

Sisters salutes...



PHOTO PROVIDED

The Sisters High School Choir turned in a stunning performance at the Central Oregon District Choir Festival.

The Sisters High School Concert Choir exceeded all expectations at the Central Oregon District Choir Festival last Tuesday.

“The choir started the school year with the successful musical ‘Cinderella,’” said Choir Director Rick Johnson. “We then focused our energy on our Holiday Showcase performance. In January, we realized that we were behind in starting our festival music due to the time we spent on the musical. However, we were prepared to dig in and do our best. Due to many circumstances, there is not a state qualifying Sky Em League Choir Festival. After discussing several festival possibilities with the students, we decided to attend the Central Oregon Choir Festival — which is a festival for another OSAA league. Our goal was to perform our best at the festival, work with the festival college adjudicators, and share our love of music with the other Central Oregon high school choir programs.”

The students worked incredibly hard and put on

the performance of their lifetimes last Tuesday. The adjudicators, festival audience members, and high school choir students from all over Central Oregon flooded the Sisters choir students with compliments.

“Leaving the festival, the kids were incredibly enthused,” Johnson said. “Our goals were met. Wednesday morning, I received the overall festival scores and my jaw dropped. The first through third place winners of the Central Oregon Festival were listed — all 5A schools. I’m so proud to announce that our 4A Sisters High School Concert Choir achieved a higher overall score (by 5 points) than the first-place (5A) choir at the festival!”

Johnson said, “Thank you for all of your support of the choir kids throughout the year. Please congratulate the awesome students in the Sisters Concert Choir when you see them. They are truly spectacular performers.”

The Sisters choirs look forward to performing again for the May 23 Choir Pop Show at Sisters High School.

Artists prepare for open studio event

By George Myers
Correspondent

The third and final group of artists and writers are working on a variety of creative projects at Caldera Arts Center, and starting to think about what they will be sharing with the public during the last open studios event this Saturday.

Maesie Speer, Arts Center programs manager, talked about how each group of artists is unique and different. Caldera hopes these three-and-a-half-week residencies “make it possible for people to explore parts for their identities as artists, teachers and parents.”

This cohort of seven includes four parent artists who have their children with them for part or all of their stay. Maesie commented that it has been interesting to watch the parents and kids self-organize to work and play together.

Nika Blasser, who does marketing at the Crow’s Shadow Institute of Art in Pendleton, has enjoyed her chance to be at Caldera. She is struck by the differences in this residency from the first one of her career last fall in urban Denmark. She describes her artistic process as being responsive to her environment and generally highly connected to nature. The work she is creating feeds from the land, light, lake, caldera and even the snow covering the ground. She is busy

creating and working in several media.

“I’m going to make a lot of things” and experiment in order to pick what she is pleased and happy with, she reported. “I tend to prioritize everything else above my art practice ... this makes me recognize how much value I have in my own work. I owe myself this time.”

The residency helps her feel that her work is worthy and valuable.

Coming from Brooklyn,

Anna Ahmad is here with her active 3-year-old daughter, Lila. This is her first residency and it is an important part of her shift from a full-time corporate job to being an author. She is valuing the opportunity to learn from the other artists here about the business side of making a living in the creative arts. Although she started her first novel several years ago, the residency is her opportunity

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