

AGE FRIENDLY:
Free meeting set on April 25 in Sisters

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Conversation so that participants will have factual information in order to make informed decisions when prioritizing the senior issues and needs identified at the AFC town hall held last November. During that meeting, Dr. Margaret Neal of the Portland State University Institute on Aging shared how Portland, Oregon led the World Health Organization's (WHO) first age-friendly initiative in the United States.

At the November 2017 meeting, several groups identified what is already working for seniors in Sisters, what are current barriers to improvement, and what are suggestions for improvement and to bring change, focusing on the three key elements of an AFC. The breakout sessions on April 25 will prioritize issues for action, and will discuss short-, mid-, and long-term goals and action planning for each of the key elements.

The built environment group will look at issues regarding housing, transportation, and outdoor spaces and buildings. Community and health services and communication/information comprise the topics considered under the service environment. The social environment sub-categories include employment and the economy, civic participation and volunteering, social participation, and respect and social inclusion.

Four main areas emerged across all three environments as needing to be addressed — isolation, transportation, housing, and healthcare. All four are intertwined and impact one another. To create an AFC, it is helpful to take a holistic approach, addressing a number of interrelated issues that impact all citizens, not only seniors. It will take the interest and commitment of people of all ages to move the AFC initiative forward, according to Robyn Holdman of Citizens4Community.

Several positive steps have already been taken toward creating a more age-friendly

community. Two local Sisters residents, Toni Landis and Dixie Eckford, have been appointed to the Council on Aging of Central Oregon (COA) advisory council, the first representatives ever from Sisters.

Since the Alliance began meeting, Landis said their overall goal has broadened to encompass all adults, regardless of age.

"Everyone is an aging adult," she said, "and what we do to improve transportation, emergency care, and an accessible environment for seniors will benefit moms with strollers, students needing flexible transportation, and anyone needing local emergency care. That is what makes a community age-friendly; it's good for everyone."

COA has funded Landis as an information and resource specialist in Sisters every Monday from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. to work with aging adults 60 and older needing assistance, information, and access to a variety of services. Landis offers her services in the Sisters Park & Recreation District (SPRD) Sage Room, which hosts senior activities weekdays from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

"My position is a direct result of efforts of the Sisters Senior Alliance to examine the needs and concerns of local seniors," Landis said.

People are asked to RSVP for the free April 25 community dinner to ensure there is sufficient food for the event. Additional information about the Community Conversation is available on the C4C website at www.citizens4community.com or by calling 541-549-1482.

SCIENCE TALK: Stoves help individuals and environment

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lecture begins at 7 p.m.

The StoveTeam endeavor began in 2007 when Hughes and a team of volunteers from the Eugene Southtowne Rotary Club wrote a Rotary matching grant and invented a small portable stove they dubbed the Ecocina. The little stove produced almost no smoke and used less than half the wood of an open fire. Declared one of the most efficient "rocket stoves" in the world, the Ecocina reduced carbon emissions from a cooking fire by 68% and particulate matter by more than 86%.

Demand for the stove was immediate and immense. In 2008, StoveTeam International began helping local entrepreneurs establish sustainable factories to produce Ecocina stoves. The factories, funded initially by Rotary matching grants, use all local materials and employ only local men and women, an important economic contribution in developing countries where unemployment sometimes exceeds



PHOTO COURTESY STOVETEAM INTERNATIONAL

Pupusas cooked on an Ecocina stove in El Salvador are shared with a StoveTeam volunteer.

50 percent.

StoveTeam International has received ongoing and generous support from Rotary clubs in the United States, Mexico and Central America; Hughes was the recipient of Rotary International's Champion of Change award in 2013. In addition to her evening lecture at The Belfry on April 24, she will be the luncheon speaker for the Rotary Club of Sisters meeting at Brand 33 Restaurant at noon.

Hughes travels regularly to Mexico and Central

America with groups of volunteers, visiting one of the five stove factories in various locations. Volunteers build and test stoves, work on construction projects, and visit local cultural sites. More information on the program will be available at the evening lecture.

Social hour begins at 6 p.m. with light fare, beer, and wine available. The lecture begins at 7 p.m. Admission is \$5; Science Club annual donors, teachers and students are admitted free. The Belfry is located at 302 E. Main Ave.

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