

# Families conduct citizen science

By Kyle Spurr  
The Bulletin

BEND (AP) — An educational program for children and their families at the High Desert Museum left a positive effect on the participants, but also valuable data for wildlife biologists.

The museum hosted six workshop sessions in April and May for nine families with children ages 6 through 10. The program — funded by a \$250,000 grant from the Institute of Museum and Library Sciences — focused on studying carnivores in the Central Oregon Cascades.

Each family took home a wildlife camera during the six-week program and captured images of passing animals such as deer, coyotes and jackrabbits. Now, their photos are available in book form from local libraries.

“All of that data is useful,” Jon Nelson, curator of wildlife at the museum, said. “You never know what is going to be valuable or not.”

One family caught especially useful images of a red fox, possibly the rare Sierra Nevada red fox biologists are hoping to learn more about. Two Sierra Nevada red foxes were captured and radio-collared in May in the high-elevation forest near Mount Bachelor.

Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife is attempting to catch and study more of the rare species, Nelson said.

The one caught on camera was in the lower elevation of Dry Canyon in Redmond, an unexpected location. It would take a DNA sample from a hair snare to be sure it was the Sierra Nevada fox, Nelson said.

“It’s not out of the question that it could be,” he said.

Stacey Durden, her husband, Jeff, and 10-year-old daughter, Ila, are the family that spotted the red fox. The Durdens tied the camera to a tree off Dry Canyon Trail near their house and then sprinkled bits of tuna and cat food to entice animals. It worked on

the fox, Stacey Durden said. “The fox would come around at 9 a.m. and back at 5 p.m. and that was its routine,” she said.

Using information they learned at the workshops, the Durdens continue to visit the Dry Canyon area and check tracks and scat, including from the fox.

The family is planning to buy their own wildlife camera to continue their citizen-science work. Durden — the development director and communications manager at Volunteers in Medicine Clinic of the Cascades in Bend — said the whole experience has built up her daughter’s confidence and has made her excited about adding to scientific research in the region. Ila plans to upload wildlife photos to the citizen science website, iNaturalist.com.

“To look and see what other people are seeing in Central Oregon, and that our experience could further research, I think she felt really fulfilled by being a part of it,” Durden said.

The program last spring culminated with each family putting together a 20- to 30-page book full of photos and writings about their experience. Copies of the books are available for checkout at the Deschutes public libraries

and to view at the museum. The library system and museum worked with Oregon State University-Cascades to run the program.

Christina Cid, director of programs for the museum, said working with the families made a huge impact on her, and she is looking forward to hosting the program again in April with a new group of families. The grant funding from the Institute of Museum and Library Services covers the program next year. Cid is exploring other funding sources to make the program an annual event.

“I’ve been an educator for more than 20 years, and this was the first opportunity I had to work with families for a sustained period of time,” Cid said. “Throughout the program, the families were exploring the carnivores that live throughout Central Oregon. Families don’t often get opportunities like this to learn together.”

For the Durdens, meeting every Saturday for six weeks at the museum for the workshops was not only educational but also guaranteed quality family time.

“I thought the team building as a family would be a really great thing to go through,” Durden said. “It was rewarding.”

# SISTERS ENTERTAINMENT & EVENTS

## WED...SEPT. 6

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

**Hardtails Bar & Grill Karaoke Night!** 9 p.m. Every Wednesday, no cover! For more info call 541-549-6114 or go to hardtailsoregon.com.

## THURS...SEPT. 7

**Sisters Saloon Karaoke Night!** 9 p.m. Every Thursday, no cover! For info: 541-549-7427 or sistersaloon.net.

## FRI...SEPT. 8

**Venues Throughout Sisters Sisters Folk Festival** Go to sistersfolkfestival.org to see the full schedule (however, Friday tickets are sold out).

**Hardtails Bar & Grill Live Music with The Emerald City Band** 9 p.m. FREE! Enjoy classic rock with no cover! For additional information call 541-549-6114 or go online to hardtailsoregon.com.

**Fir Street Park Sisters Farmers Market** 2 to 5:30 p.m. Enjoy all Oregon-grown produce & plants, with live entertainment too! sistersfarmersmarket.com.

## SAT...SEPT. 9

**Venues Throughout Sisters Sisters Folk Festival** Go to sistersfolkfestival.org to see the full schedule (however, Saturday tickets are sold out).

**Hardtails Bar & Grill Live Music with Jukebox Heroes** 9 p.m. Tribute band to Foreigner! Tickets are \$10 in advance at Hardtails or online at bendticket.com or \$15 at the door day of show. 541-549-6114 or go online to hardtailsoregon.com.

## SUN...SEPT. 10

**Venues Throughout Sisters Sisters Folk Festival** See the lineup at sistersfolkfestival.org.

**Village Green Park Sisters Folk Festival Community Celebration** 10 to 11:30 a.m. Hosted by Beth Wood and free to all (but get your seat early)! For info: sistersfolkfestival.org.

## TUES...SEPT. 12

**Ranch Viejo Live Music with Rhonda Funk** 6 to 8 p.m. Celebrating 10 years in Sisters! For additional information call 541-549-3594.

## WED...SEPT. 13

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

**Hardtails Bar & Grill Karaoke Night!** 9 p.m. Every Wednesday, no cover! For more info call 541-549-6114 or go to hardtailsoregon.com.

## THURS...SEPT. 14

**Sisters Saloon Karaoke Night!** 9 p.m. Every Thursday, no cover! For additional information call 541-549-7427 or go to sistersaloon.net.

## FRI...SEPT. 15

**Hardtails Bar & Grill Karaoke Night!** 9 p.m. Every Friday, no cover! For more information call 541-549-6114 or go to hardtailsoregon.com.

## Paulina Springs Books

**Author Reading with Carl Fielder** 6:30 p.m. On “Ponderosa: People, Fire, and the West’s Most Iconic Tree.” Free! 541-549-0866.

## Fir Street Park Sisters

**Farmers Market** 2 to 5:30 p.m. Oregon-grown produce & plants, with live entertainment too! sistersfarmersmarket.com.

## SAT...SEPT. 16

**Fir Street Park Free Concert in the Park!** 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Featuring the **Students of Bald Eagle Music Education Station** and local musicians! For more information call 541-410-9064.

**Cork Cellars Live Music with Deer Creek** 7 to 9 p.m. No cover! For more info call 541-549-2675 or go to corkcellarswinebistro.com.

**Hardtails Bar & Grill Karaoke Night!** 9 p.m. Every Saturday (if no live music is scheduled), no cover! For more info call 541-549-6114 or go to hardtailsoregon.com.

## TUES...SEPT. 19

**Sisters Saloon Trivia Night** 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. Sign-up is at 6:15 p.m. Free, every Tuesday! For info call 541-549-7427 or go to sistersaloon.net.

## WED...SEPT. 20

**Hardtails Bar & Grill Karaoke Night!** 9 p.m. Every Wednesday, no cover! 541-549-6114 or go to hardtailsoregon.com.

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

## THURS...SEPT. 21

**Sisters Saloon Karaoke Night!** 9 p.m. Every Thursday, no cover! For info: 541-549-7427 or sistersaloon.net.

## FRI...SEPT. 22

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

**Hardtails Bar & Grill Karaoke Night!** 9 p.m. Every Friday, no cover! For more information call 541-549-6114 or go to hardtailsoregon.com.

**Fir Street Park Sisters Farmers Market** 2 to 5:30 p.m. Oregon-grown produce & plants, with live entertainment too! sistersfarmersmarket.com.

## SAT...SEPT. 23

**Cork Cellars Live Music with Jim Cornelius & Mike Biggers** 7 to 9 p.m. No cover! For info: 541-549-2675 or corkcellarswinebistro.com.

**Fir Street Park Buried Beef & Brew** 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. \$12 adults, \$5 kids, \$5 beer. Beef, corn, “beer keg” beans & more! Plus **Live Music with Dry Canyon Stampede**. Tickets are at Sisters Park & Recreation District, or call 541-549-2091 or go to sistersrecreation.com.

**Paulina Springs Books Author Reading with Melvin Adams** 6:30 p.m. On “Atomic Geography: A Personal History of the Hanford Nuclear Reservation.” Free! Info: 541-549-0866.

Listings free to advertisers. Submit by 5 p.m. Fridays to [teresa@nuggetnews.com](mailto:teresa@nuggetnews.com)

**Sisters MOVIE HOUSE**  
STARTS FRIDAY  
FRI., SEPT. 8 – THURS., SEPT. 14

**It (R)**  
Fri 4:00, 7:00  
Sat-Sun 1:00, 4:00, 7:00  
Mon-Thurs 4:00, 7:00

**Home Again (PG-13)**  
Fri 4:15, 6:45  
Sat-Sun 1:30, 4:15, 6:45  
Mon-Thurs 4:15, 6:45

**Trip to Spain (N/R)**  
Fri 4:45, 7:15  
Sat-Sun 2:15, 4:45, 7:15  
Mon-Thurs 4:45, 7:15

**Wind River (R)**  
Fri 4:30, 7:00  
Sat-Sun 2:00, 4:30, 7:00  
Mon-Thurs 4:30, 7:00

Movie times and titles are subject to change. Visit website or call for latest information.  
**WWW.SISTERSMOVIEHOUSE.COM**  
**541-549-8800**

**The Belfry**

After a summer of **EPIC CONSTRUCTION** it's all coming back together, **THE BELFRY IS READY FOR SFF 2017!**

*Pssst...* The fall/winter music schedule will be ready **SOON...**

PUB OPENS 1 HR PRIOR TO SHOWS  
**BelfryEvents.com**  
**541-815-9122**

Need event space?  
**Rent The Belfry!**  
Perfect venue for music, weddings, receptions, meetings, or any event!

**HARDTAILS BAR & GRILL**

**LIVE SATURDAY!**  
9pm • SEPT. 9  
**JUKEBOX HEROES**  
FOREIGNER TRIBUTE!  
\$10 at bendticket.com  
\$15 at the door

and FREE FRIDAY, SEPT. 8 at 8:30pm it's Classic Rock with **THE EMERALD CITY BAND!**

**175 N. Larch St.**  
**541-549-6114**  
hardtailsoregon.com  
Facebook darcymacey