

EDITOR from A1

different perspectives and how important that is for people to share them. He sees the newspaper in the same way that I do, which is as a forum for people to share ideas and perspectives.”

A Teaching Role

“I always liked creative writing,” Sherwood said. “I was in advanced English classes in high school, and I just wanted to write.”

He began the journalism program at University of Oregon, where he started delving into philosophy

and politics. He found inspiration reading about ancient Greece, how democracy started, and the ideas of liberalism and free speech.

“For me, it was really inspiring. I wanted to be a part of this. I decided that journalism had something in it where I could make an impact on the world and continue some of these ideas I thought were really important for society,” he said.

Sherwood completed his dual major in 2005. However, aside from an internship at the *Tri-County News*

in Junction City, he had a hard time finding work in his chosen field. He found work in the food service for a time.

“I knew I wasn’t going to be able to pay off my college debt, and I heard about a teaching opportunity in Korea. So, in 2007, I took off for Korea and spent 10 years there teaching English,” he said.

While there, he gained important teaching skills while in an immersive environment. He also learned how to teach students at differing levels.

“You figure out how to explain complicated things to people so they can actually apply it and use it,” he said.

In 2014, he started dating Subin Lee, a fel-

low teacher, and they got married in 2016. In 2017, they returned to the U.S., settling in Florence near Sherwood’s family. While there, he connected with a *Siuslaw News* reporter and met Hickson, who invited him to an internship at the twice-weekly newspaper.

Most importantly for Sherwood, he was writing again — and about important subjects like net neutrality, rent fraud, child abuse prevention, vandalism and more.

“It turned out to be a really good thing that I taught English for 10 years, because it taught me how to essentially fulfill the teacher role for a community,” said Sherwood, who defines a “liberal education” approach as being liberated to

think critically about different topics. He added, “We’re not telling people *what* to think, but suggesting *how* to think about things. That’s the best way to explain not just the teaching job I had, but also how that translates over to newspaper. And here it becomes even more important.”

While Sherwood interned at the *Siuslaw News*, Hickson joined *The Sentinel* as managing editor. Three years ago, the newspaper was facing turbulent waters with an editorial team at odds with the community.

“My role was just to come in, troubleshoot and figure out how can we get things back on track,” Hickson said.

He worked with *The Sentinel* staff for several months before another transition happened, with then-editor Caitlyn May taking a position with the *Corvallis Gazette* in January 2019.

“When that position opened up, I immediately thought of Damien,” Hickson said. “He had been interning with us at the *Siuslaw News* and had done

some really great work, so I brought him in as a lead reporter. And I had confidence that it would work well.”

Hickson has remained as managing editor as he guided *The Sentinel*’s new news team.

“After that, my role was to basically make sure that we continue moving forward. And Damien was an integral part of that,” Hickson said.

Coming to Cottage Grove

As lead reporter at *The Sentinel*, Sherwood has been covering all aspects of life in Cottage Grove.

“It wasn’t long before I had built some pretty good relationships with the city, nonprofits, businesses and people in the town,” Sherwood said. “A lot of it had to do with just the fact that Cottage Grove is so welcoming. The first thing that happened was City Manager Richard Meyers took me on a ‘Welcome Wagon’ tour of the water treatment plants and just

see EDITOR on A8

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JUNE Events and special promotions happening locally this month! To promote your July event on this page contact us at **541-942-3325** or cgsentinel.com

JUNE 2021 Calendar
FOR A COMPLETE LIST OF WEEKLY EVENTS VISIT THE CALENDAR CHOICES PAGE NEXT TO THE COMICS PAGE.
1 - TUESDAY
 5 p.m. History Pub (Partners in History) The Axe & Fiddle, 657 E Main Street
 6:30 p.m. Senior Awards Cottage Grove High School
4 - FRIDAY
 5 p.m. American Legion BINGO! 826 W. Main Street For additional info call Jerry Kerns at 541-942-0234
5 – SATURDAY
 7 a.m. Gran Fondo Bike Race Adventure route: Small Wave Start planned 7am, All others staging from 8:30am, Format TBD per COVID-19!
11 - FRIDAY
 5:00 p.m. American Legion BINGO! 826 W. Main Street For additional info call Jerry Kerns at 541-942-0234
12 - SATURDAY
GRADUATION DAY
 10 a.m. Kennedy High School & 2 p.m. Cottage

Grove High School
15 - TUESDAY
 7:30 p.m. Third Tuesday Poetry Night at Axe & Fiddle, hosted by Kalapuya Books at The Cottage Events Venue 2915 Row River Rd, Cottage Grove
17 – THURSDAY
 5:30 p.m. Dementia Support Group for Care Givers ~ Spouses ~ Family members First Presbyterian Church 216 S 3rd St, Cottage Grove. Please call to reserve your seat! Ruth Tracey 541-942-0054
 5:30 p.m. Cottage Grove Area Chamber of Commerce Business Afterhours at
18 – FRIDAY
 2 p.m. Summer Reading Kickoff Party Cottage Grove Public Library 700 E. Gibbs Ave
19 - SATURDAY
 12 p.m. Singing Creek Educational Center’s Opal Whiteley History Tour w Steve Williamson, noon
23 – WEDNESDAY
 6:30 p.m. Concerts in the Park: Blue Skies Big Band Bohemia Park Amphitheater

June 2021

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
30	31	1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10

Holidays
 14th - Flag Day
 20th - Father’s Day & Summer Begins
25 - FRIDAY
 5:00 p.m. American Legion BINGO! 826 W. Main Street For additional info call Jerry Kerns at 541-942-0234
 6 p.m. Cottage Grove Art Walk on the Historic District Main Street in Cottage Grove.
26 - SATURDAY
 10 a.m. Cottage Grove Wings & Wheels Oregon Aviation Historical Museum 2475 Jim Wright Way

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