

Community focuses on public safety

By Sue Stafford
Correspondent

Sgt. William Bailey, Deschutes County Sheriff's Office public information officer, and Ryan Seeley, local community monitor, were invited guests to the September 16 "Let's Talk – Public Safety," sponsored by Citizens4Community.

The evening was full of conversation from residents with a variety of viewpoints. One concern on which the group seemed to agree had to do with the lack of activities for teenagers during the summer and off-school hours. People are worried about underage drinking and problems caused by teens with too much time on their hands or out after curfew.

There was conversation around contracting for police services versus having Sisters' own law enforcement department.

Sgt. Bailey provided background information and answered a number of questions, including some having to do with response times for

calls. He explained that the 20 minutes it took for an officer to respond to a call regarding a home invasion in Sisters on September 9 (see "Charges reduced in home intrusion incident," *The Nugget*, September 18, page 1) was due to the fact the officer on duty had just ended his shift and a different officer had to come from another jurisdiction like Redmond.

Bailey said the county-wide average response time is 9 to 13 minutes.

The contract between the City of Sisters and the DCSO requires 480 hours of service a month. Sgt. Bailey reported that most months officers are available 600-700 hours.

Bailey said the DCSO appreciates it when citizens call to report strange occurrences, possible dangerous activity, or crimes in progress. He repeated several times that reporting is good, but he said it is essential to

let the officers do the police work.

Ryan Seeley said that because of his love for the community, he gives back by providing community watch in the later evening and early morning hours in his car. He has an amiable working relationship with the deputies responsible for patrolling Sisters and contacts them immediately when he comes across a crime in progress or a potential problem. Seeley reported he thinks "the deputies are a great team and do a great job."

The non-emergency number for the DCSO is 541-693-6911.

The next C4C event will be a public forum on Thursday, October 24, at the fire hall, 5:30 to 7:30 p.m., addressing freedom of speech with a panel of local citizens including a journalist, attorney, pastor, educator, and private business-owner.

Five establishments sold to minor decoy

Five Sisters-area liquor licensees sold alcohol to a minor decoy during an Oregon Liquor Control Commission (OLCC) operation conducted late last month, the agency reported last week.

Eighteen businesses were visited on August 29, and five of them allegedly sold to the minor decoy — resulting in a 72 percent compliance rate across Sisters. Those who sold to the minor are: Sisters Saloon & Ranch Grill; Space Age Gas; BimBap Asian Kitchen; Eurosports and Cascade Laser Tag.

The 13 that did not sell to the minor were Bi-Mart; Sisters 76; Philadelphia Steaks & Hoagies; Takoda's; Ray's Food Place; The Gallery Restaurant and Bar; Sisters Mainline Station; Martolli's of Sisters Authentic Hand Tossed

Pizza; Cascade Trailstop Market; Melvin's by Newport Avenue Market; Three Creeks Brewing; Shuler's Pizzeria; and Hardtails Bar and Grill.

OLCC spokesman Matthew Van Sickle explained that a first-time violation carries a fine of \$1,650 or a 10-day suspension of the establishment's liquor license. The penalty can be reduced through an appeal through the administrative process. Van Sickle said that most businesses opt to pay the fine in lieu of suspension.

The spokesman said that OLCC does not think of the decoy operations as a "sting."

"Our goal is not to trip these licensees up, but to encourage them to come back into compliance," he said. The goal, Van Sickle said, is "to ensure public safety."

Outlaws to host bingo night October 1

The Outlaws will host a family-friendly evening in Sisters Country with Outlaws Together Bingo, scheduled for Tuesday, October 1. Doors open at 5 p.m. for dinner and Bingo starts at 6:30 p.m. in the Sisters High School Commons (1700 W. McKinney Butte Rd).

Eleven games are \$15 and Family 4 Packs for \$50 — including Bingo Blackout with a grand prize of \$500. All proceeds benefit the Sisters School District athletics department. The community dinner for the night is mac & cheese for \$4.

For more information on Outlaws Together events, contact Gary Thorson at 541-549-4050 or gary.thorson@ssd6.org.

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