

Drum workshop will empower locals

By T. Lee Brown
Correspondent

“Sisters is a community that appreciates traditional folk arts,” said Maesie Speer, programs director of Caldera Arts Center near Suttle Lake.

Locals will have a chance to immerse in the Japanese art of taiko drumming with the group Unit Souzou on January 19 at The Lodge in Sisters.

The workshop, Taiko Empowerment: Telling Your Story Through The Drum With Unit Souzou, is presented by Caldera in partnership with Age Friendly Sisters, The Lodge in Sisters, and Citizens for Community (C4C). It is free and open to the public. Registration is required and space is limited.

Speer described a sense of belonging “when we hear old songs and see a beautifully crafted weaving or quilt in a traditional style.” Being open to new voices is important, too. “Unit Souzou works from the tradition of taiko and are dedicated to advancing and evolving it to tell stories of life now, which makes them a perfect fit for Sisters,” she said. “Not to mention that people here love rhythm, storytelling, and learning about their neighbors, which is what this workshop is all about.”

The taiko form fuses sound, movement, and spirit, and has been a “loud and proud voice to express stories of identity and cultural heritage,” according to Caldera. The workshop combines background information, taiko demonstrations, and hands-on participation. Participants will share stories through body and rhythm exercises “to discover your unique identity story through the empowering beats of taiko.”

The workshop is designed with beginners in mind; no previous taiko experience is necessary. Participants must be at least 14 years of age, and should wear comfortable clothing and bring a water bottle.

“Expect to be physical and make noise,” the organization explained, “and to share stories and listen.”

Unit Souzou plans to debut a performance project, “Constant State of Otherness,” at a new Caldera event in June of this year. Stories generated in this workshop will inform and inspire the development of that performance. The project “seeks to build empathy and empower identity through community engagement and innovative artistic exploration, rooted in the art forms of Japanese folk dance, taiko and theatre.”

Founded in 2014 by innovative directors Michelle Fujii and Toru Watanabe, the group’s name alludes to “a force by which new ideas are born and take shape in the world,” according to their bio. Unit Souzou’s mission is to build creative, imaginative works while honoring the history and roots of the taiko art form. More information is available at www.unitsouzou.com.

The workshop takes place

See **TAIKO** on page 17

Habitat announces contest winners

The winners are in for Sisters Habitat for Humanity’s 13th Annual Gingerbread Trail fundraiser. Twenty-one local businesses participated in this confectionary competition this year.

Judge’s Choice Award went to Sisters Coffee Company for their replica of a coffee roasting machine. The judges were impressed by the realism and attention to detail. The designer and creator was Shawn Moore, the Sisters Coffee Company’s baker.

The judges awarded second place to Sisters Habitat ReStore for their fudge-sticks log cabin with a lemon-cookie roof, and six-pane pretzel windows. It was built by employee Carmel Johnson.

The People’s Choice Award went to First Interstate Bank for their three-sided tableau of The Night Before Christmas. Assorted candies

hung from the ceiling in the bedroom representing “visions of sugar plums,” a napping dog lay by the fireplace, and Christmas trees were decorated in the front yard. The winner of this category was determined by patrons stuffing the most money in the donation box. This work of art was the combined effort of Sisters’ First Interstate Bank employees.

Sisters Habitat Gingerbread Trail organizer, Marie Clasen, expressed her appreciation for all the businesses that participated. “It’s so fun to see the amazing creations. I always look forward to this event!”

Through Habitat for Humanity, families and individuals in need of a hand up partner with Sisters Habitat to build or improve a place they can call home. Future homeowners help build their own homes alongside volunteers



PHOTO PROVIDED

First Interstate Bank took People’s Choice Award honors in this season’s Gingerbread Trail fundraiser.

and pay an affordable mortgage. Through financial support, volunteering, or adding a voice to support affordable housing, everyone can help families achieve the strength, stability and self-reliance they need to build better lives for themselves.

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SISTERS-AREA
Entertainment & Events

JAN 15 WED **Sisters Saloon Poker Night** 7 p.m. Every Wednesday! \$20. For information call 541-549-7427 or go to sisterssaloon.net.

JAN 16 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 sisterssaloon.net.

JAN 17 FRI **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.

JAN 18 SAT **Cork Cellars Live Music with Jazz Folks** 6:30 to 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.

JAN 21 TUES **Sisters Saloon Trivia Night** 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. Sign-up is at 6:15. Free, every Tuesday! For additional information call 541-549-7427 or go to sisterssaloon.net.

JAN 22 WED **Sisters Saloon Poker Night** 7 p.m. Every Wednesday! \$20. For information call 541-549-7427 or go to sisterssaloon.net.

JAN 23 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 sisterssaloon.net.

JAN 24 FRI **The Belfry Live Music with Hillstomp** 8 p.m. PDX junkbox hill country blues duo. For tickets call 541-815-9122 or go to BelfryEvents.com.
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.

Events Calendar listings are free to advertisers. Submit items by 5 p.m. Fridays to lisa@nuggetnews.com

The Belfry

Fri., Jan. 24 • 8 p.m.
Hillstomp
PDX junkbox hill country blues duo.

Tues., Jan. 28 • 6-9 p.m.
Sisters Science Club
Dr. Shinderman: Vineyard Landscapes

Thurs., Feb. 27 • 7 p.m.
Tommy Castro & The Pain Killers
Whether the deepest blues or the funkier soul grooves, legendary blues and soul giant Tommy Castro knows how to ignite a crowd!

Pub opens 1 hour prior to shows.
302 E. Main | 541-815-9122
BelfryEvents.com