

BEYOND THE GROVE

Impactful news from Lane County and surrounding communities

Creswell voters back measure to change process for setting water rates

Its City Administrator, though, worries about its interaction with the public

BY JON STINNETT
The Cottage Grove Sentinel

About 40 percent of registered voters in Creswell weighed in on two contrasting measures that aimed to redefine the way the City sets its water rates last week. The turnout for the Sept. 15 special election pleased City Administrator Michelle Amberg, though she said the campaign also proved worrisome in another way.

"I'm pleased so many of the citizens of Creswell were interested in the outcome of the election," Amberg said. "I just wish we could hear from 40 percent of the population on topics that are appearing before the City Council."

Last Tuesday, voters supported Measure 20-234, which

Concerning Creswell

News and notes from our neighbor to the north

amends the City Charter to set up a multi-tiered process for evaluating and setting Creswell's water rates, by a wide margin, with 61 percent of votes in its favor. Measure 20-233, which would tie the amount rates could be raised to the annual cost of living, or Consumer Price Index, was struck down with 55 percent of voters against.

Former Creswell City Councilor Jacob Daniels spearheaded the campaign for Measure 20-233, while the City Council drafted Measure 20-234, which will now set up a process of public input including an advisory committee and public meetings during the City's budget process to help set water rates.

Amberg said she was pleased

with the passage of 20-234, though as a city employee, she's had to refrain from advocating one measure or the other until after the election.

"I'm pleased that there will be the assurance of public input and involvement when we set our future water rates," she said.

Still, Amberg said the City would love to hear from the citizenry on critical topics before an election is necessary.

"I'd love to have that input as we look forward to our policing study, setting our sewer rates and the strategic plans for Creswell's future," she said.

Amberg said that having an election for all major issues is too costly and time-consuming,

adding that the City has not yet found an adequate way to engage and communicate with its citizenry in an era of evolving communication.

"That whole area may be changing dramatically," she said. "The old ways of communication just aren't working anymore."

In setting its water rates, the City used "all of the traditional means of communication," Amberg said, including its website, newspaper notices and town meetings.

"This wasn't done overnight," she said. "But the City still heard the criticism that we aren't doing enough to get the word out."

In the short term, the City of Creswell will continue with its current methods of communication, Amberg said, which only work if the public reciprocates the City's outreach.

"Public input will still fall along traditional lines," she said. "But it's only going to make a difference if people get involved."

Two Creswell residents injured in Highway 38 crash

Oregon State Police say that two Creswell residents were injured in a Saturday-evening crash on Highway 38 near Scottsburg that claimed the life of a Coos Bay woman.

Police say that on Saturday,

Sept. 19 at about 7:20 p.m. troopers and emergency personnel responded to the report of a two vehicle crash on Highway 38 near milepost 20 (east of Scottsburg).

Upon arriving on scene, emer-

gency crews found two vehicles had collided head-on and were still in the roadway. The driver of a 2002 Acura RSX Coupe, a Coos Bay woman, was pronounced deceased on scene. On Monday, the woman was identi-

fied as Susan M. Wright, 66, of Coos Bay.

According to OSP, a preliminary investigation indicated that Wright's Acura had been traveling westbound on Highway 38 when it crossed over the centerline for unknown reasons and struck an eastbound 2004 Chevrolet Pickup nearly head-on.

The operator of the Chevrolet, Nadja C Bloomquist, 48, and her passenger, Mike J Bloomquist, 50, both of Creswell, were transported to a local hospital with non-life threatening injuries.

Highway 38 was shut down for over four hours, with intermittent one lane openings. OSP was assisted by the Douglas County Sheriff's Office, the Oregon Department of Transportation, Scottsburg Fire, and Lower Umpqua Ambulance.

BRIEFS FROM BEYOND

Elkton Oktoberfest

Elkton Oktoberfest will be held Saturday, Sept. 26 from 12-4 p.m. at Elkton Community Education Center (ECEC). Typical German food and music highlight the afternoon celebration. There is an admission charge of \$5 per person for the event. Food service starts at noon. Bratwurst and sauerkraut, potato salad, homemade pretzels and desserts will be available for purchase from community groups. The annual event is a fundraiser for ECEC and area service and school clubs. Beverages, including wine from local vintners and beer, will be for sale also. Oktoberfest will take place on the ECEC greenhouse patio, 15850 Highway 38, Elk-

ton.

The Roseburg German Band will perform again this year during the celebration, from 12:30-3:30 p.m. This popular 14-member band has played together since 1955 and is dedicated to playing German music.

Snell to share her story

Jennifer Snell, a Creswell native, lost 160 lbs. on television's "Extreme Weight Loss." Snell will be speaking and sharing her story at the Creswell Grange on Saturday, Sept. 26 in two sessions. One will be held at 10 a.m. followed by a workout led by Snell. The other will be at 6 p.m. followed by a question and answer session.

LORANE COUNTRY NEWS

BY LIL THOMPSON
For the Sentinel

Students and parents are invited to the Open House at Applegate Elementary tomorrow evening, Sept. 24. It all begins at 5:30 p.m. with hot dogs served right off the barbeque. Guests will have a chance to meet the entire staff and check out the school and classrooms.

Lorane Grange looks forward to this Friday, Sept. 25, for the first of the fall spaghetti dinner and bingo evenings. Dinner is from 5:30-6:30 p.m. with bingo starting at 6:30 p.m.

Picture day for all Applegate students plus free dental screening for those qualifying is Monday, Sept. 28. Those seeking further information can call the office at 541-686-5140.

Next week, Monday, Sept. 28 through Friday, Oct. 2, is Homecoming week at Crow Middle/High School with many activities Friday evening. There is a middle school dance in room 206 prior to school ending. Everything else begins with a barbeque at 6:30 p.m., a parade at 7:30 p.m. and dance from 8-10:30 p.m. Welcome to four new teachers at Crow Middle/High School: Ms. Smith in Social Studies, Mr. Gramson teaching high school science, Mr. Bordewick in middle school Science and Ms. Manning teaching Careers, Health Occupations plus YTP. I hope everyone has a great year!

Mark your calendars for the beginning of the 2015-2016 Rural Arts Council movie night season on Oct. 10 at Lorane Grange with family night. Everything begins at 6 p.m.

Those interested in rug hooking can contact either BJ or Lisa Livelybrooks to join the classes. Several beginners have completed amazing pieces.

Crow Booster Club reports a successful car show. Their next BIG event is the Sportsman Auction on Oct. 24 at Crow High School. All classes from K-12 will be participating. The money raised from the middle/high school baskets and elementary projects go directly to each individual class. Plans are for a silent auction at 5 p.m., barbeque dinner at 6 p.m. followed by a live auction at 7 p.m. Dinner tickets are \$16. Call Linda at 541-844-5940 or Diana at 541-517-9031, or email crowboosterclub@yahoo.com. Remember, all the money raised by the Booster Club benefits all students in the District.

The Grange re-roofing project is almost finished. If everything goes as planned, next Sunday should complete the work. A special "Thank You" to all who worked so hard on this endeavor!

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