

Worship in a time of pandemic...



PHOTO BY CODY RHEAULT

Westside Church of Sisters held their Easter service drive-in style at the Sisters Rodeo Grounds on Sunday morning. Pastor Jerry Kaping preached via the radio (FM 104.9) from the back of his 1973 Ford F250 to 416 people in 145 cars.

RODEO: A tough decision

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(to have to make) and none of us wanted to do it, but because of the timing of the rodeo and our volunteers coming out to do work parties — it just wasn't going to happen," Kallberg said. "It's really hard. It would have been our 80th year." The board delayed pulling the trigger as long as they could, but it became clear that going forward or rescheduling just wouldn't be viable.

Kallberg said that they looked at a couple of possible dates later in the summer, but neither was a good option. One would have gone up against the Deschutes County Fair & Rodeo and another would have competed with a rodeo in Joseph, Oregon.

It became clear that the health and safety of patrons, contestants and the 200 volunteers who make the rodeo happen required cancellation. Volunteers couldn't do the prep work required to make the rodeo what it is, and the event itself doesn't lend itself to the restrictions of the current crisis.

"We have so many events where the social spacing just doesn't work," Kallberg said.

Despite the painful decision, Kallberg is looking forward. He said the Sisters Rodeo will survive and move past the current troubles and come roaring back in 2021 — with an entire year to prepare for the 80th Biggest Little Show in the World.

Sisters Rodeo is in the process of refunding all tickets. If you have not received an expected refund by the first week of May you can call the Rodeo office at 541-549-0121.

VISITORS: The City of Sisters is strongly discouraging visitors

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The order is not an enforceable ban at this time. The City will be monitoring the properties and, if there is widespread disregarding of the order, it could be moved to an enforceable measure, involving fines for noncompliance.

City Manager Cory Misyly announced that the Emergency Declaration that went into effect on March 25 has been extended until May 13, when it will be reviewed. The Declaration provides for measures to help limit exposure to and spread of COVID-19 to limit economic impact on Sisters citizens. Misyly will continue to monitor the State projections and declarations coming from the governor's office.

Some of the emergency

measures in effect include the closure of City Hall to the public until May 13. They may be reached via email or by calling 541-549-6022. All standing advisory board and committee meetings are canceled until May 13. Scheduled City Council and Planning Commission meetings will be held via teleconference.

The City will not shut off any water and wastewater services ensuring the community continues to receive essential utility services during the pandemic. City will not charge delinquency/late fees.

Cliff Clemens Park play structure, Barclay Park restrooms, the Recycle Center, and the Creekside Campground and dump station are closed until further notice.

For more information on City operations and health resources, check the City website at www.ci.sisters.or.us.

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