



Dances dating back to the 18th century and before were the fare at The Belfry on Saturday night.

PHOTO BY JIM CORNELIUS

DANCE: Beginners are welcome to try country dancing

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She told *The Nugget* that Scottish country dancing was deliberately preserved as a cultural heritage.

“There were two women in the 1930s who were afraid that the old dances would be lost,” she explained.

The women traveled around Scotland “collecting” and documenting the traditional dances, some of which date back as far as the 15th century. They formed the Royal Scottish Country Dance Society, and published a manual on the dances. That means that anyone, anywhere, can learn and reproduce the dances just as they were done centuries ago.

And people all over the world have done just that. Scottish country dance societies exist from Sisters to San

Francisco, from Hoboken to Hong Kong.

“There are branches all over the world,” Marland confirmed.

The tradition is not trapped like a dragonfly in amber, however.

“Dances are continually being written now,” Marland said, “so there are modern dances, too.”

Many participants are, of course, of Scottish lineage. Others simply enjoy folk dancing and for others, “it just looked like fun,” Marland said. And fun it is. The High Desert Celtic Country Dancers get together each Monday night from 7 to 9 p.m. at the Sons of Norway Hall in Bend to learn new dances and practice ones they know. The cost is \$3 and beginners are welcome. You don’t need a partner. For more information visit www.hdccd.com. For more information on the High Desert Celtic Society visit www.hdes.net.

RYAN: Candidate has strategic planning background

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functions.

In 2012, as the senior vice president and CFO of Erickson Aviation in Portland, he conducted two major acquisitions, multiple Wall Street funding activities, and took the company from a private business to a public one with shareholders. That initial public offering of Erickson, Inc. was the first IPO done in Oregon in eight years.

His other positions took Ryan to Albany, New York; Boston, Massachusetts; Litchfield, Connecticut; and Cincinnati, Ohio. When asked if he and Lidia would be staying in Sisters, Ryan replied, “We love it here. This is it. We’re not going anywhere.”

Ryan’s active lifestyle is well-served in Sisters, as he enjoys running (especially up mountains); biking; hiking; and — like many Sisters residents — is a big-time dog-lover.

The Ryans have three adult children, two in Connecticut and one in Tennessee; and two grandchildren.

Ryan believes he has the necessary bandwidth to serve as a councilor. He has numerous skills that lend themselves to the duties required of councilors.

“I’m a leader, good at building consensus, and I know financials,” he said. “I have the energy, time, and

initiative.”

The first and most important item Ryan believes the new Council must focus on is hiring a good permanent city manager. He would like to see a thorough interview process, looking at as many qualified candidates as possible, in order to hire the person who will be the best fit.

With his years of strategic planning experience, Ryan would like to see the Council take a longer-term approach to problem-solving and goal-setting.

“There will always be distractions that require some attention, but Council needs a long-term strategy that it sticks to when making decisions,” he said.

The whole subject of the need for affordable housing in Sisters is one area where he sees lack of a long-range strategy, creating the recent “rushed” decision regarding \$300,000 from the City in support of an affordable townhouse development. Plans for funding affordable housing, Ryan thinks, should have been made prior to budget deliberations so that enough designated funds were available to support the proposed project.

Ryan believes that business diversification and family-wage jobs that will attract families with school-aged children are important issues, but new people, as well as current residents, need housing.

The City’s financials are of prime interest to the CPA, who is already familiar with government accounting. If elected, Ryan plans to “spend



PHOTO PROVIDED

Chuck Ryan.

a lot of time understanding the financials.” He pointed to the previous miscalculations regarding the strategic reserve funds, which indicated the City had well over a million dollars in reserves, whereas, after unbudgeted legal expenses, and correcting the accounting procedures, there is more like \$300,000 in reserves.

Ryan is running for Council because he “loves living in this town” and “wants to help.” He is serious about the commitment required, saying he is up for serving four years.

“I would be willing to serve as mayor. If I’m going to dip my toe in, I might as well dip it all the way,” he said.

He sees himself as a team player. He also believes it is important that Council meetings be run properly and that councilors need to avoid going off on tangents.

“I have a lot to offer and I have the time. I believe in doing my homework, conducting research, and coming to meetings educated and prepared,” Ryan said.

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