

BEER FEST:

Volunteers poured for a thirsty crowd

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and Jay Zink, sales manager for the brewing company, was having a great time talking to folks about the brewery.

“Our brewery has been around for nine years and our name, Calapooia, is the name of a river that converges with the Willamette River at Albany. Our seasonal fresh today is Hop Licker; it has 250 pounds of fresh, wet and sticky Sterling hops from Crosby Hop Farms in Woodburn, and we combine it with Pilsen, two-row and Maris Otter Pale malts,” Zink said. “The owners Mark and Laura Bryngelson were high school sweethearts; I’ve known them for years. And they are really famous for their unique Chili Beer; it’s minimally hopped and generously flavored with 300 pounds of fresh anaheim, serrano, and jalapeño peppers!”

Volunteer Bob Buckmann poured two different fresh hop beers for Sisters Three Creeks Brewing Company: Cone Lick'r and Hop Wrangler Fresh Hop Red. Three Creeks took the honors last year and won the Golden Bunny Award.

Could they take the award again?

"Well, everyone is coming back for another taste of our fresh hop beer," Buckmann said with a smile. "I've been seeing this all day, they've been comparing, and keep coming back for more."

Brewmasters Kyle Schwenk and Chasen Shultz from Riverbend Brewing Company in Bend were on hand to talk about their very first fresh hop brew.

"This is our first time here and our first time crafting a fresh hop beer," Schwenk admitted. "We opted to use 100 percent whole-cone hops straight from the farm, just over two hours away. We kept the malts simple and packed out kettle and hop back with three different Oregon varieties: amarillo, chinook, and Sterling."

Beer wasn't the only thing that kept the crowd hop-pin'; it was this year's main band "The Desert Kind." The popular band blends Americana country and folk ballads.

Each year Sisters volunteers come out and help pour beer and answer as many questions as possible for hundreds of patrons.

"We are really lucky to have over 30 volunteers here pouring. They are a wonderful help for everyone," said Jeri Buckmann, event

coordinator for Sisters Area
Chamber of Commerce.

Folks got the chance to vote for their favorite brewery in the People's Choice Best Fresh Hop Beer contest sponsored by FivePine Lodge & Conference Center.

By 4 p.m. patrons Carol and Kary from Bend were done tasting and decided to tell *The Nugget* who they thought should win this year's Golden Bunny Award.

“We really enjoyed the beer Bone Crusher from Silver Moon Brewing, but we also enjoy the beer from Three Creeks Brewing, so it’s a tie.”

But it was a different beer that took the honors. This year's winner of the Golden Bunny Award was Crux Fermentation Project for their Oregon-grown mosaic fresh hop beer, MOCruxSAIC.

Sisters hosts officials on city tour

The Sisters Area Chamber of Commerce hosted 50 elected officials from around the state on a city-wide tour on Thursday, September 24.

The Chamber contacted the League of Oregon Cities (LOC) after learning the state-wide organization was holding their annual conference in Bend and requested that LOC tour Sisters.

The tour was listed as an option for conference participants and filled up quickly. It was the most-requested tour for the weekend conference and soon had a waiting list.

The tour included a walking tour of the Cascade Street Improvement Project, a presentation of the newly renovated visitor's center, a visit to the Three Creeks Brewing Co. production facility, and



PHOTO PROVIDED

Fifty officials from across Oregon toured Sisters businesses last week.

Metabolic Maintenance Products' new manufacturing facility in the industrial park.

"It was an amazing opportunity to promote Sisters to elected officials from all over the state," said Judy Trego, executive director of the Sisters Area Chamber of

Commerce. "They were very excited to see and hear all of the things that are happening in Sisters. We sent them away with great ideas they can use in their own communities and invited them to return to visit Sisters in the future."

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