

# Cottage Grove Library has big plans for summer

## Group gathers at Community Center to sing along

BY JON STINNETT  
The Cottage Grove Sentinel

Beautiful voices filled the reception hall at the Cottage Grove Community Center Thursday morning, and for a solid hour, the hits just kept coming.

A special sing-along was added to the Community Center's lineup on May 14, an event that finds pianist Doug Trappen and a dozen or so singers rolling through about 30 of the most popular songs of all time.

A newcomer to Cottage Grove, Trappen moved to the area six months ago and follows the template of a singing get-together he used to accompany at his previous home in California, a template featuring 45 minutes of singing several songs followed by 15 minutes for solos. Last week, Joanne Fasold delighted the crowd with a song.

"When you can get together and sing, you feel so much better about life," Trappen said. "Music has the ability to do that for people."

Tara Sue Hughart, one of the junior members of a group that skews largely female, said the sing-along has offered "a good way to get together and reminisce."

"I also learn a lot of new songs, though some are actually very familiar," Hughart said. "This is a nice way to spend time together; I'm glad we started it."



photo by Jon Stinnett

Pianist Doug Trappen accompanies a sing-along at the Cottage Grove Community Center Thursday morning.

Plans are to hold the sing-along every other week, making the next scheduled sing-along on Thursday, June 11 from 10:30-11:30 a.m. The group invites all interested singers to attend, es-

pecially males, as there has been a shortage of male voices for the sing-along so far.

## More summer activities planned:

### Nature for Kids and Teen Adventure Trips sign-up

Now is the time to sign up at the Cottage Grove Public Library for its Nature for Kids (ages 7-12) and Teen Adventures (ages 13-17) all-day adventure filled field trips. Join us for hiking, biking, swimming, canoeing, kayaking, stream exploration, arts, crafts, food and more. These popular field trips begin June 19.

### Lawn games for check-out at the Library

The Cottage Grove Public Library has bocce ball, badminton, volleyball, bean bag toss, discs and disc golf, and other awesome sum-

mer lawn games for patrons to check out and use this summer.

### Summer Reading Kick-Off is coming

Get ready kids (and parents), the Summer Reading Kickoff event at the Cottage Grove Public Library is Wednesday, June 17 from 2-4 p.m. Guests can join in for free books and ice cream and the chance to meet some real-life heroes.

### Special summer programs:

Ukulele lessons —Tuesdays at 9 a.m. for children age 9 and up.

Summer reading special guests —Wednesdays at 2:30 p.m.

Chess club — Thursdays at 10 a.m.

Nature for Kids —select Fridays all summer

### Free three-month library cards for families

Passes for families with children who live outside the city limits will be available June 1. They are provided by the City of Cottage Grove, Friends of the Library and Cottage Grove Rotary.

## COMING UP:

### Blackberry Pie Society to host Representative Cedric Hayden

The Cottage Grove Blackberry Pie Society Speaker Series will host Oregon State Representative Cedric Hayden at 6:30 p.m. on Wednesday, June 10 at the Brewstation, located at 106 South 6th St. in Cottage Grove.

Representative Hayden will focus on legislation that impacts his constituents in House District 7, which includes Cottage Grove. He will also reflect on his first term in the legislature and take questions from the audience.

The event is free and open to the public. Refreshments will be available for purchase.

For more information about this event, contact Blackberry Pie Chairperson Leslie Rubinstein at 541-521-2887 or [blackberrypie@gmail.com](mailto:blackberrypie@gmail.com).

### Tonewood Trio

Jazz ensemble the Tonewood Trio plans a free show at the Axe & Fiddle at 657 Main St. in Cottage Grove on Sunday, June 7 beginning at 7 p.m.

End: June 7, 2015, 8:00 pm. The Tonewood Trio bills itself as a "mellow jazz trio with reeds and tight harmonies."

### Non-profit presentation

On Monday, June 8 at 3 p.m. at the Healing Matrix, located at 632 Main St., Amy Callahan, a former resident of Cottage Grove who is now working in Portland for the Non-profit Association of Oregon, will be speaking to any interested local non-profit leaders about learning more about how the NAO can provide resources to strengthen and grow their organization.

### Harrison Elementary to present all-school concert

Students at Harrison Elementary School will present a concert at Bohemia Park near 10th St. in Cottage Grove from 6-7 p.m. on Thursday, June 4. The school's spring concert will feature contributions from the entire student body and a rousing patriotic tune at its conclusion, according to music teacher Stephanie Zahlmann. The concert is free to the public and all are welcome.

## BUDGET

Continued from page 1A

"It's a rubber-stamp process," said Price. "We had less than a week to review the budget, and once we decided that we would adjourn by 8 p.m., Richard (Meyers) knew exactly how long to talk. It's the same thing ever year and it really discourages people from joining this committee."

Meyers said he wasn't overly pleased with the accusations levied by Price, and that they weren't true.

"From the city staff's perspec-

tive, we are still trying to figure out why the meeting ended in such a brouhaha," Meyers said. "We asked for questions at every opportunity, and there were very few comments throughout."

Meyers acknowledged that the budget wasn't made available until May 21 — two days later than expected — due to unforeseen problems and changes, but he said that several committee members still had time to review the budget and respond with questions prior to the May 26 meeting. He added that the staff fully expected the meet-

ing to be extended until 9 p.m. and/or continued on Thursday, but that decision was up to the committee.

Meyers also suggested that that some members could have a misunderstanding of the staff's role as "facilitators."

"We try to let the committee run things as they want to, but the reality is that they meet once or twice a year and aren't paid to do this. We try to guide the process without orchestrating," he said.

Price said that she had hoped for more discussion on the In-

dustrial Park Operations Fund. The City is facing a \$90,575 debt payment on the park development in 2016-2017. In order to reach that amount, the City will need to sell at least two of the remaining four parcels in the park.

Councilor Jake Boone offered a motion to create a contingency fund for the debt payment by decreasing funding for the pool by \$10,000. That motion died for lack of a second.

The 2015-2016 budget of \$26.4 million represents an increased of nearly \$3 million

from the 2014-2015 budget. The increase is all but accounted for in the funding of some major capital improvement projects, including fiber optic projects, sewer system projects and storm drainage system improvements, with more than half of those projects funded through capital improvement bonds.

The proposed budget also restores the full-time Parks Maintenance position and reduces the number of part-time park employees. In an attempt to save funds in the 2014-2015 budget, the full-time position was

replaced with more part-time employees. However, Meyers said that the quality of the parks took a substantial hit because of the high turnover of part-time workers.

The proposed budget also reflects the utility rated adjustments that have been recommended in the City's proposed five-year financial plan. The rate increases are estimated to generate a total of \$51,300 in water funds, \$228,400 in wastewater funds and a total of \$60,100 in storm drain funds.

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