

BOOKS: Rotary Club distributes books each year

Continued from page 3

students have looked forward to this since last year, when they were in kindergarten.”

The event is not unique to Sisters. It began as a way for Casper, Wyoming, resident John Jorgensen to honor his wife, Sue, who died in a car accident, leaving John to raise their five children. Sue was a first-grade teacher who loved books and children, and the Jorgensen family realized this was how Sue would want to be remembered. The entire state of Wyoming now observes Wyoming Reads, a day on which every first-grader in the state receives a book. In Oregon, the cities of Klamath Falls, Springfield, Lebanon, Madras and Sisters participate in this childhood literacy program, with help from local Rotary clubs.

Jorgensen attends each of the Oregon events.

This year, Sisters Rotary called in some helpers. The Interact Club at SHS provided actors to bring some reality to an interactive story that Jorgensen tells about a good queen, a bad Grinch, lots of books and a gang of first-graders who save the day. The real first-graders watched enthralled as the story unfolded on the stage.

Sisters Folk Festival Creative Director Brad Tisdell worked his musical magic with a song about reading that had the students and Tisdell’s backers (a group of guest



PHOTO BY KATHRYN GODSIF

Sisters Rodeo Queen Mikaela Koellermeier reading “Pete the Cat” to her reading group.

readers) singing and clapping.

The students then divided into seven groups and dispersed throughout the auditorium. The guest readers, Marlene McCormack-Lee (Forest Service), Kathy Deggendorfer (The Roundhouse Foundation and artist), Katy Yoder (Sisters Folk Festival), Stephanie Clymens (Sisters Christian Academy teacher), Jim Golden (Sisters School District superintendent), Heather Miller (Sisters-Camp Sherman Fire Department), and Mikaela Koellermeier (2015 Sisters Rodeo Queen), read from their favorite childhood books.

The best part of the day came when the backpacks were passed out. The students all waited until the signal was given, then opened their bags all together. Cries of delight echoed around the room as the children were reunited with books they’d chosen months before.

Jorgensen summed up the sentiments of the adults in the room when he said, “It never

gets old seeing a seven-year-old pair of eyes look at their book.”

The Rotary Club buys the books from Paulina Springs Books, which gives the club a discount. The club purchased T-shirts with the Books For Kids logo from Sisters Screen Printing. Other local businesses and organizations that contributed items include the U.S. Forest Service, Deschutes Public Library System, Ace Hardware, US Bank, Western Title and The Paper Place. The Sisters School District provided bussing for the students and the use of the high school auditorium.

It’s not just the students who have a good time celebrating stories. For several Rotarians, this event is their favorite one of the year. Gayla Nelson, who headed the Books for Kids committee this year, stated that one of the reasons she joined Rotary was to support childhood literacy. Sending a first-grader home with a book is a great start.

HIKE: Classic trek offers spectacular views

Continued from page 21

have an annual pass of some sort, a daily pass is required; and they are available on site. If you don’t want to pay to climb, and you are willing to make it a bigger adventure, there is another option.

A free parking area is located near the Metolius Headwaters “Y” off the Camp Sherman Road. A hike from this trailhead will extend your hike to about 10 miles and whopping 3,200+ vertical feet.

To reach the upper trailhead, take Highway 20 west from Sisters for six miles. Turn right onto Road 11, the Green Ridge Road, at Indian Ford Campground. Stay on the road for 3.8 miles, and watch for the Black Butte

Trailhead sign. Turn left, and the trailhead is another 5.2 miles on a gravel road.

The road is in fair shape for the first four miles, with considerable washboard effect. Next, the road makes a very sharp bend to the right. Ignore the tempting, and better, road that continues straight, and take the hard right curve. From there, the road gets rougher but is still passable for passenger cars.

The trailhead for the longer, more challenging hike (and free parking) is located just off Forest Road 1430. To reach it, take Highway 20 west from Sisters for nine miles. Turn right onto the Camp Sherman Road (Road 14) for about 2.6 miles. Take the right fork toward the Headwaters of the Metolius; then after only a couple hundred yards, take the first right onto 1430, then take the first right again into the trailhead parking lot.

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