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Senator's town hall draws massive crowd

By Sue Stafford
Correspondent

Oregon Democrat Senator Ron Wyden walked onto the stage at Sisters High School Monday night to a standing ovation from an overwhelmingly friendly standing-room-only crowd. He was here for his 795th town hall meeting, 22 of which have been held in Deschutes County.

The 90-minute meeting was a series of questions courteously posed by the almost entirely friendly audience, with Wyden exhibiting wide-ranging knowledge on a number of diverse topics. Throughout the evening, much of what Wyden had to say was greeted with applause and cheers.

A term used by Wyden a number of times was “representative democracy,” a concept he believes exemplifies the “Oregon Way” of civil engagement with respect and



PHOTO BY GARY MILLER

Sen. Ron Wyden's town hall meeting at Sisters High School drew a crowd that overflowed the auditorium.

inclusivity. After asking how many people were first-time attendees at a town hall, to which a large majority of the crowd of some 800 people raised their hands, he told those attending, “I am looking

out tonight at the face of representative democracy... I'm going to listen to what you have to say. I am interested in hearing from all of you. I'll do my best to respond.”

He addressed questions

regarding alleged ties between President Donald Trump and the leadership of Russia.

“I think this is an extraordinary time as it relates to

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Sisters dominates youth lifting event

By Jim Cornelius
News Editor

Sisters may not seem like the most obvious town to produce a raft of powerlifters to dominate the national championships, but that's exactly what happened last weekend in San Diego.

Six young lifters from Level 5 Barbell Club and CrossFit in Sisters set national records on their way to five gold medals and a silver in the USA Powerlifting Youth Nationals. Admittedly, they had the advantage of being a large contingent in a small and still-new event.

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Locals mourn man killed in skiing accident

A 26-year-old man who spent five or six years working here in Sisters at Earthwood Homes and Ponderosa Forge & Ironworks was killed in a fall while skiing on the south Teton on Wednesday, February 15.

The Jackson Hole Daily reported that, “John ‘Jack’ Fields Jr. aimed to ski the Amora Vida Couloir with three other mountaineers when he fell 1,400 feet to his death, according to a press release from Grand Teton National Park.”

Fields had just recently moved to Jackson. He had many friends in Sisters who are mourning his death. The young man had a reputation as someone who loved to work with his hands — and

who loved outdoor adventure. According to his friends, he was also a singularly kind and generous soul.

Benji Nagel was one of his many friends in Sisters. He paid tribute to him in a Facebook post:

“For his last year or so living in Sisters, he would stop by our house almost every day after work, usually tired from a long day, and maybe crack a beer, or play some guitar or fall asleep in the backyard sunshine or show us whatever Prairie Home Companion clip he was stoked about that day.

“What I have heard over and over again the last few days is that Jack always made

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Sisters' citizens earn honors

By Jim Cornelius
News Editor

Every February, the Sisters Area Chamber of Commerce hosts a fête to honor individual citizens, organizations, and businesses who contribute to making Sisters an economically and culturally vibrant place.

This year's honors got underway with a special nod to a woman who seeks no fanfare in her work, who nevertheless has a big impact on some of the most vulnerable lives in the community.

Chamber President Chris Wilder offered up the President's Award to Sherri Hermans, who works as a paraprofessional in the Sisters School District. She works with special-needs children, with particular emphasis on providing them with



PHOTO BY JIM CORNELIUS

Greg Willitts accepted Business of the Year honors on behalf of FivePine Lodge & Conference Center.

adaptive sports opportunities through the Unified Sports Program. An accompanying video brought tears to eyes at FivePine Lodge & Conference Center, as the audience saw children light

up with joy, including a youth who stood up from his wheelchair — a very rare occurrence for him — at Hermans' encouragement.

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