Roseburg Public Library Offering Basic Tech Help
Kris Wiley for The News Review

Community members seeking help with basic technology can turn to Roseburg Public Library for assistance.

From February through July, Resource Assistance for Rural Environments AmeriCorps member Christian Sala will host drop-in tech time twice a month. A Roseburg Public Library card is not required to attend.

Beginning Feb. 1, Christian will be available the first Thursday of each month from 12-2 p.m. A Spanish interpreter also will be on hand during this session every month.

Beginning Feb. 2, Christian will be available the first Friday of each month from 12-2 p.m.

This project has been developed in response to the computer classes the library hosted in the fall. Fifty people attended sessions that covered smartphones, videoconferencing, and computer basics.

Based on our observations and participant feedback, it became clear that one-on-one time with Christian would be more valuable to learners than a large group setting.

Our vision for the new tech time is to spend up to 20 minutes per person to help them feel more comfortable with smartphones or learn some tips for using their laptops. For best results, folks should bring their own devices. The library's desktop and laptop computers will be available for users who do not have portable devices.

We are not scheduling appointments. Instead, help will be available on a first-come, first-served basis.

I can attest that Christian and other library staffers know a lot about technology, but we do not know everything, so I ask for patience and grace as we navigate this project. We will be flexible to the needs of users, too.

Christian's service term ends in July, so we are unsure whether we will continue offering drop-in hours beyond that date. For now, we are excited to provide individualized basic tech assistance to the community.

Maker Space Time

Christian will restart the library's maker space from 12-2 p.m. Friday, Jan. 19.

We have a 3D printer, button maker, sewing machine and Cricut cutting machine. There is a nominal cash fee for materials. All participants must sign a user agreement; parents or guardians must sign for minors.

We are recruiting volunteers at least 14 years old to help manage the equipment and monitor the maker space area. Teens will be eligible to receive volunteer service hours. Contact Christian at csala@cityofroseburg.org or 541-492-7052 for more information.

This Week's Library Events

Wednesday, January 17, 10:15 a.m. – Storytime with Aurora

Wednesday, January 17, 3-4 p.m. – STEAM program for elementary students

Thursday, January 18, 11:15 a.m. – Storytime with Aurora

Thursday, January 18, 3-5 p.m. – Teen Volunteer Hours

Friday, January 19, 12-2 p.m. – Maker Space Time for all ages