

# Local business wins national award

By Andrew Loscutoff  
Correspondent

Sisters Country, boasting some of the most popular cycling routes in the state, can now boast one of the best bike shop businesses in the country. Blazin Saddles was awarded the Best Bike Shops award by the National Bicycle Dealers Association as one of the 150 best bike shops in the United States.

Blazin Saddles had to pass the first round of application filtering. The next step was a visit by a secret shopper to observe the staff and test their mettle.

Being in the top 150 is a big honor for co-owner Casey Muedt, who said he was extremely proud of the award, pointing to the expertise, knowledge, and helpful personality of his staff. In fact on the wall in the shop hang several certifications for specialized repairs, which he believes are essential. He supports his staff as much as he can to help them develop.

"I have customers from Portland, Seattle, and even

California coming because they have heard of our service-first mentality," said Muedt.

Although much of his business comes from across the region, he remains passionate for his presence in the community. Events such as managing the bike valet at the Sisters Folk Festival or supporting Crest the Cascades ride are just a few of the examples.

Muedt noted that over the past five years he has seen recreational cycling in Sisters elevated year after year.

This is exciting for him and he loves to see the town thrive on outdoor recreation. His thought was noticeably emotionally driven, as Muedt grew up in Sisters only to come back in his early 20s to open the shop with the help of his mother, and part-owner, Jackie Zanck. Muedt, who is always looking to continue the influx of recreational riders in Sisters Country, pointed to the Sisters Cycling Guide as a proud contribution to the movement.



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## LETTERS

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destroyed in this country. In fact, crime has been falling steadily in the nation for the last 30 years and is lower than it was in the 1980s.

I don't provide "evidence" of that, Jensen, but you can Google that information, too. After all, if you're going to complain about Bonnie Malone's lack of examples, you ought to cite some of your own.

R.T. Tihista

To the Editor:

I don't think that there is a lot of merit in the "tit for tat" that takes place with letters to the editor. And everyone has a right to their own opinion. But I do think it necessary at times to correct some wrong thinking or at least provide information to allow some to rethink their statements.

I am referring to the letter from Jensen Newton (August 24 letter to *The Nugget*) referring to the letter to *The Nugget* (August 17) from Bonnie Malone who had written to challenge some of the interview by *The Nugget* of Sheriff Shane Nelson and Black Butte Chief Denny Kenney.

Mr. Newton took exception with Ms. Malone not giving specific cases where law enforcement focused on an individual just because of the color of their skin. We need only go back a few decades to the atrocities committed by law enforcement in Mississippi and other states in the South to remember

how racism was rampant. It took years, but some of those responsible were finally brought to justice.

If that is too far back, let us look at the incident subsequent to Hurricane Katrina where New Orleans police officers shot and killed unarmed African Americans walking across a bridge. It took a while, but they were finally convicted. And now we have others awaiting trial.

I'm pleased that Mr. Newton wants to defend law enforcement, but we can't be blind to the fact that racism still exists. I was in law enforcement for 30 years, retiring as sheriff of Benton County here in Oregon. We did not have many African Americans in our county, but we had many Hispanics. I always tried to instill in my folks that everyone was to be treated with respect and dignity.

Are there incidents that require quick judgment in life-and-death decision-making? Yes, there are, and I have been there. But there doesn't seem to be the same training or leadership to be better prepared for making these decisions. And this goes beyond race. Chief Kenney should know that, having come from a department which has had much scrutiny about many shootings and excessive-force complaints.

Sheriff Nelson made a good point in saying a discussion about a deputy's (or police officer's) procedure at the time of a stop may not be appropriate. But the deputy or officer, most of the time, sets the tone at the time of the stop.

Stan Robson

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