

**C O M M U N I T Y**



PHOTO PROVIDED

Joel van der Loon will be featured on the History Channel show "Alone," premiering Thursday.

## Survival show features local resident

By T. Lee Brown  
Correspondent

Joel van der Loon of Sisters Country has faced survival challenges before: in Africa, in the Americas, and at sea. He recently documented his struggles and triumphs in the Canadian Arctic for show "Alone." It premieres Thursday, June 11 on the History Channel.

The premise: Ten participants are challenged to spend up to 100 days in the Arctic, all by themselves, selecting just 10 items of survival gear to bring along. Winners receive a cool one million dollars. "Over six seasons," the History Channel noted, "no one has ever lasted this long."

Originally from South Africa, van der Loon spent significant time with the indigenous Masai people in his younger years, which inspired his passion in primitive skills (see related story, page 31).

"The Hadzabe bushmen, in Northern Tanzania, they were a huge influence later on in my life," he said. "They are some of the last true hunter-gatherers on the planet."

"They've been a huge influence because I'm an avid hunter, and these guys are sensational," said van der Loon, who speaks Swahili. "They build their own bows and arrows—they hunt everything, up to large game, with things that they

make, from nature." He also learned jungle survival skills from the Rama people in Nicaragua.

A Discovery Channel show called Bushcraft Buildoff first featured van der Loon, in episode three. Later he was selected for the seventh season of "Alone."

"You get dropped off in the Arctic on your own with your ten items, your clothing, and a whole bunch of camera equipment," said van der Loon. "You have to document your whole experience while you try to subsist off the land."

Shows like "Survivor" pit competitors against each other in a social setting,

See VAN DER LOON on page 30

## Camp Sherman residents clean up the forest

As reported in *The Nugget* last week, there is concern about the increase in dispersed camping throughout the National Forest. Camp Sherman residents have seen firsthand the negative effects in the Metolius Basin: trash, human waste, and fire hazards.

Community members have taken action.

The Metolius Basin Clean Up Contest, a community-wide project spearheaded by Jennie Sharp and sponsored by the Black Butte School Parent Teacher Organization, took place May 26-31. Individuals and families set off with a mission to clean up

their beloved forests, competing in the following four categories:

1. Most pounds of trash collected.
2. Greatest number of hours logged.
3. Greatest number of campsites cleaned up.
4. Greatest number of illegal campfire rings decommissioned.

Those who scored highest in a category won a \$25 gift card to a local business, including Paulina Springs Books, Spoons, Hike-n-Peaks, and The Paper Place. Others who participated

See CLEAN UP on page 25

## Dance academy keeps in step during COVID-19

By Jodi Schneider  
Correspondent

The dance goes on. Sisters Dance Academy has been adapting while being closed since March 21 because of COVID-19 precautions.

How do you teach a live performance art when you can't gather to practice live performance? Lonnie Liddell, owner of Sisters Dance Academy, and the other teachers quickly got to work creating class and choreography

videos for their students to follow from home.

"We knew we needed to be able to somehow keep offering classes — not only to keep the dance academy alive as a business, but to give our students a way to stay connected and a sense of normalcy in a very difficult and uncertain time of life," said Liddell.

The dance studio has taken classes that traditionally would be conducted in person

See VIRTUAL DANCE on page 24

**As the COVID-19 crisis affects gatherings, please contact individual organizations for their current meeting status or alternate arrangements. See Announcements on page 10 for more information.**

### SISTERS AREA MEETING CALENDAR

**BOARDS, GROUPS, CLUBS**

**AI-Anon** Mon., noon, Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church. / Thurs., 10 a.m., Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church. 541-549-1527.

**Alcoholics Anonymous** Thurs. & Sun., 7 p.m., Episcopal Church of the Transfiguration / Sat., 8 a.m., Episcopal Church of the Transfiguration / Mon., 5 p.m., Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church / Big Book study, Tues., noon, Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church / Gentlemen's meeting, Wed., 7 a.m., Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church / Sober Sisters Women's meeting, Thurs., noon, Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church / Step & Tradition meeting, Fri., noon, Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church. 541-548-0440.

**Alzheimer's & Dementia Caregiver Support Group** 1st Tuesday, noon, SPRD bldg. 800-272-3900.

**Black Butte Ranch Bridge Club** Tuesdays, 12:30 p.m., BBR community room. Partner required. 541-595-6236.

**Central Oregon Fly Tyers Guild** For Saturday meeting dates and location, email: steelefly@msn.com.

**Central OR Spinners and Weavers Guild** One Saturday per month, Jan. thru Oct. For schedule: 541-639-3217.

**Council on Aging of Central Oregon Senior Lunch** Tuesdays, noon, Sisters Community Church. 541-480-1843.

**East of the Cascades Quilt Guild** 4th Wednesday (September-June), Stitchin' Post. All are welcome. 541-549-6061.

**Friends of the Sisters Library Board of Directors** 2nd Tuesday, 9 to 11 a.m., Sisters Library. www.sistersfol.com.

**Go Fish Fishing Group** 3rd Monday, 7 p.m. Sisters Community Church. All ages welcome. 541-771-2211.

**Heartwarmers** (fleece blanketmakers) 2nd & 4th Tuesdays, 1 p.m., Sisters City Hall. Materials provided. 541-408-8505.

**Hero Quilters of Sisters** Thursday, 1 to 4 p.m. 541-549-1028 or 541-719-1230.

**Citizens4Community, Let's Talk** 3rd Monday, 5:30 to 8 p.m. RSVP at citizens4community.com

**Military Parents of Sisters** Meetings are held quarterly; please call for details. 541-388-9013.

**Oregon Band of Brothers – Sisters Chapter** Wednesdays, 11:30 a.m., Takoda's Restaurant. 541-549-6469.

**SAGE (Senior Activities, Gatherings & Enrichment)** Monday-Friday, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Sisters Park & Recreation District. 541-549-2091.

**Sisters Aglow Lighthouse** 4th Saturday, 10 a.m., Ponderosa Lodge Meeting Room. 503-930-6158.

**Sisters Area Photography Club** 2nd Wednesday, 4 p.m., Sisters Library community room. 541-549-6157.

**Sisters Area Woodworkers** 1st Tuesday, 7 to 9 p.m. 541-639-6216.

**Sisters Astronomy Club** 3rd Tuesday, 7 p.m., SPRD. 541-549-8846.

**Sisters Bridge Club** Thursdays, 12:30 p.m., The Pines Clubhouse. Novices welcomed. 541-549-9419.

**Sisters Caregiver Support Group** 3rd Tues., 10:30 a.m., The Lodge in Sisters. 541-771-3258.

**Sisters Cribbage Club** Wednesdays, 11 a.m. to 2 p.m., Ray's Food Place community room. 541-923-1632.

**Sisters Habitat for Humanity Board of Directors** 4th Tuesday, 6 p.m. Location information: 541-549-1193.

**Sisters Kiwanis** Thursdays, 7 to 8:30 a.m., Brand 33 Restaurant at Aspen Lakes. 541-410-2870.

**Sisters Parent Teacher Community** 2nd Tuesday, 6:30 p.m. at Sisters Saloon. 541-480-5994.

**Sisters Parkinson's Support Group** 2nd Tuesday, 2 p.m., The Lodge. 541-668-6599.

**Sisters Red Hats** 1st Friday. Location information: 541-279-1977.

**Sisters Rotary** 1st and 3rd Thursdays, 5:30 p.m., Takoda's. 541-760-5645.

**Sisters Trails Alliance Board** 1st Monday, 5 p.m. Sisters Library. Public welcome. 808-281-2681.

**Sisters Veterans** Thursdays, noon, Takoda's Restaurant. 541-903-1123.

**Three Sisters Irrigation District Board of Directors** 1st Tuesday, 4 p.m., TSID Office. 541-549-8815.

**Three Sisters Lions Club** 2nd Tuesday, noon, Ray's Food Place community room. 541-419-1279.

**VFW Post 8138 and American Legion Post 86** 1st Wednesday, 6:30 p.m., Sisters City Hall. 541-903-1123.

**Weight Watchers** Thursdays, 8:30 a.m. weigh-in, Sisters Community Church. 541-602-2654.

**SCHOOLS**

**Black Butte School Board of Directors** 2nd Tuesday, 3:30 p.m., Black Butte School. 541-595-6203.

**Sisters Christian Academy Board of Directors** Monthly on a Friday. Call 541-549-4133 for date & time.

**Sisters School District Board of Directors** One Wed. monthly, SSD Admin Bldg. See schedule online at www.ssd6.org. 541-549-8521 x5002.

**Sisters Middle School Parent Collaboration Team** 1st Tuesday, 2 p.m., SMS. 541-610-9513.

**CITY & PARKS**

**Sisters City Council** 2nd & 4th Wednesday, 6:30 p.m., Sisters City Hall. 541-549-6022.

**Sisters Park & Recreation District Board of Directors** 2nd & 4th Tuesdays, 4:30 p.m., SPRD bldg. 541-549-2091.

**Sisters Planning Commission** 3rd Thursday, 5:30 p.m., Sisters City Hall. 541-549-6022.

**FIRE & POLICE**

**Black Butte Ranch Police Dept. Board of Directors** Meets monthly. 541-595-2191 for time & date.

**Black Butte Ranch RFPD Board of Directors** 4th Thursday, 9 a.m., Black Butte Ranch Fire Station. 541-595-2288.

**Cloverdale RFPD Board of Directors** 3rd Wed., 7 p.m., 67433 Cloverdale Rd. 541-548-4815. cloverdalefire.com.

**Sisters-Camp Sherman RFPD Board of Directors** 3rd Tuesday, 5 p.m., Sisters Fire Hall, 541-549-0771.

**Sisters-Camp Sherman RFPD Drills** Tuesdays, 7 p.m., Sisters Fire Hall, 301 S. Elm St. 541-549-0771.

This listing is for regular Sisters Country meetings; email information to [lisa@nuggetnews.com](mailto:lisa@nuggetnews.com)