



## Former North Eugene star Moore hired as next OSU pitching coach

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# Statesman Journal

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State Street will be widened to three lanes and a sidewalk will be added on the south side from The Yard Food Park to 46th Avenue. BILL POEHLER/STATESMAN JOURNAL

## Big things coming to State Street

### Improvements include widening, sidewalks

Bill Poehler Salem Statesman Journal | USA TODAY NETWORK

The busy stretch of State Street in east Salem is going to get major upgrades.

Marion County is undertaking a project that will widen and upgrade the busy stretch between The Yard Food Park and 46th Avenue in east Salem. It will add a third turning lane, a bicycle lane, swales and sidewalks on the south side of State Street.

Construction on the \$9 million project is tentatively

scheduled to take place in 2028.

Marion County received \$6.9 million in federal funds for the project and is matching that with \$2.1 million in county money.

The project includes signalized crosswalks with islands at the intersection with Elma Avenue — the current one there will be upgraded — and in

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Perrydale graduate Gavin Lieuallen hugs science teacher Brock Ferguson at Perrydale High's graduation on June 6 in Amity. Perrydale is one of 19 Oregon school districts with a 100% graduation rate in 2025. ELIZABETH MILLER/OPB

## Small school, big family

### In some Oregon school districts, 100% graduation is possible

Elizabeth Miller

Oregon Public Broadcasting

At Perrydale High School's graduation in early June, the Class of 2026 starts to stand up. But it's not time for diplomas yet.

Each senior holds a bouquet of roses and starts scanning the gym. This is Perrydale's rose ceremony, where seniors give a flower to people who have had an impact on their education.

Seniors step into the bleachers to find their friends or their families. Several graduates pull aside to hug and give their favorite science teacher a flower.

Some family members are already tearing up, watching the 17 graduates in Perrydale's senior class share a moment with their loved ones.

With barely 300 students, Perrydale is a small, rural school near Salem. Bigger schools couldn't pull off a moment like this. Pick any graduation

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## Affordability struggles hitting home for American seniors

### Data: Record number having difficult time with housing costs

Medora Lee  
USA TODAY

Buying a house feels unaffordable to millions of Americans, but so does maintaining ownership of a home, especially among seniors, data shows.

Fifty-four percent of the nation's 35 million mortgage-free homeowners are age 65

or older, a group that represents just over a third of all U.S. homeowners, according to housing research firm ResiClub. Among that population, roughly 64% own their homes outright, it said.

Yet, a record 12.5 million senior households, or more than a third of the population ages 65 and older, may be feeling "house poor," or spending a disproportionately large percentage of their monthly income on housing costs, data shows. In 2024, they spent more than 30% of their income on housing, and half of them spent more than 50%, according to U.S. census

data.

The government's general rule of thumb is to spend no more than 30% of gross income on housing, including rent or mortgage payments, property taxes, insurance and utilities to avoid being cost-burdened. Since 2019, older adult households also made up roughly half of all newly cost-burdened households, according to the Harvard Joint Center for Housing Studies.

"That's a sign that housing affordability challenges don't disappear at retirement age, and can be extra problematic for older adults on fixed incomes," wrote Christine

Healy, head of brand at CareScout, in a report.

"Even seniors who did everything right aren't safe," she wrote. "For homeowners who paid off their mortgages entirely, median housing costs have still climbed 35% since 2019 — about 1.5 times faster than their incomes grew."

Nearly every expense related to housing has skyrocketed since the pandemic, faster than the 28.67% overall pace of inflation. That makes it harder for seniors — even

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