

Swallows offer learning opportunity

By Jim Anderson
Correspondent

Youth program coordinator Chad Rush and the staff at Sisters Park & Recreation District (SPRD) may have seen it all when it comes to nesting birds.

One day last spring, the staff of their nature camp noticed a barn swallow building a nest right over the front door to their camp building. They called Elise Wolf, Sisters' local expert on small birds.

"The kids at the nature camp at SPRD did a great thing and let some barn swallows nest over the door," Wolf said. "But as all birds are wont to do they became older nestlings and pooped over the edge of their nest, which created a big mess for SPRD."

"They called me for advice, and to ask if I could take the birds to my rehab facility, which was an easy question to answer. No: It's not legal for me (or anyone) to take a healthy nest down, and, since there were babies in the nest, I advised them it's illegal to do anything to the nest; if they did they would harm the babies."

So now the adult birds — in an effort to protect their babies — are swooping at people who walk in the door.

"So they called again for more advice. I told them they could seriously hurt the babies at this stage (forcing them to fledge), and could cause parents to abandon them before they were ready," Wolf said. "(To) push them out of the nest on the ground where they are not safe is illegal."

SPRD kept the nest and left it alone.

"They asked me to come talk about the swallows and birds," Wolf told *The Nugget*. "So I (presented) a short talk to the kids on these cool 'fighter pilots,' barn swallows, and why they are so important — like eating hundreds of mosquitoes a day."

Carissa Gascon, Summer Adventure Camp lead teacher, said, "We first noticed the birds during our Sky Week — which is the name for bird week. We really enjoyed watching them grow. We ... made a bird bath right in front of the summer camp window."

"After the babies fledged they continued to come to the bird bath where we watched them being fed by their parents. We would like to build a shelf to allow them to continue to nest without making such a mess."

Rush has, in spite of the obvious fallout from birds pooping on things, already seen the positive side of this



PHOTO BY JIM ANDERSON

A momma barn swallow on her mud nest, glued with spit to where they usually are: on a barn's outside wall.

whole swallow adventure.

"Having the nest outside our building and above our doors for several weeks now has led to a lot of discussion inside our building," he said. "Comments ranged from 'Did you know you had a bird's nest on your camera,' to 'There is bird poop on the door handle again!'"

"Through it all it has been a great experience for everyone here at SPRD as we watched the birds go from eggs, to growing babies, to birds that could fly and leave the nest each day."

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SISTERS ENTERTAINMENT & EVENTS

WED...AUG. 22

Sisters Saloon Poker Night 7 p.m. Every Wednesday! \$20. For additional information call 541-549-7427 or go online to sistersssaloon.net.

Food Cart Garden at Eurosports Trivia Night 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. Sign-up is at 6:15 p.m. Free, every Wednesday! For additional information call 541-549-2471.

THURS...AUG. 23

Cork Cellars Tasty Thursday Hosted Wine Tasting 5 to 7 p.m. Call 541-549-2675 or go to corkcellarswinebistro.com.

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

FRI...AUG. 24

Food Cart Garden at Eurosports Live Music with The Buckleys 5 to 7 p.m. No cover! For additional information call 541-549-2471.

Hood Avenue Art Artists' Reception with Kathleen Keliher & Kelley Salber 4 to 7 p.m. With live entertainment and refreshments! For more info go to hoodavenueart.com.

Downtown Sisters 4th Friday Art Stroll 4 to 7 p.m. Galleries and shops feature live entertainment and refreshments, the 4th Friday of every month! For info go to sistersartsassociation.org.

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

Fir Street Park Sisters Farmers Market 2 to 5:30 p.m. Fresh on Fridays, through September! For info go to sistersfarmersmarket.com.

SAT...AUG. 25

Sisters Saloon Live Music with Derek Michael Marc 7 to 10 p.m. No cover! For additional information call 541-549-7427 or sistersssaloon.net.

Hardtails Bar & Grill Live Music with Steelhorse 9 p.m. It's the premier Bon Jovi tribute band! \$10 in advance or \$15 at the door. Tickets at bendticket.com or Hardtails. For info call 541-549-6114 or go to hardtailsoregon.com.

Cork Cellars Live Music with Allan Byer Project 7 to 9 p.m. No cover! For additional information call 541-549-2675 or go online to corkcellarswinebistro.com.

Hood Avenue Art Sculptors' Exhibit with Mark & Robin Winfree-Andrew 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Meet the artists! 541-719-1800 or hoodavenueart.com.

SUN...AUG. 26

Hood Avenue Art Sculptors' Exhibit with Mark & Robin Winfree-Andrew 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Meet the artists! 541-719-1800 or hoodavenueart.com.

MON...AUG. 27

Hardtails Bar & Grill Open Mic & Jam Night 7 p.m. Every Monday, no cover! For additional information call 541-549-6114 or go online to hardtailsoregon.com.

Sisters Saloon Painting Party 6 to 8 p.m. \$35, every Monday! For additional information call 541-904-5280 or go to sistersssaloon.net.

TUES...AUG. 28

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

WED...AUG. 29

Sisters Saloon Poker Night 7 p.m. Every Wednesday! \$20. For additional information call 541-549-7427 or go online to sistersssaloon.net.

Food Cart Garden at Eurosports Trivia Night 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. Sign-up is at 6:15 p.m. Final Trivia Night of the summer! For additional information call 541-549-2471.

THURS...AUG. 30

Cork Cellars Tasty Thursday Hosted Wine Tasting 5 to 7 p.m. For more information call 541-549-2675 or go to corkcellarswinebistro.com.

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

FRI...AUG. 31

Food Cart Garden at Eurosports Live Music with Juju Eyeball 5 to 7 p.m. Final show of this summer with the Beatles tribute band, no cover! For additional information call 541-549-2471.

Black Butte Ranch Art at the Ranch Artist Reception & Silent Auction 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. at The Lodge with **Live Music by Coyote Willow**. For information go online to blackbutterranch.com.

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. Fresh on Fridays, through September! For info go to sistersfarmersmarket.com.

SAT...SEPT. 1

Hardtails Bar & Grill Live Music with The HWY. 97 Band 7 to 10 p.m. FREE show! For more information call 541-549-6114 or go online to hardtailsoregon.com.

Cork Cellars Live Music! 7 to 9 p.m. No cover! For additional information call 541-549-2675 or go online to corkcellarswinebistro.com.

Oak & Main Sisters Fall Street Festival 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Featuring arts, crafts, antiques, food, beer/wine garden and entertainment. For info call 541-420-0279 or go to centraloregonshows.com.

Black Butte Ranch Art at the Ranch Art Fair 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Lakeside Promenade. With **Plein Air Paint Out** 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Lakeside Lawn. **Live Music by The Anvil Blasters** 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. **Live Music by Honey Don't** 1 to 4 p.m. For more information go online to blackbutterranch.com.

Event listings are free to advertisers. Submit items by 5 p.m. Fridays to teresa@nuggetnews.com