

SNOW from A3

Damage to local buildings included a four-foot hole punctured the Coiner Park bathroom roof, fallen awnings on Main Street and a collapsed CenturyLink utility shed. Several shed collapses on private property were also reported on social media.

Four of the city's wastewater pumps also stopped working, the circuitry of one frying from a power surge.

In response to the carnage, emergency services became inundated with calls and incidents.

"We definitely saw a spike in electrical emergencies, unintentional fire alarm activation, public assists and structure fires during the week of the storm," said South Lane County Fire and Rescue (SLCFR) Division Chief Joe Raade. "All three structure fires were related to the storm, and one produced a serious burn patient."

From Monday to Thursday the week of the storm, calls totaled at 44 welfare checks, 60 fire or medical and 10 burglary alarm responses. In all, 328 emergency and 875 non-emergency calls came in, bloating the phone lines to two or three times the normal amount.

Cottage Grove Police Chief Scott Shepherd was pleased with the response of his officers to the deluge of calls and praised the resourcefulness of the community at-large, but said he is looking to lessons learned from the event.

"I think we can always be better prepared," he said.

Power companies, too, scrambled to respond to a high volume of inquiries and outage reports. By Monday morning, Cottage Grove was completely without power save for those with generators. The city's



DAMIEN SHERWOOD/COTTAGE GROVE SENTINEL

Main Street traffic continued as normal in Cottage Grove by the end of the week, but large piles of dirt-covered snow greatly reduced parking space.

main electricity provider, Pacific Power, reported more than 3,300 Cottage Grove customers affected by the power outages and 44,000 throughout its coverage area, though the company's power was fully restored by the end of the week.

Unfortunately, for many residents, not everyone is on the same power grid.

"Anything that's annexed after 1976 is in EPUD's district," said Meyers.

The Emerald People's Utility District (EPUD) covers parts of Cottage Grove, mostly in the southern, western and eastern ends of the city and extends out several rural roads. Responding to the rural chaos presented a challenge.

EPUD General Manager Scott Coe described a perfect storm as the reason for all the destruction.

"We had two days of heavy rain that absolutely saturated

the soil," he said. "And then you put the heavy snow on top of the trees and the roots just gave up."

Those trees were the primary cause of all power outages. "There's an area by Cottage Grove Reservoir I counted for four miles," Coe said. "Every span had a tree or more through it and it's all trees that lost their root system because of soft soil and heavy snow."

Half of the company's substations lost their feeds due to the storm.

"To have five of our 10 substations down by Monday was unprecedented," Coe said.

Though thousands of customers initially lost electricity, as of press time only about 300 EPUD customers remained without power.

In other rural areas, Lane Electric crews had by Wednesday restored power to approximately 2,000 of the 10,130 households that had been with-

out power. Nearly a week later, 2,400 were still lacking service. Damage to the Dorena area was deemed "significant," and residents have been told to expect several more days without power. Though the company expect-

ed power to be restored to a majority of service areas by March 7, other areas may be without power into the weekend.

Without power, fuel supply to Cottage Grove was drastically limited. Most gas stations were forced to close or, if they did open, were significantly understaffed as their workers were unable to get in.

Pat Pannu, a manager of the Chevron stations in Cottage Grove, helped keep the business open through the event, opening business at 10:30 a.m. Monday and regaining electricity for pumping by 11:30.

"I think we were the only place within 20 miles that had power and had gas," Pannu said. Though fuel ran out four times, the stations continued service.

"I kept it open, but barely," said Pannu. "People have been pretty awesome, honestly, because it's been long waits."

Being one of the few fuel resources in town, a staff of 11 workers at the Gateway station and five by the Village Green station worked tirelessly to move customers through.

"I think we honestly handled it pretty well," Pannu said.

"My employees have been rock stars."

Outside city limits, rural residents were heavily impacted by the storm. Roads to outlying areas were crisscrossed with fallen trees and buried in up to two feet of snow. Hundreds of trees were reported downed in rural, forested areas, many tangled up power lines.

In addition to the dismal prospect on power restoration, water became an issue for Dorena residents. Many residents reported melting snow to flush sewage and wash.

Though power has been out in Dorena, landlines were still operable and residents found that, although they could not make outside contact, residents could communicate amongst themselves. This stroke of fortune provided a safety net of communal support as neighbors pooled resources and performed welfare checks.

Meanwhile, the Douglas County Sheriff's Office notified the water customers of Drain to ration water usage on Friday as power outages and pump issues

See SNOW conclusion 11A

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Mark Your Calendars!

MARCH

March 2019 Calendar

FOR A COMPLETE LIST OF WEEKLY EVENTS VISIT THE CALENDAR CHOICES PAGE NEXT TO THE COMICS PAGE.

1 - FRIDAY
5 p.m. American Legion BINGO! 826 W. Main Street For additional info call Jerry Kerns at 541-942-0234
6:30 p.m. First Friday Potluck, Healing Matrix

2 - SATURDAY
8 a.m. Cottage Grove High School Bird Walk South R Street, Cottage Grove OR. Park in the back parking lot of Cottage Grove High School (1375 S River Rd., Cottage Grove, OR 97424) along S. R Street.

3 - SUNDAY
4 - MONDAY
5 p.m. LEGO Club for Big People [ages 13 and up] Cottage Grove Community Center 700 E. Gibbs Ave
6:30 p.m. Bilingual Family Storytime Cottage Grove Public Library 700 E. Gibbs Ave

5 - TUESDAY
5 p.m. Shrove Tuesday St. Andrew's Episcopal Church & Our Lady of Perpetual Help Catholic Church OLPH 1025 North 19th St. \$5 pp or \$20 per family
5 p.m. 2019 Bridge Repairs Open House An informational meeting is scheduled at Stacy's Covered Bridge Restaurant with a Question & Answer session on the 2019 Bridge Repairs construction schedule and project information. The bridges included in the discussion are the: Main Street Bridge, Harrison Bridge, Silk Creek Bridge (on River Road) and the Swinging Bridge. Visit the City's Construction Corner for detailed and up to date project information.

6 - WEDNESDAY
8 a.m. Pillars of Effective Leadership - A Nonprofit Board Training Cottage Grove Community Center 700 E. Gibbs Ave
10:30 a.m. The Cottage Grove Community Center is hosting free AARP Tax Help every Wednesday through April 16th. Sign-up for tax help begins each Wednesday morning You may call 211 for more information.
WALK-IN SIGN UP. Everyone is welcome to use this free Tax Help from AARP.
2:30 p.m. Lego Club Cottage Grove Community Center 700 E Gibbs Ave
3 p.m. The Iron Giant (Discover Exoplanets Film Festival) Cottage Grove Community Center 700 E. Gibbs Ave

7 - THURSDAY
9 a.m. Ukulele Morning Jam Cottage Grove Public Library 700 E. Gibbs Ave

8 - FRIDAY
5:00 p.m. American Legion BINGO! 826 W. Main Street For additional info call Jerry Kerns at 541-942-0234

9 - SATURDAY
10 - SUNDAY

11 - MONDAY
6:30 p.m. Bilingual Family Storytime Cottage Grove Public Library 700 E. Gibbs Ave

12 - TUESDAY
6:30-11 p.m. Habitat for Humanity Open Mic Night, at Axe and Fiddle
6:30 p.m. Humane Society of CG, City Hall Sinclair Room.
6:30 p.m. Jazz Jam at The Cottage, The Cottage Events Venue, 2915 Row River Rd

13 - WEDNESDAY
10:30 a.m. The Cottage Grove Community Center is hosting free AARP Tax Help every Wednesday through April 16th. Sign-up for tax help begins each Wednesday morning You may call 211 for more information.
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3 p.m. Short Circuit (Discover Exoplanets Film Festival) Cottage Grove Community Center 700 E. Gibbs Ave
6:30 p.m. Cottage Grove Toast People (future Toastmasters Group) The Cottage Events Venue, 2915 Row River Rd

14 - THURSDAY
9 a.m. Ukulele Morning Jam Cottage Grove Public Library 700 Gibbs Ave
10 a.m. Startup Coffee Meetup Backstage Bakery and Cafe 25 S 7th St
6 p.m. Exoplanet Lecture with Steve Kilton [Discover Exoplanets] Cottage Grove Public Library 700 E. Gibbs Ave

15 - FRIDAY
5:00 p.m. American Legion BINGO! 826 W. Main Street For additional info call Jerry Kerns at 541-942-0234

16 - SATURDAY
9 a.m. - 5 p.m. Friends of Creswell Public Library book sale. Open to the general public. Free admission. Creswell Community Center, 99 S. 1st Street.
10 a.m. CG Historical Society Program, Topic: Granges: London & Dorena, Community Center
10 a.m.-1 p.m. Oregon Trail Lace Makers, Willamette Oaks Retirement Center, Eugene.

17 - SUNDAY
8-11 a.m. Community Breakfast, Masonic Lodge, 33322 Row River Rd. Adults \$6; kids free

Noon - 4 p.m. Occupy Eugene Medical Clinic, free at Washington Jefferson St. Park at 5th St., Eugene
Noon - 4 p.m. Friends of Creswell Public Library book sale. Open to the general public. Free admission. Creswell Community Center, 99 S. 1st Street.
6:00 p.m. London Grange Meeting

18 - MONDAY
6:30 p.m. Bilingual Family Storytime Cottage Grove Public Library 700 Gibbs Ave

19 - TUESDAY
7:30 p.m. Third Tuesday Poetry Night at Axe & Fiddle, hosted by Kalapuya Books at the Axe & Fiddle Public House 657 E. Main Street

20 - WEDNESDAY
10:30 a.m. The Cottage Grove Community Center is hosting free AARP Tax Help every Wednesday through April 16th. Sign-up for tax help begins each Wednesday morning You may call 211 for more information.
WALK-IN SIGN UP. Everyone is welcome to use this free Tax Help from AARP.
2:30 p.m. STEAM Cottage Grove Community Center 700 E. Gibbs Ave
3 p.m. Star Trek (2009) (Discover Exoplanets Film Festival) Cottage Grove Community Center 700 Gibbs Ave

21 - THURSDAY
9 a.m. Ukulele Morning Jam Cottage Grove Public Library 700 Gibbs Ave
5:30 p.m. Cottage Grove Area Chamber of Commerce Business Afterhours host by the Friends of the Cottage Grove Carousel at the King Estate Bottling Plant 1780 Carnegie Way (in the Cottage Grove Industrial Park)

22 - FRIDAY
5:00 p.m. American Legion BINGO! 826 W. Main Street For additional info call Jerry Kerns at 541-942-0234

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
24	25	26	27	28	1	2
3	4	5 Mardi Gras	6	7	8	9
10 Daylight Saving Time begins	11	12	13	14	15	16
17 St. Patrick's Day	18	19	20 Spring Begins	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

23 - SATURDAY
24 - SUNDAY

25 - MONDAY
1:30 p.m. Classic Movie Showing Cottage Grove Community Center 700 E. Gibbs Ave
5:30 p.m. Costume Workshop: Finding Parts [Discover Exoplanets] Cottage Grove Public Library 700 E. Gibbs Ave
6:30 p.m. Bilingual Family Storytime Cottage Grove Public Library 700 Gibbs Ave

26 - TUESDAY
6:30 p.m. Jazz Jam at The Cottage, The Cottage Events Venue, 2915 Row River Rd

27 - WEDNESDAY
10:30 a.m. The Cottage Grove Community Center is hosting free AARP Tax Help every Wednesday through April 16th. Sign-up for tax help begins each Wednesday morning You may call 211 for more information.
WALK-IN SIGN UP. Everyone is welcome to use this free Tax Help from AARP.
3 p.m. Wall-E (Discover Exoplanets Film Festival) Cottage Grove Community Center 700 Gibbs Ave
6:30 p.m. Cottage Grove Toast People (future Toastmasters Group) The Cottage Events Venue, 2915 Row River Rd

28 - THURSDAY
9 a.m. Ukulele Morning Jam Cottage Grove Public Library 700 Gibbs Ave
6 p.m. Wisdom Seekers Exoplanet Discussion [Discover Exoplanets] Cottage Grove Public Library 700 Gibbs Ave

29 - FRIDAY
5:00 p.m. American Legion BINGO! 826 W. Main Street For additional info call Jerry Kerns at 541-942-0234

30 - SATURDAY
31 - SUNDAY

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