



PHOTO BY LYNN WOODWARD

Statue of Damdin Sükhbaatar, one of the leaders of Mongolia's 1921 Revolution, Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia. The Blue Sky Hotel, in the background, was completed in 2009 and is now the tallest building in Mongolia.

## ULAANBAATAR: Many Mongolians are moving to city

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evidenced most obviously in the form of ovoos. A pile of rocks, sticks, bones, many tattered hadags (blue scarves), empty vodka bottles, perhaps a Chinggis-brand beer can and other objects as well; a shamanistic offering honoring the eternal sky and spirits.

In the center of the city, a large bronze of a seated Chinggis Khaan, flanked by two of his many progeny and rulers, son Ögedei Khan, and grandson Kublai Khan on horseback, was completed in 2006 — in time for the 800th anniversary of Chinggis Khaan's coronation. Formerly Sükhbaatar Square, it was then renamed to Chinggis Square, but the statue of key 1921 revolution leader Damdin Sükhbaatar was left in the center.

Sükhbaatar's horse urinated on that very spot during a rally shortly after the victory of the 1921 revolution. Considered a good omen, the puddle was precisely located by a buried marker used to place the statue in 1946.

Now *that* is horse culture.

I stayed in UB with Jane, an Australian whom I met on my packtrip. Midway through a year of volunteering here with UNICEF, she knows her way around. We bopped all over the city in faux taxis, usually in a Toyota Prius (one in eight cars in Mongolia is a Prius). The museum was fabulous, Zaisan Memorial iconic, Gandan Tegchenling Monastery a vibrant haven, and we topped it off with an enthralling Tumen Ekh performance of traditional music and dance. Mongolians are proud of their heritage, and I have hope that they can balance their own traditions with the influences from the outside world.



PHOTO BY LYNN WOODWARD

Ulaanbaatar at night.



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## BLUM: incumbent was appointed to current position

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to what comes before the Council at regular meetings. It takes a significant investment of time on the Council to understand how local government works and what role the City Council plays. I'm ready to put my experience to work for Sisters," she said.

Blum outlined three major issues she thinks are top priorities for the Council to address:

- **Affordable housing:** "We cannot maintain a healthy business community or encourage families to move here and help fill our schools without adequate affordable housing. I will continue to work with affordable-housing providers to find innovative ways to bring needed housing to Sisters."

- **Highway congestion:** "Summertime highway congestion through Sisters is a fact of life. The roundabout at the west end of Sisters that's being built next spring will help improve traffic flow and safety. The City is also working on an updated Transportation System Plan, which will include options for improved traffic flow and safety on the east entrance of Sisters. As a member of this committee, I will work to keep this a priority."

- **Livability:** "Many residents of Sisters Country have moved here for the lifestyle it offers. So how do we

maintain that lifestyle while still encouraging a healthy business environment?"

Blum believes the only way to meet these challenges is to "continue working as a community to find the right balance for Sisters." She pledges, that if elected to the Council, she will work with the community to find that balance.

She sees the roll of the Council as that of a policy-making body. Their job is to set parameters and goals. It is of utmost importance that they hire good staff, communicate clearly with staff regarding the policies and goals, and expect staff to act in an advisory capacity based on Council's policies and the state laws. Blum grew up in the Willamette Valley, living in Amity, Carlton, McMinnville, and Silverton, where she graduated from high school. After attending the University of Oregon for a time, and lacking any particular direction in her education, she decided to join the working world.

Blum and her husband, Jack, are residents of Pine Meadow Village and have lived in Central Oregon since 1988. She served as the recording secretary



PHOTO BY SUE STAFFORD

Andrea Blum is running for Sisters City Councilor in November election.

for the Deschutes County Commission, providing her a broad education in local government issues, particularly those related to land use.

Much of Blum's employment has provided valuable experience for her position as a Councilor. She worked for 15 years for the Oregon Public Employees Union in Salem, where she worked with contract negotiations and supervision of employees. Her goal was often to see that there was equity for all parties.

For over 20 years Blum has been actively involved with the Deschutes County League of Women Voters, serving in all the leadership positions.



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# Kathryn Lindbloom



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