

## Fall sports deadlines looming

The fall sports season is on the horizon; many sports registration deadlines at Sisters Park & Recreation District (SPRD) are nearly here.

Both the youth soccer (pre-school through fourth-grade) and youth football registration deadlines are Saturday, August 6. In tandem with the registration deadline, SPRD is running skill assessments for kids on Saturday, August 6, and Saturday, August 13.

Skill assessments are being widely adopted by park and recreation districts across the country to help facilitate youth recreation.

According to Program Coordinator Kelly Crowther, "I've been using skill assessments for a few seasons now, and they have been a good way to get an idea of how many teams we're going to have and get coaches involved in the process of making the teams. It does take an hour or so out of people's weekend and summer, but I like the assessments because we get people thinking about the upcoming season, and it helps create more balanced teams when there is a good turnout at assessments."

Soccer assessments will run during the morning at Sisters Elementary School, and football assessments will be run during the afternoon at the Sisters Middle School fields. Practices and games will be at these same locations when the season begins. The first week of practice starts August 29, and kids will be practicing twice per week, with games on Saturdays beginning September 10.

Sponsors and coaches are still being sought for soccer and football. Last year, revenue from sponsors helped SPRD redirect funds for program equipment including soccer nets, goalie gloves, cones, jerseys, and many other miscellaneous

equipment needs. Sponsors get their company logo on a team's jersey for the season. Coaches are also needed for all the soccer divisions and the youngest flag football division. Contact SPRD for more information on sponsoring or coaching a team.

Expanding on the success from last year's flag football jamborees between Sisters and Prineville, this year SPRD has worked to include Madras. There will be three flag football jamborees this year: one each in Sisters, Madras, and Prineville. This cooperative league will be extending into other sports seasons as well, including basketball.

Volleyball is another sport beginning with the start of school. Sixth-grade volleyball has a registration deadline of Friday, August 15. The sixth-graders will pull together a single team this year to enter into the Bend Park and Recreation league. The season for sixth-graders is similar to the seventh- and eighth-grade season, which runs September through October. Practices for the sixth-graders will be during the week, with games on the weekend. Seventh- and eighth-grade girls will practice and play games during the week against area schools including Burns, La Pine, Warm Springs, Culver, Jefferson County, and Three Rivers.

New additions to this year's fall programs are a

middle school- and high school-aged mountain biking program and a pre-season youth basketball program for grades 2 through 4. The mountain biking program will be coached by Thomas Wilkinson, who coached the spring mountain biking series. Mountain biking will run September through October. Kids will ride the pump track at SPRD, along with local trails. The pre-season youth basketball program will be coached by Nate Dachtler. This basketball program is a prelude to league play which begins in January and will focus on giving kids a chance to play basketball after soccer and football season ends. Pre-season basketball will start in November.

While fall sports are beginning shortly, SPRD is still taking registration for summer sports camps including basketball, soccer, golf, tennis, and an outdoor survival camp.

For more information about SPRD programs, visit [www.sistersrecreation.com](http://www.sistersrecreation.com) or call 541-549-2091.

## Modern rustling at Dixie's event

Bend author K. Hamilton has released a debut novel, a contemporary Western titled *Three Corner Rustlers*. Inspired by true events, Hamilton combines the elements of a classic Western with the 21st century. A book reading and signing will be held Sunday, August 7, from 3 to 5 p.m. at Dixie's, 100 E. Cascade Ave. in Sisters. Hors d'oeuvres and refreshments will be served. This event is free and open to the public.

In the novel, paths intersect and twist from Silicon Valley to Colorado, to the wide-open spaces of the high desert of the Three Corner country of Oregon, Idaho, and Nevada. *Three Corner Rustlers* is a contemporary story featuring an estranged daughter, Carson, who is returning to her childhood home; C.J., an ex-con whose life is changed by an unusual mentor; a wild mustang named Rio; plus a criminal network of cattle thieves, Federal agents, and a rancher whose livelihood

is threatened. The journeys of these characters are woven together in this modern-day tale to surprising conclusions.

Hamilton conceived the idea for the novel in 2009 after reading articles from the *Bend Bulletin* about cattle rustling in the vast ION country where Idaho, Oregon, and Nevada come together. Around that time, she also saw the documentary "The Wild Horse Redemption," by John Zaritsky, about a tempestuous mustang paired with an inmate.

"I started assembling a cast of favorite characters and decided the story of the inmate, who only got a moment with 'his' horse, was unacceptable and worked him into my story," said Hamilton.

After fine-tuning her work with an editor and finding a publisher, Hamilton released it through Dark Planet Publishing. The audiobook will be available in the fall.

For more information, visit [www.shopdixies.com](http://www.shopdixies.com).

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