

Columnist publishes book of essays

Freelance writer and *Nugget* reporter and columnist Craig Rullman has published a collection of essays titled “The Bunkhouse Chronicles: Field Notes From The Figure 8 Ranch.”

Some of the essays contained in the volume have appeared in *The Nugget*; others were collected or created specifically for the book. All of them center around questions about the relationship of people to the landscape, specifically of the American West.

“I think we’re living in an in-between time,” Rullman mused. “We’re watching the old myths that have sustained us for a very long time either die off or fade, and I think we’re in the process of building the new myths that we’re going to live by for a long time to come. It’s a really intense and unsettling time.”

Rullman likes the title “The Bunkhouse Chronicles” because it evokes the sense of men sitting around telling yarns and hashing out some of the fundamental matters of the human condition.

“Having lived in a few bunkhouses, it’s kind of a place for conversation, for storytelling, for asking questions,” he said.

Rullman continually circles back to the belief that “the answers are sometimes outlived by the questions.” The questions of how a republic crafted in the 18th century can sustain itself in the 21st. Questions around how a fragile ecosystem like that of the American West can sustain millions of people who live and work on it — with more coming in all the time.

“It’s the most fundamental relationship we have — with the ground we live on,” he said. “It’s probably more important than ever that we take care of it.”

We live our day-to-day



PHOTO BY LYNN WOODWARD

Craig Rullman has published a book of essays on the land and our relationship with it.

without thinking much about questions like, Where does our water come from? and What will we do when there’s not enough to go around? When those questions arise, it’s because the situation has gotten acute.

“The tap turns on and we don’t think about it too much,” Rullman says. “You don’t think about your left thumb until you bang it on a door jam — then it’s all you think about.”

Rullman is already at work on his next project.

“It’s a collection of essays about the ‘closed frontier’ after Frederick Jackson Turner and the 1893 speech he made (‘The Significance of the Frontier in American History’),” Rullman said.

The essays explore, in part, what happens to communities

that grew up in frontier conditions as they try to adapt to change. Rullman cites his own home country in Lassen County, California, which was once rich ranching and timber country. Now its main industry is prisons.

“Timber and ranching collapsed — then what?” Rullman muse. “Warehousing humans. Warehousing wild

See RULLMAN on page 21

CONCERT: Event supports the SFF capital campaign

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Director Brad Tisdell.

Ritter, who sold out his last performance in Sisters during SFF’s 2018 Winter Concert Series, was excited to be returning to Sisters and will be meeting with donors to the Capital Campaign for a pre-concert VIP experience.

Brian Koppelman, filmmaker, record producer and essayist says: “Ritter’s music has a way of unifying us, bonding us, and bringing us together in a search for love, peace, understanding and an escape from the earthly cruelty all around us.”

“This unifying force that Josh Ritter’s music embodies is exactly what Sisters Folk Festival is embracing as it enters a new phase in its growth,” said SFF Development Director Steven Remington, who adds that “as an accomplished author, visual artist, composer, songwriter and musician, Josh Ritter is the perfect person to exemplify and help us celebrate our

vision. We are on a path to better serve our community through the acquisition of the building and the growth of the organization. We are very excited to be sharing this vision, honoring our capital campaign donors, and encouraging everyone to get involved during this very special evening.”

Opening the evening will be Sisters Americana Project alumna Slater Smith with multi-instrumentalist Tim Karplus. As leader of the Portland-based folk-rock band The Weather Machine, Smith will be releasing his third record in 2019, a concept album celebrating the Oregon Coast in commemoration of the 1967 Oregon Beach Bill.

Ticket sales and donations the night of the celebration will support the campaign, which has raised over \$1.1 million of the \$1.4 million phase-one goal of purchasing the building. For general admission and reserved seat tickets to the connected by creativity concert with Josh Ritter and The Royal City Band, visit www.sistersfolkfestival.org.

For ticket information call 541-549-4979 ext. 3.



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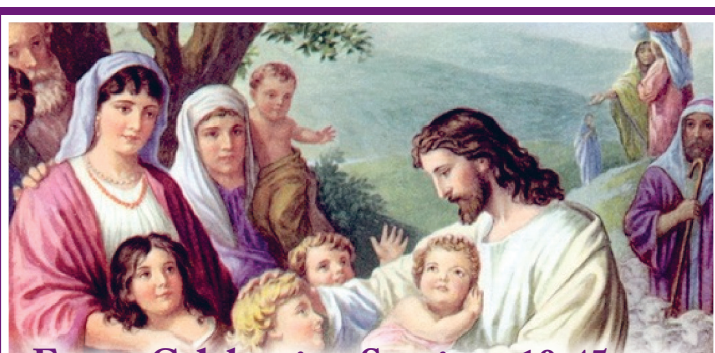
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Community Easter Egg Hunt for Kids!
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SISTERS CHURCH of the NAZARENE

67130 Harrington Loop, Bend | 541-389-8960 | sistersnaz.org

Directions from Sisters: Take Highway 20 toward Bend, turn right on Gist Road, take first left onto Harrington Loop, church is on the left.