

# CITY OF SISTERS COVID-19 Situation Report

By Cory Misley  
City Manager

The City of Sisters continues to be in a declared state of emergency. This declaration is scheduled to last until June 24. The City has been preparing to phase out of a state of emergency while sustaining adjusted policies and new programs that were implemented by way of administrative order (such as utility service billing relief and the right-of-way parklet program). To extend those temporary policies beyond the sunset emergency declaration will require adoption of resolutions by the City Council scheduled for the June 24 City Council meeting.

The focus over the past month — three weeks of Phase 1 re-opening and the first week of Phase 2 — has been balancing public health and economic prosperity. The City has continued to monitor the health data closely. The City continues to support the State (Oregon Health Authority) and County (Deschutes Public Health) restrictions and recommendations. The City does not employ any public health officials and has relied on County Public Health for their expertise. Deschutes County has maintained countywide data and other resources at: [www.deschutes.org/health/page/covid-19-novel-coronavirus](http://www.deschutes.org/health/page/covid-19-novel-coronavirus).

On June 9, the City Budget Committee approved

the Fiscal Year 2020/21 budget (beginning July 1). The City's financial health is stable, even with uncertainty and an anticipated reduction of revenue associated with tourism and overnight stays. The budget provides financial assistance to local businesses including a reduction in business license fees, funds for procurement of supplies such as handwashing stations and barrels for the parklet program, and other flexible funds that can be used during the rest of 2020 and first half of 2021.

The enduring strength of the Sisters community for one another has been inspiring. Staying the course will be important over the coming weeks and months. If you're able, check in with a local nonprofit organization and learn how to offer support. As always, now more than ever, shop at local businesses to the extent you can. If you need information or support, reach out to the City and we'll work to get you what you need whether it can be provided by the City, County, State, or Federal government or a local nonprofit in our community. Learn more at [www.ci.sisters.or.us](http://www.ci.sisters.or.us).

## Commentary...

# Teach your children well

By Edie Jones  
Columnist

Our country is going through a radical change, and our children are watching and observing. I'm talking about the movement against racism.

The June 8 webpage of [www.afineparent.com](http://www.afineparent.com) shared an article entitled "How to Talk to Your Kids About Race." Young babies categorize, separating things into shapes, color, gender and even race. By 6 months they can distinguish colors of skin. By 3 years old they are already forming biases, often picking playmates with the same color of skin as their own. These discriminations are not taught; they are innate. The idea, that it's best to avoid talking about race so children won't learn about racism, can actually have the opposite affect so it's an important discussion to have early on.

The article shares many well-researched suggestions for how adults can help stem racism in children.

- Educate yourself first before trying to educate your child: Seek out information about people different from yourself. Pay attention to how you are responding to the current news. Read

books like *Why Are All the Black Kids Sitting Together in the Cafeteria*, by Beverly Daniel. Think about your biases and where they come from.

- Teach your kids by example: Conversations are *crucial*, however, our kids learn more by what they observe than from what they hear. Never forget, we are teaching something *all* of the time, by what we do and say. Read books together about people different than you. Ask questions about what they think of the story. Having exchange students encouraged our children to learn about and travel throughout the world. Visit museums and explore. Join celebrations of other cultures such as those in Warm Springs. Explore art, food, clothing, and traditions important to other cultures. Teach what is appropriate (i.e. no black faces or American Indian costumes for Halloween). Monitor movies and TV for accuracy in dress, behaviors, and accents. Encourage learning other languages and information about the countries of origin. Discuss injustices shown on the news and ask

your kids what they think. Expect and honor the many questions you will get. Acknowledge when you don't know and look for answers together.

- Demonstrate mindfulness and kindness: Mindfulness allows for curiosity and inquisitiveness. "Shushing" a young child when they ask an embarrassing question shuts down conversation, indicating something is wrong. Work on informative ways of responding. Help your children be curious about differences, emphasizing that diversity is what makes being human exciting and beautiful. The article "How to Talk with Kids about Race and Racism" by Rosalind Wiseman points out that it's important to speak-up when your child says something offensive. Point out why it's offensive and provide language that helps them take responsibility for the mistake. Be a role model by not tolerating offensive language from other adults, showing it's not only right but also okay to speak up.

See **TEACHING** on page 7



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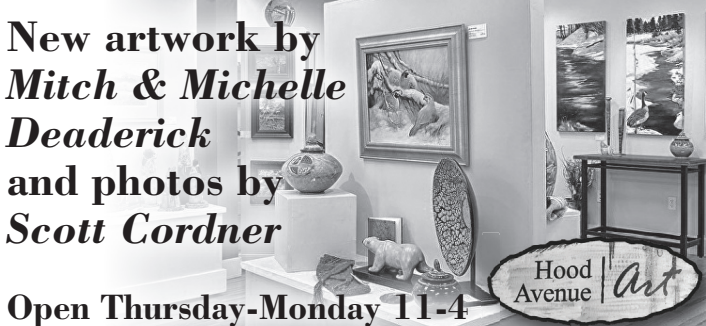


Class size limited. Safety measures in place.

**Thursday, July 9 • 6 p.m.**  
Best Western Ponderosa Lodge • 500 Hwy. 20 W., Sisters  
**MULTI-STATE \$80 including Oregon**  
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For more information:  
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New artwork by **Mitch & Michelle Deaderick** and photos by **Scott Cordner**



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