



PHOTO BY CODY RHEAULT

Sisters' dearth of winter snow is a mixed blessing. A bit of the white stuff helps the economy.

ECONOMY: Sisters' businesses can be weather-dependent

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businesses specializing in the outdoor recreation industry found the absence of a white winter challenging.

Brad Boyd, owner of Eurosports, said the season has been OK, but he has seen less business with the mild winter. Specializing mostly in ski, snowshoeing, and snow sport rentals, he has seen a decline from what last year brought during the heavy snowfall.

"Last year we had snowshoes and skis rented out almost every day," he said. "More snow on the ground is better for us."

Since the opening of Hoodoo, the business has seen more ski rentals. And despite the light winter, Boyd was pleased to see new and repeat customers during Christmas and Thanksgiving.

Sisters Coffee Company

found the holiday season to be better than last year, and says the lack of snowfall has helped tremendously. With a 10 percent increase in transactions in December, they have seen a pleasant increase in the flow of customers. Leading up to Christmas, October saw a 14 percent increase and November remained on average. Busy days and long lines are an encouraging sight for them after a slow summer.

With the influx of visitors came much-appreciated visits to craft stores such as Sisters Log Furniture and Home Décor. Owner Chris Wilder reported only a slightly above-average season, but a welcomed improvement over summer.

"It was nice to see foot traffic again," he said. "It's good to see locals bring out-of-town family and friends and show them our town."

Wilder saw many loyal customers shopping, and plenty of tourists, too. One of the biggest sellers were their handmade cutting boards and

novelty items.

Brad Smith, owner of Paulina Springs Books in Sisters, said the holiday season was strong for him — and "more even-keeled" than last year's, which was impacted by bouts of severe winter weather.

"It was good," he said. "It represented some growth for us. Strong and steady."

Sidelines such as games and toys are an increasingly large share of business, Smith reported, though Sisters is, he says, "definitely a strong book-buying community."

With or without snowfall, though, it was hard to determine what the season would hold for businesses looking to make up for a difficult summer. But the general consensus is that it wasn't bad — and much better than the months of late August and September.



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Oral history project is portrait of university

By Sean Nealon
Correspondent

CORVALLIS – Oregon State University has released the largest oral history project ever conducted at OSU.

The product of more than four years of work, The OSU Sesquicentennial Oral History Project consists of more than 400 hours of transcribed video and audio recordings with more than 200 alumni, faculty, staff and current students.

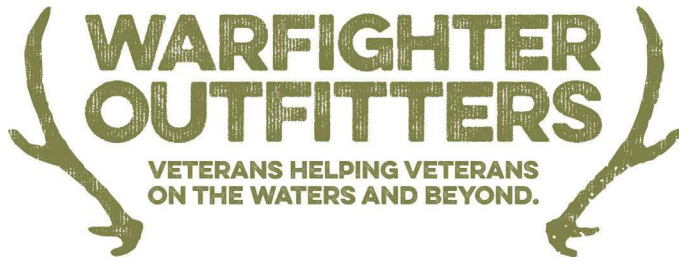
The collection is available online at <http://scarc.library.oregonstate.edu/oh150/index.html>.

The project team, which was housed in the OSU Libraries Special Collections and Archives Research Center (SCARC), traveled near and far to collect regional perspectives on OSU. In

addition to many interviews captured in Corvallis, Portland and the Willamette Valley, project staff traveled to Bend and Newport as well as Pendleton, Hood River, Sutherlin and Klamath Falls to record the stories of alumni and faculty, particularly those associated with OSU's branch campuses and Extension and Experiment Stations. The oral historians also conducted interviews in San Francisco, Denver, Houston, Washington, D.C. and Norman, Oklahoma.

The collection consists of more than 100 interviews with OSU alumni beginning with the 1930s; more than 100 interviews with faculty, current and emeritus; 20 interviews with OSU staff, current and retired; and 10 with current OSU students, undergraduate and graduate.





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