

Veterans get a look at ranch retreat

By Diane Goble
Correspondent

A group of over 100 veterans and their families came out to Central Oregon Veterans Ranch (COVR) on Memorial Day to have a look around the newly acquired 19-acre ranch property with a four-bedroom home and barn.

COVR started as the vision of Alison Perry, licensed professional counselor, with inspiration from her MEDEVAC helicopter pilot brother Todd, to help restore purpose and spirit to veterans of all ages. She thanked everybody for being part of this amazing project to honor our veterans from all wars, then turned the mic over to chaplain and Marine veteran Ernie Tafalla from Partners in Care (PIC) Bend. He said it gave him chills as he talked about how this vision became reality and added, "PIC wants to do everything they can to serve those who served our country."

Board members, including President Howard Gorman, Treasurer Joe Jezukewicz, and Director Wayne Heuple, were enthusiastic about the project as they talked with visitors about the need for fundraising and connections within the community. "We're always going to need community funding for veteran programs," said Gorman. "The government can't do the job

alone. It's up to us at the local level to help."

Local veterans, COCC students, began volunteering with the ranch after choosing the organization for a class project. Chris Dahlen (Army) and Sean Kennedy (Marines), who were there helping people sign in, organized a chili cook-off at Bend High School for their small group communication class, all proceeds going to COVR.

With the help of private investors Tom and Melanie Kemper to secure the land, the nonprofit Central Oregon Veterans Ranch is moving forward with raising funds for the renovation and development of the 19-acre parcel between Redmond and Bend, with a breathtaking view of the Cascades. They were recently awarded \$8,000 for remodel supplies from a national hardware corporation and are seeking a donor to match funds to complete the renovation for an adult foster home that will specialize in hospice care on the property.

Veteran volunteers and contractors have been on hand to help with remodeling the existing home, and management of the grounds. The volunteer base is growing and veterans will be developing and maintaining an active farm by learning sustainable agriculture and growing food. Surplus food will be donated

to food banks. The group will be recruiting veteran teachers and instructors from the community with a focus on approaches such as permaculture and holistic management.

The effort has been supported by Washington Federal in Sisters and is garnering interest from statewide agricultural lending groups with grant reserves for nonprofits. They work closely with OSU Extension Agent Scott Duggan and Vietnam veteran and ag teacher John Jeans.

With about 20,000 veterans scattered over Deschutes, Crook, and Jefferson counties, there is a large population to be served. Perry is excited to see opportunities for veterans to learn, serve, and heal, already happening at the property, which is quickly becoming a hub for veterans. She was excited to share, "We had a veteran guest from Medford who wants to start a similar model in their community."

For information, to donate, or for a tour, call 541-706-9062, visit www.centraloregonveteransranch.org, or find them on Facebook.

Songwriter releases CD

Megan Rose announces her first CD release with the arrival of a six-song, extended-play album titled "Now I Can See."

Megan will perform songs from the CD and more at The Barn on Saturday, June 13, at 7 p.m. Hosted by Sisters arts patron Cris Converse, The Barn is the perfect place to listen to the music of Megan Rose.

In her own musical and lyrical style, Megan Rose will bring to life "Now I Can See" with the help of other musicians and friends. Locally produced by Brent Alan Studios, this compilation

reflects Megan's early years in the Sisters Folk Festival Americana Project and shares a rich view into this musician's future. The hauntingly beautiful playlist brings forward a feeling of peace, yet pushes listeners to ask questions while hearing everything from interpreted William Stafford poetry to protest songs to music of love and recovery.

The public is invited to this special event at The Barn. Admission is free, with CDs available for purchase.

The Barn is located at 68467 Three Creek Rd., three-quarters of a mile south of Sisters on Elm Street.



PHOTO BY CHERYL MCINTOSH

Megan Rose will perform her original songs in concert at The Barn.

**YEAR-ROUND
FIREWOOD
SALES**
— KINDLING —
**SISTERS
FOREST PRODUCTS**
541-410-4509
SistersForestProducts.com

\$10 OFF First Massage
— Selah Broderick, LMT Lic.#15583 —

- Massage & Bodywork
- Movement Art
- Classes

541-241-0043
(Above Cascade Fitness)

Sey-Lah-Vie! Studio
Movement Arts • Massage & Bodywork • Classes

Finding Solutions for Your Financial Needs



Darren Layne, CFP®
Financial Advisor
411 E Cascade Ave Ste 102
Sisters, OR 97759
541-549-8739


Member SIPC
www.edwardjones.com

Edward Jones
MAKING SENSE OF INVESTING

Smile, Sisters!

We're committed to your dental health!

Exceptional Health, Prevention & Aesthetics



Ben Crockett, D.D.S. Check us out on facebook
541-549-9486 / 541-549-9110
410 E. Cascade Ave. ■ P.O. Box 1027 ■ Sisters, Oregon 97759
Hours: Mon., 10 a.m.-7 p.m.; Tues.-Wed., 8 a.m.-4 p.m.; Thurs., 7 a.m.-3 p.m.

SISTERS DENTAL

2015 SISTERS FOLK FESTIVAL TWENTIETH ANNIVERSARY

THE SUBDUDES
TIFT MERRITT
THE BILLS
SESSION AMERICANA
GRETCHEN PETERS
HALDEN WOFFORD & THE HI BEAMS
ANDRE THIERRY
THE BALLROOM THIEVES
YOUNG DUBLINERS
TRACY GRAMMER
LIZ LONGLEY
JEFFERSON HAMER

ERIC BIBB
DARLINGSIDE
THE STRAY BIRDS
RYAN MONTBLEAU
MANDOLIN ORANGE
SHINYRIBS & THE TIJUANA
TRAIN WRECK HORNS
BETH NIELSEN CHAPMAN
FRONT COUNTRY
NEW COUNTRY REHAB
BETH WOOD
MOUNTAIN HEART
AND MANY, MANY MORE...

SEPT 11, 12 & 13 SISTERSFOLKFESTIVAL.ORG 541-549-4979