

Sam Pyke loves his niche in film industry

By Sue Stafford
Correspondent

Lifelong Sisters resident Samuel Pyke shared his passion for his work as the keynote speaker at last week's EDCO Pub Talk (*see story, page 1*).

Pyke grew up in Sisters, graduated from Sisters High School, and went on to Oregon State University. He and his three brothers grew up watching movies with their father, a real movie buff. Three of the four boys have gone on to work in some aspect of the film/video industry.

One brother works on visual effects for movies, including Star Wars. Another brother produces documentaries "on the road." Samuel's Hill Shadow Pictures specializes in outdoor video for programs like Frontier Unlimited and other hunting and fishing shows.

Pyke also works with businesses to create videos that tell their stories. He looks for the idea behind the brand and tells the story to evoke emotions. In that way, the viewer can relate their lifestyle to what they see in the video.

He's created incredible work for companies including Realtree, Camp Chef, Smith & Wesson, Discovery Studios, and many more.

He is particularly moved by stories about veterans out hunting and fishing, some of which he describes as "gut-wrenching." He has also filmed stories about children who have had their wishes granted by the Make-A-Wish Foundation. Pyke says once a year he donates what he calls a passion project.

His work has taken him all over the world from India to New Zealand to South Africa. He enjoys the opportunities

that help him gain a global perspective of how things are done differently all over the world.

When asked what he considered his most successful project, he quietly replied, "The memorial project for my dad, who died in February."

The best resource for storytelling? Pyke answered, "Listen. Everyone has stories. Listen to figure out what moves you. What got me and why?" He said art is about borrowing and changing it a bit.

Pyke likes to edit his own footage because he is always thinking about editing when shooting. His goal is to spend 80 percent of his time shooting and 20 percent editing. Right now he says he spends too much time editing.

He has always been interested in the concept of story. A 6-year-old who started with a camera, became the boy who dressed up in costumes to go to the movie theater. In the eighth grade he became serious about photography. His college major was communications. While in college he began working for his brother, who was already involved in the film industry. When it was offered, he took over his brother's business. He was also a firefighter for five years somewhere along the way.

Another Sisters resident who worked in the industry with his gigantic boom cranes shooting overhead shots all over the world, Rick Johnson, gave Pyke a salient piece of advice. "Find a niche," he said.

Pyke's niche is outdoor videography. He counts himself fortunate to be able to work doing what he loves.

For more information visit www.hillshadowpictures.com.

County purchases Sisters building

By Sue Stafford
Correspondent

Deschutes County now owns the building that houses the Deschutes County Sheriff's administrative office that serves Sisters and the western part of the county, located on the corner of North Larch Street and West Barclay Drive (across from the post office).

Former owner and Sisters resident Jack Addison notified *The Nugget* last Friday that the papers had been signed, concluding the purchase of the 6,000-square-foot building for \$1 million.

Addison made it very clear that "in no way does the sale affect the other two present commercial tenants of the building." Black Butte Veterinary Clinic has been in that location for 20 years and they have five more years left on their current lease. With the addition of a new vet, the office is now open full-time.

Addison said, "It was a five-year effort to get Mid-Oregon Credit Union to Sisters and I was especially grateful to get them, with their financial backing, to come to Sisters. A credit union operates differently from a bank and serves to complement the availability of loans in Sisters."

According to Addison, it took a considerable monetary investment for Mid-Oregon to move into the building, with the installation of their ATM a major expense.

"I feel like Mid-Oregon is my gift to Sisters," Addison offered.

A former fighter pilot, Addison has spent 50 years buying and selling real estate. He is particularly proud of construction standards to which the building at 703 N. Larch St. is built. Features include clear-span trusses, special air-filtration system



PHOTO BY SUE STAFFORD

Deschutes County has purchased the building that houses the Sisters substation of the Deschutes County Sheriff's Office.

that meets residential standards, and a diesel-powered back-up generator.

The roof has special ice dam shields and the foundation is built to support a second story on the building. Two-by-six flooring is anchored to be earthquake-tremor-resistant foundation and hurricane clips are holding the trusses on.

The sheriff's office, on the west end of the building, isn't currently using all their space. Deschutes County Administrator Tom Anderson indicated the extra space could house other County services for the western part of the County such as veterans'

outreach, health inspections, or mental health services.

The County owns buildings in Redmond, Bend, and La Pine that provide a variety of services and the Sisters purchase fills a gap that existed. County employees could be housed in the Sisters office rather than commuting from other locations to provide services in Sisters.

The purchase of the building, made with money from a reserve fund that is specifically for taking advantage of unexpected real estate opportunities, makes sense for the County in the long run as they will now be collecting rent rather than paying it.

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