

# The Lodge in Sisters opens for residents

By Jim Cornelius *EDITOR IN CHIEF*

It's a project years in the making. It created dozens of construction jobs in one of the largest projects in Sisters history. Now, despite a two-week delay due to a massive snowstorm, the first residents have moved into The Lodge in Sisters.

They are moving into a facility designed to have the amenities of a larger senior community, but with the community feel of having 62 residences, all on one level. The residences range from 425-square-foot studio apartments to 625-square-foot one-bedroom apartments (the most popular option thus far) and two-bedroom apartments of 909 square feet.

All units have fully accessible bathrooms off each bedroom. The one- and two-bedroom units have spacious walk-in bedroom closets. Each unit has an interior entrance from the hall and an external door to a small concrete patio.

Scott Nay, the executive director of The Lodge, notes that a guiding principle for The Lodge is that residents have a wide range of choices and options in the level of assistance they receive and how care is delivered. The level of care ranges from fully independent living to assisted living. Memory care is not part of the service; The Lodge staff will assist a family in finding appropriate placement if that need develops. Temporary short-term respite stays are possible if a caregiver at home needs a break or help is needed before returning home after hospitalization.

An interdisciplinary health team works with residents and families to determine what care and service is appropriate. Levels of support can be stepped up over time as needed or desired by the family.

The Lodge is happy to partner with outside entities to provide services.

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brought in, they can do that," Nay said.

Physical therapists from local providers will come in and work with patients at The Lodge.

"It's resident-choice," Nay said. "That's where we're at. We offer resources for them, but they get to choose what they want."

Choice extends to dining and activities, too. The dining facility seats 96 people. There are no fixed "meal times" here.



PHOTO BY JERRY BALDOCK

"It's like a restaurant," Nay said. "Anytime dining."

The menu, too, is flexible. While there are certain specials available at certain times, regular dining really is "anytime."

"They can order breakfast at dinner off that anytime menu," Nay said. "It allows a lot more flexibility."

Early risers and night owls alike can eat what they want, when they want.

And, Nay notes, "They can have a guest come in and have a meal. I encourage them to do that, because it's really good for them."

And, if they prefer, residents can order a meal and enjoy it in their apartment.

The Lodge is intended to be welcoming, and much attention has been paid to aesthetics.

Local glass artist Susie Zeitner has handcrafted 138 lighting fixtures for The Lodge including individual sconces beside each resident's hall door and four-foot diameter glass chandeliers for the common areas. Wildlife and landscape art adorns the walls throughout.

One area was purpose-built for rotating art displays, which the Sisters Arts Association will help coordinate. Local schools will participate.

"I'm sure we will be doing some art shows here," Nay said.

He also indicated that there will be music on hand.

Weekly housekeeping and laundry for linen/towels is available — but again, resident choice and independence are at the forefront.

"Residents have the ability to do their own laundry," Nay said.

Scheduled transportation,

utilities including internet and basic cable, social events, activities, classes and excursions, and fitness center and group classes are all available. Two activity rooms allow ample space for arts and crafts activities and one boasts a full kitchen that can accommodate cooking classes.

A theater/meeting room offers a large screen and comfortable chairs.

courtyards, walking paths, and outdoor seating areas for strolling and relaxing outdoors — and enjoying an impressive view of the Three Sisters.

Safety and security have been designed into the facility. Nay points out that the building has four fire zones with fire doors blocking off the ones from each other, so that if an incident occurs in one wing, the entire facility does not have to be evacuated at once. Residents can simply be moved to a safe zone.

Nay acknowledged that the external doors on apartments may seem a bit unusual for such a facility, but the access adds to the sense of independent living.

The need for a substantial independent-to-assisted-living space has been felt acutely in Sisters for years, as the population ages and wishes to stay here, and as families bring parents to live in Sisters Country. Demand is likely to fill The Lodge quickly.

In that case, there is space on the east side of the five-acre parcel to add a one- or two-story structure that could provide 20 or 40 more residences.

"There's places to expand once we hit 100 percent capacity," Nay said. "If we fill up, they're ready to start building that second place."

For more information on The Lodge in Sisters visit <https://www.thelodgeinsisters.com> or call 541-904-0545.

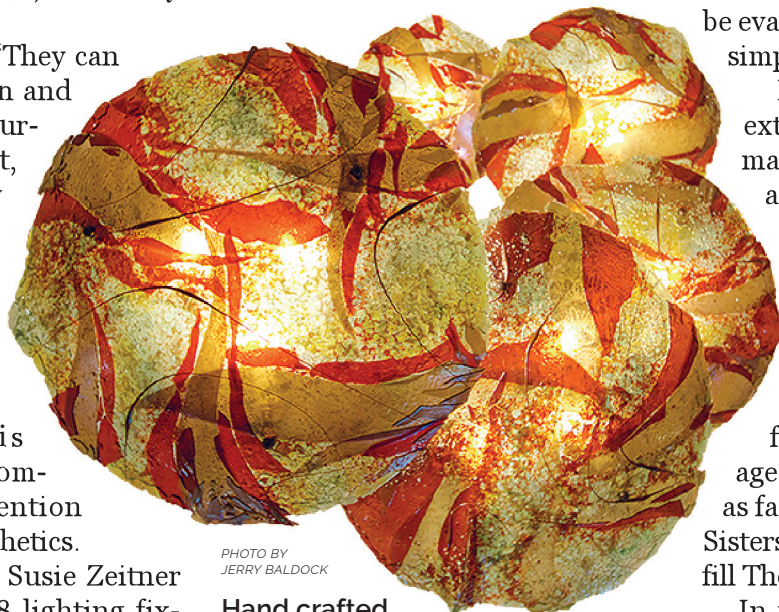


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Hand crafted light fixtures by local glass artist Susie Zeitner.

That room, which can accommodate church services, has a capacity of 132, and will also be available to the community.

"We have a full-service beauty shop/salon," Nay pointed out.

Sisters stylist Suzie Johnson will operate the salon by appointment.

The grounds feature landscaped



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