

QUILT SHOW: 45th anniversary show will be virtual

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SOQS stated.

For 45 years the event has blanketed the entire town with up to 1,400 quilts, offering a rainbow of art and color and welcoming many thousands of visitors who travel here from around the world. This year's show will be reimagined into a virtual experience. SOQS guests will be able to see many of the same exhibits and quilt displays that are already planned, but they will enjoy show day online from the safety of their homes.

"Ultimately, the SOQS board is committed to celebrating our 45th Anniversary this year," Boyd said. "This may look different from previous years, but we will continue to embrace the beauty and art of quilting with everyone."

Boyd noted that making the call to cancel was driven in part by the need to plan for an alternative.

"To do something and do it well, you need to have something to aim for," she said.

Boyd and the SOQS board are fully cognizant of the economic impact a cancellation will have. Many of Sisters' retail businesses and restaurants report that the Quilt Show is the high-point of their sales season.

"My heart hurts for our local businesses," Boyd said.

In a Facebook post, Valori Wells expressed her sorrow and resolution:

"It was the hardest decision but the best one under the circumstances," she wrote. "This afternoon it has really hit me. I was almost 2 when my mom started the show and three years later Quilter's Affair, I don't remember a July that wasn't filled with quilters and quilts. As the tears flow I think of how much I will miss everyone and all the creative energy that fills our community that week, the smiling faces and laughter.... all the quilts and endless inspiration! Thank you to everyone who has ever attended our events, I am grateful for you and I hope to see everyone next year!"

In the days since the announcement of the cancellation, Boyd reported that the organization has received "lots of support — that's the good thing. The response has been very supportive and understanding."

SOQS will continue to post updates on virtual show day activities via their social media accounts and website, www.soqs.org.

LETTERS

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House Representative two years ago.

Boy-oh-boy did District 2 Oregonians give Representative Greg Walden a run for his war chest. You all should be proud.

Jamie thought long and hard about whether to run for U.S. House or Secretary of State and reached out to many others to garner input on the pros and cons of either choice. She had meetings with Governor Brown, the current Secretary of State on down to discussions with citizens, including members of Indivisible Sisters. I was one of many who urged her to run again for Walden's seat. It became obvious to her that the position in which she could do the most good for Oregon would be as Secretary of State.

Her reasoning is clear in her statements on www.jamiefororegon.com. I will only add, Jamie is very qualified, smart, honest, ethical, works hard and is effective in any endeavor. She is the leader we need to assure the forthcoming redistricting is equitable to all parties and fair to all voters in Oregon. If you are unfamiliar with her, please do check out the website noted above. I have no doubt you will find her an excellent choice for Secretary of State.

Susan Cobb

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To the Editor:

This global disaster of the Coronavirus requires universal cooperation from multiple agencies to control and devise an extermination plan. Decisions have to be made; will

those decisions be made for political reasons or because it's what's best for its people?

The immensity and mysteriousness of this virus is beyond belief. The decisions that need to be made to control and eliminate this virus will have to cover a vast diversity of its people. "One size does not fit all." The pending rules and restrictions were derived from thousands of conference calls and meetings throughout the world. There is no shortness of opinions as to medical advice. Subsequent to obtaining this vast amount of medical knowledge, our president, governors and mayors went to their constituents and mandated what they can and cannot do. The President says this, the Governor says that and the Mayor says, "we're going to do it this way."

The people have become confused and have simply drawn a line between the government's mandates and their own needs. Their decision is based on the least amount of interruption to the norm of their lives. The Governor of Michigan is facing 10,000-plus citizens rallying in the streets against her stringent stay-at-home orders; she is clearly "caught between a rock and a hard spot."

While I watch this I have no idea who's right or wrong; all I can think is, I'm glad, I don't have to make these life and death decisions. We are a republic, having a democratic process to elect our leaders. We choose those leaders; let them lead or try to lead. If you don't respect their decision at least respect the fact they had the balls to make it. You'll

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Portraits OF SISTERS



PHOTO AND STORY BY *Cody Rheault*

For 16 years *Pastor Jerry Kaping* has been a part of the Sisters Community. A Coast Guard veteran and avid hunter, he and his wife raised two sons. For the last seven years he has pastored Wellhouse Church (formerly known as Westside Sisters). On any given day you can find him doing a number of things; plodding along a forest road in his restored 1973 Ford F-150, or glassing the backwoods terrain in preparation for hunting season, or handing out bags of food at the Bread of Life food pantry. For Jerry, Sisters is more than home. "It's a family," he says.

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