

C O M M U N I T Y

# Sisters Dance Academy HOSTS VIRTUAL SHOW



PHOTO BY JERRY BALDOCK

Dancers performed without an audience, during a two-day video recording session at Wellhouse Church.

The Sisters Dance Academy (SDA) has had its fair share of difficulties while coping with state-mandated shutdowns during COVID-19. The first shut-down the dance academy faced was in March when the concerns over the spread of COVID-19 were growing rapidly. The studio quickly made adjustments to be able to host their classes online to try to preserve their students and program.

“Since so many of our students were doing school online,” said Lonnie Liddell, the studio’s owner and director, “it was really difficult for many of our students to have to do dance that way, too. We lost many students who really struggle with that learning format.”

The studio was allowed to reopen to in-person classes in June and continue with having students attend onsite through mid-November.

Even though the studio faced a significant drop in enrollments during the summer and fall sessions, both students and instructors alike were grateful to be attending classes in person again.

With many new protocols in place, like smaller class sizes, daily disinfecting procedures, requiring face coverings, hand-washing and limiting only dance students to be in the building, the studio was able to maintain a very safe environment and had no COVID-19 exposures.

In mid-November, as COVID-19 cases were rising in the state, the governor issued another closure for businesses like the dance academy.

“We again had to shift to all of our classes being online and our students were so heartbroken to not be able to attend their classes in person,” said Liddell.

“However, we all remained grateful we could still finish out the season virtually and give some closure to one of the most difficult years in our history.”

The dance academy was able to record their dancers and all they had prepared for the dance academy’s winter performance that was initially scheduled to be held on December 12. Due to the COVID-19 restrictions, the Sisters High School auditorium was not an option as a usable space for the dancers, so Liddell went looking for other possibilities. She was able to find a local church willing to open their doors to the dancers to be able to record their performance and give them the opportunity to present a virtual performance.

“The Wellhouse Church was amazing to work with

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# Deceased homeless honored in walk

By T. Lee Brown  
Correspondent

Living unsheltered in Sisters Country can be difficult, cold, and even deadly. On December 21, Mandee Seeley honored those who have died.

Seeley was inspired by an event held in Bend. According to organizers of The Longest Night, twice as many people in Central Oregon are homeless today as there were in 2013.

“Even though we haven’t lost anyone here in Sisters this year, we have in the past, so I wanted to honor them in their own community,” said Seeley.

While walking Sisters Community Labyrinth, Seeley thought about “the two folks we’ve lost since I moved here in 2016... even one life is too many.” They might still be alive, she noted, “if they’d had a safe, warm place to call home.”

The walk was unofficial, with the annual labyrinth Solstice gathering canceled due to COVID-19. Last year’s winter solstice walk featured ceremonial elements, a toasty fire, and nearly 50 celebrants. This year, Seeley and her family simply walked the labyrinth with just a few masked friends and supporters.

See **WALK** on page 18

# Folk festival expanding online programming

Sisters Folk Festival (SFF) has announced a new session of winter programming to expand virtual education outreach programs for adults and youth during COVID-19.

Registration is now open for educational offerings planned for this winter and spring, including multi-week songwriting and performance classes, instrumental music and engineering workshops, and three separate Sisters Songworks offerings taught by both regional and nationally-recognized instructors and musicians.

In response to the global pandemic, SFF redesigned many of their traditional offerings in 2020. The cultural nonprofit is now looking to build on the success of those reimaged programs with a slate of online music education courses and workshops rolling out this winter.

“Dynamics in Performance” is a four-week course taught by Beth Wood taking place Thursday evenings from 7 to 8:30 p.m., January 28 through February 18. The

See **SFF PROGRAMS** on page 22

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

## SISTERS AREA MEETING CALENDAR

### BOARDS, GROUPS, CLUBS

**Al-Anon** Mon., noon, by Zoom. / 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., meeting by Zoom. 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** In-person gathering suspended until further notice. For free online bridge info, call Barbara 541-914-6322.

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

**Sisters Cribbage Club** Please call for details. 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** Meeting by Zoom. 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, 3:45 p.m., Black Butte School. 541-595-6203.

**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)