

Whooping Cough cases reported in Douglas County

On Tuesday, May 15 Douglas County health officials announced the confirmation of several cases of whooping cough in county were connected to the recent outbreak in Lane County.

Known as pertussis, whooping cough is a respiratory illness that, among its symptoms, includes severe coughing that can be deadly for small children, infants and some seniors. One of the cases recently confirmed by DCH was within the North Douglas School District late last week.

All told, health officials say there have been fewer than 10 confirmed cases in north county but want residents in Douglas County to recognize the symptoms so that potential cases can be identified and treated.

"The most recognizable symptom is a really, really, really bad cough, said Douglas County Health Officer Dr. Bob Dannenhoffer. "It usually starts off like a cold, but this cough progresses to the worst cough you've ever heard."

Officials believe the whooping cough outbreak in Douglas County has been contained. However, the SCH wants the public to know that the best way to prevent the illness from spreading is to get vaccinated.

For more information on whooping cough or vaccinations, call Douglas County Health at 541-440-3571 or visit www.co.douglas.or.us/health.

Annual Free Fishing Weekend is June 2-3

It will be free to fish, crab or clam in Oregon on Saturday and Sunday, June 2 and 3. During these two days, no fishing licenses or tags (including a Combined Angling Tag or Columbia River Basin Endorsement) will be required to fish, crab or clam anywhere in Oregon for both residents and non-residents. Although no licenses or tags are required, all other fishing regulations apply including closures, bag limits and size restrictions.

"Free Fishing Weekends are a great opportunity for friends and families to get out and enjoy a day or two of fishing," said Mike Gauvin, ODFW recreational fisheries manager. "Trout, warmwater fish, ocean fishing, crabbing and clamming are just some of the great opportunities available."

Oregon State Parks are also free to visit on June 2-3, with day-use parking fees waived both days and free camping on Saturday, June 2 (an \$8 reservation is required to guarantee a camping spot).

ODFW and partners are also hosting a number of fishing events around the state. Volunteer angler education instructors will be loaning out fishing gear and giving tips on how to catch and clean fish at most events. For more details, visit www.myodfw.com/articles/2018-free-fishing-days-and-events.

Affordable housing options to be explored

By Caitlyn May
cmay@cgssentinel.com

The city of Cottage Grove announced last Friday that the Neighborhood Economic Development Corporation (NEDCO) is exploring the possibility of developing affordable housing communities in Cottage Grove.

According to city manager Richard Meyers, the developments (two in Cottage Grove and one in Florence) would consist of "cottage clusters" of Community Land Trust developments.

Community Trust makes homeownership affordable by separating the cost of the land from the structure of the house.

"Unlike renting, this allows moderate income community members to build equity and begin creating long-term financial stability," Meyers said in a statement posted to the city's website.

The land, according to the statement, would be held in a trust by NEDCO and the homes would be sold at affordable prices. The funding available for the project would require that the homes be sold at or below 80 percent the area's median income. Currently, NEDCO is assessing interest in homeownership in both Cottage Grove and Florence. Interested individuals can take a survey by visiting surveymonkey.com/NEDCOCLT. A public meeting is also scheduled for Tuesday, June 5 at 5:30 p.m. at the community center.

The developments would be the latest in the effort to create more affordable housing in Cottage Grove where the average price for a one-bedroom apartment can reach \$600. According to local real estate agents, it's not uncommon for renters to bring individuals interested in renting a unit along when giving their 30-day notice.

Hayden Homes has recently begun renting cottages in the new development located on Hwy. 99. However, the homes are strictly for rent and terms and prices have yet to be made public after representatives for

Hayden declined to comment.

Other housing projects tackling the housing crisis include Cottage Village Coalition, a group spearheading the development of a 13-house development under the guidance of non-profit organization, SquareOne Villages based in Eugene.

The community is expected to be made up of tiny houses and serve as a safety net for low-income individuals and those in danger of becoming homeless. The group is still securing funding for the project and most recently said it plans to present the project, located on Madison Ave., to the city this summer.

Low unemployment continued in April

Oregon's unemployment rate was 4.1 percent in March and April. For 16 consecutive months, the rate has been close to 4.1 percent, its lowest level since comparable records began in 1976. The U.S. unemployment rate dropped to 3.9 percent in April, from 4.1 percent in March.

In April, Oregon's nonfarm payroll employment dropped by 2,900 jobs, following a revised gain of 5,000 jobs in March. This

was Oregon's first monthly job decline in 16 months. The last decline was in December 2016.

In April, three major industries declined by more than 1,000 jobs. Retail trade dropped by 2,500 jobs, following a gain of 2,400 in March. Health care and social assistance cut 1,400 jobs in April following a gain of 800 during the prior two months. Professional and business services declined by 1,100 jobs and is now down 2,200 since its peak

of 244,900 jobs in November 2017.

Meanwhile, seven of Oregon's major industries added jobs in April, led by leisure and hospitality (+600 jobs) and construction (+500).

Over the past few years Oregon's economy gradually decelerated, from very rapid growth a few years ago, to moderate growth over the past year. In the past 12 months 29,600 jobs were added, which is a gain of

1.6 percent. This rate of growth is a slowdown from the more rapid expansion during the prior few years when Oregon's job gains peaked in mid-2015 at 3.7 percent.

Oregon's annual job gains have been above 1.6 percent since March 2013. Oregon had been adding jobs at a faster pace than the U.S., but now is growing jobs at the same pace as the nation, since U.S. jobs also expanded by 1.6 percent during the past 12 months.

Armory among locations hosting Memorial Day Events

Flag displays, a rifle salute, and flyovers will all be part of the 2018 Memorial Day Program, at Roseburg National Cemetery, on Monday, May 28, beginning at 11 a.m.

The National Anthem will be performed by Roxana Fulton. Additional songs will also be performed by the Oakland Choir.

A flyover consisting of the U.S. Air Force, 173rd Fighter Wing F-15 Eagle aircraft out of Kingsley Field will take place.

The program will include all branches of the military, advancement of colors

by veteran service organizations, and the District 12 Veterans of Foreign Wars Honor Team will provide the rifle salute and Taps will be played by Dave Davis.

Speakers will include Roseburg VA Director Dave Whitmer, Douglas County Commissioner Tim Freeman, and Tammy Tuner of the AWVA.

Attendance is expected to exceed 300. U.S. flags donated by veterans' families will be flown along the Avenue of Flags.


On Friday, May 25, at 10 a.m., students from Fir Grove will gather at the cemetery

and place U.S. flags on approximately 6,000 grave sites.

A Memorial Day event will be held in Cottage Grove on Saturday, beginning at 11 a.m. at the Cottage Grove Armory.

The event will include the presentation of the colors and is scheduled to be followed by a 21-gun salute at the veterans' park located on Main Street next to the covered bridge.


The public is invited to attend and there is no cost for the event.



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