

C O M M U N I T Y

Sisters author tells tale of 'No Ordinary Cat'

"Your destiny is part of you... your spirit, your dreams, your very breath and blood. But destiny is shaped by the roads you choose to follow. In life, choices are everything."

With these words, Rufus's mother unknowingly entices her young red-haired kitten to set out on an adventure for which he is totally unprepared. Luckily, Rufus is "No Ordinary Cat" — and this is no ordinary book.

Writing in the refreshing style of Farley Mowat's classic dog story, "The Dog Who Wouldn't Be," local author Vicki Spandel has created an engaging tale for any one of the 95 million Americans who live with and love cats, effectively capturing their loving, intelligent and adventurous nature. "No Ordinary

Cat" is an unforgettable story for animal enthusiasts of all ages.

Spandel has published over 40 books on writing and the teaching of writing, including "The 9 Rights of Every Writer." No Ordinary Cat is her first work of fiction and beautifully reflects her wealth of writing knowledge. This extraordinary hardcover edition is visually compelling, with full color illustrations by artist Jeni Kelleher.

Spandel became inspired to write her book about three years ago, when a feral cat showed up in her yard, which borders national forest land.

"He was curious, though wary," Spandel said. "With intelligent eyes and a raw fear of humans. I couldn't

See SPANDEL on page 22



PHOTO PROVIDED

John Zancanella, archaeologist with the Prineville District of the Bureau of Land Management cataloged the site of a cache of obsidian tools at Paulina Springs on Black Butte Ranch.

By Katy Yoder
Correspondent

The Black Butte Ranch land is rich with human history. Writing the 50th anniversary book, "There is a Place," was a lesson in pursuing a more complete understanding of the people who called the region home.

While researching the book, I found human history for the Black Butte Ranch (BBR) area usually focused on stories about the Santiam Wagon road that passed over BBR land, the "discovery" of the area by the first white explorers and the many attempts by land speculators and investors to use the area at the base of Black Butte known as "Black Swamp," to raise livestock.

At the tail end of the removal of indigenous

people from their lands, Camp Polk was established to protect settlers from Native people who were fighting for their freedom and birthright. By the time soldiers arrived they were no longer needed. Warm Springs Reservation had been established and Northern Paiute people who hunted, gathered, and lived in the area had been forced to live with many of their long-time enemies on the reservation. Hearing stories passed down over many generations from Northern Paiute Elder Wilson Wewa helped me understand a more complete history including that of his ancestor, Chief Paulina.

Researching for the history portion of the book, it became clear, especially in older reference books,

that the Native American presence was underplayed. Wewa, a Warm Springs elder, generously recounted some of the history lessons he acquired throughout his life from elders who knew the stories of his people's love and innovative stewardship of their homelands.

Part of my interest and perseverance to hear stories of the Indigenous people who lived in the area before they were forced to live on reservations was inspired by the discovery, twenty years earlier, of a cache of bi-faced tools near Paulina Springs pool. The general manager back then, Loy Helmly remembered getting word from a construction crew working on a renovation project who

See HISTORY on page 20

Creekside Park to see improvements

By Sue Stafford
Correspondent

Accessibility improvements to the Creekside Park Bridge will be completed by the end of 2020.

The bridge improvements include ADA-accessible ramps (Americans with Disabilities Act) on either side leading up to the bridge, with decorative railings

and the addition of viewing bump-outs along each side of the bridge.

Following a design review by the Parks Advisory Board, the board recommended to Council that the Option B design be approved, allowing the City to save some funds that would have been used on the higher-priced Option

See BRIDGE on page 16

As the COVID-19 crisis continues to affect gatherings, please contact individual organizations for current meeting status

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. 541-610-7383.

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, Noon, Aspen Lakes. 541-760-5645.

Sisters Speak Life Cancer Support Group 2nd & 4th Wednesday, 1 p.m. Suttle Tea. 503-819-1723.

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