

# Community News

## Fundraising continues for Cottage Grove Carousel



COURTESY PHOTO

Master storyteller Rickie Birran tells a spooky holiday tale as part of Victorian-era tradition during a recent fundraising event for the carousel project.

It was another successful fundraiser for the building/land fund for the Cottage Grove Carousel when master storyteller Rickie Birran recently read ghost stories as part of a longstanding Victorian tradition.

The volunteers are at the carousel site Monday and Thursdays, 8-12. Visitors are welcome.

"We were pleased to have, one more time, Rickie Birran, continue that Christmastime tradition," said Don Williams, founding member of Friends of the Cottage Grove Carousel.

Birran, a former missionary, youth worker and college instructor, is also a trained actor and

professional storyteller. He created "The Man of Words Theatre Company" to use literature to enrich, encourage, enlighten and entertain.

"Literature has the power to sharpen the mind, strengthen the heart, enrich the imagination, and inspire us to become better human beings," said Birran. "That's why I'm dedicated to encouraging people to read."

In additional fundraising news for the carousel project, Scott Diehl of PakTech will make a presentation to the Board of Directors of the Friends of the Cottage Grove Carousel today, Dec. 12, with a \$300 check.

## Cardiac telemetry system at community medical center focus of gala fundraiser



COURTESY PHOTO

Participants at this year's annual Holiday Gala enjoyed fine dining as part of a fundraiser at Creswell's Emerald Valley Golf & Resort supporting the Cottage Grove Medical Center.

More than 125 local dignitaries and PeaceHealth donors, board members, providers and caregivers turned out on Dec. 3 for another memorable Holiday Gala. The annual celebration, held at Creswell's Emerald Valley Golf & Resort, is the biggest fundraiser of the year for PeaceHealth Cottage Grove Community Medical Center.

The event raised an estimated \$55,000 — all of which will stay in the Cottage Grove community to serve those in need.

A focus of this year's fundraiser was a cardiac telemetry system for the inpatient unit at Cottage

Grove Community Medical Center. This system will enable physicians to closely monitor a patient's cardiac rhythms locally, as well as provide continuous monitoring by trained EKG monitor technicians 20 miles away at PeaceHealth Sacred Heart Medical Center at RiverBend in Springfield.

Dr. Marta Hantke, Cottage Grove Community Medical Center Chief of Staff and a guest speaker at the gala, explained how the cardiac telemetry system works. A small device is pinned to the gown of a patient on the medical unit in Cottage Grove. It con-

tinuously monitors the electrical activity of the patient's heart and transmits that data to a central monitoring unit at Sacred Heart at RiverBend, where doctors and nurses can monitor, record and treat heart rhythms, as needed.

This advanced technology will offer Cottage Grove patients the best of both worlds—the comfort and convenience of being treated in a hospital close to their family and friends and access to specialists at Oregon Heart & Vascular Institute at Sacred Heart at RiverBend.

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