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Sisters shines in annual SALL tournament

By Jim Cornelius
Editor in Chief

Sisters put on its most colorful spring clothes last weekend for the Sisters Annual Lacrosse Invitational (SALI) Tournament.

The weather was perfect — temperatures in the low 70s with little wind, and the skies were completely clear thanks to a Forest Service pause in their annual spring prescribed burning program (*see related story, page 1*).

The tournament, sponsored by Sisters Park & Recreation District (SPRD), and held on every available field in Sisters, hosted 83 teams — 20 more than last year.

SPRD's Chad Rush, who took the lead in organizing the event, attributed the increase to a couple of factors.

"We had more girls teams this year (nine)," he said. "This is the second year offering games for girls."

And, he noted, "We have new clubs that haven't been here before."

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PHOTOS BY JERRY BALDOCK

Teams from all across the Pacific Northwest come to Sisters for this year's SALL.

Lacrosse is a sport for a wide range of ages, and many young players competed in Sisters.

Police searching for fuel theft suspect

Police are still searching for a suspect who allegedly stole fuel from the Cloverdale Fire Station in the early hours of May 5.

The sheriff's office reports that at about 5:41 a.m., law enforcement responded to a theft in progress report at the Cloverdale Fire Station on George Cyrus Road. It was reported that a green and silver Chevrolet pickup was stealing fuel from an onsite commercial fuel tank. The fuel was being put into large black barrels in the truck bed.

A patrol deputy located the vehicle at the intersection of

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Fire destroys gorge cabin in Camp Sherman

A cabin along the Metolius River was destroyed by a fire late Wednesday night, May 1.

Sisters-Camp Sherman Fire District was dispatched to a reported vegetation/wildland fire in Camp Sherman after a concerned citizen reported seeing fire in the distance, believing it was on the House on Metolius land.

Initial size-up by arriving personnel several hundred feet away reported a very active quarter-acre fire with two- to four-foot flame lengths in some areas, climbing into nearby trees and threatening a nearby structure. A closer look revealed the most active section of the fire was the remnants of a structure that had burned to the ground and was continuing to actively burn.

The structure was located at 10300 National Forest Development Road 1419.

Crews worked quickly to stop the spread of fire through the surrounding vegetation and then turned their attention to extinguishing what was left of the cabin. The cabin was a complete loss estimated at \$160,000 in total value. The cabin was not occupied and there were no reported injuries. Help from partners from Black Butte Ranch and Cloverdale fire departments prevented this incident from becoming much worse, the Sisters district noted.

Sisters-Camp Sherman Fire District responded with seven firefighters and four emergency vehicles. Additional units from Cloverdale and Black Butte Ranch fire departments brought an additional six firefighters. The Oregon Office of State Fire Marshal is investigating the cause.



PHOTO BY JIM CORNELIUS

Prescribed fire is ignited with torches in an effort to restore forest health and create zones that are defensible.

By Jim Cornelius
Editor in Chief

After 15 years of massive and severe blazes that have blackened landscape and choked the community with smoke for weeks at a time, severely disrupting people's lives and the local economy, Sisters lives in dread of wild-fire each summer.

To push back against those impacts, foresters must fight fire with fire: specifically, prescribed fire.

Fire is not the enemy of the forest — in fact, it's essential to the forest's health. Ponderosa pine forests like those of Sisters Country need fire to clear out underbrush and small trees and allow the big trees

to become towering, resilient giants.

"That's two thirds of our landscape," says Pete Caligiuri, a forest ecologist with the Nature Conservancy. "We live next to these frequent-fire-adapted landscapes."

After decades of fire
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