

Letters  
to  
Santa  
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Cottage Grove  
Wednesday, December 24, 2025  
Cloudy

# Speedway lights up Cottage Grove with Winter Wonderland

CINDY WEELDREYER  
Cottage Grove Sentinel

The Cottage Grove Speedway has shifted gears from racing to holiday magic, hosting its third annual Walking in a Winter Wonderland attraction.

### FAMILY AFFAIR

The Boyce family and Cottage Grove Speedway share a multigenerational bond. Current track owner Heather Boyce grew up in the grandstands, watching relatives and friends race while her father, Rick Boyce, and the family owned building supply business, Boyce & Sons, sponsored drivers.

“My grandfather, Bill Boyce, was part of the Jaycees and helped build the track,” Boyce said. “My dad sponsored a lot of different drivers over the years, and my brother—as well as many friends—raced out here.”

The 43-year-old began working at the track in 2001, managing the kids’ kart program and handling office duties for promoters through 2012. She became track manager in 2013, then leased and operated the business herself from 2016 to 2019.

In 2020, she signed a purchase contract—just before the pandemic began. For the next two years she drew strength from three circles of support: her own family, her racing family, and the broader community. With her “failure is not an option” determination, the racetrack survived economically—but, sadly, the Village Green Resort did not.

The idea for Winter Wonderland followed the 2021 closure of the



Cindy Weeldreyer / Cottage Grove Sentinel

The familiar greeting on the Cottage Grove Speedway grandstand now sports a holiday decorated sprint car. The third annual Walking in a Winter Wonderland attraction offers a wide variety of activities to delight young and old seeking to make new holiday memories together.

storied resort, whose acres of gardens for many years were transformed into a spectacular holiday light display. Its absence left a holiday void in the community.

“We needed a way to bring in some revenue in the tracks off months, and it was a perfect fit,” Boyce said.

Mother Nature has tested the event since its debut. An ice storm in 2023 destroyed decorations and lights, while a windstorm last Christmas forced an early closure. This year, organizers hope for

calmer skies. The attraction is built by a small crew with help from local kids, stringing “hundreds and hundreds of thousands” of lights across the grounds.

### S’MORES AND SANTA

The experience begins at the gingerbread house admission booth. Guests are greeted by inflatable animatronics featuring a Minion, Mickey and Minnie Mouse and Star Wars’ Yoda. The sound of familiar Christmas music mingles with the hum of generators powering the displays, while the sweet smell of

wood burning in nearby firepits completes the sensory mix.

Children can visit Santa Claus and share their wishes. Food is a highlight, with homemade meals, desserts, holiday specialty drinks, a hot chocolate bar offering more than 20 toppings, and S’mores kits available for purchase.

Families and businesses can also book private parties, complete with reserved tents, catering, and optional gift packages.

See **LIGHTS**, Page 6

# Council adopts fee hikes to shrink \$1.65M budget gap

CINDY WEELDREYER  
Cottage Grove Sentinel

Facing a 16 percent budget gap—\$1.63 million-between revenue and inflation-driven expenses over the next three years in the General Fund, the Cottage City Council ended its 2025 meeting calendar with a lengthy discussion before adopting the 2026 Comprehensive Fee Schedule.

The new schedule raises rates at Middlefield Golf Course and increases user fees at the Community Center, the Armory and local parks as part of a broader push to cut spending and boost revenue. Councilors also reduced or eliminated some staff recommended fees for local nonprofit organizations and city residents who pay property taxes.

### MIDDLEFIELD GOLF COURSE

Public Works Director Faye Stewart reported that a comparative study showed Cottage Grove’s municipal course fees were much lower than regional averages. The approved 10 percent increase still leaves Middlefield below competitors and is not expected to reduce usage. New winter weekend rates are \$13 for nine holes and \$20 for



Cindy Weeldreyer / Cottage Grove Sentinel

User fees increased for the Community Center, the Armory, and city parks in the Cottage Grove City Council’s newly adopted 2026 Comprehensive Fee Schedule.

18 holes; weekday rates are \$20. The monthly rental fee for personal cart storage rose from \$100 to \$300 to cover electricity costs and maintenance.

City Manager Mike Sauerwein told the council, “It is a balancing act and the door swings both ways with a reduction in cost and an increase in revenue. We need a way to recoup expenses from those who do not pay city property taxes.”

Mayor Candace Solesbee echoed his remarks, noting that higher non resident fees remain below those

charged in Eugene and Springfield. “I live near the Armory, and I see how busy the facility is and I know many of the renters are not from Cottage Grove. I would like to see it be more available to local residents. The higher fees will help us recoup more of our costs.”

### THREE TIER FEE STRUCTURE

User fees for the Community Center, the Armory and city parks now follow three tiers:

Group A: Nonprofits recognized by the state, civic and support groups, clubs, youth and senior

organizations, local governments, and city sponsored events.

Group B: City residents holding special events such as weddings, birthday parties or religious gatherings (proof of residency required).

Group C: Commercial and non resident users.

Staff based the increases on comparable fees in other cities and current market standards, citing the city’s commitment to sustainable operations and partial cost recovery.

Some councilors and community groups worried that higher rental fees could price out local nonprofits. For events not co sponsored by the city, organizations may request partial or full fee waivers if facing financial hardship.

### KEY CHANGES

Janitorial Fee: A new Armory fee to offset six hours of staff time required to prepare the facility for subsequent reservations.

Equipment Fees: Revised and expanded charges to maintain and replace tables, chairs, linens and the city’s audio system.

Application Fees: Non negotiable special event and park application

See **BUDGET** Page 6

# School district outlines \$1 million in cuts

Staff days, summer school among reductions aimed at closing deficit

CINDY WEELDREYER  
Cottage Grove Sentinel

Confronting a mid year budget shortfall, South Lane School District leaders have outlined nearly \$1 million in cuts to stabilize finances and avoid ending the school year in deficit.

Superintendent Todd Miller said the district is facing reduced carryover funds, declining enrollment and rising special education costs that have pushed spending beyond revenue. Projections now show the district’s ending fund balance in negative territory unless immediate reductions are made.

“We are taking necessary, immediate steps to stabilize our financial position and ensure long term sustainability,” Miller wrote in a Dec. 15 message to staff. “Every action we take is guided by our commitment to maintaining instructional consistency and stability for our students and core programs.”

### KEY REDUCTIONS

The proposed cuts total about \$995,000 from the general fund and include:

- Eliminating 2.5 staff and school days (Jan. 5, April 10 half day, and June 11).
- Reductions in facilities, technology, transportation, textbook and supply budgets.
- Cutting one educational assistant position and reviewing student placements outside the district.
- Reducing professional development and superintendent budgets.
- Eliminating the school resource officer position.
- Consolidating the HR director position.

Additional reductions of \$265,000 are planned in state funded Student Investment Account and High School Success grants, including elimination of summer school and two classified positions.

### IMMEDIATE STEPS

District leaders said they are working across departments to find savings in supplies and non essential budgets, implementing a hiring chill, and pursuing new revenue streams such as Medicaid billing. The first change — cutting the Jan. 5 staff workday — requires approval by the teachers’ association and the school board at a special meeting Thursday at 3 p.m. Other calendar changes will be finalized in January to give staff time to plan.

### LONG-TERM PLANNING

Miller said the district must spend within expected revenue in the spring budget cycle to create a sustainable plan for 2026-27. A review of special education programs is underway to identify ways to maintain services while reducing costs.

See **SCHOOL** Page 6

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# LCSD conducting increased DUI Patrols

JEREMY C. RUARK  
*Cottage Grove Sentinel*

Lane County Sheriff's Office (LCSO) deputies are conducting targeted DUI enforcement on state grant-funded overtime, including overtime patrols through Jan. 1.

"Please don't be their next traffic stop," LCSO Sgt. Tim Wallace said. "The LCSO does not have a dedicated traffic team or deputy assigned to DUI enforcement due to lack of funding. However, our deputies are committed to the safety of our community, and that includes our roadways."

Penalties for DUI in Oregon

The average cost for a first-time DUI in Oregon is \$4,500, however, it can be as much as \$10,000 and even more if someone is injured or killed.

In the state of Oregon, driving under the influence of intoxicants (DUI) is either a Class A misdemeanor or a Class C Felony. Misdemeanor DUI is punishable by a maximum sentence of one year in jail and a fine of \$6,250. Felony DUI is punishable by a maximum sentence of five years in prison and a fine of \$125,000.

In Oregon, DUI is a misdemeanor crime unless you have three or more prior DUI convictions in the past 10 years. If convicted of misdemeanor DUI, your Oregon driving privileges will be suspended for one year, three years, or revoked for life, depending on your driving record. If convicted of felony DUI, your driving privileges will be revoked for life.

In addition to the charge of DUI, additional charges may be filed against the violating driver including reckless



Courtesy photo

**The average cost for a first-time DUI in Oregon is \$4,500, however, it can be as much as \$10,000 and even more if someone is injured or killed.**

driving, recklessly endangering another person, criminal mischief, and other charges. Violations such as careless driving, violation of the basic rule, failure to obey a traffic control device, failure to drive within lane, and other

violations are punishable by a fine only and very rarely a license suspension.

If someone is injured or killed by an impaired driver, that driver may also face manslaughter and assault charges.

DUI convictions also impact insurance rates and can affect your ability to even obtain insurance. If convicted of a felony, that conviction stays on your record for life and can affect your ability to find employment.

THE LCSO recommends that drivers:

- Plan your safe ride home ahead of time.
- If you drink or use drugs, do not drive for any reason.
- If you know someone has been drinking or using drugs, don't let them drive.
- If you host a party with alcohol, make sure all guests leave with a sober driver.
- Always wear your seatbelt.

On Monday, Dec. 8, just before midnight, a deputy observed a vehicle driving poorly in the area of Highway 126 and Territorial Road, Veneta. The deputy initiated a traffic stop and

contacted the driver, 47-year-old Cesar Figuero Mendoza, of Eugene. The deputy observed signs Mendoza was impaired. After additional investigation, Mendoza was arrested for DUI.

On Dec. 14 at 8 p.m., deputies responded to a residence on Pheasant Boulevard, Springfield, after a resident observed a vehicle run into his parked car. The driver, 58-year-old Steven Anthony Cvitanovich, of Springfield, was less than polite with the victim and refused to provide him with any information. Cvitanovich went to a nearby residence instead. Deputies contacted Cvitanovich.

After additional investigation, he was arrested for DUI and Failure to Perform Duties of a Driver – Property Damage.

## POLICE BLOTTER

The police blotter relates to the public record of incidents as reported by law enforcement agencies.

All individuals arrested or charged with a crime are presumed innocent until proven guilty. Information printed is preliminary and subject to change.

For specific details about cases listed, contact the appropriate law enforcement agency.

### Cottage Grove Police

**MONDAY, DEC. 8**  
00:00: Trespass, 600 block Benjamin Ave.

01:26: Welfare check, E. Main/Gateway

03:50: Suspicious vehicle, 800 block Row River Rd.

04:19: Suspicious vehicle, 100 block S. 10th St.  
07:01: Disorderly subject, 1800 block E. Main St.

07:13: Suspicious subject, 1200 block E. Washington Ave.

08:22: Juvenile trouble, 1300 block S. River Rd.  
08:30: Barking dog, 600 block Wood Ave.

08:32: Illegal camping, 200 block N. 12th St.  
09:27: Abandoned vehicle, Hillside/Taylor

10:08: Disorderly subject, 1200 block E. Washington Ave.

11:46: Fraud, 700 block Harding Pl.

13:44: Warrant service, 400 block E. Main St.

14:40: Illegal dumping, 3300 block Row River Rd.

14:59: Dog at large, 1100 block E. Main St.

15:33: Alarm, 1400 block Cottonwood Pl.

16:58: Juvenile trouble, 900 block Arthur Ave.

18:18: Harassment, 200 block N. 12th St.

19:05: Disturbance, 300 block S. 5th St.

### TUESDAY, DEC. 9

07:02: Alarm, 1000 block S. 1st St.

08:22: Illegal parking, 300 block North K St.

08:25: Alarm, 200 block Buttercup Ln.

10:06: Theft, 900 block Row River Rd.

11:39: Fire, I5 SB 179

15:49: Motor vehicle crash, 100 block N. 9th St.

16:37: Agency assist, 1200 block E. Main St.

17:14: Unlawful entry into motor vehicle, 1600 block Curry Ave.

18:16: Disturbance, 200 block N. 12th St.

20:43: Welfare check, 800 block Gateway Blvd.

### WEDNESDAY, DEC. 10

01:20: Alarm, 900 block South Ct.

03:21: Alarm, 100 block Village Dr.

03:26: Suspicious subject, 1500 block Gateway Blvd.

04:03: Suspicious vehicle, 100 block S. 10th St.

06:35: Agency assist, 1500 block Hwy 99

09:53: Warrant service, 400 block E. Main St.

11:26: Fraud, 2100 block Clark Ave.

11:41: Abandoned vehicle, Harvey/16th

12:17: Welfare check, 300 block N. 9th St.

12:20: Abandoned vehicle, 1600 block Bryant Ave.

13:53: Disturbance, M/ Birch

14:10: Criminal mischief, 300 block Quincy Ave.

15:19: Overdose, E. Cloverdale/Sears

15:45: Theft, 1400 block Hwy 99

16:23: Suspicious condition, 1700 block E. Main St.

17:51: Motor vehicle crash, 81000 block Hwy 99

18:12: Suspicious condition, 1700 block E. Main St.

19:18: Harassment, 200 block W. 8th St.

20:07: Stolen motor vehicle recovery, 7th/Fillmore

23:52: Trespass, 700 block E. Main St.



Jeremy C. Ruark / Cottage Grove Sentinel

13:12: Welfare check, 300 block S. 5th St.

16:13: Trespass, 900 block E. Main St.

17:43: Disturbance, 1900 block S. 6th St.

19:27: Warrant service, 400 block E. Main St.

19:18: Harassment, 200 block W. 8th St.

20:07: Stolen motor vehicle recovery, 7th/Fillmore

23:52: Trespass, 700 block E. Main St.

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23:52: Trespass, 700 block E. Main St.

13:32: Agency assist, 700 block Johnson Ave.

13:40: Trespass, 1200 block Hwy 99

14:50: Abandoned vehicle, 6th/Harding

15:18: Suspicious subject, 900 block Wilson Ave.

16:35: Suspicious subject, 1500 block S. 5th St.

17:27: Alarm, 500 block Whiteaker Ave.

18:51: Menace, 16th/Main

22:57: Trespass, 700 block E. Main St.

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22:57: Trespass, 700 block E. Main St.

14:24: Found drugs, 900 block Row River Rd.

22:43: Suspicious condition, 100 block S. 21st St.

23:51: Theft, 400 block E. Main St.

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# Shop with a Cop brightens the holiday

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

Cottage Grove Police Department officers, Chief Cory Chase, and staff became Santas on Saturday, Dec. 13, during the CGPD’s annual Shop with a Cop event.

Shop with a Cop is a national event where children are paired with a local law enforcement officer. Each child receives a budget to shop for clothing and toys.

The children are escorted through the store by the law enforcement partners who patiently help the child select the gifts and also help keep track of how much each child has left to spend.

The Sentinel reached out to Chief Chase for insight into this holiday project.

The Sentinel: How many children do you expect to participate in the event and is that more or less from last year.

Chief Cory Chase: We had 13 participants this year. That is roughly the same as last year.

The Sentinel: How is this event funded and how much does each child receive to spend?

Chase: The event is funded through a generous donation made by the Cottage Grove Walmart. We usually set a per person spending limit so each child can shop for all the members of the family who reside in the home. Because of this the amount can be different per family.

The Sentinel: What do you take away from this event?

Chase: This is an excellent community event that

is made possible because of our relationship with Walmart and generous support. They provide funding, snacks, and staff to assist us with the shopping.

All employees of the Cottage Grove Police Department support the event. We have police officers shopping with the children, dispatchers, and support staff wrapping gifts and helping with setup as well as family members of staff who participate in wrapping gifts, setting up and cleaning up. It is a great family event and something we all look forward to each year.

Courtesy photo from the CGPD  
**Chief Cory Chase, in the middle, checks out the Walmart wrapping station during the Shop with a Cop event.**



## COMMUNITY CALENDAR

**Dec. 24**  
Oregon Aviation Museum  
Open. 10 a.m.-4 p.m. 2475 Jim Wright Way.  
Coast Fork Kiwanis Club.  
Noon. Sol Azteca Mexican Restaurant. 3015 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. 106 S. 6th St.  
Axe and Fiddle Board Game Night. 6:30-10 p.m. 657 E. Main St. Hosted by Ayla. Offers a wide variety of games for all skill levels hosted by Ayla.

**DEC. 25**  
Merry Christmas!  
Cottage Grove Speedway  
Walking in a Winter Wonderland  
Open from 5-9 p.m. 2150 N. Douglas St.

**DEC. 26**  
(Note some recurring weekly events may not happen today).  
Oregon Aviation Museum. 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. 2475 Jim Wright Way.  
Cottage Grove Public Library Storytime. 11:30 a.m. 700 E. Gibbs Ave. (all ages welcome).  
Bohemia Gold Mining Museum Open. 1-4 p.m. 308 S. 10th St.  
Free Winter Break Kid Movies at the Cottage Grove Library. 3 p.m. 700 E. Gibbs Ave. Presented by Cottage Grove Public Library & South Valley Athletics. The Bad Guys 2: (PG, 104 minutes) follows the reformed animal heist crew as they’re framed for new high profile thefts and must regroup for one last daring mission to clear their names.  
American Legion Post 32 Bingo. 5-7 p.m. 826 W. Main St.  
Cottage Grove Speedway Walking in a Winter Wonderland. 5-9 p.m. 2150 N. Douglas St.  
Elks Lodge Fourth Friday Fish Fry. 5-6:30 p.m. 775 N. River Rd. A la carte menu features tilapia or cod, fries, cole-slaw. Prices vary.  
Last Friday Art Walk. 6-8 p.m. Downtown Historic District features artists and musicians hosted by businesses.  
Coast Fork Brewing. 6-9 p.m. 106 S. 6th St. The Huckleberrys (Americana).  
Friday Night Live. 6-9 p.m. Saginaw Vineyard. 80247 Delight Valley School Rd. 541.942.1364. Call for performer info.  
Weekly Pool Tournament. 7 p.m. Bohemian Tavern. 48 N. 9th St. Entry Fee: \$5 and BCA Rules.  
Axe and Fiddle. 7-9 p.m. 657 E. Main St. Dakota Harris and Friends. A trio of three Lane County musicians playing classic rock, 50s and 60s rock and roll, country, pop, and blues songs.

**DEC. 27**  
Share Fair USA 9 a.m. 1133 E. Main St. (covered parking area next to Urban Kitchen) Reserve a space and share from your abundance with neighbors who are in need. Load up your



Jeremy C. Ruark / Cottage Grove Sentinel

### Pigeons flying high over Main Street in Cottage Grove.

unwanted items to give away for free (no bartering). Details about the weekly event is on Share Fair USA Facebook page or send email to eventsbyananda@gmail.com  
Bohemia Gold Mining Museum Open. 1-4 p.m. 308 S. 10th St.  
Cottage Grove Museum Open. 1-4 p.m. Corner Birch Avenue and H Street.  
Cottage Grove Speedway Walking in a Winter Wonderland. 5-9 p.m. 2150 N. Douglas St.  
Coast Fork Brewing. 6-9 p.m. 106 S. 6th St. Donnie Raye and Blues Foundation (Blues, rock, jazz).

**DEC. 28**  
Cottage Grove Museum Open. 1-4 p.m. Corner Birch Avenue and H Street.  
Coast Fork Brewing. 1-3 p.m. 106 S. 6th St. The Regulars (Americana).  
VFW Post 3473 Bingo. 2-4 p.m. 3160 Hillside Dr.  
South Valley Athletics Bingo Fundraiser. 3:30-5:30 p.m. Coast Fork Brewing. 106 S. 6th St. Cards \$1/ea. 10 rounds.  
Cottage Grove Speedway Walking in a Winter Wonderland. 5-9 p.m. 2150 N. Douglas St.

Axe and Fiddle. 6-8 p.m. 657 E. Main St. Eugene-based singer/songwriter Tyler Weiss (Jazzy bluesy twist to folk music).

**DEC. 29**  
CG Senior Center Bingo. 12:30 p.m. Community Center, 700 E. Gibbs Ave. (Senior center members only).  
Cottage Grove Speedway Walking in a Winter Wonderland. 5-9 p.m. 2150 N. Douglas St.

**DEC. 30**  
Ukulele Club (free for adults of all skill levels) 9 a.m. Cottage Grove Public Library 700 E. Gibbs Ave.  
Oregon Aviation Museum Open. 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. 2475 Jim Wright Way.  
Free Winter Break Kid Movies at the Library. 3 p.m. 700 E. Gibbs Ave. Presented by Cottage Grove Public Library & South Valley Athletics. The Smurfs (2011, PG, 103 minutes) follows the tiny blue creatures as they’re chased from their magical village into New York City, where they must find a way home while evading the evil wizard Gargamel.  
Cottage Grove Speedway Walking in a Winter Wonderland. 5-9 p.m. 2150 N. Douglas St.

Trinity Lutheran Church Free Community Dinner. 5:15-6:15 p.m. Seventh & Quincy Avenue. (Take-Out Only).  
Trivia, Chess and Games with Gerald. 6-8 p.m. (Up to 7 trivia players on a team) Coast Fork Brewing. 106 S. 6th St.  
Dementia Support Group. 6:30-7:30 p.m. Magnolia Gardens Senior Living. 1425 Daugherty Ave. Provides assistance to navigate through the dementia process with your loved one and connect you with other caregivers and spouses supporting their loved ones.

**DEC. 31**  
Cottage Grove Speedway Walking in a Winter Wonderland. 5-9 p.m. 2150 N. Douglas St.  
Acoustic Jam with Gregg Biller. 6-7:30 p.m. Coast Fork Brewing. 106 S. 6th St.

Axe and Fiddle New Years Eve Blast. 9 p.m. – 1 a.m. 657 E. Main St. DJ Treejay plays high energy immersive dancing music. (no cover)

**JAN. 1**  
Happy New Year!

**JAN. 2**  
Free Winter Break Movie at Cottage Grove Public Library. 3 p.m. 700 E. Gibbs Ave. Presented by Cottage Grove Public Library & South Valley Athletics Movie: Elio (2025, PG, 98-99 minutes) tells the story of an eleven year old boy mistakenly identified as Earth’s ambassador after being beamed into an intergalactic council, forcing him to navigate alien diplomacy while discovering his own identity.  
Elks Lodge Friday Dinner. 5-6:30 p.m. 775 N. River Rd. Menu: Chicken Fried Steak, mashed potatoes and gravy, corn, salad and vanilla ice cream Cost: \$10.  
Friday Night Live. 6-9 p.m. Saginaw Vineyard. 80247 Delight Valley School Rd. 541.942.1364 Call for performer info.

**JAN. 3**  
Share Fair USA 9 a.m. 1133 E. Main St. (covered parking area next to Urban Kitchen) Reserve a space and share from your abundance with neighbors who are in need. Load up your unwanted items to give away for free (no bartering). Details about the weekly event is on Share Fair USA Facebook page or send email to eventsbyananda@gmail.com  
Bohemia Gold Mining Museum Open. 1-4 p.m. 308 S. 10th St.  
Cottage Grove Museum Open. 1-4 p.m. Corner Birch Avenue and H Street.

**JAN.4**  
Cottage Grove Museum Open. 1-4 p.m. Corner Birch Avenue and H Street

**JAN. 5**  
CG Senior Center Bingo. 12:30 p.m. Community Center, 700 E. Gibbs Ave. (Senior center members only).

**JAN. 6**  
Trivia, Chess and Games with Gerald. 6-8 p.m. (Up to 7 trivia players on a team) Coast Fork Brewing. 106 S. 6th St.

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OBITUARIES & NEWS

Rolly Eugene (Gene) Kishen

October 23, 1941 - November 1, 2025

Rolly Eugene (Gene) Kishen of Cottage Grove died on November 1, 2025.

Eugene was born in Los Angeles, CA on October 23, 1941, to Pat and Audrey (Anderson) Kishen. Eugene was preceded in death by his wife, Karrie Kishen, who he was married to for 52 years.

He was a bi-vocational pastor at Calvary Baptist Church from 1978-1994 while also running his construction company, Progressive Exteriors.

He is survived by his daughter, Kristel



(Marvin) Eddings of Cottage Grove, (grandchildren: Katelyn, Argus, Jacie, Zig and 1 great grandchild); son, Raymond E. Kishen of Sun Valley, AZ; son, Kyle (April) Kishen of Cottage Grove, (grandchildren: Ty, Cole, Allyson); twin sister, Molly Erlene Summers of Fresno, CA;

In memory of Eugene, you may donate to his home church, Hope in the Grove, 301 South 6th St. Cottage Grove, OR 97424. Arrangements are in the care of Smith-Lund-Mills Funeral Chapel

Gary Allen Garman

September 12, 1933 - November 28, 2025

Gary Allen Garman, age 92, of Creswell, passed away at home on November 28, 2025. Gary was born on September 12, 1933, in the Cottage Grove Oregon birth home to John and Cynthia (Peggy) Garman.

He spent his childhood and adult life in the London Valley area, graduating from Cottage Grove High School in 1952.

He served in the Army National Guard, receiving an honorable discharge in 1960.

He drove trucks all his life, chip, lumber, and log truck. He retired from Weyerhaeuser in 1996 and in his retirement, he enjoyed



carpentry, wood working and driving his 1948 Chevy, even though he was a die-hard Ford man.

He is survived by his wife of 46 years, Susan, his children, Joanie (Mike) Penni, Nick (Konnie), with his former wife, Donna, 5 grandchildren and 11 great grandchildren. He is preceded in death by his parents, a sister Belva, and his son Marty (Patty).

“Grandpa Prune” was a much loved and will be greatly missed.

Following cremation, a small family memorial was held on December 7, 2025. Arrangements are in the care of Smith-Lund-Mills Funeral Chapel and Crematorium.

Dr. Kenneth Alan Hawk

May 14, 1945 - December 1, 2025

Dr. Kenneth Alan Hawk, 80 of Cottage Grove, Oregon passed away suddenly on December 1, 2025. He was born May 14, 1945 to parents Norman and Phyllis (Porter) Hawk in Klamath Falls, Oregon.

After graduating from high school Kenneth attended the University of Oregon and then received his Doctor of Dentistry at Oregon Health Science University.

He joined the United States Airforce and served as a captain. While in Japan he worked as a dentist from 1972-1975.

Kenneth worked in private practice of general dentistry in Eugene, Oregon from 1975 until his retirement in 2017.

He married Jennifer Mullins in Cottage Grove, Oregon on November 22, 2019.

Kenneth was a huge Oregon Duck fan of football, basketball, and women's



softball. He enjoyed all college football and MLB baseball. He was also an avid golfer and enjoyed watching men's and women's golf tournaments. Ken enjoyed landscaping as well, very passionate about his rhododendrons and roses. He loved all aspects of plants, the care and maintenance, and aesthetic beauty. His favorite color was green and he would say, “It's the color of life.”

He is survived by his wife Jennifer, daughters Raegan (Dj) Mann, Quincy (Trey) Waidelich, Teryl Hawk, brothers Bill (Kimra) Hawk, Ron Hawk, and 5 grandchildren. He is preceded in death by his parents.

Services will be held at a later date. Arrangements are in the care of Smith-Lund-Mills Funeral Chapel and Return Home.

Petition against Oregon transportation law pauses gas tax and fee hikes

MIA LALDONADO

Oregon Capital Chronicle

With a transportation funding referendum likely headed to Oregon voters in November 2026 and a short legislative session approaching, it's unclear if and how Republicans and Democrats can compromise on a sustainable plan to fund road maintenance and operations.

House Bill 3991, which Gov. Tina Kotek signed into law on Nov. 7 after a special legislative session, was expected to raise \$4.8 billion for the transportation department over the next decade. But the agency's new revenue streams under the law — scheduled to take effect at the beginning of 2026 — were paused when opponents submitted almost

200,000 signatures to the Oregon Secretary of State with the goal to give voters the chance to overturn the law.

Without access to new revenue, the Oregon Department of Transportation once again faces a significant funding gap that could result in layoffs and reduced services — even as transportation crews respond to rain-caused landslides alongside Highway 229 near the Oregon Coast and as mountain passes across the state remain closed or congested because of downed trees and power lines.

“Oregonians have exercised their ability to challenge actions taken by the legislature, and the governor

respects the outcome of that process,” Kotek press secretary Roxy Mayer told the Capital Chronicle.

Republicans must work with Democrats now to find a different solution, Mayer said.

“The governor's guiding principle is to avoid, as much as possible, immediate service cuts that will impact Oregonians,” Mayer said.

What fees and taxes are on pause?

Increases to vehicle registration and title fees, a 6-cent gas tax hike and a temporary doubling of the payroll tax used for public transit from 0.1% to 0.2% of a worker's paycheck were set to take effect at the start of the year. Petitioners with No Tax Oregon paused those scheduled tax and fee hikes by turning in their signatures last week.

The fee and tax hikes will remain paused unless the state's elections division

finds there were not enough valid signatures. The office has until Jan. 29 to verify the signatures. Otherwise, the hikes will remain paused pending a statewide vote in November 2026.

The pause in the payroll transit tax hike means the average Oregonian making \$68,000 will remain paying \$5.60 a month in the tax instead of \$11.20 per month.

For now, Oregonians will continue paying a 40-cent gas tax per gallon instead of 46 cents.

Oregonians with a passenger vehicle will remain paying \$77 in title fees instead of \$216.

Registration base fees for a two year period for Oregonians driving a standard passenger car will remain at \$86 instead of \$170, \$88 instead of \$172 for motorcyclists and \$126 instead of \$210 for light and utility trailer drivers. Drivers will continue to pay a surcharge based on fuel efficiency, which means the total registration fee for most passenger cars is \$126 or \$136 every two years.

Collectively, the new fees and taxes were expected to raise \$791 million in the 2025-27 budget cycle, followed by \$1.1 billion for 2027-29 and \$1.2 billion for 2029-31.

No transportation service cuts yet

Transportation Department spokesperson Katherine Benenati said no service cuts or layoffs have been determined within the agency, and any layoffs would not take place until after the legislative session ends in March. Kotek has continued hiring winter seasonal staff using existing funding, savings from vacancies and recent voluntary departures to maintain these services in the short term, she said.

Rep. Ed Diehl, R-Scio and one of the lead petitioners of the No Tax Oregon effort, said higher taxes aren't the only way to fill the budget gap, arguing that Democrats need to reprioritize how they fund transportation.

“We're paying for electric vehicle car chargers. We have a social equity office. We have climate justice initiatives. We have hundreds of millions of dollars in reserves on projects that will never transpire as currently designed,” he told the Capital Chronicle. “It's a waste, but the Legislature is prioritizing those things over what the Oregon people want.”

Diehl and his Republican colleagues have pushed to rearrange transportation funding. However, most of the state transportation departments funding is legally designated for specific purposes, so reallocating funds would require a statutory or constitutional amendment to avoid legal challenges, according to department Finance and Budget Division Administrator Daniel Porter.

At least three Republicans on Wednesday — Reps. Mark Owens of Crane and Vikki Breese-Iverson of Prineville and Sen. Mike McLane of Powell Butte — urged the transportation department to seek emergency funding from the Legislature's Joint Emergency Board in response to the historic flooding across the state this week. The 20-member board has the authority to allocate funding when the full Legislature isn't in session.

Rep. Susan McLain, D-Forest Grove, called the Republicans' request impractical.

“Are they going to ask for emergency funds for the rest of 2026 as well when they strip funding as part of their ballot measure to defund ODOT?” she said. “It is simply not realistic.”

McLain, co-chair of the Legislature's Joint Transportation Committee, said House Bill 3991 is a quarter of what Democratic lawmakers proposed during the regular legislative session, and for three budget cycles she said lawmakers

have made cuts to ODOT and worked on efficiency.

“We've done all of the compromise, the amending and the backup plan is that final bill that we passed in September, which is only a quarter of the original,” she said. “The short session is not going to help them.”

Democratic leaders shared similar concerns about the efforts to overturn the transportation funding law.

“Without those emergency funds, hundreds of hard-working Oregonians who plow highways, fill potholes and repair bridges are in danger of losing their jobs,” said Senate President Rob Wagner, D-Lake Oswego. “The Senate President's Office is ready to work with ODOT and the Governor's Office to manage this situation in the upcoming legislative session.”

House Speaker Julie Fahey, D-Eugene, said the transportation funding law was a heavily negotiated policy that had support from nearly every key transportation stakeholder in Oregon and considered the cost of living for Oregonians.

“The referral of only pieces of that package — repealing funding while leaving spending obligations in place — destabilizes our transportation system and jeopardizes Oregonians' safety,” Fahey said. “The Republican politicians behind the referral effort don't have a backup plan, and the transportation needs facing every corner of the state won't fix themselves.”

Fahey said she will continue to work closely with her Senate colleagues and Kotek to keep Oregonians safe on their way to work and school.

<https://oregoncapitalchronicle.com/2025/12/18/petition-against-oregon-transportation-law-pauses-gas-tax-and-fee-hikes/>  
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Dear Santa, You can write back to me. Can I have a kitten for Christmas? Can I

have a puppy for Christmas? From Adi

Dear Santa, I have tried my best to be good. Can you get my sister a baby doll? And, can you get me a new phone case? And stuff to fix my bike please? Sincerely, Jayce

Dear Santa, I really want my friends to come to my house so I can have some fun. And so mach fun, thank you Santa! Sincerely by Timmy

Dear Santa, my name is Taylee and I am 8 years old. I live in Cottage Grove. This year, I have been very good.

I always try to be happy. For Christmas, I would love to have 1. Plushy or Stuffy. 2. Pet fuzzy caterpillar. I also hope you have a fun trip around the world. Please say hello to your reindeer for me. Thank you for making Christmas so magical! Love, Taylee. P.S. Don't forget to enjoy the cookies and milk we leave for you!

Dear Santa, I want a pink graphic kit, a ring and a necklace. Sincerely, Sophia

Dear Santa, I've been nice this year. Can you gift me

a Lynx plushy? I left you cookies and I left carrots for your reindeer. I also want something for my sister and my brother, like a squish-mello for my sister and a fennec fox for my brother. Sincerly, Hayden

Dear Santa, Have I been good this year. And can you get my dad a apple satch? Also, can you get me one millon robux? I'll leave cookies and carrots. Sincerly, Colin. I hope your reindeer are doing good.

Dear St. Nick, I tried to be good this year. I was good and bad this year so I am sorr but this year I want an axolotl plushy demon slayer manga 5-23. Sincerely, Xander. P.S. I got cookies and milk and carrots for reindeer.

Dear St. Nick, I've been good mostly. St. Nick, here's my wish list. I want Blaziken ex and volcanion ex poke'mon deck, and Lucario mega Evolution poke'mon deck, and lego set 42006. I will leave some carrots for you. Sincerely, Delton

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# Lane County unemployment rate rising

**STAFF REPORT**  
*Cottage Grove Sentinel*

Now that the federal government shutdown has ended, the Oregon Employment Department is able to complete its

monthly unemployment reports, which are a key indicator of the state's economy.

Lane County's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was 5.0% in

September compared with a revised 4.9% in August. The rate has increased significantly from the recent low of 3.6% recorded in May of 2023, according to the Oregon Employment Department.

Lane County's record low rate was 3.5% in November 2019. The Oregon seasonally adjusted September rate was 5.2% and the U.S. rate was 4.4%.

Lane County's seasonally adjusted payroll employment decreased by 400 in September after a gain of 1,200 in August and a loss of 1,000 in July.

In the not seasonally adjusted private-sector industries in September, there was a gain of 100

in manufacturing. There were relatively large losses in leisure and hospitality (-600) and private education and health services (-400).

Government gained 1,400 jobs in September due to a seasonal gain of 1,800 in local education from the start of a new school year that was countered by a loss of 400 in noneducation local government.

When comparing September 2025 with September 2024, total non-farm employment dropped 900 jobs on a seasonally adjusted basis for a loss of 0.5%.

There were gains in private education and health services (900), leisure and



Metro Creative Connection

**The monthly unemployment reports are a key economic indicator of the state. The latest report shows 179,542 employed and 10,084 unemployed in Lane County.**

hospitality (500), and other services (200). There were relatively large losses in professional and business services (-900), wholesale trade (-300), and financial activities (- 300).

There was an over-the-year loss of 500 in government in September from a loss of 300 in local education and an additional loss of 200 in noneducation local government.

## BUDGET

From Page 1

fees for Group C users to recover administrative costs.

Reservation Policies: New cancellation rules — \$200 deducted from Armory deposits if canceled within 90 days; \$50 deducted from Community Center deposits if canceled within 60 days.

Alcohol Surcharge: Increased to \$150 for Community Center and Armory events.

Park Venues: A new \$300 fee for use of Bohemia Park Amphitheater's stage cover by out of town promoters and for weddings.

Councilor Greg Ervin said, "We're doing the right thing to charge rental fees to

recoup costs. We need to get data on how (fee increases) affect usage."

Councilor Randell Lammerman opposed steep increases such as the Community Center refundable deposit rising from \$50 to \$150, warning that higher non resident fees to use the Community Center and Armory could reduce usage at a time when more rental revenue is needed.

Councilor Darrell Wilson, citing event planning experience, argued the new fees remain well below commercial rates.

**FINAL VOTE**

The vote came at the council's final meeting of the year on Dec. 8 and was adopted

6 1 with Lammerman voting no.

**OTHER COUNCIL BUSINESS**

New Contracts Approved for Municipal Judge and City Manager

In two executive (nonpublic) sessions prior to the public meeting, the City Council conducted the annual performance evaluation of City Manager Mike Sauerwein and Municipal Court Judge Martin Fisher. Both men received excellent reviews and new contracts for 2026.

Cottage Grove's Municipal Court handles traffic violations, city ordinance infractions, and misdemeanors, which is a narrower scope than county or circuit courts. Fisher's annual \$30,000

compensation reflects the part time nature of the contracted position.

City Manager Mike Sauerwein requested a 3 percent cost of living adjustment — the same increase granted to other non represented employees on July 1 — along with a 5 percent merit raise. After discussion of the city's budget challenges, the council voted unanimously to approve the 5 percent merit increase, effective Jan. 22, 2026, his job anniversary date.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Local resident Elaine Burns sang "O Little Town of Bethlehem" with customized lyrics related to concerns about recent immigration arrests. Steve Barnes asked how police officers would respond to

someone being physically assaulted by Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) agents. Later in the meeting Councilor Greg Ervin said that Oregon's Sanctuary Laws prevented local officers from interfering in ICE operations.

Eric Jacobs expressed growing concerns in the community, especially among parents, of homeless camps around town, especially the one on South Gateway Boulevard. Public Works Director Faye Stewart said he has made numerous offers to assist the Oregon Dept. of Transportation staff to clean up the site and cut the brush on ODOT property. State law requires posting 10-day notice of intent to remove the camp. Unable to respond at the end of the first notice the

process had to be repeated for another 10 day notice.

Former Cottage Grove Police Captain Randy Soulard made a number of misconduct allegations against Police Chief Cory Chase that he said occurred in 2024-25, during the year Soulard served here and continued after he resigned. He told the Council he gave all of his documentation to justify the alleged misconduct to Sauerwein. The Sentinel reached out to the City Manager and Police Chief for comment and because it is a personnel matter they declined to comment.

The next Council meeting is January 12 at 7 p.m.

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THE COTTAGE GROVE Sentinel

## LIGHTS

From Page 1

Boyce says the community response has already made Winter Wonderland part of Cottage Grove's holiday tradition.

"We hope to continue this for many years to come," she

said. "Like the track itself, it isn't possible without community support—so come on down."

**HOURS AND ADMISSION**

The attraction runs week-ends Nov. 28–Dec. 14 and nightly Dec. 18–31. Hours are 5–9 p.m. Tickets are \$10 for adults, \$5 for kids ages 3–13,

and \$25 for families. A season pass is available for \$25 per person, offering unlimited entry. The Speedway is a cash only facility. It is located at 2150 Douglas St. next to the W.O.E. Fairgrounds on the north side of town.

For more information, visit [www.cottagegrovespeedway.com](http://www.cottagegrovespeedway.com).

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CGS25-196 IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE STATE OF OREGON FOR THE COUNTY OF LANE In the Matter of the Estate of: Kathryn Dee Richmond, Deceased. Case No. 25PB10422 NOTICE TO INTERESTED PERSONS NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Carolyn Marie Landers has been appointed Personal Representative. All persons having claims against the estate are hereby required to present them, with proper vouchers, within four months after the date of first publication of this notice, as stated below, to the Personal Representative at 711 Country Club Road, Suite 200, Eugene, Oregon 97401, or they 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: December 24, 2025. PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE: Carolyn Marie Landers 2332 Ramshead Court Waukesha, WI 53188 970-310-5381 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

CGS25-197 IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE STATE OF OREGON FOR THE COUNTY OF LANE [Probate Department] In the Matter of the Estate of: RONALD L. PUPKE, Deceased. Case No. 25PB09582 NOTICE TO INTERESTED PERSONS 'emdash CORRECTED NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the undersigned has been appointed as the Personal Representative of the above-entitled testate estate. All persons having claims against the said estate are required to present them to the undersigned Personal Representative at: Camee E. Southey c/o George L. Derr, Attorney at Law, P.O. Box 2159, Eugene, Oregon 97402, within four months after the date of publication of this notice, or such claims may be barred. All persons whose rights may be affected by these probate proceedings are advised that additional information may be obtained from the records of the Lane County Probate Court, the Personal Representative, or the attorney for the Personal Representative. DATED and first published this day 24 of December 2025. Camee E. Southey Personal Representative

CGS25-198 Notice is hereby given that Shannon L. Bateman and Heidi H. Pollock have been appointed and have qualified as the co-personal representatives of the Estate of Keith Melville Wright, deceased, in Lane County Circuit Court Case No. 25PB10836. All persons having claims against the estate are hereby required to present their claims, with proper vouchers, within four months after the date of publication of this notice, as stated below to the co-personal representatives c/o Hamilton W. Budge, Jr., P.O. Box 10567, Eugene, OR 97440, or the claims may be barred. All persons, whose rights may be affected by the

999 PUBLIC NOTICES

proceedings in this estate may obtain additional information from the records of the court, the co-personal representatives, or the attorney for the co-personal representatives. Date of publication: December 24, 2025. Shannon L. Bateman, Co-Personal Representative Heidi H. Pollock, Co-Personal Representative c/o Hamilton W. Budge, Jr., Attorney at Law P.O. Box 10567 Eugene, OR 97440

CGS25-194 TRUSTEE'S NOTICE OF SALE TS NO.: 25-75768 Reference is made to that certain Deed of Trust (hereinafter referred as the Trust Deed) made by SAMANTHA MORRIS as Grantor to FIDELITY NATIONAL TITLE COMPANY OF OREGON, as trustee, in favor of Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc. ("MERS"), as designated nominee for CMG MORTGAGE, INC DBA CMG FINANCIAL, beneficiary of the security instrument, its successors and assigns, as Beneficiary, dated 1/31/2020, recorded 2/3/2020, as Instrument No. 2020-005520, modified by Loan Modification Agreement recorded as Instrument number 2023-008943 on 4/5/2023, in mortgage records of Lane County, Oregon covering the following described real property situated in said County and State, to-wit: LOT 5 AND THE WEST ONE-HALF OF LOT 6, BLOCK 2, MEADE ADDITION, IN THE CITY OF COTTAGE GROVE, AS PLATTED AND RECORDED IN BOOK 13, PAGE 12, LANE COUNTY OREGON PLAT RECORDS, IN LANE COUNTY, OREGON. The street address or other common designation, if any for the real property described above is purported to be: 1160 GEER AVE COTTAGE GROVE, OREGON 97424 The Tax Assessor's Account ID for the Real Property is purported to be: 889962 / 20-03-28-13-03400 Both the beneficiary and the trustee, ZBS Law, LLP have elected to foreclose the above referenced Trust Deed and sell the said real property to satisfy the obligations secured by the Trust Deed and a Notice of Default and Election to Sell has been recorded pursuant to ORS 86.752(3). All right, title, and interest in the said described property which the grantors had, or had power to convey, at the time of execution of the Trust Deed, together with any interest the grantors or their successors in interest acquired after execution of the Trust Deed shall be sold at public auction to the highest bidder for cash to satisfy the obligations secured by the Trust Deed and the expenses of sale, including the compensation of the trustee as provided by law, and the reasonable fees of trustee's attorneys. The default for which the foreclosure is made is: The monthly installment of principal and interest which became due on 4/1/2025, late charges, and all subsequent monthly installments of principal and interest. You are responsible to pay all payments and charges due under the terms and conditions of the loan documents which come due subsequent to the date of this notice, including, but not limited to, foreclosure trustee fees and costs, advances and late charges. Furthermore, as a condition to bring your account in

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good standing, you must provide the undersigned with written proof that you are not in default on any senior encumbrance and provide proof of insurance. Nothing in this notice should be construed as a waiver of any fees owing to the beneficiary under the deed of trust, pursuant to the terms and provisions of the loan documents. The amount required to cure the default in payments to date is calculated as follows: From: 4/1/2025 Total of past due payments: \$10,146.15 Late Charges: \$158.08 Additional charges (Taxes, Insurance, Corporate Advances, Other Fees): \$2,299.00 Trustee's Fees and Costs: \$637.00 Total necessary to cure: \$13,240.23 Please note the amounts stated herein are subject to confirmation and review and are likely to change during the next 30 days. Please contact the successor trustee ZBS Law, LLP, to obtain a "reinstatement" and or "payoff" quote prior to remitting funds. By reason of said default the beneficiary has declared all sums owing on the obligation secured by the Trust Deed due and payable. The amount required to discharge this lien in its entirety to date is: \$228,158.84 Said sale shall be held at the hour of 10:00 AM on 2/27/2026 in accord with the standard of time established by ORS 187.110, and pursuant to ORS 86.771(7) shall occur at the following designated place: Inside the main lobby of the Lane County Courthouse, 125 E 8th Ave, Eugene, OR 97401 Other than as shown of record, neither the said beneficiary nor the said trustee have any actual notice of any person having or claiming to have any lien upon or interest in the real property hereinabove described subsequent to the interest of the trustee in the Trust Deed, or of any successor(s) in interest to the grantors or of any lessee or other person in possession of or occupying the property, except: NONE Notice is further given that any person named in ORS 86.778 has the right, at any time

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prior to five days before the date last set for sale, to have this foreclosure proceeding dismissed and the Trust Deed reinstated by payment to the beneficiary of the entire amount then due (other than such portion of the principal as would not then be due had no default occurred) and by curing any other default complained of herein that is capable of being cured by tendering the performance required under the obligation(s) of the Trust Deed, and in addition to paying said sums or tendering the performance necessary to cure the default, by paying all costs and expenses actually incurred in enforcing the obligation and Trust Deed, together with the trustee's and attorney's fees not exceeding the amounts provided by ORS 86.778. The mailing address of the trustee is: ZBS Law, LLP 5 Centerpointe Dr., Suite 400 Lake Oswego, OR 97035 (503) 946-6558 In construing this notice, the masculine gender includes the feminine and the neuter, the singular includes plural, the word "grantor" includes any successor in interest to the grantor as well as any other persons owing an obligation, the performance of which is secured by said trust deed, the words "trustee" and "beneficiary" include their respective successors in interest, if any. 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 methamphetamines, 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. Dated: 10/14/2025 ZBS Law, LLP By: Amber L. Labrecque, Esq., OSB#094593 ZBS Law, LLP Authorized to sign on behalf of the trustee EPP 45529 Pub Dates 12/17, 12/24, 12/31, 01/07/2026

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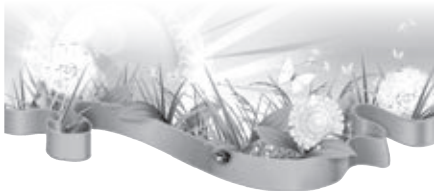
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# Cottage Grove boys basketball forming identity

**WILL LOHRE**  
*Cottage Grove Sentinel*

With a pride of Lions without much battle-tested, varsity experience, early-season success is not measured with wins and losses for Head Coach Seth Hutchison.

The opening month of the 2025/26 campaign is a time for Cottage Grove High School's boys basketball team to focus on developing skills and laying the groundwork for the busy schedule that will pick up in January and February.

The Lions started the season with five losses, but Hutchison's goal at this stage is to improve every week, build chemistry, and create a playstyle the team will be ready to implement when the league stage rolls around.

"The early season is about building foundations rather than chasing results for us," Hutchison said. "Some of the foundations that we are trying to build are: Team identity, core habits, player roles, skill development, offense

and defense basics, chemistry, and trust in one another."

Hutchison said he is excited and optimistic about this year's crop of Lions. The excitement is fueled by the influx of young, less seasoned players at his disposal. Though they may not know all the ropes yet, Hutchison said the players are constantly learning and that their growth is evident in each new situation they face. With plenty of time between now and the end of the season, Hutchison expects the team to look "completely different" by the time the final buzzer sounds.

Speaking to the Sentinel after the first five games, Hutchison said the Lions are still trying to find the right slots and roles for his

*"The goals are always the same each year, and that is to win games but also improve as young men both on and off the court."*

*Seth Hutchison, CGHS Boys Basketball Head Coach*

players. While they haven't nailed down all the specifics yet, the connectivity and bond between the players is apparent.

"This is a great group of young men. They are fun to be around, and they really care about each other and each other's success," Hutchison said.

At the head of the pack are the program's captains, Cade May, Tai Lam, and Trevor Cooper. While every player on the roster will have a role to play this season, those three will be the leaders in the locker room.

One of the highlights from the first five games was a feat of late-game heroics from Lam against Scio.

Down three, Lam buried a three to send the game to overtime. Though Cottage Grove would go on to lose the game, moments will live long in the memory. Other moments that stood out to Hutchison from the first five games were a tight loss to #3 Cascade and playing even with Newport after a slow start in the first quarter.

While there have been bursts of brilliance for Cottage Grove, the emphasis now is to show consistency over an entire game.

"We just haven't put four quarters together, and that will come with experience as the season goes along," Hutchison said. "As mentioned before, we are playing a lot of guys without much experience at the varsity level, and so it's exciting for our future."

League play starts on Jan. 9 against Marshfield, and before that day comes, the Lions will have two tournaments to prepare. The first is the Battle of I-5, Dec. 18



- Dec. 20. Results from that tournament are not available at the time of press. Next up will be the SCTC Holiday Tournament, Dec. 29 - Dec. 31.

The Lions will be hoping those opportunities return ample growth for a team that is hungry for wins this season. Even though notching wins is a big motivation for the team, for Hutchison, true success is also tied to elements beyond basketball.

"The goals are always the same each year, and that is to win games but also improve as young men both on and off the court," Hutchison said. "It's important to me that the young men leave my program better people than when they started."

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

# Northwest just finished warmest fall on record, scientists report

**ALEX BAUMHARDT**  
*Oregon Capital Chronicle*

Across the Northwest, a record warm fall and lack of snowpack going into the winter is putting more drought pressure on Oregon, Idaho, Washington and western Montana.

Despite record rain in western Washington recently, and earlier this year in central and southern Oregon, the showers are filling up already overdrawn reservoirs in many areas, scientists said on Monday at an online drought and climate outlook meeting hosted by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

Snowpack in the region and in the Cascade Range, acting as a reservoir of its own for summer months

when there's little rain and many communities rely on snowmelt, is simply not piling up.

Snowpack in the Northwest is sitting at the lowest level for the region as a whole at this point in the winter since record keeping began in 2001, according to Jacob Genuise, a climatologist at the Washington State Climate Office.

"We're seeing just really warm storms with a lot of rain and not a lot of snow," Genuise said. "Given all this warm rain, it actually melted some of our snowpack, and we saw a decline."

The Northwest just experienced its sixth warmest August on record, the warmest September on record — about 6 degrees Fahrenheit

above normal on average — and the second warmest November on record, according to NOAA data.

Taken together, August through November of this year was the record warmest on average across the Northwest in more than 130 years of record keeping. NASA scientists, using NOAA records of global average temperatures dating back to 1880, found that this November was the third-warmest November on Earth, behind only November of 2023 and 2024.

But in 2023 and 2024, a planet-warming El Niño weather pattern helped fuel record temperatures, according to the data. There was no El Niño event to drive temperatures this year.

Temperatures in the Northwest have been most abnormal across all of Idaho, eastern Washington and eastern Oregon, and in western Montana.

"It's definitely not good," Genuise said. "We've seen much more above normal years in the past few decades than we did in the past."

Rain not snow

By the end of this summer, drought took hold of the Northwest, Genuise said, especially in parts of northern Idaho and southeast Washington. Snow melted too quickly in spring, creating drought as the summer went on, and abnormal heat also increased surface water evaporation in lakes and streams, lowering water levels that

contributed to drought in parts of the region.

In the last month, most of western Oregon was at 50% of its normal level of precipitation for this time of year, according to Brad Pugh, a meteorologist at the National Weather Service's Climate Prediction Center.

Only southern and central Oregon have been spared major drought impacts this year, but reservoirs that filled from heavy spring rains are also being quickly depleted, he said.

Everywhere north of Oregon is experiencing above average rainfall, Pugh said.

This will potentially help pull the Northwest out of a region-wide drought in the coming weeks or month, according to Pugh, but much

of that will also depend on whether or not it gets cold enough for rain to turn into snow and snowpack.

The only area in the region getting roughly normal snowpack is western Montana, where temperatures have been just-cold-enough to turn rain to snow. All of Oregon and most of southern Washington are seeing "really, really deep snowpack deficits," Genuise said.

If the snowpack is still bad in the spring, there could be ongoing drought issues in the year ahead, Genuise added.

"We could see this change, and this is likely to change as we see some wetter and cooler systems later in the month, but we're definitely sitting well below normal as we talk here today," he said.

## PUBLIC NOTICE/LEGAL

CGS25-192 vemdash AMENDED vemdash NOTICE OF NONJUDICIAL FORECLOSURE SALE Reference is made to that certain trust deed dated August 5, 2021, and recorded on August 6, 2021 at reception number 2021-051547 of the Official Records of Lane County, Oregon, (the "Trust Deed"). 1. George L. Derr, the successor trustee, hereby gives notice of default and election to sell, and notice of sale pursuant to the terms of said Trust Deed. The mailing address of the Successor Trustee is George L. Derr, P.C., P.O. Box 2159, Eugene, OR 97402, Tel: (541)-683-7473, Email: george@gderlaw.com. 2. The original Grantor of said Trust Deed is Jo Bond Principal, LLC, an Oregon limited liability company. The original and current Beneficiary is Corinne Bell. 3. The subject property is commonly known as 4040 Barger Drive, Eugene, OR 97402 and is more particularly described, as follows: Lot 2, Block 1, ALEX -A PLAT, as platted and recorded in Book 70, Page 25, Lane County Oregon plat records, in the City of Eugene, County of Lane and State of Oregon. (hereinafter the "property"). 4. The Grantor has



defaulted under said Trust Deed in one or more of the following particulars: (a) by failing to make one or more payments of the indebtedness of a Promissory Note dated and secured by said Trust Deed, which payments are past due, (b) by failing to maintain insurance on the property as required by the Trust Deed, and (c) by failing to pay real property taxes when due. 5. As a result of Grantor's default(s), Beneficiary declares all sums secured under said Trust Deed immediately due and payable. 6. The sum now owing on the obligation secured by the Trust Deed is a principal balance of \$283,471.66, plus accrued interest in the sum of \$9,350.68 as of December 2, 2025, plus interest continuing to accrue at the rate of 4% per annum, plus accumulated late fees of \$717.60 (as of November 1, 2025), plus \$200 escrow collection close fee, plus \$60.00 escrow payoff quote fees, plus \$61.00 in postage, plus \$494.50 for insurance required under the Trust Deed and paid for by the Beneficiary through December 1, 2025, plus property taxes for 2024 in the principal amount of \$2,514.54, plus accrued interest thereon in the amount of \$324.10 as of December 1, 2025, plus

accruing interest at the rate of 16% per annum on the \$2,514.54 tax, until paid in full; plus property taxes for 2025 in the amount of \$2,579.57 (as of December 1, 2025) plus accruing interest thereon at the rate of 16% on the \$2,579.57 tax, until paid in full, plus the cost of the foreclosure guarantee title report \$1,200, attorney's fees in the amount of \$1,000, plus any and all sums advanced and other fees and costs incurred by the Beneficiary pursuant to the terms of the Trust Deed and Promissory Note; together with any other sums due or that may become due under the Promissory Note or Trust Deed or by reason of this foreclosure and any further advances made by Beneficiary as allowed by the Promissory Note or Trust Deed. 7. The Beneficiary has declared a default, accelerated the debt and elected to sell the property secured by the Trust Deed to satisfy the obligation and defaults noted above. 8. The sale will be held on Wednesday, January 28, 2026, at 11:00 a.m., at the main entrance to the Lane County Courthouse, 125 East 8th Avenue, Eugene, Oregon 97401, near the security station. 9. Pursuant to ORS 86.778, the Grantor, the Grantor's successor

in interest to all or any part of the trust deed property, any Beneficiary under a subordinate Trust Deed, or any person having a subordinate lien or encumbrance of record on the trust deed property has the right to have this non-judicial sale proceeding dismissed and the debt obligation and Trust Deed reinstated by payment of the entire amount due at the time of payment, in an amount to be determined at that time, other than such portion as would not then be due had no default occurred, together with costs, Trustee's and attorney fees, and by curing all other defaults specified herein at any time that is not later than five (5) days before the date last set for the sale: January 28, 2026 at 11:00 a.m. 10. The undersigned hereby certifies that no assignments of the Trust Deed by the Trustee or by the Beneficiary and no appointments of a Successor Trustee have been made, except as recorded in the records of the county in which the above-described real property is situated. Further, no action has been instituted to recover the debt, or any part thereof, now remaining secured by the Trust Deed, or if such action has been instituted, such action has been


dismissed or rescinded except as permitted by ORS 86.735(4) 11. Pursuant to Oregon Law, this sale will not be deemed final until the Trustee's deed has been issued by George L. Derr. 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 recourse against the Trustee, the Beneficiary, the Beneficiary's Agent, or the Beneficiary's Attorney. 12. In construing this notice the singular includes the plural. The word "Grantor" includes any and all assigns or successors in interest to the named Grantor as well as any and all other person(s) owing an obligation, the performance of which is secured by the Trust Deed. The words "Trustee" and "Beneficiary" include their respective successors in interest and all those person(s) claiming by or through them, if any, and all judgment creditors. Upon completion of the sale, the Beneficiary will treat the Trust Deed as foreclosed and terminate all recorded or unrecorded interests in the property subject

to the Trust Deed, for all persons to whom notice is given pursuant ORS 86.740 and 86.750, and of any other person claiming by, through, or under such person(s), and their respective assigns and successors in interest. 13. Notice Regarding Potential Hazards. (This following notice is required for notices of sale sent on or after January 1, 2015): Without limiting the trustee's disclaimer or 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 methampheta-mines, 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. 14. IMPORTANT NOTICE TO TENANTS: Tenants of the subject real property have certain protections afforded to them under ORS 86.774 and ORS 86.782 and possibly under federal law. SUCCESSOR TRUSTEE: George L. Derr P.O. Box 2159 Eugene, OR 97402 Tel: (541) 915-8494 Email: george@gderlaw.com



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