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'Victory Gardens' promote resilience

By Katy Yoder
Correspondent

As the COVID-19 pandemic continues, people are discovering ways to deal with fear and uncertainty. It's an eerie feeling pushing a grocery cart, with the faint smell of disinfectant, down aisles with empty shelves while masked shoppers try to keep their distance. Many are wondering about food shortages, especially fresh produce. Relying solely on over-burdened grocers and their heroic staff to provide supplies might not be enough.

During World War I and World War II, "Victory Garden" campaigns served to boost morale and safeguard against food shortages caused by a breakdown of systems for food distribution. Like tough times in human history, more people are planting vegetables and herbs in containers, repurposed flower gardens, lawns



PHOTO BY EMILY GREEN

Audrey Tehan is teaching Sisters how to "grow resilience."

and sunny windowsills.

Being proactive can produce a sense of resilience and self-reliance... until Central Oregonians run into the many pitfalls

of gardening in the High Desert climate. Gardening skills have gone dormant over the years. Knowledge passed down through generations was less important

with grocery stores close by and people living in places with little ground for cultivating food. But folks are

See GARDENING on page 22

Quilt Show cancels events, goes virtual

The Sisters Outdoor Quilt Show (SOQS) announced Friday, April 24, that the organization will cancel the events for the 2020 Sisters Outdoor Quilt Show due to impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic. The 2020 Sisters Outdoor Quilt Show was scheduled for Saturday, July 11.

"Our priority continues to be the health and safety of our volunteers, guests, and all community members and as such we are following the best health protocols at this time. Sadly, that includes restructuring what our show day will look like," Dawn Boyd, executive director of

See QUILT SHOW on page 16

Sisters Rhythm & Brews Fest canceled

Sisters Rhythm & Brews Festival scheduled for July has announced that it is canceling due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Festival organizers Jennifer and Joe Rambo announced the decision in an update to patrons on Tuesday, April 21.

"After many weeks of anguish, consternation and many, many tears, we have decided to err on the side of caution and will be postponing this year's Sisters Rhythm & Brews Festival to July 2021," they wrote. "This decision comes with incredible sadness as we so looked forward to spending another amazing weekend with our growing festival family. For the health and well being of all parties involved including you, our ticket holders, we feel this is the safest decision."

The Festival will automatically roll over tickets to next year's event.

"Prior to next year's festival, upload the ticket to your

phone or print out the hard copy and we will see you at the front gate!" the Rambos wrote. "Due to our ongoing commitments to the artists, community, vendors and the resources already allocated to this year's event, as a show of your support we strongly encourage you to take this action. As of this morning it looks like almost all of this year's artists will be back for next year!"

The Festival will continue its commitment to scholarships for high school seniors and its support of Sisters Habitat for Humanity and Heart of Oregon YouthBuild.

Refunds for those who request them will be processed starting the first week of July.

"Letting go is a part of life and we want to gracefully say thank you and goodbye to the 2020 festival season," the Rambos stated. "We wish you all good health and safety during this very painful experience."

Riding the river into a changed world

By Charlie Kanzig
Correspondent

A trip of a lifetime rafting the Colorado River through the Grand Canyon ended with the world turned upside down for Sisters Middle School Counselor Brook Jackson and his wife, Marie.

Permits to float the river are selected by lottery and can be hard to come by, so when a friend half-jokingly asked if Jackson could go, Jackson replied, "Let me ask my wife."

Jackson, an avid outdoorsman who has worked in Sisters since 2014, said, "I had a sense that this was the time for me to make this happen. You can't exactly plan for these trips since it is a random lottery and once my wife, Marie, gave the thumbs up it was a go."

He sprung into action, first negotiating a leave of absence from the school district and then began the preparations. Marie works for Deschutes County Mental Health and also arranged a leave in order to make the



PHOTO PROVIDED

Sisters Middle School counselor Brook Jackson emerged from a river expedition into a world changed by the COVID-19 pandemic.

trip.

The pair left on the trip in late February and departed Lee's Ferry with 14 other rafters divided among six rafts on March 1, just as rumblings of the COVID-19 virus was becoming part

of the nightly news. By the time they stepped ashore to head home on March 24, they came face-to-face with a pandemic-altered world.

Jackson knew a few of

See RAFTING TRIP on page 23

Inside...

Letters/Weather	2	Property Guy.....	7	Stars Over Sisters.....	13	Crossword	18	Sudoku	21
Meetings	3	Announcements.....	10	Obituaries	18	Classifieds.....	19-20	Real Estate	22-24