

Group offers education on local government

The local political organization Indivisible Sisters will explore the role of local government in the daily lives of Sisters citizens in an event set for Thursday.

Those attending can explore the role of Sisters City Council with City Councilor Andrea Blum and City Manager Cory Misley.

They can learn how to run for election (there will be three openings next year). The gathering is set for Thursday, April 11, from 6 to 8 p.m. (6 to 6:30 p.m. social) at the Sisters Public Library conference room.

Indivisible Sisters is a citizen organization that, according to its Facebook mission statement, “champions democracy by building community through conversation and action.”

For more information call 541-760-5320.

Sydney the cygnet part of Summer Lake community

By Jim Anderson
Correspondent

Last week hosted another exciting — and positive — event in the saga of the Cyrus’s Aspen Lakes trumpeter swan community.

When the Cyrus family decided to create a housing community out of their ranch and farming land, in order to make it look good and be attractive to buyers they built a water feature and named it Aspen Lake, using their allotted irrigation water.

Then, to enhance the beauty of the lake even more, they purchased two pairs of trumpeter swans and turned them loose. Three of the four swans are now deceased, but the surviving one, a female named Eloise, has become a mother. Thanks to the generosity of the Aspen Lakes homeowners, a partner for Eloise, Pete, was purchased from a swan-raising facility back east. The pair’s cygnet, (baby swan) named Sydney, has become part of the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife’s (ODFW) and The Trumpeter Swan Society’s (TTSS) trumpeter swan community at the Summer Lake Wildlife

Management Area.

But the capture of Sydney didn’t happen without a lot of anxiety, hard work and that now-full-grown swan trying to sink ODFW wildlife biologist Simon Wray’s kayak. It took a team of six volunteers quite some time to get Simon close enough to Sydney — who weighs about 25 pounds and has enough power in her wings to knock a grown man to his knees — to get her into a net, and then a great deal of creative boating to get said swan and net to shore.

Others placed the unhappy bird in a carrying cage and safely transported her to Summer Lake.

Now Sydney will become a vital member of ODFW’s trumpeter population, and hopefully be productive in the growing family of swans at Summer Lake.

The cooperative efforts of the Aspen Lakes community keep Eloise and Pete safe, and fed with a daily food supplement. The kindness and generosity of the homeowners supplied the birds with an automatic feeder and a bubbler to keep the pond from freezing.

According to resident and swan volunteer Robin



PHOTO BY ROBIN GOLD

ODFW Wildlife biologist Simon Wray with trumpeter swan juvenile, Sydney, he captured.

Gold, “The Aspen Lakes swan story is one of a community collaboration for the greater good of nature. It’s

an inspiring story, particularly in this troubled world. The fact that it’s successful makes it even better.”

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