

Redmond gets festive

City erects tree donated by local family

BY NICK ROSENBERGER
Redmond Spokesman

As cold wind blew through the city, hinting at more winter weather, Redmond was getting ready for the holiday season. Crews put up a Christmas tree and lights and worked on downtown's annual ice rink.

On Nov. 15, the Redmond Chamber of Commerce brought in the tree, which was donated by Caroline and Donald Costa, to the square at Centennial Park. Crews from Vernam Crane Service lifted it into place.

"This is a part of the season," said Eric Sande, director of the Redmond Chamber of Commerce. "The tree is donated by the community. It brings the community together."

The chamber has already started putting lights on the tree, but it won't be lit until the Starlight Parade on Saturday, Nov. 26. Starting at 5 p.m., the parade will head through downtown Redmond to Centennial Park where Santa will light the tree around 6:30 or 7 p.m.

"The tree lighting at the end of the starlight parade is always a blast," said Teri Jansen, ambassador for the Redmond Chamber of Commerce.

Sande estimated there were a couple thousand people in attendance for the big reveal last year.

Jansen said city crews are also putting up lights and garlands throughout the city and are moving in a Christmas village to Centennial Park. A holiday market is scheduled for Nov. 25,



Photo provided by Eric Sande, Redmond Chamber of Commerce
Vernam Crane lifts a Christmas tree into place in Centennial Park with the help of Redmond Public Works on Nov. 15 in Redmond.

the day after Thanksgiving.

Additionally, crews have been working to set up the Redmond Ice Skating Rink to open after Thanksgiving as well.

The skating rink will be open 5 to 9 p.m. Monday through Thursday, 3 to 10 p.m. Friday through Saturday and from 3 to 9 p.m. on Sunday. Additionally, free skate sessions will be held from 10 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Mon-

day through Thursday and from 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Friday through Sunday.

It will cost \$5 to rent skates and jump on the ice. Those with their own skates will pay \$1.25 to enter. There is also the option to buy a \$15 family pass for up to six people from the same household.

■ Reporter: nrosenberger@redmondspokesman.com



Nick Rosenberger/Spokesman
Employees of Vernam Crane and Redmond Public Works position the annual Redmond Christmas tree in the courtyard of Centennial Park on Nov. 15 in Redmond.



Nick Rosenberger/Spokesman
Employees of Vernam Crane and Redmond Public Works pose for a photo in front of the annual Redmond Christmas tree in the courtyard of Centennial Park on Nov. 15 in Redmond.

LOCAL BRIEFING

Witosky won't take Sisters job, will stay in Redmond

City manager Keith Witosky is staying in Redmond.

Witosky, 54, applied for the city manager job in Sisters and earlier this month was named a finalist for the position. He said throughout the process that he was unsure if he would take the job, even if it was offered. Witosky told the Spokesman on Friday, Nov. 18 that he decided to pass.

"I'm staying (in Redmond)," he said.

Redmond city government will see a number of new faces in 2023, and losing Witosky would have led to another. Ed Fitch will take over as mayor and three city councilors — John Nielsen, Kathryn Osborne and Cat Zwicker — will fill seats

on the council. Longtime staples, including Mayor George Endicott and councilor Jay Patrick, will depart from positions they have held for decades.

COCC seeks Redmond-area board members for budget committee

Central Oregon Community College is currently seeking individuals interested in serving on the college's budget committee. There are three current vacancies representing three different zones with opportunities for Crook, Jefferson and Deschutes County residents.

The budget committee consists of the seven elected COCC board members and seven appointed citizens representing the district's geographic zones.

The first vacancy represents Zone 1, which includes all of Jefferson County, a southern portion of Wasco County and a portion of northeast Deschutes County north of Redmond. The second vacancy represents Zone 2, which includes all of Crook

County and a portion of northeast Deschutes County between Bend and Redmond. The third vacancy represents Zone 4/5, which is located within the city of Bend in Deschutes County.

Budget committee members are board-appointed for three-year terms. The committee meets two to three times per year and recommends an annual operating budget to the board of directors.

Interested citizens are encouraged to review COCC's zone maps prior to applying to ensure they are eligible to apply: cocc.edu/about/board-of-directors/director-zones.aspx.

Send a cover letter and resume to: COCC Board of Directors, Attn: Jenn Kovitz, Central Oregon Community College, 2600 NW College Way, Bend, Oregon 97703 or e-mail materials to jkovitz@cocc.edu. Include address of residence in the cover letter so COCC can confirm you qualify for a budget committee vacancy in the zone to which you are applying.

For more information, con-

tact Kovitz at 541-383-7599 or jkovitz@cocc.edu.

Redmond Kiwanis to launch See's Candy sales

Kiwanis Club of Redmond will resume See's Candy sales at three locations beginning immediately after Thanksgiving.

The kick-off will be Friday and Saturday, Nov. 25 and 26, at the Redmond Chamber's Holiday Village in Centennial Park from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Kiwanis volunteers will staff the kiosk again Dec. 3 and 10.

Also on Nov. 25, Kiwanis will be available Mondays through Saturdays, in the Cascade Mattress and Bedroom Furniture at 224 SW Sixth St., the former location of Sears where See's sales began in 2012.

Candy sales provided nearly \$5,000 toward the club's youth projects in 2021. More information about Redmond Kiwanis and its project can be found at www.redmondkiwanis.org or contact redmondkiwanis@gmail.com

Among the favorites that are back in stock for your holiday gifts and treats: Nuts and chews, dark or milk chocolate, assorted, soft centers, truffles, peanut brittle, lollipops, molasses and mint chips, and small gift-sized boxes of chocolates.

Also at Cascade Mattress, Kiwanis will display an E-bicycle donated by Eric Helie of Trinity Bikes as a fundraiser for youth projects.

The Trek Verve+2 electric hybrid bicycle is valued at \$2,850. Kiwanis is selling raffle tickets for \$10 each. The drawing for the raffle ticket winner will be held when 500 tickets are sold.

Tickets are available at the store, on the Kiwanis website, www.redmondkiwanis.org, or from the chairman, Joshua Werner at edwardjones.com

Redmond man dies after crashing into fire truck

A Redmond man died Monday in a car crash on Highway 20 near Lebanon.

According to Oregon State

Police, Kevin Gonzales, 30, of Redmond, was driving westbound in a Toyota Yaris about 6:30 p.m. on Monday, Nov. 14, on Highway 20 near the city of Lebanon.

Gonzales "crossed over into oncoming traffic," according to OSP, and collided with a Freightliner operated by Kyle Kemper, 40, of Lebanon.

Gonzales died at the scene.

Prior to the collision the Toyota was reported to be driving erratically and impairment is being investigated as a contributing factor, according to police. The Freightliner truck is owned by the Lebanon Fire Department and is commonly known as a "pumper truck."

Traffic on Highway 20 was affected for nearly four hours while the OSP Collision Reconstruction Unit investigated the scene. OSP was assisted by Lebanon Fire Department, Lebanon Police Department, Linn County Sheriff's Office, Bend Police Department, Redmond Police Department and ODOT.

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