

# Volunteers say good-bye to Sisters

From the moment they moved to Sisters 10 years ago, Marvin and Trine Benson have been avid community volunteers. They originally moved from Colorado to be near their son Benny, daughter-in-law Julie, and granddaughter Cammi Benson, and quickly became entrenched in a variety of community activities. It's the many people they've touched who will miss them most, as they are moving from Sisters on July 26.

When Benny and Julie purchased the Sisters Airport, Marvin and Trine moved into the house located on the property, and took over caretaker duties. This was a gigantic undertaking as the property had been generally ignored and fallen into disrepair for many years. They started at the front lawn with the new airport sign and worked their way down to what is now a first rate fly-in campground.

Trine assumed the security and maintenance at the airport. Out-of-town pilots get a friendly greeting and assistance on what to do in Sisters. All the employees located at the airport knew the next morning if they had left a door unlocked or left food out for unwanted critters by the infamous sticky "Note!" left for them from Trine. During the holiday season, never was an office

left undecorated.

When the Sisters Community Garden needed a new home, Marvin offered to help relocate the Garden to the airport property. From a blank piece of land, a unique community asset was created for locals of all ages to share their green thumbs. Today the Community Garden hosts over 50 plots, and grows over 1,000 pounds of vegetables, of which half is donated to the food bank.

"Marvin and Trine embody the characteristics so necessary for gardening in Central Oregon: a tireless persistence, unbounded ingenuity, and an unflappable sense of humor. It has been a gift to work with them as this plot of dirt and rocks was transformed into a food basket for the community. They have planted many seeds in this place, and in our hearts, and we will miss them," said Ruthie Douglass, garden patron.

Marvin cleared out a dilapidated hangar and created a wood shop for his intarsia artwork, along with a place to share his craft with others. With a love for teaching kids, many 4H championship wood art projects were created with his mentorship. Marvin also works with Josh Nordell to bring the special needs kids from the middle and high schools

over to Marvin's wood shop and the garden at the airport. He helps them create Intarsia wood art, and learn gardening skills.

Marvin has volunteered in the Sisters High School wood shop for many years, teaching students a variety of wood working skills. "The first day Marvin came in, I told him we needed a lot of help in the classes, teaching students to work with tools. He said he would think about it. The next day he showed up, ready to help, and he hasn't missed a day since. I am really going to miss him!" says Tony Cosby, SHS wood shop teacher.

Besides being the airport caretaker, Trine is also very active in the community. She volunteers at Habitat for Humanity, helping sort donated goods at ReStore in Sisters. Trine also turned the downstairs of the house into a quilting studio and integrated herself into the Sisters quilting community, volunteering at events, and contributing her skills to group projects.

The early morning crowd at the Sisters Athletic Club recognizes Marvin as a daily swimmer. His granddaughter Cammi, a 2016 SHS graduate, recalls "When we would go to SHS football games,



PHOTO PROVIDED

Marvin and Trine Benson have been active volunteers in Sisters.

Grampa (Marvin) knew more people in the stands than I did!"

There will be a farewell party for Marvin and Trine at the Benson's hangar at the Sisters Airport next Sunday, July 23, from 4 to 7 p.m. Food and live music by "The Noteables" band will be provided. All who've been touched by Marvin and Trine's contribution to the community are invited.

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