregon's many rural timber-dependent towns continue to struggle to find other industries to replace the once plentiful high wage local jobs that were lost.

In 1970, Oregon voters adopted a complex land use system that created urban grown boundaries (UGBs), which made the process to expand rural cities both challenging and expensive. Cottage Grove has significant geographical constraints of rivers and steep slopes and is surrounded by protected farm and forest resource land that limit industrial and commercial development.

**PURPOSE OF EOA**

The four primary goals of the document are to:

1. Project the amount of land needed to accommodate the future employment growth within the Cottage Grove between 2025 and 2045.
2. Evaluate the existing employment land supply within

See GROWTH, Page 6

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# State agencies issue road toll scam alert

JEREMY C. RUARK  
*Cottage Grove Sentinel*

The Oregon Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) and the Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) are warning residents of a new scam.

“Scammers posing as DMV and ODOT are texting cell phones about unpaid toll fees,” a release from the two state agencies states. “The messages vary, but essentially claim you have a past due toll balance that must be paid immediately to avoid DMV fines or having your license suspended. These are fake messages and phishing scams trying to get payment information from unsuspecting Oregonians.”

ODOT officials said the agency does not have a toll program.

DMV does send text messages for actions initiated by the customer, but the messages never include links to verify personal information, according to the DMV.

“For example, when a customer establishes a DMV2U account, a security code may be sent by text to establish verification,”? the release states. “Customers may also receive a DMV appointment

reminder or cancellation notice by text.”

DMV officials recommend that if you receive such a fraud text, you immediately delete the text message and block the number.

“Clicking on a suspicious text message or payment link will take you to a website where you are at a high risk of getting your personal and financial information stolen,” the state agencies warn. “ODOT and DMV staff members are unable to provide technical assistance with a customer’s phone.”

**How the scam works**

- Urgency and threat. The texts often create a sense of urgency, claiming unpaid tolls and threatening fines or penalties if you don’t pay immediately.
- Links to phishing sites. They include links that, if clicked, lead to fake websites designed to steal your personal and financial information.
- Impersonation. Scammers impersonate ODOT or other tolling agencies, making the texts seem legitimate.

**How to protect yourself**

- Don’t click links. If you receive a text about unpaid tolls, do not click on any links or provide any information.

- Verify with ODOT directly. Contact ODOT through their official website or phone number to confirm if you owe any tolls.
- Report the scam. Contact the Oregon Department of Justice Consumer Hotline at 1-877-877-9392 or file a complaint online.

You can also file a complaint with the FBI Internet Crime Complaint Center and the Federal Trade Commission.

- Be cautious of suspicious texts. Be wary of any text message that demands immediate action or asks for personal information or payment.
- Delete the text: Once you’ve reported the scam, delete the text message and block the number to prevent further potential harm.

**If you click a link or provide your information**

- Secure your personal information and financial accounts.
- Dispute any unfamiliar charges.

You can also verify a message’s legitimacy by contacting ODOT directly at 1-888-Ask-ODOT and DMV directly at 1-855-540-6655. For more information about fraud prevention, visit Oregon DMV.

# Husband dives through car window to save wife

JEREMY C. RUARK  
*Cottage Grove Sentinel*

Lane County Circuit Court Judge Kamala H. Shugar has found Donald Wayne Johnson guilty of kidnapping in the second degree, unlawful use of a motor vehicle, and assault in the fourth degree after a one-day bench trial.

**WHAT HAPPENED**

According to a release from the Lane County District Attorney’s Office, the case unfolded September 20, 2022, as a husband and wife were driving from California to help their daughter move into the dorms at the University of Oregon. Their daughter was driving a separate car.

While the wife was sleeping in the front passenger seat, the husband pulled into the Gettings Creek Rest Area off I-5 near Saginaw. He turned the car off but left the keys in the ignition so the music would continue playing while his wife dozed. The husband exited the car and went to use the bathroom.



Courtesy photo  
**Donald Wayne Johnson will be sentenced on April 4.**

The DA’s release states, that shortly afterward, Johnson got into the driver’s seat and started the car. This roused the wife. As Johnson backed out of the parking spot, the wife grabbed the steering wheel to stop him.

“Johnson elbowed her several times. She lowered her window and screamed for help. The husband left the bathroom and started running toward the car, as did another civilian who happened to hear the wife’s cries. Johnson drove over a grass median and toward the on-ramp to I-5.

“The husband managed to catch up to the car, dove

through the passenger side window as the car was moving, and placed Mr. Johnson in a choke hold. After traveling approximately 300 feet, Johnson relented, stopped the car, and ran away,” the release states.

Oregon State Police troopers arrested Johnson a short distance away.

**CRIMINAL BACKGROUND**

In addition to the guilty verdicts, Judge Shugar found that Johnson was on probation when he committed the crimes, which failed to deter him from committing further criminal offenses.

Johnson was placed on supervised probation in three Benton County cases on March 17, 2022, for aggravated harassment, criminal mischief in the first degree, and driving under the influence of intoxicants, among other crimes.

Troopers Jonathon Padgett and Blake Preston with the Oregon State Police investigated the case. Deputy District Attorney Spencer Gwartney prosecuted the case.

## 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, MARCH 10**

01:33: Suspicious vehicle, 200 block N. 12th St.

02:20: Suspicious vehicle, 100 block S. 10th St.

02:49: Suspicious vehicle, 1500 block gateway Blvd.

06:31: Alarm, 100 block Gateway Blvd.

07:59: Welfare check, 19th/Main

09:49: Illegal parking, 900 block S. River Rd.

12:15: Missing person, 1500 block E. Main St.

14:02: Order violation, 100 block Thornton Ln.

17:47: Harassment, 1500 block E. Main St.

18:16: Child abuse, 600 block E. Main St.

20:02: Suspicious vehicle, Hwy 99/ Saginaw Rd.

**TUESDAY, MARCH 11**

00:59: Alarm, 1700 block E. Main St.

01:23: Suspicious vehicle, 900 block E. Main St.

01:32: Suspicious subject, 10th/Van Buren

01:41: Warrant service, 400 block E. Main St.

01:51: Suspicious vehicle, 1200 block Hwy 99

08:45: Business check, 100 block N. 14th St.

09:01: Trespass, 1000 block S. 4th St.

09:58: Warrant service, 400 block E. Main St.

10:27: Abandoned vehicle, M/Birch

10:53: Vehicle impound, S. 11th/ Washington

12:07: Theft, 13th/ Jefferson

12:51: Found drugs, 400 block E. Main St.

13:45: Illegal parking, 13th/Adams

13:51: Welfare check, Quincy/12th

15:37: Agency assist, 33000 block Row River Rd.

16:00: Barking dog, 2000 block Carver St.

17:17: Trespass, 1200 block Quincy Ave.

18:24: Citizen assist, 400 block E. Main St.

18:40: Drug arrest

19:33: Disturbance, 1200 block E. Main St.

20:56: Suspicious vehicle, 100 block Gateway Blvd.

**WEDNESDAY, MARCH 12**

02:40: Suspicious vehicle, 100 block Gateway Blvd.

02:55: Suspicious vehicle, 1500 block Gateway Blvd.

03:26: Suspicious vehicle, 8th/Washington

03:48: Suspicious vehicle, Lincoln/9th

08:29: Theft, 900 block Row River Rd.

08:53: Trespass, 1200 block Quincy Ave.

09:11: Agency assist, 3200 block Row River Rd.

10:28: Trespass, 1200 block Quincy Ave.

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

13:55: Abandoned vehicle, 1400 block Ash Ave.

14:59: Criminal mischief, 900 block W. Main St.

16:21: Suspicious subject, 1500 block E. Main St.

18:48: Agency assist, 2700 block Hillside Dr.

20:40: Disorderly subject, 900 block W. Main St.

22:22: Suspicious condition, 700 block Row River Rd.

22:34: Welfare check, 200 block N. Lane St.

**THURSDAY, MARCH 13**

00:44: Agency assist, 1500 block Hwy 99

08:11: Drug activity, 13th/Van Buren

08:12: Abandoned vehicle, 1400 block E. Washington Ave.

10:02: Disturbance, 1300 block Birch Ave.

10:12: Illegal parking, 100 block Buttercup Lp.

10:51: Juvenile problem, R/Clark

11:27: Theft, Row River Rd/Currin

11:46: Damaged property, 800 block Gateway Blvd.

12:10: Abandoned vehicle, Carabelle Ct/Madison Ave.

13:37: Trespass, 1300 block Birch Ave.

13:50: Citizen assist, 900 block Row River Rd.

14:03: Welfare check, 1500 block Harvey Ln.

14:29: Theft, 400 block N. Douglas St.

15:03: Firearm purchase denial, 100 block Gateway Blvd.

15:17: Traffic hazard, Hwy 99/Latham

16:10: Welfare check, 600 block Benjamin Ave.

16:49: Agency assist, 33000 block Row River Rd.

17:35: Theft, 700 block Row River Rd.

17:42: Disorderly subject, 3000 block Row River Rd.

19:18: Unlawful entry into a motor vehicle, 77000 block Layng Rd.

19:29: Welfare check, 1100 block Hwy 99

20:35: Found drugs, 200 block Gateway Blvd.

20:44: Warrant service, 400 block E. Main St.

**FRIDAY, MARCH 14**

00:05: ATL DUII, 700 block Hwy 99

02:17: Citizen assist, 800 block N. 16th St.

02:36: Suspicious vehicle, 800 block Gateway Blvd.

03:12: Animal info, 80000 block Hwy 99

05:07: Suspicious condition, 80000 block Turkey Run Rd.

05:44: Agency assist, I-5 174

07:57: Found drugs, 500 block Grant ave.

08:39: Trespass, 1800 block Adams Ave.

09:08: Disturbance, 300 block Coop Ct.

10:14: Theft, 1600 block Curry Ave.

10:34: Wanted subject, 7th/Main

11:06: Suicidal subject, 600 block E. Main St.

11:09: Order violation, 200 block N. Lane St.

12:32: Suspicious condition, 100 block Village Dr.

13:01: Fraud, 100 block N. 7th St.

13:09: Trespass, 300 block Coop Ct.

13:41: Fraud, 500 block Grant Ave.

14:17: Theft, 700 block Row River Rd.

14:45: Warrant service, 400 block E. Main St.

16:11: Motor vehicle crash, 77000 block Hwy 99

20:45: Welfare check, 100 block Blair Ct.

22:16: Agency assist, Row River Rd/Currin

23:09: Disturbance, 900 block Row River Rd.

23:35: Suspicious condition, 200 block E. Jefferson Ave.

**SATURDAY, MARCH 15**

01:06: Nuisance, 200 block Gateway Blvd.

01:41: Warrant service, 400 block E. Main St.

03:46: Suspicious vehicle, 1500 block Gateway Blvd.

07:49: Fire, 2700 block Hillside Dr.

08:09: Burglary, 1800 block N. Douglas St.

09:00: Trespass, 600 block E. Washington Ave.

11:50: Suspicious subject, 78000 block Airport Rd.

12:29: Abandoned vehicle, 1800 block N. Douglas St.

14:09: Suspicious condition, 600 block Benjamin ave.

15:31: Disorderly subject, 700 block N. 11th St.

16:41: Fraud, 400 block E. Main St.

17:13: Motor vehicle crash, 1500 block Gateway Blvd.

19:34: Suspicious condition, 700 block Row River Rd.

19:57: Vehicle vs Pedestrian, 1500 block Gateway Blvd.

21:32: Nuisance, 1st/ Quincy

22:41: Alarm, 800 block S. 10th St.

23:06: Suspicious vehicle, 100 block S. 10th St.

23:15: Disturbance, 2100 block S. 8th St.

23:25: Welfare check, 80 block E. Whiteaker Ave.

**SUNDAY, MARCH 16**

00:26: Intoxicated subject, 1700 block Hwy 99

00:31: Disturbance, 400 block Holly Ave.

00:46: Disturbance, 500 block E. Madison Ave.

01:29: Overdose, 400 block Holly Ave.

02:51: Abandoned vehicle, 1200 block S. 8th St.

04:11: Trespass, 32000 block Eric Todd Ln.

09:25: Motor vehicle theft, 600 block Arthur Ave.

09:28: Business check, 900 block Row River Rd.

10:49: Motor vehicle crash, 900 block Row River Rd.

11:01: Disorderly subject, Main/R

11:58: Burglary, 200 block Quincy Ave.

12:06: Fire, 900 block W. Main St.

12:17: Motor vehicle crash, Cemetery Rd/Main

12:17: Prowler, 100 block Tyler Ave.

12:53: Citizen assist, 100 block Village Dr.

13:53: Traffic hazard, Shoreview/Gillespie

14:48: Sinkhole reported, 900 block Arthur Ave.

15:53: Hit and run, 100 block Gateway Blvd.

16:50: Trespass, 500 block E. Main St.

17:46: Motor vehicle crash, Saginaw/Horn

19:32: Found property, 900 block W. Main St.

19:48: Motor vehicle theft, 1100 block Birch Ave.

20:18: Traffic hazard, Exit 172 NB

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# Bohemia City Marshal takes the Oath

**CINDY WEELDREYER**  
*Cottage Grove Sentinel*

There's a new marshal in town!

Cottage Grove Municipal Court Judge Martin Fisher conducted the swearing in ceremony of local historian Dave Light as Bohemia City's sixth marshal since the summer tradition of celebrating Bohemia Mining Days began in 1959.

Cottage Grove Mayor Candace Solesbee read a proclamation and City Councilor Dana Merryday served as Master of Ceremonies.

The swearing in ceremony conducted March 14 at Cottage Grove City Hall filled the City Council Chambers with costumed Bohemia City

citizens to cheer on the arrival of a new marshal in town.

Traditionally, the marshal is assigned to keep the peace on the third weekend of July, during the Spirit of BMD celebration, which includes a community parade and several adjacent events. Spirit of Bohemia Mining Days (SBMD) is a new year-round nonprofit organization that will present the celebration in Cottage Grove's Coiner Park July 17-19.

Grovers and city visitors are invited to drop by and visit the new administrative office at 1015 E. Main St. across from Bohemia Park.

For more information, visit [www.spiritofbmd@gmail.com](http://www.spiritofbmd@gmail.com), or call Executive Director Matthew Hewlett at 541.999.9833.



Costumed citizens of "Bohemia City" gathered for a photo in City Hall Mar. 14 during the swearing in of their sixth BMD marshal, Dave Light, center with badge.

Cindy Weeldreyer / Cottage Grove Sentinel

## COMMUNITY CALENDAR

**MARCH 26**  
Ladies' Golf Club at Hidden Valley Golf Course, Cottage Grove. New season meeting at 10 a.m. at the golf course. First Wednesday of play April 4. Tee-time 10 a.m. Come play 9 holes with us. Can play twice with club before deciding to join! Questions? [harben-france@yahoo.com](mailto:harben-france@yahoo.com)

**MARCH 27**  
Spring Break Movie Matinee: IF, Thursday, 3 p.m. at the Cottage Grove Community Center, 700 E. Gibbs Ave. Cottage Grove Public Library and South Valley Athletics present this free 2024 American fantasy comedy drama PG film PLOT: After discovering she can see everyone's imaginary friends, a girl embarks on a magical adventure to reconnect forgotten imaginary friends with their kids.

**MARCH 27-28**  
Bloodworks NW Bloodmobile Visit from 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. at the Cottage Grove Community Center, 700 E. Gibbs Ave. Appointments are required for the best possible donation experience. Same-day appointments may be available. Photo ID required. For safety, no visitors under 16 at donation sites. Eat a hearty meal and drink plenty of fluids prior to donation. To book your one-hour appointment visit [www.bloodworksnw.org/giveblood](http://www.bloodworksnw.org/giveblood).

**MARCH 28-29**  
Spring in The Grove Pop Up Celebration of Local Artists, Friday, 2-8 p.m. and Saturday 10 a.m. - 6 p.m. at the Bank Building, 609 E. Main St. Local artists have been working hard to create some new fresh art for this show. Features one-of-a-kind pieces, prints and other unique pieces of art including paintings, 3D, cards and more. Meet the artists of the Cottage



Cindy Weeldreyer / Cottage Grove Sentinel

**Brightly colored daffodils emerge from the deadness of winter to announce Spring has arrived in The Grove.**

Grove Art Collective and find unique treasures. On Friday evening there will be drinks, hors d'oeuvres, live music, and lots of incredible art to see during Art Walk!

**MARCH 28**  
Handmade Artisan Market, from 4 p.m. to 8 p.m. at Coast Fork Public Market, 926 E. Main St. Features a selection of local Artisan vendors and artists from in and around our community selling their handmade goods. Great opportunity have fun and support small businesses in The Grove.

Last Friday Art Walk, from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. Cottage Grove Historic Downtown District. The major Main Street construction project will not deter local businesses from participating in this popular community event. Participating downtown businesses offer some light refreshments, live music and the works of vibrant visual artists.

**MARCH 29-30**  
Little Spring Crafters Gift Shop Event Saturday 10 a.m. - 6 p.m. Sunday 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. Elks Lodge, 755 N. River Rd. Call for vendors and food trucks. Booths: \$50 for a 10x10. Interested? Send email to [angelfaith267@yahoo.com](mailto:angelfaith267@yahoo.com)

Special Library Events in April

**APRIL 4**  
Story Time with Bobber the Water Safety Dog, 11:30 a.m. Bobber and his friends will share water safety skills, read some fun stories & activities related to water safety. Offered by the Army Corps of Engineers.

**APRIL 9**  
Poetry and Short Writings Open Mic Night, 5:30 p.m. Celebration of National Poetry Month features readings of poetry and short writings by local writers.

**APRIL 19**  
The Sea Hides a Sea Horse Author Sara T. Behrman Visits The Grove, 11:30 a.m. Free. Kids will love a special seahorse story time. Features a read-aloud, seahorse songs, and seahorse crafts. Books will be sold and signed after the event. For more information, contact the library at 541-942-3828.

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OBITUARIES & NEWS

Donald G. Violette

January 9th, 1937 - March 5, 2025

Donald G. Violette passed away on March 5, 2025, in Cottage Grove, Oregon, at the age of 88. He was born on January 9th, 1937, to Glen and Florene (Culbertson) Violette in Culp Creek, Oregon.

Don was an avid outdoorsman and spent much of his time outside enjoying the beautiful world he lived in. He worked in the woods as a shovel operator loading log trucks and was known for his exceptional skill and hard work ethic. He had a passion for hunting, fishing, and camping, creating many lasting memories that will forever be cherished by his family and loved ones. In retirement, Don enjoyed his daily walks, with a stop at Killion's Market for a cup of



coffee and a corndog for his black lab, Bear. At home, you could find him in his recliner watching old western movies and game shows, or sitting on the porch with his Diet Pepsi in hand, observing the wild birds, quails, and turkeys coming in to feast at his bird feeders.

Don is survived by his wife of 61 years, Judy (Campbell) Violette, his 4 children; Brenda (Daryl) Dapron of Creswell, OR, Gayle (Steve) Nowak of Cottage Grove, OR, Dina Rolfe of Philomath, OR, and Jeff (Jennifer) Violette of Creswell, OR; 10 grandchildren, and 9 great-grandchildren. He was preceded in death by an 11th grandchild, granddaughter Breanna Don Dapron.

Death Notices

**Steven Stanton Book**, 64, of Eugene Oregon, passed away on March 16, 2025. Arrangements are in the care of Sunset Hills Funeral Home, Crematorium & Cemetery.

**Kyle Thomas Davis**, 57, of Eugene, Oregon, passed away on March 7th, 2025. Arrangements are in the care of Sunset Hills Funeral Home, Crematorium & Cemetery.

**Michael George Miller**, age 74, of Cottage Grove, Oregon, passed away March 9, 2025. Arrangements are in the care of Smith-Lund-Mills Funeral Chapel and Crematorium.

**James Dee Kness**, 82, of Cottage Grove, Oregon passed away March 9, 2025. Arrangements are in the care of Smith-Lund-Mills Funeral Chapel and Crematorium.

**William Leroy Duncan Jr.** 62, of Eugene, Oregon, passed away on March 05, 2025. Arrangements are in the care of Sunset Hills Funeral Home, Crematorium & Cemetery.

**Susan Dru Fritz**, 65, of Eugene, Oregon, passed away on March 07, 2025. Arrangements are in the care of Sunset Hills Funeral Home, Crematorium & Cemetery.

U.S. Rep. Hoyle conducts Lane County Town Halls

TONY REED  
Country Media, Inc.

From the stage of the Florence Events Center, Congresswoman Val Hoyle spoke to an almost full house during a town hall March 19.

Following an introduction by Florence Mayor Rob Ward, Hoyle opened the discussion by talking about the difference between how people view news today, compared to what older generations recall.

“So many people have outsourced their social interactions and communications to social media, where the algorithm is run by people that feed you information that you already believe, so we’ve stopped talking to each other,” she said. “That outsourcing of our social interactions and communication has made it so that we are not respecting each other as Americans.”

Hoyle said the practice is detrimental to the country but has also become the impetus for political town hall meetings where people can interact with elected officials.

CITIZENS UNITED

Hoyle said one issue that should not be partisan

in nature is the influence of money on politics. She recalled Citizens United, where “Money was ruled as speech and corporations were ruled as people.”

“I don’t know about any of you, but none of my neighbors are corporations. None of my neighbors are billionaires and that is not a partisan issue. We Americans have now had our campaigns sold out to the highest bidder and that is extremely detrimental,” she said over building applause.

Many Americans are now asking themselves what they can do in the face of what appears to be a growing constitutional crisis, she said, adding that the lines between the three branches of government are being blurred.

“Let me tell you where I come from on tariffs. I worked in an American manufacturing company, and we were devastated by NAFTA,” she said. “It was a terrible policy that sold out American manufacturing and we lost a lot of working people who felt that, again, we were selling off our manufacturing to the highest bidder.”

Hoyle said while tariffs play a role in the



Tony Reed / Country Media, Inc.

Congresswoman Val Hoyle speaking at a Town Hall at Florence.

economy, she believes in fair trade policies that ensure American workers are given priority over people in other countries.

“They [tariffs] should be used with surgical precision and not just blanket tariffs without investing in American manufacturing, because you know who’s going to pay that price?” she asked, to an audible “We are” from the audience.

Hoyle said those jobs need to be brought back in a way that doesn’t put more economical burden on other consumers.

PEOPLE VOTED

According to Hoyle, Donald Trump won the election because people were frustrated with government.

“Anyone that doesn’t think there’s waste, fraud and abuse is delusional,” she said. “That’s just a fact. That there is too much red tape in government, that’s a fact and we need to address it, but this wholesale breaking of our agencies and government services, where people are now having trouble contacting Social Security,” she said. “They fired so many

people at GSA and NOAA without looking at what they do. They fired the people who know how to run the tsunami warning system. Is that cutting waste, fraud and abuse? No. Is that making our government more efficient? No.”

Hoyle said she has talked to fishermen and firefighters who say they cut people at NOAA who are working to tell us what the weather is going to be. She said people were cut from the US Forest Service who are responsible for predicting and fighting wildfires.

She said that while some of those jobs have been restored, The Trump Administration has said it will ignore the rulings of judges about whether those actions are legal.

“We can’t allow that to happen,” Hoyle said.

“Whether it’s social security, the VA, or Medicaid, or Medicare, and by the way, the massive cuts to Medicaid are going to affect our ability to have rural hospitals,” she said, as an audible reaction went through the room. “My district, over 70,000

square miles from Lincoln County all the way to the California coast, has more Social Security recipients than 87 percent of the districts in the country.”

Hoyle closed by saying Americans need to once again become citizens who work together to do what’s best, and that our tax dollars come back to invest in “the most beautiful place in our country.”

QUESTIONS, COMMENTS

The first commenter noted what he called “a mess in the Democratic party, saying the Senate leadership doesn’t have the will to fight, but the people still do.”

Hoyle said that while she and her colleagues have different ideas about how to achieve what’s best for Americans, “Nobody elected Elon Musk.”

Inciting a collective gasp in the room, Hoyle said Musk has now received \$38 billion in taxpayer-funded contracts.

“I never, and no one ever, elected Elon Musk,” she said. “If the government was shut down, people would suffer, and they would determine who an essential worker would or wouldn’t be. I think Chuck Schumer made the wrong decision. I think it’s weak.”

Hoyle said if the government wants to look at spending inefficiencies, it should look at defense contracts. She said that while an additional \$6 billion was sent to the Defense Department, it also recently failed its 7th financial audit. She said that about 50 percent of the budget goes to defense contractors with zero oversight.

WHAT CAN YOU DO?

Another commenter asked, when the president stops following the law, what can be done?

“Our constitutional duty is to ensure that we have separate and equal parts of government, and I have Republican colleagues who are willing to give that away, which I think is reprehensible, but we still have the courts...” Hoyle answered as the audience started to stir. “The Trump administration, right now, is saying that they are going to try to ignore the courts. Justice Roberts, just yesterday, said he can’t do that. So, what we need to do is continue to show up. I’ll tell you what, it’s going to be on us to show up and

take it to the streets to protect our democracy.”

Hoyle urged citizens to tell their own stories about how top-level cuts are affecting them.

The next commenter said. “We have a coup, and we need to do something now.”

Hoyle said she agrees and is doing what she can now and focusing on things she can control by asking questions of top-level officials like, “Did you actually need to fire everyone who can fight wildfires? Did you actually need to fire the people who oversee our nuclear weapons? Was that part of your plan?”

“By calling out what’s happening, which is breaking the system so that we can sell off our federal lands, sell off our Postal Service and privatize our VA... There is a role for private business. I don’t think it should be to buy off our government and campaigns, but here we are.”

Hoyle said her role is now to speak to her Republican colleagues, testify in Congress, show up to make sure she can vote, and let people know what’s actually happening in a factual manner that applies to them.

Hoyle spoke of the damaging floods that have occurred in Western Lane, Curry and Douglas County, noting many people were recently fired from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA).

“They want to eliminate FEMA, so talking about actual impacts in a very real way matters, and if it means we have to take this to the street if we have an executive branch that that is not recognizing the judiciary, there will be a time for that,” she said, “but what we need to do is keep communicating and absolutely find every way we can and right now, that’s showing up and not getting into our partisan silos on social media where we have an echo chamber of what we already believe.”

Following the Florence Town Hall, Hoyle and staff drove to Eugene-Springfield to conduct a similar public meeting.

Tony Read is the editor of the Siuslaw News.

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New report shows concerns over Oregon’s aging bridge system

JEREMY C. RUARK  
Cottage Grove Sentinel

Oregon’s aging bridge inventory, highlighted in a new report, illustrates Oregon Department of Transportation officials concerns.

ODOT’s 2024 Bridge Conditions Report spotlights Interstate Era bridges built between 1958 and 1973. During this 16-year span, ODOT built on average 63 bridges a year, through funding provided by the National Interstate and Defense Highway Act.

Today, these bridges are between 50 and 65 years old.

Much of our transportation infrastructure is aging and nowhere is this more apparent than with Oregon’s bridges and pavements, according to ODOT Director Kris Strickler.

“We do our best to preserve and repair our bridges as replacing them is costly,” Strickler said. “We face a growing backlog of bridge preservation needs caused by the structural revenue issue facing transportation agencies across the nation. ODOT is working with our partners to identify sufficient and sustainable funding that would allow us to fund our critical core services including preserving our bridges, maintaining our transportation system, and making travel safer for all Oregonians.”

ODOT inspects bridges over a two-year cycle and summarizes bridge condition ratings on state highways based on National Bridge Inventory (NBI) and ODOT data. NBI ratings look at the major structural components of a bridge (deck or driving surface, superstructure, and substructure (base), or culvert rating), deficient bridge classification, and structural condition rating.

A significant portion of state-owned bridges are still in fair condition due to regular maintenance. However, much like maintaining a car, continuing to make expensive repairs on bridges nearing the end of their lifespan becomes less cost effective and practical, ODOT states in a release.

The normal lifespan of a bridge is between 75-100 years and 60% of the ODOT bridge inventory was built before 1973. In the foreseeable future, there will be more than 1,000 Interstate Era bridges that must be replaced, according to ODOT. However, current funding levels pay for on average only three bridge replacements each year. At this rate, an Oregon bridge will need to stay in service for over 900 years, well beyond the expected service life.

With more than 2,700 state highway bridges across Oregon that vary in size, age, type and condition, the state’s needs are outpacing the agency’s resources.

“We continue to focus on maintaining the bridges we have through preservation and maintenance work to ensure our aging bridge inventory remains safe,” ODOT officials said in the release.

HOW ODOT MAINTAINS ITS INVESTMENT

Compared to other western states, ODOT has the most bridges in fair condition. To keep bridges in fair condition or better ODOT performs both maintenance and preservation activities. Effective bridge preservation actions are intended to delay the need for costly reconstruction or replacement by applying preservation strategies on bridges while they are still in good or fair condition and before the onset of serious deterioration. Bridge preservation encompasses preventive maintenance and rehabilitation activities, according to ODOT.

Preservation activities include lubricating bearings, sealing concrete and deck joints, and painting steel. These treatments prevent future damage and keep the bridge performing well. Maintenance activities encompass a wide range of treatments that are delivered at every stage of the bridge’s life cycle, such as fixing unexpected damage.

“We also consider the environment the bridge is located in. For example, the coastal climate is very different than the central Oregon climate. Bridges exposed to salt air require different treatments than bridges in snow zones. In addition, older bridges have a different maintenance routine than newer bridges,” ODOT officials said.

2024 REPORT HIGHLIGHTS

- ODOT owns and maintains 2,781 bridges.
- 60% of state-owned bridges in the National Bridge Inventory were built before 1973.
- Last year, ODOT completed 1,331 state-owned bridge inspections.
- ODOT paved 35 bridge decks, repaired six bridges in poor condition and addressed 63 other bridges with high-priority maintenance needs.
- ODOT assessed 130 bridges for load rating in 2024 and placed new or revised restrictions on 11.

ODOT’s SEISMIC PROGRAM PROGRESS

ODOT’s Seismic Program continues to make seismic improvements to bridges along high priority routes. Several projects are either under design, construction, or have recently been completed. ODOT said these projects will offer seismically resilient highway corridors that can save lives and help the Oregon economy recover after a major seismic event.

Recently completed seismic work as part of the U.S. 97 / OR 58 Bridge Retrofits:

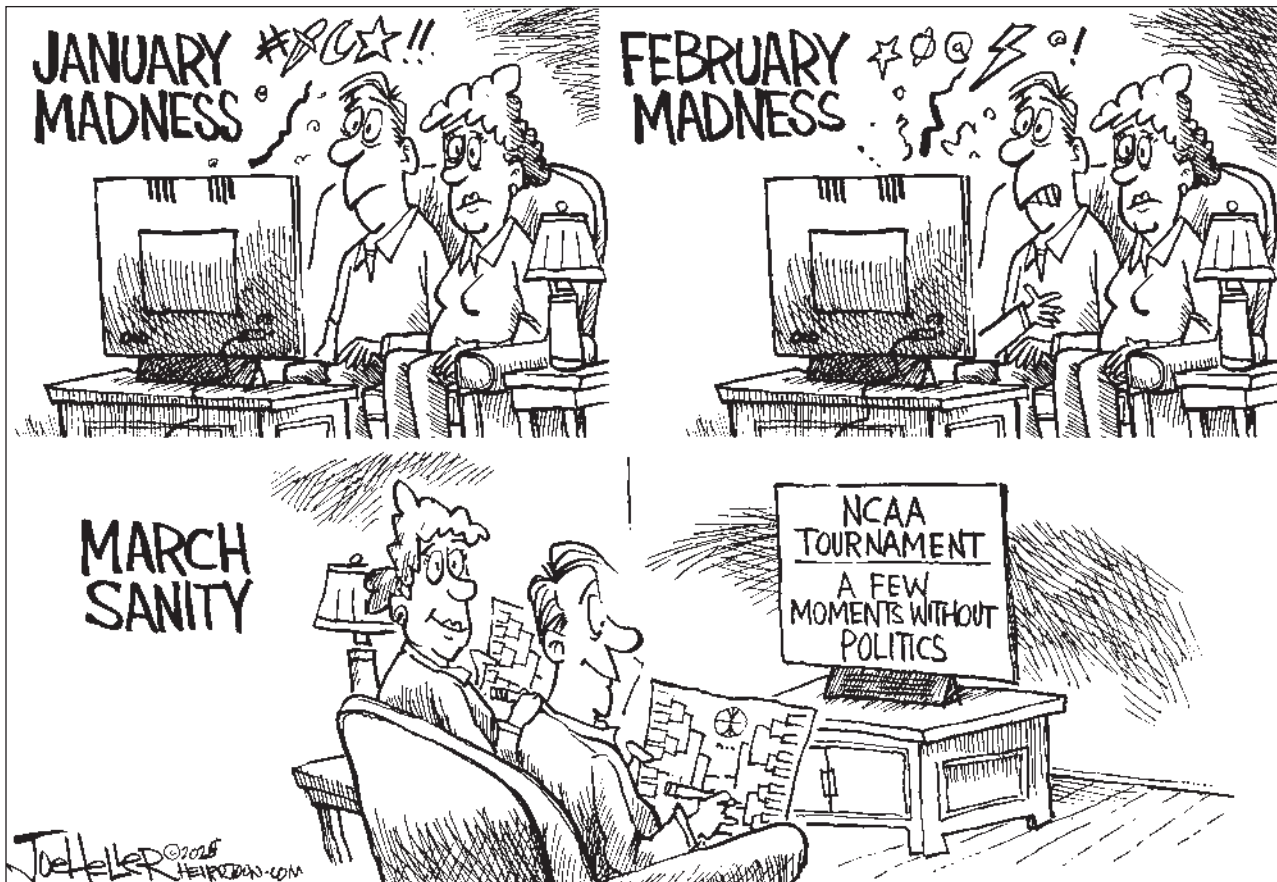
- Pelican City Bridge (U.S. 97 over Lakeport Blvd & UPRR)
- S. 97 over Nevada Ave.
- S. 97 over United States Bureau of Reclamation Canal
- Green Springs Interchange (U.S. 97 over Oregon140)
- S. 97 over Klamath River

The final two bridges in this project are expected to be completed by summer 2025.

The Southern Oregon Seismic Bridge Retrofit

See **BRIDGE**, Page 8

EDITORIAL CARTOONS



COLUMN

Oregon’s revenue surge can produce a false sense of abundance

TIM NESBITT  
Oregon Capital Chronicle

Oregon may be near the bottom of all 50 states in some troubling categories, such as K-12 test scores and children’s mental health care. But it looks like we’ll be Number One when it comes to how much more revenue state government will have to spend in its next budget period.

Oregon’s state economist delivered another blockbuster revenue forecast in late February, projecting an increase in General Fund revenues of 29% in the next two-year budget period. This will give lawmakers a total of \$8 billion in new money to spend above the nearly \$28 billion that supports existing programs.

How real is this? By comparison, Washington state is forecasting an increase of just over 7% in its next two-year budget, and California is trumpeting a one-year increase of just over 9%. New York projects a 7% year-over-year increase. I can’t find any state with anything close to Oregon’s growth in general revenues.

And, here’s another reality check: Oregonians’ incomes have risen by 6% annually, 12% over the past two years, and are expected to barely maintain that pace going forward. So how can the state’s General Fund, largely dependent on personal income taxes, be generating revenues at more than twice that rate?

The answer is that the new revenues projected for the next biennium reflect growth in personal incomes over the prior four years. The bulk of these new revenues comes from stepped up household income growth that began in 2021, most of which was refunded to taxpayers in 2024 and is now making its way into state coffers for the first time as spendable revenue in 2025-27.

Yes, I’m talking about the kicker, the refund Oregon taxpayers get if revenue comes in much higher than expected. Most of us who filed taxes last year got a portion of the unexpected \$5 billion that was collected from recovering household incomes in 2021-23 and generated the largest kicker in Oregon history. The kicker was real money for us, even though it came as a credit on taxes owed rather than cash in our pockets.

But, for the state, it was money in and money out of the budget that never registered as part of the state’s revenue baseline.

Because of that kicker-induced, artificially-low revenue level in the current budget, it might look like the state is enjoying a revenue surge that can sustain higher levels of spending going forward. But the reality is that most of the new revenue forecasted for the next budget period is catch-up money from earlier gains in household incomes. Some \$5 billion of the \$8 billion is due to revenues from personal incomes that rose to record levels in the past four years but was siphoned off in last year’s kicker.

That 29% growth in revenue? It was years in the making – and will be two short years in its ending. After this one-time acceleration in tax receipts, even if all goes well in the larger economy, Oregon’s General Fund will still face

a yellow flag down the track.

Revenues will be slowing to the more modest ongoing pace seen in our neighboring states and our own personal income growth of 5-6% a year through the end of this decade.

This is the challenge for the Legislature’s budget writers. Topline numbers of the kind released last month can give advocates for public service spending a false sense of abundance. They have compelling cases for be made for boosting funds for schools, early childhood programs and mental health care in particular.

But if lawmakers raise ongoing spending above 5-6% a year, or above \$3 billion in the next budget period, they’ll be creating an unsustainable spending trajectory.

We learned a hard lesson in the late 1990s and 2000s, when a strongly growing economy generated both kicker refunds for taxpayers and rising revenues for the state’s budget, which later collapsed in the wake of two recessions and forced deep cuts in services thereafter.

Since then, lawmakers did a good job of building up reserves to weather economic downturns in the future. But what we’re facing now is a perfect storm of politically-created fiscal and economic crises, which states and their

local governments have not had to deal with in our lifetimes.

The storm clouds darkened over the past few weeks, with the federal budget framework adopted by Republicans in the U.S. House of Representatives and the continuing chain-sawing of the federal workforce led by Elon Musk.

This is not to concede what is still to be contested. But the threats of federal cuts in funding for Medicaid, education and other vital state programs are real, and are likely to force states to struggle to sustain what they have in place before committing to new, ongoing funding levels that would have been hard to keep going, even in steadier times.

Thankfully for Oregon, there is a lot that can be done with an extra \$5 billion to weather the political stormfront on the horizon. Just not yet, and not all at once.

<https://oregon-capitalchronicle.com/2025/03/12/oregons-revenue-surge-can-produce-a-false-sense-of-abundance/>

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Weekly Online Poll

Do you have flood insurance for your property?

- ☐ Yes  
☐ No

Previous Poll Results

What is your favorite spot in Cottage Grove?

- ☐ 26.7 % Historic District  
☐ 13.3% City parks  
☐ 33.3% City trails and waterways  
☐ 26.7% Covered bridges



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How to Reach Us

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

Newsroom

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

Display Advertising

Jeanna Petersen | 541-902-3529  
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GROWTH

From Page 1

the city to determine if it is adequate to meet that need.

3. Help city leaders understand their economic opportunities in the context of Cottage Grove’s comparative advantages and disadvantages.

4. Fulfill state planning requirements (Goal 9) for a 20-year supply of employment land.

REPORT FINDINGS

The report repeated the unchanged findings in the 2009 document.

Most of the potential large tracts of land adjacent to the city’s current urban grown boundary, that would be suitable for expanding the local manufacturing industry, are state-protected farm and forest zoned land and far away from the existing water and sewer infrastructure required to support a new industrial development.

Cottage Grove currently has 648 total acres in its commercial or industrial plan designations. Of these 648 acres about 90 acres (14-percent) are unconstrained and buildable within the UGB. Of the city’s buildable acres, 30 are designated for commercial uses and 60 are designated for industrial uses.

Since the 2009 EOA, the City expanded its southern UGB along Highway 99 to the Weyerhaeuser Mill.

In 2022, the base of covered employees is 3,656 workers and the forecast is to have 5,799 employees by 2045 – an increase of 986 jobs over the planning period. The report determined that Cottage Grove has sufficient land to accommodate demand for commercial employment within its UGB, but it does not have sufficient land to accommodate the demand for industrial employment. The report recommends the consideration of an UGB expansion to address that land deficit.

TYPES OF POTENTIAL EMPLOYMENT GROWTH

The report listed numerous factors that make Cottage Grove attractive to residents and businesses that want a high quality of life where they live and work.

They include easy transportation access, water and wastewater services, small town charm and strong local services and amenities such as a hospital, library, school and recreation programs, and a nationally recognized historic downtown that provides a mix of specialty retail, restaurants, and public spaces that serve residents and visitors.

Manufacturing industry suggestions for potential

job growth included wood, plastics, rubber, furniture, machinery, and food products and fabricated materials.

Services for Residents (retail, restaurants, health-care) and Visitors (hotels, restaurants, specialty retail and experiences)

AVERAGE WAGE

In 2022, Cottage Grove’s average income was \$38,916, which was lower than Lane County’s \$52,449. Several potential growth opportunities generally have above-average wages, except for certain types of services for residents and visitors such as retail.

KEY RECOMMENDATIONS

The report makes 15 recommendations to improve Cottage Grove’s economy. Highlights include supporting and maintaining a diverse mix of industries to reduce reliance on any single sector. Strong emphasis was given to creating and maintaining partnerships with other agencies to coordinate economic development efforts.

Examples given: Developing “shovel-ready sites” such as the City’s innovative Project Sparrow.

Identifying and supporting redevelopment opportunities on current obsolescent or under utilized commercial and industrial development.

Exploring economic development incentives and collaborating with education partners to support workforce development and training and develop local childcare facilities.

Supporting growth and retention of existing businesses, including those owned or operated by people with a primary language other than English.

Maintain and enhance quality of life through supporting community efforts such as cultural programs, recreational opportunities, adequate healthcare facilities, affordable housing, neighborhood protection and environmental amenities.

RECOMMENDED ACTIONS

The report recommends nine actions to increase employment between now and 2045.

1. Hire a community development specialist to improve coordination with organizations and businesses to make Cottage Grove a more business-friendly city using urban renewal funds to partially fund this position.

2. Continue to pursue the establishment of an urban renewal district along Main Street and Highway 99.

FLOODING

From Page 1

their property bypassing the flooded area of Cemetery Road.

South Lane County Rural Fire Chief John Wooten opened an Emergency Operations Center (EOC) at Station #1 on Harrison Avenue. He was joined by Deputy Fire Chief Justin Baird, Faye Stewart, Cottage Grove Police Chief Cory Chase, and Flood Plain Manager Leni Crow. They issued a Level One Evacuation Notice using the emergency notification system, text messages, and social media posts.

With additional rain in the forecast until 11 p.m. Sunday, Wooten and the group determined if the floodwater continued to rise, an estimated 40-50 people might need shelter. City Manager Mike Sauerwein and city staff mobilized to open an emergency shelter at the Cottage Grove Community Center and operated it until Red Cross staff arrived at 3 p.m. and took control of the operation. Red Cross staff and local volunteers operated the shelter until 1:30 pm Monday. They reported it served 13 individuals with 12 sleeping overnight.

The prolonged heavy rain caused scattered flooding problems around town and water bubbled up through manhole covers. For a time, there was significant standing water on Main Street near Walgreens. On the north side of town, floodwater threatened Horners Hardware Store on Highway 99. On the south side, river water flooded the Riverstone Mobile Home Park, forcing most residents to shelter in place.

SEWER SYSTEM OVERFLOWS

“Due the high water flows the city experienced three known locations of sanitary sewer system overflows,” Stewart said. “The locations were at the intersection of Fillmore and 4th Street, N. River Road near Holly, and at the Cottage Grove Water Reclamation Facility on Douglas Street. Most of the damage was to individual properties, homes, and Great Days Early Education are the places we are aware that experienced flooding.”

The city staff estimated the sewer spills at 4th Street

3. Support entrepreneurship, business retention and expansion in collaboration with other economic development focused partners.

4. Coordinate with partners to support business growth and entrepreneurship to leverage existing funding opportunities.

5. Develop programs to attract businesses to a new urban renewal district.

6. Coordinate capital improvement planning to support economic development activities

7. Identify opportunities to support the development of local child care facilities.

8. Work with partners to recruit new businesses to Cottage Grove.

9. Revise the City’s Master Plan requirements for land set aside for public use, such as revising requirements that 15% of land be set aside for public use.

Business owner Garland Burback is a former city councilor who has served on the Planning Commission since 2019.

He said he was very pleased with the information presented at the joint meeting.

“I think the meeting went really well,” Burback said. “The presenter did a great job and explained

the limitations we have in expanding industrial growth in Cottage Grove. I thought the questions raised by the commissioners and councilors were very good.”

Burback added, “(Public Works Director) Faye has spent his whole life in Cottage Grove. His business experience in his family’s business (Bohemia Lumber Company) and the years he served as a Lane County Commissioner make him a valuable asset to planning efforts like this. He always does a great job of providing important community history and details on what the City’s infrastructure capacity is for growth.”

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

The report contains detailed information that includes colorful graphs and charts to better understand the data.

A copy of 132-page 2024 Economic Opportunities Analysis and the meeting presentation materials are available on the City’s website: [www.cottagegroveor.gov](http://www.cottagegroveor.gov)

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

1859

From Page 1

1859 Oregon’s Magazine is a 15-year-old publication this year and has annual readership of more than 800,000, according to Max.

“We have subscribers throughout the world with a concentration of them coming from Oregon and Washington,” he said. “It’s an honor for us to have so many local and regional readers, as that tells us that we are a brand that even locals take inspiration from and use to plan their next trips to places like Cottage Grove.”

LOCAL REACTION

Ther Sentinel reached out to Cottage Grove Chamber

of Commerce CEO Georgia Haskell for her reaction about the 1859 Oregon’s Magazine exposure for Cottage Grove

“Any exposure of the covered bridges just reminds people that we have six covered bridges and one suspension bridge and it’s a perfect day trip. And while they are here, they will eat at one of our delicious restaurants, shop at our retail stores, visit our parks, take in our rich history, and most likely want to come back to see everything they missed,” Haskell said. “We have a lot here.”

Haskell added that visitor interest in Cottage Grove is growing just in time for the spring and summer tourist season.

“We have quite literally just begun Spring, so we

have not seen the influx of people yet,” she said. “We are seeing an uptick on the sunny days for sure. Not a day goes by that we don’t see a visitor taking a picture of the Buster mural or Deathmobile and the calls for information are rolling in because people are planning to visit.”

Community events are planned to boost local business profits and the community’s economy this spring and summer, including the return of the South Valley Farmers Market, Gran Fondo, Concerts in the Park, the Rock Roll N Rumble, WOE Fair, and the Spirit of Bohemia Mining Days.

Look for community event features at [cgsentinel.com](http://cgsentinel.com) and in the Wednesday print editions of *The*

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**CGS 25-118**  
Notice is hereby given that Kelly Lynn Boggs has been appointed and has qualified as the personal representative of the Estate of Richard Elmer Boggs, deceased, in Lane County Circuit Court Case No. 25PB02267. All persons having claims against the estate are hereby required to present their claims, with proper vouchers, within four months after the date of publication of this notice, as stated below to the personal representative c/o Hamilton W. Budge, Jr., P.O. Box 10567, Eugene, OR 97440, or the claims may be barred. All persons whose rights may be affected by the proceedings in this estate may obtain additional information from the records of the court, the personal representative, or the attorney for the personal representative. Date of publication: March 26th, 2025 Kelly Lynn Boggs, Personal Representative c/o Hamilton W. Budge, Jr., Attorney at Law P.O. Box 10567 Eugene, OR 97440

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Each number corresponds to a letter.  
(Hint: 26 = I)

**A. 16 1 22 11 26 9**  
*Clue: Buying something on deferment*

**B. 11 22 2 26 9**  
*Clue: Deduction*

**C. 8 25 18 26 19 17 8**  
*Clue: Nest egg*

**D. 26 19 18 22 8 9 20 22 19 9**  
*Clue: Share or stock*

Answers: A. credit B. debit C. savings D. investment

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# School district competitive chess teams at State

**JEREMY C. RUARK**  
*Cottage Grove Sentinel*

The South Lane School District's (SLSD) competitive chess teams has returned from competition in the Oregon High School Chess Team Association Championship.

A total of 18 teams from across the state competed in the tournament, with teams of five players each vying for state titles. Notably, three of the SLSD players achieved individual placements in the top six.

"This year, the talented Cottage Grove junior varsity team finished with a record of 4 wins, 0 losses, and 1 draw, earning a total of 4.5 points and securing first place in the 3A-4A classification.

Meanwhile, the Cottage Grove "open" team showcased exceptional skill and teamwork, also earning first place in the Open Team category with a record of 3 wins and 2 losses," a release from the school district states.

The last time the SLSD chess team secured a victory at the State Championship was in 2011.

"This year's wins were both very close and dramatic, coming down to the final game of the last match," the release states.

The Oregon High School Chess Team Association Championship was held at at South Umpqua High School in Myrtle Creek from February 28 to March 1.



Metro Creative Connection

A total of 18 teams from across the state competed in the tournament, with teams of five players each vying for state titles. Notably, three of the SLSD players achieved individual placements in the top six.

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# Support urged to pass Food for All Oregonians legislation

**JEREMY C. RUARK**  
*Cottage Grove Sentinel*

Over 200 advocates, community members, and coalition partners from all corners of Oregon took their voices to the Oregon State Capitol to urge lawmakers to pass Senate Bill 611 Food for All Oregonians.

Advocates met with 51 legislators, representing 75 districts, March 18, to push for what they described as critical bipartisan legislation that would ensure more Oregonians — including immigrants and refugees — can access to vital food assistance.

As part of the Immigrant Justice Package, a key recommendation of the Oregon Hunger Task Force's Roadmap to End Hunger and a priority of the BIPOC Caucus, Food for All Oregonians is a statewide movement to advance immigrant justice and ensure Oregonians have access to the food they need to thrive.

With more than 180 organizations backing the effort, backers of the legislation said the advocacy day demonstrated the overwhelming public support for ensuring that food assistance reaches Oregon's immigrant youth and elders.

Right now, one in six kids in Oregon is food insecure, and one in 13 Oregonians over 60 struggle to put food on the table. And last year, Oregon Food Bank saw

2.5 million visits to food assistance sites across the region — alarmingly, visits from children rose by 30%. While food assistance sites work tirelessly to meet this need, food alone cannot solve hunger — passing policies like Food for All Oregonians is critical, according to Oregon Food Bank President Andrea Williams.

"As a mother, I want to know that my kids — and all kids — have a stable, nourished future," Williams said. "Hunger should never be a barrier to learning, to growing, to thriving. Food for All Oregonians is our chance to create a stronger, healthier future for our children, our elders and our communities."

Food for All Oregonians would mirror the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), making food assistance available to youth and elder Oregonians who are excluded from the federal program due to immigration status, according to a release from the Oregon Food Bank.

"Programs like SNAP are the most effective anti-hunger tools we have, lifting millions out of poverty each year and helping keep families stable. They also prevent homelessness by easing financial strain, lowering eviction risk and supporting families at risk of losing their homes," the release states.

"In Oregon, many people who rely on food assistance are also renters, making this a key strategy for housing stability," Williams said. "Washington and California have already expanded food assistance to ensure families and individuals are not excluded based on immigration status."

"Oregon has long been a place where we care for our neighbors and step up to meet big challenges," Sen. Winsvev Campos [D-Aloha] said. "Food for All Oregonians is a chance for us to live out those values — ensuring that every child, every elder and every family has access to the food they need. I'm proud to join advocates across the state in making this vision a reality."

Martha Verduzco, Director of the Immigrant Help Center and the Rural Organizing Project, said Food for All Oregonians is not just the right thing to do — it's a smart investment in Oregon's economy, noting that the USDA estimates that every \$1 spent on food assistance generates about \$1.50 in local economic activity, supporting businesses, jobs and wages across the state.

"This isn't just about food," Verduzco said. "It's about our humanity, our compassion, and our responsibility to each other. Our legal status should not matter."

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

## BRIDGE

From Page 5

project, funded by HB 1017,

is testing the buckling restraint bracing system which has proved to be a cost-effective retrofit method for bridges with multi-column supports, according to ODOT. This project is divided into four separate projects. The second project addressed seismic vulnerabilities of five bridges on I-5, which are all complete. The third project also addressed five bridges on Oregon 140 and is complete. The fourth project replaces three bridges on Oregon 99, with two of these projects completed in 2024. The third bridge is

expected to be completed summer of 2025.

There are many more seismic retrofit priority route projects in the works statewide, including the Abernethy Bridge near Oregon City and the Van Buren Bridge in Corvallis.

The Oregon Transportation Commission received a presentation of the 2024 Bridge Conditions Report from ODOT earlier this month.

To learn more about the condition of Oregon's bridges, see the 2024 Bridge Conditions Report on the ODOT Bridge Section website.

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