

BARBECUE: Event introduced new city manager to Sisters

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spot for the barbecue. A large canopy provided some shade for the guests, who were seated at long tables covered in festive red and white-checked tablecloths.

Diners had a choice of hamburgers and hot dogs, ably cooked on the grill by Public Works Director Paul Bertagna and Finance Officer Joe O'Neill, aided by Kim Keeton, City accounting technician, who handed out the buns. Potato salad, green salad, bags of chips, and cookies, restocked by Kerry Prosser, city recorder, and Carol Jenkins, planning technician, rounded out the menu.

Everything was free of charge, as part of the City's outreach to the community.

Everyone seemed to be enjoying themselves.

"Why didn't we do this before?" wondered Sisters artist Paul Bennett.

City Council President Nancy Connolly was pleased with the citizens' response, and added, "It's nice to see such a good turnout and hear such positive comments about the direction of the City."

Showing inside the Council chambers was a

continuous slide show of historical snapshots of Sisters dating as far back as 1895, with photos of the horse-drawn stage line, the original Sisters two-story white school house, and the Brooks-Scanlon logging train that carried cut ponderosas to their mill. There were photos of the early days of the rodeo, and the heavy snowfall of 1919. Also included was a short film made in 1967 of driving down Cascade Avenue showing what Sisters looked like in those days. City staffer Julie Pieper, finance administrative assistant, put the slide show together.

Outgoing City Manager Rick Allen received a number of compliments on the job he has done in Sisters over the past year.

"You brought decency back to Sisters," offered 23-year Sisters resident Carolyn Platt.

Allen, who has been involved in local Central Oregon government for years and served as the La Pine interim city manager before coming to Sisters, responded to Platt.

"I learn everywhere I go and, therefore, I can bring different ways of doing things... When I arrived in Sisters, it wasn't fun (for citizen volunteers) to serve here and it wasn't fun to work here. We have been able to change the



PHOTO BY SUE STAFFORD

City Councilor Richard Esterman introduced new City Manager Brant Kucera to the citizens attending a barbecue on Thursday.

culture and how we respond to people," he said.

Dennis Schmidling of Sisters Gallery & Frame Shop summed up the importance of the new culture and the value of events like the barbecue.

"Building community is the salve we need," he said.

Dennis's wife, Helen, was impressed with the strong turnout. Their friend Bob Burgess, president of Sisters Arts Association, added, "I

think they (staff) did a great job on the barbecue, especially without knowing how many people were coming."

Senior planner BeAnne McConkie did have to make a run to Ray's for 80 more hamburger patties, and eventually every bit of food was eaten.

Esterman remarked, "We had an excellent turnout and we owe a big thanks to the staff for all their hard work."

ATHLETICS: Community support, coaching get credit for success

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in 10th place.

Niche gathered its data from a variety of sources, including the Department of Education, the U.S. Census, parent and student reviews, and algorithms developed by their own data team. Niche gathers data for other rankings as well, including "Best Places to Live" and "Best Colleges."

With a population of about 420 students, Sisters offers football, volleyball, soccer, cross-country, cheerleading, basketball, alpine skiing, Nordic skiing, swimming, wrestling, equestrian, baseball, softball, tennis, track and field, and lacrosse.

"It's cool to see us get recognition like this," said Principal Joe Hosang. "Our programs are healthy thanks to community support and very strong coaching."

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