

PUCKER UP!

Visits to Cottage Grove by The Reptile Man, aka Rich Richey of Colton, are always a big event, and on Wednesday, Dec. 31, a nice crowd visited the Cottage Grove Library to learn about tortoises, snakes and lizards in a presentation that is at once engaging and informative. Here, a monitor lizard offers a kiss to one library visitor. Richey has appeared at the Library about six times, according to personnel there.



photo by Jon Stinnett

City Council meeting off due to Ducks' title shot

BY JON STINNETT
The Cottage Grove Sentinel

The Oregon Ducks completed a blow-out 59-20 win over the Florida State Seminoles in college football's Rose Bowl on Thursday, Jan. 1, and the next day, Cottage Grove Mayor Tom Munroe exercised a new power to give the City Council the night off to enjoy the Ducks' next game.

The Rose-Bowl win pits Oregon against Ohio State in the National Championship game on Monday, Jan. 12, and the Council will be free to enjoy the game along with other Duck backers. Prior to the Rose Bowl, Munroe indicated that a Duck win might necessitate the cancellation of the Council's Jan. 12 meeting, and on Friday, that cancellation was confirmed.

"I've contacted the other councilors," Munroe told the Sentinel by phone message. "And not only because of the ballgame, but the meeting is going to be cancelled."

Councilor Jeff Gowing has a new grandbaby, the Mayor said, adding that incoming Councilor Mike Fleck has been ill.

"The rest just want to see the ballgame," Munroe said. "We don't have a whole lot that night anyway, and what we do have we can catch up on the twenty-sixth." The agenda for Jan. 12 would have in-

cluded the Mayor's own State of the City Address, in addition to the swearing-in of Fleck, who takes over the at-large seat from Victoria Doyle after a triumph in last November's election. Munroe said it will be easy to add the items from that agenda to the Monday, Jan. 26 meeting.

"We can get everybody sworn in and sworn out," he said.

Interestingly, Munroe used a brand-new power given him by a new set of rules for the City Council, rules that went into effect hours earlier. In November, Cottage Grove voters approved a new and revised charter to guide city government, though the charter referenced a set of council rules that did not as yet exist. The Council worked to draft those rules in time for the effective date of the new charter, Jan. 1, 2015.

The Mayor utilized a section in the new rules covering the cancellation of meetings, which states, "if there is no business to transact or a quorum of the Council cannot attend and there is no urgent necessity to have the meeting, the Mayor, upon recommendation of the City Manager, may cancel the meeting."

At its Dec. 1 meeting, the South Lane School District Board of Directors preemptively dealt with the possibility of a Ducks' Rose Bowl victory by moving its Jan. 12 meeting ahead to Monday, Jan. 5.

Creswell Club reaches out to area adults, plans more happenings

Concerning Creswell

News and notes from our neighbor to the north

It's called the Over-40 Social Club, though those under that magic age are welcome to come by the Creswell Community Center to check out the club's new expanded hours and programming.

According to Creswell's Sally Jenkins, the Club started as the Creswell Senior Center about a year ago as a program of the Creswell Library with City of Creswell sponsorship. Aimed as a place for "people to gather and socialize," the Club is open to all adults every Thursday from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Community Center, 99 South First Street in Creswell (one block south of City Hall). Currently all events

are free of charge.

Jenkins said the desire by the Club's leadership to "add structure" at the Senior Center led to the expansion of offerings. Originally, she said, attendance started slow, but about a dozen men and women now typically show up for each event.

Beginning in January, the Club will have classes in basic drawing and basic watercolor taught by Sue Whitacre and beginning Tai Chi taught by William "Bill" Kent. Those who aren't interested in classes can work on one of the jigsaw puzzles that's constantly in the works or play cards, chess or other board games. Some visi-

tors bring needlework to keep their hands busy while they converse, Jenkins said.

"People can drop in and out," she said. "There's always tea and coffee, and often there are other refreshments available."

Kent is teaching a class using the book "Harvard Medical School Guide to Tai Chi," written by Peter M. Wayne. Like Dr. Wayne, Kent studied medical Qigong and Yang style Tai Chi. The book promises 12 weeks to a healthy body, strong heart and sharp mind.

Tai Chi classes will be held on Jan. 8 and 22, continuing Feb. 5 and 19, beginning at 11 a.m. each time. The class should be short enough that visitors can also enjoy socializing before and after.

Art teacher Sue Whitacre writes: "I have journeyed as an artist since early childhood.

I traveled through art school, public school art teaching (K-12), post-graduate art training, teaching private art lessons, conducting workshops on creativity, and developing my own artistic expression throughout the process. I am committed to connecting people with their creativity, and to providing basic tools for artistic self-expression."

Beginning Drawing lessons will be held Jan. 15 and Feb. 12 starting at 10 a.m. Beginning Watercolor lessons will be Jan. 29 and Feb. 26, also starting at 10. Materials will be supplied. Jenkins said future plans for Creswell's Over-40 Social Club include having speakers on subjects of interest to the community, possibly on fraud prevention, safety and security, cooking for one, how to use your digital camera or other device and more. Nature walks may also be



photo by Su Liudahl

Beginning watercolors has been a popular class for the Over-40 Social Club, though visiting is also encouraged.

planned for nice weather.

The Over-40 Social Club is a program of the Creswell Library in collaboration with the City of Creswell. Learn more about the

group on its Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/creswellover40>.

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