

CGHS yearbook honored with another award

By Zach Silva
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Success has become part of the process for the Cottage Grove High School yearbook team.

For the fifth time in the last three years, Lion Tracks, the school's yearbook, has brought home a national award. At the end of January the Columbia Scholastic Press Association (CSPA) handed out their annual awards to high school publications. Cottage Grove students won two "Gold Circle Awards" which are awarded for "superior work by student journalists."

There were over 5,300 entries from around the country for 91 categories and 747 winners this year. CGHS received the certificate of merit in the multi-page spread (completed by Mikayla Baird, Madison Boyer and Jackson Perkins) and the multi-page sport spread (Perkins, Jordan Hagewood and Emma Sexton). In 2018 the Lions brought home a first place and third place award for the people spread, single spread category and in 2017 a certificate of merit for the table of contents.

Northwest Scholastic Press, an organization that puts on events and helps student journalists, noted that CGHS was one of three Oregon schools to win a CSPA Gold Circle award this year. CGHS was the only yearbook winner of the group.

"I feel like it's really cool to win an award but it's also

different because I never thought that I would be winning a national award for something like this," said CGHS junior Mikayla Baird who was a photographer for one of the winning spreads.

The CGHS yearbook has not only been recognized through awards but their pictures and spreads have been incorporated on their publisher's website and in various handouts. They have become the standard that other schools aspire to. But to get to where they are today, it started with raising their own standards.

"It's a lot of practice and a lot of, 'No, this isn't good enough.' For me, I know that would have been hard in high school to be told all the time that's not good enough. But these kids, they take it and do better," said CGHS yearbook teacher Chris Wells. "For me, it's a step into real life where you're going to have bosses or even spouses that say, 'Hey, this isn't good enough, you need to up your game.' That rejection isn't final but a chance to do better."

After a former yearbook teacher's schedule was changed, Wells took over yearbook during the 2013-14 school year. While he calls that first book he worked on "atrocious," he has continued to grow as he gives more and more power to the students each year.

"Every year I can give a little more away, and give more away and last year I took a step back and this year my editors, they handle a lot of the inner-workings of stuff,"

he said.

Part of the growth stems from the fact that across the yearbook classroom, there is an understanding that this is not just their homework but this is a moment in time that they are sharing with their peers.

"There are going to be kids and grandkids looking at this. This is going to be at somebody's wedding, this is going to be at somebody's funeral and you've made them memorable," said Wells. "You've helped people remember them and it spans distance and time and that's what is kind of cool."

For senior editor in chief

Miranda McCasline, who has been involved with the yearbook since her freshman year, that is exciting but also comes with a sense of pressure to continue to perform at a high level.

"I feel like the last couple of years we've done really well and especially last year's book... So coming into this year there were some nerves," said McCasline. Adding, "It's crazy because I feel like a lot of the school doesn't really know like how awesome this is and how crazy cool this is. But it's so cool to be a part of that and that I get to look back in years and say, 'Hey, we won an award for this.'"

First Responders Brunch



DAMIEN SHERWOOD/COTTAGE GROVE SENTINEL

From left: Lane County Sheriff's Office (LCSO) Deputy Guy Peace, Oregon State Police Trooper Brian Smith, Cottage Grove Police Department Officer Jason Cross, LCSO Deputy Mike Fauver, LCSO Sergeant Colt Parker and South Lane County Fire & Rescue Captain Brad Mabie pose with their awards at the 3rd Annual First Responders Brunch at the Elks Lodge on Sunday. Awards were given to first responders in recognition of their service to the city and surrounding area.

Friends of CG Carousel to Speak in Springfield Feb. 28

Willamalane Parks and Restoration District will host a 90-minute presentation on Northwest Carousels (I-5, The Trail of Carousels) during a presentation that will consist of three parts.

The presentation will take place Thursday, Feb. 28, at the Springfield Adult Activity Center, beginning at 2:30 p.m. Darrell I Jabin will give the world history and origination of carousels, followed by Wendy Kirby, originator and curator of the Albany Carousel,

who will discuss the successful completion and operation of this carousel. Friends of the Cottage Grove Carousel will talk about the restoration of the 36-foot, 1929 Hershall carousel with menagerie animals.

It is a free presentation open to the public. The adult activity center is located at 215 West C St. in Springfield.

Story Submitted By
Don Williams, Cottage Grove Carousel Project



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@ THE COTTAGE GROVE PUBLIC LIBRARY IN THE RECEPTION ROOM

The Cottage Grove Sentinel will be hosting a free workshop on the ins and outs of writing Public Service Announcement (PSA) or Press Release (PR). The class will be held in the Reception Room at the Cottage Grove Public Library on Saturday, Feb. 16, from 1 to 2 p.m. It will cover the "Five Ws" of what to include in a press release, the best way to send them, how to format and send photos to include with press releases, and how to utilize the newspaper - locally and beyond - as a resource for sharing information about your organization, club, event or nonprofit group or project.

Press releases are an effective way to inform the community about an event, fundraiser or meeting that is a free service to the community.

The workshop will be hosted by Sentinel managing editor Ned Hickson, and news team members Damien Sherwood and Zach Silva, along with General Manager Gary Manly.

A tips sheet will be handed out, so if possible RSVP by calling the office at 541-942-3325 to ensure there will be enough materials. An RSVP is appreciated but not required.



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