

Local News

High Desert Quilt Guild show set for Sept. 17

Local talent on full display

BY LEO BAUDHUIN

Redmond Spokesman

Quilting isn't a new craft in Central Oregon.

The annual Sisters Outdoor Quilt Show is 47 years old and one of the largest in the world, drawing more than 10,000 guests from across the United States and the world.

Two months after the Sisters event, Redmond will host its own quilt show. The High Desert Quilt Guild of Redmond is putting together its second biennial quilt show, set for Sept. 17. Although it held the first iteration of the event in 2018, COVID-19 restrictions prevented a second show in 2020 and 2021.

This year's event is set to run from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Highland Baptist Church. Quilts will be available for both sale and to win in a raffle. The show will also feature a silent auction and a country store full of items like aprons and Christmas decorations. Admission is \$2, with proceeds going to the guild.

Local artist and High Desert Quilt Guild member Stef Hinton is set to feature in the show, displaying 10 of her original pieces.

Hinton has been sewing since she was in seventh grade. She's made clothes — including three wedding dresses — and home decor, modified store-



"Tygh Valley homestead #2", a quilt by Stef Hinton.

Photo courtesy of Stef Hinton

bought clothing and reupholstered furniture. She's taken college-level classes in dressmaking and tailoring.

"I sew something every day," Hinton said. "Maybe not a quilt, but I do sew on something. It keeps me out of trouble."

She didn't actually get into quilting until about 25 years ago — after she retired and moved to Oregon with her husband.

Soon after the move, Hinton was at a sewing shop in Bend,

looking for accessories for a new sewing machine. She ran into another woman with the same type of machine and they struck up a conversation.

The woman asked Hinton if she was a quilter and — even though Hinton said she wasn't — invited her to a Mountain Meadow Quilters meeting in Sunriver.

"That's when I fell in love with quilting," Hinton said. "Plus the people."

The quilting community has

a strong family feel, Hinton said.

"Once you're a quilter, it's almost like we can recognize each other from across the room," she said. "We're like, 'Look at that tote bag she's got over her shoulder and all that fabric in it.'"

Hinton eventually joined a quilt guild in Prineville, which she said was a bit of a drive from Redmond, but worth it for the sake of being in the group. The Prineville group also in-



Photo courtesy of Stef Hinton

"High Country Sun Challenge," quilt by Stef Hinton.

cluded several members who lived even further west in Eagle Creek.

One day, Hinton's friend Sarah Spady — also a board member for the High Desert Quilt Guild — asked for Hinton's thoughts on starting a guild closer to home. Although Hinton had never considered it before, she thought it sounded like a good idea.

They were able to get a group of about 20 people on board and held their first meeting in January 2016. Hinton was chosen as the guild's first president.

"Ever since then, there's always more people coming," Hinton said. "Maybe one or two people, five or 10."

The guild is now up to almost 150 members, according

to Hinton.

Redmond's quilt guild meets at VFW Hall, 491 SW Veterans Way, on the first Thursday of every month. The guild hosts demonstrations from a number of established quilters. It also has set sewing days, so members can work on their craft in a communal setting.

High Desert Quilt Guild also collaborates to make quilts for a number of local organizations — supporting everyone from Head Start groups to veterans.

"It feels so good to make something for someone else and give it to them," Hinton said. "And, of course, we keep the economy going by buying fabric."

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Students head back to school without pandemic restrictions

BY LEO BAUDHUIN

Redmond Spokesman

The pathways leading to the front entrance of John Tuck Elementary School on Sept. 6 were decorated with colorful chalk patterns, welcoming families of its second- through fifth-grade students for the first day of school.

When the doors opened, children and parents quickly streamed inside. Teachers welcomed many of the children by name.

Kris Davis said he was similarly energized by the start of the new year, which kicked off for Redmond High School upperclassmen on Sept. 7. Davis is Redmond High School's dean of students, head wrestling coach and football offensive coordinator.

He said the 2022-23 year hopefully marks "a new start and a better start," especially because it's the first year since 2020 without mask mandates and other COVID-19 restrictions.

During the past couple years, faculty had to focus more on enforcing COVID-19 safety protocols than on having positive interactions with students. Davis said he's excited for that to change.

Audrey Haugan, the principal of Redmond High, said she feels similarly. High schoolers go through an introductory lesson every period on the first day, she said, and last year's presentation was all about COVID-19.

This year, they have room to touch on a variety of topics, including this year's theme: Believe.

"We want our kids to believe in their school, to believe in themselves, to believe in each other," Haugan said.



Photo by Leo Baudhuin/Spokesman

Students walk into Redmond High School on the first day of the 2022-23 school year.



Photo by Leo Baudhuin/Spokesman

A sign in front of Redmond High School welcomes students on the first day of class.

For students, this year is an opportunity to participate in activities that have been more limited during the pandemic.

Redmond High sophomore and varsity tight end Ukiah Munson said he's excited for the

opportunities that he missed out on last year. Mikella Sundberg and Ryan Batti said they're excited to have pandemic restrictions behind them and have relatively normal last year of high school and graduation.

Not everyone has had their first day, however. First graders started their scholastic careers on Sept. 8, while kindergartners begin on Sept. 15.

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LOCAL BRIEFING

Sept. 24 class to prepare volunteer mentors

Central Oregon Partnerships for Youth, a program of the Deschutes County Sheriff's Office, offers a class to prepare volunteers in Redmond to become mentors for children with an incarcerated parent.

After initial training and background checks, volunteers are matched with a child that shares similar interests and commits to spending a few hours a week together for a minimum of one year. This time is often spent on activities, exploring the community, doing art or craft projects, or simply hanging out and talking.

On Sept. 24, COPY will offer an orientation/training class. This 3.5-hour class covers program policies, Q&A from a current volunteer, how to establish a mentor relationship, the impact incarceration has on families, and communication skills. There is no cost to attend, but advanced registration is required.

For additional details please call 541-388-6651 or email COPY@deschutes.org. Additional program information is available at the Sheriff's Office web site at www.sheriff.deschutes.org/copy.

Central Oregon Health Council to host listening session in Redmond

The Central Oregon Health Council will host 11 listening sessions throughout the region, including one in Redmond, to hear from residents who are struggling to pay for basic needs yet earn too much to qualify for financial assistance.

Participants will be asked to share how they are coping, their greatest challenges, frustrations, and ideas and solutions. Each listening session participant will receive \$50 and a free meal.

"Too many people live in a situation where they're not eligible for financial assistance but they just can't make ends meet," said MaCayla Arsenault, project manager for the Central Oregon Health Council. "Our goal is to listen so that we can understand people's current challenges and needs to help guide future funding and resource decisions."

According to Arsenault, this growing population is referred to as ALICE, an acronym for asset-limited, income-constrained, employed.

"ALICE represents those of us who are unable to afford the basics, like housing, childcare, food, transportation, health care, and technology," said Arsenault.

There will be 11 ALICE listening sessions offered between September 2022 and January 2023. Both English and Spanish sessions will be held in Bend, Redmond, Prineville, and Madras. English listening sessions will also be held in Sisters, La Pine (including northern Klamath residents), and Warm Springs.

For more information, call (541) 610-4304 or email info@cohealthcouncil.org.

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