

C O M M U N I T Y

Sisters Fire District honors achievements

By Jim Cornelius
Editor in Chief

2017 was a challenging year for the Sisters-Camp Sherman Fire District.

A harsh winter burdened the District as heavily as everyone else in Sisters. It cost \$6,400 just to keep the fire stations cleared of snow so that emergency response wouldn't be delayed. And the snow and ice damaged Sisters Fire Hall to the tune of \$200,000. District personnel put considerable work into planning and preparing

for the potential of catastrophic floods, had heavy rain fallen on the massive snow load. Fortunately, that didn't happen, and flooding was minimal.

Winter was just the start of a wild season, the travails and triumphs of which were recounted during the Sisters Fire District's annual awards banquet, held at FivePine Lodge & Conference Center on Friday, March 2.

Like other agencies across the region, the Sisters Fire

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PHOTO BY JAY MATHER

Aspiring artists worked with peers and professional mentors at the Americana Song Academy for Youth.

Local resident rescues feral cats

By Jodi Schneider McNamee
Correspondent

Dayton Lanphear, a landscaper and longtime resident of Sisters, opened his heart and home to 20 young feral cats.

The story unfolded last December when Lanphear noticed an abundance of young cats hanging around the property he was employed to clean up near Fryrear Road.

"An elderly woman lived in a single-wide mobile home, and her son was moving her to another home

and also moving the mobile home away from the area," Lanphear said.

Lanphear has been around animals his whole life and noticed that most of cats were feral.

"Most of the cats wouldn't let you near them but I think they were all related. They knew each other and were content around each other," he said.

Feral cats are quite sociable within their colony, forming close friendships with others while rearing their

See **FERAL CATS** on page 22

Song academy encourages creativity

By Jim Cornelius
Editor in Chief

Each year, the Sisters Folk Festival presents some of the most profound songwriting talent in America, on stages all around town, summer and winter. Part of the organization's mission is to nurture the next generations of artists who will one day grace those stages.

That was the undertaking last weekend at The Belfry during the Sisters Folk Festival's Americana Song Academy for Youth.

Students, 33 in total,

from the Sisters Americana Project mingled over three days with peers from other programs in Central Oregon and as far away as Pagosa Springs, Colorado, as they worked under the tutelage of established artists on subjects ranging from writing process to preparing to take the stage as a performer.

"Every year has a slightly different flavor... a different feeling from the group," said Sisters High School Americana Project teacher Rick Johnson. "This year, they're just really positive and eager to learn."

Johnson has been bringing students to the song academy for over a decade — before he became a teacher in Sisters. He brings his background in music theater to bear, teaching a session on the Alexander Technique, which performers use to relax and focus themselves before taking the stage.

Johnson sees tremendous opportunities for the students in their activities at the camp.

"They get a larger tool box to express themselves artistically and they gain the

See **SONG CAMP** on page 31

SISTERS AREA MEETING CALENDAR

BOARDS, GROUPS, CLUBS

Al-Anon Mon., noon, Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church / Wed., 6 p.m., Episcopal Church of the Transfiguration. 541-549-8737 or 541-549-1527.

Alateen Thursday, 7 p.m., Episcopal Church of the Transfiguration. 541-549-1527.

Alcoholics Anonymous Thurs. & Sun., 7 p.m., Episcopal Church of the Transfiguration / Sat., 8 a.m., Episcopal Church of the Transfiguration / Mon., 5 p.m., Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church / Big Book study, Tues., noon, Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church / Gentlemen's meeting, Wed., 7 a.m., Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church / Sober Sisters Women's meeting, Thurs., noon, Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church / Step & Tradition meeting, Fri., noon, Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church. 541-548-0440.

Alzheimer's & Dementia Caregiver Support Group 1st Tuesday, 11 a.m., Sisters City Hall. 800-272-3900.

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., BBR community room. 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 OR Spinners and Weavers Guild 4th Saturday, 1 to 3 p.m. Sisters Library (Jan.-Oct.). 541-639-3217.

Central Oregon Woodworkers Guild 2nd 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. www.sistersfol.com.

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 541-719-1230.

Military Parents of Sisters Meetings are held quarterly; please call for details. 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) Mon.-Fri., 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. at SPRD. 541-549-2091.

Sisters Area Photography Club 2nd Thursday, 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 Caregiver Support Group 3rd Tuesday, 10:30 a.m., Ray's Food Place community room. 541-771-3258.

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 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 1st Wednesday, 5 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., Three Sisters Irrigation District Office. 541-549-8815.

Three Sisters Lions Club 1st Thursday, noon, Ray's Food Place community room. 541-419-1279.

VFW Post 8138 and American Legion Post 86 1st Wednesday, 6:30 p.m., Sisters City Hall. 541-903-1123.

Weight Watchers Thursdays, 9 a.m. (weigh-in is at 8:30 a.m.), Sisters Community Church., 541-602-2654.

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 Out West Realty office at Outlaw Station. 541-549-4133.

Sisters School District Board of Directors One Wednesday per month, SSD Admin Bldg. See schedule online at www.ssd6.org. 541-549-8521 x5002.

CITY & PARKS

Sisters City Council 2nd & 4th Wednesday, 6:30 p.m., Sisters City Hall. 541-549-6022.

Sisters Park & Recreation District Board of Directors 2nd & 4th Tuesdays, 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., Station 602, 67433 Cloverdale Rd. 541-548-4815. See the agenda at 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.

