

COMMUNITY

Schools building Chinese program

By Jim Cornelius
News Editor

The arrival of three new Chinese language teachers in Sisters is further evidence that an innovative program established here in 2008 is established for the long haul.

David Perkins, a Black Butte Ranch resident and retired businessman with strong ties to Asia, established the Mandarin language program and was its first teacher. In recent years, Sisters has hosted teachers from China through a program of the Chinese government and the Confucius Institute at Portland

State University.

The program has extended from Sisters High School downward through the grades to include introductory cultural and language experiences in the elementary school and middle school. It's all part of creating a sustainable Mandarin language program that has become one of Sisters' signature educational strengths.

"I don't want this to be a one-man show, and I leave and the whole thing peters out," said Perkins, who remains deeply

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PHOTO BY DIANE GOBLE

Care-A-Vanners make a lifestyle out of helping Habitat families.

Care-A-Vanners help Sisters families

By Diane Goble
Correspondent

For some, an RV vacation means doing some real work — and having some real fun.

Sisters Habit for Humanity board members and volunteers welcomed a group of Habitat RV Care-A-Vanners with a potluck supper last weekend. RV Care-A-Vanners is a volunteer program for anyone who travels around the country in a recreational vehicle, and wants to build Habitat houses and have fun doing it. RV Care-A-Vanners welcomes people of all ages, from all walks of life, who want to pick up a hammer and help change lives.

Karl and Paula Hatrak rented out their house in La Quinta, California, to find out if they liked life on the road — which they did. They decided

to continue traveling, visiting the kids, and "giving back for all we've been given," Karl said. This is their second year and their third build. Karl had done some building projects in their home over the years, and Paula said, "I'm a fast learner."

Bill and Deborah Brown retired in Fair Oaks, California, and decided to try out the RV lifestyle for a couple of months. They read an article about the RV Care-A-Vanners and decided that sounded like a great way to give back. They are enjoying their experience and next year hope to extend their road trip to five or six months and volunteer at more Habitat builds around the country.

Dan and Jean Bissell do volunteer work at home in Salem, and they travel a lot in their RV. They wanted to find

something to do to give back while they were on the road and came across the RV Care-A-Vanners on the Internet. This will be their sixth build in two years.

Kevin Schinke comes from Sacramento. He sold his home, bought a van, joined RV Care-A-Vanners and plans to drive around the country helping wherever he finds a need. He says, "I did a lot of work on my house. It's not rocket science. I figured I can figure it out."

Gary Vines and Deb Locke were from Maine, but they live full-time in their motor home. They both love experiencing different perspectives, meeting new people, having meaningful conversations, and being on the road. They have been RV Care-A-Vanners for

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SPRD restructures lacrosse program

The Sisters Park & Recreation District (SPRD) Board of Directors voted unanimously last week to approve a five-member advisory committee to Outlaw Lacrosse. Sisters Country citizens Winter Lewis, Jay Wilkens, Rob Fish, Michele Hammer and Paul Patton were selected to serve as committee members to ensure lacrosse continues to be a strong and successful program for the youth of Sisters.

The board of directors heard of perceived policy deficiencies in the lacrosse program committee in May and took immediate action to

rectify the situation, the board reported. At the September board meeting a memorandum of understanding for all SPRD committees was voted into place. A portion of this policy requires a committee of at least five people to advise each program in order to operate with transparency, promote smooth and clear communication, and create additional oversight.

SPRD reports that the directives are designed to provide "safeguards" for committee members, encourage inclusive decision-making and help

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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. 541-419-1279.

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.

