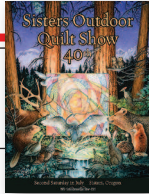


Quilt Show announces
2015 theme *page 6*



Arruda will play for
George Fox *page 16*



Library program takes to
the skies in Sisters *page 18*



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Fair ignites interest in science

By Jodi Schneider McNamee
Correspondent

The Sisters High School commons was converted into a maze of educational experiments, demonstrations and displays on Saturday, for the fourth annual Sisters Science Fair.

The air buzzed with activity as students from all three Sisters public schools shared their creative abilities, knowledge, and interests with others. Students and adult exhibitors showed off a wide range of hands-on demonstrations, from robots and dust explosions to a ping-pong cannon and lemon batteries.

Sisters Science Club President Bob Collins was having a great time watching students engage hundreds of spectators in learning the science behind each unique project.

“We have expanded, and I think compared to previous fairs the audience is more captivated by the kids and their projects. This year we have all volunteers and exhibitors wearing a bright yellow



PHOTO BY JERRY BALDOCK

Natalie Marshall show the flammability of lycopodium powder at the Sisters Science Fair, which drew a big crowd of interested Sisters Country folks.

tag. And the buzz word is “Ask Me!” And everyone is,” said Collins, co-founder of the Sisters Science Club. “We have a special visitor this year, Minda Berbeco, an expert on the carbon cycle

and climate change, from the National Center for Science Education (NCSE). She made a commitment to use our science fair as a model to create three more fairs around the country. She’s here today to

dig around and find out how things work.”

ENERGYneering Solutions, Inc., a local company, drew a big crowd with their

See SCIENCE FAIR on page 23

Chorale director donates scholarship funds

Sisters Park & Recreation District (SPRD) has received a \$4,300 donation from Irene Liden, director of Sisters High Desert Chorale. The funds are dedicated to the scholarship program.

Liden, a retired professional opera singer, is an enthusiastic walker and hiker who also volunteers as the director of her church choir along with the chorale. Her joie de vivre inspired her to assist in funding programs that encourage activities and education for youth through SPRD.

“I wanted to give back to this community,” Liden explained, “so giving young people the opportunity to learn what is going on in our state

See DONATION on page 22

City weighing loan fund to spark job growth

By Sue Stafford
Correspondent

The Sisters City Council is considering a plan to initiate a new Forgivable Loan Fund, in an attempt to attract new businesses and/or promote job creation, retention and expansion in Sisters.

They discussed the idea at their February 18 workshop.

Disbursements from the fund may take the form of low-interest loans, but all loans have to be tied directly to creation or retention of jobs in Sisters. If the jobs that were created still exist in three years, the loan is

forgiven.

The City contracts with Economic Development for Central Oregon (EDCO) for economic development strategic planning, counsel and support. In turn, EDCO is directly engaged in the recruitment of new traded-sector businesses to the City. EDCO would administer the loan program and oversee a “due diligence committee.”

Staff has been directed to prepare this program for rollout in the 2015-16 fiscal year. However, if everything comes together and there is

See CITY on page 27

Skyline Forest changes hands

By Jim Cornelius
News Editor

The Deschutes Land Trust has been working for years to acquire the vast tract of private forestlands to the southeast of Sisters known as Skyline Forest. Now DLT will be talking to a new owner.

Fidelity National Financial announced last week the closing of the sale of all of the assets of Cascade Timberlands, LLC to Singapore-based Whitefish Cascade Forest Resources, LLC. Cascade Timberlands is comprised of approximately 197,000 acres of timberland in Klamath and Deschutes counties. Fidelity reported that they received a total cash distribution of



PHOTO BY JIM CORNELIUS

Skyline Forest is the foreground for the iconic view of the Three Sisters.

approximately \$63 million from Cascade at closing.

DLT Executive Director Brad Chalfant told *The Nugget* that the sale won't negatively affect the land trust's efforts to

conserve the forest between Sisters and Bend.

“I don't see it as a negative,” he said. “Nothing's

See FOREST on page 22

Inside...

Letters/Weather2 Announcements.....12 Business at Glance.....15 Crossword18 Classifieds.....25-26
Meetings3 Movies & Entertainment....13 Obituaries16 Stars Over Sisters.....24 Real Estate23-24, 28-27