

South Lane School district to replace 20 buses

District must comply with new federal standards by Jan. 1, 2025

By Caitlyn May
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South Lane School District is getting a new fleet. Sort of.

Twenty of the district's 38 buses will have to be replaced under the Diesel Emissions Reduction Act by Jan. 1, 2025. Any bus with a diesel engine, model year 2007 or older, will be redlined and unable to remain in service.

"That's a big deal," South Lane Transportation Supervisor Theresa Bichsel.

The EPA (Environmental Protection Agency) has been passing laws starting in 2007...building to reducing emissions from diesel engines because they're bigger particulates, they cause more problems," she said. "It's building towards getting the older diesel engines off the road."

The Diesel Emissions Reduction Act was first introduced in 2010, citing the need to focus on the health of residents in relation to the exhaust emissions from diesel engines. The law specifically cites nitrogen oxides and particulate matter. The legislation set up \$7.7 million to replace or retrofit buses from 88 schools in 27 states. Financial assistance has since been extended through state grant and loan programs funded through federal means.

While the law affects all older diesel vehicles, school buses have gotten the lion's share of the attention as school districts grapple with the cost

of replacing aging fleets or forgoing compliance all together to opt for privatizing and contracting transportation out to a third-party. Several districts in the area, including Pleasant Hill use third-party company Student First, but South Lane is working to avoid giving up its control of student transportation.

The district has applied for grants that would help in the financing of the 20 new vehicles it needs to replace in order to be compliant by 2025.

"The EPA offers grants but on the grant, you can't just crush the buses," Bichsel said. "It can't be possible they stay on the road in Mexico or as someone's RV. You have to drill holes in the engine."

School districts can also opt to retro-fit their older buses for a cost of between \$20,000 and \$25,000 but according to Bichsel, that's not a viable option for South Lane because of the age of the buses. The district's oldest bus in from 1991, making a \$25,000 investment less than financially sound.

The 20 buses that would no longer be fit for the road in 2025 include 12 regular school buses and eight special education vehicles. The current cost of special education buses is approximately \$75,000. A larger bus, \$136,000. Whether the school district is going to replace the exact fleet is has now has not yet been decided but Bichsel noted that as individualized education for special needs students increases, it means a greater need

for special education buses and it's not unusual for the district's transportation yard to run those buses all day long.

"Ultimately, on Jan. 1, 2025 any buses that don't meet the requirement are redlined and we can no longer drive them," Bichsel said. "We and

the district are working very hard to make sure that doesn't happen. Our goal is to replace the buses on a timely manner in a way we can afford."

The 18 remaining buses in the district's fleet would not violate the regulations of the law and can remain on the road.

Oregon state parks offer sales

This holiday season, give your loved ones a year of unlimited access to Oregon's state parks with an annual day-use parking permit. From Dec. 1-31, holiday shoppers can buy the annual parking permit for only \$25--that's \$5 off the regular price of \$30. The permits are transferable from vehicle to vehicle.

"Give the gift that will inspire your family and friends to explore the parks and historical sites that make Oregon special," said Lisa Sumption, Oregon Parks and Recreation Department director. Shoppers can round out

their gift with holiday gear branded with the iconic Oregon State Parks shield, including hats, water bottles, dog bowls, ornaments and stickers. The holiday gear will be on sale during the month of December.

Gift gear and parking permits are for sale online at store.oregonstateparks.org/.

Parking permits are also sold at major OPRD offices, some state park friends' group stores and selected local businesses throughout the state. For a complete list of vendors, visit oregonstateparks.org/. Alternately, if you would

like to give back to the parks you love, consider becoming a member of the nonprofit Oregon State Parks Foundation. The Foundation is dedicated to raising funds to enhance the state park experience. Those who give a tax-deductible donation of \$45 or more will receive a 12-month day-use parking pass as a thank you.

Parking costs \$5 a day at 26 Oregon State Parks unless you have a 12- or 24-month parking permit or a same-day camping receipt. The 24-month pass is \$50.

Museum holiday tradition is back

Eight historic stained glass windows once again take center stage at the Cottage Grove Museum's annual holiday celebration: Stained Glass and Candlelight, on Saturday, December 2nd from 6:00 - 8:00 p.m. at the Cottage Grove Museum 147 N. H St., in Cottage Grove. The event is part of Cottage Grove's tree lighting ceremony and downtown holiday celebration.

Stained glass window historian Joanne Skelton will conduct a guided tour of the windows that will include highlights of details of the window designs. The tour begins at 6:30pm.

This year's celebration will feature music by local singer and songwriter Ron O'Keefe, who will perform songs he has written about Cottage Grove.

Visitors may also view the museum's holiday

exhibit, Holiday Bling from the Past, which features beautifully beaded, sparkly clothing and accessories from the museum's historic textile collection.

The stained glass windows will be illuminated throughout the holiday season on Friday, Saturday and Sunday evenings from dusk until 10pm beginning December 2nd through New Years Eve.

Stained Glass and Candlelight is free and open to the public. Light refreshments will be served.

For information, contact: Cottage Grove Museum Board President Becky Venice at 541-942-4269 or b_venice@msn.org, or TaraSue Hughart, Cottage Grove Museum Coordinator at 541-968-2254 or tarasuehughart99@gmail.com.

LORANE NEWS

Lorane Grange meets on December 7 at 7 p.m. Their Christmas Dinner and Open House is scheduled for Sunday, December 10 at 1:30 pm. Turkey, potatoes, gravy, and beverages will be provided. Just bring a side dish or dessert and a while elephant gift to exchange.

Rural Art Movie night is on Saturday, December 9 starting at 6 p.m. After a delicious soup dinner, prior to the main feature, the ukulele group will perform. Plan on attending this great evening.

Just a reminder that the food boxes are up in most organizations. When shopping, remember those in our community less fortunate.

The Angel Trees are going up soon at the Lorane Family Store and the Crow High School gym. The felt angels have suggestions or ideas for gifts items for children in our community whose family is in need of assistance. Be watching for the trees and let's help those children have a great Christmas.

Worship Directory

DRAIN:

HOPE U.M.C.
131 W "A" St. Drain, OR
541-315-1617
Pastor: Lura Kidner-Miesen
Fellowship & Song: 11:30am
Potluck Lunch: 12:00pm
Worship: 12:30pm

COTTAGE GROVE:

6th & Gibbs Church of Christ
195 N. 6th St. • 541-942-3822
Pastor: Aaron Earlywine
Youth & Families Pastor: Seth Bailey
Service times: 9am & 10:30am
Sunday School: 9am for all ages
Christian Education
Nursery for pre-k - 3rd Grade
www.6thandgibbs.com

Calvary Baptist Church

77873 S 6th St • 541-942-4290
Pastor: Riley Hendricks
Sunday School: 9:45am
Worship: 11:00am
The Journey: Sunday 5:00pm
Praying Thru Life: Wednesday 6:00pm

Calvary Chapel Cottage Grove

1447 Hwy 99 (Village Plaza)
541-942-6842
Pastor: Jeff Smith
Two Services on Sun:
9am & 10:45am
Youth Group Bible Study
Child Care 10:45am Service Only
www.cgcalvary.org

Center for Spiritual Living

Cottage Grove
700 Gibbs Ave.
(Community Center)
Rev. Bobby Lee
Meets Sunday 3:00 p.m.
cslcottagegrove@gmail.com

Church of Christ

420 Monroe St • 541-942-8565
Sunday Service: 10:30am

Cottage Grove Bible Church

1200 East Quincy Avenue
541-942-4771
Pastor: Bob Singer
Worship 11am
Sunday School: 9:45am
AWANA age 3-8th Grade,
Wednesdays Sept-May, 6:30pm
www.cgbible.org

Cottage Grove Faith Center

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

Delight Valley

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

First Presbyterian Church

3rd and Adams St
541-942-4479
Pastor: Karen Hill
Worship: 10:00am
Sunday School: 10:00am
www.cgpresbynews.com

Hope In The Grove

700 E. Gibbs • 541-520-9529
Pastor: Wayne Husk
Sunday services:
Worship: 8:30a
Coffee Fellowship: 9:30a
Bible Study: 9:45a

Hope Fellowship

United Pentecostal Church
100 S. Gateway Blvd.
541-942-2061
Pastor: Dave Bragg
Worship: 11:00am Sunday
Bible Study: 7:00pm Wednesday
www.hopefellowshipupc.com
"FINDING HOPE IN YOUR LIFE"

Living Faith Assembly

467 S. 10th St. • 541-942-2612
Pastor Rulon Combs
Worship & Children's
Church 10:00 am
Youth 180 Mondays 5:30-8pm

Non-Denominational Church of Christ

1041 Pennoyer Ave
541-942-8928
Preacher: Tony Martin
Sunday Bible Study: 10:00am
Sunday Worship: 10:50am & 5:30pm
www.pennyoyaravecc.com

Old Time Gospel Fellowship

103 S. 5th St. • 541-942-4999
Pastor: Jim Edwards
Sunday Service: 10:00am
Join in Traditional Christian Worship

Our Lady of Perpetual Help and St. Philip Benizi

Catholic Churches
1025 N. 19th St.
541-942-3420
Father: Joseph Hung Nguyen
Holy Mass:
Tue-Thur: 8:30am; Sat: 5:30pm
Sun: 10:30am
Confession: After daily mass,
Sat. 4-5pm or by appointment
St. Philip Benizi, Creswell
552 Holbrock Lane
541-895-8686, Sunday: 8:30am

St. Andrews Episcopal Church

1301 W. Main • 541-767-9050
Rev. Lawrence Crumb
"Church with the flags."
Worship: Sunday 10:30am
All Welcome

Seventh-day Adventist Church

820 South 10th Street
541-942-5213
Pastor: Kevin Miller
Bible Study: Saturday, 9:15 am
Worship Service: Saturday, 10:40
Mid-week Service: Wednesday, 1:00

Trinity Lutheran Church

6th & Quincy • 541-942-2373
Pastor: James L. Markus
Sunday School & Adult Education
9:15am
Sunday Worship 10:30 am
Comm. Kitchen Free Meal Tue & Thur
5:00pm TLC Groups
tlccg.com

United Methodist Church

334 Washington • 541-942-3033
Pastor: Lura Kidner-Miesen
Worship: 10:30am
Comm. Dinner (Adults \$5, Kids Free)
1st & 3rd Monday 5-6:00pm
umcgrove.org

"VICTORY" Country Church

913 S. 6th Street • 541-942-5913
Pastor: Barbara Dockery
Worship Service: 10:00am
Message: "WE BELIEVE IN MIRACLES"

Worship With Us!

Our Worship Directory is a weekly feature in the newspaper. If your congregation would like to be a part of this directory, please contact the Cottage Grove Sentinel @ 541-942-3325

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