

## RECORDS

## OBITUARIES

**MACKENSEN**—Ronald Lawrence Mackensen, 74, of Pleasant Hill, Ore., formerly of Cottage Grove, died May 25, 2018.

No service is planned. Arrangements by Smith-Lund-Mills Funeral Chapel in Cottage Grove.

in Cottage Grove.

**GATES**—James Rodney Gates, 88, of Elkton, died May 28, 2018.

Arrangements by Smith-Lund-Mills Funeral Chapel in Cottage Grove.

**GILMAN**—Barbara E.

Gilman, 90, of Cottage Grove, died June 1, 2018. A memorial service and reception will be held Thursday, June 14, beginning at 2 p.m. at Smith-Lund-Mills Funeral Chapel in Cottage Grove.

Interment will be in Sunndale Cemetery in Drain, Ore.

Arrangements in the care of Smith-Lund-Mills Funeral Chapel.

## Pertussis cases confirmed at N. Douglas Elementary

Douglas Public Health Network confirmed two cases of pertussis, also known as whooping cough, on June 1 at North Douglas Elementary School.

One case was confirmed in the beginning of May and another case on Thursday, leading public health officials to declare an outbreak of the highly contagious and serious illness.

When an outbreak is declared, Oregon Administrative Rule 333-019-0010 requires students who do not meet immunization requirements to be excluded from attending school: "Because pertussis is a restrictable, reportable disease, OAR 333-019-0010(3) requires that exposed, undervaccinated children be excluded from attendance at school and children's facilities (for 21 days after their last exposure) unless the local health officer determines that exclusion is not necessary to protect the public's health."

Fourteen North Douglas Elementary School students who are either not immunized, under-immunized or have not turned in records of immunization are subject to the exclusion period that starts today. Public health officials limited exclusions to under-vaccinated students in kindergarten through fourth-grade because they had overlapping exposures.

"We fully support parents' legal rights and choice to determine whether their children receive immunizations," said North Douglas School District Superintendent John Lahley. "However, we must obey the law that requires schools to exclude students when cases of pertussis are confirmed within our district. Local health officials determine the threshold for this process, and we must follow their directives."

If excluded students receive vaccinations, they may be allowed to return to school within the 21-day period.

Students affected by the exclusionary period have completed state testing for the year and will not be penalized for missing any remaining class projects or tests. The last day of school for students is June 14.

"Based upon a determination that is out of the control of parents and the district, school officials have determined to not penalize any of the excluded students with final projects

or test/exams," Lahley said. "Students will be graded based upon their performance up to the date of exclusion."

Numerous cases of pertussis have been identified in Lane County. Several schools in multiple school districts in that county have active outbreaks that have required exclusionary measures to be implemented.

It is important for the community to understand steps that can be taken to prevent further spreading of the disease. Douglas Public Health Network advises that students who have been vaccinated may still be at risk of pertussis. Teachers and staff should be on the lookout for symptoms.

Below are guidelines from the Oregon Health Authority.

**Pertussis facts from the Oregon Health Authority**

**What is pertussis?**

Pertussis, also called "whooping cough," is a respiratory disease caused by bacteria. It often causes serious problems in babies, but is usually milder in older children and adults.

**Who gets pertussis?**

Pertussis can occur at any age, but infants and young children are at the highest risk of life-threatening consequences. In Oregon, many pertussis cases occur in newborns that are too young to be immunized.

**What are the symptoms of pertussis?**

- The first symptoms - runny nose, sneezing, mild fever and cough - usually appear five to 21 days after a person is infected.

- After one or two weeks, the cough gets worse and usually starts to occur in strong fits of coughing. This may last six weeks or longer.

- In children, coughing fits are often followed by a whooping sound as they try to catch their breath.

- After coughing, infected people may have difficulty catching their breath, vomit or become blue in the face from lack of air. The coughing spells may be so severe that it is hard for babies to eat, drink or breathe.

**How is pertussis spread?**

- Bacteria live in the nose, mouth and throat, and are sprayed into the air when an infected person sneezes, coughs or talks.

- Touching a tissue or sharing a cup

can also spread the disease.

- Older adolescents, adults and parents who may have a mild illness can spread the disease to infants and young children in the household.

**Is pertussis dangerous?**

Pertussis can be very dangerous for infants who have the highest risk of pertussis-related complications and death.

**How is pertussis diagnosed?**

A doctor may diagnosis pertussis based on symptoms and laboratory tests.

**How do you treat it?**

Pertussis is treated with antibiotics.

**How do you prevent pertussis?**

- Immunization is the best way to prevent pertussis. Children need a series of five DTaP vaccinations starting at 2 months of age until kindergarten. Immunity wears off, so adolescents and adults need a Tdap booster shot.

The booster helps protect adolescents and adults from getting pertussis and spreading it to vulnerable infants.

Pertussis vaccines are required for school and child care attendance in Oregon.

Pregnant women should ask their health care provider about getting a Tdap booster in their third trimester of each pregnancy to protect their babies.

- Cover your cough and wash your hands.

- Keep babies away from anyone who is coughing.

**Is the pertussis vaccine safe?**

Yes, the vaccine is safe though there is a slight risk of problems such as a pain and swelling at the injection site or fever. But the risk of the disease is much more serious.

**Is there any pertussis in Oregon?**

Yes. In 2012 Oregon experienced a pertussis epidemic with the most cases seen since 1953.

**Where can I get more information?**

Ask your health care provider, contact Douglas Public Health Network at 541-440-3571 or visit the Oregon Immunization Program's website at [www.healthoregon.org/imm](http://www.healthoregon.org/imm).

Umpqua Community Health Center can provide vaccinations and has ample supplies.

## City of Cottage Grove information roundup

## League of Oregon Cities Housing Workshop

The League of Oregon Cities will be hosting a Housing Workshop in Cottage Grove tomorrow, June 7. The workshop will be from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. in the Cottage Grove Armory.

Communities that want to make progress on housing issues can benefit from technical assistance in a variety of areas, including land use, financing, tax credits, special needs housing and multi-partner collaboration efforts.

The workshop is the first step in assessing the particular needs, missing pieces and key opportunities that exist in various parts of the state. A series of eight workshops are being hosted across the state by LOC, AOC and OHCS for city and county leaders to help accomplish two goals:

To register for the workshop, contact the City Manager's office.

## RAIN Startup Conversation

On Thursday, June 14,

from 10 a.m. to noon, the Cottage Grove startup community is invited to a conversation about startups, innovation, and how to better support local business growth with RAIN Eugene mentors at a new location, 106 South 10th St. Any entrepreneur in the area that has an idea and is not sure where to go next, is encouraged to come by and take advantage of free consulting.

The Startup Conversations take place on the second Thursday of every month.

## I-5 On/Off Ramp Repaving

The Oregon Department of Transportation is repaving on- and off-ramps at the 174 Intersection.

Now through Thursday, crews will be working on the I-5 South bound ramps. The construction work will start at 7 p.m. and continue until 6 a.m., through Thursday.

## Police Department hires New Dispatcher

The Cottage Grove Police Department welcomed Gabriela Iboa Pierce on May 22. Pierce was hired as a Communications Specialist.

## New Planning Tech

The Public Works & Development Department hired a new Planning Tech, Eric Mongan. His first day on the job was June 1. Moirgan graduated from the UofO with a Masters in Planning.

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JERRY DEE COUCH  
1936-2018

Jerry Dee Couch passed away on May, 21 2018 in Roseburg, Oregon. He was born June 11, 1936 on a family farm near Powhattan, Kansas to Beauford Leon Couch and Myrta Beatrice (Hewitt). He had 3 older brothers, Neal, Afton, and Hugh who fought in WWII, while Jerry as the youngest helped manage the farm.

Jerry graduated out of a class of ten from Powhattan High School in 1954. He attended Baker University where he met and married Vicki Sheldon. He received his Bachelors in Education at Wichita State University, his Masters Degree at Emporia State University and his Doctorate at the University of Arkansas.

In 1971 the Couch family moved from Kansas to Oregon where Jerry became vice principal at Douglas High School. In 1976, he moved to Cottage Grove where he spent the rest of his career in various administrative positions. Jerry moved back to Roseburg in 2013 after being diagnosed with Alzheimer's.

Jerry loved the outdoors and spent many days camping and hunting with his family. Jerry is survived by his children, Dan (Joanne) Couch, Les (Linda) Couch, Christy Spencer and his grandchildren Rebecca, Joshua, Caleb, David, Michael, and Kidney.

An open house memorial service is planned for June 23 at Dan & Joanne Couch's home in Roseburg from 1 to 4 with story telling starting at 2:00 pm. Please RSVP by June 20th at [JerryCouch81@gmail.com](mailto:JerryCouch81@gmail.com).

Willa Battles  
1920-2018

Willa was born December 1, 1920 in Toledo, Ohio to Paul and Catherine Croninger. Willa had 2 sisters, Paulagene (Ledford) and Maryann (Mowry) both deceased. She attended school in Los Angeles, California. Willa was preceded in death by her loving husband of 58 years, Bill Battles, who died in 1998. Willa and Bill had six



children, Paul, Sandy, Judy, Bonnie, Bill and John. Willa and Bill lived in Plush, Cottage Grove, and Lakeview, OR as well as Winnemucca, Nevada and finally settled in Cambridge, Idaho. She and Bill loved to roam the western deserts searching for rocks, artifacts and also enjoyed fishing. After Bill passed, Willa moved to Thompson Falls, Montana to be near her son Bill and his family. After 10 years there, she moved to Springfield, Oregon to live the last 10 years of her life with daughter Judy. She was a skilled cook, baker and candy maker. She enjoyed attending her great grandchildren's sporting events. Willa loved to watch both Cubs baseball as well as the Springfield Police Department City softball team. She was made an honorary member of the Springfield Police department team at the age of 96. Willa rarely missed a game and could be heard coaching from the stands. She was a wonderful wife, mother and friend to many. Willa is survived by daughters Sandra Fox, Judy Kuskie and Bonnie Retherford and son Bill Battles. She had 13 grandchildren, 30 great grandchildren and 5 great great grandchildren. Special thanks for love and support from granddaughters Carla and Melissa and grandson in law, George. Willa met each day with a positive attitude and when asked how she was, always answered, "Fine, fine, fine. Pretty good for an old lady!" She will be missed. Her consistent kindness made us all a little bit better. Willa requested no services. You may make donations in her name to a charity of your choice or to Sacred Heart Hospice. Services are in care of Major Family Funeral Home in Springfield. Visit [majorfamilyfuneralhome.com](http://majorfamilyfuneralhome.com) to sign the on line guest book.