

Sisters set to Stampede into summer

For the 10th year, Sisters will mark the start of the summer outdoor recreation season with a stampede. The Sisters Stampede, that is.

The annual mountain bike race is set for Sunday, May 26, running on the Peterson Ridge trail system in Sisters.

The race draws everyone from kids and novice riders to elite mountain bike racers.

The trails were built by the Sisters Trails Alliance. The race course features views of the Three Sisters Mountains, and rolling singletrack scattered with Central Oregon lava rock. This course is mainly singletrack, which will test riders' strength and stamina.

A start/finish is located in the meadow east of the FivePine campus and Three Creeks Brewing Co., which will host the after-race party.

The Sisters Stampede is seeking a few more volunteers to support pre-, post- and ride-day activities. Volunteers can register at sistersstampede.com/volunteer.

New Sisters hotel offers 'GrandStay'

By Jim Cornelius
Editor in Chief

The first thing you notice when you walk into the lobby of the new GrandStay Hotel & Suites on Rail Way at the west end of Sisters is the rich wood and iron of the bannisters and a towering rock fireplace. It feels like Sisters.

And that's exactly what longtime Sisters contractor and developer Steve Rodgers was trying to achieve.

"I want it to be Sisters, but I didn't want to go over-the-top 'cowboy,'" he said. "I think we nailed it."

The fact that Rodgers could decide just how he wanted the entrance to the 39-room hotel to look speaks to the nature of the GrandStay Hotels franchise.

"We're a brand that partners with our franchisees," said John Synstegaard, vice president of operations with the Minnesota-based hotelier. "We like to have our owners put their personalities into it — and their area."

That means art by local artists featured in public spaces and building materials that speak to pine trees and mountain streams. The Bend company Northland Furniture built



PHOTO BY JIM CORNELIUS

Steve Rodgers, Robin Rodgers, Kris Rodgers and Savanna McBride joined GrandStay Hotels' John Synstegaard in marking the opening of the new GrandStay Hotel in Sisters.

the case goods — dressers and the like — for the hotel.

Rodgers was determined to put that Central Oregon stamp on his hotel, which is built across Rail Way from his Mainline Station development. It wasn't easy to find the right partner.

"I talked to four franchises, and they all just put us in this box," he said.

GrandStay gave him leeway to be creative — while providing systems and logistics that allow people who are new to the industry to hit the

ground running.

"I couldn't have picked a better franchise for us," Rodgers said. "They have been so much help."

The GrandStay Hotel & Suites in Sisters is No. 32 in the chain, which is located mainly in the Midwest, but it's expanding its footprint across the nation. The hotel features 39 rooms, including four deluxe suites (one of them ADA accessible). There is an indoor pool and hot tub; two whirlpool rooms; a 17-seat meeting room, and a breakfast

room where hot breakfast is offered each morning.

The hotel currently employs 14 people. Steve and Robin Rodgers' son Kris Rodgers is managing the property.

"I'm excited about it," Kris told *The Nugget*.

GrandStay Hotel & Suites is open for bookings now, (www.grandstayhospitality.com/find-a-hotel/locations/sisters/overview). They plan to host a grand opening with an open house for the Sisters community in June.



- Spacious, family-friendly suites with full kitchens
- Nightly, weekly, and extended-stay rates
- Indoor pool and whirlpool
- Complimentary Grand Start® Breakfast
- FREE wireless Internet throughout
- Meeting room and business center
- Grand Returns Reward Program
- Walking distance to dining, galleries & shopping



Book Now For Summer Events!
Several rooms available for Sisters Rodeo, Sisters Outdoor Quilt Show, and Sisters Folk Festival. Please call the front desk direct at 541-904-0967 to book.

RESERVATIONS: 541-904-0967 | 855-455-7829
www.grandstayhospitality.com



EVERY GUEST ~ EVERY TIME™