

BBR BOOK: Author sought to delve fully into land's history

Continued from page 3

a powerful family connection to the Ranch. Her father, Robert Muir Graves, designed the iconic Big Meadow Golf Course at Black Butte Ranch in 1969, opening it in 1970.

“The first time I came to Black Butte Ranch I was probably nine years old, and it was far from being done,” she recalled.

Yoder, under Schafer’s guidance, knew from the beginning that the project would be “very image driven.” Historical images provided by the Three Sisters Historical Society and from her father’s collection helped her shape the narrative.

It was very important to Yoder that the narrative went deeper than the half-century of the Ranch’s existence as a resort.

“History started in geologic time and included the indigenous people whose land Black Butte Ranch is on,” she said. “I want to honor the true history of this area, not just start with Euro-Americans who came through in the 1860s... It was part of what I needed to do if I was going to do the project — honoring the land that Black Butte Ranch is on and hopefully a little bit of what that means.”

To recount that early history, Yoder interviewed Northern Paiute Wilson Wewa of the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs, a descendant of Chief Paulina for whom Paulina Springs on the Ranch is named.

“I was surprised at how much activity there was on that land,” Yoder said. “It gave me a deeper appreciation for the story that was there. It wasn’t always pretty. Everything’s more complicated than you think.”

After the Ranch was developed as a resort, it became a beloved destination for generations of Oregonians — some homeowners, some second-home owners, some visitors.

“I interviewed a lot of different people who are homeowners and people who have been coming to the Ranch for a long time,” Yoder said. “They are so welcoming, and so wanting people to come and share the experience of the Ranch. I just loved hearing them talk that way.”

Black Butte Ranch has had a tremendous impact on the vitality of Sisters. Developer Brooks Resources originally created the town’s Western theme and injected considerable economic energy into the community. BBR has always supported the local schools and is a major employer in the area. People from Sisters go to the Ranch to enjoy live music, dining and horseback riding.

Yoder noted that many people have grown up in Sisters, worked summers at Black Butte Ranch — and stayed on to make a career there.

“And they love it,” she said.

Yoder said that she was astonished to discover the amount of volunteer time and effort Ranch residents put in to enhancing the Ranch, especially in creating habitat to make it more and more welcoming to local wildlife.

Distilling the history of a beloved place down to 88 pages of text and photos was no easy task.

“The biggest challenge was trying to figure out what to leave in and being very sorry for all the things I had to leave out,” she said. “The book could have been three-times bigger for all the content I had.... Getting it down to an essence was challenging. I tried to tell a complete story. You can never do that perfectly, but I was happy with what I was able to include.”

“Black Butte Ranch: There Is A Place” is available at Black Butte Ranch and at Paulina Springs Books in Sisters.

LETTERS

Continued from page 2

boost to it’s tax base that will probably contribute in excess of \$1 million annually to Sisters’ schools and services.

That sounds like five wins to me!
Nick Veroske



To The Editor:

The coronavirus pandemic has highlighted for me the problem with banning single use plastic bags and allowing reusable bags. The world needs an alternative to plastic, but until then, allowing reusable bags in retail stores is a major public health issue based on scientific studies.

Viruses and bacteria can survive on tote bags up to nine days based on studies.

The risk of spreading viruses was clearly demonstrated in a 2018 study published in the *Journal of Environmental Health*. The researchers, led by Ryan Sinclair of the Loma Linda University School of Public Health, sent shoppers into three California grocery stores carrying polypropylene plastic tote bags that had been sprayed with a harmless surrogate of a virus. The researchers found sufficiently high traces of the surrogate to risk transmission on the hands of the shoppers and checkout clerks, as well as on many surfaces touched by the shoppers, including packaged food, unpackaged produce, shopping carts, checkout counters and the touch screens used to pay for groceries.

In a 2011 study, reusable bags were collected at random from consumers as they entered grocery stores in California and

Arizona. In interviews, it was found that reusable bags are seldom — if ever — washed, and often used for multiple purposes. Large numbers of bacteria were found in almost all bags and coliform bacteria in half. *Escherichia coli* were identified in eight percent of the bags, as well as a wide range of enteric bacteria, including several opportunistic pathogens.

In a 2012 study, researchers analyzed the effects of San Francisco’s ban on single-use plastic grocery bags by comparing emergency-room admissions in the city against those of nearby counties without the bag ban. The researchers, Jonathan Klick of the University of Pennsylvania and Joshua Wright of George Mason University, reported a 25 percent increase in bacteria-related illnesses and deaths in San Francisco relative to the other counties.

Oregon and other states confirmed reusable bags spread disease by temporarily lifting plastic bag bans for the current pandemic.

Reusable shopping bags are just plain nasty and need to be banned.

JK Wells



To the Editor:

We will gather at Village Green July 25, 7 p.m. for an evening of solidarity and contemplation honoring George Floyd and the many Black lives lost this past decade to police violence.

Participants will be required to wear masks and observe physical distancing.

Like many other communities, Sisters

See LETTERS on page 25

Let us show you how much you can save this year!

Call 541-588-6245, for a free quote!

257 S. Pine St., #101
www.farmersagent.com/jrybka

FARMERS INSURANCE

AUTO • HOME • LIFE • BUSINESS

We're **OPEN!** CALL TO SCHEDULE. We can't wait to see you!

The Hair Caché 152 E. Main Ave. • 541-549-8771

Jeff • Theresa • Ann • Jamie • Shiela • Terri • Shanntyl

Excellence With Compassion When You Need It Most

NEW LOCATION IN SISTERS FOR YOUR ESTATE PLANNING NEEDS!

TWO SPRUCE LAW, P.C.
Patricia Nelson & John Myers
— Attorneys At Law —
220 S. Pine St., Suite 207

541-549-2221
www.twosprucelaw.com

Ways you can support Thelma's Place:

- Vehicle donations
- Cash donations
- Sponsorships
- Volunteer

Your support makes a difference!
Redmond: 541-548-3049 | www.thelmasplace.org
Day Respite and Support Groups

Sisters Dental

WE ARE HERE FOR YOU!

Trevor Frideres, D.M.D.
Greg Everson, D.M.D.

SISTERS DENTAL 541-549-2011
www.sistersdental.com 491 E. Main Ave. ■ Sisters

Hours: Mon., 9 a.m.-6 p.m.; Tues.-Thurs., 8 a.m.-5 p.m.; Fri., 7 a.m.-3 p.m.

CUSTOM FENCES, DECKS & PAVERS

Sisters Fence Company
541-588-2062
CCB#288388

Locally Owned, Craftsman Built

Residential & Commercial
Custom Ranch & Domestic Privacy Fencing
Decks • Pavers • Gates | Stain & Paint • Repair

FREE ESTIMATES & COMPETITIVE PRICING

www.SistersFenceCompany.com