

**HOLIDAYS:** Folks turned out in high numbers for weekend events

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At 5:59 p.m. the count-down started: 5, 4, 3, 2, 1 and with a flip of the switch the 65-plus-foot landmark tree illuminated its roughly 2,500 lights to the sheer delight of all.

“All” was an inter-generational mix of infants to octogenarians. Typical of the attendees was the Dawson family. Noni and Pops, residents, who were accompanied by three adult children and seven grandkids, ages between one and 9, all living on the east coast, and two Jack Russell terriers.

Daughter-in-law Maddie from Boston was especially touched by her first small town encounter with a

tradition she wished she had experienced growing up.

“It makes me want to move here. We are already planning to come back in the summer for the rodeo,” she said gleefully, adding: “Our kids are even more excited about tomorrow’s parade.”

Ben and Alisha Moorland who moved to Sisters in June were not aware of the weekend’s festivities even after years of vacationing here.

“We just learned about this two hours ago,” the couple said.

“I can’t imagine ever not being here for it,” said Alisha with Ben adding, “This is one of so many reasons we left Seattle. This is organic, not what you see in similar events in the ‘city’ (air quotes) where it all seems a bit staged, almost superficial by comparison.”

Saturday at 2 p.m. was the annual parade on Hood

Avenue followed by cookies and cocoa with Santa sponsored by Hayden Homes at McKenzie Meadows Park, a Hayden residential development. The parade is just what you would expect in Sisters — as many dogs and horses marching as vehicles of all manner of vintage or utility.

The parade began at Pine Street and ended at Larch Street, led by the color guard, an assortment of veterans from all branches of service. Bringing up the rear was Santa in a horse drawn carriage. Both sides of Hood were lined with broadly beaming faces under a broken sky. The temperature was 56, a far cry from some years when a number of folk recalled parades with snow.

The premier seats were in front of Sisters Coffee Co. and at Eurosports, both of whose outdoor tables were full. The seats of choice however were the at least 100 vehicles with raised cargo doors or lowered tailgates crammed with onlookers, many festooned with holiday attire. *The Nugget* counted no fewer than 80 dogs among the spectators. In all it appeared that a minimum of 1,000 viewed the event.

Kids scrambled to get candy tossed by drivers and tenders of parade entrants of which there were 20 registered. Some, however, like the fire department had multiple vehicles and when combined with marching dogs and horses, the parade increased in scale and variety.

As the crowd dissipated, many headed to shops and



PHOTO BY JACK TURPEN

The lighting of Sisters 65-foot community Christmas tree marked the official launch of the holiday season in Sisters.



PHOTO BY JACK TURPEN

Victorian carolers led the community in song at the annual Christmas Tree Lighting event sponsored by the Sisters Area Chamber of Commerce and the City of Sisters.

watering holes much to the delight of shops and purveyors. A good number remained at their spot on Hood Avenue, reminiscing with friends and families, greeting strangers and generally inaugurating the Christmas season.

The scene at McKenzie Meadows Park located near the high school was a scene straight out of Americana. Children from the shy to the giddy lined nearly 100 deep to visit with Santa (aka Terry Rahmsdorff from Bend). Antonio Ramirez, age 6, schooled his brother Luis, 4, and sister, Alejandra, 2,

in the best way to get on Santa’s good side. They were with mom and dad, Juana and Carlos who live in Springfield.

“We love coming to Sisters,” Juana told us.

“We spent the whole day here,” added Carlos who continued: “We came hoping to play in the snow but it was still OK. We didn’t know about the parade or Santa, so that was a really nice surprise. It will be hard to get the children to leave.”

And so it was that Christmas got rolling in Sisters Country.

*Portraits* OF SISTERS



PHOTO AND STORY BY *Cody Rheault*

“When I walk into an open space I envision how it will be used,” says *Jennifer Beech*. The 30-year Sisters resident has worked a variety of jobs in town but always had a passion for interior decorating. Moving from Port Orford in 1990, the wife and mother of one loves Sisters for its small community feel and vibe. In May of 2021 she followed her passion and opened Home Styled, a local store with the mission of decoratively complementing your home using natural materials like wood, stoneware, handmade candles, and monochromatic elements. She imagines the stories a space will tell and utilizes her vision to complement the possibilities. “Some of life’s most important events happen in your home,” she says. “I love styling them and leaving them better than I found it.” For Jennifer, the future is now. In five years she hopes to be here doing what she loves and helping your home tell more stories. Home Styled can be found at 251 Sun Ranch Dr. in Sisters.

THIS MONTH’S “PORTRAITS OF SISTERS” PRESENTED BY:



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