

>>> FROM THE COVER >>> an inside look at northeast oregon's arts and entertainment scene

Learn to line, swing dance at Churchill Dancehall

■ Shane Cunningham leads country western swing and line dances once a month in Baker City

By Lisa Britton

BAKER CITY — Shane Cunningham's dance lessons are drawing more dancers every month to Churchill Dancehall in Baker City.

"Everyone seems to be having a good time," he said.

He started offering the dances in the summer.

"Since we started in July the audience has doubled every month," said Brian Vegter, who owns Churchill with his wife, Corrine.

October's night of dancing drew more than 100 people.

Cunningham teaches country western swing and line dances once a month. It is not a set date due to scheduling, and the dances are announced on www.churchillbaker.com (click on "Events") and on the facility's Facebook page: Churchill School Art, Music, Recreation-Baker City, OR.

The next session is Saturday, Nov. 30. Admission is \$3 singles or \$5 for couples and families. All ages are welcome.

The doors open at 7 p.m. and dancing goes until 10 p.m. Churchill is located at 3451 Broadway St. (enter through the doors off the 16th Street parking lot). For those who work up hunger or thirst, MC Taco Bus will be selling food, and beverages will be available from Copper Belt Winery and Barley Brown's.

Cunningham learned country swing and line dance from Luke Coomer, who was president of the Country Western Dance Club at Oregon State University. Coomer taught classes in Baker City, where



Submitted photograph

Shane Cunningham leads swing and line dances once a month at Churchill Dancehall.

he grew up, and also offered community dances.

After Coomer moved away, Cunningham decided to offer a place to dance.

"I've been wanting to start something like this," he said.

He teaches a couple line dances throughout the evening, as well as swing dance moves. Beginners are

welcome.

"It's something anyone can pick up with a little bit of effort," he said.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Churchill has provided a venue for more than 18 concerts since the Vegters opened the doors in 2018. The next night of music will feature Jay Fleming on Dec. 14.

They've also started a monthly trivia night with topics ranging from the Trivial Pursuit game to

custom questions written by Quizmaster Brian. The next trivia night is Dec. 8. The theme is cults. Playing is free, and teams can consist of two to five people.

The winners get their photograph taken wearing custom crowns made by Mike and Barbara Meyer.

Grilled cheese sandwiches provided by Sweet Wife Baking are available to purchase during the trivia nights.

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