

Sisters community unites for prayer

On June 17, 1775, President John Adams called for widespread participation in prayer for wisdom in forming our new nation. He wrote, "We have appointed a Continental fast. Millions will be upon their knees at once before their great Creator, imploring his forgiveness and blessing; his smiles on American councils and arms."

In the same spirit, over 200 people came together last Thursday for the third annual Sisters Community Prayer Breakfast.

Held at Sisters Community Church, the local event ran in tandem with the 64th annual National Day of Prayer, which organizers are calling "the single, largest mobilized call to prayer in the history of our nation." More than 43,000 events took place at courthouse steps, parks, offices, government buildings, churches and homes across our 50 states.

The strong local turnout also helped raise funds for Sisters Christian Academy, and several SCA students played key roles. Meri Blaser, Sydney Rawlins, Matt Harris and Henry Banning were greeters, and Bailey Knirk and Nicko Manley led the Pledge of Allegiance—with a twist. They introduced old footage of the late comedian Red Skelton in an unusually serious moment, reflecting on the meaning behind the words of the pledge.

A local hero facilitated the morning event. After graduating from Sisters Christian Academy (SCA) and Sisters High School, U.S. Army Staff Sergeant John Roberts served three tours in Iraq. He now serves as an Army recruiter in Oregon.

Dave Johnson, bronze medalist decathlete of the 1992 Summer Olympics, keynoted. Johnson is well known as half of Reebok's "Dan and

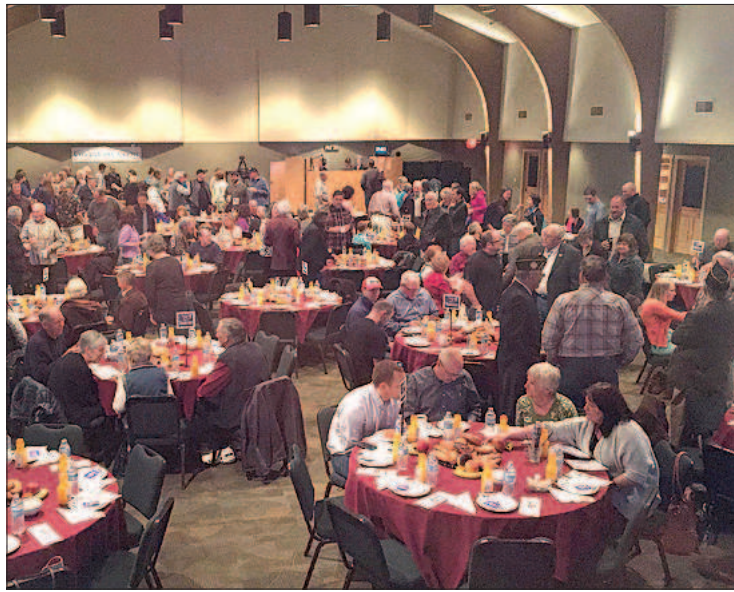


PHOTO BY JEREMY STORTON

Some 200 folks from Sisters attended a prayer breakfast at Sisters Community Church as part of the National Day of Prayer.

Dave" TV campaign duo. In a series of ads leading up to the Summer Games, he and fellow decathlete Dan O'Brien bantered over which one would prove himself the world's greatest athlete.

Now a motivational speaker, author, and the director of Fellowship of Christian Athletes (FCA), Johnson told the crowd of his unlikely journey from a rebellious teenager to a national sports hero. He credited God with empowering and sustaining him in both his athletic career and his personal life.

Throughout the morning, several people led prayers, and strong themes arose: gratitude for our blessings, our freedoms and our public servants, personal repentance, living in unity, wisdom and guidance for our leaders, and safety.

Brad Schultz, the program coordinator for Crystal Peaks Youth Ranch, gave a blessing over the meal and prayed for individuals to step up their commitment to seek God's will.

SCA graduate Michaela Miller led a prayer for her generation. An accomplished athlete, Miller leads the FCA

club at Sisters High School.

Kit Tosello led the closing prayer, asking God's help to unite Christians and empower them as "messengers of hope and ministers of grace."

A community worship team led by Rhonda Funk provided special inspirational music.

Attendance eclipsed the previous two years and drew folks from all over Central Oregon to share a meal, sing and pray as with one voice.

Event organizer Peter Storton expressed concern about the recent assaults on Christians internationally.

"I was pleased to see how many people were willing to come out at 7 a.m. to meet in prayer for our country and our community," he said. "It was exceptional."

Lake Creek Lodge tunes up for music festival

When Melissa Matthew, marketing and events coordinator at Lake Creek Lodge, was given an event weekend on Friday and Saturday, May 15-16 and told to "run with it," she knew what she wanted to do.

She'd had experience in previous jobs putting on music events, and she wanted to tap into Sisters Country's musical vibe and bring a small music festival to Camp Sherman.

"It's such a beautiful venue," she told *The Nugget*. "I wanted to get some music out here."

She's put it together with an acoustic music festival designed to harmonize with the wind in the pines and the ripple of the river, as Lake Creek Lodge hosts "Music on the Metolius."

Matthew had connections with members of the bands Tone Red and Moon Mountain Ramblers, so she started there. As soon as word got out that a festival was in the works at Lake Creek Lodge, bands started contacting her looking to play.

The 42-acre venue will host bluegrass and folk music, with barbecue and alcoholic and non-alcoholic beverages to choose from. There will be a variety of well-known local bands headlining in the evenings and an exciting lineup of new,

"up-and-coming" artists performing during the day. The Friday headliner lineup is: Blackstrap Bluegrass, 5 to 7 p.m.; Honey Don't, 7:30 to 9:30 p.m.

Saturday headlines are: Tone Red, 6 to 7 p.m.; Moon Mountain Ramblers, 7 to 10 p.m.

A weekend pass includes festival entry on Friday afternoon and reentry for all-day Saturday for \$60. Day passes (choice of Friday or Saturday) are \$45. A "headliner pass" (if you're only interested in seeing one of the featured headlining bands) goes for \$20.

“It's such a beautiful venue. I wanted to get some music out here.”
— Melissa Matthew

Matthew is encouraging music lovers to get tickets in advance to reduce wait time in lines.

Doors will open at 2 p.m. on Friday afternoon, and music will continue until 10 p.m. Saturday doors will open at noon and music will continue until 10 p.m. Call ahead at 800-797-6331 or 541-516-3030 to purchase tickets and pick up your festival passes upon arrival at the event.

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