

# Sisters' celebration of the nation

There is no slice of Americana thicker and richer than Sisters' celebration of the birth of the nation.

All across Sisters country, people will be on the run, or headed for a barbecue — all to celebrate the 243rd birthday of the United States of America.

Sisters Airport will be hosting its annual Fourth of July fly-in and car show which is a fundraiser for flight scholarships to deserving Sisters High School students. The community festivities begin at 7 a.m. with a pancake breakfast, 5K run, skydiving presentation of the flag, gyrocopter demonstration, air-plane and helicopter rides, the Great Rubber Chicken Fling from the Outlaw Aviation plane, and drag races on the runway.

Admission is free, and all community members are invited to attend to support the SHS flight students.

Black Butte Ranch pulls out the stops for the Fourth of July, starting with an 8 a.m. fun run/walk — 3.5 miles for adults; 1.2 miles for kids. Registration starts at 7:30 a.m. at the Lakeside Activity Center. At 10:30 a.m., participants in the annual BBR bike parade will gather at the sports field to decorate their bikes for the 11:30 a.m. parade around the Ranch. The route begins at the sports field and ends at the Lakeside Activity Center. Kids under 16 must wear a helmet.

A picnic at noon on the lawn at the Lodge will be followed by traditional games at the Lakeside Activity Center.

The evening will close on the Lakeside lawn at 6 p.m. with free live music by Julie Southwell & Friends.

The historic Camp Sherman Store will host its traditional Fourth of July Barbecue starting at 5 p.m. and featuring music starting at 6 p.m. by The Pitchtones.

Many head to Redmond or Bend to take in fireworks displays that start around 10 p.m.

## AIRPORT: Funds were properly used for improvement projects

*Continued from page 1*

years at no interest to resolve enforcement of one provision of the grant that disallowed the airport from contracting Energyneering Solutions, Inc. — also owned by the Bensons — for project work because both entities have the same owner.

The court acknowledged ODOT's right to enforce that provision, but noted that, "This conclusion is a bitter one, for SAP (Sisters Airport Property, LLC) appeared upfront and transparent with their intent to retain ESI. ODOT could have prevented this entire conflict by addressing this either before approving the grant or before work commenced. Nevertheless, ODOT has the legal authority to invoke these contract provisions at this time — coming,

as counsel for Plaintiff (the Bensons) states, 'after the concrete has been poured and dried.'"

Benson told *The Nugget* that, "As a licensed engineering and general contracting firm already located at the project site, we were able to build the project for 36 percent of the cost of other airport projects, when measured in (dollars per square yard) of pavement. By doing the professional work 'in house,' we were able to get three times the amount of pavement from grant funds."

Benson also told *The Nugget* that they spent over \$100,000 in legal fees in the dispute.

The joint statement recognizes that "both parties agreed to come to agreement and avoid a costly trial and potential appeal."

Julie Benson told *The Nugget*, "We want to get back to supporting and building the aviation community in Sisters."

## Grinding it out...



PHOTO BY JERRY BALDOCK

Cyclists on the five-day Oregon Trail Gravel Grinder rolled through Sisters last week.

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