

C O M M U N I T Y

The history of a successful trail

By Sue Stafford
Correspondent

The Peterson Ridge Trail, which now has a new trailhead (see story, page 1) has become one of the signature recreational amenities of Sisters. Its creation was a true grassroots effort.

Beginning in 1987, Eurosports owner Brad Boyd and a few friends created the first “lollipop” section of a trail out into the Deschutes National Forest, south of town. Two years later in 1989 it was ready for use. The trail went out into the forest, made a loop at the end, and returned along the same route.

John Rahm, an early trail

proponent, worked with former Sisters District Ranger Bill Anthony, also an avid cyclist, to form a partnership between the U.S. Forest Service and the Sisters Trails Alliance (STA) as part of a community vision process in 2005. Since that time, the STA has become a force in the community, not only advocating for expanded and improved bike, hike, and equestrian trails, but taking on rallying public support, putting their money and physical labor where their mouth is.

According to STA’s Gary Guttormsen, the original trail was called the Sisters

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PHOTO BY JAY MATHER

Beth Wood, Ron Artis II, Haley Johnsen and David Jacobs-Strain shared the stage at the Sisters Folk Festival’s Close to Home concert on August 1.

Folk festival stays ‘Close to Home’

By Ceili Cornelius
Correspondent

For Sisters Folk Festival, “Close to Home” meant just that — bringing live music close to home in Sisters Country.

Last Saturday, Sisters Folk Festival (SFF) put on their first live, in-person music event since the start of the pandemic in March. For a few weeks, they were doing Bandwagon performances where local musicians played tunes on the back of a trailer rolling through town. They had also done a livestream for the My Own Two Hands fundraiser auction event online.

But the first day of August was reserved for a small, intimate, live concert event at the Sisters Art Works building, on the back lawn. The featured musicians for the event were all based in Oregon, so they didn’t have to travel out of state. These artists included newcomer to the Sisters Folk Festival, Hayley Johnsen, as well as alumni of the Americana song academy and the festival, Jeffery Martin, David Jacobs-Strain, Beth Wood and Ron Artis II, who brought his trio along with him. Artis and his family had only last year moved from Hawaii to permanently live in the Portland area after playing the festival for the

first time in 2018. Patrons purchased “pods” for the event; there were two-person and four-person pods available, all spread six feet apart on the back lawn. There were only 190 spots available for the event to make the gathering number appropriate to follow state regulations. Audience members brought their low-back chairs and picnic blankets and were able to gather with their podmates for some live music. Masks were required to be worn outside of the pod, and hand-washing stations were available at every corner.

See CONCERT on page 16

Defending Sisters against wildfire

By Jim Cornelius
Editor in Chief

The Pole Creek Fire in September 2012 posed a serious threat to Sisters Country. Firefighters and forest managers agree that previous treatments in the fire area — selective thinning, mowing and prescribed burning — made it possible for fire crews to grab and hold the fire and prevent greater devastation to the forest south of town.

Deschutes County Board of Commissioners candidate Phil Chang led a small field trip to the fire area on Thursday, July 29, to provide on-the-ground evidence of the effectiveness of fuels-reduction projects, and to advocate for more.

“These fuels-reduction projects are incredibly important,” he said.

Maret Pajutee, retired Sisters Ranger District

See WILDFIRE on page 18

As the COVID-19 crisis continues to affect gatherings, please contact individual organizations for current meeting status

SISTERS AREA MEETING CALENDAR

BOARDS, GROUPS, CLUBS

AI-Anon Mon., noon, Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church. / Thurs., 10 a.m., Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church. 541-549-1527.

Alcoholics Anonymous Thurs. & Sun., 7 p.m., Episcopal Church of the Transfiguration / Sat., 8 a.m., Episcopal Church of the Transfiguration / Mon., 5 p.m., Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church / Big Book study, Tues., noon, Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church / Gentlemen’s meeting, Wed., 7 a.m., Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church / Sober Sisters Women’s meeting, Thurs., noon, Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church / Step & Tradition meeting, Fri., noon, Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church. 541-548-0440.

Alzheimer’s & Dementia Caregiver Support Group 1st Tuesday, noon, SPRD bldg. 800-272-3900.

Black Butte Ranch Bridge Club Tuesdays, 12:30 p.m., BBR community room. Partner required. 541-595-6236.

Central Oregon Fly Tyers Guild For Saturday meeting dates and location, email: steelefly@msn.com.

Central OR Spinners and Weavers Guild One Saturday per month, Jan. thru Oct. For schedule: 541-639-3217.

Council on Aging of Central Oregon Senior Lunch Tuesdays, noon, Sisters Community Church. 541-480-1843.

East of the Cascades Quilt Guild 4th Wednesday (September-June), Stitchin’ Post. All are welcome. 541-549-6061.

Friends of the Sisters Library Board of Directors 2nd Tuesday, 9 to 11 a.m., Sisters Library. www.sistersfol.com.

Go Fish Fishing Group 3rd Monday, 7 p.m. Sisters Community Church. All ages welcome. 541-771-2211.

Heartwarmers (fleece blanketmakers) 2nd & 4th Tuesdays, 1 p.m., Sisters City Hall. Materials provided. 541-408-8505.

Hero Quilters of Sisters Thursday, 1 to 4 p.m. 541-549-1028 or 541-719-1230.

Citizens4Community, Let’s Talk 3rd Monday, 5:30 to 8 p.m. RSVP at citizens4community.com

Military Parents of Sisters Meetings are held quarterly; please call for details. 541-388-9013.

Oregon Band of Brothers – Sisters Chapter Wednesdays, 11:30 a.m., Takoda’s Restaurant. 541-549-6469.

SAGE (Senior Activities, Gatherings & Enrichment) Monday-Friday, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Sisters Park & Recreation District. 541-549-2091.

Sisters Aglow Lighthouse 4th Saturday, 10 a.m., Ponderosa Lodge Meeting Room. 503-930-6158.

Sisters Area Photography Club 2nd Wednesday, 4 p.m., Sisters Library community room. 541-549-6157.

Sisters Area Woodworkers 1st Tuesday, 7 to 9 p.m. 541-639-6216.

Sisters Astronomy Club 3rd Tuesday, 7 p.m., SPRD. 541-549-8846.

Sisters Bridge Club Thursdays, 12:30 p.m., The Pines Clubhouse. Novices welcomed. 541-549-9419.

Sisters Caregiver Support Group 3rd Tues., 10:30 a.m., The Lodge in Sisters. 541-771-3258.

Sisters Cribbage Club Wednesdays, 11 a.m. to 2 p.m., Ray’s Food Place community room. 541-923-1632.

Sisters Habitat for Humanity Board of Directors 4th Tuesday, 6 p.m. Location information: 541-549-1193.

Sisters Kiwanis Thursdays, 7 to 8:30 a.m., Brand 33 Restaurant at Aspen Lakes. 541-410-2870.

Sisters Parent Teacher Community 2nd Tuesday, 6:30 p.m. at Sisters Saloon. 541-480-5994.

Sisters Parkinson’s Support Group 2nd Tuesday, 2 p.m., The Lodge. 541-668-6599.

Sisters Red Hats 1st Friday. Location information: 541-279-1977.

Sisters Rotary 1st and 3rd Thursdays, Noon, Aspen Lakes. 541-760-5645.

Sisters Speak Life Cancer Support Group 2nd & 4th Wednesday, 1 p.m. Suttle Tea. 503-819-1723.

Sisters Trails Alliance Board 1st Monday, 5 p.m. Sisters Library. Public welcome. 808-281-2681.

Sisters Veterans Thursdays, noon, Takoda’s Restaurant. 541-903-1123.

Three Sisters Irrigation District Board of Directors 1st Tuesday, 4 p.m., TSID Office. 541-549-8815.

Three Sisters Lions Club 2nd Tuesday, noon, Ray’s Food Place community room. 541-419-1279.

VFW Post 8138 and American Legion Post 86 1st Wednesday, 6:30 p.m., Sisters City Hall. 541-903-1123.

Weight Watchers Thursdays, 8:30 a.m. weigh-in, Sisters Community Church. 541-602-2654.

SCHOOLS

Black Butte School Board of Directors 2nd Tuesday, 3:30 p.m., Black Butte School. 541-595-6203.

Sisters Christian Academy Board of Directors Monthly on a Friday. Call 541-549-4133 for date & time.

Sisters School District Board of Directors One Wed. monthly, SSD Admin Bldg. See schedule online at www.ssd6.org. 541-549-8521 x5002.

Sisters Middle School Parent Collaboration Team 1st Tuesday, 2 p.m., SMS. 541-610-9513.

CITY & PARKS

Sisters City Council 2nd & 4th Wednesday, 6:30 p.m., Sisters City Hall. 541-549-6022.

Sisters Park & Recreation District Board of Directors 2nd & 4th Tuesdays, 4:30 p.m., SPRD bldg. 541-549-2091.

Sisters Planning Commission 3rd Thursday, 5:30 p.m., Sisters City Hall. 541-549-6022.

FIRE & POLICE

Black Butte Ranch Police Dept. Board of Directors Meets monthly. 541-595-2191 for time & date.

Black Butte Ranch RFPD Board of Directors 4th Thursday, 9 a.m., Black Butte Ranch Fire Station. 541-595-2288.

Cloverdale RFPD Board of Directors 3rd Wed., 7 p.m., 67433 Cloverdale Rd. 541-548-4815. cloverdalefire.com.

Sisters-Camp Sherman RFPD Board of Directors 3rd Tuesday, 5 p.m., Sisters Fire Hall, 541-549-0771.

Sisters-Camp Sherman RFPD Drills Tuesdays, 7 p.m., Sisters Fire Hall, 301 S. Elm St. 541-549-0771.

This listing is for regular Sisters Country meetings; email information to lisa@nuggetnews.com