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Sisters Folk Festival all about community



Sunday morning's free community gathering brings artists and audience together in a way that vividly reflects the spirit of the event.

PHOTO BY ROB KERR

By Charlie Kanzig
Correspondent

The term “community” may not do justice to what the town of Sisters — and with it the Sisters Folk Festival — is known for, but the word got uttered repeatedly during Folk Festival week by attendees, artists and volunteers.

Several thousand people absorbed the music and fellowship of the three-day festival September 6-8.

At Sunday morning's free community concert at the Village Green, singer/songwriter/poet Beth Wood began the gathering with a heart of gratefulness for what she has experienced in her many years of involvement with the festival. This came on the heels of the announcement that she plans to make Sisters her home in the months ahead.

“Reflecting back on my first experiences here some 15 years ago, I remember

immediately feeling so welcomed,” Wood said.

By all accounts, the most intimate circle of community took place at the four-day Americana Song Academy held at Camp Caldera Tuesday through Friday. That supportive, accepting, genuine sense of connectedness was transported into town Thursday night and Friday morning as the camp concluded and the festival began.

“At the camp we get to

teach together, hang out together, and jam together, so when we get to town for the actual festival we have a bond and an energy that we get to share with our audiences, and the sense of community continues to grow,” said one artist.

Though performers came from a wide array of places — Hawaii to New York to Prince Edward Island to Cuba (via British Columbia)

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Armed citizen detains burglary suspect in Sisters

Sheriff's deputies apprehended Ryan Paul Huber, 43, of Sisters, after he allegedly broke into a home at the west end of town in the early hours of Monday morning.

The Deschutes County Sheriff's office reports that at approximately 1:54 a.m. on Monday, September 9, deputies were dispatched to a burglary in progress at 1659 W. Carson Ave. in the Hayden Homes subdivision off McKinney Butte Road in Sisters. Dispatch advised deputies that an unknown male subject had entered the house by breaking down the back door.

The homeowner, armed with a rifle, confronted the

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'No Name' Lake restrictions imposed

By Craig F. Eisenbeis
Correspondent

The recent kerfuffle involving newly imposed camping restrictions at so-called “No Name Lake” on the eastern slopes of Broken Top is yet another example of impact resulting from irresponsible user abuse in local wilderness areas. The new restrictions impose a quarter-mile setback for wilderness campers using the area. Such campsite setbacks are not uncommon at other wilderness lakes.

Jean Nelson-Dean, public affairs officer for the Deschutes National Forest said, “People can still enjoy the location, but we're

asking them to camp in a more appropriate location where waste can be disposed of, so they can follow the ‘leave no trace’ principle.”

The “traces” being left behind are what have caused the problem, specifically human waste improperly disposed of. The lake has become an unexpected and popular mecca for backcountry travelers, with scores of overnight visitors setting up camp right on the shores of the fragile lake.

According to Nelson-Dean, the human waste being deposited in the area has left the place “smelling like a sewer.” The margins of the

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Sisters locals shine in triathlon

By Charlie Kanzig
Correspondent

Four friends from Sisters traveled to Sweet Home on Saturday, September 7, for the Best in the West Triathlon Festival, held at Foster Lake — and two of them came away as champions.

Josh Nordell and Winter Lewis, who frequently swim and bike together, each won his age division in the Olympic-distance triathlon that featured a 1,500-meter swim, a 40-kilometer (24.8 mile) bike ride and a 10-kilometer (6.2-mile) run.

Nordell described himself as “delighted” with his performance after clocking 2 hours, 17 minutes, 28 seconds in winning the 40-44 age group division.

“I just felt so darn good,”



Tate Metcalf, Ross Kennedy, Josh Nordell and Winter Lewis smile before embarking on the swim at the Best in the West Triathlon held at Foster Lake on Saturday.

PHOTO BY CHARLIE KANZIG

he said. “It was a great day and I'm just so happy.”

Nordell placed third overall among 176 finishers.

Lewis felt pleased with

his performance as well, finishing in 2 hours, 24 minutes, 33 seconds to win the

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