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Search and rescue unit trains in Sisters

By Cody Rheault
Correspondent

The Sisters Eagle Airport hosted live helicopter training for Camp Sherman Hasty Team volunteers last Saturday. Joined by Life Flight from the Redmond Airport and Jefferson County Emergency managers, SAR team volunteers learned about aircraft operations related to search and rescue scenarios.

The training included instruction on basic operating practice in and around a helicopter. Volunteers learned about the situations in which a helicopter would be needed and what that response would entail. Life Flight's Redmond base manager and flight paramedic, Victor Walco, led the training session and answered questions. Following a classroom session, the team joined an active Life Flight crew who flew in from Redmond for the hands-on training portion.

The Camp Sherman Hasty Team was founded in 1995 by former Jefferson County deputy Mark Foster, and is managed under Sergeant David Pond, Jefferson County



PHOTO BY CODY RHEAULT

Jefferson County's Camp Sherman Hasty Team members took helicopter operations training at Sisters Eagle Airport last Saturday. The Camp Sherman Hasty Team serves the Metolius Basin and areas of the Pacific Crest Trail.

Sheriff's Office emergency manager. Composed of volunteers, the team includes a variety of members throughout Sisters Country and the Camp Sherman area. Under the Jefferson County jurisdiction, the Hasty Team responds primarily to incidents within

the Metolius River Basin, east slopes of the Cascades, and areas of the Pacific Crest Trail.

"What's special about that part of the Cascades is how remote it is," said Pond. "We see a lot of visitors and receive a lot of calls

out there, and that's why our team is primarily based from the Camp Sherman area."

Hasty Team members train monthly in all aspects of search and rescue, including operations with helicopter

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Firefighter recruits graduate in Sisters

By Kathryn Godsiff
Correspondent

The annual Firefighter Recruit Academy is a long-standing tradition with the Sisters-Camp Sherman and Black Butte Ranch rural protection fire districts. Each year a number of applicants across all the Central Oregon fire districts are screened and chosen to begin their learning of firefighting and emergency service at local stations. Sisters-Camp Sherman and Black Butte Ranch fire districts graduated nine recruits with a badge-pinning ceremony at the Sisters Fire Hall last Friday.

During the summer weeks of training, the recruits live in the stations with the career staff. The academy began in June, and when it concluded

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Wilkins takes reins as school board chair

By Charlie Kanzig
Correspondent

Following a vote at the July school board meeting, Jay Wilkins took over the position of school board chair for the Sisters School District after three years of serving on the board.

Wilkins, who moved to Sisters seven years ago from the Portland area with his wife, Vanessa, and daughters, Skylar and Sydney, was enticed here by his friend Bill Rexford who taught at Sisters High School at the time.

"Bill was obviously a big fan of the school system and really talked it up so we moved out here for what Sisters offered as a school

district and community."

Immediately upon arrival, Wilkins got involved in the drive to pass the local option, which had failed for the first time in the previous campaign.

"Fortunately it passed with flying colors shortly after that," said Wilkins.

Wilkins volunteered to help with the passage of the bond levy for school improvement and helped with the next local option campaign as well.

"So, I was pretty heavily involved in the funding side of things for the school district right from the get-go," he said.

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Sisters celebrates signature trail

By Sue Stafford
Correspondent

The sun shone warmly on the 100-plus people gathered at Village Green Park last Saturday to celebrate the community asset known as the Peterson Ridge Trail (PRT).

The PRT is actually an entire trail system of over 100 miles of trails, with loops and connectors, serving hikers, cyclists, and equestrians.

The day's activities, underwritten by Your Store on Cascade Avenue and hosted by Sisters Trails Alliance (STA), included guided rides and hikes on the PRT in the morning, a free lunch catered by Tacos el Comal, a special Pete's Ridge pale ale brewed and donated by Three Creeks Brewing available for



PHOTO BY SUE STAFFORD

Peterson Ridge Trail advocate John Rahm described how the trail was created in its current configuration.

purchase, games of Cornhole, and a children's scavenger hunt around the park. A celebratory cake sported a

colorful reproduction of Clay Warburton's art that was on

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