

CELEBRATION: Trail has become a destination for region's riders

Continued from page 1

the poster for the event.

Displays were set up by active partners of STA including Central Oregon Trails Association (COTA), Oregon Equestrian Trails (OET), and Sisters Park and Recreation District. Three amazing gift baskets, each filled with donations from numerous local businesses and worth well over \$1,000, were raffled off to lucky winners who paid \$10 for three chances on a hiker, cyclist, or equestrian basket.

During the event, early trail proponent John Rahm of Sisters told the assembled crowd, "What we have is a mature destination trail system... People come to Sisters because of our trails. One person moved here because of the trails."

Rahm gave those assembled a detailed history of the origins and development of the trail, crediting Eurosports owner Brad Boyd with getting the first "lollipop" section of the trail constructed in two years, beginning in 1989.

Volunteers, partnerships, donations and grants have literally built the PRT. Thank-yous were plentiful and heartfelt on Saturday. Thousands of volunteer hours have contributed to the construction and maintenance of the trail system. Currently, each section of trail has an STA volunteer who surveys their section regularly and sees to the maintenance.

STA President Catherine Hayden shared, "I am

thankful for our collaboration with the Forest Service. I value the strong relationship with them."

Thanks were also extended for significant financial support from former Sisters resident Mike Ilg, The Roundhouse Foundation and Kathy Deggendorfer, and cycling advocate Jerry Norquist and Cycle Oregon.

Amy Radke, Recreation Team leader with the Sisters Ranger District, echoed Hayden's sentiment from the Forest Service perspective, thankful for the partnership. She has been able to build on the relationships formed through the partnership with STA.

"What we have is an incredible trail system with important cultural sites," Radke said.

She talked about how the PRT increases the USFS capacity for recreational opportunities. She cited the stability of the STA with its membership, finances, and ability to get grants all adding value to the Deschutes National Forest.

Former Sisters District Ranger Bill Anthony, an avid cyclist, and Rahm, were instrumental in the formation of the partnership between the USFS and STA.

Among those in the park on Saturday were longtime STA members and a number of relative newcomers to Sisters who either had already joined the STA or came to check it out and planned to join. One couple visiting from Eugene stopped by with their young son.

Mountain-biker David Purviance, who brought his World's Children nonprofit to Sisters, said, "I appreciate

what they (STA) have done." He and his wife, Jean, plan to join STA.

Mary and Michael Fry, who are building a home in Aspen Lakes, have been coming to Sisters to vacation for 20 years and moved here permanently a year-and-a-half ago. They enjoy the trails on their mountain bikes and came Saturday to "learn about the outfit."

The trailhead for the PRT, currently located on the south side of Sisters off Elm Street and Tye Drive, will have a new location in spring 2020, a little further south on Elm (Three Creek Road), to remove it from the Buck Run neighborhood. The new trailhead will offer more parking and restroom facilities, but is still close to town.

Other future plans include improved equestrian trails and two new trails to provide more connections on the Whychus Creek and Brooks-Scanlon trails. A new regional organization is forming, the Deschutes Trails Coalition.

Karen Matheson Thrower has been using the trails since the late 1990s, when she came to visit her parents who lived in Sisters. Her dad built the play structure in Village Green Park. She moved from Portland three years ago and joined the STA. She is on the trails regularly with her dogs or bike. She thinks "the trail system is an incredible resource."

STA earns Big Chainring Award

By Sue Stafford
Correspondent

The Sisters Trails Alliance was recently awarded the Big Chainring Award for nonprofits by the Deschutes County Bicycle and Pedestrian Committee (BPAC).

Since 1996, the annual Big Chainring Award has recognized individuals, businesses, and public agencies that make important contributions toward improving bicycling and walking conditions, encouraging children or adults to walk and ride their bikes, and making Deschutes County communities healthier and happier.

According to the BPAC recognition, "The Sisters Trails Alliance has long been an outstanding example of dedicated volunteers creating an incredible community resource. Gary Guttormsen and Patrick Eckford, the STA trail coordinators, are two of the individuals behind this success. Gary has devoted an incredible amount of time, energy, talent and

imagination to the preservation and promotion of our public forests and lands. Patrick has been instrumental in securing a grant for a new trailhead facility at Peterson Ridge and is working with the Forest Service to gain approval for new trails."

BPAC is comprised of 13 volunteer citizen members with regional representatives from across Deschutes County. Their mission is to promote and encourage safe bicycling and walking as a significant means of transportation in Deschutes County. The committee serves to advise Deschutes County, the cities of Bend, La Pine, Redmond, and Sisters, plus the Oregon Department of Transportation concerning bicycling and walking interests and priorities, as well as stimulating public awareness.

The City of Sisters received the Big Chainring Award several years ago for their accomplishments in cycling and walking priorities and safety as a public agency.

SPRD SISTERS
Park & Recreation
DISTRICT

Upcoming Adult Programs!

Advanced Casting Skills:
10/5 & 10/12

Learn to Play Poker:
Starting 10/7/19
(Ages 18+)

Adult Ukulele:
Starting 10/17/19



View activities & classes, and register online!
www.SistersRecreation.com
1750 W. McKinney Butte Rd. | 541-549-2091

SNO CAP MINI STORAGE

Sisters Industrial Park
157 Sisters Park Dr. • 541-549-3575
www.SistersStorage.com

- State-of-the-art Security Technology
- Sizes from 5x5 to 12x40
- Individual Gate Codes
- Long-term Discounts
- On-site Manager

CHECK OUT THIS WEEK'S NUGGET INSERTS!

Ray's Food Place

Honeycrisp Apples
\$1.49 per lb.

Russet Potatoes
89¢ per lb.

Essential Everyday Batteries
25% off!

Fall Harvest Pumpkins
34¢ per lb.

Bi-Mart

All Centerfire Rifle Ammo
\$3 off!

Western Chief Kids' Rubber Boots
\$16.97

All Men's & Women's Jackets & Vests
25% off!



SHOE SALE!





\$15 OFF

ONE PAIR OF SAS SHOES

\$40 OFF

TWO PAIRS OF SAS SHOES

Offer good September 21–October 5, 2019

Shoe Inn

WE FIT YOU FOR COMFORT

Mon-Sat 10 a.m.-6 p.m.
Sun 11 a.m.-5 p.m.
541-385-7405

Costco Forum Center
2680 NE Hwy. 20, Ste. 380, Bend