

# Life *in the* Valley

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PHOTOS BY JUSTIN MUCH/APPEAL TRIBUNE

Stayton and Silverton residents received an exotic treat when Steve Lattanzi brought his Creature Feature Reptile Show to town on Thursday, June 29.

## *Wrapped around his fingers* ‘Reptile man’ fascinates gathering at Silverton park

JUSTIN MUCH  
STAYTON MAIL

All eyes were wide and focused when the cape forest cobra raised its head, seemingly to get a better look at the guy with a grip on him at Silverton’s Coolidge McClaine Park.

“Reptile man” Steve Lattanzi brought his show to the communities of Stayton and Silverton Thursday afternoon and evening, eliciting rapt attention as he pulled each of his unique pets out of its designated tub.

The anticipation of the show brought scores out in Silverton, enough interest that the show’s venue made an impromptu move from the Silver Falls Public Library to park’s picnic shelter. The libraries in Stayton and Silverton sponsored the visit.

Lattanzi, whose background includes herpetology, biology and entomology, is an educator, zoo owner and wildlife expert who has been delivering his “Creature Feature Reptile Show” for 25 years.

The tail end of the show featured a hand-on experience as several adults aided Lattanzi in pulling up Buttercup, a 13-foot, 70-pound Burmese python, which the kids could collectively hold and smell. Another “petable” was Daisy, a 4-foot alligator.



Stayton and Silverton town libraries hosted the event. Silverton’s show moved to Coolidge McClaine Park due to high turnout.

