

COMMUNITY

Skygate development underway in Sisters

By Sue Stafford
Correspondent

The first three of seven affordable homes are under construction in Skygate, located in northeast Sisters at the corner of Jantzen Lane and Heising Drive. The first three should be completed and ready for occupancy by September of this year and the other four in 2017.

The homes, all of which will be three-bedroom, two-bath structures, will have a sales price of \$180,000. Skygate is a ground-lease development, meaning the home-owner purchases the

house through bank financing and leases the land for \$85 a month from Impact Housing, LLC of Redmond.

What makes these new houses available for purchase at a below-market price is removing the cost of the land, one of the major factors in the rising home prices all over Central Oregon. Local developer Shane Lundgren sold the property for Skygate's affordable homes to NeighborImpact to meet his City requirement for seven affordable homes in his planned Sun Ranch

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PHOTO BY JODI SCHNEIDER MCNAMEE

Dan Galecki, Sisters forester, helped kids plant a chokecherry tree.

Sisters youths get a taste of the ballroom

By Erin Borla
Correspondent

Seventh- and eighth-grade students at Sisters Middle School took a special lesson during their PE class the past few weeks: they learned the Western swing.

"We've been teaching this unit for 12-13 years," said technology teacher Wes Estvold. "My wife and I took swing classes a number of years ago and it's been something I like to share with the students."

Eighth-graders Brogan Petterson and Josh Liddell liked learning the dance moves.

They said that, "It was fun doing something different, instead of sports in PE."

Three teachers work together on the dance unit including Estvold, health teacher Julie Patton and PE teacher Gary Thorson.

"We taught Western swing this year," said Patton. "In the past we have taught other

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Students participate in Arbor Day

By Jodi Schneider McNamee
Correspondent

Planting trees each Arbor Day is a Sisters tradition. This year, three classes of kindergartners planted chokecherry trees in front of Sisters Elementary School (SES).

The National Arbor Day Foundation awards and recognizes communities who work to improve urban forestry.

"We got the Growth Award again from Tree City USA. They have pretty high standards that you have to meet," said public works project coordinator, Nichole Abbenhuis. "They look into a lot different things, such as our overall tree care and the ratio of tree removal versus

tree planting. We have three hardy chokecherry trees and each kindergarten class will help plant and water them."

The chokecherry is closely related to the black cherry. Chokecherries were the most important fruit in several Native American tribes as it was not only used for food but for medicinal purposes as well, including the treatment of fevers and colds.

Before the celebration began SES Principal Becky Stoughton read a poem to students, "The Summer Day," by Mary Oliver.

Then the enthusiastic students, supervised by their teachers and public works employees, took turns shoveling dirt around the roots of the tree, as Sisters City

Forester Dan Galecki held up the trees. Several students stomped on the ground to ensure the tree wasn't going to fall.

"This day helps the kids understand where they are living," Galecki said. "The chokecherry is native to Oregon and there are a few varieties of cherry trees in the area and these should do very well here."

The young students are already learning how nature impacts their lives and how they impact nature.

"Dan greatly contributed to our growth award. He does inventory and keeps an eye out for sick trees and ones that are in danger,"

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SISTERS AREA MEETING CALENDAR

BOARDS, GROUPS, CLUBS

Al-Anon 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.

Alateen Thursday, 7 p.m., The Episcopal Church of the Transfiguration. 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 Tuesday. 541-639-6216.

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. 541-977-8285.

Heartwarmers (fleece blanketmakers) 1st & 3rd Tuesdays, 1 p.m., Sisters City Hall. Materials provided. 541-408-8505.

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., 17549 Knight Rd., Bend (Plainview area). 541-388-9013.

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. 541-923-1632.

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

Sisters Kiwanis Thursdays, 7 to 8:30 a.m., Brand 33 Restaurant at Aspen Lakes. 541-410-2870.

Sisters Parent Teacher Community 3rd Wednesday, 3:15 p.m., Sisters Elementary C-wing. 971-570-2405.

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

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

Sisters Trails Alliance Board 2nd Wed., 5:30 to 7 p.m. Sisters Art Works. Public welcome. 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, 6 p.m., SPRD building. 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, 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.

