



PHOTO BY JAY MATHER

Sisters Folk Festival staff laid out “pods” for concert-goers and strictly limited attendance to produce a COVID-safe event. Masks were required to move through the venue on the back lawn at Sisters Art Works.

CONCERT: Event was designed to be Covid-safe

Continued from page 3

The six-person SFF staff worked diligently to make sure that rules were being followed and that the event could be possible and safe for everyone.

“I think it went really well overall, everyone was super compliant,” said Executive Director, Crista Munro. “We were all so happy to be there, no one minded the extra precautions; it made everyone feel safer. Our biggest concern was people wouldn’t comply, but everyone complied with the rules. All of the feedback I heard from the audience to the musicians was that they were grateful to be there and doing this. We now have this opportunity to explore local talent as well, which is exciting.”

Creative Director Brad Tisdell was also pleased with how the event was received.

“I felt like we were thoughtful in the re-imagining of what an event could be amidst COVID protocols for the audience and artist experience. We worked on the details of an evening that felt comfortable, safe and exciting. It was really an experience true to what we have done as an organization. The livestreaming, the pods, we had to re-imagine a new model — I felt we did really well,” he said.

“It was exhilarating to hear live music again, as well,” said Tisdell.

The event was also live-streamed on Facebook, so those who couldn’t make it could still enjoy the show. The livestream was made possible with Alpine Internet and Grange Recordings. Comments flooded in on the livestream from people across the nation tuning in and stating how grateful they were to be able to watch the show from a distance. Diane Kowalski, who was tuning in on the livestream said: “Thanks for the music. I am from Western NY and volunteer at the festival every year. I have had such a hard year am missing this year

SCHOOL: Metrics pose a challenge for in-person return

Continued from page 1

staff more time to prepare for online instruction. The Redmond School District announced CDL will be implemented until November 2 at a minimum and will start two days later than originally planned.

Sisters has not announced any plans to change its Tuesday, September 1 start date.

The current metrics to hold classes in person require the county in which the school exists to achieve a level of 10 or fewer cases per 100,000 residents per week and five percent or fewer positive tests per week. Additionally the state must have five percent or fewer positive tests as a whole. For reference, according to the Oregon Health Authority (OHA), there were 108 cases of COVID-19 the week ending July 26. With a population of close to 200,000 for Deschutes County, this calculates to a rate of well over 50 per 100,000. Infection rates have steadily risen in the county since late June. The county was well under the metric threshold from mid-March to mid-June.

The 97759 zip code that encompasses most of Sisters Country has had a total of 12 reported cases.

Scholl’s announcement came as a blow to students, families, and teachers alike, who spent the entire spring under a less-developed distance-learning model.

very much, it is renewing my spirit!”

The effort put into the event was greatly appreciated by everyone in attendance, including Sisters High School graduate and Americana Project alumni, Kendra Kemp.

“While it was weird not being able to sit close and hug and dance with friends and family like normal, you could still feel the love and togetherness that is always a staple at SFF events. I was sure appreciative to be back in my community surrounded by music, even if it was only for one night,” she said.

Sisters Folk Festival is hoping to put another event on in September, similar to this one.

“I think we can do this and have music again if we are all safe,” said Munro.

To see the live stream of the event, visit the Sisters Folk Festival’s Facebook or their YouTube page at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UxtAMx8OpAE>.

Scholl emphasized, however, that the key difference for distance learning for the 2020-21 school year is that it clearly will be much more comprehensive.

“What we required educationally in Oregon for the spring was minimal since we were in an emergency,” he said. “With the strength of our staff we believe we can do a good job for our students. If and when the metrics improve we want to make sure we have a seamless re-entry for in-person learning.”

“ If and when the metrics improve we want to make sure we have a seamless re-entry. — Curtiss Scholl

Under the CDL model students will be graded, attendance will be recorded, and direct contact with teachers will be increased.

There is some hope that grades K-3 could get started in person sooner than the higher grade levels because the threshold of infection rates of 30 new cases per 100,000 applies to that age group. The rationale behind this difference is that younger children reportedly not only show lower infection rates, but appear less likely to transmit the disease.

Sisters School District received a state “Preschool

Promise” grant of around \$200,000 to be used starting this school year and is in the process of hiring staff, but Scholl is not certain what the safety guidelines will be for this younger age group.

“Preschool guidelines are up in the air for now. We are waiting for more information from the State on that,” he said. “This is a very important issue for our families given that there is such a need for child care for kids, which is why we are moving ahead to be prepared to serve this age group.”

Governor Brown also announced she would release an additional \$28 million under the Emergency Education Relief Fund in order to help schools cover additional costs related to access to technology, WiFi hotspots, online curriculum and teacher training.

Scholl acknowledged that much work remains for school district employees.

“We are looking to create structures to support all of our students as well as possible,” he said. “We hope that we can provide in-person small-group opportunities, including from our counselors. It is our desire to keep our students and families as well connected as any district in Oregon.”

Detailed information regarding K-12 education issues in Oregon, including Comprehensive Distance Learning, can be found at the ODE website, www.oregon.gov/ode.

CORK CELLARS
WINE & BISTRO

**NEW CHEF
NEW MENU**

Outdoor Seating!
Dine-In or Take-Out

391 W. Cascade Ave. | 541-549-2675
corkcellarswinebistro.com

**Quality Truck-mounted
CARPET CLEANING**

Quality Cleaning 16 years in Sisters!
Reasonable Prices

— Credit Cards Accepted —

ENVIROTECH
541-771-5048

Licensed • Bonded • Insured • CCB#181062
RESIDENTIAL • COMMERCIAL

**YEAR-ROUND
FIREWOOD
SALES**

KINDLING

**SISTERS
FOREST PRODUCTS**

541-410-4509
SistersForestProducts.com

**SISTERS
SALOON**
& RANCH GRILL

**OUR DINING ROOM
IS NOW OPEN!**

Sun-Thurs 11-9 • Fri-Sat 11-9:30
★ Menu at SistersSaloon.net ★
541-549-RIBS | 190 E. Cascade Ave.

DAVIS TIRE

Our family can take care of your family of autos & trailers

Brakes • Axles • Ball Joints • Suspension • Shocks • Struts

**TIRE INSTALLATION, ALIGNMENT, REPAIR,
BALANCING, ROTATION**

Sisters Industrial Park
188 W. Sisters Park Dr. **541-549-1026**

Serving Sisters Since 1962

**Our agents are ready to meet
your insurance needs**

As life changes, so should your policy

FARMERS
INSURANCE

Call or come in today for a
free Farmers Friendly Review

541-588-6245 • 257 S. Pine St., #101
www.farmersagent.com/jrybka

AUTO • HOME • LIFE • BUSINESS

*Always Active,
Always Engaged,*

**CELEBRATING
EVERY
SINGLE
DAY!**

The Lodge in Sisters
An Independent & Assisted Living Community

411 E. Carpenter Ln. • TheLodgeInSisters.com

541-549-5634