



PHOTO BY JIM CORNELIUS

Virginia Patskowski features Smokey Bear at Sisters Cascade of Gifts.

Change, tradition mix at longtime business

By Jim Cornelius
News Editor

It's a delicate business, taking on an iconic business in Sisters. Folks want to revisit the treasures they have become accustomed to seeing — and customers also want something fresh and new.

Virginia Patskowski has been walking that line for three years now, as the owner of Sisters Cascade of Gifts.

One thing that hasn't changed at Sisters Cascade of Gifts is the fudge counter.

"That's our mainstay," Patskowski said.

In fact, Virginia was making the legendary fudge for the shop when it was still owned by its founder, Barbara Turner. When Barbara decided it was time to retire, Virginia decided she'd like to take the business on.

She's added some new product lines, including a variety of "Smokey Bear" items, ranging from stuffed bears to figurines and T-shirts. "He's popular," Patskowski noted.

Also very popular are

Perfect Petzzzz — stuffed animals that are so realistic-looking (they "breathe" as they "sleep") that people stop at the shop window and try to wake them up.

There are also a variety of jewelry, craft, and gift items.

"We try to get things that are locally made," Patskowski said.

Virginia and her husband, Jim, hail from Wisconsin. When Jim retired, they started looking for a new place to live and discovered Sisters.

"Just like so many people who come in here — we came on vacation and we stayed," Virginia said.

Patskowski usually has two or three employees working with her at the shop, and she works hard to make it interesting for visitors and locals alike and to reward return visitors with fresh merchandise to enjoy.

"It's definitely got a new look," she said. "We're always getting new things."

Sisters Cascade of Gifts is located at 150 W. Cascade Ave. For more information call 541-549-8591.

LETTERS

Continued from page 14

intersection.

Donna Holland

To the Editor:

I was part of the crowd of citizens that attended to Oregon Department of Transportation Informational Open House last Tuesday.

Congratulations to the ODOT and Kittleson & Associates team for their in-depth research, including creating and filming the exact layout of the proposed Sisters roundabout. They invited the trucking industry to test all forms and widths of trucks including Davis Towing pulling a large truck and trailer. The film confirmed that all forms of trucks safely passed through the proposed roundabout.

I joined the meeting with a strong leaning toward roundabouts in the belief that they represent a beautiful and artful gateway to our community. However, number one on my list was safety. The Highway 20/Barclay Drive intersection is frequented by our youngest drivers headed to high school and our senior drivers headed to shopping and medical appointments. These two segments of the population are most prone to fatal accidents. Using data from our neighboring state of Washington, who is well ahead of Oregon in number of roundabouts, the improved safety statistics are staggering. Injury collisions show a 75 percent reduction and fatal collisions a 90 percent reduction over stop signs or signals.

Many of us baby-boomers grew up tuning our AM radios at red lights to catch the latest Beatles or Rolling Stones tunes. I noticed last night that the main thrust of concern was coming from my generation. In the past we have been universally frustrated by droning red lights. Now in the twilight hours we are experiencing a bit of nostalgia around red, yellow, and green. The future safety of our citizens is enhanced by low-travel-speed

roundabouts. They represent a new benchmark in safety for our community. It's time for some new music.

Bill Willitts

To the Editor:

Hemp is no more addictive and no more a health risk than cigarettes or alcohol. Both of which are protected by law. Why is it not allowed? Because if hemp were grown, half the cotton growers, nylon and rayon manufacturers and timber products in the world would go out of business.

Hemp happens to be one of the most useful, strongest, toughest, long-lasting material on our planet. You cannot produce a better fiber for clothes, a stronger substance for ropes, an easier-to-grow and harvest source for pulp. We cut down hundreds of thousands of trees per year to give ourselves Sunday's papers, so you can read about the decimation of the world's trees and forests.

Hemp could provide you with millions of Sunday papers without cutting down one tree. Indeed it could substitute for so many resource materials at one-tenth the cost.

And that is the catch. Someone loses money if this miraculous plant, which also has extraordinary medicinal properties, incidentally, is allowed to be grown. And that is why marijuana is illegal in our country.

Linda Peck

Dear Editor,

I urge all of the voters in the Cloverdale Fire District to re-elect the incumbents, Tom Barrier, Jerry Johnson, and John Thomas that are running for your fire district board. They have proven by their actions that they are forward-thinking and oriented toward improving the district's services for the future.

They all participated in developing the district's 20-year plan for future operations and improvements.

See LETTERS on page 24

SISTERS GARAGE DOORS
Sales • Service • Installation
Residential • Commercial
Broken Spring Specialist
Dale Lester CCB#151832
541-815-1523

Kick Yer Heels Up!
LIVE MUSIC
DJ Chris, out of Bend
Friday, April 24 at 7 p.m.
NO COVER!
190 E. Cascade Ave., Sisters • 541-549-RIBS (7427)
BRONCO BILLY'S RANCH GRILL & SALOON

Old-School-Style BARBER SHOP
Veteran's Discounts & Hot Shaves!
OUTLAWS
Walk-Ins No appt. needed
BARBER SHOP
170 W. Cascade Ave., Ste. 5
(Behind BJ's Ice Cream)
541-549-9000
Tues-Fri 8 AM-5 PM
Sat 7 AM-3 PM
Sun-Mon Closed
COMPLIMENTARY BEER ON TAP!

Budget Blinds
a style for every point of view®
Window Blinds Draperies
30% OFF
Exclusive Signature Series® Window Treatments by Budget Blinds®
Locally Owned & Operated. Offer valid thru 5/20/15.
Hunter Douglas® Window Blinds Shutters Draperies • Solar Shades Vertical Blinds • Woven Woods
Locally owned by a Sisters family
CCB Licensed #197715 Bonded | Insured 30+ Years Experience
Offer valid through Budget Blinds of Deschutes County only. Offer not valid with any other offers.
541-788-8444
FREE CONSULTING
www.BudgetBlinds.com

SISTERS HABITAT FOR HUMANITY
Thrift Store
REMEMBER ART STROLL FRIDAY 5-7 PM!
541-549-1740
141 W. Main Ave., Sisters
Hours: Mon.-Sat., 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Sunday, 12-4 p.m.
Donations accepted Mon.-Sat., 10 a.m.-4 p.m.

ReStore
50% OFF ALL ART & ACCESSORIES
Each item must cost at least \$1.
Dress up your home!
541-549-1621
254 W. Adams Ave., Sisters
Hours: Mon.-Sat., 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Sunday, 12-4 p.m.
Donations accepted Mon.-Sat., 10 a.m.-4 p.m.