



PHOTO BY JIM CORNELIUS

The Stand will open on Adams Avenue in Sisters on May 1.

Local farm stand opens in Sisters

By Jim Cornelius
Editor in Chief

Through eight growing seasons, Mahonia Gardens in Sisters has produced quality vegetables and greens for the local Central Oregon market.

Now, local buyers will be able to access their produce at a farm stand located downtown on the corner of Adams Avenue and Spruce Street. The Stand opens on May 1 at noon.

Carys Wilkins and Benji Nagel have been working toward this spring's opening for about a year. The Stand will eventually be a self-serve installation, but Wilkins said that they'll be on hand for the first few days to help people learn the ropes and to make sure everything is running smoothly.

"We're going to have our own food, but we're also going to bring in a little food from other farms," she noted. "This week, we'll have salad, arugula, spinach, various kinds of radishes, salad turnips..."

Wilkins noted that the success of the eighth Mahonia Gardens growing season is in part due to the efforts of interns Misty Earisman and Rashid Klostermann who, she says "are very competent" and "have been awesome."

Recent events have brought into sharp focus the value of locally-grown foodstuffs (see related story, page 1).

"It seems that now more than ever, people are realizing how important it is to support their friends and neighbors and the local

business people," Nagel said.

Nagel pointed out that Wilkins did the lion's share of the work on building The Stand.

"That was all her construction skills there," he said.

Commentary...

Bringing the farm to students

By Audrey Tehan
Columnist

This time last year, Seed to Table Farm was brimming with the excitement and laughter of students visiting for our farm field trip series.

Although we have had to pause on-farm field trips this spring, Seed to Table is committed to bringing the farm into students' homes. As students picked up their belongings and packets from their teachers a few weeks ago, a Seed to Table Home Garden Kit was also tucked in. Seeds, potting soil and access to our online farm school bring the hope of growth in our own homes.

Seed to Table's online farm school lessons guide students on backyard or sidewalk explorations using all their senses, take them along the decomposition cycle with simple home compost recipes, sprout investigation with our plant needs scavenger hunt, and — most important — allow students to plant their seedlings at home along with classmates and teachers.

The enthusiasm and celebration each and every student brings to the farm can be transferred to our homes.



PHOTO PROVIDED

Liam, Evelyn, and Isla get creative and enjoy planting their Seed to Table kits with common household items.

Our team is dedicating our creativity and commitment to help all students stay connected to the farm.

Earlier this April, we provided Seed Planting Kits for all Sisters Elementary School students to start their very own mini gardens at home. With these kits, students can learn how to make their own planting pots from recycled materials, sort seeds by distinct characteristics, plant their own seeds, and track their growth from a kitchen windowsill. Each week, we are posting activities and videos to our website to keep you connected. All of our activities require little to

no materials and can easily be done in your own home, backyard, or neighborhood. All you need is a curious and adventurous spirit!

Follow along with us as I greet the peacocks each morning, compete in signs of spring scavenger hunt, learn how to prepare your garden beds for spring planting and so much more. Spring is a wonderfully exciting & chaotic time on the farm and we are eager to share with you all! Follow along with us each week by visiting <https://www.seedtotableoregon.org/online-farm>. Questions or comments? Email education@seedtotablesisters.org

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