



PHOTO BY CODY RHEULT

Hundreds turned out to celebrate Independence Day with cars, planes and food.

FLY-IN: Event has marked Independence Day for seven years

Continued from page 1

unexpectedly last July 4th at Sisters Eagle Airport just to find out they had a lot in common.

Sisters resident Mike Macon was enjoying the celebration and was happy to have his 2016 Piper Super Cub plane with him.

He noted, "It's a 1940s design of Piper Super Cub and it's made with new material from Yakima, Washington. It's really just like an Alaskan bush plane."

Lynn Woodward, singer and fiddler for the Anvil Blasters, was having a good time walking around socializing her young dog Pretty Boy Floyd.

"This event is hometown, its history and it's fascinating," Woodward told *The Nugget*. "All the pride and the effort, and it's a Sisters tradition."

Woodward left the present behind a moment to reminisce a few happy moments in her past when she attended the Sisters Eagle Airport Fly-in two years ago, shortly before her mother passed away.

"I brought my mom here, which turned out to be three weeks before she died," said Woodward. "She had the best time ever. She recognized the old models of the cars back to when she was a child and

took her first helicopter ride. She was a little scared but was absolutely thrilled. It was one beautiful way to cap off the last few weeks. It was really special and nostalgic for me."

The crowd cheered as "Gyro Tom" Smith skirted across the sky in his gyrocopter.

"Gyro Tom is always out here at the airport playing around," said airport owner Benny Benson. "Not a lot of people can fly them like that so it's worth watching."

Smith, a Sisters resident, is a war veteran and was a medevac helicopter pilot in Vietnam in 1969.

"Later on, I got my license to fly a helicopter up in Alaska for Evergreen. After that I got out of aviation," Smith said. "It's been on my bucket list to get back into it and I have with my gyrocopter. It's my toy."

Smith purchased his gyrocopter three years ago as a kit and built over 50 percent of the unique flying machine himself.

The gyrocopter was invented by the Spanish engineer Juan de la Cierva. In 1921 he participated in a design competition to develop a bomber for the Spanish military. His goal was to develop an aircraft that could fly safely at low speeds. The result was the first successful rotorcraft, which he named Autogiro in 1923.

Smith added, "A gyrocopter, unlike a helicopter, has no power going to the rotor blades. That's what makes them so safe. It's a big disc like a frisbee and you can tilt it like you would a hang glider. It's a weight-shift thing and it's got one thrust propeller that pushes you."

The day wrapped up with a



PHOTO BY CODY RHEULT

World War II aircraft were a thrilling feature of airport events.



PHOTO BY JODI SCHNEIDER

A gyrocopter flew for event.

series of drag races.

Sisters resident Ann Richardson and her three corgis Groover, Ripple, and Dolly come to the event every year.

"It grows every year," Richardson said. "It's a very different type of 4th of July

event. It's very uniquely Sisters."

Airport co-owner Julie Benson added, "It's really nice to provide a community event where all the locals show up. It's a fun event promoting aviation, and the kids get to watch!"

Home Health & Wellness Start Here!

AQUA
HOT TUBS
aquahottub.com

Hot Tubs, Automated Covers, Spa Maintenance Services
Traditional & Infrared Saunas
Swim Spas • Essential Oils
Wood Stoves • Pellet Grills
NEW HOURS!
Mon.-Fri. 9 a.m.-5:30 p.m.
Sat. & Evenings by Appointment
541-410-1023 • 413 W. Hood Ave.

Donate your Vehicle TO THELMA'S PLACE
& Make a Difference in Memory Care!
FREE PICK-UP | TAX DEDUCTION | IT'S EASY!

BRIDGING THE GAP BETWEEN YOUNG AND OLD

Adult Day Respite for those living with memory loss
Community & Provider Education
Family Support & Education
Canby: 503.266.5100
Redmond: 541.548.3049
www.thelmasplace.org
Ad donated by Country Side Living

CONCEALED CARRY PERMIT CLASS

HANDGUN CARRY LICENSE APPLICATION

MULTI-STATE \$80
including Oregon (See states on our website)
OREGON ONLY \$45

July 18 • 6 p.m. only
Best Western Ponderosa Lodge
500 Hwy. 20 W., Sisters

For more information:
www.FirearmTrainingNW.com
FirearmTrainingNW@gmail.com | 360-921-2071