

HIGH SCHOOL SUCCEEDS AGAIN WITH R&B REVUE

By Sam Wright
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It was the first time that I had the privilege of attending Cottage Grove High School's Rhythm and Blue Revue, and a privilege it most certainly was.

The jazz and blues production featured 21 different numbers performed by students, teachers and even CGHS alumni.

All-time favorites from musicians such as Stevie Wonder, "Tears for Fears," The Beatles and even Elvis made up this montage of powerful musical performances.

Laurie Hammond started the first wave of goosebumps by performing "Walking in Memphis" by Marc Cohn. The soothing and upbeat tempo was a strong warm-up for what was to come.

"I Wanna Hold Your Hand" followed Hammond's performance. The Beatle's hit song was performed by Chloe Leczel while Josh Ireland played the guitar. Leczel's voice was reminiscent of the film Across the Universe, the Beatles-themed musical featuring Jim Sturgess, such that Leczel's performance could've fit somewhere in the film itself.

Perhaps one of the more epic performances came from the CGHS vocalist group Microphonics, consisting of Corra Branstetter, Larah Mueller, Josef Pifer, Tanner Howe, Alex Istudor, Sadirah Sheffield, Alicia Humphries and Kyle Wilson. The group performed Queen's Bohemian Rhapsody, which stirred the audience with such a popular and familiar tune.

To end the first set, student Matthew Goes teamed up with music educator Keith Kessler to

perform "Soul Man" by The Blues Brothers. The duo gave a hilarious performance that resurrected the late John Belushi and paid tribute to Dan Aykroyd. The dancing of Goes caused a laughing riot in the audience.

An extremely well-chosen song for the start of the second set was performed by Neil Thurston who was backed by the CGHS dancers and the entire ensemble. Thurston sang "Some Kind of Wonderful" by Grand Funk Railroad. Thurston's voice fit beautifully with the band and put the audience in the mood for another round of great music.

Kyle Carrillo-Enders, a familiar face around the Cottage Theatre, burst onto the stage to perform "Hound Dog" by the King himself. While I expect it's difficult for any teenager to replicate the deep voice of Elvis, Carrillo-Enders left everything on the stage, including his rhythmic skill and passionate dancing.

The Jazz Band, along with Ian Miller, Reid Center and David Richards, performed the instrumental epic "Moanin'" by Charles Mingus. Quite possibly the longest song of the performance, the band displayed instrumental prowess and great rhythmic coordination.

The penultimate performance (which quite possibly stole the show) came from the fingers of Josh Ireland on the guitar. Cora Branstetter brought the fast-paced lyrics, but it was Ireland who outdid himself on the guitar for Chuck Berry's "Johnny B. Goode."

This was the 16th annual performance for the music department at Cottage Grove High School. If this performance gave any indication of what is to come, there should be no end in sight for the Rhythm and Blues Revue.



The Metropolitan R&B Revue was held for the 16th time at Cottage Grove Theatre. The event is the high school performing arts' department's only fundraiser throughout the year and expects to earn approximately \$8,000.

Homes Continued from A1

Square One has completed a similar project in Eugene aimed specifically at the homeless population. According to Cottage Village Coalition, the partnership allows the local group to operate under Square One, a deal that has seen a \$200,000 grant into fruition.

"We are very excited to be working with the Cottage Village Coalition in Cottage Grove on this project," said Dan Bryant, Executive Director of Square One Villages. "This will not only benefit residents of Cottage Grove who need affordable housing, it will also help us to develop our model for rural communities around Oregon."

The developing model raised eyebrows at the community meeting held by Cottage Village Coalition. Representatives from the nonprofit noted that, while they were happy to take questions, some concerns raised by audience members could not be answered due to the fluidity of the situation and the unprecedented project.

Because Square One's previous development

was focused solely on homeless individuals, the rules did not directly translate to the village planned for Cottage Grove.

Ideal residents for the local development, according to the coalition, are individuals at risk of becoming homeless because they cannot raise both first and last month's rent or who rely on SSI benefits to get by.

However, because of the difference, exact policies concerning rent, eviction, policing, electricity, sewer and other items have not been hammered out. The application process for the village has yet to be completed as well, but coalition members told residents it would be a difficult process that would involve a background check. A press release on the matter stated, "A site on Madison street has been under consideration but the group has decided to keep the search open. The terms of the grant require a site to be secured by August with construction to be completed by the end of 2018."

Lorane County News

Submitted by Lil Thompson

This week, February 27 to March 3, is Read Across America in conjunction with Dr Seuss Birthday. Volunteers are still needed to read with Applegate Elementary students. If interested, call Megan Leturno at school, 541-935-2100.

Congratulations to all "Panthers in the Spotlight", Elly June Nix, Caden Cooper, Aubreann Hardegger, Nancy Ramirez, and Jade Beaver for exceptional work in grades 1-5 respectively.

RAC/Lorane Grange Talent Show is coming in April. Contact either Lisa Livelybrooks or Lil Thompson to sign up.

Lorane Grange meets this Thursday, March 2 at 7:00 pm. Several items on the agenda.

March is open enrollment month. If you like small class size with more student attention in a

great learning environment, you might consider Crow-Applegate-Lorane school district as the right place for your child. Band and music are a part of the curriculum, interesting high school electives and all the classes meet state requirements for graduation and college. Just go to the District office to find out more information or call 541-935-2100.

Lots of fun at the spaghetti dinner & bingo evening last Saturday. No one won the progressive blackout, so the amount grows. There were actually more people for bingo than dinner. Next dinner & bingo is Saturday, March 18 due to a Crow Teen Dance country club "66" Reunion at Crow Grange. Also, that is the beginning of spring break.



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