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# Rye says goodbye; on to new chapter

Well, here we are.

It has been a wonderful – if shorter than planned – journey.

After a little over a year of working as an actual, real-life, boots-on-the-ground reporter in Lane County – I’m still pinching myself that’s a thing that happened – I’m moving on.

This is my last week at *The Chronicle*. I’m sure some people are celebrating right now at the thought of not having to read my stories anymore.

I know there are some who will miss my voice, snark, and storytelling though, too.

Well, you probably won’t miss it, actually, since there’s a great and dedicated team at *The Chronicle* who know how to run a tight ship – and I can tell you without any hyperbole that they care deeply about the product they produce and are constantly hustling for it.

I remember the first time I heard this “hyper-local” ethos, the mantra our newsroom hammers home – and the first time I really understood it.

Hyper-local looks like you.

Sure, it comes through in meetings coverage to photo assignments to interesting features and, my personal favorite – the data-driven and in-depth enterprise reporting, but it all reaches the same conclusion: to share what’s being swept under the rug, give you the information you need and to cheer you on.

It’s unique. It’s differentiating.



**Ryleigh Norgrove**  
Reporter

It’s realizing that “refrigerator journalism” is serious business, not the tail end of a joke.

It’s about Sunday morning coffee, your grandkid’s graduation photo and that new business opening down the street.

It’s about recognizing our responsibility as reporters. If

we miss a story, we’re letting down our readers and the community. Because if we’re not doing it, who is?

At its core, hyper-local journalism is about trust.

When I joined the staff here, I felt the divide between our newsroom and the communities we aim to serve. It was deep, and your distrust was understandable: we were new.

We’d relocated our office from Creswell. We were trying something different.

We were new to Cottage Grove, new to Springfield, new to this hyper-local model that reaches across town (and party) lines.

I understood that, and I tried in small ways to start building it.

It takes a lot to do the job and to do it right. To cover and report on local government meetings, working weekends to shoot photos during Creswell’s Fourth of July parade in the morning and the fireworks show late at night or having “normal” days where I leave to write for an extra hour or two after 5 p.m.

There are many reasons we choose to become journalists (money and fame not among them), but for me the constant has been

the gratifying sense of community connection, telling untold stories and getting to know the people who make our community’s heart beat.

It started as a personal mission, but I’ve realized over the last year that it should be the mission of journalists everywhere: to build trust and foster relationships with readers.

And there’s no better place to do it than here. By community, for community.

I didn’t get to stay long, but in this short time I was able to connect with so many business and community leaders, from Creswell to Springfield to Cottage Grove – and I can easily sum up the welcome I received: heartfelt and kind.

I never expected to tear up at an unhoused man’s funeral.

To learn how to dig for documents.

To borrow a physical flashdrive to obtain those documents.

To laugh in moments that scared me and to reach out for connection even when it was hard.

To show up authentically, in all my mess, to write what I knew would matter.

To get nervous prepping for radio interviews and tough conversations.

To be proud of the pushback – to hear my name in the same sentence as “flashy,” “exaggerated,” and “sensationalist” – and know it meant I’d done something right.

This list will grow, with time, the longer I get to reflect on my year here.

Thank you for taking the time to read *The Chronicle* – whether it

is following our election coverage, keeping up with our local sports teams, or picking up an “old-fashioned” hard copy of a newspaper.

We’re still evolving – like any good, self-reflective mission does, but please don’t give up on local news; it’s never been more important.

And show your appreciation for those who continue to do this work, instead of tearing them down for doing it differently than you would have.

Like me, they pour their hearts into the work and they will continue to, for you, for our communities, long after I bow out.

It means the world to us in the newsroom that you continue to want to be informed and engaged, especially in a world increasingly detached from what’s true and real, in favor of what’s easy to believe.

I’m headed to New York University to pursue a masters degree in journalism.

It’ll be a big change. But *The Chronicle* has taught me that the future never arrives when we’re ready.

Thank you for the opportunity to be a part of this community. To learn, to grow, to be challenged, to live and breathe that hyper-local thing we’re always on about.

Because in the end, that’s my north star. I know it’s *The Chronicle*’s.

I hope it’ll be yours too.

*Ryleigh Norgrove was a reporter for The Chronicle.*

## Community support key to young theater scene

Pegasus Playhouse is a new theatre on Main Street in Springfield, but it is more than that.

I’ve been involved in some form of the performing arts for most of my 57 years. I was taught by some legendary humans how to dance, act and sing, and even did a little Broadway.

I grew up in New York, and after struggling through school, I found theater. It was a respite from trouble, whether that be an escape from home life, or just somewhere to belong.

Some kids slipped through the cracks, and I was one of them.

I learned and played and performed all over as much as I could, until, as fate would have it, a theatre I was working for needed a fill-in acting teacher. I loved it, and, crazy as it sounds, it loved me back.

The same theater, Plaza Playhouse, employed me as a jack of all trades, so I learned all the aspects of production, while teaching over 70 students a week. While I worked there, I landed my first national tour and left teaching to perform around the country for two years.

It was great, and yet, something was missing. Teaching was very healing, but stopping it meant looking at me, and here’s where my own healing began.

I dropped out of theatre arts, picked up a guitar, and began to look inside, to look for a



**Scott Frazier-Maskiell**  
Roast, Toast, & Boast  
nonprofit spotlight

life. The good news is, I found it. I found my wife, created a wee family (three kids) and wrote some songs on that guitar.

As you might have guessed, theatre came back to me. I dipped my toe back in as a different human after my own hero’s journey (thank you Joseph Campbell) and found it richer than before.

I acted in some great things, but teaching reached out again. So, I directed and taught again, this time writing some shows, too.

I worked part-time for other companies after moving here to Oregon eight years ago, and quickly found that if I wanted to do it full time, and really focus on other artists and their journeys, I would have to create my own company.

So Pegasus Playhouse was born.

Our first show, “Too Many Princesses,” was a feminist youth musical that challenged gender norms in the fairy tale world. It was the first all original musical I had written, we did it at the Ragizzono Theatre at Lane Community College.

For the next three years, we rehearsed and performed wherever we could. We rented the Wildish, rehearsed at various churches, performed everywhere from the alley near 5th Market, to a farm. In order to grow, we needed our own space, so after a few years of searching, we found our home.

In October 2022, we moved into 402 Main and began converting an old A3 building into a 120-seat theater. We opened our first show in December and haven’t stopped.

We’ve produced six shows since then, including premieres of three new shows. “The Fantasticks” is our present MainStage show and our next Young Audiences afternoon show coming on May 20, “Alice In Wonderland,” is a new, breezy show with a great cast. We teach all ages as well, even having an adult acting class on Sunday that is just a joy.

Camps and more are coming this summer: Hamilton Camp, Wicked Broadway Camp and Broadway Jr. for the youngsters.

What we need from the community is to come see our shows and bring your friends. Everyone who has been in our audience has been left wanting to come back.

Next, we are looking for sponsors in all forms because for art nonprofits companies and the arts in general, it takes a lot of community support. We are bringing more to what is already a thriving downtown, but like any new business, we need wind to get us off the ground.

If you have an interest in learning about acting, want to audition or have a youngster who wants to get involved, contact us. Our motto is “Empathy, Excellence, and a Little Insanity,” and we deliver.

*Scott Frazier-Maskiell is the founder and artistic director of Pegasus Playhouse. He was the key speaker at Monday’s Roast, Toast, & Boast, a monthly social networking event that spotlights nonprofits and women in business.*