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Illustration workshop encourages students *page 14*



Sisters grad to intern in German parliament *page 26*



# The Nugget

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## Major shakeup in City planning

By Jim Cornelius  
News Editor

A major shakeup is under way in the City of Sisters' planning department, which has been the focus of intense scrutiny and criticism over several issues in recent months.

Sisters Community Development Director Pauline Hardie resigned Friday afternoon. The resignation will take effect March 20; she will remain on staff until then to wrap up her duties and orient a replacement.

"She has accepted a position with the City of Bend,"

See PLANNING DEPT. on page 25

Protecting land and public access...



PHOTO BY RUSS MCMILLAN

Deschutes Land Trust is in the midst of a capital campaign for Whychus Creek. See story, page 8.

## Smith returns to school board

By Jim Cornelius  
News Editor

He's back and ready to work.

The Sisters School Board last Wednesday tapped a former longtime member to fill the vacant seat of Justin Durham, who has stepped down due to business commitments. Jeff Smith will serve as an interim member until the May election, and he told *The Nugget* that he plans to stand for the position in that election.

Smith held a seat on the school board from 1999 to 2011.

"Originally I thought 12

See SMITH on page 24

## Sisters woman to help kids in Guatemala

By Jim Cornelius  
News Editor

Each year for the past five years, Amy Abramson of Blue Burro Imports has traveled to Guatemala and returned with colorful clothing, accessories, and jewelry that she sells in her Sisters boutique. This year, she's taking things with her that she'll leave in Guatemala: Donated school supplies for the children of the village of Panajachel.

"This is where I stay every year, so I've become very fond of the community," Abramson explained. "I've wanted to volunteer and donate every year, and it's never worked out. For some reason the doors opened for me this year to be able to do

that."

Through February 4, Abramson is collecting new and used school supplies — backpacks, markers, paper, crayons, pencils, sharpeners — to take with her when she travels to Guatemala next month. Donations may be brought to Blue Burro Imports at 161 N. Elm St., Unit B (in the big yellow building next to Sisters Market). Cash donations are also welcome.

Abramson is working through MayanFamilies.org. The charity identifies numerous needs among the rural indigenous population, and school supplies stood out to Abramson as a doable thing.

"I thought that would be

See GUATEMALA on page 18

## Awards announced at Sisters Library

By Helen Schmidling  
Correspondent

More than 250 art lovers visited the Friends of the Sisters Library 10th Annual Art Exhibit artists' reception on Friday evening. They came to see and vote on their favorites from approximately 130 pieces by 60 artists.

The evening ended with the long-anticipated announcement of three winners of this year's People's Choice Awards. They are: Dennis Schmidling for his photograph "Smith Rock at Dawn," Randall Tillery for his oil painting "Morning Light," and Fred Kimmell for his wooden "Rocking Harley Davidson." All three artists are from Sisters.

Dennis Schmidling shot his winning photograph "Dawn on Smith Rock" on



PHOTO BY DENNIS SCHMIDLING

Dennis Schmidling's photograph, "Smith Rock at Dawn," garnered a people's choice award.

October 9, 2014. He planned for this shot using an app on his iPhone to plot the time and location of the setting "super moon" and rising sun. Arriving at the park in darkness, he picked a spot where he could capture the

reflection of the setting moon on the Crooked River, set his Canon D5 on a tripod, and waited for the sunrise to do its magic on the rock's orange tuff surface.

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