

# Trail to success in horse adoption

By Kathryn Godsiff  
Correspondent

Adopting a rescued horse is a process, one that can be fraught with unexpected bumps and bruises. Too often, when those rough spots crop up, the horse is passed along to another hopeful owner. Sisters horse trainer Alison Weston started a nonprofit this year with the intention of creating a trail to success for horses ending up in a rescue and those warm-hearted people who choose them.

Solid Strides, a 501(c)(3) entity, has a three-fold mission: to provide training for the horses, then to match-make to find appropriate homes, and finally to provide ongoing training and support for the new pairs. The post-adoption services are an aspect not normally found in the horse-rescue world, one that Weston emphasizes.

The first horse to go through the program, Carmelita, found a committed home and the follow-up cemented a relationship between Carmelita and her new owner that showed Weston she was onto a good idea.

“The whole point of this is no failure. I want to send people on their way to a successful partnership with their new horse.”

Education for those who volunteer at rescues is also offered. Often those who run the rescue establishments are committed to the day-to-day operations and don't have time or space to train the volunteers beyond the basics. Weston's passion for developing horsemanship in every area of horse-care meets a need in the rescue world.

“ I want to send people on their way to a successful partnership with their new horse. — Alison Weston

A riding accident in October has Weston sidelined for the winter, and her current Solid Strides horse, Summer, will resume training in the spring. However, Weston discovered that the evaluation services and lessons can be done from a chair while her broken femur heals. She's working with 3 Sisters Equine Rescue, assessing long-term

potential of some of their horse-adopter pairs.

Effective horse training is a long-term commitment. Weston doesn't believe in the quick makeover-type processes that capture attention but don't offer followup. She accepts that the Solid Strides approach will be slow and steady. This does present some funding challenges, however.

“The main source of steady income for Solid Strides is the \$1,500 adoption fee for each horse,” Weston said. “With me out of commission, we'll be exploring alternative fundraising, and also welcome any end-of-year donations from people with a heart for successful rescue-horse adoptions.”

Any branch of US Bank accepts donations, and there is a Donate Now button on the Solid Strides Facebook page. Also check the Facebook page for updates on events, education opportunities and training progress.



PHOTO PROVIDED

Solid Strides helps rescue horses and their people succeed.

# SISTERS

## Entertainment • Arts • Special Events

Wed. ~ Dec. 21

**Sisters Saloon Texas Hold 'Em Tournament!** 7 p.m. Every Wednesday! For more information call 541-549-7427 or go to sistersaloon.net.

**The Lodge Restaurant at Black Butte Ranch Live Music with Sisters High Desert Bell Choir** 6 to 7 p.m. For dinner reservations at The Lodge call 541-595-1260.

Thurs. ~ Dec. 22

**Black Butte Ranch Snowshoe & Bonfire Adventure** 2 to 4 p.m. or 5 to 7 p.m. For ages 10 and older. \$10 (\$5 ages 10-12). With s'mores and hot cocoa at the fire. Reservations required at 541-595-5879. Must bring snowshoes to participate (rentals are available at the Glaze Meadow Rec Center, 541-595-5877).

Friday ~ Dec. 23

**Downtown Sisters 4th Friday Art Stroll** 4 to 7 p.m. Galleries & shops feature live entertainment & refreshments! sistersartsassociation.org.  
**Aspen Lounge at Black Butte Ranch Live Music!** 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. For more information call 541-595-1260.

Saturday ~ Dec. 24

**Black Butte Ranch Horse Drawn Carriage Rides** 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. with cocoa, hot cider or coffee after the ride. \$10 (kids under 5 free). Reservations and prepayment are required in advance by calling 541-595-1252.

Sunday ~ Dec. 25

**Merry Christmas!**

Monday ~ Dec. 26

**Black Butte Ranch Snowshoe & Bonfire Adventure** 2 to 4 p.m. or 5 to 7 p.m. For ages 10 and older. \$10 (\$5 ages 10-12). With s'mores and hot cocoa at the fire. Reservations required at 541-595-5879. Must bring snowshoes (rentals available at Glaze Meadow Rec Center, 541-595-5877).

Tuesday ~ Dec. 27

**Black Butte Ranch Horse Drawn Carriage Rides** 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. with cocoa, hot cider or coffee after the ride. \$10 (kids under 5 free). Reservations and prepayment required at 541-595-1252.

Wed. ~ Dec. 28

**Sisters Saloon Texas Hold 'Em Tournament!** 7 p.m. Every Wednesday! For more information call 541-549-7427 or go to sistersaloon.net.

**Black Butte Ranch Horse Drawn Carriage Rides** 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. with cocoa, hot cider or coffee after the ride. \$10 (kids under 5 free). Reservations and prepayment required at 541-595-1252.

**Glaze Meadow at Black Butte Ranch Snowshoe & Bonfire Adventure** 2 to 4 p.m. or 5 to 7 p.m. For ages 10 and older. \$10 (\$5 ages 10-12). With s'mores and hot cocoa at the fire. Space limited; reservations required at 541-595-5879. Must bring snowshoes (rentals available at GMRC, 541-595-5877).

Thurs. ~ Dec. 29

**Black Butte Ranch Horse Drawn Carriage Rides** 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. with cocoa, hot cider or coffee after the ride. \$10 (kids under 5 free). Reservations and prepayment required at 541-595-1252.

Friday ~ Dec. 30

**Paulina Springs Books Author Reading with Steve Olson, "Eruption: The Untold Story of Mount St. Helens"** 6 p.m. With refreshments. \$5 entry refunded upon purchase of featured book. For more information call 541-549-0866 or go to paulinasprings.com.

**Black Butte Ranch Horse Drawn Carriage Rides** 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. with cocoa, hot cider or coffee after the ride. \$10 (kids under 5 free). Reservations and prepayment required at 541-595-1252.

Saturday ~ Dec. 31

**Sisters Saloon New Year's Eve Party and Live Music with the Bobby Lindstrom Band** 8 to 11 p.m. Blues and Rock, no cover! 541-549-7427 or go to sistersaloon.net.

**Black Butte Ranch Horse Drawn Carriage Rides** 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. with cocoa, hot cider or coffee after the ride. \$10 (kids under 5 free). Reservations and prepayment required at 541-595-1252.

Sunday ~ Jan. 1

**Black Butte Ranch Horse Drawn Carriage Rides** 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. with cocoa, hot cider or coffee after the ride. \$10 (kids under 5 free). Reservations and prepayment required at 541-595-1252.

Schedule subject to change. Submit by 5 p.m. Fridays to [teresa@nuggetnews.com](mailto:teresa@nuggetnews.com)

*Sisters*  
**MOVIE HOUSE**  
**STARTS FRIDAY**  
FRI., DEC. 23 - THURS., DEC. 29

**The Eagle Huntress (G)**  
Fri-Thurs 2:15, 4:15, 6:30

**Passengers (PG-13)**  
Fri-Thurs 2:00, 4:45, 7:45

**Sing (PG)**  
Fri-Thurs 2:45, 5:15, 7:15

**Rogue One (PG-13)**  
Fri-Thurs 1:30, 4:30, 7:30

Movie times and titles are subject to change. Visit website or call for latest information.

**WWW.SISTERSMOVIEHOUSE.COM**  
**541-549-8800**

*The Belfry*

Feb 17 / Fri / 8-11 PM  
**Sassparilla**  
They are pungent, not subtle. Dirty bluegrass band from Portland.

Mar 1 / Wed / 7-10:30 PM  
**Tommy Castro and the Painkillers**  
Playing music guaranteed to fire up fans and leave critics searching for new words of praise.

Mar 9 / Thurs / 8-11 PM  
**Zepparella**  
Zepparella explores their own improvised magic within the framework of Zeppelin's mighty songs!

PUB OPENS 1 HR PRIOR TO SHOWS  
**BelfryEvents.com**  
**541-815-9122**  
Rent The Belfry!  
Perfect venue for live music, weddings, receptions, meetings, or any event.