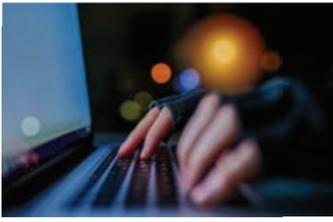


THE COTTAGE GROVE Sentinel

Injured Worker Scam
See page 4



CGHS Wrestling
See page 8



52
35

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Wednesday, February 25, 2026
Mostly Sunny



Wednesday February 25, 2026 | 137 years

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WHO WE ARE

Trinity Lutheran Church Community meals mark 28 years of faithful service



Cindy Weeldreyer / Cottage Grove Sentinel

Trinity Lutheran Church volunteers Sheila Pratt, Peggy Brown and Patrick Brown, prepare to serve the free Tuesday evening community dinner. On Feb. 11, the church celebrated its 28th anniversary milestone having served 222,654 meals at 2,767 dinners provided by 56,481 volunteer hours.

"There is no way this would have come together so quickly and continued for this long without God's hand in it."
Peggy Brown, Coordinator

CINDY WEELDREYER
Cottage Grove Sentinel

For 28 years, Trinity Lutheran Church's Community Kitchen has served as one of Cottage Grove's quiet constants, a ministry built on faith, volunteer devotion and the simple belief that no one in the community should go without a hot meal.

Since its launch in 1998, the program has served 222,654 meals at 2,767 dinners, supported by 56,481 volunteer hours.

Coordinator Peggy Brown, who helped start the ministry

and has led it from the beginning, said the longevity of the program is nothing short of divine.

"There is no way this would have come together so quickly and continued for this long without God's hand in it," Brown said.

A PURPOSE THAT HAS NEVER WAVERED

The Community Kitchen began as a twice weekly sit down dinner that drew as many as 85 people, including seniors seeking companionship, families stretching tight budgets and neighbors who simply needed a place to belong. The pandemic forced the program to shift to take out meals, a change that dramatically reduced attendance but never interrupted service.

"When COVID hit everything changed," Brown said. "We

See **SERVICE** Page 6

A Greener Future for Bohemia Watershed Council wins state grant

CINDY WEELDREYER
Cottage Grove Sentinel

Bohemia Elementary School has been awarded a major state grant to transform its campus with new trees, stormwater improvements, and hands on environmental learning opportunities, thanks to a collaborative effort that brought together school leaders, local volunteers, and regional partners.

The Oregon Department of Land Conservation and Development (DLCD) announced this month that the Coast Fork Willamette Watershed Council will receive \$418,945 through the state's Community Green Infrastructure Grant Program — one of only 14 projects funded statewide.

The DLCD program awarded \$2.87 million across Oregon, selecting projects that build or restore natural systems such as trees, rain gardens, bioswales, and green spaces. The competition was steep: 66 applicants sought nearly \$16 million in funding, leaving many qualified proposals unfunded. Grants were awarded in four categories: community green infrastructure projects, economic development projects, master plans, and native seed or plant initiatives.

The project, titled "Green Canopy, Growing Economy,"

will plant 40 large shade trees and 10 smaller trees across the school grounds and public sidewalk areas. The grant also funds a rainwater harvesting system, infiltration planters, linear rain gardens to filter parking lot runoff, and a new pollinator parklet. The project includes bilingual community outreach, student education on green infrastructure, and the creation of several jobs and internships.

For Bohemia Elementary Principal Emily Wren Gerot, the award represents both a practical improvement and a symbolic one.

"Writing a collaborative grant was a really great opportunity to meet like minded, passionate people in the Cottage Grove community," she said. "As a Eugene resident, I have chosen to work in South Lane for over 20 years because I fell in love with the way this community operates. This community does an excellent job working together to make things happen."

Gerot said the school's team — including maintenance director Matt Allen and Superintendent Todd Miller — worked closely with grant writer Tammie Stark to walk the grounds, identify needs, and envision a safer, more functional campus.

"Currently, the campus is one big mud pit in the winter because we do not have the ability to drain water effectively," she said. "It will be so wonderful to have a campus that visually represents the pride we take in our students and teachers."

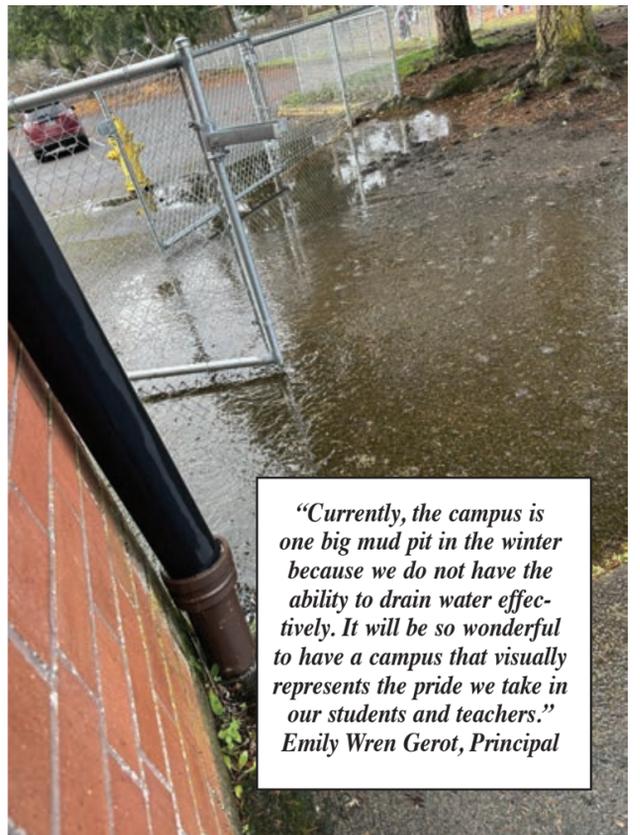
The project aligns directly with the school's vision: "Each member of the Bohemia community will be an active participant in making the world a place where all belong and gain access to an equitable and sustainable future."

A COLLABORATION YEARS IN THE MAKING

The idea for the project began with the Cottage Grove Urban Forestry Committee, where volunteers Debra Bartlett and Tammie Stark serve. After the region's recent snow and ice storms, both were concerned about tree loss and the long term health of the community's canopy.

Bartlett said the committee has three mandates dating back to its founding in 1994 — one of which is to bring in grants. When she discovered the DLCD opportunity, she and Stark immediately recognized its potential.

"This grant was the mother lode," Bartlett said. "Without Tammie's super grant writing



"Currently, the campus is one big mud pit in the winter because we do not have the ability to drain water effectively. It will be so wonderful to have a campus that visually represents the pride we take in our students and teachers."
Emily Wren Gerot, Principal

Courtesy photo from Emily Wren Gerot

Poor drainage has long curtailed student use of the school's outdoor play areas in the winter months, a problem the Green Grant will remedy. This is the entrance gate to the south playground on Feb. 16.

skills, time, effort, and her contact with Amanda Gilbert at Coast Fork, we would be among the 80 percent of worthy requests that were turned down."

The pair studied the city's 4.3 square mile area and realized

that a school based project would likely score highest under the state's point system. The Bohemia School project quickly emerged as the strongest

See **BOHEMIA** Page 6

Former Creswell resident convicted of animal neglect, arrested in California

STAFF REPORT
Cottage Grove Sentinel

In October of 2019, Lane County Sheriff's deputies served a search warrant at a property in the 33000 block of Camas Swale Road while investigating ongoing animal abuse. Lane County Animal Services and Oregon Humane Society assisted.

A total of 61 horses were removed from the property after being assessed by a licensed veterinarian. Many were emaciated and determined to be malnourished. Several horse carcasses were located on the property, and some rescued horses did not

survive. The incident required a significant amount of work from multiple agencies and community partners.

After additional investigation, Gwenth Ellen Davies, 55, of Creswell, was arrested for Animal Neglect in the 2nd Degree (Felony). Davies later plead guilty to 11 counts of Animal Neglect in the 2nd Degree, was sentenced to probation, and ordered to pay restitution to the state.

Davies instead disappeared. As a result, Lane County Circuit Court issued an extraditable warrant for her arrest in 2023. A

deputy determined Davies was likely in California and notified law enforcement in the area. The deputy continued the investigation as new information arose.

In January of 2026, Davies was arrested on the warrant by the Los Angeles Police Department as she re-entered the U.S. at a port of entry in the Los Angeles area. Extradition was approved by the Oregon Office of the Governor.

On February 12, 2026, Davies was lodged at the Lane County Jail on the warrant.

The Lane County Sheriff's Office thanked the many

agencies involved in this investigation, including the Lane County District Attorney's Office, Oregon Humane Society, Oregon Department of Justice, Butte County Sheriff's Office, Los Angeles Police Department, U.S. Customs & Border Protection, and numerous community partners that assisted with the evaluation and care of the horses in 2019.



Courtesy from the LCSO

In January of 2026, Davies was arrested on the warrant by the Los Angeles Police Department as she re-entered the U.S. at a port of entry in the Los Angeles area. On February 12, 2026, Davies was lodged at the Lane County Jail on the warrant.

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We're always interested in hearing about news in our community. Send us your news, photos, and videos and let us know what's going on!
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A CLOSER LOOK

Firearms training, woman obstructing traffic, neighbor dispute sends man to jail

STAFF REPORT
Cottage Grove Sentinel

The following is the weekly update posted at the Cottage Grove Police Facebook page.

-If you need to report a noise complaint, please call our non-emergency line at 541-942-9145 (Option 1) instead of using the Online Reporting System. Online reports are not monitored in real time and are reviewed the next business day during regular daytime hours. They should not be used for incidents that are actively occurring.

-We are proud to celebrate Officer Lane's graduation from the Basic Telecommunications Academy at Oregon Department of Public Safety Standards and Training (DPSST) in Salem. She is now dual-certified as both a Police Officer and a Police Dispatcher. Congratulations!

- Weekly range training continues to be conducted during the month of February to ensure compliance with DPSST training requirements. Each officer is required to complete a minimum of eight hours of Use of Force and firearms training annually.

- Officers conducted a traffic stop after an oncoming vehicle activated high beams and an off-road light bar, temporarily impairing the officer's vision in violation of Prohibited Lighting Equipment (ORS 816.360). The driver was found to be Driving While Suspended and failed to provide proof of insurance. Citations were issued, and the driver was advised they could not continue driving.

- Multiple calls regarding a disorderly female in a residential neighborhood were received into dispatch. She was reportedly rummaging through front yards and walking into the roadway, obstructing traffic. Officers observed signs consistent with extreme intoxication. During contact, she dropped a baggie containing methamphetamine. She was arrested and transported to the Lane County Jail on charges of Disorderly Conduct in the Second Degree (ORS 166.025) and Possession of Methamphetamine (ORS 475.894).

- Officers responded to the area of Jaspers Deli following a report of a female subject casing vehicles and attempting door handles. A female matching the description was located and detained without incident. A records check revealed eighteen (18) active Cottage Grove Municipal Court warrants and one Lane County Circuit Court warrant for Failure to Appear on a charge of Possession of Methamphetamine. She was transported to the Lane County Jail and lodged without further incident.

- Officers assisted with a serious motor vehicle crash on I-5 southbound, holding the scene until OSP arrived and assumed the investigation.

- Officers responded to a reported dispute between neighbors involving alleged menacing. After developing probable cause for Menacing and Disorderly Conduct, officers contacted one of the involved parties at his residence. When advised he was detained and not free



Courtesy from the CGPD

Each officer is required to complete a minimum of eight hours of Use of Force and firearms training annually.

to leave, the male initially appeared compliant but suddenly ran toward the open front door, where officers believed firearms were located.

Due to the immediate safety concern, officers detained him on the front porch. After a brief struggle, he was taken into custody without further incident and lodged at the Lane County

Jail on charges of Menacing (ORS 163.090), Disorderly Conduct in the Second Degree (ORS 166.025), and Escape in the Third Degree (ORS 162.145).

* Please note: This list is a summary of select calls for service. Officers respond to many additional types of calls daily that are not included in this weekly update.

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

FEBRUARY 09

- 04:40: Suspicious subject, 2000 block S. 6th St.
- 05:29: Suspicious vehicle, 200 block N. 12th St.
- 07:04: Suspicious vehicle, Cleveland/6th St.
- 07:09: Warrant service, Cleveland/6th St.
- 07:28: Agency assist, 900 block Row River Rd.
- 08:27: Disorderly subject, 200 block N. 12th St.
- 09:03: Hit and run, 1500 block Red Hills Pl.
- 14:51: Welfare check, 800 block N. Douglas St.
- 15:20: Welfare check, 1300 block E. Main St.
- 16:04: Warrant service, 400 block E. Main St.
- 17:01: Trespass, 1500 block E. Main St.
- 17:24: Disturbance, 1500 block Gateway Blvd.
- 18:01: Reckless driving, 400 block N. River Rd.
- 18:04: Disturbance, 77000 block Mosby Creek Rd.
- 19:58: City ordinance violation, Washington/15th
- 22:23: Harassment, 800

block Gateway Blvd.

FEBRUARY 10

- 00:26: Illegal camping, 200 block N. 12th St.
- 00:47: Warrant service, 400 block E. Main St.
- 01:24: Disorderly subject, 200 block N. 12th St.
- 02:16: Welfare check, London/Latham
- 03:13: Suspicious subject, 1300 block Jefferson Ave.
- 04:46: Nuisance, 200 block N. 12th St.
- 06:34: Suspicious condition, 800 block Quincy Ave.
- 07:33: Warrant service, 400 block E. Main St.
- 08:17: Criminal mischief, 100 block N. 9th St.
- 09:18: Criminal mischief, 100 block N. 9th St.
- 10:50: Disorderly subject, R/Bryant
- 11:42: Theft, 1500 block E. Main St.
- 13:51: Welfare check, 700 block Hwy 99
- 14:20: Illegal dumping, M/ Birch
- 15:11: Fraud, 400 block E. Main St.
- 17:34: Juvenile problem, 100 block S. 10th St.
- 18:14: Illegal camping, 100 block S. River Rd.
- 18:38: Trespass, 1200 block S. 4th St.
- 18:50: Suspicious vehicle, 700 block N. River Rd.
- 19:27: Suspicious subject, 800 block E. Whiteaker Ave.

FEBRUARY 11

- 00:32: Alarm, 100 block



Jeremy C. Ruark / Cottage Grove Sentinel

- Gateway Blvd.
- 12:01: Abandoned vehicle, Harvey/16th
- 14:12: Warrant service, 400 block E. Main St.
- 20:11: Criminal mischief, 100 block Gateway Blvd.
- 22:23: Agency assist, 1500 block Fairview Pl.

FEBRUARY 12

- 00:17: Warrant service, 400 block E. Main St.
- 09:04: Warrant service, 400 block E. Main St.
- 11:19: Abandoned vehicle, 1800 block Harvey Rd.
- 13:07: Illegal camping, 1400 block N. Douglas St.
- 13:33: Suspicious condition, 100 block Gateway Blvd.
- 16:05: Juvenile problem, 100 block S. 10th St.
- 16:41: Harassment, 900 block N. 9th St.
- 17:57: Welfare check, 1600 block Birch Ave.
- 18:15: Suspicious condi-

- tion, 100 block Gateway Blvd.
- 20:31: Firearm purchase denial, 100 block Gateway Blvd.
- 20:48: Disorderly subject, 1500 block Gateway Blvd.
- 22:11: Menacing, 300 block Hwy 99

FEBRUARY 13

- 05:22: Assault, 1200 block E. Main St.
- 12:43: Agency assist, 900 block N. Douglas St.
- 14:43: City ordinance violation, 800 block N. 16th St.
- 16:47: Disturbance, 100 block Gateway Blvd.
- 17:50: Illegal camping, Ostrander/16th
- 19:16: Agency assist, 2300 block Main St.
- 21:47: Agency assist, 900 block S. 6th St.
- 22:16: Fraud, 200 block Gateway Blvd.
- 22:22: Order violation,

- 900 block Row River Rd.
- 23:46: Motor vehicle crash, 500 block Grant Ave.

FEBRUARY 14

- 07:30: Disturbance, 500 block N. Douglas St.
- 10:13: Death investigation, 800 block N. 16th St.
- 12:06: Disorderly subject, 5th/Main
- 13:29: Criminal mischief, 900 block N. 16th St.
- 14:01: Warrant service, 400 block E. Main St.
- 14:35: Harassment, 700 block S. 8th St.
- 14:58: Criminal mischief, 900 block N. 16th St.
- 16:31: Welfare check, 2700 block Row River Rd.
- 18:04: Agency assist, 1500 block Village Dr.
- 18:15: Suspicious condition, 100 block S. 6th St.
- 20:21: Juvenile problem, 100 block S. 10th St.

- 22:09: Suicidal subject, 900 block N. Douglas St.
- 22:30: Disturbance, 900 block S. 6th St.

FEBRUARY 15

- 05:53: Suspicious condition, 600 block S. 7th St.
- 06:06: Suspicious subject, 600 block S. 7th St.
- 11:44: Illegal camping, N. Douglas/Ostrander Ln.
- 12:08: Harassment, 500 block E. Main St.
- 12:38: Suspicious subject, 100 block Gateway Blvd.
- 13:39: Mental subject, 900 block N. 16th St.
- 14:13: Agency assist, London/Shorthill
- 15:21: Warrant service, 400 block E. Main St.
- 20:13: Nuisance, 200 block N. 12th St.
- 20:18: Warrant service, 400 block E. Main St.

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Chamber celebrates collaboration, resilience at annual luncheon



Courtesy photo from Greg Lee Photography

Cottage Grove Mayor Candace Solesbee prepares to install the Chamber's 2026 Board of Directors during the annual luncheon.

CINDY WEELDREYER
Cottage Grove Sentinel

The Cottage Grove Area Chamber of Commerce is looking ahead to 2026 after reviewing accomplishments of 2025. The Chamber's Annual Business Meeting and Luncheon brought together business owners, civic leaders, and community partners for updates on Chamber programs, local economic activity, and the installation of the 2026 Board of Directors. Mayor Candace Solesbee led the installation of officers and directors during the Jan. 29 at the Elks Lodge. Outgoing 2025 Board Chair Cameron Reiten delivered his final message, reflecting on a year he described as both transformative and challenging for the business community.

2025 SUCCESSES

Reiten highlighted the Chamber's membership growth from 250 to 271 members, a 90% retention rate, and the organization's partnership with the City of Cottage Grove to support downtown businesses during the Main Street Revitalization Project. The Chamber coordinated weekly stamp card drawings from

mid March through December 12, awarding gift certificates to encourage shopping at Main Street merchants. A total of 1,970 completed stamp cards were submitted during the program.

He also noted the success of the 2025 Concerts in the Park series, which saw strong attendance and required no cancellations due to weather or wildfire smoke. Halloween and Christmas Kickoff events were adapted to All America City Square to accommodate construction downtown, and the Chamber played a key role in preparations for the GUINNESS WORLD RECORDS® gold panning event.

Reiten also acknowledged the Chamber's April board retreat hosted by the McMinnville Chamber of Commerce, which provided strategic planning time and strengthened ties between the two organizations.

Reflecting on his two year term, Reiten said, "It was my honor and privilege to serve the organization in the board chair role. I was proud to see our city leaders, businesses, and community members come together to do what Grovers do best, we help one another to not just survive, but thrive."



Courtesy photo from Greg Lee Photography

Cottage Grove City Manager Mike Sauerwein updated Chamber members on the Main Street Revitalization Project.

He also expressed deep appreciation for the Chamber's staff, directors, and volunteers and will continue serving on the board as Past Chair in 2026.

NEW LEADERSHIP AND 2026 UPDATES

Incoming Board Chair Danny Solesbee presented the State of the Chamber, outlining priorities for the coming year. The 2026 Board includes representatives from South Lane Fire & Rescue, Edward Jones, Cottage Bowl, 5 Flying Monkeys, Shampoo Dolls, Yoss Real Estate, and other local businesses and organizations.

The luncheon also featured: A presentation on the Chamber Health Plan and a Main Street Project update from City Manager Mike Sauerwine

Chamber highlights from the past year: The Chamber's 2026 Annual Report showcased the organization's reach and activity in 2025, including:

- 271 members with a 90% retention rate
- 31 new members
- More than 344,000 social media views and 26,000 engagements

- 52 weekly emails to 769 subscribers
- 12 Concerts in the Park drawing roughly 3,500 attendees
- Downtown Trick or Treat attracting about 4,000 participants
- 12 Business After Hours events averaging 35-45 attendees
- A GUINNESS WORLD RECORDS® title for most people gold panning simultaneously

LOOKING AHEAD

The Chamber's five year vision emphasizes promoting Cottage Grove as a "prosperous destination community" and serving as a conduit for advocacy, marketing, education, and networking for more than 300 members.

Upcoming 2026 events include the Annual Awards Banquet on March 21, Concerts in the Park beginning June 10, monthly Business After Hours gatherings on the third Thursday, and the Chamber's annual holiday and community celebrations.

For more information, contact the Cottage Grove Chamber of Commerce at 541-942-2411. The Chamber office is located at 836 E Main Street in Cottage Grove.

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

FEBRUARY 25

- Elks Bingo Doors open 5 p.m. Early Bird 6:30 p.m. Regular games 7 p.m. Elks Lodge.
- Open Bowling 3-5:30 p.m. Cottage Bowl.
- Craft Tutor 2:30 p.m. CG Public Library (Last Wednesday).
- Senior Center Pinochle 1 p.m. Senior Center.
- CG Public Library Open 11 a.m.-7 p.m.

FEBRUARY 26

- Cottage Grove Lions Club Noon Axe & Fiddle, 657 E. Main St. (4th Thursday).
- Community Center Table Tennis 4-6 p.m. Community Center.
- Baby Laptime 11:30 a.m. CG Public Library.
- Teen Gaming 4 p.m. CG Public Library.
- CG Public Library Open 10 a.m.-6 p.m..

FEBRUARY 27

- Cottage Theatre Youth Play: Junie B. Jones Jr. 7 p.m.
- Opal Center Play: The Swan 7:30 p.m.
- Last Friday Art Walk 6-8 p.m.
- American Legion Post 32 Bingo 5-7 p.m. American Legion Post 32
- Storytime 11:30 a.m. CG Public Library
- CG Public Library Open 10 a.m.-6 p.m.

FEBRUARY 28

- Author Event: Robert Leo Heilman 11 a.m.-1 p.m. CG Public Library.
- Cottage Theatre Youth Play: Junie B. Jones Jr. 2:30 p.m.
- Opal Center Play: The Swan 7:30 p.m.
- Share Fair USA 9 a.m. 1133 E. Main St.
- Cottage Grove Museum 1-4 p.m.
- CG Historical Museum 1-4 p.m.
- Bohemia Gold Mining Museum 1-4 p.m.
- Open Bowling 4-10 p.m. Cottage Bowl
- CG Public Library Open 10 a.m.-4 p.m.

MARCH 1

- Opal Center Play: The Swan 2 p.m.
- VFW Bingo 2-4 p.m. VFW Post 3473.
- South Valley Athletics Bingo 3:30-5:30 p.m. Coast Fork Brewing (1st Sunday).
- Cottage Grove Museum 1-4 p.m.
- CG Historical Museum 1-4 p.m.

MARCH 2

- Senior Center Bingo 12:30 p.m. Community Center.
- CG Public Library Closed Mondays.

MARCH 3

- COpen Bowling 1-5:30 p.m. Cottage Bowl.
- Ukulele Club 9 a.m. CG Public Library.
- Bilingual Story Time 5 p.m. CG Public Library.
- CG Public Library Open 11 a.m.-7 p.m.

MARCH 4

- Coast Fork Kiwanis Club Noon My Boys Pizza, 96 N. Mill St., Creswell (1st Wednesday).
- Rotary Club of Cottage Grove Social 5 p.m. Meeting 5:30 p.m. El Tapatio, 725 E. Gibbs Ave. (1st Wednesday).
- Elks Bingo Doors open 5 p.m. Early Bird 6:30 p.m. Regular games 7 p.m. Elks Lodge.
- Open Bowling 3-5:30 p.m. Cottage Bowl.
- Lego Club for Kids 2:30 p.m. CG Public Library (First Wednesday).
- Senior Center Pinochle 1 p.m. Senior Center.
- CG Public Library Open 11 a.m.-7 p.m.

MARCH 5

- Community Center Table Tennis 4-6 p.m. Community Center.
- Baby Laptime 11:30 a.m. CG Public Library.
- Teen Gaming 4 p.m. CG Public Library.
- CG Public Library Open 10 a.m.-6 p.m.

MARCH 6

- Downtown Flea Market 10 a.m.-3 p.m. 818B Main St.
- Hi Fi Friday 4:30 p.m. CG Public Library (First Friday).

- Public Library (First Friday).
- Storytime 11:30 a.m. CG Public Library.
- American Legion Post 32 Bingo 5-7 p.m. American Legion Post 32.
- CG Public Library Open 10 a.m.-6 p.m.

MARCH 7

- Downtown Flea Market 10 a.m.-3 p.m. 818B Main St.
- Share Fair USA 9 a.m. 1133 E. Main St.
- Cottage Grove Museum 1-4 p.m.
- CG Historical Museum 1-4 p.m.
- Bohemia Gold Mining Museum 1-4 p.m.
- Open Bowling 4-10 p.m. Cottage Bowl.
- CG Public Library Open 10 a.m.-4 p.m.

MARCH 8

- VFW Bingo 2-4 p.m. VFW Post 3473.
- Cottage Grove Museum 1-4 p.m.
- CG Historical Museum 1-4 p.m.

MARCH 9

- CG Public Library Open 10 a.m.-7 p.m.



Metro Creative Connection

- Gardeners Meeting 5:30-7 p.m. Coast Fork Brewing (every other Monday).
- Senior Center Bingo 12:30 p.m. Community Center.
- CG Public Library Closed Mondays.
- **MARCH 10**
- S.T.E.A.M. 3 p.m. CG Public Library (Second Tuesday).

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Western Oregon timber plan opens for public comment

STAFF REPORT
Cottage Grove Sentinel

The Bureau of Land Management is inviting public input for proposed updates to resources management across 2.5 million acres of highly productive timberlands in western Oregon, an effort that underscores the Trump administration's commitment to expanding domestic timber production and reducing reliance on foreign imports.

"Bringing timber production back to historic levels is essential for reviving local economies and reducing the threat of catastrophic wildfires," Acting BLM Director Bill Groffy said. "President Trump has made it clear — enhanced domestic timber

production is vital for our national security, economic prosperity, and effective wildfire management."

A notice was to be published February 19 in the Federal Register to open the comment period, which closes on March 23. Additional information is available at the BLM National NEPA Register, where comments may be submitted through the "Participate Now" option. Written comments may also be emailed to BLM_OR_Revision_Scoping@blm.gov or delivered to: Attention BLM OR930, 1220 SW 3rd Ave, Portland, OR 97204.

The BLM remains committed to supplying a secure, resilient domestic timber

supply. In western Oregon, this commitment is rooted in the Oregon and California Revested Lands Sustained Yield Management Act of 1937, which ensures sustainable forestry practices that support communities and livelihoods, the BLM states in a release.

Revenue from timber harvested on these lands is shared between the U.S. Treasury and 18 western Oregon counties—funding essential local services such as schools, libraries, public safety, and infrastructure projects. Each year, the timber sales support approximately 2,000 local jobs and generate more than \$1 billion for local economies, according to the release.



Courtesy from the BLM

Timber harvest revenue from the western Oregon BLM lands funds essential local services such as schools, libraries, public safety, and infrastructure projects. Each year, the timber sales support approximately 2,000 local jobs and generate more than \$1 billion for local economies, according to the BLM.

State warns of scam targeting Spanish-speaking injured workers

The Oregon Department of Consumer and Business Services (DCBS) is warning the public about a scam targeting Spanish-speaking injured workers in other states, including in nearby Idaho and Montana.

In these scams, workers are contacted by phone, email, social media apps such as Facebook Messenger or WhatsApp, or video calls. The scammers try to convince the worker to appear at an online workers' compensation hearing, and at times, this results in an official appearing order in their favor. Thereafter, they are told must pay money to receive the workers' compensation benefits or the settlement for their claim.

These communications may appear official and the hearings may include a fake judge, attorney, or government representative. The Oregon Workers' Compensation Division (WCD), part of DCBS, and the Workers' Compensation Board (WCB) will never ask anyone to pay to receive benefits

Here's what you should know:

- WCD, WCB, and insurance companies do not ask for payment to release workers' compensation benefits. Never pay money up front for benefits or settlements.
- WCD and WCB will never ask for payment via gift cards, wire transfers, or cryptocurrency. Be skeptical of any requests for payment.



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In these scams, workers are contacted by phone, email, social media apps such as Facebook Messenger or WhatsApp, or video calls.

- Official communications from WCD and WCB will not pressure you to act or pay immediately.
- WCB, which conducts workers' compensation hearings, does not charge or

collect fees for hearings or mediation.

- WCB does not use social media or applications such as Facebook Messenger or WhatsApp to communicate with parties about hearings or mediations.

If you are unsure whether a communication is legitimate, do not send money or personal information. Verify before you act by contacting the Ombuds Office for Oregon Workers by phone at 800-927-1271 (toll-free) or email at oow.questions@dcbs.oregon.gov. The office serves as an independent advocate for workers by helping them understand their rights, benefits, protections, and responsibilities within the workers' compensation system and

workplace safety and health laws and rules.

If you believe a scammer has contacted you:

- Report the incident to local law enforcement
 - Report any scams, fraud, or suspicious business activity to the Oregon Department of Justice's fraud hotline at 1-877-877-9392 (toll-free)
 - Report the scam to the Oregon Department of Justice and the Ombuds Office for Oregon Workers
 - Early reporting helps others from becoming victims
- If someone representing an insurance company is calling and threatening you, contact the Oregon Division of Financial Regulation, also part of DCBS, at 1-888-877-4894 (toll-free).*

OBITUARIES

Eugene Brown

1/30/1942 - 1/22/2026

Eugene "Gene" Ira Brown, 83, of Cottage Grove, Oregon, passed away on January 22nd, 2026, at his home. He was born on January 30th, 1942, in Port Townsend, Washington, to Eugene Brown Sr. and Ramona Brown.



Gene is survived by his siblings, Denise Baker (Ron) of Marysville, WA, Leslie Sayers (Ron) of Long Island, NY, and Roger Brown of Woodinville, WA; his children, Jebediah Brown of Cottage Grove, OR, and Brandon Brown (Tara Protiva-Brown); and his two grandchildren, Grace and Abigail of Little Rock, AR. He leaves behind a host of other relatives and friends who held a special place in his heart.

Gene was preceded in death by his wife, Sandra Juanita Brown, and his siblings, Patty Griffith and Walter Brown.

Gene attended Bothell Senior High School in Bothell, Washington, where he graduated in 1960. He joined the Air Force and served at Mountain Home Air Force Base in Idaho, serving from 1960 to 1965. After his service, Gene went on to graduate from Boise State University in Boise, Idaho, in 1969 with a Bachelor's degree in Political Science. While at Boise State, Gene met the love of his life, Sandra. Gene and Sandra were married in Boise, Idaho, on September 12th, 1964, and were married for 53 years before she passed in 2018.

Gene will be remembered for many things, including his keen sense of humor, his endless appetite for shrimp (or any seafood for that matter), his sweet tooth for black licorice, and his unique square-shaped handwriting. Gene was a lifelong avid reader and loved spending hours putting together scale model kits. He was a proud southpaw and spent a lot of time encouraging his granddaughters to be the same. Above all, Gene was a wonderful brother, beloved by all of his siblings.

Gene held several interesting jobs throughout his life, such as owning a gas station and working as a private detective with his partner in crime, Sandy. He worked for Western States Cat Equipment Company in Boise until retirement. In his retirement, Gene volunteered at his church and the Cottage Grove Community Hospital, where he enjoyed serving others and making new friendships. However, being 'Popster' to his two grandgirls and being 'dad' to his two sons were his favorite jobs.

A special thank you to the sweet souls who helped care for Gene during his last months, especially Sheila Heley. Our family will always be grateful for the kindness and compassion shown to him.

A private family ceremony to celebrate his life will be held at a later date on the Oregon coast, a place close to his and Sandy's hearts.

Irene Lois Bauder

1928 - 2026

Irene Lois Bauder was born April 19, 1928 in Cottage Grove, Oregon to John and Bonnie Schaffer. She went to school in Cottage Grove and graduated from Cottage Grove High School in 1946. It was in high school that Irene met her future husband, Robert "Bob" Bauder. She knew right away that he was something special.



four children in the car were always interesting, as you can well imagine. They traveled from the Oregon Coast to the Redwoods and beyond. Irene and Bob continued to enjoy travel in their retirement, including to Australia and Europe.

Irene was very devoted to her family. She took great joy in attending her children's and grandchildren's various activities. She didn't want to miss a thing!

In her youth she worked at the local movie theaters and a variety store. She learned to play the piano and accompanied school productions. She did not play sports, but she was head yell queen. At an early age, she remembers visiting the library and became a life-long reader. Another memory was tap dancing lessons as a young girl - she even took lessons as an adult! Irene's other talents included drawing, painting and gardening.

After high school, Irene worked as a secretary for a couple of attorneys in Cottage Grove. Bob returned from the Navy, and they married July 11, 1948 at the Walker Church. Shortly after their wedding, Irene contracted tuberculosis and spent their first anniversary in the TB hospital in Salem, Oregon. She was able to come home within a year. As a young couple, they were active in the community.

Irene and Bob started their family with a son, Robert, followed by daughter Nanci. They were surprised when Baby #3 was twin girls Julie and Jana. With four children, Irene was a busy homemaker!

They loved to travel. One of Bob and Irene's early vacations to Florida included a surprise trip to Cuba. Family trips with

Irene was a lifelong member of Trinity Lutheran Church, where she and Bob were charter members. Her faith was very important to her, and it showed in all that she did.

Irene is survived by her son Bob and wife Molly, daughter Nanci Strickland and her husband Larry, daughter Julie Bauder, daughter Jana Bauder Potucek and her husband Charlie Potucek, 8 grandchildren, 8 great-grandchildren, and 2 great-great grandchildren.

She is preceded in death by her parents John and Bonnie Schaffer, her brother Marvin and her husband Bob.

A memorial service will be held Saturday, February 28, 2026, at 1:00PM at the Trinity Lutheran Church in Cottage Grove. A private family graveside was held at Rest-Haven Cemetery in Eugene. Arrangements are in the care of Smith-Lund-Mills Funeral Chapel.

If you wish to make a donation in honor of Irene's memory, please consider donating to: American Lung Association, Friends of the Cottage Grove Library, or Trinity Lutheran Church.

READ ALL ABOUT IT

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COMMENTARY

JOBS Act could make small, important changes for Oregon economy

TODD MUSTARD
JOSH TOMPKINS
Oregon Capital Chronicle

Senate Bill 1586 is proof that even in today's highly partisan political climate, legislators from both major parties will sometimes lend their support to good policy. At a time when Oregon's economy is struggling and good job opportunities are becoming more scarce, this bill would help provide the support and land businesses in targeted sectors need to grow in Oregon.



Jordan Gale / Oregon Capital Chronicle

Construction was ongoing near Hillsboro's urban growth boundary on Feb. 27, 2023. The city of Hillsboro is seeking state approval to allow the semiconductor industry to build outside the urban growth boundary.

It makes so much sense that 36 legislators — 40% of the Legislature — have signed on as sponsors, including Democrats such as Sen. Janeen Sollman, D-Hillsboro, and Republicans like Sen. Bruce Starr, R-Dundee. It deserves support from their 54 colleagues.

Known as the Jobs, Opportunity, Build-ready Sites (JOBS) Act, SB 1586 would make a small number of important changes to tax and land-use policy. It would expand eligibility for state research and development tax credits to clean tech and life sciences businesses as well as those in advanced manufacturing and semiconductor production. It would create a local-option property tax waiver for new machinery and equipment in advanced manufacturing. And it would bring land into Hillsboro's urban growth boundary for advanced manufacturing and semiconductor development. This land was identified by the Oregon CHIPS Act approved by the Legislature in 2023.

Policies that affect taxes and land use can be controversial, particularly in Oregon. But it's worth bearing a few things in mind.

First, tax credits for research and development and property-tax waivers for equipment are tools used by states across the country to encourage innovation and job creation. Such targeted incentives tend to be particularly meaningful in states with otherwise difficult tax environments. And few states provide tax environments less hospitable to innovation and job creation than Oregon. In its 2026 State Tax Competitiveness Index, the nonpartisan Tax Foundation ranks Oregon's corporate tax structure the second worst in the nation.

Second, Oregon's chronic shortage of shovel-ready industrial land makes it difficult for businesses to expand even in sectors like advanced manufacturing and

semiconductor production in which the state excels. Rather than leveraging its strengths to provide high-paying jobs — and generate tax revenue — Oregon pushes successful businesses to invest elsewhere.

In 2025, Business Oregon — the state's economic development agency — released a report highlighting Oregon's vulnerability to business-recruitment efforts mounted by other states. Of Oregon businesses surveyed, 24% said they'd been recruited by other states. And of these, 68% said they either moved or expanded outside of Oregon. A Business Oregon economist later called this an "insane success rate."

Among the Oregon challenges cited by participating businesses were tax policy, the state's regulatory climate and the cost and availability of land. Not coincidentally, the two most common types of incentives offered by

EDITORIAL CARTOON



business-recruitment entities were tax incentives and land. By addressing these two challenges, SB 1586 will keep more Oregon businesses in Oregon.

More importantly, the bill will help retain the jobs such businesses create. Jobs in manufacturing — the sector upon which SB 1586 focuses — are among the state's most lucrative and equitable. According to OBI's 2024 manufacturing report, each job in manufacturing adds nearly 60% more to the state's gross domestic product than jobs in other industries. This productivity supports higher wages, and the median income for manufacturing jobs exceeds the median in other industries by 17%. As explained in OBI's 2021 manufacturing report, manufacturing jobs pay more than jobs in other industries regardless of race, gender and education level.

Unfortunately, Oregon's manufacturing sector has

struggled in recent years. Between June 2023 and June 2024 — the period covered by the 2024 manufacturing report — Oregon ranked only 45th nationally in manufacturing growth. And for every year from 2020 through 2024, manufacturing employment in Oregon grew more slowly — or declined more dramatically — than the national average.

Largely for policy reasons, Oregon now finds itself at the bottom of a deep economic and competitive hole. Its economy grew more slowly than the national average every year from 2021 to 2024. Employment growth has trailed the nation since 2019. This weakness has been captured by ranking after ranking, from the Tax Foundation's competitiveness index to CNBC's America's Top States for Business, which now ranks Oregon 39th. The state ranked 17th as recently as 2017.

SB 1586 won't by itself lift the state from the competitive

and economic depths, but it represents several rungs on the ladder to the surface. It deserves to pass, and Oregonians deserve the jobs it will create.

Todd Mustard is executive manager of the Oregon-Columbia Chapter of the National Electrical Contractors Association (NECA). Josh Tompkins is president and CEO of the Washington County Chamber of Commerce.

<https://oregoncapitalchronicle.com/2026/02/11/jobs-act-could-make-small-important-changes-for-oregon-economy/>
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State issues first 2026 income tax refunds for e-filed returns
Refunds for paper-filed returns to start in April

The Oregon Department of Revenue has begun distributing refunds for the 2025 tax year. Through February 17, the department has processed more than 500,000 electronically filed tax returns.

Most taxpayers can expect to receive their refunds within two weeks of the date their return is filed. Some returns, however, require additional review and can take up to 20 weeks before a refund is issued, according to a release from the Oregon Revenue Department.

Oregon is returning a \$1.41 billion revenue surplus "kicker" to taxpayers in 2026. The kicker credit will either increase a taxpayer's refund or decrease the amount of state taxes they owe.

Only taxpayers who filed a tax year 2024 return and also file a tax year 2025 return can receive a kicker. The credit is a percentage of Oregon personal income tax liability for the 2024 tax year. Taxpayers can determine the amount of their kicker using a "What's My Kicker?" calculator available on Revenue Online.

The department encourages taxpayers to file electronically. On average, taxpayers who e-file their returns and request their refund via direct deposit receive their refund within

two weeks. Those who file paper returns will experience a significantly longer wait in 2026 due to processing delays.

In the closing months of 2025, the IRS was late providing necessary tax form information to the Oregon Department of Revenue. As a result, the state's processing of paper-filed Oregon personal income tax returns will not begin until the end of March. The first refunds for paper-filed returns are not expected to be issued until April.

Taxpayers can check the status of their e-filed refund by using the department's Where's My Refund? tool. The Department of Revenue recommends that taxpayers wait one week after they have electronically filed their return to use the Where's My Refund tool.

Paper-filed returns won't show up in the Where's My Refund? tool until processing begins in late March. Taxpayers mailing their return should wait two weeks after the department starts processing paper returns in late March or after mailing their return, whichever is later.

The Where's My Refund? tool has been updated for 2026, providing clear messaging about the status of their return to taxpayers who

are signed into their Revenue Online account. Taxpayers who don't already have a Revenue Online account can create one by following the Revenue Online link on the department's website.

Taxpayers who don't have a Revenue Online account can still use the Where's My Refund? tool but won't be able to see the updated features.

A video outlining the refund process and timelines is also available to help taxpayers understand the process.

Taxpayers should file just once unless they need to make a change to their return. They should choose to either file electronically or by paper. Doing both will delay processing of their return.

In addition to checking the status of their refund, taxpayers can make payments, or get tax forms by visiting the department's website. Questions can be emailed to questions.dor@dor.oregon.gov.

Taxpayers can also call 800-356-4222 toll-free from an Oregon prefix (English or Spanish) or 503-378-4988 in Salem and outside Oregon. For TTY (hearing or speech impaired), the department accepts all relay calls.

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Weekly Online Poll

Do you agree with the Oregon Republican legislators walk out over the state transportation referendum vote?

Agree Disagree

Previous Poll Results

Do you agree with Gov. Kotek's call to stop all federal immigration enforcement in Oregon until recent violent incidents in Minneapolis, Portland and elsewhere are fully investigated.

33.3% - Yes 66.7% - No



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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Federal legislation introduced to stop grocery price gouging, lower costs

U.S. Senators Ben Ray Luján (D-N.M.), ranking member of the Senate Agriculture Committee’s Subcommittee on Food and Nutrition, and Jeff Merkley (D-Ore.), have introduced the Stop Price Gouging in Grocery Stores Act of 2026.

The legislation is designed to ban corporations from leveraging new technologies to increase grocery prices for Americans. Specifically, the legislation prohibits the use of surveillance pricing in grocery stores, the practice of using personal data to set individualized prices for goods.

Corporations often collect and purchase your personal information to create a detailed profile of consumers. This data, coupled with mobile apps, electronic shelf labels, facial recognition, and other biometric technology, allows companies to charge different people different prices for the same item.

As grocery prices rise and the federal programs that fight hunger are slashed, some of the largest grocery chains appear poised to implement the widespread use of electronic shelf labels, a technology that allows stores to change the price of an item in a matter of seconds from a remote location, Merkley and Luján explain in a release.

The Stop Price Gouging in Grocery Stores Act of 2026 levels the playing field by implementing

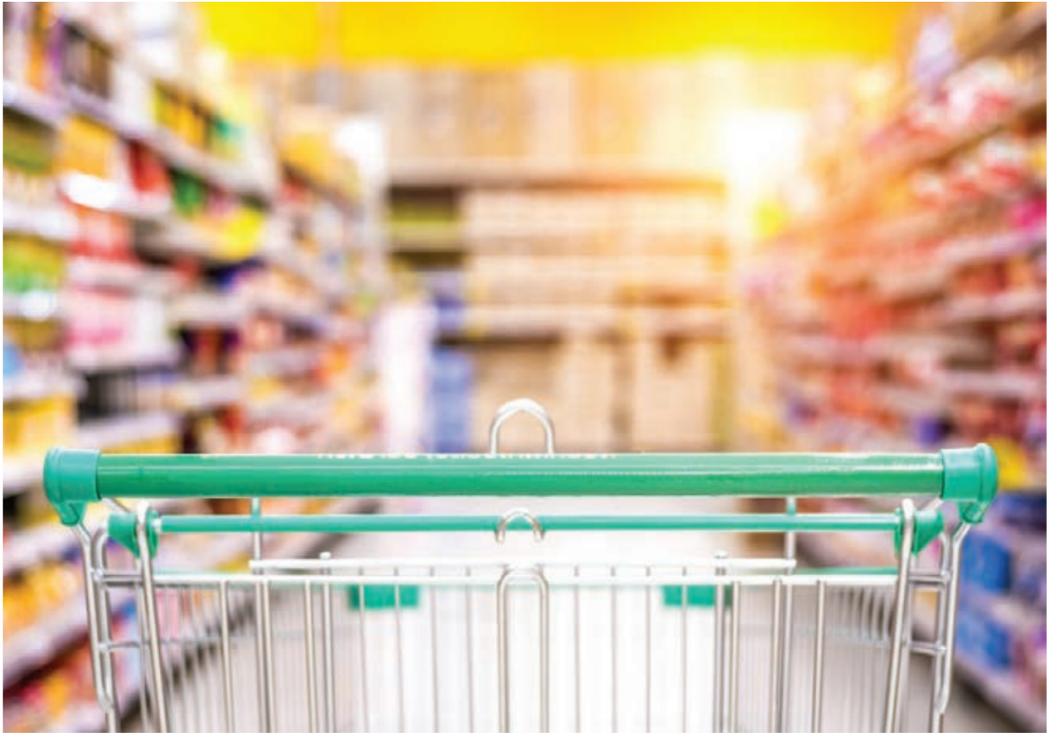
commonsense guardrails to protect Americans families.

“In New Mexico and across the country, Americans are struggling to put food on the table,” Luján said. “With rising costs driven by President Trump’s trade war and Republican cuts to SNAP, Congress must act to ensure that technologies are being used to improve the lives of Americans, not increase their grocery bills. Our friends, family, and neighbors should be able to shop at their local grocery store without worrying about predatory pricing.”

“Working families are paying more than ever for groceries, while huge corporations are raking in record profits,” Merkley said. “We must protect Americans from price gouging and from billionaire corporations abusing folks’ personal information just to charge higher prices. The Stop Price Gouging in Grocery Stores Act cracks down on this corporate greed—in the store and online—putting people over profits.”

“Every single American will be affected by these predatory pricing practices, including the more than 800,000 grocery workers that UFCW represents, who are on the frontlines of this war on consumers,” UFCW International President Milton Jones said.

“Families deserve to shop without worrying that they’ll be targeted with a higher price because of



Metro Creative Connection

The legislation is designed to ban corporations from leveraging new technologies to increase grocery prices for Americans.

their income level or zip code. We applaud Senators Luján and Merkley for their commitment to ending the affordability crisis and protecting consumers.”

Specifically, the Stop Price Gouging in Grocery Stores Act of 2026 addresses the ability of corporations to leverage new technologies against consumers by:

- Prohibiting surveillance pricing in grocery stores;

- Requiring grocery stores to disclose the use of facial recognition technology;

- Banning electronic shelf labels in large grocery stores; and

- Establishing an enforcement mechanism to hold corporations accountable.

During the government shutdown, Senator Luján led the Senate Democratic Caucus in introducing legislation that prevents the Trump administration

from illegally withholding available funds for the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) and the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC). During debate on the Republican Budget Betrayal, Senator Luján spearheaded efforts to reverse the bill’s drastic cuts to food assistance.

Together with Senator Amy Klobuchar (D-Minn.), Ranking

Member of the Senate Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry Committee, Senator Luján convened a Spotlight Forum titled “Hunger by Design: The GOP’s Assault on SNAP” to underscore the devastating impact of Congressional Republicans’ plan to gut SNAP.

This legislation is endorsed by The United Food and Commercial Workers International Union (UFCW).

BOHEMIA

From Page 1

candidate. Stark reached out to Principal Gerot, who assembled a team that included teachers passionate about environmental learning. Letters of support poured in from more than ten community members, including city leaders, educators, and parents.

ARCHITECT BEHIND THE PROPOSAL

Stark, who volunteers with the Coast Fork Willamette Watershed Council, ultimately spent nearly 200 hours facilitating meetings, walking the campus, drafting and revising the proposal, and coordinating with partners.

“This project grew out of the shared interest Debra and I have for helping our community and replacing trees lost after the storms,” Stark said. “After brainstorming, we agreed that Bohemia Elementary would be an ideal fit. I drafted an initial proposal and met with

the team multiple times to talk about how their needs could be met by the grant.”

She contacted Coast Fork Watershed Council’s Executive Director Amanda Gilbert, who endorsed the partnership.

“It was a huge lift,” Stark said, “but a great collaboration. I’m excited to see the opportunities it creates for children to play outside safely, learn about the water cycle, and grow pollinator plants and trees. It also helps our economy by creating several jobs and internships.”

A Councilor’s Perspective

City Councilor Dana Merryday, who represents Ward 3 — where the school is located — also supported the grant.

“Bohemia School, due to its location bordering wetlands, has lost use of its school garden and faces drainage issues affecting its play yard,” he said. “There will be a valuable educational benefit as students learn about bioswales, native plant restoration, and the cultural importance of oak

savannahs and the Native Kalapuya.”

Merryday said he is eager to see the improvements unfold.

“I am excited to watch as Bohemia benefits from this partnership,” he said. “It will improve the quality of educational life for the students there.”

A COMMUNITY WIN

With funding secured, planning and coordination will continue through the Coast Fork Willamette Watershed Council, the Urban Forestry

Committee, and Bohemia’s school team. The project promises not only environmental benefits but also hands on learning, community engagement, and long term resilience.

For Cottage Grove, it is a story of collaboration, persistence, and shared vision and a reminder of what can happen when a community comes together to plant something that will grow for generations.

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

SERVICE

From Page 1

went from sit down dining to offering meals to go but didn’t miss a week.”

Today, the ministry serves an average of 45 hot meals every Tuesday, a number Brown says surprises her given the ongoing need in the community. Many diners, she notes, have no way to cook for themselves.

“Some who come appear as if they haven’t eaten in a while,” she said.

MINISTRY SUSTAINED BY VOLUNTEERS AND LOSS

Over nearly three decades, volunteers have invested tens of thousands of hours into preparing,

serving and supporting the meals. Many of those early helpers are no longer living, a reality Brown feels deeply.

“It makes me happy when I remember all the volunteers who have helped through the years,” she said. “Sadly, so many of them have passed away now.”

The serving crew on Feb. 17 included Brown, her 11 year old grandson Patrick Brown and retired nurse Sheila Pratt, a long-time Trinity member, who has served as a meal volunteer for about 20 years. The menu was a hearty beef stew, a soft roll and two peanut butter cookies.

“I love being active in the community and in a ministry like this one that helps people,” Pratt said. “The meals are hot and filling and I think the

people who come really appreciate it.”

Pratt said Brown has taught generations of volunteers, and especially her grandkids, how to work efficiently and stay productive in the kitchen. After so many years, she said the team knows what needs to be done without much direction.

NEW PASTOR AND A FRESH PERSPECTIVE

Pastor John Westhafer, who arrived at Trinity in November 2025, said he is moved by what he witnesses each week at the Community Kitchen. He comes to most Tuesday meals to share fellowship and observe the ministry in action, and said the experience has quickly become one of the most meaningful parts of his week.

Westhafer said the Community Kitchen fits naturally into Trinity’s mission. The church places preaching and teaching God’s Word and celebrating the Sacraments at the center of its work, but he said the final part of the mission statement, “to live His word and assist others to do the same,” is lived

out clearly in the meal ministry.

He said the ministry also reflects the congregation’s long history of service in Cottage Grove and its desire to meet people where they are.

Westhafer said he has been struck by the way volunteers greet diners by name, ask about their week and offer encouragement. He said those small moments of connection are as important as the food itself. He also brings a touch of humor to the kitchen. Peggy lets him help occasionally, he said, but only if he washes his hands “really well.”

KITCHEN BUILD ON INGENUITY

One of the ministry’s most memorable chapters came during Trinity’s building expansion when the former Cottage Grove Hospital closed and auctioned off its kitchen equipment. The church purchased much of it, including stainless steel shelving, a commercial dishwasher and a prep table, and stored it in a barn until construction began. The new kitchen was designed around that equipment, giving the professional

workspace it still uses today.

ADAPTING FOR THE FUTURE

In 2024, Brown’s daughter encouraged her to retire. Brown could not bring herself to step away, so she compromised by reducing the program from two meals a week to one. She said the change has allowed her to continue serving while also caring for her health and family.

The shift has also required the ministry to be more intentional about planning, purchasing and volunteer scheduling. Brown continues to watch grocery specials, stretch donations and rely on community partners such as local ranchers, Community Sharing and other organizations that provide bulk food or supplies.

“We want our meal ministry to continue and reach those who really need it,” she said.

Despite smaller numbers, Brown believes the ministry remains vital, not only for those who receive meals but for those who serve. She said the weekly rhythm of preparing food, greeting diners and working alongside volunteers

has become a grounding part of her life.

“There are people in our community working to serve those around them because they love to serve,” she said.

A MINISTRY THAT ENDURES

After 28 years, Brown still begins cooking early in the morning, still watches grocery specials to stretch every dollar and still leads with the same steady faith that launched the ministry in 1998. She said she hopes the next generation will continue the work, including her grandson Patrick, who has already learned the routines of the kitchen.

Pastor Westhafer said he believes the ministry will endure because it is rooted in compassion and carried by people who see service as an expression of their faith.

As neighbors step inside one at a time to pick up a hot meal each Tuesday evening, the heart of Trinity’s Community Kitchen continues, simple and steadfast and sustained by grace.

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PUBLIC NOTICES

CGS26-106 TRUSTEE'S NOTICE OF SALE TS NO.: 187462 APN: 1803533

Reference is made to that certain deed made by **DAVID A. KINDT AND DEBRA L. KINDT AND TIFFANY N. KINDT, NOT AS TENANTS IN COMMON, BUT WITH THE RIGHTS OF SURVIVORSHIP** as Grantor to **FIDELITY NATIONAL TITLE COMPANY OF OREGON**, as Trustee, in favor of Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc. as designated nominee for **CMG MORTGAGE INC., DBA CMG FINANCIAL** as Beneficiary, dated 07/28/2023, recorded 07/28/2023, in the official records of Lane County, Oregon as Instrument No. 2023-021845 in Book xx, Page xx covering the following described real property situated in said County and State, to wit: See attached Exhibit A Commonly known as: 2011 W 14th Place, Eugene, OR 97402 The current beneficiary is **Rocket Mortgage, LLC f/k/a Quicken Loans, LLC** pursuant to assignment of deed of trust recorded on 07/11/2025 as Inst No. 2025-021286 in the records of Lane, Oregon. The beneficiary has elected and directed successor trustee to sell the said real property to satisfy the obligations secured by said trust deed and notice has been recorded pursuant to Section 86.752(3) of Oregon Revised Statutes: the default for which the foreclosure is made is the grantor's failure to: Make the monthly payments commencing with the payment due on 04/01/2025 and continuing each month until this trust deed is reinstated or goes to trustee's sale; plus a late charge on each installment not paid within fifteen days following the payment due date; trustee's fees and other costs and expenses associated with this foreclosure and any further breach of any term or condition contained in subject note and deed of trust. 1. By the reason of said default the beneficiary has declared all obligations secured by said deed of trust immediately due and payable, said sums being the following, to wit: Principal balance in the amount of: \$172,128.04; 2. Interest through 11/30/2025 in the amount of: \$9,471.56 3. MIP/PMI Advances in the amount of: \$265.12 4. Recoverable balance in the amount of: \$2,836.25 5. Late Charges in the amount of: \$0.00 6. Total Fees in the amount of: \$122.00 7. Escrow Advances in the amount of: \$1,658.83 8. Together with the interest thereon at the rate 7.3750000% per annum until paid; plus all accrued late charges thereon; and all trustee's fees, foreclosure costs and any sums advanced by the beneficiary pursuant to the terms of said deed of trust. The principal sum of \$172,128.04 together with the interest thereon at the rate 7.3750000% per annum from 03/01/2025 until paid; plus all accrued late charges thereon; and all trustee's fees, foreclosure costs and any sums advanced by the beneficiary pursuant to the terms of said deed of trust. Whereof, notice hereby is given that the undersigned trustee will on 04/08/2026 at the hour of 1:00 PM, Standard of Time, as established by Section 187.110, Oregon Revised Statutes, at the front entrance of the Courthouse, Lane County Courthouse, 125 East 8th Avenue, Eugene, OR 97401, County of Lane, State of Oregon, sell at public auction to the highest bidder for cash the interest in the said described real property which the grantor had or had power to convey at the time of the

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PUBLIC NOTICES

execution by him of the said trust deed, together with any interest which the grantor or his successors in interest acquired after the execution of said trust deed, to satisfy the foregoing obligations thereby secured (and the costs and expenses of sale, including a reasonable charge by the trustee). Notice is further given that any person named in Section 86.778 of Oregon Revised Statutes; has the right to have the foreclosure proceeding dismissed and the trust deed reinstated by payment to the beneficiary of the entire amount then due (other than such portion of said principal as would not then be due had no default occurred), together with the costs, trustee's and attorney's fees and curing any other default complained of in the Notice of Default by tendering the performance required under the obligation or trust deed, at any time prior to five days before the date last set

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PUBLIC NOTICES

for the sale. In construing this, the masculine gender includes the feminine and the successor in interest to the grantor as well as any other person owing obligation, the performance of which is secured by said trust deed; the words "trustee" and "beneficiary" include their respective successors in interest, if any. Pursuant to Oregon Law, this sale will not be deemed final until the Trustee's deed has been issued by Prime Recon LLC. If any irregularities are discovered within 10 days of the date of this sale, the trustee will rescind the sale, return the buyer's monies and take further action as necessary. If the sale is set aside for any reason, including if the trustee is unable to convey title, the Purchaser at the sale shall be entitled only to a return of the monies paid to the Trustee. This shall be the Purchaser's sole and exclusive remedy. The purchaser shall have no further re-

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PUBLIC NOTICES

course against the Trustor, the Trustee, the Beneficiary, the Beneficiary's Agent, or the Beneficiary's Attorney. Also, please be advised that pursuant to the terms stated on the Deed of Trust and Note, the beneficiary is allowed to conduct property inspections while there is a default. This shall serve as notice that the beneficiary shall be conducting property inspections on the referenced property. Without limiting the trustee's disclaimer of representations or warranties, Oregon law requires the trustee to state in this notice that some residential property sold at a trustee's sale may have been used in manufacturing methamphetamine, the chemical components of which are known to be toxic. Prospective purchasers of residential property should be aware of this potential danger before deciding to place a bid for this property at the trustee's sale. **NOTICE TO RESIDENTIAL TENANTS** The property in which you are living is in foreclosure. A foreclosure sale is scheduled for 04/08/2026 (date). The date of this sale may be postponed. Unless the lender that is foreclosing on this property is paid before the sale date, the foreclosure will go through and someone new will own this property. After the sale, the new owner is required to provide you with contact information and notice that the sale took place. The following information applies to you only if you are a bona fide tenant occupying and renting this property as a residential dwelling under a legitimate rental agreement. The information does not apply to you if you own this property or if you are not a bona fide residential tenant. If the foreclosure sale goes through, the new owner will have the right to require you to move out. Before the new owner can require you to move, the new owner must provide you

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SPORTS

CGHS Lions' boys qualify 7 wrestlers to state

nt Thompson	215	3rd	2015	Bryce Allen	120	6th	2021	Raina Herzog	235	1st	2025
h Stanley	135	5th	2015	Mae Locke	152	3rd	2021	Leah Schiewe	235	3rd	2025
k Wisely	106	7th	2016	Andrew Bordeaux	182	2nd	2023	Allison Palluck	115	5th	2025
vid Berg	140	8th	2016	Allan Bordeaux	170	4th	2024	Jeffery Conklin	120	5th	2025
nnon McGuire	112	2nd	2016	Bryce Allen	126	6th	2024	Carter Bengtson	115	6th	2025
qualyn Carson	152	4th	2016	Katherine Dennis	170	1st	2024	Nathan Abrams	285	1st	2025
h Stanley	145	3rd	2018	Adam Lamb	285	1st	2025	Allison Palluck	120	5th	2025
h Stanley	160	1st	2019	Raina Herzog	235	1st	2025	Jeffery Conklin	120	5th	2025
ler Lehman	220	3rd	2019	Jacob Dunn	145	3rd	2025				
ie Locke	145	3rd	2019	Drew Swenson	170	6th	2025				
drew Bordeaux	160	4th	2020	Raina Herzog	235	1st	2025				
lan Bordeaux	152	6th	2020	Jacob Dunn	152	2nd	2025				



Courtesy photo
Cottage Grove High School 2025-2026 boys wrestling team.

WILL LOHRE
Cottage Grove Sentinel

The Cottage Grove High School boys will be well represented at the OSAA Wrestling State Championships this year, as seven Lions fought their way to qualification at the 4A Special District 2 tournament Feb. 14.

The regional tournament was hosted at Newport High School, and as well as sending seven wrestlers to state, Cottage Grove took third in the district, with five other wrestlers placing at the event.

Full standings from the tournament were:

1. Sweet Home - 507
2. Cascade - 325.5

3. Cottage Grove - 195
4. Philomath - 160
5. Newport - 96.5
6. North Parion - 91.5
7. Junction City - 82
8. Stayton - 78.5

The strong performances at districts were celebrated in a post on the Cottage Grove Wrestling Facebook page on Feb. 15.

“Watching the growth of these athletes this season has been incredible. They’ve put in the work day after day — in the room and on the mat — and it’s paying off. They’ve earned it. They’ve battled for it. And they’ve officially punched their tickets to State,” the post stated.

Jeffery Conklin capped off a flawless season in familiar fashion: atop the

podium. The junior notched his 46th, 47th, and 48th consecutive wins of the season at districts, taking the title at 132 pounds to punch his ticket to state. According to Flowrestling.org, Conklin has amassed a 48-0 record this season, highlighted by tournament wins in Bend, Grants Pass, Junction City, Florence, Tualatin, Cottage Grove, and now Newport. This will be the third time in three years that Conklin will represent the Lions at the Veterans Memorial Coliseum in Portland.

Michael Hoyer, Raphael LaCount, Jayden Davis, Jake Palluck, Karsen Yarush, and Ben Stewart also qualified for the state championships, with each wrestler finishing fourth

or better in their respective weight classes.

Jake Palluck, wrestling at 150 pounds, grabbed the lone second-place finish for Cottage Grove. He pinned his first two opponents to make the finals, but was bested by technical fall in the championship match.

Taking third for the Lions were Raphael LaCount (113 pounds) and Jayden Davis (150 pounds). Davis wrestled five matches, winning four and losing one. His lone loss came in the semifinals, but back-to-back victories in consolation netted him a bronze medal. LaCount went 3-1 on the weekend, sealing his third-place finish with a dominant technical fall win over Cascade’s Colton Riesterer.

The final state qualifiers, Michael Hoyer (106 pounds), Karsen Yarush (157 pounds), and Ben Stewart (285 pounds), each placed fourth in their divisions. Hoyer and Yarush each went 4-2 to secure their bids to the state championships, while Stewart won three of his five matches to secure his fourth-place finish.

Also taking places at districts, along with their records for the weekend, were:

- Finnegan Kent - 113 pounds - 5th - 3-3 record
- Atlas Daves - 120 pounds - 5th - 1-3 record
- Mario Lengele - 126 pounds - 6th - 2-3 record

- Grimly Owens - 144 pounds - 5th - 2-3 record
- Ramon Munoz-Gonzales - 285 pounds - 5th - 2-3 record

For Cottage Grove’s state qualifiers, the season will continue at the Veterans Memorial Coliseum in Portland on Feb. 26-27. The Cottage Grove girls hosted the Special District 2 Championships on Feb. 20-21. See results at osaa.org.

In previous wrestling articles this year, Jeffery Conklin was mistakenly referred to as a high school senior; Conklin is, in fact, in his junior year. The Cottage Grove Sentinel is happy to set the record straight.

Immunization Deadline February 25

OREGON HEALTH AUTHORITY

Fast Fact

New report shows access to vaccines among challenges parents, caregivers face ahead of school vaccination deadline.

With the annual deadline fast approaching for updating children’s vaccinations, Oregon Health Authority (OHA) reminds parents and caregivers that their children may miss school or child care, if they are missing vaccinations.

By the fourth Wednesday in February, under state law, all children in public and private schools, pre-schools, Head Start and certified child care facilities must submit documentation showing they are up-to-date on required vaccinations or have an exemption.

This year, the annual Exclusion Day falls on Feb. 25. If a child’s records do not show up-to-date vaccinations by that day, the child’s school or child

care facility will send them home.

“Vaccine-preventable diseases can be highly contagious,” OHA’s Public Health Division School Immunization Coordinator Stacy de Assis Matthews said. “Last year, for example, Oregon reported 1,552 cases of pertussis, the highest number we’ve seen in 75 years. Vaccination remains our best defense against these diseases, keeping kids and school communities healthy and safe.”

A new OHA report shows parents and guardians seek nonmedical exemptions (NME) for their children’s required school vaccinations for two primary reasons: Concerns over vaccine safety and the inability to get vaccination appointments.

The study was launched in 2023, after Oregon’s kindergarten NME rate reached what was then an all-time high of 8.1%. That continued a steady rise in such exemptions over the past decade, interrupted only by the COVID-19 pandemic.

For the 2024-2025 school year, the rate reached a new record high of 9.7%.

Record highs for NMEs were recorded for the past three years.

These findings can be found in the report Understanding Nonmedical Vaccine Exemptions in Oregon.

“We want to make sure that all families are able to get their questions about vaccines answered by a trusted medical provider, and to get into a clinic where their children can get needed vaccines,” said de Assis Matthews.

For children who are still missing vaccinations for the current school year, county health departments mailed letters to parents and caregivers (on or before Feb. 4) informing them of the upcoming deadline to submit their children’s up-to-date vaccination records.

Last school year (2024-2025), county health departments in Oregon mailed 22,702 letters, which led to 4,504 children being sent home and not able to attend

school until their families provided the necessary vaccination records.

School vaccination and exemption rates for the 2024-2025 school year are available at Oregon’s School Immunization Data dashboard. Data for the current school year will be available this spring.

With the upcoming school vaccination deadline, and with difficulty getting vaccines being a factor in increasing exemption rates, OHA wants people to know where to get vaccines for their children.

Parents and caregivers can contact their health care provider or local health department. No one can be turned away from a local health department because of their inability to pay for required vaccines.

Many pharmacists can also immunize children aged 7 and older. Families can also call 211 go to 211info.org to find a local vaccine clinic.

People in Oregon shared their personal stories with



Metro Creative Connection

This year, the annual Exclusion Day falls on Feb. 25. If a child’s records do not show up-to-date vaccinations by that day, the child’s school or child care facility will send them home.

OHA on why they decided to vaccinate their children:

- Hear how Sarah’s powerful conversations changed her mom’s long-held views on vaccinations: <https://youtu.be/dPB2sfySwJQ>
- Reverend Dr. Currie encourages people from all religious walks of life to get their vaccinations: <https://youtu.be/D6XnPm1N4iQ>

• As a parent herself, Dr. Choo talks about why she vaccinates her children: <https://youtu.be/aDy7sseKs24>

OHA invites people to join the conversation and share why they vaccinate by using #ORVaccinates on social media.

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with written notice that specifies the date by which you must move out. If you do not leave before the move-out date, the new owner can have the sheriff remove you from the property after a court hearing. You will receive notice of the court hearing. PROTECTION FROM EVICTION IF YOU ARE A BONA FIDE TENANT OCCUPYING AND RENTING THIS PROPERTY AS A RESIDENTIAL DWELLING, YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO CONTINUE LIVING IN THIS PROPERTY AFTER THE FORECLOSURE SALE FOR: 60 DAYS FROM THE DATE YOU ARE GIVEN A WRITTEN TERMINATION NOTICE, IF YOU HAVE A FIXED TERM LEASE; OR AT LEAST 30 DAYS FROM THE DATE YOU ARE GIVEN A WRITTEN TERMINATION NOTICE,

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IF YOU HAVE A MONTH-TO-MONTH OR WEEK-TO-WEEK RENTAL AGREEMENT. If the new owner wants to move in and use this property as a primary residence, the new owner can give you written notice and require you to move out after 30 days, even though you have a fixed term lease with more than 30 days left. You must be provided with at least 30 days’ written notice after the foreclosure sale before you can be required to move. A bona fide tenant is a residential tenant who is not the borrower (property owner) or a child, spouse or parent of the borrower, and whose rental agreement: Is the result of an arm’s-length transaction; Requires the payment of rent that is not substantially less than fair market rent for the property, un-

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less the rent is reduced or subsidized due to a federal, state or local subsidy; and Was entered into prior to the date of the foreclosure sale. ABOUT YOUR TENANCY BETWEEN NOW AND THE FORECLOSURE SALE: RENT YOU SHOULD CONTINUE TO PAY RENT TO YOUR LANDLORD UNTIL THE PROPERTY IS SOLD OR UNTIL A COURT TELLS YOU OTHERWISE. IF YOU DO NOT PAY RENT, YOU CAN BE EVICTED. BE SURE TO KEEP PROOF OF ANY PAYMENTS YOU MAKE. SECURITY DEPOSIT You may apply your security deposit and any rent you paid in advance against the current rent you owe your landlord as provided in ORS 90.367. To do this, you must notify your landlord in writing that you want to subtract the amount of

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your security deposit or prepaid rent from your rent payment. You may do this only for the rent you owe your current landlord. If you do this, you must do so before the foreclosure sale. The business or individual who buys this property at the foreclosure sale is not responsible to you for any deposit or prepaid rent you paid to your landlord. ABOUT YOUR TENANCY AFTER THE FORECLOSURE SALE The new owner that buys this property at the foreclosure sale may be willing to allow you to stay as a tenant instead of requiring you to move out after 30 or 60 days. After the sale, you should receive a written notice informing you that the sale took place and giving you the new owner’s name and contact information. You should contact the new owner if

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you would like to stay. If the new owner accepts rent from you, signs a new residential rental agreement with you or does not notify you in writing within 30 days after the date of the foreclosure sale that you must move out, the new owner becomes your new landlord and must maintain the property. Otherwise: You do not owe rent; The new owner is not your landlord and is not responsible for maintaining the property on your behalf; and You must move out by the date the new owner specifies in a notice to you. The new owner may offer to pay your moving expenses and any other costs or amounts you and the new owner agree on in exchange for your agreement to leave the premises in less than 30 or 60 days. You should speak with a lawyer to

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fully understand your rights before making any decisions regarding your tenancy. IT IS UNLAWFUL FOR ANY PERSON TO TRY TO FORCE YOU TO LEAVE YOUR DWELLING UNIT WITHOUT FIRST GIVING YOU WRITTEN NOTICE AND GOING TO COURT TO EVICT YOU. FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR RIGHTS, YOU SHOULD CONSULT A LAWYER. If you believe you need legal assistance, contact the Oregon State Bar and ask for the lawyer referral service. Contact information for the Oregon State Bar is included with this notice. If you do not have enough money to pay a lawyer and are otherwise eligible, you may be able to receive legal assistance for free. Information about whom to contact for free legal assistance

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is included with this notice. OREGON STATE BAR, 16037 S.W. Upper Boones Ferry Road, Tigard Oregon 97224, Phone (503) 620-0222, Toll-free 1-800-452-8260 Website: <http://www.oregonlawhelp.org> The Fair Debt Collection Practices Act requires that we state the following: this is an attempt to collect, and any information obtained will be used for that purpose. If a discharge has been obtained by any party through bankruptcy proceedings: This shall not be construed to be an attempt to collect the outstanding indebtedness or hold you personally liable for the debt. This letter is intended to exercise the note holders right’s against the real property only. NOTICE TO VETERANS If the recipient of this notice is a veteran of the armed forces, assistance

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may be available from a county veterans’ service officer or community action agency. Contact information for a service officer appointed for the county in which you live and contact information for a community action agency that serves the area where you live may be obtained by calling a 2-1-1 information service. Dated: 11/18/2025 Prime Recon LLC By: Carmen Robinson, Authorized Signer Prime Recon LLC 27368 Via Industria, Ste 201 Temecula, CA 92590 Phone number for the Trustee: (888) 725-4142 A-4858626 0 2 / 2 5 / 2 0 2 6 , 0 3 / 0 4 / 2 0 2 6 , 0 3 / 1 1 / 2 0 2 6 , 03/18/2026