

# Cromwell brings life experience

By Sue Stafford  
Correspondent

Tanner Cromwell, hired six weeks ago as the new program director at Sisters Park & Recreation District (SPRD), brings to the position some valuable life experience that he isn't hesitant to reveal.

Cromwell, at 30 years old, has experienced more of life than a number of his peers. While enrolled in college, painkiller use derailed his plans and dropped him into the dark world of addiction. He finally reached out to his parents to let them know he was in trouble and needed help.

After going to treatment at the well-respected Hazelden program in Minnesota, he got sober at age 22. He stayed in Minnesota in a sober-living house, where he was surrounded by positive influences and the support he needed. While there, he volunteered at a community center with Americorps working with pre-kindergartners.

When he left Minnesota, Cromwell returned home to Kent, Washington, and his family and enrolled at Western Washington University (WWU) in Bellingham. He had discovered during his treatment and while working his recovery program that recreating in the out-of-doors was a good way to keep himself on track, so he majored in recreation management at WWU. While he was still a student, one of his professors pointed him in the direction of a job with SSC Contractors, working with 16- to 19-year-old members of the Muckleshoot Indian Tribe building trails on Mount Rainier. After graduation, he worked for the Bellevue Parks Department in Washington leading outdoor trips.

Cromwell hiked South Sister last summer and liked the area, so when he saw the SPRD position advertised online he applied. After being



Tanner Cromwell was hired as SPRD's new program director.

PHOTO BY SUE STAFFORD

hired, he was fortunate to meet local tiny-home builder Jeff Miller, who agreed to rent him one of his houses that has air conditioning and is a half-block from the Peterson Ridge Trail.

His general hopes for his new position include "learning the job, and then being effective and productive, making strong connections with the community, and having a positive impact." Cromwell has already established a new partnership with the Deschutes Public Library for a trails program this fall for those over 18. Each week the library will provide participants with reading material on some aspect of the outdoors, like wild mushrooms, and then they will take a hike looking for examples of what they read about.

A partnership between SPRD and Sisters Community Church (SCC) has led to a new teen center that will be opening in The Hangar at SCC. The SAGE Room at SPRD will be reactivated with programs for seniors. With the reduction of programs during the COVID-19 pandemic,

Cromwell indicated it almost feels like they are starting a new operation.

Cromwell's engagement with the community has already led to his accepting a position on the board of directors of a new drug-prevention program in Sisters. He is passionate about passing on to others what he has experienced and learned about addiction and recovery. His position at SPRD will afford the opportunity to provide a positive role model for the youth of Sisters.



Touching Hearts and Dancing with Souls

*Loma Smith*  
PHOTOGRAPHY

Based in Sisters  
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## SPRD SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

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# VIRTUAL Calendar

Things to participate in online while staying safely at home.

JULY 8 THUR

**Deschutes Public Library: Finding Grants from Home** 10 a.m. Learn how to use Foundation Online Essential to find grants for your nonprofit. Registration required at [www.deschuteslibrary.org/calendar/](http://www.deschuteslibrary.org/calendar/).

**Paulina Springs Books Virtual Event** 6:30 p.m. Jonathan Evison presents from his new book, "Legends of the North Cascades." Call 541-549-0866 or go to [www.paulinaspringsbooks.com](http://www.paulinaspringsbooks.com) to register.

JULY 15 THUR

**Paulina Springs Books Virtual Event** Noon. Doireann Ní Ghríofa discussing her new book, "A Ghost in the Throat," alongside fellow poet Éireann Lørsung. Call 541-549-0866 or go to [www.paulinaspringsbooks.com](http://www.paulinaspringsbooks.com) to register.

# SISTERS-AREA Entertainment & Events

JULY 8 THUR

**Outdoor Stage at Sisters Depot Singer-Songwriters on Thursdays** 6 to 8:30 p.m. Reservations recommended. For info call 541-904-4660 or go online to [www.sistersdepot.com](http://www.sistersdepot.com).

**Food Cart Garden at Eurosports Trivia Night** 5:30 to 6:15 p.m. Sign up 5:15 to 5:30 p.m. Family-friendly trivia. Free. For additional information call Eurosports at 541-549-2471.

JULY 9 FRI

**Black Butte Ranch Art at The Ranch** 4 p.m. Art show, silent auction, happy hour beverages and appetizers on the deck of the Lodge. Benefits Sisters Schools art programs. More info at [www.blackbutteranch.com/stay/event-calendar/](http://www.blackbutteranch.com/stay/event-calendar/)

**Hardtails Bar & Grill Live Music with The Hwy 97 Band** 7 p.m. Classic rock and more on the outdoor stage. Free! For additional information call 541-549-6114 or go to [hardtailsoregon.com](http://hardtailsoregon.com).

**Food Cart Garden at Eurosports Friday Car Show** 5-6:30 p.m. Bring your cool or vintage car for the free Friday car show. For more information call Eurosports at 541-549-2471.

JULY 10 SAT

**Downtown Sisters Sisters Outdoor Quilt Show** 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. The 46th annual event featuring quilt exhibits, quilts for sale, and livestream events throughout the day! For additional information go to [www.SOQS.org](http://www.SOQS.org).

**Hardtails Bar & Grill Live Music with Lucky Town** 8 p.m. Tribute to Bruce Springsteen on the outdoor stage. Tickets at [www.bendticket.com](http://www.bendticket.com). For additional information call 541-549-6114 or go to [hardtailsoregon.com](http://hardtailsoregon.com).

**Outdoor Stage at Sisters Depot Live Music with Eric Leadbetter** 6 to 8:30 p.m. \$5 cover charge. Reservations recommended. For info call 541-904-4660 or go online to [www.sistersdepot.com](http://www.sistersdepot.com).

**Cork Cellars Live Music on Saturday Nights** 6:30 p.m. No cover! For information call 541-549-2675 or go online to [corkcellarswinebistro.com](http://corkcellarswinebistro.com).

JULY 11 SUN

**Fir Street Park Sisters Farmers Market** 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Fresh local produce. Every Sunday June to October! Go to [www.sistersfarmersmarket.com](http://www.sistersfarmersmarket.com) for more information.

**Sisters Saloon Patio Stage Live Music with Honey Don't** 6 p.m. Summer Sunday Nights at the Saloon. For additional information call 541-549-7427 or go to [www.sisterssaloon.net](http://www.sisterssaloon.net).

**Sisters Community Church Live Music with Thunderstorm Artis/Bob Baker & Mark Barringer** 6 to 9 p.m. Free summer concert series! For additional info call 541-549-1201 or go to [www.sisterschurch.com](http://www.sisterschurch.com).

JULY 12 MON

**Sisters Depot Locals Trivia Night** 6 to 8 p.m. Reservations encouraged. For info call 541-904-4660 or go online to [www.sistersdepot.com](http://www.sistersdepot.com).

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Events Calendar listings are free to advertisers.  
Submit items by 5 p.m. Fridays to [lisa@nuggetnews.com](mailto:lisa@nuggetnews.com)