Public
Market
Festival
See page 3



SLSD Candidates Forum

See page 5



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**77**47

Cottage Grove

Wednesday, April 30
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Wednesday May 7, 2025 | Number 19, 136 years

# New report outlines 'biggest threats' to Oregon's trees

JEREMY C. RUARK Cottage Grove Sentinel

Drought, insect pests, and tree diseases continue to be the biggest threats to the Oregon's trees.

A new report on the state of health of Oregon's forests is based on an extensive aerial survey of Oregon's forests completed last year by the Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF) and the USDA Forest Service.

"A large part of this report is devoted to looking at the impact from climate change, specifically drought," ODF Forest Entomologist Christine Buhl said. "Drought is often paired with rising temperatures, and together these are often the underlying causes for tree mortality across our landscape. Drought reduces tree growth and increases susceptibility to insect pests and some diseases, which healthy trees may otherwise resist or tolerate."

Buhl said the report also measures other causes of trees being injured or killed, such as insect pests, diseases, storms, and wildfires.

Last year a record 1.9 million acres were affected by wildfire. However, some of those acres contained sections that were not damaged, not all of the burned areas were forested, and not all forests burned with the same intensity. Some areas that experienced lowintensity wildfires, in many places because of fuel-reduction work, may see a majority of their larger-diameter trees survive, according to the report

Areas hardest hit by drought, such as the eastern foothills of the Cascades and some parts of northeastern Oregon, saw the largest amount of non-wildfire tree damage—some 2.26 million acres. Within those 2.26 million acres is a mosaic of unaffected and currentyear affected acres of forest. In 2024, 580,000 affected acres of damage from these agents were recorded. Damage consisted of 496,000 affected acres of tree injury, most of which (463,000 acres) was caused by Swiss needle cast, a foliar disease from which trees may recover. But 84,000 acres showed tree deaths, the

"We may be under-reporting the impact of many tree-killing diseases, because the signs can often be missed from the air," Buhl said. "For example, root diseases require ground-based assessment, such as excavating roots, to verify the presence of disease. This is labor intensive so is not done routinely across all forestlands."

See **TREES,** Page 6

#### **MEET THE CANDIDATES**



Sentinel photo by Cindy Weeldreyer

The SLSD Board candidates took seats on stage in front of the audience inside the Cottage Grove High School cafeteria.

# SLSD board candidates talk policy, sex ed, ICE in schools

**CINDY WEELDREYER**Cottage Grove Sentinel

A large field of eight candidates for four open seats on the South Lane School District board appeared in a well-attended forum at Cottage Grove High School.

Each candidate stated a sincere desire to offer their skills, abilities and educational philosophies to make beneficial changes in the district.

The April 29 event was organized by the Cottage Grove Area Chamber of Commerce Legislative Committee and co-sponsored by two local political advocacy groups, the Blackberry Pie Society and the Cottage Grove 912 Project.

KNND Radio Owner Cameron Reiten and Cottage Grove Sentinel Editor Jeremy Ruark served a comoderators. Before a crowd of more than 100 attendees, the candidates fielded 12 questions in the 90-minute forum, six from the Chamber's Legislative Committee and six audience submitted questions.

The wide-ranging questions included selecting curriculum, improving communication with parents and the community, defining budgetary priorities, allowing cell phones in the classroom, increasing career/technical education options, teaching sex education, addressing bullying situations, holding board meetings in a larger venue, banning books, allowing federal Immigration

and Customs Enforcement Agency (ICE) into schools to remove students of families who entered the country illegally.

#### BOARD INCUMBENTS

Of the eight candidates, three are incumbents: 30-year veteran Sherry Duerst Higgins, Colleen Valley who is completing her first four-year term, and Jeff Gowing, who was appointed last year to fill the remaining two years of an unexpired term. Current Board Chair Taylor Wilhour did not seek reelection.

The incumbents described postpandemic challenges in raising low test scores, improving attendance and a addressing a persistent decline in district enrollment that reduces the amount of state funding. They believe the adoption of curriculum for reading, math and science that is more interactive and scalable to student learning levels will play an important role in bringing up test scores that are below the state and national average.

Each candidate said are proud of the increases the district has made in creating more career and technical education (CTE) options for students not pursing a college degree and the importance of pushing career education down to the middle and elementary schools.

They believe the district's commitment to Social and Emotional Learning (SEL) is a powerful tool

See **SLSD** Page 6

# City support of local pool expected to continue

CINDY WEELDREYER

Cottage Grove Sentinel

Earlier this year, social media posts sounded a false alarm that the City of Cottage Grove's anticipated budget challenges might cut the

city's annual payment to the South

Lane School District.

City support ensures affordable access to the pool and quality instruction for those with low incomes and for seniors who depend on the warm water therapy pool's health benefits.

Cottage Grove City Manager
Mike Sauerwein told listeners during an interview on KNND Radio's
Beeper talk show, he has kept the current \$75,000 line-item expenditure in the 2025-26 budget he is preparing for review by the Cottage
Grove Budget Committee later this month. Each year, prior to convening the city's budget committee, the school district's pool manager provides the city council with a



Jeremy C. Ruark / Cottage Grove Sentinel

Cottage Grove High School Head Swim Coach Shane Dye explains a point during a team practice at the Warren H. Daughtery Aquatic Center in December 2024. Swim meet competitions in the pool are a key economic driver for the community.

report about pool operations and management.

management.

"The South Lane School District and the City of Cottage Grove enjoy

a model 75-year-old partnership that

attracts envy from other Oregon communities," said Shane Dye, the Warren Daughtery Aquatic Center Aquatic Center manager and swimming coach. Dye is a Cottage Grove High School alumni and swimming coach. He is proud to be a protégé of the legendary Swim Coach Bud Taylor, whose decades of coaching is memorialized by the numerous championship banners displayed above the pool. Dye reported that the AquaLions won state champion-

ships this season.

Dye and his brother Kipp moved to Cottage Grove in 1980 to be on Taylor's high school swim team. He told councilors he returned here 18 months ago because "he wants to continue his life's work of teaching every child how to swim, especially in his hometown."

#### POOL HISTORY

In the 1940s, after the two dams were constructed and several youth drownings in the lakes and rivers, a community effort to build a public swimming pool began with a moral and ethical commitment to teach every student in the district how

See **POOL**, Page 6

#### INSIDE

News — 1-3 Obituaries — 4 Death Notice — 4 Opinion — 5 Classifieds — 7 News — 8





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# Three arrests following burglary investigations

JEREMY C. RUARK Cottage Grove Sentinel

Three people have been arrested following two burglaries at a rural Lane County

At approximately 2 a.m. April 27, the Blue Sky Market in McKenzie Bridge was burglarized by three males, according to Lane County Sheriff's office Sgt. Tim Wallace.

"Surveillance video showed one of the suspects threw a large rock through the glass front door to gain entry," Wallace said. "The same suspects returned at about 10:45 p.m. and again forced their way into the store."

Surveillance video, shared widely on social media by the victim, generated several tips.

"Based on the information shared, deputies located the suspects at a campsite at the south end of Cougar



Jeremy C. Ruark / Cottage Grove Sentinel The investigation began following two burglaries at the Blue Sky Market in McKenzie Bridge.

Reservoir. on April 28," Wallace said. "They were still wearing the same clothing shown in the videos."

All three suspects were arrested. Two were determined to be juveniles and were lodged at SERBU on the below charges. The third, identified as 18-yearold Anders Miley Disla, of Blachly, was lodged at the Lane County Jail on the below charges:

• Two counts of Burglary in the 2nd Degree

• Two counts of Criminal Mischief in the 1st Degree

• Theft in the 1st Degree Deputies contacted five additional teenagers at the campsite and located numerous items with Blue Sky

Market price tags on them. "Thanks to our community for providing information to our deputies to solve this case," Wallace said.

# Incident with armed suicidal person peacefully resolved

JEREMY C. RUARK Cottage Grove Sentinel

Lane County Sheriff's Office (LCSO) deputies join law enforcement members across the state and the nation in specialized training to deescalate potentially lifethreatening situations not just in crime-related calls.

One such incident occurred locally over the past weekend.

At approximately 8 a.m. April 27, at the LCSO received a report of a suicidal subject in the Creswell area who was likely armed with a handgun.

Deputies soon located the subject on the second floor of a warehouse in the 33400 block of West Lane in Creswell. The person was confirmed to be armed with a handgun and made suicidal statements, according to LCSO Sgt. Tim Wallace.

Deputies and officers assigned to the Lane County Sheriff's Crisis Negotiation Team (CNT) responded and spoke with the subject over the next several hours. Deputies assigned to the Lane County Sheriff's Special Response Team (SRT) also

responded. "The call was unique as the person had committed only a low-level misdemeanor crime, but was armed and on someone else's property," Wallace said. "At one point the subject fired a round from the handgun toward an area inside where SRT deputies had staged earlier in the incident. Deputies remained calm and continued working towards a peaceful resolution.

It was later determined that the round was fired on accident. No one was injured."

After approximately 9 hours of negotiation, the subject followed instructions to be safely detained, according to Wallace. The person was then transported to an area hospital for further assistance. The name of the subject is being withheld by authorities, Wallace said, because no criminal action was taken.

The incident ended without any injuries following the deescalation efforts by the law enforcement agency.

According to Wallace, all LCSO deputies are trained in de-escalation training and the agency's crisis negotiation team receives additional ongoing in-depth training. The LCSO crisis negotiations team was called in early during the event because responding deputies determined the highly trained unit was needed. Law enforcement from LCSO, Junction City and Coburg Police make up the team.

"It comes down to bringing a person down to a level where we can communicate with that person," Wallace said. "Understanding that we aren't there to hurt them, even in a situation where something criminal may have occurred, our goal is to safely resolve that situation without having to use force is our preference. Sometimes force is a de-escalating tactic, but if there is no crime involved and it's just a person in crisis, using force is less likely to have the desired result."

Wallace added that the county's mobile crisis

services handles many of the suicidal incident calls, but he said the training is very different for a crisis responder as opposed to someone in crisis who needs, in this case, to surrender the gun and leave the building.

"We are not only trained to get them not only to not do something, and not harm themselves, we also have training to have that person do something, in this case, leave the building that they weren't supposed to be in," he said.

Each law enforcement agent in the team is trained through specialized FBI courses to use a calming demeanor to help resolve the situation without harm and violence.

"By yelling at someone in crisis is not generally helpful," he said. "Part of that training is just calm, clear communication and establishing respect and they understand that we want them to do something. We also want to work with them and help bring that peaceful resolution."

Wallace said it's not a matter of tricking the subject. It is a matter of building trust.

"Once you lose that trust you aren't likely to get it back," he said. "Essentially whatever you are left with is whatever force option that may be open."

If you or someone you know is struggling with thoughts of suicide, there is help available. Call the Lane County Crisis Line at 541-682-1001, call or text 988, or call 911.

#### **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, APRIL 21**

02:43: Welfare check, 200

block N. Lane St. 08:11: Abandoned vehicle,

200 block Davidson Ave. 08:16: Abandoned vehicle,

S. River Rd/Girard

08:25: Abandoned vehicle, Grover/10th

08:58: Dog release, 400

block E. Main St.

09:17: Welfare check, 900

block Kristen Way

10:28: Fraud, 1000 block N. Douglas St.

11:02: Citizen assist, 400 block E. Main St.

11:11: Mental health issue,

1000 block Hwy 99 11:51: Citizen assist, 1300

block S. 8th St. 12:47: Welfare check, 700

block Row River Rd.

12:53: Suspicious subject,

100 block N. 6th St. 14:23: Suspicious condition,

2400 block E. Main St.

14:24: Suspicious vehicle,

3200 block Row River Rd.

14:27: Disturbance, 600 block Birch Ave.

15:09: Disturbance, 8000

block Hwy 99

15:20: Suspicious condition, 77000 block Layng Rd.

15:30: Illegal camping, Elm/Dogwood 15:46: Alarm, 1300 block S.

River Rd.

18:22: ATL/DUII,

Pennoyer/9th 18:56: Illegal camping, 300

block S. River Rd. 19:49: Unlawful entry into motor vehicle, 200 block

Gateway Blvd. 20:31: Info, 1100 block Villard Ave.

22:41: Suspicious vehicle, 100 block Gateway Blvd.

#### **TUESDAY, APRIL 22**

00:53: Suspicious condition, Hwy 99/Withycombe

01:31: Suspicious condition, 200 block N. 10th St.

05:29: Suspicious vehicle, 1500 block E. Main St. 08:22: Theft, 900 block

Row River Rd. 08:26: Warrant service,

1700 block S. 5th St.

08:48: Criminal mischief,

100 block Gateway Blvd. 08:52: Abandoned vehicle,

500 block Grant Ave. 09:06: Citizen assist, 1200

block Jefferson Ave.

10:09: Found drugs, 1700 block S. 5th St.

10:15: Welfare check,

Hillside/Cambria

13:45: Abandoned vehicle, 1500 block Edison Ave.

15:03: Hit and run, 100

block S. 6th St. 15:54: Abandoned vehicle,

300 block South S St,

16:12: Alarm, 300 block S. 6th St.

18:01: Theft, 500 block E.

Main St. 18:21: Wanted subject, 1700

block S. 5th St. 18:29: Wanted subject,

32000 block Pickenell St.

18:38: Wanted subject, 1400 block S. 6th St.

18:48: Juvenile problem, 1000 block N. 11th St.

18:54: Reckless driving, I-5

NB ramp/Row River Rd. 19:21: Disorderly subject, 700 block Row River Rd.

19:25: Illegal camping, 1400 block E. Main St. 19:44: Warrant service, 7th/

Main 21:07: Drug overdose, 2000 block S. 8th St.

22:24: Criminal mischief, 500 block N. River Rd.

#### **WEDNESDAY, APRIL 23**

00:37: Disturbance, 80000

block Hwy 99 00:48: Motor vehicle crash,

I5 NB Gettings Creek 02:16: Business check, 900

block E. Main St. 07:53: Disorderly subject, 200 block N. 12th St.

09:04: Trespass, 1400 block E. Main St.

09:05: Welfare check, Woodson Pl/N. 9th

09:20: Warrant service, 400 block E. Main St.

09:47: Theft, N. Lane/

Chadwick 09:55: Agency assist, 800

block S. 1st St.

10:42: Animal info, 1400 block Birch Ave.

12:50: Abandoned vehicle, 1700 block Harvey Rd.

12:55: Minor in possession, 1300 block S. River Rd.

15:06: Suspicious condition, 6th/Latham 15:41: Order violation, 400

block E. Main St. 16:37: Suspicious vehicle,

1500 block E. Main St. 18:02: Theft, 200 block N.12th St.

18:40: Citizen assist, 1500 block Gateway Blvd. 18:52: Theft, 100 block

Village Dr. 19:22: Suspicious condition,

600 block Arthur Ave. 19:41: Warrant service, 400 block E. Main St.

19:56: Welfare check, 200 block E. Harrison Ave.

20:33: Illegal parking, Ostrander Ln/St. James Pl. 20:46: Found dog, 100 block South M St.

1100 block Holly Ave. 21:20: Found property, 600 block E. Main St.

21:02: Suspicious subject,

**THURSDAY, APRIL 24** 00:11: Suspicious vehicle, 800 block Row River Rd.

00:32: Suspicious vehicle, 700 block E. Gibbs Ave. 01:56: Suspicious vehicle, 100 block Gateway Blvd.

02:37: Citizen assist, 900 block E. Main St. 03:07: Suspicious vehicle, 1500 block S. 4th St.

03:40: Fire, 36000 block Shoreview Dr. 04:02: Fire, 200 block

Gateway Blvd. 06:23: Welfare check, 8th/ Benjamin 06:50: Paper service, 200

block E. Harrison Ave. 06:56: Mental problems, 1100 block S. 2nd St.

08:01: Found property, 2nd/ Harrison 08:25: Order violation, 900

block Cooper 10:30: Warrant service, 100 block N. 14th St.

10:48: Mental problems, 1500 block Hillside Dr.

River Rd. 12:32: Paper service, 1500 block Village Dr.

15:00: Found property, 1300 block E. Main St.

15:50: Fire, Row River Rd. 16:36: Business check, 100 block S. 5th St.

17:09: Theft, 900 block S. River Rd.

20:10: Harassment, 100 block N. 9th St. 20:32: Citizen assist, 400

block E. Main St. 21:00: Illegal camping, 900 block Row River Rd.

300 block Waukeena Way

1200 block Hwy 99

22:23: Warrant service,

21:12: Suspicious condition,

12:30: Theft, 900 block S. 18:10: Suspicious condition, 100 block Palmer Ave. 18:36: Animal info, S. River Rd/Girard 18:57: Wanted subject, 1700 15:05: Suspicious condition, block S. 5th St. 900 block Geer Ave. 1300 block S. River Rd.

#### **SATURDAY, APRIL 26** 00:02: Disorderly subject,

200 block N. 12th St. 00:05: Barking dog, 700

3200 block Row River Rd. 03:25: Suspicious vehicle,

700 block S. 3rd St. 09:37: Disturbance, 700

12:06: Welfare check, 1300 block E. Main St.

1000 block Hwy 99 17:23: Assault, 1000 block E. Main St.

#### 20:16: Warrant service, 900 block Row River Rd.

21:42: Citizen assist, 400 block E. Main St. 22:34: Suspicious vehicle,

2700 block Row River Rd.

23:15: Juvenile trouble. 1100 block S. 10th St. 23:44: Disturbance, 200

block N. 12th St.

**SUNDAY, APRIL 27** 

700 block S. 8th St. 02:41: Suspicious vehicle,

00:30: Suspicious condition,

06:15: Assault, 200 block S. 06:38: Illegal camping, 100

08:46: Fire, Hwy 99/Abbott 10:38: Hit and run, 1500

10:59: Trespass, 900 block Row River Rd.

block Samuel Dr.

15:39: Welfare check, 1300 block E. Main St. 16:23: Suspicious condition,

16:53: Trespass, 900 block E. Main St.

NB Off ramp 17:23: Agency assist, 900 block South T Court

18:12: Business check,

1200 block Gateway Blvd. 18:34: Disorderly subject,

block S. 10th St. 19:06: Suspicious subject,

Harrison/1st

Row River/Gateway 21:11: Found property, 100

block Village Dr. 21:18: Wanted subject, 1000

North M/Birch

22:44: Criminal mischief, River Rd/Madison

block N. Lane St. 23:33: Trespass, 2100 block South R St.

23:39: Alarm, 1400 block

Gateway Blvd.

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#### FRIDAY, APRIL 25

00:54: Alarm, 700 block E. Whiteaker Ave. 02:55: Welfare check, 1300 block Ostrander Ln.

09:57: Alarm, 100 block E.

Madison Ave. 12:33: Assault, 900 block Row River Rd. 13:25: Motor vehicle crash,

10th/Main

block Hwy 99

block S. 1th St.

Gateway Blvd.

block Row River Rd. 13:56: Disorderly subject, 700 block South R St. 15:02: Found property, 700

13:32: ATL DUII, 3200

15:36: Dog at large, 2000 block Clark Ave. 15:52: Dog at large, 100

Grant/4th 17:16: Business check, 1700 block E. Main St. 17:27: Trespass, 200 block

16:44: Juvenile problem,

18:05: Alarm, 300 block S.

22:11: Suspicious vehicle, 22:21: Mental problem, 600

block N. 10th St.

100 block S. 1th St.

23:09: Juvenile trouble, 1500 block Gateway Blvd.

23:02: Suspicious vehicle,

block S. 3rd St. 00:46: Suspicious vehicle,

block E. Main St. 10:44: Traffic hazard, Gateway/14th

13:07: Death investigation,

100 block S. 10th St.

block S. 10th St.

14:20: Alarm, 1500 block S. 4th St.

600 block Lincoln Ave. 17:13: DUII ATL, Exit 174,

18:01: Welfare check, 1100 block S. 2nd St.

200 block Gateway Blvd. 19:00: Harassment, 100

19:20: Motor vehicle crash,

block N. 9th St. 22:34: Suspicious vehicle,

23:23: Welfare check, 200

## Public Market Festival draws a crowd

CINDY WEELDREYER Cottage Grove Sentinel

An estimated 200 plus visitors attended the new Cottage Grove Public Market's Spring Festival offering a wide variety of activities, live music, foods, and beverages offered throughout the day, Saturday, April 26,

Twinberry Commons Executive Director Rebecca Allen Lamptey described the sold out evening fundraising dinner as "delicious, inspiring and profitable". The high point of the evening was the Woodard Family Foundation's announcement of a \$30,000 challenge grant. If \$30,000 is raised by June 28 the local foundation will donate its matching amount.

Twinberry Commons serves as the "nonprofit umbrella" to support charitable and educational programs - including supporting the development of a framework to ensure the long term survival of the Coast Fork Farm Stand, supporting the



Cindy Weeldreyer / Cottage Grove Sentinel

Students from the Wandering Wolves School were among the performers on the Cottage Grove Public Market stage during its Spring Festival on April 26. See more photos at cgsentinel.com

development of a community gathering space for local growers and makers, artisans and creatives, children and youth, as well as supporting the development of a

hybrid Public Market space and a small business incubator space.

Read more with this story at cgsenti-

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## Rare book displayed at Bookmine celebration



**MAY 8-JUNE 12** Seed to Supper LCC Course" Thursdays, 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. at LCC Cottage Grove Center, 1275 S. River Road. A free 6-week class offered by OSU Extension, Lane County Master Gardeners and Lane Community College to teach novice gardeners to grow nutritious food on a limited budget. Outdoor garden activities accompany class time. Participants get a gardening book, seeds, and other

goodies as available. Preregistration is required, and seats are limited. To register: call 541-344-5859 or email chrisha.favors@oregonstate. edu or register in person at LCC CG Center

MAY 9 Elks Lodge Friday Night Community Dinner, from 5 p.m.-6:30 p.m. at the Cottage Grove Elks Lodge, 775 N. River Road. Menu: Ham, Scalloped Potatoes, and Baby Carrots Cost: \$10 For more details, call 541-942-3554.

#### **COMMUNITY CALENDAR MAY 10**

The Oregon State University Extension Small Farms Program's Rural Living Day offers a full day of workshops for rural landowners and stewards, or anyone who is considering a move to the country. Classes include weed management, bigleaf maple syruping, soils, tree identification, septic systems, chainsaw safety, food preservation and more. The event from 9 a.m. - 3

See CALENDAR, Page 4



CINDY WEELDREYER Cottage Grove Sentinel

The Bookmine's 50th Anniversary Celebration was a highlight of April's Last Friday Art Walk.

The event attracted hundreds of well-wishers to the store alone Main Steet in Cottage Grove's Historic District.

Three artists were at the store. Harpist Mary Grace, Artist Evelyn Pruse and the Singing Creek Educational Center.

Opal Whiteley Historian and SCEC Board Member Steve Williamson and his wife, Karen, brought a first edition of the famous local author's childhood diary, "The Fairyland Around Us" which was published in 1920.

Read more with this story at cgsentinel.com



Cottage Grove & Crestwell: 541-942-9635

Text: 541-954-7724



## You have the right to know what's happening in your community.

Public notices - information local governments are obligated to provide citizens – are required to be published in local newspapers to provide a public record that's accessible to everyone.

#### Public notices keep you informed about your government.

But, Oregon legislators are trying to keep public notices from appearing in local newspapers. This severely impacts government transparency and, in turn, limits the public's right to hold them accountable for their actions.

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#### **OBITUARIES & NEWS**

#### Patricia Beth Cooper

February 22, 1941 - March 31, 2025

Patricia Beth Cooper, 84, of Cottage Grove, Oregon was born on February 22, 1941, in Berkley, California. She was the beloved daughter of Gerald and Elvis (Argo) Flenniken. On March 31, 2025, in Cottage Grove, Oregon, Patricia's journey came to a peaceful end as she passed away due to Alzheimer's Disease, surrounded by the love of her family.



On September 5, 1959, Patricia married Stanley S. Cooper, and their union was celebrated for 65 years. The couple's love blossomed into a beautiful family, including daughters Kellye Cooper and Erin Mathews, ten grandchildren, and thirteen greatgrandchildren. She is preceded in death by her son Tim Cooper, sisters Lilian Speas, Geri Smith, grandson Garrett Deardorff and great-granddaughter Abigail Pruitt.

Patricia's early educational pursuits culminated in her graduation from Cottage Grove High School, after which she found her calling in the service of others as a certified nursing assistant at the old Sacred Heart in PCU. She poured her heart into her work and genuinely loved caring for her patients, touching countless lives with her compassion.

Her creativity knew no bounds, and Patricia was an extraordinary seamstress, knitting sweaters stockings that would wrap her family in warmth and love. Her greatest joy was spending time with her family and grandchildren. She also found joy riding across the United States on the back of their Harley motorcycle with her husband Stanley, a shared passion that saw them join the Retreads Motorcycle Club,

adding a dash of adventure to their storied love. Patricia carried treasured memories from her younger years square dancing and as a Cottage Grove Rodeo princess.

Those who knew Patricia will remember a spirit both funny and adventurous, coupled with a creative spark that illuminated the lives around her. Though she has left this world, her laughter will echo through the generations of her family and the multitude of friends whose lives she touched.

A memorial service will be held Saturday, May 17, 2025 at 11:00 AM at Living Faith Assembly, 467 S. 10th St., Cottage Grove, Oregon. A private inurnment will be held at Fir Grove Cemetery. Arrangements are in the care of Smith-Lund-Mills Funeral Chapel.

#### Lester R. Bangle

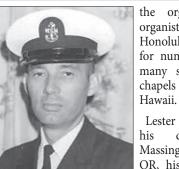
July 7th, 1932 - March 17, 2025

Lester R. Bangle of Cottage Grove, OR passed away on March 17, 2025. At his request, no funeral service will be held. His remains are pending interment at Arlington National Cemetery in Arlington, Virginia.

He was born in San Bernardino, CA on July 7th, 1932, to Charles F. and Opal (Bishop) Bangle. He married Ila (Sims) Bangle in Pasadena, CA on November 14, 1953. She passed away on December 4,

4, 1955. She passed away on December 4 010.

He joined the U.S. Navy in 1952 and retired 24 years later as a Senior Chief. During his Navy time, he served on three ships in the Korean and Vietnamese waters. He served in numerous overseas locations, including Japan, Formosa, Thailand, Philippines, and Hawaii. Lester loved music, particularly



the organ, and was an organist for a large church in Honolulu, HI. He also played for numerous weddings for many service members in chapels and onboard ships in Hawaii.

Lester is survived by his daughter, Cauleen Massingale of Cottage Grove, OR, his brother Charles E. Bangle of Cottage Grove OR, 3 grandchildren, Shawna Spear (husband Jeremy) of

Cottage Grove, OR, Steven Massingale (wife Micah) of Eugene, OR, and Justin Chapman (wife Brooke) of Klamath Falls, OR, serving in the U.S. Air Force, 7 great-grandchildren, and numerous nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by his sister Bertha Hudson.

Smith-Lund-Mills Funeral Chapel of Cottage Grove is in charge of arrangements.

#### **Death Notices**

Christopher "Chris" Blaine Winslow, 66, of Creswell, Oregon passed away April 25, 2025. Arrangements are in the care of Smith-Lund-Mills Funeral Chapel and Crematorium.

**Linda Shorey**, 75, of Cottage Grove, Oregon passed away April 30, 2025. Arrangements are in the care of Smith-Lund-Mills Funeral Chapel and Crematorium.

# Hearings officer blocks CleanLane project

**JEREMY C. RUARK**Cottage Grove Sentinel

Lane County officials had until May 5 to appeal a decision by a hearings officer denying a special;-use permit for the construction of a trash and recyling facility in Goshen In a 27-page opinion, Lane County Use Hearings Officer Joe Turner ruled that "the proposed facility is, in whole or in part, a 'waste-related' use that is prohibited in the LI zone." The ruling reverses the Lane County Planning Director's December 6, 2024 administrative approval and grants the appeal in its entirety.

According to Lane County Garbage & Recycling Association (LCGRA) President Jake Pelroy, the county attempted to re-label what Peroy described as a massive waste-processing and gas complex "as a benign 'government facility."

"Officer Turner saw through the spin and protected our community, its wetlands, and rate-payers from an ill-conceived and dangerous \$178 million experiment," Pelsoy said.

The stakes, according to the LCGRA are:

\$178 million price tag.
Lane County planned to
finance the project through
a 25-year contract with Bulk
Handling Systems (BHS) and

\$59 million in bonds plus interest, backed by an 11 % tipping-fee hike in both 2024 and 2025.

Wetlands at risk. If the trash facility were approved, the county had planned to fill

See **PROJECT,** Page 5

#### **C**ALENDAR

From Page 3

p.m. is at Junction City High School. Check-in opens at 8:30 a.m. The fee is \$20, and scholarships are available. Advanced registration is required as there is limited capacity. To register or learn more, visit https://extension. oregonstate.edu/smallfarms/

you love.

southern-willamette-valley/ events/rural-living-day, or contact Carrie Mack at 541-237-6808, or carrie.mack@ oregonstate.edu.

Bikes to Blooms
Wildflower Walks, from
8 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Bake
Stewart Park, Row River
Road in Dorena. 8 a.m.
Guided Bird Walk. 9 a.m.-1
p.m. educational booths
open and self-guided walk
materials available. 10
a.m.-11a.m. and Noon:

Guided Wildflower Walks. For more information, call the Coast Fork Willamette Watershed Council Office at 541.767.9717.

Row River Sunshine Club

Spring Rummage Sale from 9 a.m.-2 p.m., at the Row River Church in Dorena. All rummage items are only 25 cents! Features BBQ's burgers and baked goods. All proceeds are used by the Sunshine Club to spread cheer to our neighbors in the Row River Valley.

Bohemia Mine Owners Open-to-the Public Day, Saturday, Time TBA, Sharps Creek, Bohemia Mining District. Event Features: Open claims with miners demonstrating how to pan for gold. Cottage Grove Gold Mining Museum plans to have bags of paydirt on site for purchase for a few bucks for the kiddos. All claims will be easy to access with any vehicle with normal clearance. Bring your own equipment and play in the creek or learn from the member on site. Some of members have been playing in these creeks for over 60 years and there is a lot they can teach. For more info call Nancy at 541.767.9800.

Cottage Grove Speedway, "Mom's Night Out" gates open at 6:30 p.m. Qualifying at 5:30 p.m. Racing at 6:30 p.m. at the speedway at 2150 N. Douglas Ave. Tickets: Adults \$16lJuniors (13-17) \$13lSeniors (62+) & Military \$13lYouth (6-12) \$5l5 and Under-Free Racing Classes: Late Models, IMCA Modifieds, IMCA Sport Mods, IMCA Sport Compact, Street Stock & Junios.

Information at 541-942-7561

UFC Title Fights, 7 p.m., Bohemian Tavern, 48 N. 9th Street in Cottage Grove. Two fights Cost is \$5 cover after 7 p.m.

MAY 13

History Pub, 5 p.m.
Tuesday, at Axe & Fiddle,
657 E. Main Street in Cottage
Grove. Topic: The History
of Bohemia Mining Days
Presented by Spirit of BMD
Executive Director Matthew
Hewlett

Trinity Lutheran Church Free Community Meal, Tuesday, 5:15-6:15 p.m. at the church, Seventh and Quincy Avenue in Cottage grove. Take-Out Only.

MAY 14

Cottage Grove High School Hiring Fair from 8 a.m.- to 12 p.m. Noon, Cottage Grove High School, 1375 S. River Road. College and Career Counselor Emma Ly is organizing this important event for the Class of 2025. If you are an employer who can provide job opportunities for these seniors please send an email to: emma. ly@slane.k12.or.us or call 541.780.2099.

#### MAY 16-17 and 30

Storybook Theatre (SBT) Dorena School Production at 6 p.m. Friday and 2 p.m. Saturday at 37131 Row River Road. Play to be announced. SBT is designed to provide a safe and nurturing space for young people to build confidence, cultivate creativity and discover their unique voice through the magic of theater.

MAY 17

Cottage Grove Historical
Society Presentation at 10
a.m. at the Cottage Grove
Community Center, 700 E.
Gibbs Avenue. Free, hourlong presentation. This
month's topic: The Bookmine
50th Anniversary Celebration.
South Lane Mental Health

"Treat Yourself to Mental Health", Saturday, 9-11 a.m. at the Bohemia Park Pavilion. Features a Bake Sale, Free Yoga begins at 9:30 a.m. Self-Care Raffle Basket. All ages and abilities welcome.

MAY 23

Kids Heritage Fair, from 1-7 p.m. at the Family Relief Nursery, 720 N. 14th. Co-sponsored by Spirit of Bohemia Mining Days and the Family Relief Nursery and features family fun, local history, arts and crafts. Vendors wanted. Contact Executive Director Matthew Hewlett at www.spiritofbmd.com/partnerships

#### MAY 24

Wind driven wildland fires and safety zones presentation from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. in the Shepard's Room at the Cottage Grove Community Center, 700 E. Gibbs Avenue. No pre-registration needed. Presenter is Diane Braun who is not affiliated with any entity or organization. Braun is sharing her knowledge based on many years of firefighting experience, including, class one fire team (Hot Shots), Helitack, Helibase operations, and incident command. The presentation is to build awareness about staying safe in the event of a wildland fire.

#### MAY 31

Hospital Auxiliary Fashion Show at 2 p.m. at the Cottage Grove Armory, 628 E. Washington Avenue. Enjoy a fun afternoon of fashion and food. Tickets \$25 (includes show & appetizers) Fashions provided By Carol Reeves and The Flower Basket. Catering by Sheilagh & Wine by Saginaw Vineyard (available for purchase). Basket Raffle & Silent Auctions. Tickets available at The Flower Basket, Auxiliary Members and CG Hospital front desk. Proceeds used to provide needed medical equipment and supplies for the Hospital and Clinic.

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**EDITORIAL CARTOONS** 

# **NEWS & VIEWS**

# SLSD Board Candidates Profile

Editor's Note: The Sentinel is presenting profiles of the South Lane School District (SLSD) Board candidates running in the May 20 Special Election.

#### **BACKGROUND**

In 1961, Cottage Grove's Union High School District and several elementary districts consolidated to form the South Lane School District. It is governed by seven local citizens who serve four-year terms that alternate every two years. This year, four of the positions will be on the May 20 ballot. While candidates must live within a specific geographic area they are elected district wide.

According to the National Center for Education Statistics, in the 2023-24 school year, the large 672 square mile rural district supported 150 teachers and 277 staff, specialists and administrators who served 2,680 students in nine schools with a \$48,264,000 budget.

Each candidate responded to three questions:

- 1: Why do you want to serve on the school board?
- 2: What do you see are the biggest issues facing the school district?
- 3: What qualities, skills, experience and perspectives do you have to address those issues effectively?

#### **POSITION 5 CANDIDATES**



#### **Colleen Valley**

Colleen Valley is a small business owner who is the incumbent completing her first four-year term. Tony Lefler is the Brad's Cottage Grove Chevrolet Service Manager. Both candidates have been actively involved parents with students who are or have been students in the district and Tony has five grandchildren who are current students. Both are actively involved as community volunteers including South Valley Athletics.

- 1. I want to keep the focus of the school district on improving our kids education both academically, thinking critically, and becoming ready to take whatever their next step is after graduation.
- 2. I am concerned about the budget moving forward. We have solid programs in place

to support kids and want to be able to keep those programs as well as have the ability to offer new options for kids. All that takes money.

3. Starting your first term on the school board is a steep learning curve. I feel that the experience on the board, in the community as a volunteer, and experience as a small business owner allow me to have a unique perspective and offer that to my fellow board members as well as the new superintendent. During the search, the current board was able to keep our focus on supporting kids and teachers. We worked well together as we chose the new superintendent, and I hope to be able to continue that positive momentum forward.



#### **Tony Lefler**

1. I want to serve on the South Lane School Board to help build the trust of the community with the schools in our district. I am committed to refocusing this district so our children can achieve the academic success that they need and deserve.

2. The biggest issues facing our district today are the distractions our kids encounter every day. Our district needs to refocus the direction our kids are being taught. The South Lane District is struggling with test scores. Our test scores are below an already failing state average. We need to let our teachers teach. Hold everyone accountable and encourage parental involvement.

3. The qualities I have to address the issues are something I deal with every day at my job. I am the service manager at Brad's Chevrolet. We encounter problems all day long with vehicles having issues. I have learned to take the problems straight on. Deal with the problem, get it handled, and move on to the next one. This is the mind set I intend to bring to the board. No one person will be able to fix all the problems the board encounters, it will take a team to work together to make a positive impacts for our kids.

Look for SLSD board candidate profiles at cgsentinel. com and in the Wednesday print editions of The Sentinel.

#### **COLUMN**

"FIRST IT WAS COVID THEN IMMIGRATION, THEN TARIFFS... NOW HE'S PREPARING TO BE AN ONLINE EXPERT ON SELECTING A NEW POPE,"

# All hands-on deck in a crisis

DICK ANDERSON Sentinel Guest Column

Jou have heard time and Y time again that Oregon is in a housing crisis, but we didn't get here overnight.

There is a combination of factors that have created a severe imbalance between housing supply and demand, driving up costs and making it difficult for many residents to find affordable places to live.

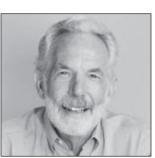
#### **FACTORS**

One major driver is Oregon's chronic underproduction of housing. Estimates suggest Oregon is short anywhere from 87,000 to 140,000 homes to meet current demand. This gap didn't happen overnight and has been decades in the making. New construction lagged behind population increases, particularly between 2015 and 2019, when the state added three residents for every new housing unit built- double the national average.

The lack of supply, and the large demand for homes has pushed home prices and rents to skyrocket. As of 2023, the typical home in Oregon cost around \$528,000, significantly higher than the national average. Rental costs jumped 17% from 2020 to 2022 alone. For a minimum-wage worker, affording a two-bedroom apartment requires working 82 hours a week, an impossible burden for most. Even if you aren't a minimum-wage worker the burden of rent is hard to ignore.

Oregon's land use policies, which date back to the 1970's, particularly the Urban Growth Boundary (UGB) system, play a significant role in this crisis as well. In 1973 Senate Bill 100 established the UGB system that Oregon has. Designated to curb sprawl and protect farmland, UGBs limit where new housing can be built- concentrating development within designated urban areas. These preserve Oregon's natural beauty, a draw for many residents, restricts the supply of buildable land.

Developers often face a shortage of "shovel-ready" lots due to permitting delays, high fees, and financing



Courtesy photo

#### State Sen. Dick **Anderson**

challenges, even when land is zoned for residential use. This bottleneck drives up land costs and stalls construction as well as local regulations and focus on single-family homes which hinder denser, more affordable projects.

Population growth and migration have intensified this demand. In the last 20 years, the state's population has increased by about 750,000 people. Remote workers and retirees, especially from high-cost states like California have further strained rural and suburban markets, tripling housing prices in some areas within months. This influx, coupled with slow construction, overwhelms existing stock.

Economic factors amplify the crisis. Wages haven't kept pace with the housing costs. While prices have soared, incomes have only doubled over decades in some regions, leaving renters and buyers stretched thin. Half of Oregon's renters spend over 30% of their income on housing, and a quarter spend over 50%, making them "costburdened" and vulnerable to eviction or homelessness. The state's homelessness rate reflects this: Oregon ranks third nationally in homeless persons per capita and first for unsheltered children- with

chronic homelessness nearly doubling over the last 15 years. These are major problems!

Finally, zoning and regulatory hurdles exacerbate the shortage. Single-family zoning dominates many areas, limiting multifamily housing that could serve moderateand low-income residents- 95 % of the housing deficit targets these groups. Efforts to relax zoning, like legalizing accessory dwelling units or duplexes, face resistance from "NIMBY" (Not in My Backyard) sentiments, while infrastructure funding lags, delaying large-scale projects. Even with recent investments- like Governor Kotek's \$376 million housing package in 2024, production (around 12,000 units annually) falls short of her 36,000-unit goal.

In short, Oregon's housing crisis is a perfect storm of insufficient supply, restrictive land policies, rapid demand growth, and economic pressures, all colliding to make homes unaffordable for too many. Solutions exist- more construction, smarter zoning, targeted subsidies. Overcoming decades of underbuilding and entrenched interest remains a steep challenge.

#### SO, WHAT IS **CURREMNTLY BEING** DONE?

Construction is a mixed bag. Oregon is still short a lot of homes- and while Governor Kotek is pushing for 36,000 new units annually, the state's only hitting about 12,000. Her 2025 legislative efforts are gaining traction with some cities already doubling their middle housing permits. However, rural areas and smaller cities lag, some

even dropping to zero permits as well. Red tape, high land costs, and prevailing wage laws- which add an addition 10-20% to project costs, are slowing things down.

Senate Bill 974 is a bill I put forward this legislative session that has bipartisan support. This bill streamlines engineering, planning and review processes to speed up housing developments within Urban Growth Boundaries (UGB's). This bill cuts the red tape to build homes faster. In some areas of the state, it can take cities up to 8 weeks to get a permit approved to be able to even start building, and this is only if the permit is complete- missing documents, unclear plans or failure to meet code requirements trigger revisions, restarting the review clock.

Many building permits require review by multiple different agencies, each with its own review timeline, causing bottlenecks. This bill will require a city, or county to complete a review of a land use application for a single-family dwelling in 45 days. Where the law currently stands there is no time limit for engineering or final platting and design reviews. This can't be the case when we are in a crisis and time is essential. This bill will be up for a vote on the Senate floor Monday.

Like Senate Bill 974, Senate Bill 6 ensures building homes and middle housing can happen fast in Oregon. Senate Bill 6 is a "shot clock" bill which requires building departments to approve or deny building applications

See ANDERSON, Page 8

#### **PROJECT**

From Page 4

21 acres or more of sensitive Goshen wetlands.

Zoning mismatch. The Light Industrial (LI) zone expressly prohibits wasterelated uses, a protection designed to keep these dangerous types of facilities away from established neighborhoods and waterways.

County staff have acknowledged that absent an appeal, they may recommend the Board of Commissioners abandon the Goshen site and search for a compliant location, according to Pelroy.

The Lane County Garbage & Recycling Association represents the county's locally owned waste-collection and recycling companies.

Read a series of Sentinel special reports about CleanLane with this story at cgsentinel.com

#### Weekly Online Poll Previous Poll Results As Cottage Grove city leaders prepare the new city budget, what should be the spending It's been 100 days since **President Trump took office.** priorities? Rate his performance. 47.3% Public safety Excellent 26.3% Streets and roads Pretty good 21.1% Economic development 5.3% Library

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.

#### **PUBLISHED WEEKLY AT:**

1498 E. Main Street, STE 104, Cottage Grove, OR 97424 The Cottage Grove Sentinel website www.cgsentinel.com. All subscriptions must be paid prior to beginning the subscription and are non-refundable

Periodicals postage paid at Cottage Grove, Oregon.

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#### **TREES**

From Page 1

Buhl emphasized the importance of on-the-ground collaborators to help round out the full picture of forest health in Oregon. "In addition to information ODF and the USDA Forest Service gather, we rely on Oregon State University Forestry Extension staff from across the state, and collaborate with other natural resource agencies, universities, public and private forest landowners, and members of the public to gather information," she said.

In the aerial survey, trained observers fly over all forested lands in the Pacific Northwest in fixed-wing aircraft and record damage to trees from all sources. Flights are staffed with one observer on each

side of the aircraft. Survey flights typically fly between 1,500 to 2,500 feet above ground level, following a systematic grid four miles apart and traveling at 90 to 140 miles an hour.

The Pacific Northwest Aerial Detection Survey is the longest continuous survey of its kind in the United States, having been established in 1947 and flown every year since, except 2020 when it was halted due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

#### THE REPORT SUMMARY

This report is a joint product from the Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF) - Forest Health and the U.S. Forest Service (USFS) – Forest Health programs. We also rely on reports from other ODF, USFS, and Oregon State University Forestry Extension staff from across the state (Fig. 1 and back cover) and collaborate with other natural

resource agencies, universities, public and private forest landowners, and members of the public to gather information.

Each year we provide information on forest health trends and highlights as identified by aerial and ground monitoring efforts (see Monitoring section). A large part of estimating forest health is measuring damage from agents that cause injury or mortality. These agents include pest insects, diseases, and abiotic stressors such as drought, storms, and wildfire. Here, we review major damage-causing agents observed in the past year and provide guidance and resources for management. Some of these agents, such as disease-causing pathogens, are underrepresented in our reporting because they are hard to observe or verify on a large scale. For example, root diseases require ground-based

assessment, such as excavating roots, for verification.

This is labor-intensive and may be destructive to the tree. A large part of this report is devoted to climate change and specifically drought, which is often paired with high temperatures. These abiotic stressors are often the primary underlying causes for tree mortality across our landscape. Drought reduces tree growth and increases susceptibility to insect pests and some diseases, which healthy trees may otherwise resist or tolerate.

In 2024... Oregon experienced a historic wildfire season, and many parts of the state are experiencing ongoing drought stress. The largest forest health issue affecting much of the state continues to be drought followed by infestation from opportunistic insects such as bark beetles. New research and tools are

being developed to help forest landowners improve climate resilience in their stands by providing resources on appropriate seed sources, updated stand density guides, and landowner assistance funding.

The most important forest diseases in Oregon continue to be Swiss needle cast (SNC) and sudden oak death (SOD). We conducted an aerial survey and continue to see SNC impacting large sections of Douglas-fir along the coast. Collaborative disease monitoring efforts and ongoing trials to identify SNC-resistant Douglas-fir varieties are being conducted at several locations. New SOD infections continue to be identified in Curry County, and collaborative efforts of state and federal agencies continue to attempt to slow the spread of the disease.

Most of the forest insect and disease pests on our

landscape are native species, and most are impacting our most susceptible trees. However several invasive species are threatening specific tree species, even when they are healthy. In 2024, multiagency task forces continued to make progress in addressing invasive species such as Mediterranean oak borer, emerald ash borer, and sudden oak death, with emphasis on identifying pests' presence, slowing their spread, providing mitigation strategies, and increasing public outreach to aid in detection, diagnosis, and management. More recently detected exotic species include the Japanese cedar longhorned borer and Phytophthora austrocedri.

The full report is available at https://www.oregon.gov/ odf/forestbenefits/documents/ forest-health-highlights.pdf

#### Pool

From Page 1

to swim. The outdoor pool opened in 1955. In the winter months, local students were bused to the Willamalane Pool in Springfield to take swimming lessons. In 1966, a cover was built over the outdoor pool that allowed year-round use.

Since 1955, the City of Cottage Grove has provided the water needed to operate the pool at no charge. According to City Public Works Director Faye Stewart, the city has an agreement to gift up to one million gallons of water per year. Since the pool was upgraded, it uses approximately 40,000 gallons per month and once a year cleaning uses 200,000 gallons. The lap pool contains 275,000 gallons of water and the Therapy pool contains 27,000 gallons of water.

#### BACKGROUND

In 2000, the city inherited a small warm water therapy pool when it purchased the former Safeway building on

Gibbs Avenue from the bankrupt former Cottage Grove Hospital to create a larger library and community center. The need for the pool was far greater than its size. In May 2016, voters approved a school district bond measure that included renovating the aging mid-20th century

aquatic facility.

City and school officials agreed that to best serve those who needed the benefits of a therapy pool, the community center pool would be closed and a large therapy pool would be included in the aquatic center redesign to accommodate the growing needs of Cottage Grove's senior population.

Prior to the passage of the 2016 bond, school district budget cuts for non-school pool activities was considered. Strong public support and the acknowledgement of the health benefits of community use of the pool motivated city officials to make a long-term commitment of an annual payment to the school district to support pool maintenance and programming for community use. The remodel

was completed in 2018, and the current donation amount is \$75,000.

#### AQUATIC FACILITY

The aquatic center is located at 1440 S. 8th Street. The therapy pool is 20 yards long and 7 yards wide with gradual decent from 3-to-5 feet in depth. It is equipped with a Hoyer lift; shallow entry steps and the temperature is kept between 90-92 degrees. The lap pool is 25 yards long with eight lanes.

According to Dye, the pool is open to the community for 40.5 hours each week and its usage is increasing. In the current school year, there have been 19,826 community visits (with three months remaining). In 2023-24, the total visits were 27,129 and more than 1,000 seniors use the pool each month.

The pool hosts numerous swim meets that draw visitors to town creating a positive economic impact. In the current year the aquatic center hosted three invitationals including the state YMCA championships, eight dual meets, 10 water pologames, including the district

tournament. When teams come to compete they go to local businesses to buy food, fuel or stay overnight (for two-day meets) which city officials and aquatic center administrators said has a positive economic impact on Cottage Grove.

#### **CURRENT PROGRAMS**

In addition to swimming lessons, the aquatic center offers numerous classes and swim times for all ages. The family swim time is especially popular. In the current 2024-25 school year, 7,049 single lessons were given to children during the school day and 2,086 single lessons were administered to community children.

#### **OPERATIONAL COSTS**

Dye said the overall costs of running a pool includes staffing, utilities, maintenance, chemicals and repairs. The biggest cost is staff, which he said is minimal. He provided the council with the per-person costs for both the school district and the city.

Current costs in 2024-25 budget: The average fee paid per person using the pool is \$3.89 per visit. This amount

includes insurance, membership fees and walk-in fees. The staffing and operational costs for community programs is \$10.03 per visit. The city currently funds each person that uses the pool for a community program at a cost of \$2.76 per visit per person. The school district pays \$3.37 per visit.

Projected costs for 2025-26 budget: Includes inflationary increases in personnel costs, chemical and other supplies, regular maintenance, repair/ replacement of physical and mechanical items, and general facility maintenance. Dye reported the total cost of community use is \$272,200 and, even with the city's current \$75,000 contribution and \$140,000 in community membership fees, he anticipates a \$57,000 membership cost gap going into next year's budget.

He said fee increases should be made slowly and incrementally and described it as a slippery slope that can reduce pool usage, especially for those with limited incomes.

Dye said, "In the future, it is my intention to build the infrastructure to host invitational swimming meets 9-12 months out of the year, bringing more people and revenue to the pool and Cottage Grove."

For more information about what the pool offers visit www.slane.k12.or.us/programs/warren-h-daugherty-aquatic-center/home or call 541.942.3381.

#### IN OTHER COUNCIL BUSINESS

- A Mayoral Certificate of Recognition was presented to The Bookmine Owner Gail Hoelze
- The Lane Regional Air Protection Agency (LRAPA) Executive Director Travis Knudsen provided the agency's annual report.
- A public hearing and first vote on an ordinance to amend the City's housing code.
- Approved the purchase of a wastewater pump station for the Cleveland Street
- Appointed a council subcommittee to interview budget committee applicants.

# Warship Juide

#### **COTTAGE GROVE:**

#### COTTAGE GROVE FAITH CENTER

33761 Row River Rd. 541-942-4851 Lead Pastor: Kevin Pruett www.cg4.tv Full Children's Ministry available Services: 10:00am

#### DELIGHT VALLEY

Church of Christ
33087 Saginaw Rd. East
541-942-7711 • Pastor: Bob Friend
Two Services:
9am - Classic in the Chapel
10:30am - Contemporary in the Auditorium

#### LIVING FAITH ASSEMBLY

467 S. 10th St. • 541-942-2612 Worship Services Sundays: 9a & 11a Youth Worship Sundays: 11a (all ages welcome) Mondays: 5:30p (6th-12th grades)

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Sunday – 10:30 am
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552 Holbrook Lane

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Sunday 8 am

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1301 W. Main • 541-767-9050 Rev. Lawrence Crumb "Scripture, Tradition, Reason" Worship: Sunday 10:30am All Welcome

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820 South 10th Street
541-942-5213
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Worship Service: Saturday, 10:40
Mid-week Service: Wednesday, 1:00

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541-942-2373
Vacancy Pastor: Steven Spencer
Sunday School and Adult
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Sunday Worship 10:30 a.m.
Comm. Kitchen Free Meal
Tuesday 5:15 p.m. to 6:15 p.m.
TLC Groups
tlccg.com

#### UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

334 Washington 541-942-3033 Worship 10am umcgrove.org

#### **CRESWELL:**

#### CRESWELL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

75 S 4th S • 541-895-3419 Rev. Seth Wheeler Adult Sunday School 9:15am Sunday Worship Service 10:30 am website www.creswellpres.org

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#### **SLSD**

From Page 1

to teach students how to self-regulate their behavior. Duerst-Higgins said she believes it has helped reduce the bullying problems at Lincoln Middle School.

#### CULTURAL DIVIDE

The cultural divide was on full display on topics such as book banning, sex education and ICE officials removing students from schools. Judging from yard sign placement and responses to forum questions, Rayla Campbell, Bill Parsons, Chris Holloman and Tony Lefler are running as social conservatives seeking a change in the status quo. Diane Hicks, Sherry Duerst-Higgins, Jeff Gowing and Colleen Valley share more progressive views on public education and received endorsement from the South

#### Lane Education Association. **BUDGET PRIORITIES**

All recognized that the biggest district expense is staff salaries and acknowledged the high caliber of individuals employed in South Lane schools who deserve to be fairly compensated and paid accurately. Other priorities identified were facility maintenance and increasing CTE offerings.

#### IMMIGRATION

All of the candidates agreed that as board members they must follow laws related to immigration. Gowing said schools must abide by state laws and "anyone who disagrees with them needs to vote differently." Hicks stated she believes state law supersedes federal law and many

district teachers she knows would stand between the student and ICE officer. "Being here illegally is not their choice and kids must come first in words and actions," she said. Parsons said it is unfortunate that schools are regulated by two sets of conflicting immigration laws.

#### COMMUNICATION NEEDS IMPROVEMENT

Generally, there was agreement among the candidates on the need to for district staff to improve communication with parents and the community.

In 2024, attendance at school board meetings increased dramatically due to problems with a new payroll system, dissatisfaction with Superintendent Yovonne Curtis' performance, district hiring policies and bullying issues at the middle school. The boardroom at the district office is small and often individuals had to stand in the hallway during meetings. A virtual option allows more people to attend and records the proceedings for future reference.

reference.

In the monthly business meetings, those testifying are limited to three minutes and board members do not engage with them. All participants supported the idea of scheduling several meetings a year just to receive input from all stakeholders in the district in a more engaging manner.

#### CELL PHONES IN CLASSROOMS

All candidates agreed that students using cell phones in the classroom is an unnecessary distraction and would support a district policy that prohibited classroom use. There was also unanimous support to continue providing

school meals if federal funding was reduced so hunger does not hinder learning.

does not hinder learnii SEX EDUCATION

"Age appropriateness" was addressed by all candidates. There were differences in opinion regarding what is considered appropriate for various age levels as related to books and human sexuality. Most favored sex education that teaches human physiology as students enter puberty. It should describe the negative consequences of sexual activity and give parents a choice for their student to opt out.

#### BOOK BANNING

The three incumbents opposed book banning. Hicks, a retired longtime Bohemia Elementary School teacher, said parents must be aware of controversial books and have the option to request a different book with the same learning objectives. Campbell, Parsons and Lefler said any book with inappropriate images and vulgar language should not be in schools. Holloman said some books should be banned and accommodation must be made for religious beliefs.

Ballots for the May 20 special election are now in the hands of voters. Lane County Elections published a Voters Pamphlet, and all eight school board candidates are profiled in it. Ballots must be signed and returned by 8 p.m. on May 20. The Lane County Elections ballot drop box is at the Community Center at 700 E. Gibbs Ave.

Look for Sentinel profiles of the SLSD board candidates at cgsentinel.com and in the Wednesday print editions of The Sentinel.

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CGS 25-128

NOTICE OF HISTORIC PRES-COMMISSION ERVATION VACANCY The City of Cottage Grove Historic Preservation Commission has one vacancy to fill on this volunteer body for a term that expires December 31, 2027. The Commission members are appointed by the City Council. The Historic Preservation Commission meets once on the third Monday of the month at 6:30 p.m. People interested in applying for this position need to complete a Volunteer Appointment Application available at the Community Development Department at City Hall or online at www.cottagegrove.org. The deadline for receiving applications is May 21, 2025, by 5 p.m. For further information please contact the Community Development Department at 541-942-5501. Published April 30th, May 7th and May 14th, 2025 **PUBLIC NOTICES** 

CGS 25-129 NOTICE OF PLANNING COM-MISSION VACANCY The City of Cottage Grove Planning Commission has one vacancy to fill on this volunteer body for a term that expires December 31, 2025. The Commission members are appointed by the City Council. The Planning Commission meets on the second and third Wednesday of the month at 6 p.m. People interested in applying for this position need to complete a Volunteer Appointment Application available at the Community Development Department at City Hall or online at www.cottagegrove.org. The deadline for receiving appli-

cations is May 21, 2025, by 5

p.m. For further information

please contact the Com-

munity Development De-

partment at 541-942-5501. Published April 30th, May

7th and May 14th, 2025.

CGS 25-131

A public meeting of the Budget Committee of the North Douglas Library District, State of Oregon, to discuss the budget for the fiscal year July 1, 2025 to June 30, 2026, will be held at 205 West A Avenue, Drain, OR. The meeting will take place on May 21 at 6 p.m. The purpose of the meeting is to receive the budget message and to receive comment from the public on the budget. This is a public meeting where deliberation of the Budget Committee will take place. Any person may appear at the meeting and discuss the proposed programs with the Budget Committee. A copy of the budget document may be inspected or obtained on or after May 20 at 205 West A Ave, between the hours of noon and 4 pm each day the library is open. Published May 7th, 2025

**PUBLIC NOTICES** 

#### **DEADLINE**

for all classified ads and legal notices is the Wednesday one week prior > to the following Wednesday publication date. Ads and notices received after 5 p.m. Wednesday will not appear until two weeks later.

ABCDEFGHIJKLMNOP



Solve the code to discover words related to building safety. Each number corresponds to a letter. (Hint: 5 = E)

Clue: Assess condition

В. 19

Clue: Document that gives authorization

**11 26** 

Clue: Regulations that govern building

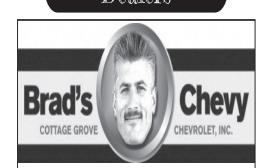
D.

Clue: Act of keeping something safe





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# Lane County Sheriff announces retirement

JEREMY C. RUARK Cottage Grove Sentinel

Lane County Sheriff Cliff Harrold has announced his retirement effective May 16,

Harrold has served in the Lane County Sheriff's Office (LCSO) for 35 years and was appointed sheriff in 2019 before being elected in 2020 and re-elected in 2024.

"It is with much thought and consideration that I have decided to retire from the Lane County Sheriff's Office effective May 16.



**Lane County Sheriff** Cliff Harrold.

After 35 years, I am ready to step back and contemplate what the future looks like for myself and my family," Harrold said. "It has been an honor to work with all the incredible men and women who make up the Lane County Sheriff's Office. Their dedication to serving our community is unparalleled and I could not have asked to serve alongside better people."

#### **BACKGROUND**

Harrold began his career in law enforcement as a cadet in the Lane County

Sheriff's Office Explorer Post 35 years ago and briefly served as a dispatcher for the Cottage Grove Police Department. He was hired as a full-time deputy in 1995. During his career, Harrold served in nearly every assignment available at the LCSO, including the Corrections Division, Court Transport, Traffic Safety Team, Patrol, Field Training Officer, SWAT operator, Marine Patrol, and many more, according to a release from the LCSO.

REACTION

"I congratulate Sheriff Cliff Harrold with tremendous appreciation and admiration for his decades of service to Lane County," Lane County District Attorney Chris Parosa said. "Sheriff Harrold's sound and steady leadership has made our community safer, modernized our local jail, and improved the lives of countless Lane County residents. His charm, thoughtfulness and collaborative nature have been a powerful model for a new District Attorney.

Congratulations Sheriff Harrold, friend."

Harrold announced his retirement with a letter to the Lane County community that was shared online Thursday, May 1.

#### **NEXT STEP**

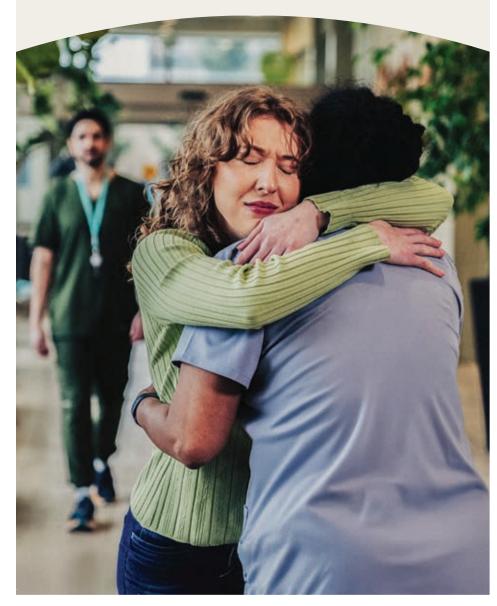
Chief Deputy Carl Wilkerson will fill the role of Sheriff until the Lane County **Board of Commissioners** determines the process to appoint the next sheriff. The Board was expected to begin that discussion Tuesday, May 6, during its regular business meeting.

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#### LIFE IN COTTAGE GROVE



Cindy Weeldreyer / Cottage Grove Sentinel

Springtime along Birch Avenue in the Cottage Grove Historic Northwest Neighborhood.

#### ANDERSON

From Page 5

in 45 business days or less. This clock only starts when the application is deemed complete. This bill will only apply to residential homes and middle housing in subdivisions (no commercial and large scale).

This bill passed unanimously out of the Senate Housing Committee and was moved to Joint Ways and Means because of an indeterminate fiscal element. We got that removed so this bill could be sent to the senate floor for a vote. Other states are currently passing similar bills like this currently-California is passing a bill with a 30-to-60-day building permit requirement and

Arizona is passing a bill with a 15-day requirement.

If other states can do it, there is no reason that Oregon can't do this as well. It's entirely possible. It is also worth noting that Texas and North Carolina passed legislation that requires approval in just a few weeks. In Texas, a developer can now move forward with construction if a municipality takes more than 30 days to review a completed application.

A bill that has passed the Senate with strong support is Senate Bill 1086. This bill creates a statewide apprenticeship program to train more building inspectors and speed up housing construction. With Oregon short 115 inspectors annually, this bill breaks the logjam to get homes built faster while ensuring safety. This bill will now go to the House and if it passes, will make its way to the Governor's desk to be signed into law.

We didn't get into this housing crisis overnight. Some could argue that it has been decades in the making with the passing of Senate Bill 100 in the 1970's. However, there is one thing that we can all agree onsomething needs to be done now to fix this! When you are in a crisis that means all hands-on deck.

We need to cut the red tape, expand UGB's, streamline the application process and start building homes today, not tomorrow or next year. These bureaucratic delays are inflating construction costs and driving up the costs of homes.

State Senator Dick Anderson serves District 5, Lincoln City. He may be reached at State Capito phone 503-986-1705. Capitol address: 900 Court St NE, S-303, Salem, OR, 97301. Email: Sen.DickAnderson@ oregonlegislature.gov. Website: http://www.oregonlegislature.gov/anderson

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