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'If I Were Mayor Contest' recognizes local contestants

Three of the youth from Cottage Grove who entered the Oregon Mayors Association's "If I Were Mayor" contest were recognized in the statewide competition. Kourtney Owens received the 2nd Place award in the high school age category for her digital media entry. The 2nd Place award came with a \$300 prize from the Oregon Mayors Association. MJ Raade and Violet Brockelman received honorable mention awards for their respective entries in the digital media and poster contests.

CGHS from A1

a six-piece vocal ensemble, CGHS Principal Kevin Herington delivered opening remarks on the challenges faced in the last year for the graduates. "It wasn't easy to wrap up your high school career with forest fires ravaging our state, a divisive presidential campaign and election, social unrest and all during the time of a pandemic," he said. "But you were determined, and you saw it through to the end. For that you are to be commended." Herington listed off a series of pieces of advice for graduates to take with them such as writing down one thing to be grateful for each day, to rely on passion and persistence, regard mistakes with a graceful perspective of "no rain, no rainbows", maintain healthy self-skepticism, learn from others, use time wisely and to not let adulthood obscure one's youthful character. Next, valedictorian Rhea Florez addressed her class and spoke of her appreciation for her position in life. "I'm so thankful for this safe and contained space that we have had the opportunity to grow up in. However, it would be naive

of me to not acknowledge how my privilege has influenced my high school experience," she said. "My race or ethnicity has never been up for debate. It has never been the punchline of a joke. I've never been asked what country I'm from. These types of experiences are easily forgotten by those of us with privilege. It is easy to completely ignore these moments to avoid the uncomfortable conversations. But it is within that unavailability, true growth happens." Salutatorian Avery Hutchins spoke next, extolling the value of CGHS teachers in students' lives. "[They] have helped to build our characters and help us become our best selves," she said. Hutchins also emphasized the importance of gratitude. "Gratitude can change the way we see life and make us realize that there is much more good than there is bad," she said. Hutchins quoted author Melody Beattie on the nature of gratitude: "[Gratitude] turns what we have into enough, and more. It turns denial into acceptance, chaos to order, confusion to clarity ... it makes sense of our past, brings peace for today and creates

a vision for tomorrow." Salutatorian MJ Raade then took the stage to highlight the resiliency of the Class of 2021 in the face of not just a challenging last year, but a decade impacted by a cultural shift after the Sandy Hook shooting in 2012 and resulting intruder drills. "The Class of 2021 is resilient, not because we simply made it, but we exceeded expectations despite every roadblock," she said. "Thirty percent of our senior class has graduated with a 3.5 or above GPA." Raade congratulated the adults who shaped their lives, too. "Our graduation this year doesn't just call for a celebration for us. It also means, to the teachers and the administrators, that you made it as well," she said. For graduates, she ended on some advice. "Remember your resiliency," she said. "Remember the lessons demonstrated to us to follow your passion and continue to better yourself. And arguably the most important: always support those who are doing the same." Next, student body president Enzo Valdez told the audience about his own struggles to adapt socially when he first moved to Cottage Grove his freshman year, only to overcome them and eventually be elected president. He offered wisdom he learned from his American culture teacher Nick Garman. "There are two keys to success: to be good to people and to work hard," he said. Graduates then took turns to accept their diplomas and, after a ceremonial shifting of tassels, released their caps into the air in celebration.

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Worship Directory

- COTTAGE GROVE:**
6th & Gibbs Church of Christ
 195 N. 6th St. • 541-942-3822
 10:00am
 Christian Education: Pre-K through 5th
 Tim Baker, Senior Minister
 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 Prueft
 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 Chhantle
 Sunday School 9:30am
 Worship Service 10:30am
 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
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 Bible Study: 7:00pm Wednesday
 www.hopefellowshipupcc.com
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 Youth Worship Sundays: 11a (all ages welcome)
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- 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.pennoyeravecoc.com
- 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 am
 For weekday and Holy Day of Obligation schedule see website OLPHCCG.net
 Confession: 4 PM to 5 PM
 Saturdays or by appointment
 St. Philip Benizi, Creswell
 552 Holbrook Lane
 Sunday 8 am
- St. Andrews Episcopal Church**
 1301 W. Main • 541-767-9050
 Rev. Lawrence Crumb
 "Scripture, Tradition, Reason"
 Worship: Sunday 10:30am
 All Welcome
- Seventh-day Adventist Church**
 820 South 10th Street
 541-942-5213
 Pastor: James D. Boram
 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
 Worship 10am
 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



Our Worship Directory is a weekly feature. If your congregation would like to be a part of this directory, contact us today!

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