

COMMUNITY



PHOTO BY BILL BARTLETT

Joel Palanuk of Noble 911, competes with big national companies providing 911 call services.

When calling 911, it's David vs. Goliath

By Bill Bartlett
Correspondent

In another of those “who knew?” stories, an under-the-radar Sisters business has a large footprint beyond our borders. In this case, Noble 911 Services, headquartered on South Elm Street. Competing against multi-million-dollar entities like Century Link (now Lumen Technologies) and Motorola, Noble is the classic case of the little engine that could.

If you had to call 911 from Sisters Country, you would land on a Noble-developed-and-sold system sitting in Bend. It would be the same scenario if you called 911 from any of a number of counties in Oregon. Farther

away, Noble, founded and led by Joel Palanuk, is a smaller, albeit key component in another 100 emergency call-operations around the country.

Noble can do any or all of it, from design to integration. Their major market is within Oregon, with systems they sell in partnership with national players like AT&T who provide the hardware. There are hundreds of obstacles a small business encounters when starting up. Competing with companies thousands of times Noble's size is, surprisingly, not the biggest barrier to entry.

In Palanuk's world, overcoming regulators and bureaucracies that favor large incumbents is the hardest hill

to climb. He knows something about hills. After an 18-year career on the tech side of the phone company (Century Link) he struck out on his own and created the Sisters Stampede, the highly visible annual mountain-biking race held here every Memorial Day. He sold the Stampede, after establishing it as a premier event, and birthed Noble.

Palanuk credits his wife, Shawna, for launching Noble.

“She told me that if I could start and grow a successful cycling event, imagine what could be possible using my experience from telecommunications,” he said.

See 911 on page 20

SAR aides injured skier on Tumalo Mountain

Deschutes County Sheriff's Office Search and Rescue personnel came to the aid of an injured 24-year-old man on Tumalo Mountain on New Year's Day.

According to Deputy Shane Zook, assistant search and rescue coordinator, Deschutes County Dispatch received a 911 call at about 8:30 a.m. regarding an injured skier on the east side of Tumalo Mountain. A deputy made phone contact with the reporting person, who informed the deputy that the injured male would need assistance to get out to the parking lot at Dutchman Flat Sno-Park.

Twelve search and rescue volunteers, two seasonal deputies on snowmobiles,

and one special services deputy responded to the call. The volunteers consisted of six volunteers on snowmobiles and six volunteers on skis. The two teams traveled different routes to the injured skier. Search and rescue volunteers reached the man at about 11:35 a.m.

Members of the medical team assessed the man's physical condition and provided aid that enabled the man to ride out on a snowmobile. The man was walked down to awaiting snowmobiles at the bottom of the east slope of Tumalo Mountain.

The snowmobile team provided him with a ride out to the Dutchman Flat Sno-Park. He stated he did not need any further medical assistance.

Museum opens submissions for prize

The High Desert Museum is accepting submissions for the 2022 Waterston Desert Writing Prize.

The ninth annual Prize honors literary nonfiction that illustrates artistic excellence, sensitivity to place, and desert literacy, with the desert as both subject and setting. Early, mid-career, and established writers are invited to apply.

The prize award grew to \$3,000 this year. The winner

also will be featured in a reception and awards ceremony at the Museum in Bend in September 2022.

Inspired by author and poet Ellen Waterston's love of the High Desert, a region that has been her muse for more than 30 years, the Prize recognizes the vital role deserts play worldwide in the ecosystem and human narrative. In 2020, the High

See WRITING on page 22

SISTERS AREA MEETING CALENDAR

BOARDS, GROUPS, CLUBS

Al-Anon Mon., noon. / Thurs., 10 a.m., Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church. 541-610-7383.

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.

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.

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. 541-668-1755.

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., meeting by Zoom. 503-930-6158.

Sisters Area Photography Club 2nd Wednesday, 3:30 p.m., at Sisters Community Church. 541-549-6157.

Sisters Area Woodworkers 1st Tuesday, 7 to 9 p.m. 541-231-1897.

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

Sisters Bridge Club Thursdays, 12:30 p.m. at Sisters Community Church. Email sistersbridge2021@gmail.com.

Sisters Caregiver Support Group 3rd Tues., 10:30 a.m., Village Green Park. 541-771-3258.

Sisters Cribbage Club Please call for details. 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 Thurs., 1 p.m. Sisters Library. 541-668-6599

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

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

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 Thursday, 6:30 p.m., Spoons Restaurant. 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, 3:45 p.m., Black Butte School. 541-595-6203

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

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., 5:30 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 beth@nuggetnews.com