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Great rides, good times at Sisters Rodeo

By Craig Rullman
Correspondent

The 76th Annual Sisters Rodeo bucked, snorted, and scrambled through Sisters June 8-12, with cowboys, cowgirls, and fans from across America packing the arena for a week of rodeo fun.

The rodeo kicked off Wednesday night with an Xtreme bulls performance, with many top-ranked bull riders from around the nation competing for a solid purse and a chance to move up in the world standings. Eight riders survived the first-go-round-pounding delivered by top bulls from the Flying Diamond Stock Company, and two additional cowboys were drawn back for a top-10 final round.

Sisters' favorite rodeo clown, J.J. Harrison, and highly respected bullfighters Rowdy Barry and Danny Newman were busy all night, keeping the bulls and bullriders separated and safe.

The final round shaped up as a showdown between crowd favorite Derek



PHOTO BY GARY MILLER

The rodeo action was intense throughout the weekend at The Biggest Little Show in the World.

Kolbaba, out of Walla Walla, Washington; Chase Robbins from Marsing, Idaho; and Jeff Bertus from Avon, South Dakota. In the final go Jeff Bertus covered his second

bull—Cash Out—for 83.5 points, giving him 164 in the aggregate and an Xtreme bulls champion buckle and almost \$3,800 in prize money. For Bertus, it was his first

time at the Sisters Rodeo. Bertus told *The Nugget* he felt "lucky to draw two great bulls." Bertus said he loved

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First fire of the season beaten back

Firefighters have got a good handle on Sisters Country's first large fire of the season.

The lightning-sparked Akawana Fire broke out on June 7 about 13 miles north of Sisters and quickly grew to 2,000 acres on private forest land managed by Oregon Department of Forestry. The blaze was burning in heavy brush and beetle-killed ponderosa pine fuels. The quick spread threatened approximately 1,200 homes in the Three Rivers subdivision near Lake Billy Chinook. Gov. Kate Brown invoked the Oregon Conflagration Act to provide added protection to homes and other structures. The Conflagration Act authorizes structural firefighters and equipment from

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Man arrested after short pursuit

An Albany man was arrested Saturday after he attempted to elude police after a traffic complaint.

According to law-enforcement sources, the Deschutes County 911 Dispatch Center received a call of a dangerous driver eastbound on Highway 20 near Innes Market Road. At about 1 p.m. on Saturday. Dispatch was able to determine this call was possibly related to an earlier traffic complaint near the Sisters Rodeo grounds.

Oregon State Police (OSP) had an aircraft in the area and was able monitor the vehicle

from the air, giving frequent updates as to the location and direction of travel. The Volvo SUV was observed on the north end of Bend by a Deschutes County deputy sheriff. The deputy attempted to stop the vehicle but the driver attempted to elude southbound on Third Street. The pursuit was almost immediately discontinued due to unnecessary risk to the public.

The OSP aircraft was able to maintain observation over the Volvo until the driver stopped in an apartment

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Bomb tech blows open suspicious box

An Oregon State Police Bomb Unit technician deployed a water cannon to blow open a suspicious container outside Sisters' fire hall on Thursday, June 9.

Deschutes County 911 received a call regarding a suspicious container outside the Sisters fire department office at about 6:47 a.m. Deschutes County Sheriff's deputies responded and determined that due to the time-frame and out-of-the norm location to block off the area for one block in sight of the container.

The City of Sisters Public Works Department took care of all the road closures, detours, and maintained manpower at the intersections to



PHOTO BY JIM CORNELIUS

A suspicious box turned out to contain a router.

ensure no one disregarded the closure.

The Oregon State Police Bomb Unit was contacted, advised of the container

and examined photos of the container. The Oregon State Police Bomb Unit (a

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