

SCHOLARSHIPS: Return on time investment can be tremendous

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scholarship for virtually every situation, whether the student is applying to a four-year university, community college, or other post-high-school institution of learning,” said Kroytz. “We hope that a large percentage of the class of 2020 will apply.”

“Kids often believe that they don’t qualify for anything or that other students have better records or more need than they do,” said Kroytz. “Other than someone who truly has zero financial need, most students should apply.”

Another barrier, according to Kroytz, is the belief that the process is too long or cumbersome.

“With our new digital application we started last year, the process is greatly streamlined,” he said. “I think of it this way: If it takes a kid five hours to do the application and they win a \$500 scholarship, that’s a pay rate of \$100 an hour.”

Scholarships range from \$500 to over \$10,000.

The online application system allows students to fill out the relevant forms, attach essays (if required) and list activities and honors all in one place.

The window for applications is relatively short, according to Kroytz. “We condense the application time-frame to help kids really focus and get things done, rather than putting it off. The pizza night gives us a chance to get the seniors started and pointed toward the scholarships that fit them the best,” he said.

Applications are due Thursday, February 27.

Parents often ask Kroytz how they can help in the scholarship process. He encourages parents to sit down with their seniors and visit the GRO website (<http://shs.ssd6.org/sistersgro>) to get familiar with the scholarships and the application process. “Parents can help their kids keep moving forward by checking in with them along the way.”

A list of available scholarships with descriptions is posted on the GRO website. Students can’t access the application portal until February 3.

Kroytz would like seniors to stop by the office this week to register “so we know how much pizza to order.”

Seniors should bring their Chromebooks with them for the event.

“Our community’s generosity and support of our students continues to amaze me,” said Kroytz.

WINNERS: Five works selected as Peoples’ Choice

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the direction of Lola Knox.

This year, to everyone’s delight, the Art Committee awarded five People’s Choice ribbons. They are not ranked, but simply revealed.

Donald Wilson is a first-time winner for his watercolor, “O’Neill Butte.” He painted the sunrise scene with its russet canyon walls, vivid green foliage, and a cloud-filled blue sky, based on a photograph he shot at Yaki Point on the South Rim of the Grand Canyon. “We

took a 5 a.m. shuttle to be at that point when the sun came up,” Wilson said. This is his fifth year he’s participated in the annual exhibit, and it was fun for him to be part of the award group. “I consider myself an amateur, but I did sell the painting,” Wilson said.

Austin James Jackson’s “Afternoon Radiance” shows the often-photographed Koosah Falls on the McKenzie River, from a different perspective. The late afternoon, springtime shot captures the filtered sun penetrating the forest. The angle allows the viewer to see water cascade out, away from the 70-foot-tall cataract, rather than straight down.



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National Geo Odyssey was Dennis Schmidling’s entry.

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“Sunset” by Wendy Birnbaum was selected as a winner.

“It’s a scramble to get to that point, but it was worth it,” Jackson said. This is his third consecutive People’s Choice Award.

Sharing this three-peat with Jackson is Steve Mathews, whose entry entitled “Homage,” depicts Native American figure-heads, wolves, salmon, and feathers rendered in ink and colored pencil on a juniper slab.

Wendy Birnbaum’s “Sunset” profiles three

horses, printed on aluminum and offset against an angular sheet of rusted steel. Shot in the hills around Paso Robles, CA, the low light renders the horses almost as abstract lines. “Light is what you see, and the rest is in its own shadow,” Birnbaum said. This is her second People’s Choice Award. Two years ago, she shared an award for a collaborative work done with glass artist Susie

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