

RENTALS: City trying to get ahead of contentious issue

Continued from page 1

of the trend before there are possible negative impacts on the community.

City Manager Brant Kucera, who came from another tourist town, Cannon Beach, cautioned the Planning Commission: “It is better to get common-place regulations in place now, so you don’t have to come up with draconian measures to correct a negative situation.”

Regulating how someone makes use of their private property can be difficult. The Planning Commission will be looking at viable ways to cap the number of vacation rentals so that permanent full-time residents don’t end up feeling they have lost their sense of community within their neighborhoods.

Other locales facing this issue, like Bend, have utilized a variety of regulations. In most towns, the short-term rental permit doesn’t transfer with the sale of the property. Some limit the total number of units allowed; others set the limit at a certain percentage of total housing units. Bend requires 250-foot minimums between units to avoid saturation in one area. In some towns, the unit must have someone living onsite. The Planning Commission will take a look at all options, including the price of the short-term permit, to determine what might be best for Sisters.

The City does collect transient room tax from the short-term rentals, which amounted to \$65,000 last year, compared to \$475,000 from Sisters lodging establishments. Currently, there are 236 lodging units, meaning there is one short-term vacation rental for every six lodging units.

There will be a public hearing on the matter of vacation rentals before any new regulations are passed by City Council.

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R

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RODEO QUEEN: Konze will represent Sisters across region

Continued from page 3

a babysitter for close family friends because she finds some of her best entertainment comes from being with children. “I want to do something that helps parents have time to be good parents,” she explained. “To serve them in the medical world as a children’s nurse was a calling on my heart.”

In her family, rodeo is genetic. The Bend home of grandparents Judi and Chuck Tolboe is filled with photos of the glory days of Judi’s life as 1965 Clatsop County Fair and Rodeo Queen and in horse show ribbons and trophies all over the house. Her grandmother had Hailey on a horse at the age of two, a fit of a lifetime.

Her mother, Tammy, described her daughter as “a very old soul who has to be reminded now and then to put herself first.” The single mom and daughter wear necklaces that are urns which hold the ashes of Hailey’s only sibling, Brooke, who died at the age of two.

“In any horse event I’ve ever done, I wear my necklace so that Brooke is with me,” Hailey noted.

She was four when the family lost Brooke.

Konze rode Caddy, a 12-year-old former ranch horse, in the patterned competition during the rodeo queen tryouts, and will ride Caddy or Rhythm, an older Missouri Fox Trotter, as the ambassador for Sisters Rodeo. During the 2017 rodeo, she parked cars on horseback with the Deschutes

County Sheriff’s Mounted Posse. She hopes to become a member of the Posse after this probationary season.

In her free time, she likes to ride with her grandparents and mom, socialize with friends or just hang out with her mom, watching movies and eating popcorn. The two have a profound appreciation for each other, obviously the best of friends.

She is also a close friend of Emylia Breckel, the 2017 Sisters Rodeo Queen, who encouraged her to compete. Many of her closest friends are co-workers at Dutch Brothers Coffee in Redmond or other young women involved in rodeos in Central Oregon.

Hailey was raised in Newburg until she and her mother relocated to Central Oregon in 2005 to be closer to her grandparents. This energized family dynamic inspired grandmother Judi to sew the tan skirt Hailey wore for her speech at the tryouts.

In her speech, Konze praised the support and encouragement of her grandparents and mother in reaching for her own stars. She also cited the creed of Dutch Brothers: “Talking health, happiness, and prosperity to every person you meet, too noble for anger, too strong for fear, and too happy to permit the presence of trouble.” She is a shining example of living that creed.

This is evident as palpable warmth when she enters a room, ready to hug everyone she meets. Her energy and appreciation for life raises the level of positive focus whenever she is present

“We are a glass-half-full family,” Konze said.

Sisters Rodeo will begin



PHOTO BY GREG WADDELL

Hailey Konze of Redmond was crowned the 2018 Sisters Rodeo Queen.

June 6 with Xtreme Bulls, followed by four rodeo performances June 8-10. For tickets and information, call the ticket hotline at 541-549-0121 or 1-800-827-7522, or visit the ticket office at 220 W. Cascade Ave. in Sisters. For information visit www.sistersrodeo.com.

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