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Sisters community raises its voice in song

By Sue Stafford
Correspondent

The Belfry was full of laughter, good feelings, and singing last Friday night as about 200 community members gathered for “Let’s Sing, Sisters!”

The free event featured the Low Bar Chorale band from Portland and their dynamic director, Ben Landsverk, who fully engaged the assembled crowd in renditions of pop hits like “Hey Jude,” “Shadow,” and “Maggie May.”

The crowd contained every age and stage, from school-aged kids and their parents, to the whole range of middle-agers, to plenty of “experienced citizens” using their phones as flashlights to see the print on the song sheets.

Board member of Citizens4Community, Chris Laing, had experienced the Chorale twice before and was responsible for encouraging C4C and several other organizations to bring them to Sisters for an evening of song and community-building. Sponsoring groups included the Ford Family Foundation,



PHOTO BY JERRY BALDOCK

The crowd at The Belfry made a joyful noise together on pop classics like “Hey Jude” and “Maggie May.”

Roundhouse Foundation, St. Charles Health System, and Sisters Folk Festival, along with Citizens4Community, The Belfry, Age Friendly Sisters Country, and Sisters Park and Recreation District.

Everyone appeared to be arriving with the intent of having a good time and,

indeed, a good time was had by all, as evidenced by the tapping feet, swaying bodies, smiles, and harmonic voices belting out each song.

“There’s nothing more fun than singing, and especially with a group of people,” said local chiropractor Bonnie Malone. “And singing is good

for your health.”

Marean Jordan of Sisters concurred, “I’m here because I love to sing, and I love the community spirit when people raise their voices to sing together.”

Landsverk told *The*

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Thorsett appointed to school board

The Sisters School District Board appointed David Thorsett to fill Position No. 2 after interviewing five applicants for the open board seat on Wednesday, November 20.

“We had a very difficult decision to make because each candidate was incredibly qualified. Each spoke of wanting to give back to their community, and I hope each candidate will consider future openings,” said board chair Jay Wilkins.

Thorsett had registered to run for a board seat in the May elections, but withdrew his candidacy after learning he would be running directly against an incumbent board member, Jeff Smith.

“I was excited to run in the election process for a board seat, but didn’t realize it required you to run for a

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Fire department putting engines into service

The Sisters-Camp Sherman Fire District (SCSFD) has purchased a pair of 2008 model Pierce Contender fire engines to replace aging equipment at the fire stations located in Squaw Creek Canyon Estates and Camp Sherman.

The engines in those stations are 25 and 35 years old, respectively. The “new” engines were purchased through Brindlee Mountain Fire Apparatus, a used fire apparatus dealership based in Alabama, for a cost of \$155,000 each.

“The decision to search the used market for these engines was made due to multiple factors — the most important factor was

maintaining fiscal responsibility,” said Tim Craig, deputy chief of operations. If the same engines were purchased new, the cost would be in the neighborhood of a half-million dollars each. Both of these stations are critical to our operations, but they don’t have a high call volume, so it’s hard to justify the cost of brand-new fire engines. By purchasing used engines, we are able to work within our operating budget while maintaining good quality, safe fire apparatus that will meet our needs into the future.”

Both of the stations receiving these engines are staffed by dedicated community

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Sisters cold weather shelter opens

By Sue Stafford
Correspondent

St. Charles Health System recently provided a big boost to Sisters Cold Weather Shelter with a \$5,000 donation to help support the shelter’s mission of providing a safe, warm place for unhoused people in Sisters to get out of the winter weather.

The shelter was originally scheduled to open December 1, but due to the recent cold temperatures and the forecast for snow, the shelter opened on Monday, November 25, at Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church. Doors open at 6 p.m. each evening for dinner and the night, with guests leaving by 7 a.m. the next morning.

Mike Richards, director of operations and ambulatory



PHOTO BY SUE STAFFORD

St. Charles Health System donated \$5,000 to support Sisters’ Cold Weather Shelter, shared among four Sisters churches.

specialties, Carlos Salcedo, manager of community partnerships, and Chloe Fief, who provides community health

education in Sisters, were all present representing St.

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