

Election 2026

Daisy For Mayor provides fun, but also a downside

Rural priorities shape commissioner race

CINDY WEELDREYER
Cottage Grove Sentinel

Voters will choose next month between incumbent Heather Buch and challenger Jake Pelroy in the East Lane County Commissioner race, a contest shaped by rural priorities, public safety concerns, and sharply different views on how the county should manage growth and essential services.

The May primary was a three-way contest, with Jake Pelroy and Heather Buch separated by only a few percentage points. Forest scientist Bob Zybach drew about five percent of the vote, preventing either frontrunner from reaching a majority and sending Pelroy and Buch to a November runoff.

Although the East Lane seat is elected countywide, both candidates emphasized the needs of rural communities, small cities, and working families. The Sentinel asked each candidate the same three questions focused on their reasons for running, support for South Lane communities, and priorities for the next four years.

HEATHER BUCH (Incumbent)

Buch describes herself as a mother, military spouse, and former small business owner. She is a rural Lane County resident who lives in the Spencer Creek area south of Eugene. She said the focus of her reelection campaign is “standing up for our local communities and fighting for our fair share.” She is seeking her third four-year term, and said she has led the effort to open a new rural health center in Cottage Grove, secured new equipment for firefighters, and funded rural sheriff patrols. “I am proud to be endorsed by former Congressman Peter DeFazio, Lane County firefighters, trade unions, and working families across Lane County.”

Q1: Why are you seeking this position?

“All Lane County communities – from Eugene to our small towns, to our most rural areas – deserve a voice in county government. I’m running to make sure no community is overlooked. I’m proud of the work that I’ve done on issues like healthcare access, wildfire recovery and preparedness, and public safety, but there is so much more to do. One of my biggest priorities is getting the new mental health stabilization center over the finish line... I will also continue recovery work from the Holiday Farm Fire, expand public safety services, and lower long-term costs for residents.”

Q2: How will you support small cities in South Lane County?

“Throughout my time on the commission, I have been a steadfast advocate for our smaller communities, and I remain committed to ensuring they receive their fair share... My efforts have led to the opening of the South Lane Health

JEREMY C. RUARK
CINDY WEELDREYER
Cottage Grove Sentinel

A four-foot candidate is running for Cottage Grove Mayor. Local supports have launched a write-in campaign for Daisy the dog.

For Cottage Grove resident and animal lover Stephen Thoemmes this is not the first time he has served as campaign manager for his dog’s bid for public office. He assisted his previous service dog Mia, a Carin Terrier, in her bid for an at-large seat on the City Council in 2023.

Sadly, after Mia died, Stephen adopted an abused German Shepherd rescue dog he named Daisy, who became his new service dog. She is somewhat of a celebrity in town and is warmly greeted in all of the places they frequent in the community.

“A few weeks ago, when I went to city hall and requested the paperwork to run for Mayor City Recorder Mindy Roberts took a second look at us and said, ‘I remember you.’ She told us the filing deadline was in August but she could still run as a write-in candidate,” he said.

According to Thoemmes, the reason Daisy is running for Mayor is because the world is so grim with people thinking darkly and, for some, voting is a drudge. It is against this negative temperature in the current culture that he wants her to live things up. He wants her candidacy to bring a smile to people’s faces.

He has purchased on her behalf campaign buttons, flyers, lawn signs and even bought an ad in this week’s Sentinel.



Courtesy photo

Stephen Thoemmes Daisy’s owner is stumping Daisy as a potential write-in for Cottage Grove Mayor.

“When I say I’m going to do something, I don’t do things half-way,” Thoemmes said. “I’m doing this because I just want people to be happy.”

Stephen said he and Daisy share the same birthday, which they celebrate just after election day. He will be 76 and she will be four. “So, we have this May-December romance,” he said with a laugh.

He said he sees the people around him sad and burdened or locked into their devices and he wants to get their attention. He said Daisy’s bid for Mayor appeals to Cottage Grove’s better angels and reflects our town’s humor and the kindness Grovers show to each other.

“Daisy and I want to keep hope growing because it is a difficult thing to hang on to.”

While the deadline to file has passed for the November election, Cottage Grove City Recorder Mindy Roberts said such write-in campaigns are legal.

“But I can tell you that the dog is not eligible for election,” she said. “In fact, someone submitted in the dog’s behalf in 2024. I was able to respond to the person that had submitted that the candidacy would have to be declined because they are not eligible. They do not meet the qualifications that are outlined in the city code. It was really tongue-in-cheek and fun. I have heard stories

of people writing in, like Mikey Mouse, things like that, but they are not going to be counted.”

Roberts said there is a downside to the Daisy for Mayor write-in effort.

“If registered voters in the city of Cottage Grove are deferring their vote, having fun, to a write-in candidate, for an animal or something like that, it is taking away the vote for a potential candidate that has actually submitted their candidacy for an articular position and someone who could actually do the job.”

Look for more about Daisy in the print version of this story in the Oct. 14 editions of the Cottage Grove Sentinel. The lone human candidate for Cottage Grove Mayor is Council President Greg Ervin.

The City of Cottage Grove has provide a Voters Guide for the Nov. 3 General Election. Find that guide at: 2026_Local Voters Pamphlet_Oregon General Election.pub

The Voters’ Pamphlet can be found

- Visit www.cottagegroveor.gov and select the quick link on the right side of the homepage.
- In Person at City Hall, 400 East Main Street, Mon. - Fri. 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.
- Request a copy be mailed or emailed to you by calling 541-942-5501.



Police to share \$4.6M for public safety

JEREMY C. RUARK
Cottage Grove Sentinel

The United States Department of Justice has sent grant award notifications, totaling more than \$4.6 million, to organizations and cities in Oregon, including Cottage Grove, to continue and enhance their work for public safety work in Oregon.

The following are the recipients and their award amounts:

- Liberty House, \$1,000,000.00
- City of Gresham-East Multnomah Outreach Prevention Intervention, \$1,005,000.00
- Oregon CASA Network, \$1,031,000.00
- Oregon Coalition Against Domestic and Sexual Violence Inc., \$343,065.00
- City of Beaverton-Behavioral Health Court, \$500,000.00
- City of Cottage Grove-Cottage-Grove Police Department \$800,000.00.

“I thank these organizations for their work to keep our communities safe and congratulate them on their awards,” U.S. Attorney District of Oregon Scott E. Bradford said. “I am thankful the United States Department of Justice continues to support this important work and our partners throughout our Oregon communities.”

The funds come from Byrne Discretionary Community Project Grants/Byrne Discretionary Grants Program and OVW Fiscal Year 2026 State and Territory Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault.



Jeremy C. Ruark / Cottage Grove Sentinel

The \$800,000 will be used to replace and modernize the Cottage Grove Police Department fleet.

The work that will be funded includes:

- Increased medical clinic services to children who are victims of abuse or neglect.
- Work to prevent and combat juvenile delinquency, reduce youth involvement in violent crime, and strengthen coordinated public safety efforts for youth and families.
- Behavioral health aimed at curbing recidivism.
- Court Appointed Special Advocates for children removed from their home due to abuse or neglect.
- Supporting the work to assist survivors of domestic and sexual violence.
- Police department fleet modernization aimed at restoring community trust, and improving public safety.

The Sentinel reached out to Cottage Grove Police Chief Cory Chase to gain insight into how his agency will use the \$800,000 grant.

Cottage Grove Sentinel: When will you receive the grant?

Cory Chase: The grant funding has been approved and adopted in the Federal budget. Now that the funds have been made available through the application process, we are working through the process to begin spending the money and submitting for reimbursement. I anticipate placing orders by the end of the month.

Cottage Grove Sentinel: How specifically will your department use the money and why for that reason?

Chase: The money was applied for and designated for police fleet modernization. We will replace our

ageing fleet and outfit our vehicles with new state-of-the-art equipment including new radios and in-car camera systems. Upgrading the patrol fleet will allow us to re-purpose some of the current fleet to the detectives and other services.

Cottage Grove Sentinel: How will this grant improve public safety in Cottage Grove?

Case: It will increase our patrol capabilities and how we respond to calls for service. It will also help us continue to work effectively throughout the region to assist our community partners. We will increase our ability to obtain and preserve valuable video evidence as well as have modern radios and mobile computers in our police cars.

Cottage Grove Sentinel: What other grants is your department seeking and what would those grants fund?

Chase: We have received grant funding from the Oregon Department of Transportation to fund overtime opportunities for increasing traffic enforcement. We have also received grant funding for our ballistic vests. We will continue to apply for those grants along with other grants that we think can help increase our capabilities and our ability to respond to the needs of the community.

Cottage Grove Sentinel: Feel free to add any other comments you might have.

Chase: I appreciate the assistance we received from Congresswoman Hoyle’s Office and her support for this important funding for Cottage Grove.

Closer Look

Throwing a can of beer results in arrest

COTTAGE GROVE SENTINEL

The following is from the Cottage Grove Police Department's Weekly Update.

SEPTEMBER 28 - OCTOBER 4

- During a patrol check of East Regional Park Boat Ramp, officers located a vehicle parked with a male and female juvenile inside, after curfew. When the juveniles rolled down the window, officers could see the vehicle was filled with smoke and could smell the odor of marijuana coming from the window.

After the investigation was complete, officers gave the female juvenile a ride home and released her to a guardian. She was cited for Minor in Possession of Marijuana (ORS 475C.317) and was advised of the juvenile curfew. The male juvenile was transported to the Cottage Grove Police Department's front lobby to wait for his guardian to arrive from out of city limits. He was also issued a citation for Minor in Possession of Marijuana (ORS 475C.317) and was released to his guardian.

- Dispatch received a call that the reporting party had just witnessed a male driver throw what eventually was determined to be a can of beer, at a female inside a travel trailer parked along the street.

The object hit the female, who had been sitting next to the opened window when the object was thrown. The witness was able to give dispatch the license plate and driver description, and officers were able to respond to the registered owner's home. The vehicle in the driveway matched the description provided. The male subject was interviewed and subsequently arrested for Criminal Mischief in the Third Degree (ORS 164.345), Harassment (ORS 166.065), and Disorderly Conduct in

the Second Degree (ORS 166.025). He was issued a Citation in Lieu of Custody for the above-mentioned charges as well as a Uniform Traffic Citation for Violation of the Open Container Law (ORS 811.170).

- Officers were dispatched to a report of a motor vehicle crash at Row River Road and Gateway Blvd. At the completion of the investigation, it was determined that one of the drivers would be issued citations for Driving While Suspended and Driving Uninsured.

- While assisting with the above motor vehicle crash, officers could hear another crash that occurred around the I-5 northbound on-ramp. An officer responded to that area and found that the crash involved three vehicles. A Lane County Sheriff's Deputy witnessed the accident and assisted at the scene.

After the investigation, no citations were issued and all vehicles were able to be removed from the roadway.

- Officers responded to a report of an intoxicated male drinking in front of a market. Officers arrived and contacted an intoxicated male who was consuming several alcoholic beverages. The male did not understand English, and officers attempted to use Language Line, but had been experiencing some difficulties. A citizen was exiting the store and overheard the conversation between officers, the translator on the phone, and the male.

The citizen asked if he could assist as he spoke fluent Spanish. The citizen assisted in identifying the male and was quickly able to provide a first and last name, along with a date of birth. However, Dispatch advised the male could not be located in the system. The male was detained [CC1.1] for a violation of Municipal Code and transported back to the station

for fingerprinting to confirm his identify. After fingerprinting, Oregon State Police was able to identify the male. He was provided with a Citation [CC2.1] for Drinking in Public (City Ordinance 9.16.010) and released.

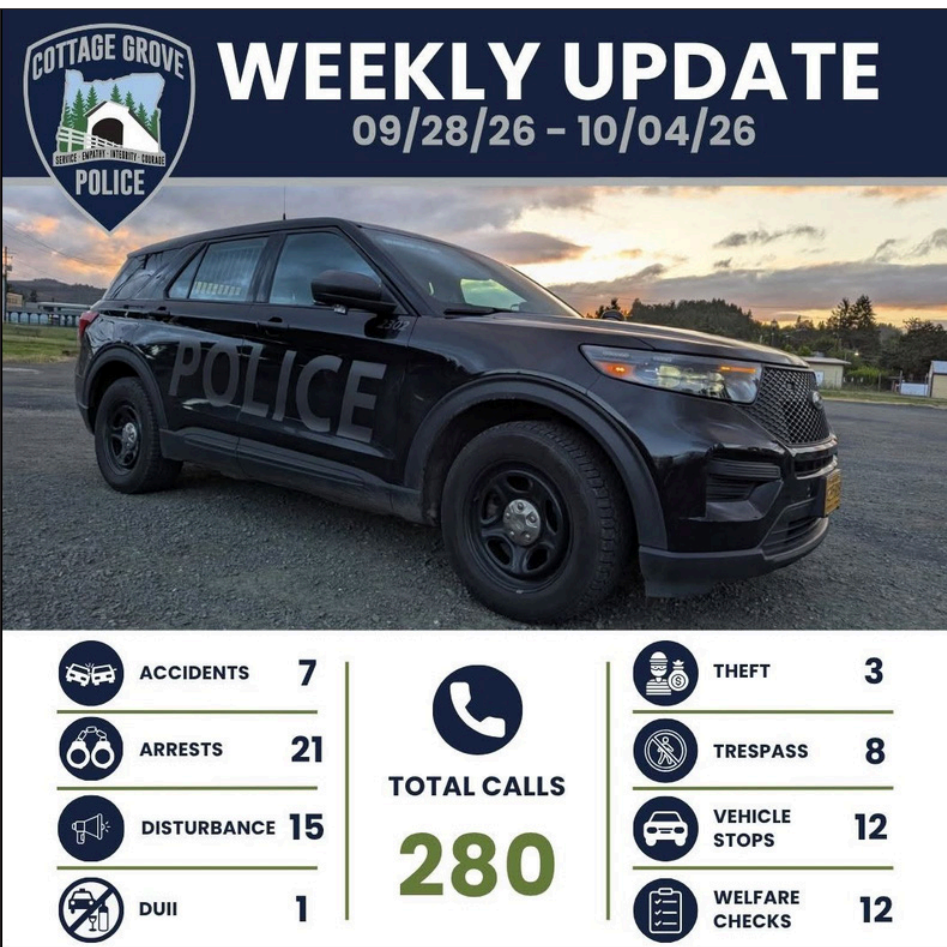
- Reports of disorderly patrons at a local pub were called in. Officers arrived and began their investigation. The suspect had left the bar prior to officers' arrival, but the vehicle was located shortly after traveling on East Whiteaker Avenue. The driver was showing signs of impairment, and a DUI investigation was conducted.

Officers began their Standard Field Sobriety Tests and eventually brought him into to the Police Department to provide a breath sample. The male driver provided a breath sample of 0.22% (almost three times the legal limit). He was issued a Citation in Lieu of Custody for Driving Under the Influence of Intoxicants (ORS 813.010). He was released and called for an Uber to transport him and the passenger home.

SEPTEMBER 21 – SEPTEMBER 27

- A semitruck became stranded in the middle of the intersection of Gateway Blvd. and Row River Road. Officers assisted in traffic control until the truck was able to move and clear the intersection.

- Officers responded to a disturbance at a residence where bricks had been thrown through a window, breaking it. During the investigation, it was determined that one of the individuals involved had two warrants for her arrest out of our agency for Failure to Appear on charges of DUII and Criminal Trespass in the Second-Degree. She was issued Citations in Lieu of Custody for both warrants, advised that her court appearances were mandatory.



- A disorderly shoplifter at Walmart was reported to Dispatch. When officers arrived on scene, the female was in the parking lot with various items she had not paid for. When officers advised she was under arrest, she attempted to flee, throwing some of the items at the officers.

Officers were able to gain control of the female, who continued to yell at the officers and resist arrest. Once she was safely placed in the back of the patrol vehicle, officers were able to complete their investigation and eventually transported the female to the Lane County Jail.

She was lodged on charges of Criminal Trespass in the First Degree (ORS 164.255), Theft in the Second Degree (ORS 164.045), Resisting Arrest (ORS 162.315), Escape in the Third

Degree (ORS 162.145), and Disorderly Conduct in the Second Degree (ORS 166.025).

- Officers assisted the Lane County Sheriff's Office with a plane crash that was reported to be in a field near East Saginaw Road and I-5. Officers located the pilot lying in the field. Thankfully, he was conscious and alert. Medics responded and provided medical treatment to the pilot before transporting him to Riverbend for further evaluation and treatment.

- The South Lane School District Bus Barn reported a male was on top of one of the Conex boxes and refusing to leave the property. Officers arrived on scene and spoke with the male, attempting to convince him to come down. He continued to refuse and stated that he worked there.

After an extended period, the male subject agreed to

come down. He was advised that he was under arrest for Disorderly Conduct in the Second Degree (ORS 166.025) and Criminal Trespass in the Second Degree (ORS 164.245). He was ultimately transported to the Lane County Jail to be lodged on the above-mentioned charges. Thank you to the Lane County Sheriff's Office for sending a Deputy to assist our officers.

- A large verbal disturbance took place at Lincoln Middle School during a football game. An incident occurred during the game in which a coach from the opposing team pushed a referee in the chest after he disagreed with a call that was made. After reviewing video footage taken from witnesses, the coach was issued a Citation in Lieu of Custody for Harassment (ORS 166.065).

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, SEPTEMBER 28

01:33: Suspicious condition, 1800 block E. Main St.
01:47: Harassment, 400 block E. Main St.
04:14: Repo, 1400 block Clark Ave.
07:46: Abandoned vehicle, 200 block S. 22nd St.
09:02: Wanted subject, 100 block Gateway Blvd.
09:17: Trespass, 700 block Hwy 99
09:39: Disturbance, 500 block North M St.

10:12: Abandoned vehicle, 3rd/Jefferson
10:13: Abandoned vehicle, 5th/Jefferson
10:14: Abandoned vehicle, 100 block N. Lane St.
10:41: Found dog, 1500 block S. 4th St.
11:16: Abandoned vehicle, 900 block Birch Ave.
11:49: Wanted subject, 1700 block S. 5th St.
11:58: Theft, 700 block E. Harrison Ave.
12:55: Suspicious condition, 100 block S. 16th St.
13:58: Wanted subject, 1000 block E. Main St.
14:26: Trespass, 1400 block Birch Ave.
15:49: Suspicious condition, 400 block N. 8th St.
15:59: Disturbance, 78000 block Mosby Crk Rd.
17:12: Fire, Harrison/99
18:32: Trespass, 100 block Village Dr.
22:59: Trespass, 100 block N. 16th St.
23:12: Fire, 400 block Quincy Ave.

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 29

01:14: Disturbance, 1500 block Gateway Blvd.
01:58: Disturbance, 100 block Village Dr.
02:21: Disorderly subject, 1500 block Gateway Blvd.
08:34: Suicidal subject, 1200 block E. Main St.
09:42: Warrant service, 400 block E. Main St.
10:12: Hit and run, 100 block S. 6th St.
11:43: Animal info, 100 block Karen Ct.
12:44: Theft, 2200 block Ibsen Ave.
13:13: Fire, 38000 block Row River Rd.
14:11: Warrant service, 400 block E. Main St.
14:19: Theft, 900 block Row River Rd.
15:54: Motor vehicle crash, Row River Rd/Gateway
16:21: Abandoned vehicle, 16th/Harvey
18:47: Nuisance, Main/22nd
18:55: Disturbance, 500 block North M St.

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 30

01:12: Trespass, 900 block Row River Rd.
06:40: Unlawful entry into a Motor vehicle, 800 block Wilson Ave.
09:28: Suspicious condition, 1700 block Harvey Rd.
10:07: Welfare check, 5th/Whiteaker

11:30: Welfare check, 100 block South R St.
11:53: Welfare check, Hwy 99/Main
14:03: Abandoned vehicle, 700 block S. 8th St.
15:13: Motor vehicle crash, 300 block Gateway Blvd.
17:18: Trespass, 900 block Row River Rd.
18:39: Illegal camping, 200 block N. 12th St.
18:50: Drug activity, 1500 block Gateway Blvd.
20:37: Suspicious subject, 600 block S. 5th St.

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 1

01:29: Fire, 82000 block Howe Ln.
08:34: Agency assist, 77000 block S. 6th St.
08:36: Disorderly subject, 1500 block E. Main St.
08:39: Suspicious condition, 800 block N. 11th St.
13:45: Found property, 500 block Hwy 99
13:48: Suspicious subject, 78000 block Thornton Ln.
15:28: Warrant service, 400 block E. Main St.
17:11: Assault, 1500 block Gateway Blvd.
17:17: Assault, 1100 block Geer Ave.
18:23: Agency assist, 10th/Gibbs
19:54: Juvenile trouble, 1300 block S. River Rd.
20:34: Found property, 100 block S. 10th St.

20:52: Motor vehicle crash, 800 block Row River Rd.

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 2

02:45: Intox subject, 35000 block Seavey Lp Rd.
03:51: Warrant service, 200 block S. River Rd.
05:58: Fraud, 400 block E. Main St.
10:14: Abandoned vehicle, 3rd/Jefferson Ave.
17:44: Missing person, Bryson Crk Trailhead
18:11: Disturbance, 200 block N. 12th St.
18:16: Alarm, 1600 block Clark Ave.
18:42: Nuisance, 200 block N. 12th St.
19:44: Disturbance, 1000 block Taylor Ave.
20:02: Suspicious condition, 400 block N. 14th St.
20:05: Suspicious vehicle, 600 block S. 5th St.
20:31: Dog at large, 1200 block E. Main St.
21:27: Shots fired, Hwy 99/Sweet Ln.
22:27: Suspicious condition, 1000 block W. Main St.
23:40: Welfare check, Whiteaker/Crestview
23:56: Warrant service, 400 block E. Main St.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 3

00:19: DUII, 100 block N. 9th St.
00:34: Welfare check, 200 block Quincy Ave.
00:55: Suspicious condition, 6th/Latham
01:36: Disturbance, 200 block S. River Rd.
01:40: Alarm, 100 block Hwy 99
08:12: Fire, 38000 block Row River Rd.
08:29: Disturbance, Hwy 99/Main
10:10: Fraud, 800 block Pierce Ave.
10:12: Illegal parking, Pennoyer/99

13:23: Trespass, 1500 block Gateway Blvd.
13:54: Juvenile trouble, 100 block Village Dr.
15:31: Unlawful entry into motor vehicle, 100 block S. 10th St.
16:59: Disturbance, 79000 block Grimes Rd.
17:57: Disturbance, 77000 block Mosby Crk Rd.
18:28: Motor vehicle crash, Hwy 99/Abbott
18:52: Disturbance, 77000 block Mosby Crk Rd.
20:12: Overdose, 77000 block Mosby Crk Rd.
23:32: Suspicious vehicle, 1300 block E. Main St.

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 4

01:54: Nuisance, 200 block N. 12th St.
02:00: Warrant service, 400 block E. Main St.
04:40: Motor vehicle crash, Mosby Crk Rd/Quaglia Rd.
08:37: Disorderly subject, 1500 block Gateway Blvd.
09:35: Illegal parking, 300 block North J St.
10:49: Found property, 13th/Jefferson
10:52: Disturbance, 1100 block Chestnut Ave.
11:41: Disorderly subject, 1500 block Gateway Blvd.
15:52: Disturbance, 30000 block Kenady Ln.
17:17: Harassment, 1500 block Fillmore Dr.
18:15: Assault, 1300 block E. Main St.
18:43: Found property, 900 block Row River Rd.
19:00: ATL DUII, 200 block N. River Rd.
19:25: Agency assist, 500 block Fillmore Ave.
23:02: Trespass, 1000 block E. Main St.
23:16: Disorderly subject, 500 block Grant Ave.

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Community Calendar

OCTOBER 14

- Cottage Bowl Open Bowling. 3–5:30 p.m. 740 Row River Rd.
- Senior Center Pinochle Games. 1 p.m. Senior Center. 700 E. Gibbs Ave.
- Acoustic Jam with Gregg Biller. 6–7:30 p.m. Coast Fork Brewing.
- Elks Lodge Bingo. Early Bird 6:30 p.m. Regular Games 7 p.m. Elks Lodge.
- Board Game Night with Ayla. 6:30–9:30 p.m. Axe and Fiddle.

OCTOBER 15

- T.O.P.S. Club. 9:30–11 a.m. Delight Valley Church of Christ, Saginaw.
- Baby Laptime. 11:30 a.m. CG Public Library.
- Bohemia Gold Mining Museum. 1–4 p.m. 308 S. 10th St.
- Community Center Table Tennis. 4–6 p.m. Community Center.
- Bread Club. 5–7 p.m. CG Public Market.
- Celebrate Recovery. 5:15 p.m. Calvary Chapel. 1447 Hwy 99N.
- Blessed Relief (Jazz). 6–8 p.m. Coast Fork Brewery.
- Stone Hart (rock). 6–8 p.m. The Public (CG Public Market).
- Cottage Theatre Play: “The Addams Family



Jeremy C. Ruark / Cottage Grove Sentinel

A place to rest and enjoy the view in Cottage Grove’s Historic District.

Musical”. 7:30 p.m. Adults \$32/Students \$20

- Karaoke Night. 9 p.m.-Close. Bohemian Tavern. 48 N. Ninth St.

OCTOBER 16

- Spooktacular Crafter’s Market. 10 a.m.–5:30 p.m. Shady Oaks. 77380 Hwy. 99S.
- Storytime. 11:30 a.m. CG Public Library.
- Bohemia Gold Mining Museum. 1–4 p.m. 308 S. 10th St.

- American Legion Bingo. 5–7 p.m. American Legion Post 32, 826 W. Main St.
- Elks Lodge Fundraising Steak Feed Dinner. 5–6:30 p.m. \$14
- Saginaw Vineyard Friday Night Live. 6–9 p.m.
- Llorona (Latin folk fusion). 6:30–9:30 p.m. Coast Fork Brewery.
- Weekly Pool Tournament. 7 p.m. Bohemian Tavern. \$5 entry. BCA rules.
- Cottage Theatre Play: “The Addams Family

Musical”. 7:30 p.m. Adults \$32/Students \$20

- Magic Hunks 8–11 p.m. Axe and Fiddle. Cover: \$18-\$35

OCTOBER 17

- Share Fair. 9 a.m. 1133 E. Main St.
- Spooktacular Crafter’s Market. 10 a.m.–5:30 p.m. Shady Oaks. 77380 Hwy. 99S.
- South Valley Farmers Market. 10 a.m.–2 p.m. 7th and Main Street.

- Cottage Grove Museum. 1–4 p.m. Birch Avenue and H Street.
- Bohemia Gold Mining Museum. 1–4 p.m. 308 S. 10th St.
- Big Sue Band (blue-grass). 6 p.m. The Public (CG Public Market)
- Alder Street All Stars (funky Americana). 6:30–9:30 p.m. Coast Fork Brewery.
- Cottage Theatre Play: “The Addams Family Musical”. 7:30 p.m. Adults \$32/Students \$20
- McKenzie and The Last Responders (punk rock). 8–10 p.m. Axe and Fiddle

OCTOBER 18

- Spooktacular Crafter’s Market. 11 a.m.–5 p.m. Shady Oaks. 77380 Hwy. 99S.
- Cottage Grove Museum. 1–4 p.m. Birch Avenue and H Street.
- South Valley Athletics Bingo Fundraiser. 3:30–5:30 p.m. Covered Bridge Brewery
- VFW Bingo. 2–4 p.m. VFW Post 3473. 3160 Hillside Dr.
- Cottage Theatre Play: “The Addams Family Musical”. 2:30 p.m. Adults \$32/Students \$20
- Ricardo Cárdenas (classical guitarist). 6–8 p.m. Axe and Fiddle

OCTOBER 19

- Cottage Bowl Open Bowling. 1–5:30 p.m. 740 Row River Rd.
- Senior Center Bingo. 12:30 p.m. Cottage Grove Community Center.
- Gardeners Meeting. 5:30–7 p.m. Coast Fork Brewing
- South Lane School Board Meeting. 5:30 p.m. District Service Office. 455 Adams Ave.

OCTOBER 20

- Ukulele Club. (for adults) 9 a.m. CG Public Library.
- Bilingual Story Time. 5 p.m. CG Public Library.
- Trinity Lutheran Free TakeOut Dinner. 5:15–6:15 p.m. 675 S. 7th St.
- Elderberry Syrup Workshop. 5:30 p.m. The Public (CG Public Market) \$15-\$25
- Trivia & Games with Gerald and Cribbage with Ted. 6–8 p.m. Coast Fork Brewing.
- Poetry Night. 7:30–9:30 p.m. The Cottage Events Venue. 2915 Row River Rd.

School Board reviews attendance, communication, costs

CINDY WEELDREYER
Cottage Grove Sentinel

The South Lane School District Board reviewed attendance efforts, communication upgrades, enrollment trends and longterm financial planning during a session Monday, Oct. 5, that also included recognition of a statewide awardwinning math teacher.

STATE AWARD: Harrison Elementary School teacher Krystal Bowman was honored for earning the Mildred Bennett Math Education Award, presented by the Oregon Council of Teachers of Mathematics. Bowman was nominated for her studentcentered approach and her work with multilingual learners. Her application described her as a teacher with “a growth mindset” who continually seeks improvement and fosters a classroom culture where “high levels of thinking are the norm.” She has led math professional development, opened her classroom for peer observation, participated in regional “ambitious math” teaching groups and presented at state conferences.

SIA STATE REPORT: The board also reviewed the district’s annual report for the Student Investment Account (SIA), a staterequired submission that consolidates several grants totaling \$3.4 million. Assistant Superintendent Brian McCasline said the report ensures grantfunded programs remain aligned with district goals. The discussion came during the board’s Oct. 5 meeting, where district leaders highlighted several ongoing initiatives.

ATTENDANCE STRATEGY: Superintendent

Todd Miller outlined a five-point strategy to improve student attendance, emphasizing belonging, communication, engaging instruction, data monitoring and collaborative problemsolving with families. The district aims to reduce chronic absenteeism by strengthening relationships and increasing instructional engagement, particularly through collaborative discussion rather than worksheets or screenbased tasks.

NEW REVENUE: Miller reported early success with the district’s participation in the Medicaid Administrative Claiming (MAC) Survey, a federal reimbursement program that compensates schools for administrative work that helps students access healthrelated services. Selected staff completed the survey for the first time last spring, generating \$13,000 in revenue.

The survey asks employees what they were doing during a specific moment in the workday and whether the activity supported students’ access to health or mentalhealth services. The state aggregates responses and calculates reimbursement based on qualifying administrative time. Miller acknowledged the program is “more of an administrative nightmare for HR and finance staff,” but said the new revenue makes participation worthwhile.

SEISMIC GRANT: The district received \$25,525 through the state’s Technical Assistance Program (TAP), which funds certified structural engineering assessments of school buildings for seismic vulnerabilities. The evaluation is scheduled for summer 2027 and will help

the district apply for competitive rehabilitation grants or plan future safety improvements. Priority sites include the Bohemia Elementary cafeteria and gym and the Lincoln Middle School gyms, all masonry structures.

COMMUNICATION IMPROVEMENTS: Miller updated the board on the rollout of ParentSquare, the district’s new unified communication platform. The system consolidates email, text, app notifications, attendance alerts, payments and twoway messaging. District officials found that 100% of families are connectable, and 35% have already installed the app. Miller said the platform provides valuable insights into message distribution and helps the district communicate more effectively with families.

ENROLLMENT: The district budgeted for 2,140 students (excluding charter schools) for the 2026–27 school year. Current enrollment stands at 2,138, slightly above projections. Miller noted that enrollment typically declines as the year progresses but said new housing developments could increase future numbers. He also shared a chart analyzing gradelevel cohorts, birth years, school years and Lane County birth rates. “This is the stuff I’m watching and thinking about for the long term,” he said, emphasizing the importance of multiyear planning.

PERS BOND OPPORTUNITY: Finance Director Celia Gowing briefed the board on the district’s potential participation in a pension obligation bond (POB) program, a strategy

used by Oregon public agencies to manage rising PERS costs. A POB allows an employer to borrow money, deposit it into a PERS side account and reduce future contribution rates if investment returns exceed the bond’s interest cost.

Gowing said the district currently pays a combined PERS rate of 22.63%, which

will increase to 26.2% next biennium with only one side account. Without a second side account, the district would pay an additional \$158,000 from the general fund, with costs rising as wages increase. She described a bond as “an investment to offset future pension costs.”

Board Member Chris Holloman urged caution,

citing market volatility and global events. “I think we should err on the conservative side,” he said, adding that it may be a risky time to “gamble with taxpayers’ money.” The board postponed further discussion until its Oct. 19 work session.



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2026

Happy Anniversary!

Don and Elaine Cox celebrate 70 years of marital love and commitment.

This blessed event was celebrated with family and friends.

Obituaries / News

Alice Marie Knighten

November 26, 1943 - August 12, 2026

Alice Marie Knighten went home to Jesus on August 12, 2026, after a brief illness. She was 82 at the time of her death.

She was born in Wheatland, WY on November 26, 1943. During her life she lived in many places around the world while her spouse was serving in the US Navy. The home of her heart, however, was in Carson City, NV where she graduated from high school. She was a resident of Cottage Grove, Oregon for close to 45 years and leaves behind many friends and acquaintances. She was heavily involved in the Red Hat Society with her



best friend, Kay Smith. She also enjoyed her friends in the Chicks group. She was preceded in death by her parents, sister, and son, Ricky. She is survived by her sister and brother-in-law, Cecelia and Bob, of Carson City, NV. She is also survived by many loving nieces and nephews. There will be a Celebration of Life at 2:00 pm on October 17, 2026, at the United Methodist Church in Cottage Grove. Memorial contributions may be made to the United Methodist Church.

Arrangements in the care of Smith-Lund-Mills Funeral Chapel.



Cindy Weeldreyer / Cottage Grove Sentinel

Pictured left to right are General Manager Juan Aguilar, Shop Foreman Mario Ramirez, Apprentice Israel Aguilar, Apprentice Miguel Lopez, Service Adviser Raymond Bradsby, Apprentice Hunter Hall, Lead Tech Josh Black.

DEATH NOTICE

Joseph “Joe” Lyon, age 66, of Veneta, Oregon, passed away October 6, 2026. A memorial service will be held on Sunday, October 18, 2026, at 2:00PM at the

First Congregational Church in Eugene. Arrangements are in the care of Smith-Lund-Mills Funeral Chapel and Crematorium.

Marine powered team drives APEX forward

CINDY WEELDREYER
Cottage Grove Sentinel

Tucked away behind Cottage Theatre sits Taylor’s Towing and Recovery, the multigenerational, family-owned business at 78869 Thornton Lane that for decades operated a recycling yard for used automotive parts.

Last year, when General Manager Patrick Taylor chose to focus solely on towing and recovery, it opened the door for two former Marines to forge a partnership that reshaped Cottage Grove’s automotive repair landscape.

APEX Automotive has expanded rapidly over the past two years, growing from a one lift shop into a multi bay operation serving families and businesses. Owner Juan Aguilar said his Marine Corps background shapes the way he leads his team, manages workflow and approaches customer service.

Aguilar, 47, grew up in Pasadena, California, and joined the Marine Corps in 1998, serving four years as a heavy machinery mechanic at Camp Pendleton. His interest in automotive work began at age six in his uncle’s shop in Mexico, where he learned the fundamentals of repair and diagnostics.

He continued training under his uncle and cousins and later invested in formal education in automotive technology. In 2016, he joined Mercedes Benz of Eugene, rising to shop foreman and earning Star Certification in all Mercedes automobiles, along with master level credentials in Mercedes diesel equipment.

While serving in the military Aguilar met his wife, Jessica, who owns Bochetta Day Spa and is also a former Marine. An avid outdoorsman, he came to Cottage Grove after they married and “fell in love with the area.” In 2024, he opened APEX Automotive after realizing the industry needed “a shop that promotes pride and self-respect in the finished product.”

Their daughter Abigail currently serves in the U.S. Army, and their son, Israel, is apprenticing under his father in automotive technology while also working part time with his mother at the spa. With his family rooted in the community, Aguilar said the next challenge was finding a space that could keep up with APEX’s growing demand.

“I realized I had outgrown Jim’s Automotive building on 6th and Hwy. 99 when I looked out my office window and saw every available space filled with vehicles awaiting repairs,” he recalled.

With only one lift and room for two cars, the shop had reached its limit. The turning point came when Taylor stopped by with questions about his own vehicle and noticed how busy APEX had become.

“I’d been watching the shop’s growth,” Taylor said, “especially as APEX became the preferred repair destination for many of our customers. I invited Juan to tour the four bay complex, which includes three heavy lifts, overflow parking, storage access and a shared reception area.”

By the end of their lunch meeting, the two Marines agreed on a new joint venture. APEX moved to the Taylor’s Towing complex on Nov. 1, 2025, and restored weekend repair service to Cottage Grove. Taylor said the community had been missing that option for years.

The new location changed the shop’s workflow. APEX customers now have a waiting lobby for quick repairs and oil changes. Additional lifts and expanded tooling allow multiple vehicles to be serviced at once without constant shuffling. Aguilar said the ability to work on several vehicles simultaneously has increased efficiency and reduced downtime.

With the hiring of lead technician Josh Black and shop foreman Mario Ramirez, Aguilar said the team has grown stronger and more capable. The added space also allows technicians to pursue

the educational path he has set for them, with the goal of becoming master technicians.

APEX specializes in gas and diesel engines, transmissions, differentials, suspension and electrical diagnostics. The shop has added tire mounting and balancing, alignments, classic car repairs and fleet maintenance programs. Aguilar said future upgrades will include key programming, transmission rebuilding, custom fabrication, welding and computer tuning.

Aguilar said he and his team can work on everything from old mechanical engines to modern computer-controlled vehicles, high voltage hybrids and complex European models. Customers often tell him they come to APEX when other shops cannot determine a solution for the complex problems found in today’s vehicles. APEX’s nationwide warranty gives customers confidence that their repairs are covered wherever they travel.

Taylor noted that APEX is also gaining market share in Sprinter van repairs and is now drawing customers from Eugene and Springfield.

Aguilar said the Marine Corps values of leadership, discipline, accountability and quality control guide how he cares for employees and customers. Taylor said the partnership works well because Marines understand teamwork and shared purpose.

“We bring them in, and APEX repairs them,” Taylor said. “Our goal is to get you off the roadway safely, quickly and to a location where you can get the assistance you need. And, if possible, get you repaired and on your way with as little inconvenience as possible.”

Aguilar said the APEX team is committed to keeping families safe on the road.

“I want our customers to know their vehicles are road-worthy because the APEX team shares these same roads,” he said. “Our goal is for everyone to reach their destination safely.”



Metro Creative Connection

Local companies or people interested in supporting the event through donations should contact Shellye Reynoso at 458-234-3180 or Shellye.Reynoso@LaneCountyOR.gov.

Annual Community Holiday Meal organizers seek donations

The free 16th Annual Community Holiday Meal with Lane County Youth Services is coming up on December 16.

The free meal, which is open to everyone, also includes free raffle tickets for prizes and free food boxes to take home.

“The holiday meal is a highlight for our youth and for all the people who come to enjoy a meal together,” said, event organizer, Senior Juvenile Justice Supervisor Shellye Reynoso said. “Last year we served about 250 people and we hope to see at least that many come through the doors this year. Every contribution helps and it shows the youth who prepare the

meal that our community cares.”

The event uses donations of food, services and financial contributions to help provide the food, sponsor the food boxes, and provide raffle prizes. Donations are tax deductible, and donors are recognized on displays at the event.

Local companies or people interested in supporting the event through donations should contact Shellye Reynoso at 458-234-3180 or Shellye.Reynoso@LaneCountyOR.gov.

About the MLK Education Center The Martin Luther King, Jr. Education Center is part of Lane County Youth

Services and serves middle and high school students who have an active case with the division. This program is a collaboration between Youth Services and the Lane Education Service District (Lane ESD).

In addition to academics, the MLK Education Center provides vocational opportunities, including in the culinary arts. The Culinary Arts Program offers youth the opportunity to learn different jobs involved in food service and catering.

Students gain skills and learn to safely use the equipment in an institutional and commercial kitchen that prepares meals for youth in detention, a residential treatment program, and more. Students may participate in all aspects of catering including preparing foods, serving, and customer service.

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Letters

Support Heather Buch

Yes, dumping fees in Cottage Grove and other small towns in Lane County have risen.

Why? Because Lane County does not use tax money to operate Short Mountain landfill. To keep Lane County from making enough money in tipping fees (the amount garbage haulers pay to dump their trucks into a landfill) to fund garbage and recycling efforts at smaller sites in Lane County, including Cottage Grove, and making people angry in the process, Sanipac and Cottage Grove Garbage have been hauling their garbage to Medford, a dumping site owned by Waste Solutions.

This has driven up costs in our community due to the County's loss in tipping fees. Currently, Sanipac owes millions to the County.

Why is Sanipac doing this? Sanipac, the biggest garbage hauler in Eugene and the only one in Springfield is now owned by a fortune 500 company, Waste Solutions. They made billions last year. Waste

Solutions wants to starve the County so that they can make more money from garbage by monopolizing every step of the waste process.

Jake Pelroy's current job is as a lobbyist for a number of "family-owned" garbage haulers like Sanipac in Lane County. A vote for Pelroy is a vote for big business having a heavy hand in our community, it's a vote for stockholders over small stakeholders like us.

A vote for Heather Buch is a vote for someone who cares. She has demonstrated her commitment to our community. Ask anyone who has needed healthcare and used the South Lane Clinic here in the grove, or victims of wildfires who have benefited from her being there and advocating for them. Ask anyone who has desperately needed housing and who does not benefit from big business and is now or is soon to be off our streets.

Ask yourself: who is the best person for the job?

Molly Nord
Cottage Grove

Editorial Cartoon



Commentary

Commentary: AI issue wrangling in Oregon's 4th Congressional District

JEREMY C. RUARK
Cottage Grove Sentinel

The Cottage Grove Police Department (CGPD) is seeking the public's assistance as it works to solve a 2012 missing person's case.

"CGPD continues to press for justice and closure for the missing people, their family and friends, and the Cottage Grove community," the agency states in a social media post.

The victim in this case is Robert Roy Richardson, who was 60 years old at the time of last contact in 2012.

In the post, the CGPD provided a brief synopsis of the missing person.

Richardson was last heard from via phone call at 6:30 a.m. on Feb. 14, 2012, requesting family pick up his red Ford Ranger at the

top of Gowdyville Road just outside of Cottage Grove City limits. The pick-up truck was located, and a search of the area was unsuccessful.

"The public plays a crucial role in helping to solve these cases and CGPD has multiple ways to contact the investigator," the post explains.

To remain anonymous, callers may provide information through the anonymous tip line: 541-767-0504 or through an anonymous online report at <https://cgpd.mypdconnect.com/>

Information learned from social media sites such as Facebook, Instagram, Twitter or YouTube should be shared with investigators as these tips may lead to the identification of leads in the case, according to the CGPD post.

RANDY STAPILUS
Oregon Capital Chronicle

If you're a candidate complaining about an opponent's stance on an issue, it helps to have a firm and visible position on it yourself.

The subject of artificial intelligence is bedeviling congressional candidates on that basis across the country, and the best example might be in Oregon's 4th Congressional District.

Monique DeSpain, the Republican challenger in the Democratic-held district that includes Eugene, Corvallis and the Central and South Coast, has launched her first television ad of the campaign season on the subject of artificial intelligence, about which she fires directly at her Democratic opponent, two-term Representative Val Hoyle.

It's an important subject, more than worthy of attention.

The risks of fast-developing generative artificial intelligence, exploding into national consciousness over just the last four years and especially in recent months, grew not just from anti-tech enthusiasts but from the industry itself. This is an extremely rare case where even industry leaders have all but begged for federal government regulation — guardrails of some sort. Congress has been essentially comatose to the subject, in the face of widespread

constituent requests but in close accord with the staunchly pro-AI preferences of President Donald Trump.

The next term could be different, especially depending on who winds up in control of Congress, but candidates nationally mostly have not been very forthcoming about what they would support or oppose. Voters should have that information before they cast their ballots.

Bringing us back to the Oregon 4th, and that DeSpain ad.

The ad says (in reference to Oregon) that "big tech sees land to develop, water to consume, power to burn" (an unusual argument for a presumably pro-business Republican). It continues, "Val Hoyle's taken thousands from the AI companies driving the data center boom."

Sort of, but we enter here into the foggy grays. The ad's basis is in a May Axios article saying Hoyle is one of a group of Democrats getting support from a Super PAC called Leading the Future. Founded last year, the PAC is indeed packed with tech industry money and supports AI development and innovation, and appears to oppose limitations on it. As of Sept. 23, Think Big PAC, a subsidiary of Leading the Future, reported spending \$292,419 on behalf of Hoyle.

That's not the same, though, as actually contributing to her: This is an independent expenditure,

and Hoyle doesn't control it, and legally can't coordinate with it.

The money may be considerable, but this doesn't look like a full-throated alliance.

A spokesman was quoted as saying Hoyle did not seek the Leading endorsement or funding and wasn't aware of it before it was released, and said "has one of the strongest records in Congress to regulate AI to protect people." She has opposed federal measures to block state AI legislation (counter to Leading's position).

On May 13, Hoyle delivered a post on X seeking to be "crystal clear:" "Leading the Future endorsed me because they are working to build a broader coalition around AI regulation and I don't believe we can put our heads in the sand and ignore the industry. Workers need a seat at the table, because when we don't have a seat at the table we're on the menu. I'm glad to be a voice at the table. I believe we need to have clear federal regulation that protects consumers, ensures that workers are part of the conversation on how to move forward and that we are proactively determining the direction of AI development so that the United States doesn't get left behind."

From here, that still sounds like keeping one foot in both sides of the argument.

As for DeSpain, her ad does say she has taken no money from "big tech" (which, properly speaking, Hoyle may not have done either). But it also says precisely nothing about how she would address AI or data centers, limiting herself to implicit criticism of tax breaks for such work.

And though her leading ad concerns AI, her website and formal statement seem to be devoid of mentions of it or data centers. In her statement on the economy, she says, "I will support policies that rebuild American manufacturing, lower the cost of goods, and improve affordability so Americans can live and work with pride and dignity. Prosperity requires government to get out of the way."

That does not sound consistent with regulation strongly limiting AI, which she seems not to have addressed directly at all.

And, of course, the president of DeSpain's party is as fierce a backer of unrestricted AI development as anyone, maybe even inside the industry.

So neither candidate been super clear about AI. But then, neither have most other congressional candidates, including most of those in Oregon.

See More STAPILUS
On page 6



COLD CASE: MISSING PERSON

Case Number 2012-0310



MISSING PERSON: ROBERT ROY RICHARDSON

Robert was last heard from via phone call at 6:30am on 02/14/2012 requesting family pick up his red Ford Ranger at the top of Gowdyville Road just outside of Cottage Grove City Limits. The pick-up truck was located at this time and a search of the area was unsuccessful.

AGE NOW: 74
SEX: M
RACE: WHITE
HAIR: GREY
EYE COLOR: HAZEL
HEIGHT: 6'1"
WEIGHT: 300
AGE/DATE LAST CONTACT: 60 (02/14/2012)

THE COTTAGE GROVE POLICE DEPARTMENT IS SEEKING THE PUBLIC'S ASSISTANCE IN LOCATING ANY INFORMATION ON THE WHEREABOUTS OF ROBERT ROY RICHARDSON.
CONTACT DETECTIVE SOLEK GORDON

400 E MAIN STREET, COTTAGE GROVE OR 97424 PHONE: 541-842-9145X1 ANONYMOUS TIP LINE: 541-797-0504

New Poll

Overall, do you feel the State of Oregon is headed in the right direction or has gotten off on the wrong track?

- Right
- Wrong
- Unsure

Last Week's Poll Results

How confident are you in the integrity of Oregon's mail-in voting system?

- 67.6% Very confident
- 5.9% Somewhat confident
- 8.8% Not that confident
- 17.6% Not at all confident

Quote of the Week

"By signing this bill, we are signaling the profound role journalists play to cover essential issues like local schools, city halls, courts, public safety agencies, businesses and neighborhoods."
California Governor Gavin Newsom

THE COTTAGE GROVE Sentinel

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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Nonprofit recruits volunteers to help track wildlife impacted by Oregon’s roads

MIA MALDONADO
Oregon Capital Chronicle

Environmental advocates are seeking volunteers to help collect research on how Oregon’s roads are impacting wildlife.

Environment Oregon, a conservation nonprofit with affiliates across 29 other states, is recruiting volunteers for its 2026 Roadside Wildlife Count Oct. 17 to 25 to help track any wildlife dead or alive on Oregon’s roads.

Volunteers will use the biodiversity app, iNaturalist, to record each animal they see. Their data will add to the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife’s official roadkill and survey data, and it will help inform the spots where wildlife crossings are needed the most, said Justin Boyles, Environment Oregon’s conservation advocate.

Oregon has built at least six wildlife crossings, mostly tunnels under roads in the central part of the state. One wildlife crossing is in design

for construction and another is awaiting funding for construction, according to Oregon Department of Transportation spokesperson Katherine Benenati.

“We’ve built more than 70,000 miles of roads across the state of Oregon so that we could connect in all those ways, but unfortunately in the process, we dissected and fragmented the habitat of every other species that we share this landscape with,” Boyles said.

In a recent survey commissioned by the group Gov. Tina Kotek tasked with vetting solutions to the transportation department’s budget shortfall, about 40 people shared that they want the state to focus on increasing wildlife crossings.

“The Oregon Department of Transportation needs funding for wildlife crossings, and given their budget situation, it’s a really complicated thing to make happen but it’s something we want to make sure is prioritized,” Boyles said.

Volunteers can walk or bike along Oregon’s roads, or drive with friends and simply pull over in a safe location to document an animal, Boyles said.

Fall is the best time to get a snapshot of wildlife crossing roadways because many species are in their mating season and roam outside of their typical territories, Boyles said. Mule deer and other animals that spend the summer in the Cascades also return to lower elevations with less snow in the fall.

“A lot of people are getting out for fall, so it’s just an opportunity that we think while people are already out and about they can be empowered to track some wildlife that they see while they’re out on the roads,” Boyles said.

Those interested can sign up at the event’s webpage. Volunteers will receive access to an Oct. 13 webinar where they can learn how to use the app.



Courtesy photo from the Oregon Department of Transportation
The Oregon Department of Transportation has built six wildlife crossings, including this tunnel beneath U.S. 97 south of Bend.

<https://oregoncapitalchronicle.com/2026/10/06/nonprofit-recruits-volunteers-to-help-track-wildlife-impacted-by-oregons-roads/>

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Capital Chronicle maintains editorial independence. Contact Editor Lynne Terry for questions: info@oregoncapitalchronicle.com.

STAPILUS
From page 5

A voter’s part in this is to demand more concrete answers. Congress will be faced with a series of complex and important tech decisions

in the coming term, and voters should know from all their contenders what they’ll be getting.
<https://oregoncapitalchronicle.com/2026/09/24/>

ai-issue-wrangling-in-oregons-4th-congressional-district/ Oregon Capital Chronicle is part of States Newsroom, a network of news bureaus

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ACORN STAIRLIFTS

Election
From page 1

Clinic in Cottage Grove, millions in private investment to create jobs in Coburg, Cottage Grove, and Creswell, and expanded rural Sheriff’s patrols. I am eager to continue this work, focusing on current projects such as the Rural Housing Policy Incubator and expanding the metropolitan wastewater system to Creswell.”

Q3: If elected, what are your priorities for the next four years?

“My priorities remain healthcare access, wildfire recovery, public safety, and rural economic development. I am committed to expanding dental care at the South Lane Health Clinic, lowering housing costs for rural residents, and attracting outside investment. The mental health stabilization center will

continue to be a top priority. Additionally, as major tech companies build new data centers across the state, I’m working to make sure the public has a voice and development details aren’t hidden by public officials.”

JAKE PELROY
Pelroy grew up in Lane County. After high school, he joined the United States Marine Corps as an intelligence analyst and completed three combat deployments to Iraq. After his honorable discharge, he attended the University of Oregon and became a small business owner. Pelroy says staffing state legislators for more than six years and working on policy and constituent issues created a 16year career in public policy. Lane County depends on revenue from state and federal sources to pay for local services and he believes his publicpolicy experience will benefit programs county residents depend on. He lives in Eugene’s Churchill neighborhood with his wife, Kelly,



Jake Pelroy

and their two sons, Graham and Marcus.

Q1: Why are you seeking this position?

“I am running for County Commissioner because our current Lane County leadership has failed us, pushing us into a serious budget deficit due to irresponsible spending of your tax dollars. Many of the major issues I hear every day from voters are being completely ignored such as public safety, improving our land use processes and keeping costs low for working families. I will provide active leadership and keep the county focused on its core responsibilities and essential services instead of getting sidetracked by pet projects and national politics.”

Q2: How will you support small cities in South Lane County?

“Each individual community has its own set of priorities and I will work closely with local leaders to address those specific issues. I am ready to serve and willing to help out wherever I am needed whether that means volunteering for a local community event or lobbying state legislators with them. I have heard from several cities that the county has not always been a good partner

and I will make restoring and improving that partnership a top priority.”

Q3: If elected, what are your priorities for the next four years?

“Reforming Land Management Process: These endless delays, obstacles, and denials drive up home prices. We must implement meaningful reforms. Managing our O&C Timberlands: These lands provide tax revenue, jobs, and forest fire prevention for Lane County. Improving Our System for Law Enforcement: We are one of the least patrolled counties in the nation with as few as three deputies on patrol at any given time. Fixing the CleanLane disaster: It is financially draining our county and hollowing out our waste system.”

ELECTION INFORMATION

The last day to register to vote in the Nov. 3 election was Oct. 13. Ballots for the Nov. 3 election will be mailed starting Oct. 14. For specific election information, contact Lane County Elections at 275 W. 10th Ave., Eugene. Phone: 5416824234 Website: www.lanecounty.org/elections



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Public Notice

CGS26-155 NOTICE PLEASE BE ADVISED that in accordance with the terms of that certain Industrial Rental Agreement dated November 1, 2025, as amended by that certain Addendum to Industrial Rental Agreement dated November 3, 2025 (collectively, the “Lease”), between Hare West Broadway, LLC, Kungys West Broadway, LLC, Howard West Broadway, LLC and Hogan West Broadway (collectively the “Landlord”) and TP Freight, an Oregon corporation, also known as TP Freight Lines, Inc., an Oregon corporation (“Tenant”) for the premises located at 2120 West 7th Place, Eugene, OR (“Premises”), Landlord elected to terminate the Lease and has regained possession of the Premises due to Tenant’s default under the Lease and pursuant to ORS 87.162, the Landlord claims a landlord’s lien on all chattels owned by Tenant located within the Premises for unpaid rents, legal fees, and a late charges in the sum of \$44,563.54 as of August 24, 2026, together with additional rent accrued through the date of auction, and the Landlord’s reasonable attorney fees and costs of sale incurred in connection with foreclosure of the lien. Landlord will foreclose the lien via a foreclosure sale and auction commencing at 10:00 a.m. on November 10, 2026, at 2120 West 7th Place, Eugene, Oregon. Items to be sold are listed in the attached Exhibit 1. A detailed description of the items described in the attached Exhibit 1 is available by contacting Bradley S. Copeland at Arnold Gallagher, P.C. during normal business hours at (541) 484-0188, or via email at bcopeland@arnoldgallagher.com. 10/14/26, 10/21/26

EXHIBIT 1

- 2 Forklifts (Toyota Forklift Truck: 8FGU18 - Serial 60525; Toyota Forklift Truck: 8FGU18 - Serial 33155)
- Wire-mesh propane canister cage (yellow), with propane canisters inside
- Plastic milk crate (red, “Umpqua Dairy” branding)
- Upright standalone refrigerator (white)
- Office chair (black, rolling)
- Two-wheel hand truck/dolly (red frame)
- Two-wheel hand truck/dolly (metal frame, black handle)
- Manual pallet jack x 4
- Various Safety Equipment/Material
- Hand Tools
- Multiple Plastic drums/barrels (blue, approx. 55-gal)
- Diesel exhaust fluid (“BlueDEF” box)
- Wood pallets, stacked
- Metal storage shelving/rack unit with miscellaneous parts and containers
- Loose lumber/wood boards and metal pipe conduit pieces
- Computers/Monitors/Office Equipment
- Time Clock Computer
- Manifests/Personal Documents/Filing Cabinets
- Verizon Connect vehicle GPS trackers, boxed set

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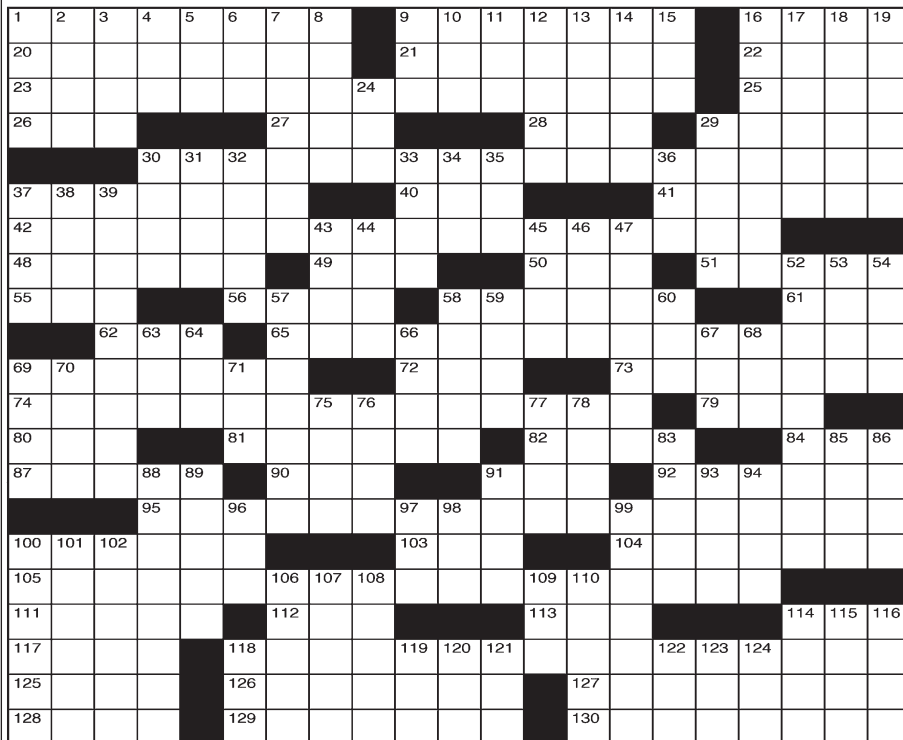
CGS26-157
NOTICE TO INTERESTED PERSONS: Probate proceedings in the Estate of Thomas Earl Graves, deceased, are now pending in the Circuit Court for Lane County, Oregon, Case No. 26PB08313. Fredrick Pecnick has been appointed as personal representative of Decedent. All persons having claims against the Estate are required to present them, in due form, within four months after the date of first publication of this Notice. The date of first publication of this Notice is October 14, 2026. Claims shall be presented to the personal representative at this address: c/o Samantha K. Bunge, Willamette NW Law Firm, PC, 735 W. 7th Ave., Eugene, OR 97402, or they may be barred. All persons whose rights may be affected by these proceedings may obtain additional information from the records of the court, the personal representative, or their attorney, Samantha K. Bunge, whose address is listed above, and whose telephone number is (541) 246-8752. 10/14/26

CGS26-158
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Brian E. Kraal has been appointed Personal Representative of the Estate of Janice Arline Kraal, deceased, Lane County Circuit Court Case No. 26PB08905. All persons having claims against the estate are required to present the same within four months from the date of publication of this notice to the Personal Representative at 777 High St., #300, Eugene, OR 97401, or they may be barred. Any person whose rights may be affected by these proceedings may obtain additional information from the records of the above-entitled Court or from the Personal Representative or from the Personal Representative's attorneys, Luvaas Cobb, P.C. DATED and first published: October 14, 2026. /S/ Brian E. Kraal Personal Representative 10/14/26 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 Personal Representative, the Court, or the attorney for the Personal Representative, K.C. Huffman. Dated and first published: October 07, 2026. PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE: Kay L. Pierce 2259 Devon Avenue, Eugene, Oregon 97408 541-790-9377 ATTORNEY FOR PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE: K.C. Huffman, OSB No. 002854 Bromley Newton Huffman 711 Country Club Road, Suite 200, Eugene, Oregon 97401 541-343-4700 541-343-4713 Fax kc@bromleynewton.com 10/07/26

Super Crossword

BROTHERLY POSSESSIONS

ACROSS
1 Unsettling
9 Beginning of a process
16 Opposed to
20 Woman from Madrid's land, to Madrid natives
21 Relatives of grapefruits
22 Cut of beef
23 Start of riddle #1
25 Pea holders
26 Kyoto coin
27 Actress
28 Longoria
29 Astern
29 Diameter halves
30 Middle of riddle #1
37 Star of "10"
40 Foe of Spinks
41 Most polar
42 End of riddle #1
48 Second-rate
49 Suffix with glob or duct
50 Spicy
51 V-shaped cut
55 Hand-talking syst.
56 90 degrees from north
58 Intend to do
61 Great sorrow
62 "That's it!"
65 Answer to riddle #1
69 Humility
73 Mensa stats
73 Performs in front of
74 Start of riddle #2
79 Casino stake
80 Flaky dessert
81 Unit of a sentence
82 Tell — story (try to evoke sympathy)
84 Undergrad degs.
87 Drinking aid
90 Part of ENT
91 Actress Ortiz
92 Actor Skeet or drummer Lars
95 Middle of riddle #2
100 Warship fleet
103 "I'll take that as —"
104 Civil War general Grant
105 End of riddle #2
111 Kicked in seed money
112 Bottom line
113 Chum
114 Crunches work them
117 Injure badly
118 Answer to riddle #2
125 Hotel chain
126 Greek
127 Ate lunch or dinner
128 Former rival of Nintendo
129 Tranquil and carefree
130 "Yes, it's true, alas"
1 Course for U.S. immigrants
16 "Scarface" star
17 Strip of pasta
18 Neatens up
19 Refuse to yield
24 Pappy
29 Puerto —
30 Te — (giggles)
31 Municipal laws: Abbr.
32 Yeshiva teacher
33 Scarce
34 Styled after
35 Victory
36 Fruit drink brand
37 — Raton
38 Avian hooters
39 Genetic structure with "rungs" of base pairs
43 Novel writer, e.g.: Abbr.
44 Pooch pest
45 Gabfest
46 Charged atoms
47 Slink as low as
52 Drill attachments with spiraling grooves
53 Paint layer
54 Sub in a deli
57 Reaping tools
58 Arouse
59 Misplaced
60 Pittsburgh Steelers' org.
63 Whack down
64 Burning residue
66 Waterways, to Mexicans
67 "— Four" (Beatles)
68 Dark deli bread
69 Atlas features
70 Handling the matter
71 Strike gently
75 Part of UAE
76 Uncovered
77 Sharp pain
78 Morales in movies
83 Horn for taps
85 Nagging pain
86 "— Out of My League"
88 The universe of universities
89 Walked through water
91 After a while
93 Distance unit in astron.
94 Optimistic
96 Road gunk
97 On the — (escaping)
98 Yoko of art
99 Roast that may include chopped cashews or almonds
100 Los —, New Mexico
101 Title anew
102 Beating at chess
106 When many a driver stops
107 Touchy —
108 To any extent
109 Jungle beast
110 Sister of Malia Obama
114 On a mattress, say
115 Squeezing snakes
116 WWII battle site in Normandy
118 X, to Greeks
119 — Aviv
120 Kin of mono-room (Ping-Pong place)
122 Prez #32
123 Car club inits.
124 Stat involving wt. and ht.



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Sports

Cottage Grove football keeps fighting



Courtesy photo from the OSAA

The 2026-2027 Cottage Grove Lions football team.

Will LOHRE
Cottage Grove Sentinel

The Lions have been competing hard on the football field this fall. With a 1-4 record in their first five games, Cottage Grove heads into the second half of the season with its eyes on growth over just wins.

Head Coach Nate Farrell has done plenty of winning as a player for Cottage Grove football, but as a coach, he's ensuring his team comes away not just as better football players, but as better people.

"Our focus has always been on culture over winning! It cannot be the other way around. We have invested in our captains and their leadership skills over anything else. Our program is committed to developing our kids into

young men of character and integrity," Farrell said. "Sometimes, unfortunately, losing helps hammer home that being a great sport and an honorable man isn't just in the winning seasons."

Since beating Creswell to start the season, Cottage Grove has lost four straight to Mazama, North Bend, South Umpqua, and Junction City. The latter three were Special District 3 opponents, with Junction City and North Bend occupying two of the three top spots in the league at the time of press.

The game against North Bend on Sept. 17 saw the Bulldogs come into Cottage Grove and beat the Lions 49-20. In the next game on Sept. 25 against South Umpqua, the Lancers faced a tough matchup and lost 12-47

on the road. Junction City was a tough matchup as well. Junction City was one of the top 10 4A teams in Oregon, and the Tigers beat the Lions in a battle of the big cats, 35-0 on Oct. 2.

Despite the losses, the team has continued to fight and find resilience within the group. Farrell has been happy with the way the team has rallied around each other and found ways to compete, even when the going gets tough.

"The team has responded exactly how they have been led to respond. Early on, adversity hit us, but we have not allowed that to define us. Each game, we have gotten better at playing through from the first to the last whistle and celebrating our teammates. The growth that is happening is amazing and positive it's

been great. But takes a lot of work," Farrell said. "There have been some really special moments in the losses where our team has learned to lean on and support each other. Our biggest highlight is how strong our guys are!"

It's a young team this season, with few seniors on the squad, but the experience the less seasoned players are getting will be invaluable as they seek to finish the season as the best team they can be. Helping lead the pride of Lions have been senior Tyler Streeter and junior Mason Twyman.

"We have had our senior Tyler Streeter step up and lead through injury /illness and adversity. And his

counterpart, the just-as-vocal Mason Twyman, is the guy who gets the team hyped up and ready to play," Farrell said.

At the time of writing, the Lions had four remaining games on the schedule. Cottage Grove played Marist Catholic on Oct. 9, but the result was unavailable at the time of press. Also coming up on the schedule is undefeated Sweet Home, who were ranked #2 in the state as of Oct. 7 with a 5-0 record. The Lions wrap their league schedule against Marshfield on Oct. 23 away from home.

If they can grab one more win in league play, it will be the first win they've earned at the 4A level since Sept. 22

of 2023. The Lions will do everything they can to make that happen down the stretch through hard work, togetherness, and focus.

"In the second half, we have some great teams ahead of us. But as we prepare each week, we don't look past anyone, and we focus on ourselves first. Each team has a respectable record, but no one is unbeatable. That is the fuel that drives our work," Farrell said.

Follow game results at osaa.org and see *CGHS sports* features online at cgsentinel.com and in the *Wednesday print editions of The Sentinel*.

Read all about it!

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