

Images
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Heritage Fair
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CGHS
Football
Season
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Cottage
Grove
Wednesday,
Sept. 2, 2026
Rain



Council gets library update, discusses new fee to support police, road projects

CINDY WEELDREYER
Cottage Grove Sentinel

The Cottage Grove City Council has received an update on the status of the Cottage Grove Public Library from Miriam Sisson, librarian of the Drain Public Library.

Sisson has been contracted by the city to help guide the library’s restructuring period by supporting current operations, diversifying revenue, and expanding volunteer involvement following the June resignation of the former head librarian.

During the city council’s regular public session Aug. 24, Sisson reported that the library remains fully open at forty hours per week and staffed by three librarians totaling two point seven fulltime equivalent. Approximately 100 people use the library each day. Staff continues to manage children’s programming, patron services, public computer access, and collaborations with city departments and community groups while also redesigning internal operations to meet council expectations.

According to Sisson, the library’s transition is guided by four goals: building a culture of volunteerism, diversifying funding for library operations, maintaining a strong focus on patron and community safety, and developing new programs and services while maintaining the existing collection and core services.

Children’s literacy remains a high priority. The successful Summer Reading Program just concluded and featured weekly activities for kids and families. Sisson said the multiday Escape Room event was one of the most popular activities of the summer.



Cindy Weeldreyer / Cottage Grove Sentinel

“At times it was just organized chaos,” she said with a laugh.

The library has reissued its volunteer application and has already received about a dozen submissions. The staff was scheduled to interview applicants during the last week of August, followed by background checks. Orientation and task-specific training sessions will be held afterward.

Volunteers could begin assisting in mid to late September. Tasks will include shelving books, shelf reading, shifting materials, cleaning public computer stations, preparing craft materials for children’s programming, pulling items for holds, organizing pamphlet files, and assisting with signage and marketing materials.

The application outlines three levels of volunteer work, ranging from supervised tasks to independent assignments requiring substantial training. All volunteers must complete a background check and agree to annual application updates.

Sisson also reported that staff and community volunteers are actively pursuing grant funding to supplement the library’s collection and programming budgets.

“Staff has already submitted two grant applications and plan to submit six more,” Sisson told the council. “The goal is to secure \$60,000 in grant and gift revenue during the fiscal year. Staff has created a calendar of prospective funding sources and are working to apply for funding that will allow the library to buy new books and materials and to

provide programming, outreach, and events.”

Friends of the Cottage Grove Library President Bruce Kelsh submitted a letter thanking the council for allocating \$25,000 from the council’s training and conference travel budget to support library staffing and consulting services. Kelsh also thanked City Manager Mike Sauerwein and Human Resources Director Laurie English for working through personnel issues related to the new staffing structure.

Kelsh noted that the Friends have already supported the library’s participation in the City’s Emergency

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Arts-based preschool opens at First Presbyterian Church

CINDY WEELDREYER
Cottage Grove Sentinel

When the morning sun filters through the parlor windows at First Presbyterian Church, the room transforms into a small dance studio.

On a recent visit, Tip Tap Grow Preschool founder and director Drea Smith led four young students through a short movement class to begin their day.

A portable speaker pulsed with colored lights as the children tossed beanbags, waved scarves, marched, wiggled and spun through simple choreography. They followed Smith’s lead through “The Beanbag Song,” the “Move It, Move It” track from Madagascar, and finally “Best

Day of My Life,” warming up their bodies and settling into the rhythm of school.

Tip Tap Grow opened its Cottage Grove campus in June, becoming the newest tenant in First Presbyterian Church’s long history of supporting early childhood education. For decades, the church, located at 216 S. Third St., has housed programs including a Montessori preschool, the Family Relief Nursery and initiatives that helped launch the Little Lions Preschool at Cottage Grove High School and Parent Partnership. Members have long expressed a desire to hear children’s voices in the building again.

That longing grew sharper during the pandemic. “Cottage Grove is a childcare desert,” church member Mary Nisewander said. “We want to provide excellent childcare with no agenda. This is a gift to the community, and an investment in the church’s future.” As families struggled, church leaders committed to opening their building to nonprofits whose missions aligned with their values of social justice and community support.

“It was important to us that we shared common goals for children and families, and for the center to provide quality, best practice childcare,” church member Wendy Kelsh said.

The search for a partner took several years. Head Start couldn’t use the space due to federal size requirements. Several independent providers explored the possibility but ultimately backed out. A subcommittee formed to continue the work and recognized that the Christian Education wing needed upgrades to meet state childcare standards.

GRANTS AND COMMUNITY SUPPORT

With guidance from elder David Hamilton, the church pursued grants from the Presbytery of the

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Sheriff’s Office issues scam warning

JEREMY C. RUARK
Cottage Grove Sentinel

The Lane County Sheriff’s Office (LCSO) has issued another warning about a circulating telephone scam.

“Our community continues to be targeted by phone scammers identifying themselves as employees of the Lane County Sheriff’s Office, typically claiming to be sergeants,” LCSO Sgt. Levi McKenny said. “Scammers have in the past also used text and email.

According to McKenny, the scammers claim there are warrants, missed jury duty, or unsettled legal issues. They may also offer to take bail money so family members in our jail may be released. Scammers then ask for payment or personal information, often threatening arrest. They usually offer to take payment digitally, through cryptocurrency, phone apps, or at a kiosk.

In some instances, the scammers appear to call from official phone numbers or provide fraudulent call-back numbers with official-sounding voicemail inboxes. They often already have some personal information based on the phone number they called.

“The Lane County Sheriff’s Office will NEVER ask for money by phone, text, or email. The Lane County Sheriff’s Office will NEVER call you about missed jury duty! The Lane County Sheriff’s Office will NEVER ask you to pay for someone to be released,” McKenny said.

The LCSO urges anyone contacted by someone claiming to be a deputy, sergeant or staff member, tell them you plan to call LCSO dispatch at 541-682-4150 to verify.

“A real deputy will understand, a scammer will not,” McKenny said. “If you are contacted by someone claiming to be a Lane County Sheriff’s Office employee and you think you are being scammed, HANG UP. Then contact our dispatch center at 541-682-4150 opt. 1.”

McKenny said the LCSO wants to protect you and your property, and he urges the public to share the scam warning with your friends and family.

See more SCAM
On Page 6

VOTED
2025
BEST OF
SOUTH LANE COUNTY

WHO'S THE BEST
IN SOUTH LANE COUNTY?

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YOUR VOTE ★ YOUR COMMUNITY ★

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SCAN TO VOTE ONLINE

IMAGES FROM HERITAGE FAIR



Jeremy C. Ruark / Cottage Grove Sentinel
(Top left) Local youth displayed their livestock at the Heritage Fair. (Top right) Photographs on display at the Heritage Fair. (Center photo) One of the displays at the Heritage Fair.





Parkinson's
Resources

Free Event!

PARKINSON'S DISEASE 101 & TOWN HALL

Parkinson's can be challenging to navigate, but we can face it together with education and community connection. Join us for this informative session and community discussion featuring Dr. Abigail Bossart, Movement Disorders Fellow Neurologist.

- Learn about Parkinson's Disease
- Access helpful resources
- Share your story to help others

DETAILS & REGISTRATION
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800.426.6806



Support provided by
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Friday, September 11

11 am - 12:30 pm

Shepherd Room, Cottage Grove Community Center

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Phone:



AUG. 4 TO

SEPT. 7

The top two nominations will be named first and second place in each category. The most votes determine placement.

Only one ballot per reader. Duplicate ballots will not be counted.
Ballots from Cottage Grove newspaper only, photo copies will not be accepted.

AUTOMOTIVE

ATV STORE

ATV RENTAL

AUTO DETAIL

AUTO PARTS / ACCESSORIES

AUTO REPAIR

CAR WASH

OIL CHANGE

RV REPAIR

TIRE SERVICE

COMMUNITY

EARLY CHILD LEARNING

NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION

PLACE TO VOLUNTEER

PLACE TO WORK

PLACE TO WORSHIP

SENIOR LIVING COMMUNITY

SERVICE CLUB

SUPPORT GROUP

YOUTH ORGANIZATION

DRINKS

BAR

BARTENDER

BLOODY MARY

COCKTAIL

COFFEE

CRAFT BREW

HAPPY HOUR

MARGARITA

SMOOTHIE

TEA

WINE SELECTION

ENTERTAINMENT

FAMILY ENTERTAINMENT

GOLF COURSE

INDOOR ENTERTAINMENT

MUSICIAN / DJ

MUSEUM

PARK

PERFORMANCE VENUE

PERFORMING ARTS GROUP

FOOD & DINING

APPETIZER / SMALL PLATE

ASIAN CUISINE

BREAKFAST

BURGER

BURRITO

CHOWDER

DESSERT

FOOD TRUCK

MEXICAN CUISINE

PIZZA

RESTAURANT

RESTAURANT SERVICE

SALAD

SALSA

SANDWICHES

SEAFOOD

STEAK

SUSHI

TACO

VEGETARIAN / VEGAN

HOME SERVICES

CARPET CLEANING

CONTRACTOR

ELECTRICIAN

ESTATE LIQUIDATOR

FLOORING

HANDYMAN

HOME IMPROVEMENT

HOUSE CLEANING

HVAC / HEAT & AIR

INTERNET SERVICE

LANDSCAPING

PAINTING

PEST CONTROL

PLUMBING

ROOFING

SELF-STORAGE

WINDOWS

PET

PET BOARDING

PET GROOMER

PET SUPPLIES

PET TRAINER

VETERINARIAN (LOCAL)

VETERINARIAN OFFICE

PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

ACCOUNTANT

ATTORNEY

BANK

BANK TELLER

COMPUTER HELP / REPAIR

FINANCIAL PLANNER

INSURANCE OFFICE

INSURANCE PROFESSIONAL

MORTGAGE LENDING

PHOTOGRAPHER

PROPERTY MANAGER

REAL ESTATE AGENT

REAL ESTATE OFFICE

SHIPPING SERVICES

TITLE COMPANY

SHOP LOCAL

ANTIQUES

APPLIANCES

ART GALLERY

ART SUPPLIES

BOOKS

BOUTIQUE

CLOTHING

FURNITURE

GARDEN NURSERY

GIFTS

HOME DECOR

HOME IMPROVEMENT

JEWELRY

KIDS CLOTHING

MATTRESS

THRIFT STORE

WELLNESS & BEAUTY

ACUPUNCTURE

BARBERSHOP

DAY SPA

DENTAL OFFICE

DENTIST

ESTHETICIAN

EYE CARE

HAIR SALON

HAIR STYLIST

HEARING SPECIALIST

MANICURE / PEDICURIST

MASSAGE

MEDICAL FACILITY

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NAIL SALON

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TATTOO PARLOR