

# Upper Rogue Independent

Your hometown newspaper since 1976 - Celebrating 50 years!

Wednesday, May 13, 2026, Volume 50 Issue 18

Published weekly for the residents of the Shady Cove, Trail, Prospect, Eagle Point, Butte Falls and White City

## Tempers flare at end of Shady Cove City Council meeting

**Christy Solo**  
*Editor*

The May 7, 2026 Shady Cove City Council meeting began with a presentation and ended with profanity.

We'll skip to the profanity so you don't have to scroll to the bottom then back up to read about the balance of the meeting.

During Council Comment, Councilor Jeff Vanier once again said the city "needs" to get Rec & Tourism going again, because "We need to build our reputation back to what it was once upon a time. And these things help build morale and our fellowship with our fellow citizens."

Regarding the upcoming budget meetings, Vanier then said, "We need to appropriate money" for R&T and he'd "like to see at least \$5,000" in the 26/27 budget.

Mayor Richardson replied saying R&T had spent almost their entire budget on their first event of 2025, and "I would recommend that you have a budget estimate for each of [the events the city might have] and submit it for the budget so that we can have a realistic view of what this would possibly cost."

Richardson also suggested that citizens could

reform the Boosters Club or create a similar group. She added that in the past the Boosters would come to the city for help with some funding of their events but were independent of the city.

The upshot was that the 26/27 budget is going to be very tight, which has been a topic of discussion during several previous meetings.

Vanier replied saying, "if we can give away over \$100,000 on attorney fees" they could find \$5,000 for R&T.

Richardson reiterated that presenting a budget for proposed 26/27 events would be the best jumping off point versus just going with \$5,000 because R&T had spent almost that much just on the Summer Bash in 2025.

Vanier replied, "No they didn't."

Richardson said they had spent \$5,000, and she was asking for a realistic budget for consideration.

Councilor Paige Winfrey echoed that they had spent \$5,000 and she could help Vanier with a 26/27 budget.

It was at this point Robert's Rules of Order went out the window as Vanier slammed his fist on the dais and said loudly to Richardson, "I'm

trying to get morale built up in the city, okay, and you're sitting there, and this is why people are trying to recall you. Because you don't want to say anything nice!"

Councilor Steve Mitchell interjected, "Okay, point of order. Point of order. I'm calling for point of order."

Vanier yelled at Mitchell, "Kiss my butt! You're a puppet for them too!"

Richardson then called "You are out of order!" to Vanier as Mitchell yelled to Vanier, "Kiss my ass!"

Vanier shot back to Mitchell "Did you hear what I said?" To which Mitchell replied, "You're a hypocrite."

And Vanier elevated it to, "You know what I'll talk to you outside."

Richardson reigned it in, saying to Vanier, "Please. I'm sorry you have such a short fuse, but I think asking for a reasonable, itemized budget and possibly a different way of funding and organizing these events is not unreasonable."

Winfrey then asked if the Boosters had been a non-profit and Richardson advised they had been and she suggested, "the citizens of Shady Cove and volunteers of Shady Cove to go in that direction, because that would give a group

focus."

Cove Trail Wildflower Society



Now: tempers in council flare over the future of events in the city. Then: kids and adults alike had a blast at the Velcro Ax Throw at the 2024 Shady Cove Summer Bash. Photo by Kathy Nuckles

Note: There is a history of fluidity to Shady Cove events over the last two decades and City Hall/Council has only been a part of city events for a relatively small percentage of the city's history.

Parks and Rec wasn't formed until 2019. Prior to that, and even after, the city's major events were run by volunteers. For example, Alma Spicer ran Daffodil Days and the Art Walk, Mary Gunderlock ran the SPAM Festival, Kate Crowston came up with Tie Days after Gunderlock said there just weren't enough volunteers to keep SPAM going. The Shady-

ran the Wildflower Show. Other events sponsored by other groups large and small came and went over 20 years.

Music in the Park was started by volunteers including Sue Krupa when Tom Sanderson was mayor. It was taken over by Parks & Rec eventually downsizing from several concerts to one big Summer Bash.

The Boosters helped with many of these events and also held an annual river cleanup. They started the city's decorative flag program which they ran until they dissolved due to lack of members.

SEE COUNCIL PG 9

## Eagle Point High School Baseball sweeps three games against top ranked Crater

**Wayne Lee**  
*Sports Editor*

It was May 5, and both the Eagle Point baseball and softball teams traveled to Central Point to take on rival Crater in the first game of a pair of three-game series. The Comets' baseball team came in ranked first in the state, and the softball team was ranked second in the state according to the OSAA. Eagle Nation was not impressed.

The baseball team rolled to a 9-4 victory over the Comets while the Lady Eagles went extra innings to pull out a 7-4 victory. The two teams then played a doubleheader May 8 in Eagle Point where the baseball team made it a clean sweep with an 8-7 walk-off win in the opener followed by another walk-off victory by a 2-1 margin in the nightcap. Unfortunately, the Lady Eagles lost both of their games, 8-3 and 8-5.

### Baseball

The Eagles opened



Catcher Ryan McFall leaps over the sliding runner during the Eagles' two-game sweep of rival Crater May 8. Photo by Wayne Lee

last week at Crater and hit the ground running – well, actually walking. The Comets' starting pitcher walked the bases loaded with one out and Eagle Point scored on an error by the catcher for an early 1-0 lead. However, Eagles' starter Sean McFall also walked the first two batters he faced, one of which was caught stealing. Crater's next batter doubled, and the Eagles decided to intentionally walk the next batter to load the bases. The

strategy backfired when the next batter doubled up the middle to score two and gave the Comets a 2-1 lead. Little did they know; it was the last time they would see the lead.

Eagle Point answered back in the top of the third with a two-out rally. Skylar Tribur, Ryan McFall and Cooper White hit consecutive singles to tie the game. Collin Stockton then lashed a two RBI single to left, and Eagle Point was up 4-2.

The big blow came in the top of the fourth when Ryan McFall lead off with a walk and was bunted over to second. Stockton then came through with an RBI double in the gap. Colby Stockton was walked on four straight pitches and with two out, Colton Pierce hit a comebacker to the mound that bounced away and allowed everyone to advance and make it a 6-2 ballgame. Mason DeVry then singled up the middle, and the Eagles had a commanding 8-2 lead.

Crater was able to add a run in the bottom of the sixth and another in the bottom of the seventh, but it was too little, too late. Ryan Mc Fall went 2x3 and walked twice. He had a stolen base and scored twice. Stockton went 2x4 with a double and three RBI while DeVry was 1x3 with a run scored and two RBI.

The Comets then came to town for a pair of games on May 8 and found no joy in Mudville as the mighty Crater did strike out – twice. The

opener saw the Comets scoring once in each of the first two innings. However, Eagle Point answered back in the bottom of the second. Sean McFall was hit by a pitch, Pierce singled, and DeVry drove a run-scoring single to left. With two outs, Ryan McFall also took one for the team and went to first base to load the bags, and a passed ball allowed Pierce to score, giving the Eagles a 3-2 lead.

Eagle Point added a run in the bottom of the third, but Crater answered with a run of their own in the fourth before exploding in the top of the fifth with three more. It began with two outs and two walks to put runners on. A single up the middle that was misplayed allowed Crater to score and go up 6-4.

Things didn't look good when Crater added a solo home run in the seventh to up their lead to 7-4 and Eagle Point was down to their last three outs.

SEE SPORTS PG 9

## Hop to it GEMS work on final preparations for Jackson County 4-H and FFA Spring Fair

**by Julia Butlere**  
*GEMS Reporter*

The Hop to it GEMS 4-H rabbit and cavy club has had a busy spring. The club hosted the Easter Eggstravaganza fundraiser on March 29th. Several club members brought tent canopies and tables to set up the booths and games. There was a wheel of fortune game, a merchandise stand, a food stand, a petting zoo, two Easter egg hunts, a coloring picture contest, a marshmallow counting contest, and a food stand.

The club has also had several meetings since the beginning of April to start practicing for rabbit and cavy showmanship. The first club practice meeting was on April 14th. Club leader Deb Brown quizzed the club on diseases, rabbit handling such as showing teeth, showing straightness of the back legs, and also how to pick your rabbit up and how to handle your rabbit without hurting it. The club also talked about rabbit conditions such as mites, infections, parasites, disqualifications and characteristics of the different

breeds. Also Sergeant at Arms Matthew Butler and Jill Pfaff quizzed club members and helped them handle rabbits.

The next Hop to its GEMS meeting was on Tuesday, April 21st, where, once again, the club met to practice with the animals. The club worked on rabbit handling again like posing and showing the teeth. There were also questions such as how many teeth a rabbit has, possible signs of rabbit diseases, and also the overall health of a rabbit.

The next meeting was on April 28th. The

club continued practicing with handling rabbits and cavies, along with answering knowledge questions about rabbits and cavies. The two club leaders, Deb Brown and Kristy Grieve asked the questions. After the questions, club leader Kristy Grieve gave a presentation about trimming toenails and how to avoid cutting the quick while doing it. She also gave instructions about stopping the bleeding in the event a nail is trimmed too short. After the nail trimming presentation, the other club leader Deb Brown began to

tattoo some of the rabbits' ears, Rabbit ear tattoos are a way of identifying a specific rabbit, and they are used to help keep track of rabbits at a show, as well as tracking breeding lines.

The club will continue to meet weekly throughout the month of May in preparation for the Jackson County 4-H and FFA Spring Fair. The fair will take place at the end of May, with the rabbit show on May 30th and 31st. Hop to it members would love for the public to come to the show and see the lambs, goats, rabbits, and cavies.

# A small Oregon town faces financial peril. Can residents save Lakeview?

By Bryce Dole (OPB) and  
Joni Auden Land (OPB)  
**Note:** The story overall sits as a cautionary tale of where Shady Cove might be headed and per Councilor Kathy Nuckles “Would have ended up” if Michele Parry had remained as city administrator.

During her council comment in the May 7 Council Meeting (see article in this week’s URI), Nuckles referred to this OPB article and asked citizens to read it – especially the section on Parry.

To skip directly to the section regarding Parry and read about her actions in Lakeview that, per Nuckles (and public record) parallel actions in Shady Cove – See “A Rocky tenure” heading pg. 10

Regardless of the Parry tie-in, the article overall is a well-researched, well-written exploration of the possible fate of many small towns in Oregon and is well worth the read.

Christy Solo – Editor URI (OPB)

**In a remote corner of rural Southern Oregon, the town of Lakeview is drowning in debt. Its story is an extreme example of the challenges stacked against isolated former timber towns.**

Teetering stacks of boxes are gathering dust in a cluttered public works shop in Lakeview, a small town that sits amid the sagebrush at the foot of the Warner Mountains.

The boxes contain more than \$386,000 worth of pipes, valves and other hardware meant to connect homes with water meters that the town has no plans to use. It’s a glaring reminder of the excessive spending and unanswered questions that loom over the rural town of 2,400 as it navigates a staggering financial crisis years in the making.

“This is only a small portion of it. There’s more in another building,” said Pete Fortune, Lakeview’s public works boss, who hopes to sell the equipment. “I don’t understand how it got ordered this much.”

Like many former timber towns, Lakeview has struggled to rebound from the collapse of the logging mills that once powered its economy and helped the community survive in this isolated corner of Southern Oregon.

But in its desperate pursuit of growth and change, a series of cascading problems — bad bets, mismanagement and industry failures — pushed the town’s government into millions of dollars of debt it can’t pay off, according to current and former town officials and records reviewed by OPB. The crisis dominated conversations when OPB visited in December.

“We didn’t have a process. We didn’t have governance. We didn’t have a structure,” Marc O’Brien, a rancher who has since become the town’s mayor, said during a finance committee meeting. “What we had was a lot of manipulation from people that were influential and (stuff) got passed. And I think that stuff’s got to stop.”

Lakeview’s story is an extreme example of the pitfalls facing governments across Oregon’s tight-knit rural communities, where departments face high turnover, scant oversight and meager resources. As residents work to keep their town alive, what happened here shows what’s stacked against many former logging communities that could be just one misstep away from financial disaster.

“This is a major mess of our own creation,” said Stan Foster, who has served as Lakeview’s interim town manager since July. “And it’s only one community that can get themselves out of that. And that’s us.”

Lakeview is the county seat of Lake County, and the region’s hub for shopping, medical care and public services. Giant cowboy statues in town pay homage to the elevation — about 4,800 feet above sea level — that inspired its nickname, the “Tallest Town in Oregon.”

Located about 100 miles from the nearest city, the town is surrounded by 2.5 million acres of sparsely populated high desert known as the Oregon Outback — a vast stretch of land larger than Yellowstone National Park. The area’s so removed from light pollution that it was designated in 2024 as the world’s largest dark sky sanctuary.

“Lakeview may not be in the middle of nowhere,” said Ray Sims, who served as town manager for a decade, “but we’re certainly on the road to it.”

In its push to fill in for the timber industry and create a higher standard of living for residents — cleaner water, new jobs, better infrastructure — Lakeview took on major projects and millions of dollars in loans that it cannot afford.

For example, it sought an economic boost by extending water and sewage systems to a highly-touted biomass refinery. The project failed, leaving behind a hulking industrial site. The town owes the state nearly \$2 million in loans for the infrastructure.

Lakeview’s most expensive quandary, officials

say, stems from a contract with a company called Sustainability Partners LLC, for an upgrade to “smart” meters that can remotely track residential water use. It requires the town to pay a monthly usage charge of about \$40,000, which leaders say they can’t afford.

The town stopped making payments last July and the company filed a federal lawsuit last month seeking nearly \$6.8 million in damages. Lakeview is trying to lower the contract’s price tag by arguing it wasn’t legally approved.

Town officials say they have not found evidence that former leaders solicited bids from other companies or approved the contract in a public meeting, which Sustainability Partners disputes. In a statement, Adam Cain, the company’s president, said the town’s “current financial challenges have nothing to do with the water project.”

“By Lakeview’s own public statements, its fiscal issues have been attributed to factors such as mismanagement, turnover of personnel, unpaid obligations, declining tax collections, and other pressures completely unrelated to the water project,” Cain said.

## Consequences dog Lakeview

The consequences of the town’s financial woes are severe.

Since 2024, town government staffing has dropped from 34 people to nine. It lost its local 911 dispatch center, which consolidated with one in Klamath Falls. It saw rampant turnover in leadership, including the resignations in March of three councilors and the mayor. Drowning in debt, the town raised water bills, levied a

public safety fee and annexed

new properties.

Meanwhile, past Lakeview officials accused a former town manager of forging signatures and mismanaging its finances, prompting a state law enforcement investigation that did not result in criminal charges. And despite its well-documented water issues, many residents still use water that emerges from the tap discolored and smelling of rotten eggs.

To add to the strain, a natural gas pipeline that cut through Lake County, generating an average of more than \$3.5 million in property tax revenue each year from 2017 to 2023, went bankrupt and was sold. Over the past three years, that annual revenue has plummeted to just over \$383,000 — a blow to the county government, the library, firefighters and other taxing districts that serve Lakeview.

Lakeview succumbed to pressures gripping a growing number of rural Oregon communities: inflation, rising costs, dwindling revenue and aging infrastructure. The number of cities that were “less able” to meet their financial needs from one year to the next has risen from 10% in 2021 to 35% in 2025, according to a recent survey from the League of Oregon Cities.

“No local government is swimming in funds,” said Tyler Palmer, the public works director for Moscow, Idaho, who is the chair of the Small Cities/Rural Counties Committee of the American Public Works Association. “None of us are. From big cities down to small cities, it’s always operating on a razor’s edge margin. We don’t have excess funds, but it’s particularly acute with small communities.”

The perfect storm

facing Lakeview symbolizes what’s at stake for many rural communities. Left unaddressed, officials warn, the town could become insolvent, potentially leaving a large swath of rural Oregon without critical services like first responders, public works, water treatment and more.

“This challenge is coming to rural Oregon quickly,” said state Rep. Mark Owens, who represents southeastern Oregon. “If your rural city or county doesn’t have a problem, it’s probably because they don’t want to share that it is already there.”

## ‘Insolvency is a black hole’

In December, OPB spent a week in Lakeview, interviewing dozens of people to understand what went wrong and what the town was doing to get by. Since then, reporters have pored over hundreds of records and conducted further interviews with state and local officials.

What emerged is a portrait of a town beloved by its residents, but whose future remains uncertain. Some people have floated the idea of disincorporating Lakeview. But state law prevents a city or town from disincorporating if it faces any debt or obligation, and doing so would also require voter approval.

“Insolvency is a black hole,” Foster said. “Essentially, we don’t know what that means.”

The full scope of Lakeview’s financial calamity is unclear, even to current leaders. Town officials searched through piles and boxes overflowing with documents but were unable to find records for many town purchases or other budget information.

SEE LAKEVIEW PG 5

# Save the date

## Shady Cove Citywide Yard Sale

June 6 all day

## Comedy and Music Night at Trail Christian Fellowship

June 6 - 5:30 - 8 p.m.

See registration details here: <https://www.trail.org/events/comedy-music-night>

## EPHS Annual All-School Reunion

Saturday June 20, 2026 Eagle Point High School Cafeteria

More details soon  
**Eagle Point TOPS** (Take Off Pounds Sensibly) meets on Thursdays at 8 a.m. at the Butte Creek Baptist Church. For more information, call (559) 285-1707 or go to [www.tops.org](http://www.tops.org).

## The Prospect Lions’ Breakfast is starting up again!

Come out and meet your neighbors and visit with friends!

When: 1st Saturday of each month 7:30 am to 9:30 am

Where: Prospect Lions’ Park – 1st Street

## Wigwam

Menu: Choice 1 Pancakes, eggs,, bacon OR sausage, coffee and OJ

Choice 2 Biscuits and gravy, eggs, bacon OR sausage, coffee and OJ

Price: \$8 ½ orders are available  
**Prospect Senior Lunch** Served at 11:30 a.m. every Tuesday with love

## Good news for those who use the Prospect Access Pantry

Access has now added 2 additional days of food delivery to Prospect

There is a mobile truck now coming to Prospect on the 1st and 3rd Thursdays of each month It will park at the Church of the Nazarene – Mill Creek Dr

Time is 10 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

**Prospect Church of the Nazarene – Mill Creek Dr**

**Please remain in your vehicle** and a food box will be brought to you

Every week the **Upper Rogue Community Center** offers the following:

Coffee Social: Mondays 9-11

am  
SAIL Class  
Tue & Thu 9:30 - 10:30 a.m.

Wednesday Lunch - 2nd & 4th Wed from 11-1p.m.

Aerobics  
Mon, Wed & Fri. 8:00-9 :00 a.m

Kundalini Yoga Wed. 9:30 - 10:30 a.m.

Pickleball  
Sun. 12 - 4 p.m. & Wed 4:30 - 6:30 p.m. Main Hall

Food Pantry every Thursday 10 a.m. -12:00p.m.(- food assistance)

Thrift Shop open (Wed -Sat from 10- 3p.m.) check website for updates: [upperroguecommunitycenter.com](http://upperroguecommunitycenter.com)

**Stone Ridge Golf Club Senior Day**, Men’s Senior day is every Wednesday at Stone Ridge Golf Club starting at 9 a.m.

May - September and 10 a.m. October - April. Cost \$45 includes golf, golf cart and prizes. If interested in playing please contact the golf shop at 541-830-4653.

**Eagle Point Women’s Golf Club** Eagle Point Women’s Golf League plays every Tuesday at the Eagle Point Golf Club from March - October. Day’s play games with flighted prizes, tournaments throughout the season and end of season banquet. Annual fee includes OGA handicap. Discounted weekly fee of \$54 includes green fee, cart & prize fund. If you are interested in joining, call the EPGC pro shop: 541-826-8225.

# Puzzle Solutions

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## DEADLINES:

News, Classified and Display Ads, Announcements and Letters

**4 P.M. Friday**

## POLICY ON LETTERS:

‘Upper Rogue Independent’ encourages letters to the editor provided they are legible and not libelous or scurrilous. All letters require a name, address and phone number for verification. Address and phone number will not be printed. The ‘Independent’ reserves the right to edit letters. Letters are used at the discretion of the publisher.

# Wayne's World: commentary by Wayne Lee

This coming Saturday, May 16, marks a milestone in my personal history. First, it's the birthday of my younger brother who died in a car crash when he was 20. But it just so happens that it is also the date of the very first story I wrote as an audition for this esteemed publication.

I've saved every print edition that contained my writings over these past eight years, filling a pair of cardboard boxes I keep in a small corner of my humble abode. What a journey it has been. My very first assignment

was to cover an Eagle Point City Council meeting. I sat in the audience so I could identify the players in the game since this was my first local council meeting

It had been more than 30 years since I last wrote for a publication, and my writing was clearly rusty at best, but it all came back to me as I evidently passed the audition and was hired. Back then the city was just adopting their new motto "Welcome to the Neighborhood." Also on that meeting agenda were two proposals to develop the Old

Fire House Property. Here we are, eight years later, and the city has accepted another proposal for vacant property. Hope springs eternal.

Back in the day, we had a sports editor who covered high school sports in town, but he moved on after my initial year, and I stepped up to try to fill the void. I've always been a big supporter of high school athletics and activities. So much of a town's identity is centered around its high school and its programs. It also didn't hurt that I was getting paid \$30 per

story.

Eventually I was asked to write a column. I'm not sure why, but I think my talent lies as a storyteller. For some reason I can't explain, people enjoy reading about my crazy adventures and I have an entire lifetime of them. One day we may have to change this to Wayne's Memories and rerun them until people no longer care. Chances are that will be much sooner than later.

However, the writing, so to speak, was on the wall. The newspaper was on a new owner by the time

I came on board (after being rejected by the two previous owners) and ad revenue was on a downward spiral. Eventually, ownership changed once more, and we actually had to start a GoFundMe account for donations to pay down the debt inherited by the previous owner, or else the printer was going to drop us and we would be forced to cease publication.

That fact that you are now reading this online illustrates the difficulty of keeping a news organization operating in an ever-expanding digital universe. I now

volunteer my time on the paper. We're hanging on by a thread, but we believe local news is worth the effort.

The switch to digital proved more difficult than anticipated, but we're working out the kinks and subscriptions are slowly beginning to increase. For once, the light at the end of the tunnel isn't a freight train.

So, here's to eight years of immersing myself in all things Eagle Point and beyond. As the Grateful Dead so famously said, "What a long, strange trip it's been."

# Cri Goes Rogue: commentary by Christy Solo

This week's Rogue should be pretty relatable if you have a yard to need to tend to. My backyard is at least .5 acres and two-tired with a "path" (AKA where I walk and now grass doesn't grow) running from the house, along the retaining wall, and around the end of the wall down to the lower part of the yard.

For five years I've trimmed, mowed, pulled up grasses (especially wild oats, their seed pods get buried in dog paws!) cut up and bagged brush piles etc. hauling all my equipment down the wall, around the corner and out into the yard then hauling it all back up along with 40 gal. bags of grass trimmings, cut up branches, pulled up weeds, etc.

Suddenly this year as I carried down my 5 gal. lilac shrub and my 2.5 gal. snowball bush to plant in the lower area, I thought "Boy, I'd sure like a wheelbarrow!"

To clarify, "I'd like a wheelbarrow that works."

One of the very few

items of my parents' personal property my brother didn't abscond was their wheelbarrow. He "generously" left that to me. Mind the wheel was flat. Is flat. Will always be flat because it doesn't hold air. So I've just toiled along hauling by hand.

I imagine one can purchase a replacement wheel, but I just... haven't. Nor have I looked into purchasing a new wheelbarrow.

But between the potted shrubs and numerous 40 gal. bags of damp lawn trimmings (if you know, you know) I kind of got over the whole thing here in Year Five.

So I girded myself to check out wheelbarrow prices - figuring it would probably be cost prohibitive - but what the heck.

To be honest, I can't really tell you how much wheelbarrows cost, because when I did an internet search it also brought up "Garden Carts" and I was SOLD on that idea before I even checked the price of a single barrow.

Part of my lack of enthusiasm for buying

a new wheelbarrow has been - often as not, they're more of a hinderance than help. They're tippy and wobbly, hard to push uphill and have a propensity for just falling over when you try to take a tight corner (like the one at the bottom of my retaining wall).

Garden carts, I quickly realized, would have none of those issues.

I had a few moments of sticker shock seeing garden carts were priced between \$170 and \$320 - but I stuck with it, putting on my infamous and well-worn "Internet Bargain Hunting Hat."

I found my pictured pretty blue cart for a "mere" \$84. Okay that isn't chicken feed - but compared to the vast number of garden cart options - it was a steal. And it's steel with inflatable tires and removable sides. I very much did not want hard plastic tires (other less expensive carts had those - no thanks - not on my rocky terrain).

I still hesitated, but April was the month to buy - my yard bird

population drops off considerably in April, so I have extra literal "seed money" and April is that sweet, sweet month of "Too warm for the pellet stove, too cool for the AC" so the monthly electric bill will be as low as it gets (before it's meteoric rise from June - Aug. \*sob\*) so I sucked it up and bought a cart.

While I waited for my cart to be delivered, I became more and

more certain it would be a case of "buy cheap, pay twice." I'm happy to report it was not. It's a nifty, sturdy little cart which bounces happily over my very uneven yard terrain with ease on its chunky rubber tube-tires.

I also spent an extra amount of "cart comparison" time picking one that had a "turns on a dime" front axel - and it does indeed turn on a dime.

I'm sure one of those chunky tires will get a flat eventually, especially in my yard full of weapons grade blackberry which is largely laying around in "to be cut up" brush piles - but I'm confident I can sort out how to patch a tire when that time comes.

Meanwhile, I guess I'll turn the ever-flat wheelbarrow into a decorative planter. Tis the season!



**My soon-to-be-a-decorative-planter eternally flat tire wheelbarrow. My cars sans sides, my cart ready to haul a trash bin of weeds and the front axle of the cart - turns on a dime. Photos by Christy Solo**



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**PUBLIC NOTICE**



## City of Eagle Point

### Budget Committee - Notice of Public Hearing

**NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN** that there will be a public hearing of the Budget Committee on June 2, 2026 at 6:00 p.m. in the Eagle Point City Council Chambers, 17 Buchanan Ave South, Eagle Point, Oregon regarding the use of revenue sharing funds. The public is invited to attend this meeting in-person at City Hall, Council Chambers at 17 Buchanan Avenue South in Eagle Point or via Zoom by registering in advance at: [https://us06web.zoom.us/join/register?WN\\_qw\\_1AdQkSf6zvcqFnAGSQ](https://us06web.zoom.us/join/register?WN_qw_1AdQkSf6zvcqFnAGSQ)

Directly following this hearing, a public meeting of the Budget Committee of the City of Eagle Point, Jackson County, State of Oregon, will be held to discuss the budget for the fiscal year July 1, 2026 to June 30, 2027. The purpose of this meeting is to receive the budget message and document of the City and to receive comments from the public on the budget. A copy of the budget document may be inspected or obtained on or after May 21, 2026 at [www.cityofeaglepoint.org/105/budget](http://www.cityofeaglepoint.org/105/budget) or at Eagle Point City Hall between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. In the event the budget document is ready before May 21st, it will be posted on the City's website. This is a public meeting where deliberation of the Budget Committee will take place. Any person may appear at this meeting to discuss the proposed programs with the Budget Committee. An additional meeting will be held only if necessary. That meeting, if necessary, will be held on June 4, 2026 at 6:00 p.m.

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**PUBLIC NOTICE**

**CITY OF SHADY COVE BUDGET COMMITTEE MEETING NOTICE**

Notice is hereby given that the Budget Committee of the City of Shady Cove, Jackson County, Oregon, will hold a public meeting to discuss the budget for the fiscal year July 1, 2026, to June 30, 2027.

**Dates:** May 26, 2026, June 2, 2026, June 9, 2026  
**Time:** 9:00am  
**Location:** Shady Cove City Hall, 22451 Highway 62, Shady Cove, OR 97539 and via Zoom. The Zoom link and password will be provided on the City of Shady Cove Website.

**Purpose/Agenda (subject to change):**

- Discussion and deliberation of the proposed budget for Fiscal Year 2026-2027
- Opportunity for public comment

**Public Comment:** Members of the public are invited to attend and provide comments. Written comments may be submitted in advance to [jedwards@shadycove.org](mailto:jedwards@shadycove.org) or delivered to City Hall at the address above 24 hours in advance of each meeting.

**Budget Document Availability:** A copy of the budget document may be inspected or obtained on May 22, 2026, at Shady Cove City Hall between the hours of 9:00am - 4:00pm Monday through Thursday or online at [www.shadycove.org](http://www.shadycove.org)

**Accessibility:** The City of Shady Cove is committed to providing equal access to public meetings. The meeting location is accessible to people with disabilities. A request for an interpreter for the hearing impaired or for other accommodations for persons with disabilities should be made at least 48 hours before the meeting by calling City Hall (541-878-2225).


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First 20 words are \$6, then 20-cents for each additional word.

# All Things Oregon: by Christy Solo

As the weather warms it's hard not to think about produce. So in this week's All Things we'll explore Oregon raspberries and their family members, as well as the many veggies we grow for processing.

We'll kick off with our berries. We'll also clarify that in this column we'll be talking about berries in the agricultural sense, not the foraging for native berries sense.

Of course our native berries were the precursors to our farm-grown berries, but with improvements for flavor and consistency. We've also created some nifty hybrid berries.

Fun fact: Raspberries and blackberries are in the same genus: Rubus. Not only are they sweet (some more than others, we'll get to that!) but they are good for you. A real win-win. They are chock full of Vitamins C and K and the seeds

in the berries pump up their fiber content.

Oregon produces more blackberries, marionberries and black raspberries than any other state. We produce several varieties of Rubus berries: red raspberries, black raspberries, marionberries (a cultivar of two blackberries created in Oregon in 1956), loganberries (a cross between a blackberry and a European raspberry), blackberries and boysenberries. Boysenberries are a mix of four berries into one!

Fun facts: While you can get many fresh Oregon grown berries, most of our red raspberries are frozen, pureed or juiced. Meanwhile, 99% of all farmed black raspberries are grown in Oregon. Black raspberries have a stronger flavor than milder red raspberries.

Loganberries are fun, funky berries.

They are large and blackberry-shaped but taste like raspberries. Truly the answer to the problem of "What if raspberries were... MORE!"

Boysenberries are super sweet and juicy – as well they should be being a mix of so many berries. Oregon is the top producer of boysenberries in the world. These sweetest berries are awesome for juices, jams and, of course, pies!

Naturally, all our berries are perfect just eaten fresh from the produce aisle (well, do pay for them first) or roadside stand.

But why are Oregon's berries so superior to those grown in other places? Magic, of course. Well, that and our climate. Our warm days and cool nights keep our berries from ripening too quickly. Berries which ripen at their own pace have time to fully develop

their flavors and sugars!

Now let's look at Oregon veggies you can enjoy year-round! Oregon produces many vegetables that are processed via freezing, freeze drying and powdering. Our farmers put a lot of work and teamwork into harvesting to-be-frozen veggies at peak ripeness and scheduling processing carefully so our veggies go from field to processing in under four hours.

This processing speed locks in not only farm-fresh flavor, but also nutrients.

Which veggies does Oregon grow for processing? Basically "the ones you probably have in your freezer." I know I always have frozen corn and peas on hand and those along with green beans are Oregon's top "to be processed" products.

In addition to being frozen, some of Oregon's corn is also



**Blackberries and raspberries, frozen corn, frozen peas, loganberries, marionberries and veggie medley are just some of Oregon's best produce.**

converted into corn powder used for cooking soups and other dishes.

Our green beans are bean-tastic, making us the fourth largest producer of green beans in the U.S. – that's 2.6 billion pounds annually if you're into statistics.

If you prefer those frozen "Vegetable Medley" packs from the chilly aisle at your local store, Oregon has that covered too. Oregon farmers grow a lot of carrots, broccoli and cauliflower. Putting that into numbers we

have over 325 farms producing carrots, over 240 growing broccoli (who knew the world needed that much broccoli!) and around 140 farms growing cauliflower. With cauliflower being the new "pizza crust flower of choice" those numbers may grow.

Now that we have you hankerin' for some produce, check out this week's Recipe Corner for some ideas on how to make the most of the produce Oregon makes the most of.

## Lakeview ...

Continued from Pg. 2

"The fiscal challenges Lakeview has been facing are certainly top-of-mind for me," Gov. Tina Kotek said in a statement to OPB. "I also know they aren't the only community struggling financially right now."

Lakeview town councilors, who are nonpartisan, each receive a \$416.68 monthly stipend, while the mayor receives \$533.84. OPB reached out to eight former town officials for interviews, including the former mayor, two town managers, town councilors and more, who either declined to comment or did not respond. Seven officials spoke to OPB on the record, but several have since stepped down under public pressure.

"I trusted information I was hearing, and now I'm questioning a lot more things," said former Councilor Charley Tracy, a retired caseworker and manager at the Department of Human Services office in Lakeview. Tracy was appointed to the council in 2021 and resigned in March. "I should have done it in the past. I'll take the blame for that."

Such daunting issues could give residents of any community good reason to walk away. But the people of Lakeview refuse to let their town die.

Longtime residents

have volunteered to help the town with everything from its finances to its water supply. Some raised money to run the swimming pool when the town couldn't afford it. Others built a skatepark. One group even made national headlines by selling calendars with nearly naked photos of themselves.

"We have a civic duty to take care of our town," said Georgia Getty, a lifelong resident who came out of retirement to help the town manage its finances. "This is our town. I don't want to lose our town."

"Kick your boots off & stay awhile"

The median age of Lakeview residents is about 43 years old, according to census data, reflecting Oregon's aging population that makes it one of the oldest states west of the Mississippi. Despite its struggles, the town has a hospital, a movie theater, a courthouse, a grocery store, a ski hill and a hotel with geothermal hot springs that sits near Oregon's only geyser, "Old Perpetual."

"We've got a lot of resources, a lot of things going for us," said longtime resident Jerald Steward. "We really do. I think we stack up really well along any small Eastern Oregon community."

On a December morning, Steward joined his friends and neighbors for their regular breakfast at a local diner, Downtown Cafe, flipping coins to decide who pays for coffee. Saddles rested on a platform overhead. The air smelled of bacon and pancakes. They shared Lakeview memories, but some wondered about its future.

"My hope is that we will be able to get some of the youth back," Steward said. "That's my thing. Seventeen grandchildren and not one of them is in Lakeview."

Established in 1876, the town has faced catastrophe before. In 1900, a fire destroyed 64 buildings in Lakeview's business district, much of which was built with wood. While nobody died, people could reportedly see the blaze's glow from Klamath Falls, a nearly 100-mile drive away. The town was rebuilt with brick.

Over time, the agriculture industry and the government employed many of Lakeview's people, but its seven logging mills fueled its economy. Then, in the 1980s, the industry began a decadeslong downturn. Lakeview's economy buckled. Families moved away.

"We had dances," said Getty, whose father was a millwright. "We had bowling. We had a theater. We had places

to go and things to do and people to see. And now those fun things don't exist anymore."

Today, one mill remains. For sale signs hang in the windows of the empty red brick storefronts downtown. Other signs take on a more welcoming tone: "Kick your boots off & stay awhile."

Lakeview's population peaked in 1960 at around 3,200. That number slowly dipped over the decades, falling to about 2,400 in 2020. Many residents went to work in a nearby state prison, at the hospital and in the school district, which has more than 700 students. As of 2016, the town had paid police officers, firefighters and its own 911 dispatch center, said Sims, the former town manager.

"When I left the town, I think this ship was, as you would say, very steady," said Sims, who retired in 2016.

In time, other large businesses were poised to provide a much-needed boost. That includes the Red Rock Biofuels power plant project, a proposed refinery on the south end of town to replace fossil fuels by converting biomass into jet fuel. The town borrowed money from the state to build infrastructure backing the project, and Lake County commissioners approved a long-term tax break.

"When you're in a little place like Lakeview, as remote as we are, opportunities don't come to you like that," said Sims. "Everybody was hopeful, I guess, that Red Rock was going to be the economic engine that was going to begin to drive Lakeview again."

But the project collapsed under hundreds of millions of

dollars in debt, right around the time the Ruby Pipeline filed for bankruptcy and was sold to Tallgrass Energy Partners. Taken together, the financial challenges rocked local government coffers, forcing agencies like the county to lay off staff and leave law enforcement positions unfilled.

SEE LAKEVIEW PG 10



### REGULARLY SCHEDULED PUBLIC MEETINGS

**City Hall – Council Chambers**  
**17 Buchanan Avenue South**

**City Council** – Meetings are regularly held on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesdays of the month at 6:00 p.m. – Council Chambers and via Zoom.

**Budget Committee Meeting** – June 2<sup>nd</sup> and June 4<sup>th</sup> if needed at 6:00 p.m. – Council Chambers and via Zoom. *See Public Hearing notice below and separately.*

**Neighborhood Enhancement Commission** – Next meeting date to be announced.

**Planning Commission** – June 16<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m. – Council Chambers.

**PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE:** The Eagle Point Budget Committee will hold a public hearing on June 2, 2026 at 6:00 p.m. in the Eagle Point City Council Chambers, 17 Buchanan Ave South, Eagle Point, Oregon regarding the use of revenue sharing funds. The public is invited to attend this meeting in-person at City Hall, Council Chambers at 17 Buchanan Avenue South in Eagle Point or via Zoom by registering in advance at:

[https://us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_qw\\_1AdQkSf6zvicqFnAGSQ](https://us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_qw_1AdQkSf6zvicqFnAGSQ)

Directly following this hearing, a public meeting of the Budget Committee of the City of Eagle Point, Jackson County, State of Oregon, will be held to discuss the budget for the fiscal year July 1, 2026 to June 30, 2027. The purpose of this meeting is to receive the budget message and document of the City and to receive comments from the public on the budget. A copy of the budget document may be inspected or obtained on or after May 21, 2026 at [www.cityofeaglepoint.org/105/budget](http://www.cityofeaglepoint.org/105/budget) or at Eagle Point City Hall between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. In the event the budget document is ready before May 21st, it will be posted on the City's website. This is a public meeting where deliberation of the Budget Committee will take place. Any person may appear at this meeting to discuss the proposed programs with the Budget Committee. An additional meeting will be held only if necessary. That meeting, if necessary, will be held on June 4, 2026 at 6:00 p.m.

All meeting agendas and materials are posted on the City's website at [www.cityofeaglepoint.org](http://www.cityofeaglepoint.org). To meet statutory noticing requirements under Oregon Revised Statute 192.640, all agendas are posted on the bulletin board in the lobby at City Hall, 17 Buchanan Ave. South, Eagle Point, Oregon; and e-mailed to interested people and the media.

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\*See Letters Policy Pg. 2

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# Winding Trails: by Al Hobart

Thursday, May 16, 1968

## Ground Cone

Some of the most attractive and interesting of our host of parasitic plants are the various members of the broomrape, or cancer-root, family. For those who want to look them up in the wildplant manuals the botanical name of this family is Orobanchaceae. The family is divided into two genera, both represented in our area: Orobanche, the broomrapes, and Boschniakia, the ground cones.

Of the 5 species I have found in this area 4 are broomrapes and one is a ground cone, the only one of the latter

found in our vicinity. The most strikingly odd-ball of the group is the ground cone, and to one interested in wildplants, to find them growing in the shady woods is a never-ending treat. I have been acquainted with them for a number of years, and still one of my greatest thrills is to see the first ground cone poking its way up through the forest mold.

The ground cone is very selective in its choice of hosts and derives its nourishment only from the juices of the madroña tree and manzanita shrub. Each plant at maturity bears a multitude of seeds which become scattered by various means and eventually germinate and send root-like processes

down into the ground. If the baby parasite is lucky its probing feelers will come in contact with a rootlet of either a madroña or manzanita, to which it becomes attached, penetrating the tender bark and from then on living contentedly at the expense of its congenial host.

If in its hopeful probing the tiny ground cone fails to contact a rootlet of either of the two host plants named, before its stored seedling nourishment is dissipated, it shrivels and dies. Because of its limited choice of host plants this, obviously, is the sad fate of the great majority of the ground cone's horde of seeds, and, of course, the

slim chance each tiny seedling has of hitting the target explains why nature was so generous in providing each mother plant with seeds.

Ground cone is an appropriate common name for this fascinating friendly robber plant, which, if not welcomed by its host, certainly is of no concern to the latter health-wise. When the young pilferer first makes its appearance above ground, having dined well and thrived splendidly at its generous host's table, it is shaped like a broad pointed bullet. It is clothed in closely overlapping scales (the leaves) which are usually dark purplish with yellowish markings along the edges. Later, as the fast-growing plant

pushes above the ground, the leaves spread out slightly from the thick stem.

At flowering time the upper smaller scales spread sharply outward and a short curved tubular flower springs from each axil. The blossom is broadly two-lipped, with 3 lobes on the lower and usually 2 teeth on the upper lip. At this stage the many slightly protruding flowers give to the plant a somewhat fluffy appearance.

As the ground cone matures, the predominant purple or purplish-brown color of the very young plant is often suffused with varying degrees of yellow. Rarely the plant is, from the very

beginning, a clear light yellow without a trace of the characteristic purple. I have known of only one spot where this pure yellow strain grows, the host being a large spreading madroña. I was directed to the location by a forest ranger, who thought he had found a new species.

The plant assumes such a variety of startling shapes and purple-yellow variations that it never fails to fascinate and amuse cancer-root watchers. And especially at or near maturity, when its large round seed cases give credibility to its nickname of "bear corn," it does resemble at first glance a fair-sized pine cone resting in its broad base.

# A botanist's view of local flora: by Dr. F. Alice LeDuc

Lupinus – L. albicaulis – sicklekeeled Lupine; L. albilfrons – White-leaved Lupine; L. argenteus – Silvery Lupine; L. latifolius – Broadleaved Lupine; L. Lepidus var. lepidus – Elegant Lupine; L. lepidus var. lobbii – Dwarf Lupine; L. bicolor – Two-colored Lupine, Miniature Lupine.

Lupines bring back many memories from my childhood. I loved the annual lupines we found on hikes in the canyons below Mount Diablo. In my adult years living in Texas, everyone there has heard of the Texas Bluebonnets aka Lupinus texensis. There are a number of species of lupine found in Oregon. I've listed 6 species and a second variety of one of the species. These are all but one species of blue to purplish to white flowered. There are two species with yellow flowers which I am not going to explain in this article. All but the last species listed above are perennials while the last is an annual plant. These species range from Canada through Washington, Oregon,

California and some to Mexico. The habitat is mainly meadows or dry ground or Shrub Steppe. With L. argenteus, L. lepidus varieties and L. albicaulis found in the drier locales. Interestingly the annual species L. bicolor is often found in vernal wet meadows.

Lupines are another genus that have challenged botanists through the years. With at times a large number of species and then finding the numerous species combined into much fewer species, only to be split out again. This lumping and splitting is still ongoing. The

wise botanists are reporting that the genus structure is extremely complex. They have found inbreeding populations and outbreeding gene flow from cross pollination. More simply there is a lot of variation, question is that just diversity within a species or natural hybridization leading at some point to new species.

The characteristics to look at to tell the species apart are height of plant, the number of divisions on the deeply palmately lobed leaves, the smoothness or hairiness of the leaves. Finally, the flowers which are

papilionaceous or butterfly-like in shape. At the back is the banner that stands erect, at the bottom is a plus or minus fused dual petals that form a keel shape, covering the keel more or less are the middle two petals that are wing-like. (see close-up photo) So in alphabetical order 1. Lupinus albicaulis has a height of one to two feet, the leaves covered with silky hairs, which are divided into five to ten leaflets; the flowers are loosely arranged on the flower spike, dull white, purple or yellow, the keel has an extremely upward curving tip that emerges up through the wing petals. Blooms summer to fall. 2. L. albilfrons is an evergreen subshrub, three to five feet tall; leaves silvery, palmately divided into six to ten leaflets with surface hairy; flowers borne on three-to-twelve-inch spikes, pale blue, deep violet or magenta, the banner is usually hairy, keel unlobed with margin toward tip ciliate (long hairs). Blooms spring to early summer. 3. L. argenteus is a perennial herb or subshrub, one half

to two and a half feet tall; leaves are palmate with six to nine narrow leaflets and appears silvery because of numerous fine hair; the flowers on a one and a half to twelve inch spike are blue to violet and occasionally lavender, pink or white, the banner has distinctive white or yellow spot that turns red-purple with age. Bloom late spring to summer. 4. L. bicolor is annual herb, leaves palmate with five to seven leaflets; inflorescence a raceme (spike) 3.1 inches tall, flowers two colored deep blue and white with a white spot on banner that changes with maturity to light purple or magenta. Flowers in spring to early summer. 5. L. latifolius is perennial herb one to six feet tall; leaves large, palmate, five to nine leaflets, that are often smooth; inflorescence is a raceme four to twelve inches high, flowers purple, blue or white with a banner spot that is yellowish or white changing to pinkish with age. Blooms late spring to summer. 6a. L. lepidus var. lepidus is a perennial four

to twenty-four inches tall; leaves hairy, mostly basal, palmate with five to seven leaflets; inflorescence is a raceme, with pink, blue, purple or white flowers and a yellowish banner spot. They bloom mi- April to August. 6b. L. lepidus var. lobbii is a perennial four to six inches tall; leaves silvery and long petioled, palmate with five to seven leaflets; flower spike erect with blue to purplish flowers with a white spot on the banner. Bloom period is May to September.

By height it is easy to identify Lupinus latifolius which is very tall, and L. lepidus var. lobbii which is very short and found in mats mainly in pumice soil. The one thing to remember about all of the lupines is they are toxic to animals especially cattle. A fun fact is that Lupinus latifolius is the host plant for several butterflies, Clouded and orange Sulphur, Persius Dusky-wing and Silvery Blue.

I hope you get out to check out the beautiful lupines this spring and summer.



A variety of lupines. Photos by Dr. F. Alice LeDuc

# Places of Worship

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Sunday School 10:00 A.M.  
Sunday Worship 11:00 A.M.  
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Pastor Gary Clark  
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**Welcome new members!**

Meetings are held the second Tuesday of each month at 6 p.m.

Questions? Email us: [grange664eaglepoint@gmail.com](mailto:grange664eaglepoint@gmail.com)

YOUR HOMETOWN NEWSPAPER SINCE 1976

# Upper Rogue Independent

Published weekly for the residents of the Shady Cove, Trail, Prospect, Eagle Point, Butte Falls and White City

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**Upper Rogue Independent  
PO Box 900**

**Eagle Point, OR 97524**

**Frontdesk@urindependent.com**

# Jackson County Sheriff Arrests

**(Editor's Note:** Factual information for citations/arrests are provided by official law enforcement agencies. *All persons listed are innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.* Charges can be amended or dismissed.)

**Friday, May 1**  
DeHart, Melvin James, M, 51, WC, parole violation violate court stalking protective order, criminal mischief 2, trespassing  
F, 51, EP, parole

violation unlawful possession of meth  
Maloney, Mason Thomas, M, 28, WC, parole violation assault 2, theft 2, theft 3  
O'Dell, Shaylee, f, 18, WC, two counts contempt of court violate no contact order, harassment, harassment, three counts assault 4 misdemeanor or domestic abuse, strangulation felony domestic abuse

**Sunday, May 3**  
Osborn, James Warren, M, 39, WC, felon in possession of

a firearm  
**Monday, May 4**  
Nething, John Robert Jr., M, 32, SC, carrying of concealed weapons

**Tuesday, May 5**  
Alberto-Toledo, Uriel, M, 38, WC, DUII alcohol, parole violation promoting prostitution

Coy, Marissa Jolene, F, 28, EP, unauthorized use of a motor vehicle  
M, 61, EP, DUII alcohol, reckless driving  
Dismukes, Cody Lance, M, 31, WC,

parole violation sexual abuse 2  
M, 53, WC, resisting arrest  
Orlow, Mark Phillip, M, 36, EP, parole violation unauthorized use of a motor vehicle  
**Wednesday, May 6**  
M, 31, EP, parole violation unlawful possession of a schedule II controlled substance

Montgomery, Luke Austin, M, 27, WC, fugitive Calif., unlawful possession of a schedule II controlled substance

Repman, Rolando Martin Tixta, M, 28, WC, parole violation unlawful possession of cocaine  
M, 47, WC, FTA driving while suspended or revoked  
M, 29, SC, reckless endangering  
M, 46, WC, assault 4 misdemeanor domestic abuse, harassment

Wilson, Joe Elden, M, 38, WC, reckless endangering, DUII alcohol, unlawful possession of prohibited firearms or silencers,

reckless endangering, two counts unlawful use of a weapon, reckless driving, two counts menacing  
M, 27, WC, disorderly conduct 2  
**Thursday, May 7**  
DeHart, Christopher Lee, M, 36, EP, trespassing, theft 1, parole violation unlawful possession of meth  
M, 46, EP, trespassing, unlawful possession of meth  
M, 63, SC, unlawful possession of meth

# Eagle Point Police Citations and Arrests

**Thursday, April 23**  
Medford male was cited for speeding

**Friday, April 24**  
Eagle Point male

was cited for speeding  
White City male was cited for no motorcycle endorsement and warned for illegal alteration or

display of plates and speeding  
**Saturday, April 25**  
Medford female was cited for expired registration and

warned for failure to obey a traffic control device and failure to use a seatbelt  
Terrebonne, Ore. male was cited for driving uninsured and

driving while suspended  
**Monday, April 27**  
Eagle Point female was cited for expired registration



## ComParrot® Can you spot 12 differences between these pictures?

by Bonnie J. Malcolm



**Solution:** 1. Shadow of leaf on tree trunk is missing. 2. Split appears in palm leaf. 3. Bottom of girl's headdress is longer. 4. Part of snake is hidden. 5. Girl's belly is hidden. 6. Top of pot is colored in. 7. Side of pyramid is colored in. 8. Snake's tongue appears. 9. Girl's ankle appears. 10. Triangle on pillar has moved. 11. Oval pattern on pillar is colored different. 12. Snake's tail is longer.

3		8	1	6		
1	5		7	6	3	
			2			
	2	5	6		1	
	8				2	
	6		4	8	7	
			8			
	3	7	1		6	9
	9	6		4		8

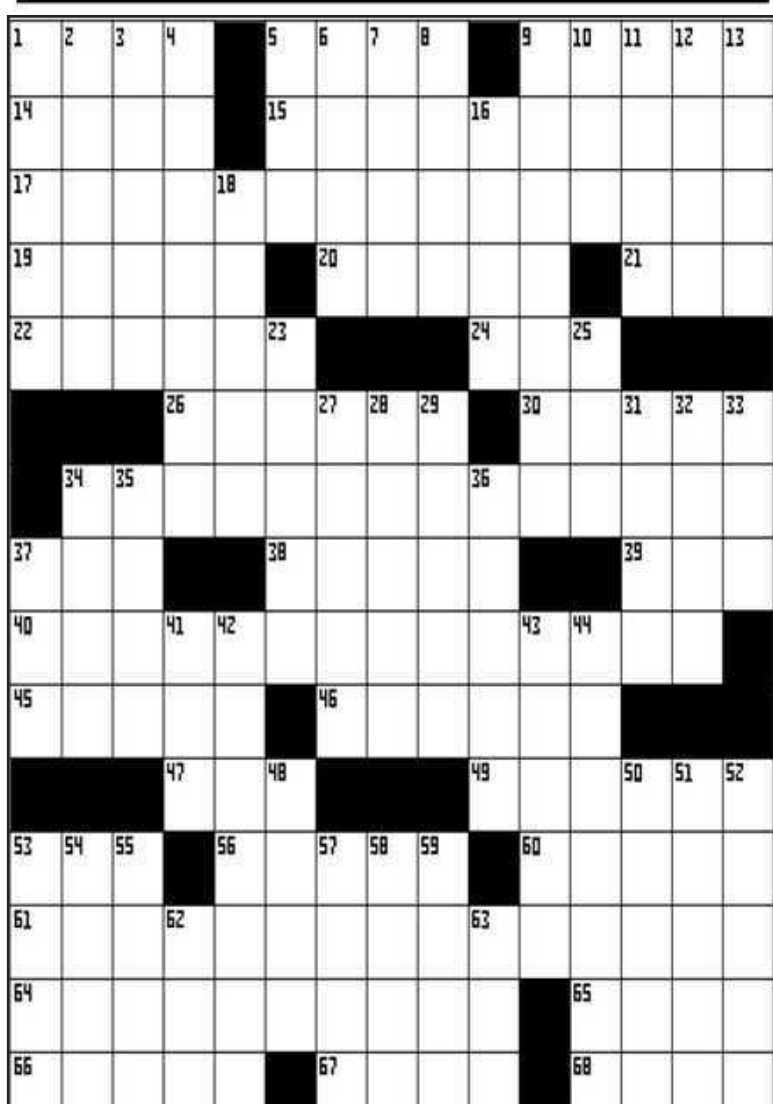
- DOWN**
- Lit
  - "... which will live in infamy": FDR
  - Falana and Glaudini
  - Infuse with elegance
  - Exist
  - Greek primordial deity
  - Subtlety
  - Startup money?
  - Annually celebrated group
  - "How wonderful!"
  - Dancers, often
  - Sushi kitchen supply
  - Gained (from)
  - "I often quote myself. It adds spice to my conversation" speaker
  - Where gunpowder was invented
  - Irks
  - Univ. student's ordeal
  - Wonderland trial evidence
  - Demean
  - \_\_ Hall
  - Cell with potential
  - Chinese toy
  - Poet's "previously"
  - Construction support
  - Close follower of Venus?
  - Some apartments
  - On the facing pg.
  - Citi Field player
  - "D'oh!"
  - Interior construction specialist
  - Napoleonic?
  - Cribbage pieces
  - Clinch the game, in slang
  - Japan's answer to Rodeo Drive
  - Attacked
  - Places to see presses
  - Academic
  - "Fantasia" hippo's garb
  - Certain collegian
  - Athenian walkway
  - Get through work
  - Otto \_\_ Bismarck
  - Mercury is on its co. logo

- ACROSS**
- Sprinkled stuff
  - Ottoman honorific
  - Carried
  - Star often gazed at
  - Golf inconvenience
  - Financially distressed royal residence?
  - Things kept for oneself
  - Elite group
  - New Delhi-to-Mumbai dir.
  - "Downton Abbey" assent
  - Wit
  - "The Golden Arm" of the Baltimore Colts
  - Reach uncertainly
  - Pious antelope?
  - Geisha circler
  - Sister of Melpomene
  - Ho's accompaniment
  - Clairvoyant magazine staff?
  - Introduction
  - Submitted
  - Dance genre
  - Annual delivery vehicle?
  - Setting in Eng.
  - First name in Western crime
  - Like George H. W. Bush
  - Carole King song title ... or a hint to 17-, 34- and 40-Across
  - Rallying, e.g.
  - Singing daughter of Judy and Vincente
  - Bombed
  - Expression of appreciation
  - "L' \_\_, c'est moi": Louis XIV

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# Recipe Corner:

Enjoy some of Oregon's best fruits and veggies in this week's recipes.

## Steak Bites with Blue Cheese and Raspberry Balsamic Sauce

### Ingredients

- 1 ¼ cups of frozen Oregon raspberries
- 2 tablespoons balsamic vinegar
- 1/8 teaspoon salt
- 1/8 teaspoon pepper
- 1 baguette, sliced and toasted into crostinis
- 1 pound of Omaha Steaks meat, cut of choice
- 3 oz. blue cheese, sliced
- Chopped chives, for garnish

### Directions

1. To make the raspberry balsamic sauce, start by adding add the frozen raspberries to a saucepan on medium-low heat. Heat the berries until thawed.
2. Next, add the balsamic vinegar, salt and pepper.
3. Cook at a simmer for 8 minutes then remove from heat.
4. Meanwhile, slice your baguette on a bias

about ½ inch thick.

5. Toast your crostinis on broil for 3-5 minutes, until lightly golden brown.

6. Generously season your steak with salt and pepper and sear until medium rare.

7. Be sure you let the meat rest for at least 10 minutes prior to slicing the steak into cubes. You don't want steak juices leaking all over your bread!

8. Top your crostinis with seared steak, raspberry balsamic sauce and a sliver of blue cheese. Garnish with chopped chives.

9. To serve, spear crostinis with an appetizer toothpick, if desired.

## Raspberry Goat Cheese Crêpes

### Ingredients

#### Berry Sauce Ingredients

- Kosher salt
- Freshly ground black pepper
- 2 Cups frozen black raspberries, red raspberries or blackberries (add more if sweeter flavor is desired)

- 1 Tablespoon minced fresh ginger
- 1 serrano chile

pepper, seeds removed, minced (may reduce to half if very sensitive to heat)

- 1/4 Cup honey
- 1 Tablespoon balsamic vinegar

• 1/4 Cup lemon juice

#### Filling Ingredients

- 8 oz goat cheese
- 1 Cup cottage cheese

• 1/4 Cup Greek yogurt

• Freshly ground black pepper and chopped thyme to taste

#### Crêpes Ingredients

- 4 Tablespoons melted butter

• softened butter or non-stick cooking spray for crêpe pan

- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 2 1/2 Cups milk
- 1 3/4 Cups flour
- 6 eggs

### Directions

#### Filling

1. Combine cheeses in a food processor or blender until smooth.

2. Add pepper and thyme to taste and stir to mix thoroughly.

3. Refrigerate until ready to serve.

#### Berry Sauce Instructions

1. Mash berries in a medium bowl. Some chunks will remain.

2. Add ginger, honey, black pepper, salt, chile, vinegar, and lemon juice to the berry mixture.

3. Stir to combine, and add to saucepan over medium low heat. Simmer, stirring frequently, for 8-12 minutes.

#### Crêpes Instructions

1. Combine flour and salt in a medium bowl. Whisk together and set aside.

2. In a large bowl, add eggs and milk. Whisk together, and add dry ingredients whisked together in previous step.

Add the melted butter and whisk the entire mixture together until smooth (use a blender if necessary).

3. Preheat the oven to 200°F, and place a large cookie sheet lined with wax paper inside.

4. Heat one or two medium crêpe pans (about 10 inches) over medium heat. Take a bunched up paper towel and dip it in the softened butter.

Carefully wipe the butter around the heated crepe pan, greasing it thoroughly. (If your pans allow, you may use non-stick cooking spray instead.)

5. Using a 1/4 cup measuring cup, draw 1/4

cup batter from the bowl and add to the greased crêpe pan. Lift the pan from the heat and swirl it to coat the pan evenly with the batter. Allow the crêpe to cook for 30 seconds to a minute, watching the surface of the crêpe closely. When it appears to have thickened slightly, slide a rubber spatula under one edge and check to see if the crêpe is slightly browned. As soon as the slightest browning appears, remove the cookie sheet from the oven with an oven mitt, and flip the crêpe onto it directly. Replace the cookie sheet in the oven to keep the crêpes warm. Re-coat the pan with additional butter or cooking spray, and repeat for remaining crêpes. The batter should make about 15-20.

6. Lay a crêpe out flat, and spread a tablespoon or two of the filling on it. Roll the crêpe up, ensuring that the cream spreads evenly throughout the length of the crêpe.

7. Top with berry sauce and serve immediately.

## Gnocchi topped with Ricotta and Peas

### Ingredients

- 16 oz. package Gnocchi
- 5 oz. petite peas
- 1/3 cup ricotta cheese
- 3 tablespoons Olive Oil
- 1 teaspoon crushed red pepper
- 1 tablespoon zest from lemon
- 1 tablespoon zest and 1 tablespoon juice from a lemon
- Fresh Basil, for garnish

### Directions

1. Bring medium-sized pot of water to a boil and season the water with two tablespoons of sea salt.

2. Add the gnocchi and cook 1 minute, then add peas and cook for another 1-2 minutes. Strain gnocchi and peas and add them to a serving bowl.

3. Top gnocchi and peas with small dollops of ricotta, drizzle with olive oil and lemon juice, and sprinkle with crushed red pepper and lemon zest.

4. Season with a sprinkle of sea salt and garnish with basil leaves to serve.

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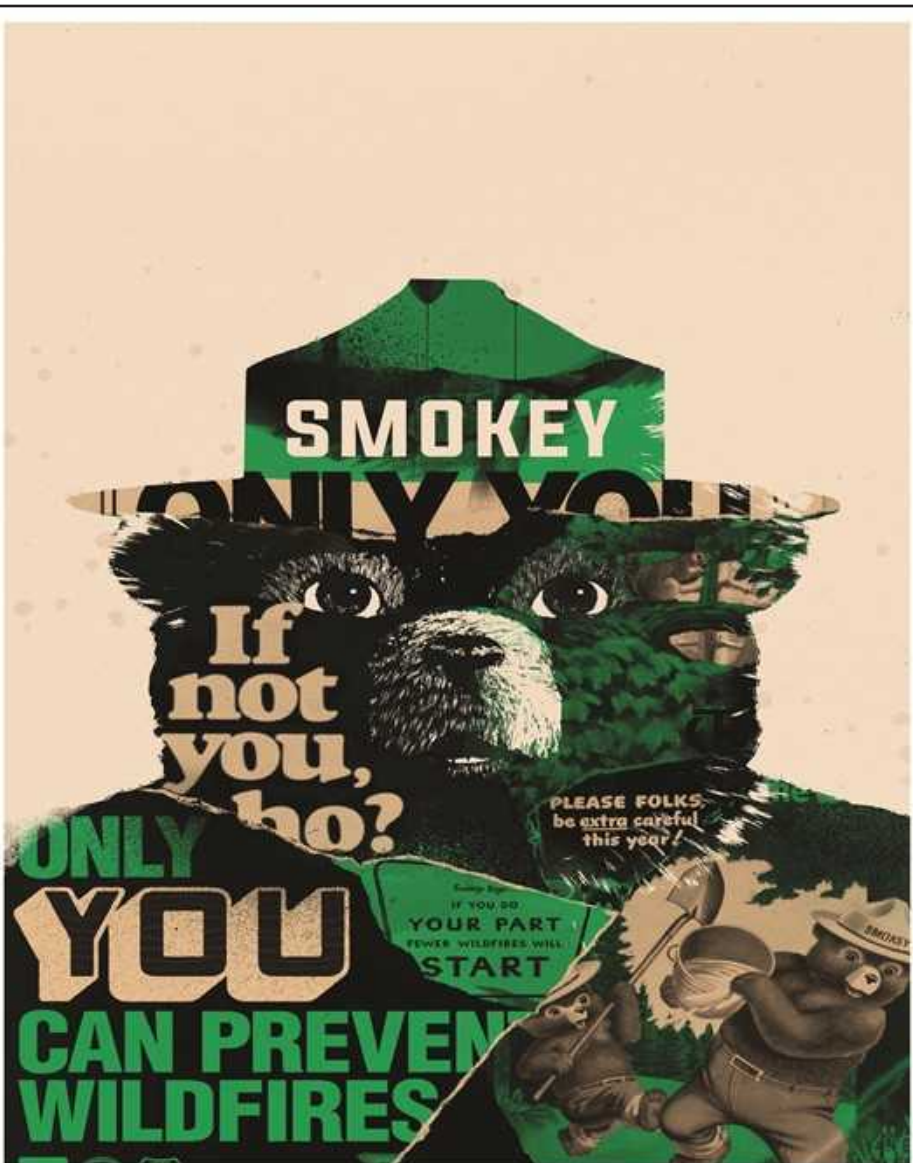
## Eagle Point Senior Center

121 Loto St.  
Monday & Wednesday  
Bingo 12:30 - 3:30 p.m.

Tuesday

Music by David Christian 10 - 11 a.m.

Thrift Store open Mon. - Fri. 9 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.  
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# FIRE SEASON STARTS

on the

ODF Southwest Oregon District

Friday, May 15, 2026  
at 12:01 a.m.

This applies to ODF-protected lands in Jackson and Josephine Counties.



# Council ... Continued from Pg. 1

In the midst of all that there was a local Chamber of Commerce, which died from lack of participation. Parks & Rec went away when Shari Tarvin was elected mayor and was replaced by the Events Committee which then went away when Jon Ball was elected and Rec & Tourism came along until their final members left in late 2025.

Back to the front of the meeting.

At the start of the meeting, Richardson added Resolution 2604 to the agenda and moved the Southern Oregon Sanitation presentation to the beginning.

SOS announced they will enact a 2.7% increase for 2026, which is allowable per their contract to the city. They said even with a higher percentage increase to the price of doing business – in part due to increased fuel prices – they’re sticking with the 2.7%.

During public comment on agenda items Natalie Swendener spoke on behalf of Shady Cove Matters regarding the city’s budget. You can hear Swendener’s full comments on the audio recording of the meeting.

Swendener asked that council meet with SCM “preferably during an open budget committee meeting” do hear their concerns because “We recognize that not all Council members are experts in budget.”

However, Swendener did not offer any written or verbal documentation which would show that SCM members are themselves “experts in budget.”

Mitchell asked Swendener “who are” the members of “Shady Cove Matters.”

Swendener said the “directors” are herself, Terry Rasmussen, Hank Hohenstein and Shari Tarvin.

During his staff report interim City Admin John Edwards said progress is still being made on past audits

even as work is done on the 26/27 budget.

There was bad news on the City Admin recruitment front. Edwards reported that the city had made an offer to their Candidate of Choice, but he had declined the offer.

On the upside, they have already received two new applications and the process continues.

Edwards has put in an application for a “small” grant (\$226K) from the Oregon Department of Transportation which – if awarded – would be used to finish up the Hannah’s Way drainage project and to do some of the more urgent street repairs in the city.

He also announced new office hours for City Hall, they will now be open from 8 a.m. – 5 p.m. Mon – Thurs.

He closed by inviting citizens to check out the city’s website frequently because staff continues to add more information weekly.

Next Councilor Kathy Nuckles gave an update on the water project. She said that “we had a call” with Business Oregon regarding “fraudulent misuse of the grant” by former City Admin Michele Parry. This included Parry using the water fund to pay for her assistant though the assistant did not work on the water project full time. Additionally the city disclosed documents to Business Oregon where Parry had lifted the signatures off of other documents.

Luckily for the city the upshot of the discussion was that Business Oregon, “was very pleased that we brought this forward. They’re sorry that it happened are they are committed to working with us to straighten it out.”

The financial upshot is that the city needs to repay \$15,418 of “fraudulently applied” monies back into the water grant. Versus an actual repayment, Business Oregon will deduct that

amount from the city’s next drawdown.

Per Nuckles there are additional fraudulent charges to the water grant of \$52K, but those will be “reassigned to other budget funds” versus being repaid to the grant.

Despite all of that, RH2 - the engineering firm now back on track completing the feasibly study – still believes the city can meet their completion date of June 2027.

See RH2’s graphic for what the “now to June 2027” project entails.

Next was an update on “an issue” with payroll taxes. Richardson introduced the topic and Nuckles – who did an audit of the payroll taxes – gave a full report.

If you are interested in the full report – Warning: Technical Tax Talk – the update begins at 33:33 on the audio recording.

The brief version: Payroll tax errors began in early 2021. Errors were not discovered until 2025 and the back taxes have now been paid.

Due to delays in notifications from the IRS, the city now also has penalties and interest on payroll tax payments – even payments made on time following the initial cleanup and repayment.

They are trying to get some of these cancelled, but they are dealing with the IRS.

This led to Resolution 2604. Edwards led the discussion prior to the resolution. The proposal is to migrate the city’s payroll online through ADP payroll service.

This will not only keep payroll – thus payroll taxes – up to date, but it also comes with Human Resources services such as background checks and employee handbooks.

The cost would be \$220 per month. Per Edwards this will save the city \$1,800 if they make the ADP purchase by the end

of May. More importantly it should ensure the city doesn’t have payroll tax issues in the future.

Other companies were investigated, one company wanted \$5,000 just to buy into the software and they did not provide as many services as ADP.

The city is still responsible for the data going into ADP and it was suggested at least two people check entries to “make sure they’re right.”

The resolution “approving and authorizing migration to in-house payroll to the online payroll service provider ADP” carried 5/0.

During public comment on non-agenda items Jay Taylor circled back to the payroll tax issue.

His understanding was that while the unpaid taxes go back to 2021 he believed the city had only paid the back taxes for 2025.

Richardson spoke up advising they had resolved all the unpaid taxes as Nuckles had just reported.

Finding out they had been paid, Taylor switched gears from “why are they not paid” to “Who’s supposed to be supervising this?”

When Richardson pointed out the issues went back to 2021 when Tarvin was mayor (immediately following Richardson’s first tenure ending in 2020) Taylor asked if “the proper procedure and control” had been passed to Tarvin.

Richardson said administrative duties such as this are the city administrator’s job.

Tom Corrigan was the administrator in 2021.

Taylor then changed course again saying, “I also had a problem with Tom Corrigan making \$150K” and wondered who approved that.

Richardson said she was not in office when he was hired (Corrigan was hired in 2018 under Mayor Tom Sanderson).

The next, and final,

citizen to speak was Laura Sheridan-Campbell. She said she had received a “note card” in the mail which was “an invitation to sign a petition” to recall Richardson.

She said the “tone of this card sounds vindictive, mean-spirited and the alleged claims seem minor compared with the consequences of past failures of this city.”

Sheridan-Campbell closed saying she did not support a recall and felt it would take the city “backward at a time when we need steadiness” and cooperation.

During council comment Nuckles reported on the most recent Rogue Valley Council of Governments meetings reminding everyone – especially seniors – that RVCOG has a lot of free programs to aid citizens.

Nuckles then said she’d had a very bad week, “last week I have to admit I had a breakdown” she continued that she “was angry at all the work I was doing to clean up the mess” left behind by Parry and even mad that she was part of the Council who hired Parry.

She was also angry at the mayor of Lakeview, OR who gave Parry a recommendation when she first applied. She was also angry at Shady Cove Matters for “trying to distract us from our work by constant spreading of misinformation.”

Lastly she was angry because she feels all of these combined will “no doubt make our recruitment process for our city administrator even harder.”

Nuckles then referred to a May 6, 2026 article by OPB which details the downfall of Lakeview and Parry’s role in it.

**Note:** The Upper Rogue Independent has included OPB’s article in full in this edition *see Pg. 2*

Nuckles said when she read the OPB article

she, “immediately saw the parallels between Lakeview and Shady Cove” and saw “what our fate could have been had we let Ms. Parry continue in her role [as City Administrator].” She asked citizens to read the article for themselves.

The takeaway: Nuckles cautions that “in small rural towns where the city manager and council roles are very segregated” and managers retain “vast power over city operations” things can go horribly wrong as they have to a greater extent in Lakeview and lesser extent in Shady Cove. She urged the citizens and the next council to make an effort to update the City Charter to “level the playing field” between the administrator and council.

Lastly, Nuckles discussed meeting with a member of Shady Cove Matters (AKA Shady Cove Advocates). Initially this member came to Nuckles hoping they could work together to “restore normalcy” to the city.

Per Nuckles, “I proposed that he resign from SCM and that he and I co-host community coffee chats where residents could come talk with us to get two different views of city issues. He promised to think about it.”

Nuckles said their follow up meeting was “disappointing to say the least.” The member presented Nuckles with “a list of requests” from SCM.

Nuckles said, “These requests included appointment of two SCM members to our committees; inclusion of a budget item for a pet project; and a secret meeting between myself, the Mayor and two SCM members. And a stipulation of this meeting was that anything discussed could not be shared with the public.”

Nuckles said she, “responded politely that this was it; there would be no further talks.”

# Sports ... Continued from Pg. 1

However, the Eagles were not to be denied.

Crater loaded the bases with one out by walking a batter and hitting the other two. Nugent then launched a run-scoring sacrifice fly to left. Pierce singled up the middle to drive in both White and Sean McFall and suddenly the game was tied. DeVry then stepped to the plate and delivered the walk-off, game-winning single to left to start the celebration.

DeVry led the offense going 3x4 with two RBI. Pierce went 2x4 with two RBI and a pair of runs scored while Nugent had a two-RBI double and scored a run. White got the win in relief of Nugent who threw 4.2 innings, giving up six runs (two earned) on just three hits while striking out four.

But wait. There was a game two to follow and as they say, “you ain’t seen nothing yet.” The two teams squared off again and once again it went the distance with the Eagles scoring the game-winning run in the bottom of the final inning for another 2-1 walk-off victory.

The Eagles drew

first blood when they opened the game with consecutive singles by Ryan McFall and White. Two outs later Nugent singled up the middle to drive in White and Eagle Point was up 1-0.

The Comets came back in the top of the fourth with a leadoff double. After a pop-out, two more walks loaded the bases (one intentional) and a sacrifice fly scored a run to tie the game. It remained that way until the bottom of the seventh.

Nugent led off with a single to left and Pierce laid down a sacrifice bunt to put him in scoring position. Crater intentionally walked DeVry, but Skylar Tribur singled up the middle for the walk-off victory. Nugent went 2x3 with a run scored and an RBI and Tribur had an RBI single.

Softball

The Lady Eagles got a little payback of their own while in Central Point. Last season ended in a playoff game on the Comets home field where Eagle Point threw a no-hitter but still lost because of unearned runs. This time

was going to be different.

It was a battle as Eagle Point drew first blood with a pair of runs in the top of the third when Riley Jacoby launched a two-run homer to deep centerfield to score both her and Elaina Almaraz. However, Crater answered right back with back-to-back one-out doubles and a two-out RBI single to tie the game at 2-2.

Thanks to a couple of errors in the bottom of the fifth, Crater was able to go up 3-2, but Eagle Point came back in the top of the sixth, refusing to give up. Martin smacked a one-out double up the middle and a misplayed single up the middle by Leonardo drove in the tying run to make it a 4-4 ballgame.

It ended up going to extra innings. With Jacoby on second to start the inning, Kady Ledbetter singled to right to put runners at the corners. A fielder’s choice scored Jacoby, Leonardo singled to right to drive in two more and they managed to score one more time thanks to a misplayed ground ball. Crater was able to add a single run in the bottom

of the eighth, but it wasn’t enough.

Jacoby only went 1x3 but it was a two-run home run and she managed to score twice. Braylee Leonardo went 3x4 with a double and two RBI while throwing eight innings, giving up eight hits while striking out six. She threw 98 pitches, 66 for strikes.

While the Lady Eagles enjoyed the win, it didn’t last long. The Comets came to town and posted back-to-back wins, 8-3 and 8-5. While the Lady Eagles opened the first game with a run in the bottom of the first, the Comets scored four in the third, two in the fourth and two more in the sixth for an 8-1 lead. Eagle Point managed a pair of runs in their final at bat to make the final 8-3.

The Lady Eagles managed just six hits. Martin was 2x4 and Kady Ledbetter was 2x3 with an RBI. Leonard took the loss, giving up seven earned runs over five full innings, giving up nine hits while striking out five.

The final game was more of the same as Crater opened the nightcap by

scoring twice in the first inning and three more in the second for an early 5-0 lead. The Lady Eagles came back in the bottom of the third with a two-out rally as Almaraz, Dean and Jacoby all singled to put the Lady Eagles on the board at 5-2. Kady Ledbetter then doubled down the right field line to score Jacoby, and they

trailed 5-3.

Unfortunately, Eagle Point gave up three more runs in the fifth to fall behind 8-3 and Crater held on for an 8-5 win. Kady Ledbetter led the Eagle Point offense going 4x4 with three doubles and both an RBI and a run scored. Allison Martin had an RBI double and Reese Zirkle also had a double.

# Classifieds

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# Crawlies with Cri:

by Christy Solo - ONPA 1st Place Award Winner for Best Local Column

This week we'll meet a pretty flitter who is a fairly new resident of Oregon. Meet the small ranunculus moth (Hecatera dysodea). We'll call them "ranu" for brevity's sake.

What's in a name? We'll be honest here, neither the common nor binomial names of this moth make much sense.

Let's break it all down, starting with the binomial. The genus name "Hecatera" is for the Goddess Hecate who has several associations – dogs, snakes, crossroads, keys, lions, knives and a few more. None bring to mind moths particularly. It is cool to be named after a Goddess, but that's about it.

Then the species name, "dysodea" is from the Greek dysodia/dusodia which means "ill-smelling" or "disagreeable odor." However, nowhere in any description of ranus are they described as having any particular odor – let alone a disagreeable one.

Ranus were given their binomial in 1775, so they "why" of it all shall remain a mystery.

As to the common name; the "small" part makes sense because there is, in fact, a "Large ranunculus moth" which is in a completely different Genus but looks passingly similar.

This brings us to the "ranunculus" part of the common name. Ranunculus is most commonly associated with flowers as it's a Genus in the Buttercup Family.

The origin of ranunculus comes from the Latin for "tadpole."

Ranus have no real-life associations with either buttercups or frogs. Oh, and yes, we checked, and the Large Ranunculus have no buttercup-y or froggy associations either.

So, what should ranu's name be? We'd go for a binomial of Hecatera Lactuca (we can't change the Genus name, and there's that whole "it's cool to be

named after a Goddess thing) and a common name of Golden Speckled Lettuce Moth.

If our suggested common name led you to deduce that ranu pillars dine on lettuce, you get a gold star!

However, they are into wild lettuce species such as Willow Lettuce (Lactuca saligna) and Prickly Lettuce (Lactuca serriola) which are in the aster family. This is not to say they would turn down "table salad lettuces" AKA cultivars of Lactuca sativa but if you aren't growing those in your garden, you have no worries when it comes to ranus.

Let's back up a bit to the whole "fairly new residents of Oregon" portion of our ranu profile.

Ranus are native to Eurasia and were somehow introduced to Oregon around 2003. There are currently 1,034 iNaturalist recorded sightings of ranus in the United States, so they aren't

exactly taking over. Of those sightings 13% are in Oregon mostly along the west side of the Cascades.

If you'd like to see a ranu up close you have a good chance of doing so because there appears to be a solid population along Hwy. 62 from the Calif. border up to at least Shady Cove.

We also have a lot of wild Prickly Lettuce in our area. It's a tall plant and true to its common

name, it does have prickly leaves. It has little yellow flowers which look like mini dandelions. They turn into teeny dandelion-like puff balls. We also have some Willow lettuce, which looks pretty much like Prickly Lettuce except the leaves are – you guessed it – willow-like.

Ranus have two broods per year, so while adults who overwintered in pupal form are already on

the wing the next gen will be out and about and coming to a porch light near you through September.

Final fun fact: Ranus went extinct in England in the late 1900s, but have made a comeback – reappearing across the pond just a few years before they made their debut in Oregon. Currently England has about twice the recorded sightings as Oregon has, which has made them very happy.



**Small ranunculus (Hecatera dysodea) are recognizable via their dusting of golden scales. Photos by Christy Solo**

## Lakeview ... Continued from Pg. 5

"It's easy to say I've lost sleep over it," Lake County Commissioner James Williams said of the county's staffing cuts. "It's affected my health, my life. But it's not just about me. That's nothing. I mean, we have deputies that are really struggling, too."

As Lakeview approaches insolvency, it could seek help from the state or county government. But those agencies are also financially strapped and would be hard-pressed to bail out the town.

"The town of Lakeview must find their own way," Williams said.

**A rocky tenure**  
Against that backdrop, state and local officials place part of the blame for Lakeview's financial situation on the town's manager from 2019 to 2024, Michele Parry.

In interviews with law enforcement, former town officials accused her of mismanaging Lakeview's finances and using town credit cards for personal purchases, which she denies doing. Under her leadership, they said the town's budget reserves plummeted and it lost track of hundreds of thousands of dollars, according to investigative reports OPB obtained through a public records request.

Parry's tenure reached an unexpected turning point in late 2023, when the town attempted to file reimbursement requests tied to a federally-funded water treatment plant project.

Scott Langum, who was hired to oversee the project, discovered his signature was on three reimbursement requests to the state of Oregon for the project, totaling more than \$1 million. He said he soon realized the signatures had been electronically pasted on the documents.

"I have never at any point given anyone permission to use my signature for anything at any time," Langum wrote to police.

Langum called Shielia Strubel, the town's economic development director, who searched Parry's computer and found a folder titled "Signatures," they told law enforcement. Parry was the only other person who signed the reimbursement requests.

A photo of the alleged file, which is contained in law enforcement reports obtained by OPB, appears to show his signature and those of other town officials, including the former mayor.

"What else has she signed my name to without me knowing?" Langum wrote. "What has she used the other signatures for?"

Parry was placed on leave after Langum's discovery, according to the town. In an interview with OPB, Parry denied all wrongdoing and blamed Lakeview's financial situation on other leaders.

"It was really bad and none of what they said was true," Parry said. "I think it was a witch hunt."

Langum and Strubel both declined to comment for this story.

Parry, a California real estate agent who surrendered her license in 2007 over homeowner complaints, had little prior government experience. When she arrived in Lakeview in 2019, the town was already struggling from its vanishing timber industry and deteriorating infrastructure, particularly its water system.

In 2021, the town received a \$15 million grant from the American Rescue Plan Act, the pandemic-era federal relief program, for a new water treatment plant. Leaders promised it would significantly improve water quality, according to a 2022 press release.

In interviews with police described in the investigative reports, former town employees said it became evident Parry didn't have the skills to manage the budget for the grant, let alone that of a small town. Three former town officials said Lakeview's budget reserves dropped from roughly \$3 million to less than \$1 million under Parry's watch.

In an interview with OPB, Parry blamed the town's lack of cash on her predecessors, adding, "That's my opinion."

The town placed Parry on administrative leave in January 2024. In April of that year, Oregon State Police launched an investigation. Police served a warrant at Lakeview Town Hall, seizing Parry's computers,

devices and various hard drives.

Two months later, Jeremy Green, Lakeview's attorney at the time, filed a motion to prevent many of the records seized in the warrant from being used in a prosecution. Klamath County Circuit Court Judge Marci Adkisson granted the motion.

It's still not clear why the town — the alleged victim in a potential case — would want so many records sealed and off limits to law enforcement. Town attorneys told the court that many of the records were subject to attorney-client privilege or contained sensitive personnel information, like disciplinary records.

But it's clear the order was a roadblock for investigators. In an interview with state investigators, OSP Sgt. Michael Berland accused Green's office of being "super obstructive."

In an email to OPB, Green, who no longer works for the town, said he couldn't discuss matters protected by attorney-client confidentiality.

"I can state unequivocally that the town and this office fully cooperated with the investigation," Green wrote.

In its investigation of Parry, the Oregon Department of Justice conducted 22 interviews with eight witnesses, and it served 12 subpoenas for business records and financial institutions. But in January, prosecutors opted not to pursue charges.

Without additional evidence, Lake County District Attorney Paul Charas said it's unlikely his office will pursue charges either, partly because it lacks the money to do so. Charas recently announced that he will resign in August, citing a chronic lack of funding that has made it difficult to prosecute cases.

Parry went on to become city manager in Shady Cove, just north of Medford. In October, she was also placed on leave in that city. She declined to comment, citing pending litigation.

### New management

Stan Foster inherited this situation when he became interim town manager in July. A longtime government employee who later ran a community development consulting firm, he had experience pulling agencies

out from financial disarray.

In retirement, he put his name on a League of Oregon Cities list for people willing to chip in as interim town managers, and noted he was open to working in Lakeview because he'd visited as a child.

For months, Foster commuted three hours every other week from his home in Bend to work in Lakeview. Tensions were high. The council had recently hiked water bills by an average of nearly \$10 a month per household. It also levied a \$14 fee per household to pay for local law enforcement. Foster tried to figure out the town's budget, but couldn't find invoices or financial statements.

"The first three months here, every time I was in town, I learned something else about the town that was not good," said Foster.

Lakeview owed about \$4 million in loans for the water and sewage systems for the failed power plant, and for geothermal wells that heat buildings and water. Foster sought short-term solutions to offload the debt. Recently, the town reached a deal with the power plant's new owners, which plans to assume the debt for the water and sewage systems. The town also plans to sell a geothermal well to the hospital.

"I think that we're making progress," Foster said. "Am I going to say that we're there? Probably we're not there yet."

The most pressing issue was the water meter contract with Sustainability Partners, Foster said. In reporting this story, OPB learned that Sustainability Partners is under investigation for its contracts with municipalities in Louisiana. State officials there say the company skirted public bidding laws and stuck small towns with deceptively expensive agreements, with interest rates that exceeded those of a typical loan.

"It does look a lot like predatory lending to us," Louisiana State Treasurer John Fleming told OPB. "I can just tell you that financial stresses were made worse in a number of towns and entities."

Company leaders "reject the suggestion that the contracts are 'predatory,'" Cain, the

company's president, said in a statement to OPB. He said the cost of its meters "did not greatly exceed the market rate," and that the project in Lakeview was "widely publicized, celebrated, and featured on the Town's own home webpage."

"Lakeview received infrastructure that allowed it to better track actual usage, bill more accurately, improve the performance of its water system, and protect the health of its residents," Cain said. "We stand behind the lawfulness of our agreements and the value this project delivered to Lakeview." Foster's contract with Lakeview ended March 31. For now, he is staying on to train his replacement.

"If the town matches the spirit and the attitude of its citizens, we'll get out of this," Foster said.

### Residents fight for town

On a sunny December day near downtown Lakeview, children rode skateboards and scooters at a local park at the base of the mountains. A herd of deer approached a nearby fence; the children hardly noticed. The skate park sits beside a swimming pool, which almost closed when the town couldn't afford to run it anymore.

"We went to the town and said, 'Hey, we'd like to build a skatepark here. Will you let us?'" longtime resident and Rotary Club member Andrew Rucker said while standing beside the skate park. "And so they said, 'Sure, as long as we don't have to build it,' because of funds at that time."

Lakeview's mounting challenges have prompted a series of efforts among residents who are striving to keep their community running. They raised nearly \$170,000 in grants and donations to keep the swimming pool open. They sold the nearly-naked calendars, raising \$43,000 for winter snow plowing. They volunteered at town hall and drove into the mountains to work on its water supply.

"I think it shows our character, that everybody really wants the town to survive," Tracy, the longtime resident and former town councilor, said.

"I truly believe it will, and I think it will turn around, but it's not going to happen

overnight."

Last year, residents raised more than \$500,000 to convert a dilapidated tennis court into the skate park. They laid sod, dug up fencing and put up a new sign. After it opened, they didn't have money to light it. So, during the summer, parents parked their cars beside the park, using their headlights so kids could skate in the dark.

Among those who helped build it was Angie Deiter, a local banker and member of the Rotary Club. Standing beside Rucker, she acknowledged Lakeview's problems — its water issues, its deteriorating buildings, its financial struggles — have made it harder to attract young people.

But she said those problems alone are "not an accurate portrayal of what Lakeview has to offer."

Looking out on the skate park, Rucker and Deiter spoke about their hopes for Lakeview. They'd created something — with civic grit, cash and pride — that provided a bit of hope that the tide could turn.

As they watched the kids skate back and forth, slanting light from the setting winter sun shone golden on the trees. Another day was ending, no turmoil in sight. For a moment, it seemed, the people of Lakeview weren't ready to give up.

### The Reporting

OPB reporters Joni Auden Land and Bryce Dole started hearing similar concerns about worrisome financial issues facing Lake County in fall 2025. After weeks of pre-reporting, Land, Dole and visual journalist Saskia Hatvany traveled to Lakeview in December for a weeklong reporting trip.

They interviewed dozens of residents and went to government offices, town meetings, a basketball game, a skate park, a hair salon, a diner, a hospital, a public works shop and more.

In the months since, they interviewed current and former town officials and reviewed hundreds of pages of budget documents, meeting minutes and agendas, financial reports, loans and police reports from a state law enforcement investigation to tell Lakeview's story.