

Back to school:

Students throughout South Lane School District kick off 2016-17 school year

Kinsley Dawson is picked up by her mother, Ashley, after her first day at Latham Elementary school. The school was bustling with parents after a long summer, like all other schools in South Lane School District.

The district has recently introduced new programs including a new pre-school program called Preschool Promise. SLSD will have two classrooms in the district for the program. The district also plans to implement an online program called South Lane Online! It caters to grades 3-12 with over 190 different classes to choose from. South Lane Online! will also help with extracurricular activities such as clubs and elective courses.



photo by Sam Wright

'A Chorus Line' opens Oct. 7 at CT

Cottage Theatre continues its 2016 season in October with one of Broadway's most enduringly popular musicals. 'A Chorus Line,' billed as a "sensational showcase of dancers, hopes and dreams," is the sixth longest-running Broadway musical of all time. Cottage Theatre's production of the musical opens Oct. 7 and runs for four weekends through Oct. 30.

'A Chorus Line' takes place on a bare stage during the final grueling audition for eight spots in a new Broadway musical. The theatre is full of professional dancers, all of whom are longing for their next chance at the big time. As the gypsies' hopes pour out in song, words, and dance, their stories become a powerful metaphor for all human aspiration. The memorable musical numbers, including "I Hope I Get It," "The Music and the Mirror," and "What I Did for Love," capture the very essence of American Musical Theatre.

Cottage Theatre's production of 'A Chorus Line' is directed and choreographed by Lanny Mitchell. Music direction is by Mark VanBeever, lighting design by Amanda Ferguson and costumes by Rhonda Turnquist. The large ensemble cast includes Stephani Anderson, Rafael Batya, George Butterick, Josh Carlton, Kyle Carrillo-Enders, Autumn Carter, Chris Carter, Ryan Dallimore, Eric Elligott, Breanna Estrada, Amanda Ferguson, Nicole Garibay, Joel Ibanez, Ariel Long, Marcee Long, Lanny Mitchell, Kathryn Pearson, Anna Petrick, Jessica Rossi, Janet Rust, Natalie Tichenor, Heidi Turnquist and Kory Weimer.

Performances are Thursday, Friday and Saturday evenings at 8 p.m. and Sunday afternoons at 2:30 p.m.

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

LCC open house

An open house at Lane Community College's Cottage Grove campus aims to offer a glimpse of the variety of personal enrichment classes and career training opportunities offered in Cottage Grove on Tuesday, Sept. 20 from 4-6:30 p.m. at 1275 S. River Road. Classes can also be viewed at www.lanec.edu/cottagegrove, and those seeking more information can call 541-463-4202 or email cg@lanec.edu.

97, 98 on tap for 912

Measures 97 and 98 will be discussed at the next meeting of the Cottage Grove 912 Project on Monday, Sept. 19 at 6:30 p.m. at Stacy's Covered Bridge Restaurant. Rebecca Tweed, Statewide Campaign Coordinator for No on 97, will speak on Measure 97, and Joy Marshall, Lane County Director of Stand for Children, will speak on Measure 98. The meeting is open to the public.

Patriots Pen essay contest

Each year more than 132,000 students in grades 6-8 enter the VFW's Patriot's Pen youth essay contest. The first-place winner from each state competes for national awards totaling \$54,500, with each first-place state winner receiving a minimum of \$500 at the national level. The national first-place winner wins \$5,000 and an all-expense-paid trip to Washington, D.C.

The Patriot's Pen program is open to students in grades 6-8 (on the Nov. 1 deadline) who are enrolled in a public, private or parochial school or home study program in the United States and its territories.

The essay contest encourages young minds to examine America's history, along with their own experiences in modern American society, by drafting a 300- to 400-word essay, expressing their views based on a patriotic theme chosen by the VFW Commander-in-Chief. This year's theme for the Patriot's Pen Essay is "The America I Believe In."

For more information, visit the VFW website at vfw.org/PatriotsPen

or contact the local VFW post at 541-942-7099.

Voice of Democracy essay contest

Each year, nearly 40,000 high school students from across the country enter to win a share of \$2 million in educational scholarships and incentives awarded through the VFW's Voice of Democracy audio-essay competition.

The VFW established the Voice of Democracy program (VOD) in 1947 to provide students grades 9-12 the opportunity to express themselves in regards to democratic ideas and principles.

The Voice of Democracy Program is open to students in grades 9-12 (on the Nov. 1 deadline), who are enrolled in a public, private or parochial high school or home study program in the United States and its territories.

The national first-place winner receives a \$30,000 scholarship paid directly to the recipient's American university, college, or vocational/technical school. Other national scholarships range from \$1,000-\$16,000,

and the first-place winner from each (state) VFW Department wins a minimum scholarship of \$1,000 and an all-expense-paid trip to Washington, D.C. This year's theme for the Voice of Democracy Audio Essay is "My Responsibility to America."

For more information, visit the VFW website at vfw.org/VOD or contact the local VFW post at 541-942-7099.

Cosplay meetup

Delight, located at 538 Main Street in Cottage Grove, will host a free Anime/Cosplay Meetup on Saturday, Sept. 17 from 1-4 p.m.

Guests can play anime-themed "Superfight" — a party game of super powers and super problems. The game is all about arguing with friends about ridiculous fights.

Mann at Brewstation

New York folksinger George Mann will bring songs from the last century of labor and social activism and his new CD to the Brewstation in Cottage Grove on Wednesday, Sept. 21 from 7-9 p.m. There is no cover charge, though donations are accepted.

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