

SPRD's luau reaches to Hawaii

Sisters Park & Recreation District (SPRD) has hit another "hale" run (home run), according to Shannon Mokuahi Rackowski, adult programs coordinator for SPRD and organizer for SPRD's second annual luau scheduled for August 13.

"When you receive a phone call from the owner of Aikane Plantation Coffee Co. in Pahala, Hawaii, and you are told that he is reading an article in *The Nugget* about our luau and wants to donate coffee from the islands to SPRD and Sisters Country, Hawaiians would say that is aloha (love), that is Hawaiian style, that is aikane (to make friends).

"Phil Becker made that

phone call to me and I accepted his wonderful gift," said Rackowski. "Aikane Coffee is one of the premium coffees in the islands, 100 percent Ka'u coffee that is hand-picked, sun-dried,

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— Shannon Rackowski

grown in the Ka'u district of the Big Island of Hawaii, and has been recognized with Hawaii's seal of quality and other honors.

"The first crop was

planted back in 1894 by 'Papa' J.C. Searle, and over a hundred years later the tradition is still carried on by his great-granddaughter Merle Becker. Not only have the Beckers sent me the coffee, but they have also sent me one of their ice coffee makers so SPRD can offer hot coffee and ice coffee at the luau."

SPRD's Sisters Luau is weeks away and has already sold over 100 tickets. There are a limited number of tickets available. Purchase tickets over the phone at 541-549-2091, online at www.sistersrecreation.com, or in person at 1750 W. McKinney Butte Rd., Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Keeping kids busy through summer

Summer is well underway and Sisters Park & Recreation District (SPRD) is in full swing with summer programs. Adventure Camp has been running weekly, and kids have visited Bouncing Off the Walls, Cascade Indoor Center, Juniper Pool and Madras Aquatic Center. Many more field trips are planned to Chimps, Inc., the SHARC waterpark in Sunriver, and Sun Mountain Fun Center. Sports camps have been running successfully as well with a soccer camp and basketball camp drawing over 60 registrations between them.

Even as summer break for Sisters kids approaches half way, the majority of SPRD's programs are still to come. New to Sisters this year is Survival Camp and two separate backpacking trips. According to SPRD, these camps are receiving strong enrollments and parents and

kids are excited for these camps to begin. Brooke Jackson is beginning to finalize travel plans for the backpacking trip, and is considering trips to lava tubes and to mountain lakes within the Deschutes National Forest.

Another new camp that has recently been announced is Jewelry Making. This short camp is being offered August 3-5 from 9 a.m. to noon and is designed for kids that like to make bracelets and necklaces. Emma Boyer and Crystal Reifschneider are leading the camp. Both have a passion for teaching art and working with kids. Thanks to a grant received by The Roundhouse Foundation, art camps like these among many others can run in Sisters this year.

Sports camps are very popular this summer, and there have been a number of unique offerings giving Sisters youth a chance to learn from veteran coaches. The

Outlaws Football Camp has drawn in Ken Ruetters, Linfield Head Coach Joe Smith, and Outlaws Coach Gary Thorson. Upcoming sports camps include PGA Junior Golf Camp, Outlaws Volleyball Camp, UK Soccer Camp, and Tackle Football Training and Conditioning.

SPRD has also been taking fall registrations for sports, with many sports beginning to fill rapidly. Middle school soccer registrations are now being taken on a waitlist, but there is still room in football, youth soccer (grades Pre-K through four), and volleyball. Kelly Crowther, program coordinator at SPRD, advises parents "to get your child registered for fall sports now since spaces are filling quickly." Register online, call, or stop by SPRD to get registered.

For more information, visit www.sistersrecreation.com or call 541-549-2091.

Sisters Country birds

By Douglas Beall
Correspondent

Lazuli bunting (*Passerina Amoena*), may be Oregon's most colorful bird. Named for the gemstone lapis lazuli, this bunting is found commonly on the edges of forests in the Cascades. A seed and bug eater, the lazuli bunting inhabits scrubby brush areas that often contain patches of grass.

When first-year males arrive on their breeding areas, they mimic the other males in order to learn a territorial song, often adding their own

unique melodies. As a result of this learning behavior, their songs vary from one area to another. They build a nest two to four feet off the ground, and the male will feed the female while she is incubating three to four pale-blue eggs.

They will gather together in August and September to begin their migration to Arizona and Mexico. When grouped collectively they are known as "decoration" or "mural" of buntings.

For more photos see <http://abirdsingsbecauseithasasing.com/recent-journeys>.



PHOTO BY DOUGLAS BEALL


The lazuli bunting has exquisite coloring.



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SISTERS
Park & Recreation
DISTRICT

HAWAIIAN LUAU

Thurs., Aug. 13 • 6:30-8:30 p.m.
At Village Green City Park
\$10 adult/\$4 youth

Must purchase tickets in advance from SPRD

THE SUMMER EVENT TO ATTEND!

Hula dancers, authentic Hawaiian cuisine & music combine to make a great community event.

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Entertainment will include Bill Keale, Halua "Huhane Hawaii," Kurt Silva "DJ Boogie," Sisters Ukulele Players and Shannon Rackowski.

www.SistersRecreation.com

View activities & classes and register online!

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