

Grant will fund narrative for Historic Downtown Walking Tour

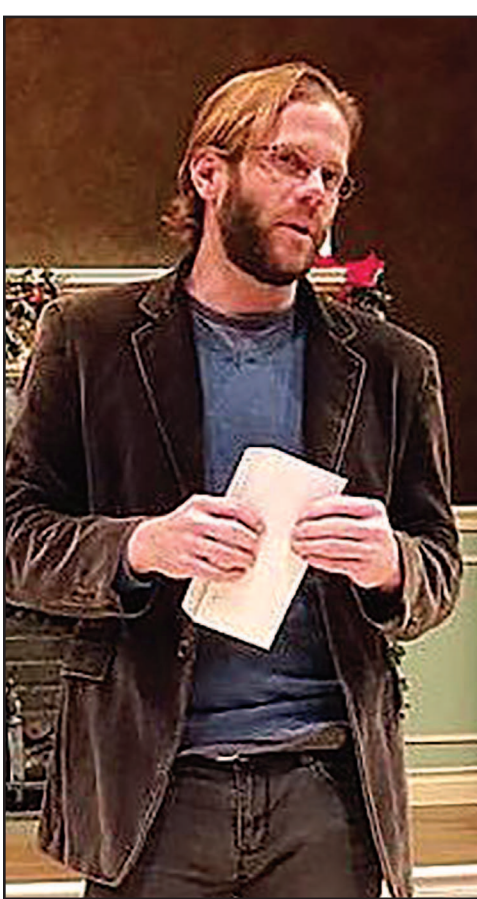
A grant from the Lane County Cultural Coalition will fund the completion of a narrative that aims to help locals and visitors navigate Cottage Grove's Historic Downtown Walking Tour.

Local writer Jon Stinnett, who served as editor of *The Sentinel* from 2006-2016, accepted the \$2,500 grant from the Coalition at an awards ceremony held Wednesday, Dec. 12 at Oregon Contemporary Theatre in Eugene. Other Cottage Grove winners included Bohemia Mining Days which earned \$1,321.50 for the themed-play "Diamonds in the Rough" and The Opal Center which received \$850 for "Got Rhythm," a senior project.

During remarks that eve-

ning, Stinnett explained that he had recently been approached by officials with the City of Cottage Grove and the Cottage Grove Main Street Program, who lamented that the Historic Downtown Walking Tour was not reaching its potential to engage locals and downtown visitors and offer details about the 26 buildings described in the tour.

"The tour basically consists of signs on each of the buildings," Stinnett said, "and the signs aren't widely read. The City thought that a narrative that guides participants through the tour could be a nice attraction downtown, one that could also promote tourism and educate participants about



COURTESY PHOTO

Cottage Grove writer Jon Stinnett is currently writing the narrative that will be used for the walking tour in downtown's Historic District.

key aspects and figures in Cottage Grove's history."

Stinnett began developing the narrative, which tells the story of Joseph Mayweather, a fictional character who interacts with some of Cottage Grove's very real historical figures. As the story goes, Mayweather was apprenticed to Charles Hamilton Wallace, a

Presbyterian preacher and the mason responsible for many downtown buildings, and later to John Hunzicker, famed local architect and designer of several downtown structures including the Cottage Grove Armory.

In the narrative, Mayweather returns to Cottage Grove in the late 1920s after a long absence and notes the many changes that have since transformed the downtown corridor.

"The narrative will detail two key periods in Cottage Grove's history, and it should serve as a welcome attraction

for downtown visitors and a fun, engaging way to learn about why many downtown buildings are a special part of that history," Stinnett said.

The Joseph Mayweather Project has received the financial support of Cottage Grove's Historic Landmarks Commission and the Cottage Grove Community Foundation.

Stinnett said he hopes to have the narrative completed by the summer of 2019, in time for the arrival of warm-weather visitors to the community.

To learn more about the Joseph Mayweather Project, contact Stinnett at 541-731-9284.

Nominations being sought for Oregon's Regional Teacher of the Year 2020

The Oregon Department of Education, in partnership with the Oregon Lottery, has announced the continuation of Oregon Regional Teacher

of the Year to honor exemplary educators in every region of the state.

Nominations are open statewide through Jan. 31,

2019.

Teachers will then submit their applications by March 29, 2019.

Oregon Education Service Districts will select a winner from their region and will honor Regional Teachers of

the Year across the state in May 2019.

Finally, in September 2019, one of the Regional Teachers of the Year will be named the 2020 Oregon Teacher of the Year.

Regional Teachers of the

Year will receive a cash prize of \$500 and will be celebrated across the state.

The 2020 Oregon Teacher of the Year will receive a \$5,000 cash prize (with a matching \$5,000 going to their school) and serve as a

spokesperson and representative for all Oregon teachers.

Anyone can nominate a teacher. All Oregonians are encouraged to nominate their favorite teacher today at oregonteacheroftheyear.org.

LORANE NEWS

• Thursday, Dec. 20, the CAL School Board meets at Lorane Grange at 7 p.m. Executive session is prior to the morning meeting.

• This Friday, Dec. 21 is half day prior to the beginning of winter break. There will be parties in the elementary grades at the end of

the morning.

Elementary school will be released at 11:50 a.m. and CM/HS at noon with no afternoon art classes.

• School is out for break from Friday until Monday, Jan. 7, 2019.

• Crow Middle School AG Mechanic's class has made

fun art from horse shoes at a reasonable price.

If interested, call the office.

• As you wind up your shopping, please remember those less fortunate.

There is still time to help and food boxes are in several organizations, plus Fami-

ly Store and Grange.

Beginning on Thursday, food boxes will be put together for delivery.

• Wishing everyone a very Merry Christmas to all.

Enjoy the holidays and please drive safely.

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