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Sisters moves into Phase I reopening with county

By Jim Cornelius
Editor in Chief

Sisters is cautiously emerging from the COVID-19 shutdown after Governor Kate Brown last week gave Deschutes County the green light to enter Phase I of the state's "reopening" protocol as of May 15 (see sidebar, page 23).

Matters were thrown into confusion on Monday afternoon when a Baker County Circuit Court Judge invalidated all of Brown's restrictions on businesses and social gatherings along with other executive orders around the coronavirus outbreak dating back to March 12. On Monday night, the Oregon Supreme Court stayed that ruling, leaving restrictions in place pending an appeal.

Many retail businesses and restaurants were back in operation under Oregon Health Authority guidelines over the weekend, while some announced that they were deferring opening into this week to allow them time to conform to those guidelines.

In a Sisters City Council workshop on Wednesday, May 13, Mayor Chuck

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Folk Festival fundraiser marks big success



PHOTO BY JIM CORNELIUS

SFF Creative Director Brad Tidel described the Preston Thompson Guitar that was raffled during a Facebook Live event that marked the conclusion of the My Own Two Friends Art Auction. The auction was taken online this year due to the cancellation of the live event.

By Jim Cornelius
Editor in Chief

Just a few weeks ago, the Sisters Folk Festival was faced with the possibility of losing its My Own Two Hands fundraiser to the coronavirus pandemic.

The annual event is critical to supporting the Festival's music education and outreach programming, so the staff came up with a way to move the auction online. And the response exceeded all expectations.

"We blew away our goal, so I'd have to say it was a resounding

success," said SFF Executive Director Crista Munro.

The organization's stretch goal was \$75,000 and the event came in close to \$85,000, which will support everything from middle school

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Class of 2020 to have commencement ceremony

By Charlie Kanzig
Correspondent

A team of dedicated educators and parents have saved the day and created a plan for the Sisters High School class of 2020 to have a commencement ceremony after all, despite the limitations imposed by COVID-19.

The one-of-a-kind ceremony will take place at the Sisters Rodeo grounds at 7 p.m. on Friday, June 12.

Due to health restrictions, the event will not be open to the general public and will be a drive-in style event. Graduates will have two parking places allotted for themselves and guests in specific locations in

front of a stage to be constructed by the Sisters Rodeo Association. A large screen will be used in order for the senior slideshow as well as pre-recorded student music and speeches to be viewed. Audio will be streamed via FM radio signal at 104.7.

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The work goes on...



PHOTO BY JERRY BALDOCK

There's no Sisters Rodeo this year, but volunteers turned out last weekend to maintain the Sisters Rodeo Grounds, including ongoing work on the new Red Rock Corral.

SPRD is restructuring in time of change

By Jim Cornelius
Editor in Chief

Faced with a radically altered programming landscape and a significant revenue squeeze thanks to the COVID-19 pandemic, Sisters Park & Recreation District (SPRD) is restructuring and streamlining.

SPRD approved a \$1.567 million budget for the 2020/21 fiscal year on May 12. According to Executive Director Jennifer Holland, that budget

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