



PHOTO PROVIDED

Sean Watkins & the Bee Eaters will play on the patio at Sisters Saloon on Friday, August 23.

Acclaimed musician to play Sisters Saloon

The Sisters Saloon and Ranch Grill outdoor patio will host Sean Watkins (of Nickel Creek) & The Bee Eaters on Friday, August 23. Doors open at 6 p.m., show starts at 7 p.m. The show is open to all ages. The show also features special guests Coyote Willow.

Tickets are \$15 in advance at www.bendticket.com and will be \$20 at the door, if available.

Singer, songwriter and multi-instrumentalist Sean Watkins has long been known for his work as one-third of the Grammy Award-winning Nickel Creek and, more recently, for helming, with sister Sara, the itinerant, genre-hopping Watkins Family Hour ensemble.

In the last year he has more assertively — and impressively — taken on the role of solo artist. “What To Fear” is a follow-up to 2014’s acclaimed “All I Do Is Lie,” which had been Watkins’ first solo effort in nearly a decade, 10 years that had been jammed with collaborative projects and a herculean amount of touring.

On his own, Watkins

displays tremendous warmth and soulfulness as a singer, a refreshing candor and humor as a lyricist, and prodigious skill as an arranger. And he doesn’t merely stick with the familiar: On “What To Fear,” he bolsters an acoustic lineup with a rock rhythm section, bringing drama and drive to these new tracks while keeping intact the emotional intimacy of all the stories he is telling.

Sisters Saloon is located at 190 E. Cascade Ave. in Sisters.

Solo flight carries on tradition

On his 16th birthday, Ryan Ilmberger carried out an unusual family tradition: He soloed in an airplane. Like his father on his 16th birthday, Ilmberger flew an airplane by himself before he could drive a car by himself.

Two years ago, the Ilmberger family was living in the San Francisco Bay Area when they learned about the Flight Science program at Sisters High School (SHS). After visiting Sisters, and learning about the unique collaboration with Outlaw Aviation at the Sisters Airport, the family made the move to Sisters to allow Ryan to participate in the program.

Ryan set a goal to solo on his 16th birthday, the minimum age required by the FAA to solo an airplane. After a few practice touch-and-go landings in Outlaw Aviation’s Cessna 172 with Sam Monte, Certificated Flight Instructor (CFI), Monte felt Ilmberger was ready to perform the maneuvers by himself.

“Are you confident you can do this?” Monte asked him.

“I felt nervous, but I told Sam ‘Yes, I’m ready,’” Ilmberger recalled. “The plane felt so light with just me in it, so I had to use more flaps than usual to get the plane on the ground. But it was the smoothest landing I’ve ever done. I just didn’t want to bounce, with so many people watching.”

“Ryan is good at setting



PHOTO PROVIDED

Ryan Ilmberger, left, receives congratulations from instructor Sam Monte.

goals, and then putting in the work to achieve them,” said Monte.

“For a 16-year-old to solo on his birthday is a rare achievement. It’s a true test of character. We are very proud of Ryan’s dedication,” said Walt Lasecki, CFI with Outlaw Aviation.

Ilmberger has taken the Flight Science classes at SHS, and participates in the weekly group ground classes hosted by Outlaw Aviation for students preparing to take the FAA written exam. There are currently 20 SHS students in the Outlaw flight training program.

Carrying on a passion for aviation, Ilmberger intends to pursue a career as a pilot, and become a CFI. His father,

Steve, is a professional pilot, flying large helicopters for ODF fire suppression, and a CFI. Years ago on their second date, Steve introduced Ryan’s mother, Lonnie, to aviation with a helicopter ride to an island.

“There were no doors on that helicopter! But it was fun. Aviation has been a big part of our life together since that day,” said Lonnie.

Although early in his flight training, Ilmberger has already received a scholarship from The Roundhouse Foundation to help fund his flight lessons.

“We are so very grateful for this program offered at a public school, and scholarships available to students,” said Lonnie.

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