

C O M M U N I T Y

Uganda steals hearts of Sisters travelers

By **Jodi Schneider McNamee**
Correspondent

At the beginning of spring break the Project Uganda team checked 28 suitcases — donated by members of the Sisters community — at the Redmond airport on their way to Uganda. Weighing in at 50 pounds each, the suitcases were filled with 250 brand-new athletic shoes, donated by Sisters Middle School (SMS) social studies teacher Casey Pallister, and 451 menstrual kits handmade and donated by volunteers from Days for Girls Organization.

The bags also included

clothing, hygiene products, medical products, schoolbooks and toys that were all on their way to 1,200 students at the Good Samaritan School in Kiwangala.

Seven adults and seven students from the Project Uganda team reached their destination at the Good Samaritan School, 8,989 miles away from Sisters, in the small village of Kiwangala, deep in the interior of Uganda.

“On Monday (March 23) we went from the airport in Entebbe to Kampala, and Osborn Muyanja, the director

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PHOTO BY DIANE GOBLE

A mobile dental van is bringing vital dental care to those in need in Sisters Country.

Dental van brings care to Sisters

By **Diane Goble**
Correspondent

You might have wondered what the story is behind that dental clinic on wheels you may see parked occasionally in front of the Kiwanis building on Main Avenue. The idea grew from the dream of Celia Grayson, who wanted to help break the cycle of poverty in Sisters.

She recognized that bad teeth can make a bad impression on employers during the hiring process and, because gum disease can lead to serious illnesses when regular cleanings are delayed for financial reasons, it may lead to missing work for medical appointments and recovery. The result is often unemployment.

When Grayson met Jan Failing, dental hygienist to husband Dr. Hank

Failing, while hiking with a group from Sisters Park & Recreation District (SPRD) over five years ago, the idea was hatched to start a preventive and restorative dental clinic for our adult community with no insurance, low or no income (following income guidelines of the Kiwanis Food Bank), as the two hiked around Sisters Country and talked about their dreams.

Dr. Failing had been retired for a couple of years and had plenty of projects around their old farmhouse, but missed his work, so he was excited about the prospect. Next Grayson approached Debbie Stumbaugh, who manages the “urgent care” dental van clinics in Central Oregon, and she jumped on board. This is the only preventive and restorative mobile dental clinic to routinely serve a city in this area.

Jeld-Wen donated the van that Stumbaugh, now Medical Teams International Dental Van manager and the only salaried member, drives all over Central and Eastern Oregon where she has volunteer dentists and hygienists ready to meet the needs of low-income patients in their towns.

Dr. Failing and his team, consisting of dental assistant Stumbaugh, hygienist Linda Robinson, and dental assistant Julie Mansfield (she and her husband own Sisters Olive & Nut), are kept on track by Jan Failing, who also helped run her husband’s dental practice in Portland, as well as being a practicing hygienist and assistant. She juggles appointments for cleanings and dental care patients between two chairs inside the fully equipped dental van every month.

See **DENTAL VAN** on page 24

Sisters gets set to celebrate the arts

Sisters’ annual spring celebration of the arts kicks off next month with a parade, art stroll, and art auction fundraiser.

My Own Two Hands (MOTH), the annual fundraiser for Sisters Folk Festival’s educational outreach programs, begins on May 8 with a parade at 4 p.m. on Main Avenue, an art stroll at 22 local businesses from 3:30 to 6:30 p.m., and a Community Arts Celebration at 6:30 p.m. at The Belfry.

On Saturday, May 9 at 6 p.m. Ponderosa Forge and Ironworks will be transformed into an auction and party

venue for the Sisters Folk Festival’s annual fundraiser.

Started 14 years ago, MOTH is an annual two-day event with two purposes; raise funds for arts and music programming in Sisters Country, and bring the community together to celebrate the arts. The theme this year is “Imagine,” and has inspired an impressive collection of art donations.

Each year, MOTH awards are given in several categories. Merit awards were given to Preston Thompson Guitars, Jennifer Hartwig &

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SISTERS AREA MEETING CALENDAR

BOARDS, GROUPS, CLUBS

ALANON Monday, noon, Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church • Wednesday, 6 p.m., The Episcopal Church of the Transfiguration. 541-549-8737 or 541-549-1527.

Alcoholics Anonymous Thursday & Sunday, 7 p.m., The Episcopal Church of the Transfiguration • Saturday, 8 a.m., The Episcopal Church of the Transfiguration • Monday, 5 p.m., Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church • Tuesday, noon, Big Book study, Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church • Thursday, noon, Sober Sisters Women Meeting, Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church. 541-548-0440.

Authors Support Group 2nd Friday, 10 a.m., Sisters Area Chamber of Commerce. 541-588-0081.

Black Butte Macintosh Users Group 3rd Thursday, 3:30 to 5:30 p.m., Sisters Library community room. 541-549-1471.

Black Butte Ranch Bridge Club Tuesdays, 12:30 p.m., Black Butte Ranch community room. All welcome; partner required. 541-595-6236.

Central Oregon Council on Aging Senior Lunch Tuesdays, noon, Sisters Community Church. 541-678-5483.

Central Oregon Fly Tyers Guild 4th Saturdays, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. For location information: 541-549-2072.

Central Oregon Spinners and Weavers Guild 4th Saturday, 1 to 3 p.m. Sisters Library. 541-639-3217.

Central Oregon Woodworkers Guild 1st Monday. 541-610-9022.

East of the Cascades Quilt Guild 4th Wednesday, September-June, Stitchin’ Post. All are welcome. 541-549-6061.

Friends of the Sisters Library Board of Directors 2nd Tuesday, 9 to 11 a.m., Sisters Library. Public is welcome. 541-977-8285.

Heartwarmers (fleece blanketmakers) 1st & 3rd Tuesdays, 1 p.m., Sisters City Hall. Just bring scissors! 503-880-5832.

Hero Quilters of Sisters Thursday, 1 to 4 p.m. 541-549-1028 or 541-548-3304.

Military Parents of Sisters 2nd Thursday, 5:30 p.m., Ray’s Food Place community room. 541-647-7483.

Oregon Band of Brothers – Sisters Chapter Wednesdays, 11:30 a.m., Takoda’s Restaurant. 541-408-5594.

SAGE (Senior Activities, Gatherings & Enrichment) Wednesdays, 1 to 4 p.m. at SPRD. 541-549-2091.

Sisters Area Photography Club 2nd Wednesday, 4 p.m., Sisters Library community room. 541-549-6157.

Sisters Area SketchUp Users Group 2nd Wednesday, 7 p.m., Earthwood Timber Frame Homes. 541-549-0924.

Sisters Astronomy Club 3rd Tuesday, 7 p.m., SPRD. 541-549-8846.

Sisters Bridge Club Thursdays, 12:30 p.m., The Pines Clubhouse. Novices welcomed. 541-549-9419.

Sisters Cribbage Club Tuesdays, 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., Ray’s Food Place community room. All are welcome. 541-923-1632.

Sisters Habitat for Humanity Board of Directors 4th Tuesday, 6 p.m. Location information: 541-549-1193.

Sisters Kiwanis Thursdays, 7 a.m., Brand 33 Restaurant at Aspen Lakes. 541-410-2870.

Sisters Red Hats 1st Friday. Location information: 541-279-1977.

Sisters Rotary Tuesdays, noon, Aspen Lakes Lodge. 541-977-6545.

Sisters Trails Alliance Board of Directors 2nd Wed., 5:30 to 7 p.m. The Pines Clubhouse. 541-719-8822.

Sisters Veterans Thursdays, noon, Takoda’s Restaurant. 541-903-1123.

Three Sisters Irrigation District Board of Directors 1st Tuesday, 4 p.m., TSID Office. 541-549-8815.

Three Sisters Lions Club 2nd Tuesday, noon, Ray’s Food Place community room. 541-595-6967.

VFW 8138 & American Legion 1st Wednesday, 6:30 p.m., Sisters City Hall. Service officer available. 541-903-1123 or 541-549-1132.

CITY & PARKS

Sisters City Council 2nd & 4th Thursday, 7 p.m., Sisters City Hall. 541-549-6022.

Sisters Park & Recreation District Board of Directors 1st Tuesday, 5:30 p.m., SPRD building. The public is welcome. 541-549-2091.

Sisters Planning Commission 3rd Thursday, 5:30 p.m., Sisters City Hall. 541-549-6022.

FIRE & POLICE

Black Butte Ranch Police Dept. Board of Directors Meets monthly. 541-595-2191 for time & date.

Black Butte Ranch RFPD Board of Directors 4th Thursday, 9 a.m., Black Butte Ranch Fire Station. 541-595-2288.

Cloverdale RFPD Board of Directors 3rd Wednesday, 7 p.m., Main Station, George Cyrus Rd. 541-548-4815. See the agenda at www.cloverdalefire.com.

Sisters-Camp Sherman RFPD Board of Directors 3rd Tuesday, 5 p.m., Sisters Fire Hall, 301 S. Elm St. 541-549-0771.

Sisters-Camp Sherman RFPD Drills Mondays, 7 p.m., Sisters Fire Hall, 301 S. Elm St. 541-549-0771.

SCHOOLS

Black Butte School Board of Directors 2nd Tuesday, 5 p.m., Black Butte School. 541-595-6203.

Sisters Christian Academy Board of Directors 2nd Thursday, 8 a.m., RE/MAX Revolution office at Outlaw Station. 541-549-4133.

Sisters School District Board of Directors One Wednesday per month, SSD Admin Bldg. See schedule at www.sisters.k12.or.us. 541-549-8521 x4011.

