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Volunteers make quilt show come alive

By Jim Cornelius
News Editor

It seems like magic — more than a thousand quilts suddenly appearing on the buildings of downtown Sisters in an explosion of creativity and color on the second Saturday of July.

And it *is* a kind of magic — but it involves a whole lot more than the waving of a wand. It's the coming together of hundreds of volunteers, hundreds of quilters and a whole lot of organization and effort.

Last week the Sisters Outdoor Quilt Show (SOQS) event office — located this year at Earthwood Homes in the Sisters Industrial Park — was stacked high with a portion of what will be a record 1,497 quilts, which a cadre of volunteers will hang early on the morning of July 8.

Volunteers must sort, catalogue and assign a space for



PHOTO BY JIM CORNELIUS

Virginia Bradley has hung her quilts in every Sisters Outdoor Quilt Show since 1976.

each quilt. That process used to be conducted entirely with paper and pencil, but now is made considerably less

arduous by use of a computerized bar code system developed by former executive director Ann Richardson and

computer expert Gary Miller. "It's so elegant," SOQS

See **SHOW** on page 30

Firefighters mop-up season's first fire

Firefighters finished burn-out operations and began mop-up, extinguishing hot spots and fire along the perimeter of the Sheep Springs Fire in the Metolius Basin north-west of Sisters, last Friday.

The lightning-sparked fire started on June 27.

Crews were able to successfully complete burnout operations using existing roads to create a containment perimeter. Interior areas will continue to burn, producing smoke in the area.

Fire officials managed the Sheep Springs Fire for full suppression using existing roads to create containment

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Blaze damages home east of Sisters

Cloverdale Rural Fire Protection District crews, joined by Sisters-Camp Sherman Fire District, were dispatched to a structure fire on Cascade Estates Drive off Highway 20, on Tuesday, June 27, just before 5 p.m.

Cloverdale crews arrived to find a fire burning on the second-floor exterior of the 2,200-square-foot house and extending into the attic, fanned by strong winds.

A neighbor who reported hearing an explosion noticed the fire, called 911 and tried to put out the fire with a garden hose, but it was too far involved by that time to extinguish it.

The rental home was occupied by several people, who had just left a short time

earlier.

Mutual-aid support was sought from the Crooked River Ranch and Bend fire departments to relieve fatigued crews, as the fire-fighting and mop-up had firefighters on scene for close to four hours.

Five engines, three water tenders and two brush trucks were called out while the Oregon Department of Forestry checked the area for any embers that could have sparked a wildfire. Crews were successful in preventing the spread into the adjacent brush.

Fire Chief Thad Olsen estimated damage to the home at more than \$80,000.

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USFS may limit wilderness access

Outdoor enthusiasts are loving portions of Sisters Country to death. The U.S. Forest Service is proposing a program to limit access to wilderness areas in order to preserve the wilderness experience in the face of tremendous growth in use.

Under the proposal, visitors to the Mount Jefferson, Mount Washington, Three Sisters, Waldo Lake and Diamond Peak wilderness areas would need to get a permit in advance. Such programs are common in California to limit crowds and the environmental damage that comes with them.

Backpackers spending the night would need a permit. Day-hikers would need a permit on a number of popular trails in Sisters Country, including Pole Creek, Chush Falls, Park Meadow,



PHOTO BY JIM CORNELIUS

Tam McArthur Rim would be one of the trails requiring a permit under a Forest Service proposal to control use.

Three Creek Meadow, Tam McArthur Rim, Tam McArthur Rim Horse Trail, Broken Top and Black Crater.

In examining use trends,

the Forest Service concluded that "overall visitor-use trends across the project area has increased tremendously

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