

Fans reach out to help ailing singer

By Jim Cornelius
Editor in Chief

In April 2009, a full-house crowd gathered in the Sisters High School Auditorium for a concert by Hal Ketchum, part of the Starry Nights series that has raised over \$1 million for the Sisters Schools Foundation.

Katie Cavanaugh's voice rang out in the darkened auditorium as the veteran country music singer-songwriter took the stage. Ketchum looked up from tuning his guitar, nodded, then ambled to the microphone.

"What's left of me," he said.

Then his band ripped into a driving version of "Past the Point of Rescue" to kick off a 90-minute set that covered Ketchum's full career to that point. It was one of the highlight events among years of stellar musical experiences in Sisters.

After years of battling severe medical issues, Ketchum has been diagnosed with Alzheimer's disease and has been forced to retire from the stage.

A GoFundMe page has been established to raise funds for Ketchum's medical expenses at www.gofundme.com/f/halketchummedicalfund.



PHOTO PROVIDED

Hal Ketchum, who performed in Sisters Starry Nights concerts in 2002 and 2009, has been diagnosed with Alzheimer's disease. Fans and friends, including those in Sisters, are reaching out to assist with expenses.

In addition, Gruene Hall in Austin, Texas, is organizing a benefit show for him on February 23. Starry Nights co-founder Jeri Fouts and her husband, Dan Fouts, are helping secure auction items and have commitments from Vince Gill and are reaching out to other friends.

Jeri recalled that, "Hal has been so generous in supporting many causes across

the country over the years, and he especially loved coming to Sisters and helping support the Sisters Schools Foundation. His shows were in 2002 and 2009, and many locals will remember the sweet moments when he sang "She Is" with young Noel Chen and Felicia Zandonatti, or performed "Hang In There, Superman" with elementary school singers."

Library kicks off year of centennial celebration

In 1916, voters established Deschutes County in a break from Crook County and Prineville to better control their own destinies. Among the accomplishments of the young County was the foundation of the Deschutes County Library system in January 1920, with 3,488 books in circulation and 1,252 cardholders by the end of that first year.

Now, 100 years later, Deschutes Public Library has grown into a robust library system with six locations in Deschutes County, hundreds of thousands of items in its collection and nearly 90,000 library cardholders.

"Central Oregon has grown so much in the last 100 years, and we're proud to have grown right along with it," said Library Director Todd Dunkelberg. "The Library is the center of every community in Deschutes County. From Sisters to La Pine and all cities in between, we have a lot to celebrate this year."

All of Central Oregon is invited to join the celebration in 2020 as the Library looks back on a century of community. For the first 10 months of

the year the Library will highlight a different decade of its history during each month—the 1920s in January, the 1930s in February, the 1940s in March and so on. Look for fun displays in libraries that highlight each decade, watch for special "Deschutes by the Decade" programs honoring Library history, pick up a free 100th anniversary sticker and be sure to check out the new, limited-edition anniversary library cards. It all culminates with a grand masquerade ball in the fall, a nod to the Library's hugely popular masquerade ball of 1920.

Each decade is also highlighted on the library website (www.deschuteslibrary.org/anniversary).

"With the countywide population projected to grow to more than 240,000 residents by 2025, we are finding new and innovative ways to serve our growing community. While we reflect on the past century of growth, we have our eyes on a bright future ahead as we create dynamic libraries to serve our population for the next 100 years," said Dunkelberg.

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January 8 – February 28

Reception to meet the artists
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People's Choice Awards

The community may vote at the library for the awards
Wednesday, January 8 through Friday, January 24.

For information, contact Zeta Seiple at 541-549-6157