

**DONATION: SPRD depends on donations to fund scholarships**

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and in nature at SPRD was an easy choice. It is nice to add to scholarships that will help more children and teens participate in programs.”

Sisters Park & Recreation District needs about \$40,000 annually for scholarship assistance in youth and pre-school programs. Scholarship funds are 100 percent dependent on donations, either

by individuals or charitable grants. In 2014, about \$20,000 came from outside grants while the remaining \$20,000 needed to be raised through individual donations, according to Liam Hughes, SPRD executive director.

With a tax base that is the third lowest in Oregon parks and recreation districts, SPRD is in a constant drive for sports, programs and administrative funding. In comparison to other small community recreation districts, SPRD receives less than half the tax funding of Dufur, Hood River, Clatskanie and La Pine. The

district therefore must rely on “pay-to-participate” funds for all activities.

“We greatly appreciate all the donations we have received so far. Donations are key to keeping SPRD running. In addition, the Bonnie Malone Scholarship fund allows children from families in financial need to participate in our programs who might not otherwise be able to do so,” said Hughes,

Donations to the Bonnie Malone Scholarship Fund are tax-deductible through the charitable foundation of SPRD.

**FOREST: Sale won't derail Land Trust efforts**

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really changed other than that we're going to be talking to somebody different — and hopefully more responsive.”

As far back as 2007, Fidelity was offering the possibility that DLT would be able to acquire and preserve 28,000 acres of their 33,000-acre parcel as a community forest. But negotiations never really got off the ground. Nor did legislation that would have allowed some intensive development of a portion of the property.

Chalfant told *The Nugget* that intense community interest in preserving the forest might have led Fidelity to think that DLT would “pay a king's ransom” for the

property, but that was never in the cards.

Legally and ethically, “we can only pay what something is worth,” Chalfant said.

In most cases, DLT only announces their efforts to acquire a specific property when a deal is done. Many times, those deals take years and considerable negotiation to come to fruition.

“Skyline was so big and so complicated that we felt we had to announce early,” he said.

That gave the public a peek behind the curtain at how these kinds of land acquisitions roll out. If they roll out.

“It ain't pretty and it certainly isn't fast,” Chalfant

said. “It only happens when a landowner is ready.”

Chalfant is hopeful that the new owners will be ready, and receptive to working with the land trust.

“We'll be contacting them in the near future,” he said.

There is an incentive to work with DLT. Development of the property is not an easy hill to climb, as has been demonstrated by years of false starts.

“The pathway to breaking it up and developing it, while possible, is arduous,” Chalfant said.

So, with new ownership, the forest that sweeps across the high ground between Sisters and Bend may yet wind up being a community forest.

**New Oregon governor takes office with ethics pledge**

By Jonathan J. Cooper  
Associated Press

SALEM (AP) — Kate Brown became Oregon's governor with a pledge not to accept money from outside sources and to ensure anyone who pays her family and staff does not have business before the state of Oregon.

Brown took the oath of office in a short ceremony at the state Capitol Wednesday. The Democrat, formerly the secretary of state, becomes the first openly bisexual governor in the nation.

Brown replaces fellow Democrat John Kitzhaber, who was Oregon's longest-serving chief executive before his swift fall from grace in an ethics scandal that culminated with his announcement Friday that he'd step down.

In a speech to the Legislature after her swearing-in, Brown praised Kitzhaber for his contributions but said “we must restore the public's trust.”

“There is a great deal of work ahead of us, and I'm ready to roll up my sleeves and get to it,” she said in a brief address.

Meanwhile, Kitzhaber, in one of his final acts as governor, commuted the prison

sentence of a young inmate who's serving a 12-year sentence for attempted murder and other charges.

The commutation document doesn't reveal why Kitzhaber decided to release Sang Dao, 25, more than three years before his earliest possible release date. The Multnomah County District Attorney, whose office prosecuted Dao, supported the clemency, noting that Dao had turned his life around and earned a bachelor's degree while locked up.

Last summer Kitzhaber's fiancée, Cylvia Hayes, who's at the center of the ethics scandal that prompted the governor to step down, spoke at a graduation ceremony for Dao and others at a youth correctional facility, according to a report in the *Woodburn Independent*.

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