

A traditional tree-lighting ceremony

By Jodi Schneider McNamee, Correspondent

Last Friday evening, hundreds of folks gathered among friends and family for one of the most anticipated holiday traditions in Sisters: the annual Christmas tree lighting ceremony in Fir Street Park.

This American holiday tradition continues to bring citizens together to share in a message of hope and peace.

Long before the coming of Christianity, plants and trees that remained green all year had a special meaning for people in winter. Just as people today decorate their homes during the festive season with pine, spruce and fir trees, ancient peoples hung evergreen boughs over their doors and windows.

Then in the early 20th century electricity brought about Christmas lights, making it possible for Christmas trees to glow for days on end. And with this, Christmas trees began to appear in town squares across the country to later become an American tradition.

The blaze in the firepit in Fir Street Park kept folks warm as they gathered around sipping hot cocoa and eating popcorn made by volunteers from the Three Sisters Lions Club.

Sisters Area Chamber of Commerce Executive Director Judy Trego kicked things off with encouraging information for the community:

“Sisters is now the fastest-growing city in the state of Oregon! And not only is our city the fastest-growing in the state, we are economically growing as well. We are prospering and our businesses are thriving. We want to thank the community for putting up with us. We couldn’t have done it without the community, and the business community is thriving because of you.”

Fifteen Skyliner Jazz students from Summit High School in Bend began the festivities singing “Jingle Bells.” Summit High School Choral director Melissa Jacot led the

enthusiastic choir.

“We are thrilled that Judy Trego asked us to perform tonight,” Jacot said. “Skyliner Jazz is a small, auditioned choir and we perform at concerts, festivals, and community events.”

Mayor pro tem Nancy Connolly shared her feelings of thankfulness with the audience for all who volunteer in Sisters.

“For all of you that currently volunteer, I want to thank you personally for the time and effort that you donate and give freely to the community to make it such a special place to live and work. For those who don’t volunteer yet, I urge you to find your passion, whether it’s with the school district, the city, parks and recreation, Habitat for Humanity, or your church. Know that you have the power to be the change to make the community into what you would like it to be.”

A popular custom is to bless the Christmas tree before lighting. Sisters resident and interfaith minister Sana Hayes took the honors:

“When the lights are illuminated on this tree tonight, let it remind you of the power in your own life to be a light in the darkness. To help someone find their own way. To give without expecting anything in return.”

Skyliner Jazz Choir closed the ceremony singing “Silent Night.” Then, the tall live tree at the east side of the park lit up brightly with white lights as the crowd cheered.



PHOTO BY JODI SCHNEIDER MCNAMEE

Skyliner Jazz Choir huddled around the Fir Street Park firepit to stay warm.

Sisters Car Connection

Sisters Car Connection makes it easy to sell your car — which may come in very handy this holiday season.

You can get real answers right away on value, and they handle the paperwork while you’re busy celebrating the season.

Sisters Car Connection details your car to sell — making it look good as new. In fact, some folks decide after the detailing that maybe they don’t need to sell after all... But if you do, Sisters Car Connection makes the transaction smooth and easy both for the seller and the buyer.

They’re always on the lookout for low-mileage one- or two-owner vehicles for consignment. And if you’re in the market to buy, Sisters Car Connection takes all the stress and hassle out of the transaction. Sit down with owner Jeff Josten and give him your price range and specs, and let him go to work.

Great deals on quality vehicles — what more could you ask for Christmas?



Holiday Celebration
6th Annual Open House!
 Sunday, December 4, 2 to 4 p.m.
10% OFF ALL ÉMINENCE ORGANIC PRODUCTS ONE DAY ONLY!
Door Prizes • Drawings • Gifts
 Libations • Appetizers • Product Samples • Demos
Essentials Skin • Hair • Nails
 Karen Keady, NCEA Certified Esthetician
 541-480-1412 • 541-588-6271 • 492 E. Main Ave.
 Monday-Saturday Flexible Hours | www.SistersEssentials.com

Paulina Springs Books
Seen our 2016 Holiday Books guide?
Pick one up today
30% off
everything in the guide
Picture books, cookbooks, fiction, non-fiction, coffee table, young readers & more
 252 W Hood Ave • 541-549-0866 • paulinasprings.com

Annie Painter ♥ The Studio
 Corner Larch & Main Sisters
Art for all by request
 Kids’ classes, Adult groups, Family art, Teacher workshops
What shall we create?
www.anniepainter.com 541-639-2526
anniepainter@msn.com
 Guest teacher Kit Stafford offering **FREE** kids’ workshops at THE STUDIO December 27, 28, 29 (3 different sessions)
 2nd-4th grades, 9:30-11:30
 Space limited. Call Kit directly to register 541-771-ARTS

HOLIDAY PROJECTS?
Ladders
 Carpet Cleaners
Storage Boxes
 Tables & Chairs
SISTERS RENTAL
 506 N. Pine St.
541-549-9631
 Sales • Service • Rentals • Accessories • www.sistersrental.com

Are They Hard To Buy For?
We’ll make their vehicle like new again!
 Detailing cars, trucks, farm equipment, boats & RVs.
Sisters Car Connection
Call 541-647-8794
 102 W. Barclay Dr., Sisters