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# The Nugget

News and Opinion  
from Sisters, Oregon

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## Forty years of wrapping Sisters in quilts

By Jodi Schneider McNamee  
Correspondent

The 40th anniversary of Sisters Outdoor Quilt Show showcased close to 1,400 "timeless tapestries" last Saturday. Colorful quilts lined the streets, hung early in the morning by volunteers, creating a riot of color that spilled across three blocks, soaking guests in a flood of design schemes.

Sisters artist, songwriter and singer Dennis McGregor celebrated the 40th anniversary theme "A Timeless Tapestry" with his charming poster, capturing the essence of Sisters.

"The quilt is at the heart of the image, filling it with light, just as the quilt show is at the heart of our summer festivities in Sisters, filling our streets with their visual creativity and throngs of visitors from all over the world," McGregor said.

Sisters Outdoor Quilt Show Executive Director Jeanette Pilak and hundreds of volunteers arrived right after sunrise and began the task of hanging the 1,357 quilts that were entered for the



PHOTO BY GARY MILLER

The quilters of Gees Bend and local firefighters both made big contributions to a smashing 40th anniversary Quilt Show last Saturday.

40th SOQS.

The event was presented by Kaufman Fabrics.

"We were just thrilled that so many of the industries sponsored the quilt show to help us celebrate the 40th anniversary," said Pilak.

"People came from far and wide; we had folks from all of the states and 13 countries. There were 550 volunteers doing a tremendous job all through the day. We thank all of central Oregon for all their support!"

The hubbub inspired all kinds of creative endeavor.

Nine-year-old Zilya Glidden from Meridian, Idaho, fiddled for spectators on the lawn of the Three

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## Gee's Bend quilters inspire students

By Jodi Schneider McNamee  
Correspondent

Back by Popular demand, the traditional quilters of Gee's Bend inspired students with their unique straightforward way of quilting at three separate workshops during the Quilter's Affair held at Sisters High School during the 40th anniversary Sisters Outdoor Quilt Show.

The women of Gee's Bend, a small, remote community in Alabama surrounded on three sides by the Alabama River, have created hundreds of quilt masterpieces dating from the early 20th century to the present. The 700-plus inhabitants of this small rural community are mostly descendants of slaves, and for generations they worked the fields belonging to the local Pettway Plantation. Quilts have been

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## Firefighters knock down blaze east of Sisters Sisters' trees are under stress

Firefighters made quick work of a fire Tuesday afternoon, July 7, that broke out 10 miles southeast of Sisters near Cline Butte.

The fire was held to five acres due in no small part to the aircraft that aided ground forces, according to fire officials.

One heavy airtanker worked the head of the fire while two single-engine airtankers and two helicopters offered support to the three engines, a bulldozer, and hand crew working to build fire line. By early evening a fire

line was constructed around the perimeter of the fire area and firefighters were mopping up with the help of the remaining Type 1 helicopter.

The fire was started by lightning.

Firefighters also made quick work of a blaze in the fire-prone Geneva area south of Lake Billy Chinook.

The Geneva 15 incident near the Three Rivers subdivision was held to 875 acres. The Geneva 15 fire was reported at approximately 4 p.m. Friday. The cause has been determined to be lightning.

By Jim Cornelius  
News Editor

If you think being in city government in Sisters is stressful — try being a tree.

Back-to-back dry seasons and recent hot temperatures have conspired to make life very tough for Sisters' downtown trees. So tough that about a dozen have died and are slated to be cut down and removed. The largest of these is a ponderosa pine tree in front of Hardtails Bar & Grill. The tree's rapid decline saw it go from stressed to dying to dead in a matter of weeks.

See DYING TREES on page 22

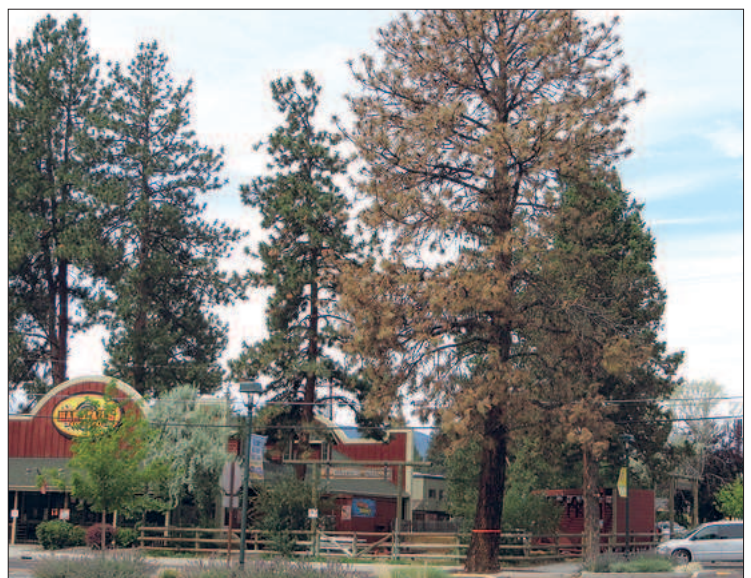


PHOTO BY JIM CORNELIUS

A large ponderosa pine next to Hardtails has died quickly. It will be removed soon — as early as this week.

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