

CET offers free shopper shuttle to Bend

By Sue Stafford
Correspondent

Summer is a great time to try out Cascades East Transit's (CET) free, ADA-accessible shopper shuttle that connects residents living within the Sisters Dial-A-Ride service area (including Crossroads, Tollgate, and Sage Meadow neighborhoods, and more) to shopping destinations in Bend on Thursdays.

The Sisters-to-Bend shuttle picks up passengers at their home or business in Sisters between 8:45 and 9:15 a.m. and makes stops at the Cascade Village Mall, Walmart, and Costco shopping areas in Bend before returning to Sisters by 12:15 p.m. at the latest. Rather than fighting summer traffic congestion, riders can sit back and relax while CET does the driving.

The shopper shuttle provides an important transportation service that increases independence and access for those who experience transportation barriers.

"Seniors can now have a shuttle pick them up at their home and drop them right

at the door of places like Walmart and Costco without having to drive," said Dixie Eckford of Age Friendly Sisters Country (AFSC). "I hope Sisters residents of all ages will take advantage of this free service."

To encourage the Sisters community to try the service, CET is offering first-time riders a collapsible shopper tote and a chance to win a 32-ounce Hydro Flask. Trips must be scheduled at least 24 hours in advance through CET's call center (541-385-8680) from 7 a.m. to 4 p.m., Monday through Friday. Additional information about the service and schedule can be found at <https://cascadeseasttransit.com/sisters>. CET also offers Dial-A-Ride service in Sisters on Tuesdays from 9:30 a.m. to 2 p.m.

CET continues to implement health and public safety guidelines from the Oregon Health Authority for shopper shuttle trips to help mitigate the spread of COVID-19. Information about CET's health and safety protocols for all transit services can be found at www.cascadeseasttransit.com.

Teacher raises last walls for Habitat

By Jim Cornelius
Editor in Chief

For years, Sisters High School's woodshop and construction program teacher Tony Cosby has led crews of students in framing and raising walls for Habitat for Humanity homes in Sisters Country.

Last Wednesday, he hit the job site for the last time with a student crew. Cosby is semi-retiring and passing his hammer to Jason Chinchin, who plans to keep the Habitat program rolling.

"It was pretty smooth," Cosby said of Tuesday's labors. "A little warm, but other than that, a good way to end."

The wall-raising program makes construction class real for students. Their work takes on a different level of seriousness when it is ending up as part of someone's home. And the educational benefits go beyond learning to frame a wall, Cosby notes.

"It gets the kids in the mindset of it's OK to volunteer ... and it gets them to understand that there are people who need housing who can't afford it," Cosby said.

Students get to work with other people in the community, most of whom are a



PHOTO BY JIM CORNELIUS

Tony Cosby has led dozens of construction students in building and raising walls for Habitat for Humanity homes in Sisters.

generation or two older than they are. And those volunteers get to see what they are supporting in Sisters schools.

"It's kind of outreach into the community, too," Cosby said.

"There's a real great sense of accomplishment. Typically, we get to meet the family that's going to live in it, so it all kind of comes around."

Chinchin recognizes that he has big construction boots to fill. Having worked at Breedlove Guitars, he is well-placed to take on the Sisters School District's signature luthier program. In fact, since he's already dialed

in on that, Cosby is slated to teach that class next year so that Chinchin can focus on getting up to speed on other programs, including the construction program.

Cosby says Chinchin is highly compatible with the program he built in an honored career at Sisters High School.

"He's almost me," Cosby said with a chuckle. "Except I think he's a little smarter. He's really bright."

Does Cosby see the Habitat wall-raising program continuing?

"I think it will," he said. "It's one of the best things we do."

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