

Pageant *from A1*

of development.

Cottage Grove High School has been a participant since 1995 and is now among 16 area high schools which have to date raised \$6.3 million for Children's Miracle Network. Cottage Grove alone has raised more than \$300,000 as it now wraps up its 24th year of committing to the tradition.

Though raising funds for children's medical needs receives popular support, Sharps wants to dispel a myth.

"The one thing we don't support is patient bills," she said. "Having a baby in the NICU (Neonatal Intensive Care Unit) for months on end is very, very expensive and if we were to do that, we wouldn't be able to serve as many people as we do in terms of the items that we purchase."

The funding is used to primarily to purchase a wide variety of equipment including infant isolettes (archaically referred to as "incubators"), blood pressure cuffs or even the provision of food and transportation vouchers.

"It really extends pretty far," Sharps said. "Any service in our hospital that effects the health of children."

In July, the hospital is also planning to use funds to open the Heartfelt House, which will provide free accommodation for family members of patients.

"That'll be an amazing resource for our families," said



COURTESY PHOTO

Twenty students involved in the Lion Pride Pageant were given a tour of RiverBend Hospital in Springfield earlier this year. The group visited with medical professionals and families to see first-hand who they were helping.

Sharps.

On top of equipment, the program has recently started providing pay for two staff positions.

"We support two pediatric child life specialists, which are incredibly important and super vital," Sharps said.

The schools themselves benefit as well. Ten percent of what schools raise goes back into health-related areas of the schools' choice.

"They're helping kids who

are being treated in the community in the hospital but they're also helping kids in their school," Sharps said. "So I think it's a pretty special program in that aspect."

Saturday's Lion Pride Pageant will feature a host of skits and performances created by the students. Starting off with an opening dance number, the contestants will then take the stage with children they have personally chosen to perform with, reminding the audience

of the pageant's purpose.

Contestants must also perform two skits on separate themes: "sports" and "heroes."

"The sports are unique, to put it mildly," Hanson said. "They're not your conventional sports. So they have to come up with something creative around that."

A family-oriented segment follows in which students, in formal wear, honor a chosen family member.

As a final challenge, a question and answer session will put contestants on the spot in a test of wits.

Though five judges from the community will ultimately decide on a winner, there is a shared sentiment among students and supervisors that the experience and message supersede any honors.

"It's about the process," said Lucas Davey, one of the pageant's contestants. "I wanted to make a difference and this was my first real chance to do that."

Months of fundraising, preparation and discovery have endowed the pageant's participants with an experience which has been described as "life-changing."

"One part of the pageant process is they come on these tours of the hospital," said Sharps. "They stay a couple hours and we show them firsthand who they're helping and what they're helping to purchase. It makes it much more tangible for them, which I think is really important."

Earlier this year, 20 Cottage Grove students were taken on a tour through the RiverBend hospital, which included visits to the Neonatal ICU and Pediatric and Adolescent Care Unit.

Davey and fellow contestant Claudia Eiser walked away from the experience feeling the gravity of their efforts.

"The tour of the hospital made a big impact," Davey said. "I know I came back different."

Eiser, who had volunteered at RiverBend for her freshman year, was moved by the experience despite being familiar with the units.

"One of our teachers was with us on the tour and he went over the most powerful story of his kid in the NICU and how it affected his life and how things wouldn't have been the same if he hadn't

gotten the care from the Children's Miracle Network," she said. "It was really impactful. A lot of tears."

Being a part of the program has only reinforced Eiser's desire to be in medicine.

"I want to effect families' lives," she said. "I want to support the people who need to be supported and help the babies who need to be helped. I want to make an impact that will change a person's life forever. And doing this is a way to make that impact."

Because the program draws from a diverse selection of students at the high school, participants who might otherwise be strangers find themselves bound by this life-affirming event.

"Claudia and I hadn't interacted much until this pageant," Davey said. "All of the contestants have grown so much closer."

Eiser nodded. "We're like a little family," she said.

Tickets can be purchased at the Cottage Grove High School main office. Sales are \$10 in advance and \$12 at the door.

Worship Directory

DRAIN:
HOPE U.M.C.
131 W "A" St. Drain, OR
541-315-1617
Pastor: Lura Kidner-Miesen
Fellowship & Song: 11:30am
Potluck Lunch: 12:00pm
Worship: 12:30pm

COTTAGE GROVE:
6th & Gibbs Church of Christ
195 N. 6th St. • 541-942-3822
10:00am
Christian Education:
Pre-K through 5th
www.6thandgibbs.com

Calvary Baptist Church
77873 S 6th St • 541-942-4290
Pastor: Riley Hendricks
Sunday School: 9:45am
Worship: 11:00am
The Journey: Sunday 5:00pm
Praying Thru Life: Wednesday 6:00pm

Church of Christ
420 Monroe St • 541-942-8565
Sunday Service: 10:30am

Cottage Grove Bible Church
1200 East Quincy Avenue
541-942-4771
Pastor: Bob Singer
Worship 11am
Sunday School: 9:45am
AWANA age 3-8th Grade,
Wednesdays Sept-May, 6:30pm
www.cgbible.org

Cottage Grove Faith Center
33761 Row River Rd.
541-942-4851
Lead Pastor: Kevin Pruet
www.cg4.tv
Full Children's Ministry available
Services: 9:00am & 10:45am

Delight Valley
Church of Christ
33087 Saginaw Rd. East
541-942-7711 • Pastor: Bob Friend
Two Services:
9am - Classic in the Chapel
10:30am - Contemporary in the Auditorium

First Baptist Church
301 S. 6th St • 541-942-8242
Pastor: David Chhangle
Sunday School 9:30am
Worship Service 11:00am
Youth Wednesday 6:30pm
cgfirstbaptist.com

First Presbyterian Church
3rd and Adams St
541-942-4479
Rev.: Karen Hill
Worship: 10:00am
Sunday School: 10:00am
fpcgrove.com

Hope Fellowship
United Pentecostal Church
100 S. Gateway Blvd.
541-942-2061
Pastor: Dave Bragg
Worship: 11:00am Sunday
Bible Study: 7:00pm Wednesday
www.hopefellowshipupcc.com
"FINDING HOPE IN YOUR LIFE"

Living Faith Assembly
467 S. 10th St. • 541-942-2612
Worship Services Sundays: 9a & 11a
Youth Worship Sundays: 11a (all ages welcome)
Mondays: 5:30p (6th-12th grades)

Non-Denominational Church of Christ
1041 Pennoyer Ave
541-942-8928
Preacher: Tony Martin
Sunday Bible Study: 10:00am
Sunday Worship: 10:50am & 5:30pm
www.pennoyervevcc.com

Old Time Gospel Fellowship
103 S. 5th St. • 541-942-4999
Pastor: Jim Edwards
Sunday Service: 10:00am
Join in Traditional Christian Worship

Our Lady of Perpetual Help and St. Philip Benizi Catholic Churches
1025 N. 19th St.
541-942-3420
Father John J. Boyle
Holy Mass:
Saturday Vigil - 5:30 PM
Sunday - 10:30 PM
For weekday and Holy Day of Obligation schedule see website OLPHCG.net
Confession: 4 PM to 5 PM
Saturdays or by appointment
St. Philip Benizi, Creswell
552 Holbrook Lane
Sunday 8:30 AM
St. Andrews Episcopal Church
1301 W. Main • 541-767-9050
Rev. Lawrence Crumb
"Church with the flags."
Worship: Sunday 10:30am
All Welcome

Seventh-day Adventist Church
820 South 10th Street
541-942-5213
Pastor: Kevin Miller
Bible Study: Saturday, 9:15 am
Worship Service: Saturday, 10:40
Mid-week Service: Wednesday, 1:00

Trinity Lutheran Church
6th & Quincy • 541-942-2373
Pastor: James L. Markus
Sunday School & Adult Education 9:15am
Sunday Worship 10:30 am
Comm. Kitchen Free Meal Tue & Thur 5:00pm TLC Groups
tlccg.com

United Methodist Church
334 Washington • 541-942-3033
Pastor: Lura Kidner-Miesen
Worship: 10:30am
umcgrove.org

"VICTORY" Country Church
913 S. 6th Street • 541-942-5913
Pastor: Barbara Dockery
Worship Service: 10:00am
Message: "WE BELIEVE IN MIRACLES"

CRESWELL:
Creswell Presbyterian Church
75 S 4th S • 541-895-3419
Rev. Seth Wheeler
Adult Sunday School 9:15am
Sunday Worship Service 10:30 am
website www.creswellpres.org

Worship With Us!

Suicide *from A6*

sometimes all you can do is find something healthy to do to get yourself through the day, he said. It will get easier.

"I've come a really long way and I'm proud of myself" Eli said. "So much of my attention and my life has been under this theme of getting better. I've learned to be more kind to myself, more patient with myself."

But it doesn't change the fact that it's a lot of work to hang on.

"I'm serious about staying," he said with the assuredness that, eventually, things do get better.

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Cottage Grove
Sentinel 541-942-3325
116 N. 6th Street
Cottage Grove, OR