

Mighty snowfall makes for best holiday season ever at Hoodoo

By Craig F. Eisenbeis
Correspondent

“This was the best holiday season for Hoodoo of all time! Best holiday week, December and New Year’s Eve in the 80 years we have been operating.”

Those are the words of Daidre Streeter, office manager at Hoodoo Ski Resort. “Many joyful employees and guests were simply overwhelmed by the remarkable holiday season. The theme of our holiday was ‘Can you believe this?’”

Streeter seemed euphoric over the change in Hoodoo’s fortunes. Hoodoo has suffered through some tough seasons in recent years.

“An astonishing Tuesday storm before Christmas led to a bluebird-perfect powder day,” she said. “Then perfect blue skies led to yet another unbelievable storm on Sunday, New Year’s Day, followed by another.”

A year ago, Hoodoo’s season was a big improvement over many of the lean recent years. Even so, this current season is far outpacing that good year.

“Our base is now 78 inches ... deepest snowpack at this time of year in over a decade. So I have been doing the numbers,” said Streeter, “and last December we operated 14 days and our skier and tuber visits were around 17,000. This December we operated 22 days and our visits were around 28,000.”

That’s a whopping 65 per cent increase over last season.

This season’s bonanza of snow has not been without its challenges. Hoodoo, which is renowned for its no-wait ski

lifts, uncharacteristically had some actual lift-lines during hours of peak operation.

“Our parking lot was overfull. We actually turned people away because we ran out of parking. Even though the lines were long, we had smiles all around,” she said. “The sunshine helped. We ran out of rentals by 10:30 a.m. every day. We had employees lending their personal skis to customers just so they could ski.”

New Year’s Eve, always a popular event at Hoodoo, reached epic proportions this year. “We had close to 4,000 people here on New Year’s Eve. The fireworks were spectacular. We actually had to turn people away at one point on New Year’s Eve. The lift line was so long for night skiing on New Year’s Eve that when we sold tickets, we told people they may only get one run in, if that. They didn’t even care! Overall, everybody was so happy for Hoodoo’s success.

“We had our lodge manager selling tickets mobile with his phone, just to get the lines down. It worked great! People said they had never seen anything like it. We had little kids write letters to our lift manager saying thank you for helping us get our skis and saving us from the longest

line ever.”

In summing up the season so far, Streeter said, “Pretty much the best season in the history of ever!”

Meanwhile, the snow continues to fall; and Hoodoo is prepping for its next big event, their Backcountry Festival scheduled for Friday, January 20 and Saturday, January 21.

Sponsored by Three Creeks Brewing Company, this year’s festival features the newest in 2017 backcountry gear, seminars, industry pros, live music, a beer garden, fat bike races, and Nordic and alpine ski races. Interactive displays will give attendees the opportunity to learn how best to outfit themselves for backcountry adventures. The festival will also offer safety seminars for backcountry enthusiasts. In addition, participants will be able to test fat bikes, skis, boots, bindings and other equipment.

Blazin Saddles bike shop will have a fat bike course set up for visitors to conduct test rides. The Three Creeks Brewing Company Beer Garden will be open until



PHOTO BY CRAIG F. EISENBEIS

Skiers are enjoying an unprecedented season at Hoodoo.

9 p.m. both nights, along with a fire pit on the patio.

In addition to the fun and games, the Corvallis Mountain Rescue Unit will also be offering presentations

and information on backcountry safety, avalanche searching, and opportunities to practice skills associated with backcountry travel and beacon searching.

SISTERS ENTERTAINMENT • EVENTS

Wed. ~ Jan. 11

Sisters Saloon Texas Hold 'Em Tournament! 7 p.m. Every Wednesday! For more information call 541-549-7427 or go to sistersaloon.net.

Saturday ~ Jan. 14

Sisters Saloon Live Music with the Bobby Lindstrom Band 8 p.m. Blues and rock, no cover! For more information call 541-549-7427 or go to sistersaloon.net.

Cork Cellars Live Music with Doug & Katie Cavanaugh 7 to 9 p.m. No cover! For additional information call 541-549-2675 or go to corkcellars.com.

Sisters Schools Sisters Shootout Basketball Tournament 8 a.m. to 7 p.m. For boys & girls grades 5-8 from all over Oregon. Presented by SPRD. For additional information call 541-549-2091 or go online to sistersshootout.com.

Sunday ~ Jan. 15

Sisters Schools Sisters Shootout Basketball Tournament 8 a.m. to 7 p.m. For boys & girls grades 5-8 from all over Oregon. Presented by SPRD. For additional information call 541-549-2091 or go online to sistersshootout.com.

Wed. ~ Jan. 18

Sisters Saloon Texas Hold 'Em Tournament! 7 p.m. Every Wednesday! For more information call 541-549-7427 or go to sistersaloon.net.

Saturday ~ Jan. 21

Cork Cellars Live Music with Mark Conklin 7 to 9 p.m. No cover! For more information call 541-549-2675 or go to corkcellars.com.

Sisters Saloon Live Music with Honey Don't 8 to 11 p.m. Americana, no cover! For additional information call 541-549-7427 or go online to sistersaloon.net.

Monday ~ Jan. 23

Sisters High School BINGO & Community Dinner 5 to 6:30 p.m. for dinner, just \$2 per plate! 6:30 p.m. for BINGO, \$15 for 11 games with great prizes! Sponsored by Outlaws Together and SPRD. Fundraiser for SHS athletics. For more info call Tim Roth at 541-549-4050.

Wed. ~ Jan. 25

Sisters High School Sisters Folk Festival Winter Concert: Martin Sexton 7 p.m. Soulful singing and brilliant guitar playing! For more information or tickets call 541-549-4979 or go to sistersfolkfestival.org.

Sisters Fire Hall "Soup & Civility" Event 5:30 p.m. Enjoy a free light meal, then from 6 to 7:30 p.m. OSU Communications Professor Gregg Walker will lead a workshop on “constructive confrontation.” For more info: citizens4community.com.

Sisters Saloon Texas Hold 'Em Tournament! 7 p.m. Every Wednesday! For more information call 541-549-7427 or go to sistersaloon.net.

Friday ~ Jan. 27

Downtown Sisters 4th Friday Art Stroll 4 to 7 p.m. Galleries & shops of Sisters feature live entertainment & refreshments! Info: sistersartsassociation.org.

Saturday ~ Jan. 28

Sisters Saloon Live Music with the Bobby Lindstrom Band 8 p.m. Blues and rock, no cover! For info call 541-549-7427 or go to sistersaloon.net.

Cork Cellars Live Music with Cup of Joe (Joe Leonardi) 7 to 9 p.m. No cover! For more information call 541-549-2675 or go to corkcellars.com.

Subject to change. Submit by 5 p.m. Fridays to teresa@nuggetnews.com

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Hidden Figures (PG)
Fri 4:00, 6:45
Sat-Sun 1:30, 4:15, 7:00
Mon-Thurs 4:00, 6:45

La La Land (PG-13)
Fri 4:45, 7:30
Sat-Sun 2:00, 4:45, 7:30
Mon-Thurs 4:45, 7:30

Fences (PG-13)
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Sat-Sun 1:45, 4:30, 7:15
Mon-Thurs 4:30, 7:15

Movie times and titles are subject to change. Visit website or call for latest information.

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