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# The Nugget

News and Opinion  
from Sisters, Oregon

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## Herburger is Citizen of the Year

By Jim Cornelius  
News Editor

Melvin Herburger is Sisters' Citizen of the Year, and ENERGYneering Solutions, Inc. is the local Business of the Year.

The Sisters Area Chamber of Commerce handed out its awards last Friday at the annual banquet held at FivePine Lodge & Conference Center. This year, the food was provided by five different Sisters restaurants at food stations located around the conference room. Judging from the number of times patrons walked back to their tables with full plates, the new format was a success.

Herburger is one of Sisters' most beloved citizens, and in presenting the Citizen of the Year Award, Chamber President Ann Richardson listed numerous reasons why. He is a longtime booster of Sisters Outlaws activities, serves on the school board and volunteers for all kinds of fundraisers by community groups. He donates from his store, Melvin's Fir Street



PHOTO BY JERRY BALDOCK

Chamber President Ann Richardson presented Melvin Herburger with the Citizen of the Year Award.

Market, to support Sisters Family Access Network and the Kiwanis Food Bank. And he does it all with his

trademark sense of humor.

That sense of humor was on display in his acceptance of the award.

"Wow," he said, "since you put it that way, I guess I

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## Planners change code on formula food

By Jim Cornelius  
News Editor

After months of discussion and public input, Sisters planners have settled on a definition of "formula food" and restrictions on where formula food establishments can be sited in Sisters.

A "formula food establishment" is now defined as one that features standardized menus, ingredients, food preparation, employee uniforms, interior decor, signage or exterior design; or adopts a name, appearance or food presentation format that causes it to be substantially identical to 20 or more other establishments regardless of ownership or location."

See FORMULA FOOD on page 29

## New planner takes the reins in Sisters

By Sue Stafford  
Correspondent

There's a new face at Sisters City Hall: that of Patrick Davenport, the recently hired community development director who is taking over from departing Pauline Hardie.

Davenport brings with him an eclectic mix of planning experience, from being the community development director in a small Virginia town to serving in war-torn Afghanistan as a senior installation management planner for the United States Department of Defense.

Growing up on the Outer Banks of North Carolina in Nags Head, Davenport appreciates the charms and challenges of small towns.

"I hope to be here for a long time. I grew up in a small town. This is my kind of town," he said.

Davenport received his graduate degree in Public Administration from James Madison University and undergraduate degree in Parks and Recreation Management from East Carolina University. A stint in the Peace Corps in the Kingdom of Lesotho in

See PLANNER on page 30

## Young songwriters gather to learn

By Jim Cornelius  
News Editor

Young songwriters from across Central Oregon and as far away as California and Colorado gathered in Sisters to share in the joys of self-expression and hone the craft of songwriting.

The event is presented annually by Sisters Folk Festival. This year, the setting for the Americana Songwriting Academy for Youth was The Belfry, where instructors with experience and passion for a life in music taught breakout sessions and helped the young artists bring their ideas to life.

One of the instructors was Sisters Folk Festival



PHOTO BY JAY MATHER

Hannah Stuwe and Shae Gascon performed at The Barn as part of the Americana Song Academy for Youth.

Americana Project alum Slater Smith, who has become a songwriter especially noted for a project that took him to each of Oregon's State Parks,

where he created a song and a video. Smith taught a section on "Beating Writer's Block

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