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'Annie Get Your Gun' leads to laughs

BY SAM WRIGHT
 The Cottage Grove Sentinel

There's something about a western comedy that resonates with small-town American communities, and Cottage Theatre's production of 'Annie Get Your Gun' is no exception. As community members poured out of the theater after opening night on Friday, nothing but praises could be heard.

'Annie Get Your Gun' is a playful comedy set in the late 19th century. The production's executive director, Susan Goes, warns that the play may have a few politically incorrect elements to it due to the original play being written in 1946 and revised in 1999. However, there were never any truly cringe-worthy moments, and the play itself served as an underdog story of a woman becoming empowered and respected (as much as a play set in the 19th century could be).

The musical follows the story of a woman who meets a champion marksman working in show business and upstages him, entering her own superstardom as the story takes the audience on a ride of business rivalries and love lost and found. The story revolves around Annie Oakley, who struggles through the everyday oppressions of a woman, while the whole play's attitude is masked by quaint western charm that may temporarily be interpreted as southern charm.

Annie is portrayed by Stephanie Philo Newman, who brings the rambunctious and independent character to life. Her first number, "Doin' What Comes Natur'lly" perfectly introduces the character of Annie and



photo by Matt Emrich

Newman and Fairbairn stole the hearts of the audience with their hilarious love-hate relationship.

her siblings (portrayed by Katie Fairbairn, Isaiah Techenor and Maia Willhour). The song establishes that Annie is uneducated and poor yet completely rich in personality and emotion. While she's not a completely rounded person in the eyes of the more posh, she's a very emotionally relatable character: hopeful and satisfied by the simple joys of life. Annie's counterpart in the story, Frank Butler, is a perfect compliment to our heroine.

Ward Fairbairn contributed heavily to the attitude of the "Putnam County Spelling Bee," and his success remains consistent in "Annie Get Your Gun." Fairbairn plays the leading male character Frank Butler. Frank is a celebrity of sorts. He's dashing, confident, dreamy yet humble, and a successful marksman traveling the country and challenging anyone to a shooting match. Throughout the play, Annie is his undoing and also his salvation. When Frank and Annie first meet, Annie is unaware of Frank's

true identity while she unknowingly insults him. The dramatic irony is quintessential of the silly humor that is ubiquitous throughout the play. However, the core values of the play are found within the relationship of Frank and Annie.

Ethics aside, "Annie Get Your Gun" is a production that finds its success through the impeccable efforts of the entire crew. A critic's eye is constantly seeing through the actor's emotions, but it is impossible to see through Newman, as her emotions directly reflect her passion for acting. Annie's smile is Newman's true smile because there is no lie in the facial expression. She is truly passionate about every step she takes and every word she says on stage. There was not a single aspect of the production that appeared to be given less attention than another. The music, costumes, direction and acting from all parties shows absolute proof that there is no such thing as slacking at the Cottage Theatre.

LORANE COUNTRY NEWS

BY LIL THOMPSON
 For the Sentinel

There are so many exciting events happening in our district schools! Did you know there is a Family Resource Center, that students attended the Math Fair at LCC last week, that the green schools club from Crow Middle/High School traveled to Salem for a summit, the Drama Club received a \$100 grant for lighting or will present two plays in May? Events can be checked out on the district website, located at <http://www.cal.k12.or.us/>

Today, Wednesday, April 13 there are two important meetings: One is for parents in regard to eighth grade-recognition, a meeting that begins at 6:30 p.m. in the Library and is planned to discuss and share thoughts and ideas.


At the same time, senior parents will meet in Mrs. Hohnstein's room, and attendees are asked to have at least one parent at this meeting that will cover graduation and following party plus other information about your senior. Lorane Grange Spaghetti Dinner and Bingo is this Saturday, April 16 starting at 5:30 p.m. with bingo beginning at 6:30 p.m. This will be the last one until September.

Applegate Elementary will host the Distinguished Service Awards this year on Thursday, April 21 at 7 p.m. in the Applegate gym. The Applegate Book Fair is April 25 through April 29. Check with the office at 541-935-2100 for times open to the public.

The annual Grandparents

Tea at Applegate Elementary is scheduled for Thursday, April 28 at 1 pm. Parents, friends, and grandparents are all welcome to come enjoy tea and a talent show. Parents are also collecting items for the classroom baskets that will be auctioned at the tea, and those interested can check with the classroom for the class theme.

Larry Avery from Triangle Grange performed at the RAC/Lorane Grange Talent Show and has invited anyone who performed to join in their talent show this Saturday, April 16 at 7 p.m. There is a \$3 gate donation for the local Triangle Food Box for those coming to enjoy. Those interested may call Avery at 1-541-927-3552.



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Cottage Grove Community Hospital Auxiliary is hosting an

Italian Meal Extravaganza

Friday, April 22nd 6-8pm • Doors open at 5pm
 Choose pasta with chicken or meatballs, with alfredo or marinara sauce, Caesar salad, French bread and dessert, coffee and a glass of wine included.

Our Lady of Perpetual Help Catholic Church
 1029 N 19th St – Cottage Grove

Ticket Prices: \$20 Tables of 6-\$100 Tables of 8-\$140

Tickets available at the front desk of CG Community Hospital or The Bookmine - 319 E Main St Cottage Grove

Come enjoy a great dinner and a silent auction!

All proceeds will help the Auxiliary purchase medical equipment for the Cottage Grove Community Hospital & Clinics.