

## SMS team advances in Battle of the Books

Competition isn't confined to the court and the playing field in the Sisters School District.

Local students take part in Battle of the Books, a state-wide voluntary reading motivation and comprehension program sponsored by the Oregon Association of School Libraries in conjunction with a Library Services and Technology Act grant.

Students compete to demonstrate their reading comprehension with selected books for their age group.

"The Decided" team of sixth-graders — Jackson Parkins, Simon Rhett, Max Springer and Will Thorsett — have moved on to regional competition on March 7 in Bend.

Grades six through eight compete as a group at Sisters Middle School. Third- through fifth-graders also compete through Sisters Elementary School and Sisters Middle School. The



Team "The Decided" will represent Sisters in Battle of the Books.

mission is to encourage and recognize students who enjoy reading, to broaden reading interests, to increase reading comprehension, promote academic excellence, and to promote cooperative learning and teamwork among students.

The program is run completely by volunteers through the Oregon Association of School Libraries (OASL), and funded partially through the Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA).

## Sisters Habitat offers home repair

By Diane Goble  
Correspondent

Does your leaky roof need repair and your home exterior need a paint job? Sisters Habitat for Humanity offers affordable home repair for individuals who need assistance maintaining their homes. For those who qualify, zero-percent loans are available for most home repairs.

Lance Trowbridge, who lives in the 500-square-foot home on Adams Avenue in which he grew up in with three siblings, took advantage of Habitat's Home Repair Services to make repairs to the windows and exterior, add a new roof,



PHOTO BY DIANE GOBLE

Lance Trowbridge appreciates the help he got from Sisters Habitat for Humanity to remodel his home.

“It made a huge difference in our lives, and putting in my sweat equity hours was fun and I made some new friends.”

— Lance Trowbridge

a fresh coat of paint, and a ramp to help him maneuver his father's wheelchair.

“It made a huge difference in our lives,” Trowbridge said, “and putting in my sweat-equity hours was fun and I made some new friends.”

He said he couldn't have managed the repairs without Habitat's help and can't thank them enough.

Selection criteria include need for improved housing, ability to repay a loan, and willingness to partner with Habitat by contributing sweat equity hours dependent on the project costs. Applicants must have lived in Sisters for

at least one year, and must own and reside in the home. Repair services may include roof repair, weatherization to cut heating costs, ramps for wheelchair access, interior ADA accessories, and exterior painting.

Information and applications are available at the Sisters Habitat office located above the Thrift Store at 141 W. Main Ave. Contact Volunteer & Family Services Manager Marie Clasen at 541-549-1193 or marie@sistershabitat.org for more information.

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**FivePine Lodge & Conference Center**

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