

Young Life builds relationships

By Charlie Kanzig
Correspondent

Young Life, a non-denominational organization for youth, returned to Sisters last fall under the direction of Shannon and Doug Miller with the help of many volunteers. A year in, Shannon Miller says the group has gained name recognition and support, high school kids are coming to the weekly meetings and a number have been to Young Life camps.

On its website, Young Life, which was founded in the 1940s and has grown into an international organization, states its mission as being to “introduce adolescents to Jesus Christ” which Miller explains is much different than a traditional church youth group.

“Everyone’s welcome no matter where they are at in life. Our goal is creating a space that’s fun, that kids can be real and for us to share where our hope comes from,” she said.

The Millers came to Sisters about a year and a half ago after a stint of working at the Washington Family Ranch, a Young Life camp, near Antelope. Their initial push was to find dedicated adult volunteers in the community in order to build a proper foundation for Sisters Young Life to function properly. Sunday night meetings began over the past few months with 5 to 10 teens involved, but a larger “kick-off” for this school year is happening Sunday, November 3.

A typical meeting includes some food, a game or skit, and a brief story or teaching from one of the adult leaders, but especially giving the kids time to talk.

“It’s most important for us to create a safe environment that allows the youth a chance to talk and to ask questions,” she said. “Of course, we always try to have a little fun along the way.”

Among the volunteers are key players Kent Boles, Brooke and Damon Frutos,



PHOTO BY CHARLIE KANZIG

Young Life members prepare to carve pumpkins at a recent get-together called the Pumpkin Palooza. Regular meetings begin Sunday, November 3.

Val Allen, and Julie Swisher.

Young Life volunteers also finds other ways to support students. Shannon organized a group of girls who went to homecoming together, helping them plan and get ready. Small groups gather at times other than Sunday nights as well.

An example of the fun factor came October 27 with an event called Pumpkin Palooza, which was the first real event of the year for Young Life. The group visited a pumpkin patch, shared a meal, and launched pumpkins in the dark using a catapult.

The first meeting of the year is set for this Sunday evening, November 3, at the Miller’s home located at 533 N. Fremont St. in Sisters. Meetings start at 7:27 p.m.

Advertising thus far has been relatively low-key according to Miller.

“It’s mostly been word-of-mouth — students telling other students — so it’s growing organically and sort of slowly, which is perfectly fine. We want the kids to own it,” she said. “We’ve had parents come along at times to check it out and that’s fine, too.”

Future meetings may take place at other locations. Miller suggests that people check the Sisters Young Life Instagram page for updates.

As an organization, Young Life also has a middle school program called Wyldlife, but for now some of the volunteers for Young Life are helping with the youth group called “Collide” held on Wednesdays at 6:30 p.m. at the Sisters Westside Church campus in collaboration with Vast and Westside Church.

“Even though we don’t have an official group for middle-school-aged youth, we are still promoting kids going to our camps and doing what we can to help support Collide so this age group also had opportunities to get together,” she said.

Reflecting over the year, Miller feels deep appreciation for the way the Sisters community has “supported and embraced” Young Life.

“It’s been a joy getting to know people,” she said. “I have loved getting to know the kids in Sisters.”

Miller has four children of her own, including a high school sophomore, so she can appreciate more than ever how much teens benefit from a group like Young Life. She said, “Young Life brings a message of hope to teenagers. We find adults who genuinely care about kids and put them in a place where they can help them navigate the difficult waters of adolescence.”

Searching for a rainbow...



PHOTO BY JENNIFER SMITH

Rainy autumn weather produced a beautiful rainbow seen from George Cyrus Road on October 22.

SISTERS-AREA Entertainment & Events

OCT
30
WED

Fika Sisters Coffeehouse Coffee & Connections at Jobb 9:30 to 10:30 a.m. Connect with remote workers & other professionals. For more info call 541-588-0311.

Sisters Saloon Poker Night 7 p.m. Every Wednesday! \$20. For information call 541-549-7427 or go to sistersaloon.net.

OCT
31
THUR

The Suttle Lodge & Boathouse Honky Tonk Halloween 5 to 9 p.m. Treats, eats and a lil two-step. Tickets and details at thesuttlelodge.com/happenings.

Sisters Saloon Karaoke Night 9 p.m. to midnight. Every Thursday, no cover! For additional information call 541-549-7427 or go to sistersaloon.net.

NOV
1
FRI

Deschutes County Fairgrounds Snowflake Boutique 1 to 8 p.m. \$3.50 admission, proceeds go to Family Access Network. Go to snowflakeboutique.org for more info.

Fika Sisters Coffeehouse Game Night until 8 p.m. Bring your own games & friends or find them there! Call 541-588-0311 for more information.

Hardtails Bar & Grill KJ Annie Rawkstar Karaoke Night! 9 p.m. Every Friday, no cover! For additional information call 541-549-6114 or go to hardtailsoregon.com.

NOV
2
SAT

Deschutes County Fairgrounds Snowflake Boutique 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. \$3.50 admission, proceeds go to Family Access Network. Go to snowflakeboutique.org for more info.

Bend Elks Lodge The Artisan Showcase Holiday Bazaar 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Free admission, local artists. Gifts, Christmas decor & more! For more info call 541-221-4426.

Cork Cellars Live Music with Jazz Folks 6:30-8:30 p.m. No cover! For information call 541-549-2675 or go online to corkcellarswinebistro.com.

Hardtails Bar & Grill KJ Annie Rawkstar Karaoke Night! 9 p.m. Every Saturday, no cover! For additional information call 541-549-6114 or go to hardtailsoregon.com.

NOV
5
TUES

Sisters Saloon Trivia Night 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. Sign-up is at 6:15 p.m. Free, every Tuesday! For additional information call 541-549-7427 or go to sistersaloon.net.

NOV
6
WED

Fika Sisters Coffeehouse Coffee & Connections at Jobb 9:30 to 10:30 a.m. Connect with remote workers & other professionals. For more info call 541-588-0311.

Sisters Community Church Author Presentation 6:30 p.m. Part of the Creativity, Culture & Faith Series. Kim Meeder will discuss “Encountering Our Wild God.” For info call Sisters Community Church at 541-549-1201.

Sisters Saloon Poker Night 7 p.m. Every Wednesday! \$20. For information call 541-549-7427 or go to sistersaloon.net.

NOV
7
THUR

Cork Cellars Tasty Thursday Hosted Wine Tasting 5 to 7 p.m. For additional information call 541-549-2675 or go online to corkcellarswinebistro.com.

Sisters Saloon Karaoke Night 9 p.m. to midnight. Every Thursday, no cover! For additional information call 541-549-7427 or go to sistersaloon.net.

NOV
8
FRI

Fika Sisters Coffeehouse Jul (Sweden’s Christmas) 2 to 8 p.m. Holiday market with gifts and art by local artists. Wine tasting. Call 541-588-0311 for more information.

Hardtails Bar & Grill KJ Annie Rawkstar Karaoke Night! 9 p.m. Every Friday, no cover! For additional information call 541-549-6114 or go to hardtailsoregon.com.

Fika Sisters
COFFEEHOUSE

JOIN US FOR JUL!
(Sweden’s Christmas)
HOLIDAY MARKET
Friday, November 8
from 2 to 8 p.m.

Wine tasting with
Willamette Valley Vineyards!
Vendors will be selling gifts, see
Kathy Deggendorfer’s art and
meet artist Paul Alan Bennett.

541-588-0311
201 E. Sun Ranch Dr.,
Mon-Sat 7 a.m. to 4 p.m.

The Belfry

Fri.-Mon., Nov. 1-4
Turkish Rug Bazaar
A truckload of gorgeous Turkish
rugs from Istanbul Rug Bazaar.

Sat., Nov. 16 • 6:30 p.m.
Dry Canyon Stampede
Western dancing on the sprung
wood floor! Dance lessons at 6:30,
start swingin’ with the band at
7:30! Dance lessons included in
ticket, partner not required.

Sat., Nov. 23 • 8 p.m.
Quick and Easy Boys
Pub opens 1 hour prior to shows.
302 E. Main | 541-815-9122
BelfryEvents.com

HARDTAILS
BAR & GRILL

HAPPY HOUR
MON-FRI 4-7pm

KJ ANNIE
KARAOKE NIGHTS!
FRI. & SAT. at 9pm

Prime Rib Fridays 5pm!

175 N. Larch St.
541-549-6114
hardtailsoregon.com
Facebook darcymacey