

JAZZ BAND: Sisters music programs are growing and thriving

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“The whole set was good,” bassman Oscar Rhett told *The Nugget*.

The band wasn’t too keyed up about the competition.

“I felt confident,” said tenor sax player Josh Marion. “I felt like we were going to play good.”

Alto sax player Simon Rhett concurred.

“We just wanted to go and play our best,” he said.

And they did.

“I was far more confident at the state competition than at the regional competition,” Cranor said. “I felt after we played that it was our best performance of the year.”

And that is what really matters most in a subjectively judged competition. The placings take care of themselves.

The first-place effort was not Sisters’ only strong showing in band festivals last month. The wind ensemble turned in a very respectable performance at the Wind Ensemble Festival at Oregon State University on May 8, and took seventh place.

The festival success reflects Cranor’s success in building a program over his five-year tenure in Sisters.

“Really, it’s just consistency,” he told *The Nugget*.

“Little by little each year, more kids buy into it.”

He also cited the importance of community support as a key factor, noting that Sisters Folk Festival, the school administration and his colleague Rick Johnson, who runs the vocal music program all support the music program in all three schools as a whole — a remarkable feature of a small school district.

“It just creates that culture of success,” he said. “You just don’t find that that often in those small areas.”

The Wind Ensemble has 24 musicians; the Jazz Band 15. And they’re young. Cranor said that 70 percent of the musicians in the program are freshmen and sophomores. His goal is to build the Wind Ensemble to 30 to 40 players.

The success the bands earned last month will likely accelerate the building of the program.

“I knew we’d get to this point,” Cranor said. “I have confidence in what I’m doing as a teacher and I have confidence in the passion these kids have. I thought we were a year or two away — just because of the youth of the band.”

The passion and commitment of the musicians is on clear display. They will continue practicing and playing in various combinations while school is out, and several of the musicians told *The Nugget* that they plan to attend band camps this summer.

Pop show!...



PHOTO BY JIM CORNELIUS

The Sisters Middle School and Sisters High School vocal music programs led by Rick Johnson presented their annual Spring Pop Show last Thursday. Students from fifth-grade through high school served up enthusiastic and musically adept renditions of classic numbers ranging from “Be True To Your School” to Beatles songs.

SEED TO TABLE: Program overcame late spring and is moving forward

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are right there to look toward the light, point out the hidden beauties and remind us that we will persevere. Problems are quickly addressed by reaching out to our vast network of other farmers and researchers and, of course, by the team’s willingness to do whatever it takes. For me, these spring challenges lead to some of my most creative ideas, pushing me to constantly think outside of the box.

Okay, so enough with the

challenges. In fact, we are gearing up to have our best season yet! While the snow has left us with a little less diversity these first few weeks, we have the sweet promise that summer will come on stronger than ever! I am grateful for every one of our 75 members who have joined

in our local food journey this year. The Seed to Table team is excited to fill your fridge, feed your family and help you nourish yourselves! Guiding you along your local food journey is our goal.

Audrey Tehan is Seed to Table Oregon’s executive director.

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Author Presentation JOHN DODGE

Fri., June 7 • 6:30 PM

**A Deadly Wind: The 1962
Columbus Day Storm**

A non-fiction account of the strongest windstorm in West Coast recorded history.

Veteran journalist John Dodge weaves a compelling story spiced with human drama, Cold War implications, Pacific Northwest history and the science of severe weather.

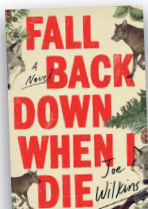


Author Presentation JOE WILKINS

Fri., June 14 • 6:30 PM

Fall Back Down When I Die

A story set in a fractured and misunderstood community. A haunting and unforgettable tale of sacrificial love



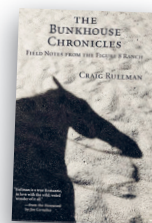
Author Presentation

CRAIG RULLMAN

Sat., June 22 • 6:30 PM

The Bunkhouse Chronicles

In this eclectic collection of essays, Rullman explores the tangled landscapes of a culture in rapid transition.



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