

Summit focuses on economic vitality

By **Jim Cornelius**
News Editor

Sisters' economic engine is beginning to hum along more smoothly, and a group of citizens will gather May 8 to explore how the community can get it tuned up and rumbling into the future.

Sisters Country Economic Vitality Summit — Shaping Sisters: Pioneers on the Frontier of Innovation runs Friday, May 8, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at FivePine Conference Center. The event is free and open to the public, but advance registration is required; there are a few places left at the table.

"Our goal is 90 to 95 percent Sisters community members — those who want to be part of shaping our future and strengthening our economy," said Caprielle Foote-Lewis, Sisters' economic development manager who is assisting with the event.

The event is being organized by Rural Development Initiatives and is sponsored by the Ford Family Foundation.

"We're bringing in outside resources to offer what other communities have done in economically challenging times... — Caprielle Foote-Lewis"

Foote-Lewis emphasized that this is not one more "visioning" process. It's really about forging cooperative approaches to building Sisters' economic vitality, leveraging the community's many cultural and natural assets, and overcoming the

challenges inherent in operating an economy in a small community in what remains a rural and somewhat off-the-beaten-path area.

"This is *not* a visioning process," said Foote-Lewis. "We're bringing in outside resources to offer what other communities have done in economically challenging times... The takeaway is that (participants) should feel inspired to get more involved in what they're passionate about. This is a call to action; it's an invitation to be engaged."

In order to make that engagement pay off, there will be follow-up group work facilitated by the organizers and sponsor.

Two keynote speakers will be featured at the summit.

Kyle Sexton, marketing strategist with ChamberThink Strategies in Salem, will present "Follow You Anywhere: The Alignment of Leadership and Marketing."

Bob Cooper, CECd, director of corporate relations for Landmark Development in Las Vegas, Nevada, will speak on "Embracing Change: Striking the Balance Between Innovation and Tradition."

A panel discussion will cover the "Spirit of Sisters — Culture of Innovation & Authenticity."

There will be a networking lunch and the summit will close with a discussion of "Taking Action Locally & Building Momentum" led by Noelle Colby-Rotell of Rural Development Initiatives. A reception at Three Creeks Brewing Co. is set for 3:15 p.m.

To register, follow the link accompanying the online version of this story at www.nuggetnews.com.

LETTERS

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To the Editor:

We want to personally thank all the property owners in the Cloverdale Rural Fire Protection District who, by a strong majority, supported our recent request for a much-needed bond measure.

We will continue to work with the fire chief and volunteer staff as a team to manage a solid plan that will move the district forward in a fiscally responsible manner for the next 20 years of operations.

Every dollar that we requested in the bond levy was carefully considered in the overall plan that was submitted for your approval. We only asked for the required expenditures to address critical issues that have affected our operations. We, as current members of your district board of directors, take your support very seriously, and every decision that we make is ruled by a majority vote of all five members present at an authorized meeting. We may not all agree on an issue, but once a vote has been made all members should support the decision.

Our board meetings are open to the public and advertised in public notices. We urge anyone in the district to attend if they have any questions or concerns as to how the district is being managed.

The district has come a long way since its humble beginning some 50 years ago, and many teams have been responsible for bringing us to this point in time.

It has truly been our pleasure to serve on your board of directors for the past four years, and three of us must now ask for your vote for our re-election so that we, as dedicated members of a proven team, may continue to serve you for another four years.

Jerry B. Johnson, current board president
John Thomas, current board secretary/
treasurer
Tom Barrier, current board director

To the Editor:

As a former captain in the Cloverdale Fire District and a 22-year resident in the

Cloverdale area, I have seen the Cloverdale Fire District progress from a colloquial organization into a capable professional operational department the residents can depend on.

With Jerry Johnson, John Thomas, Tom Barrier and Cindy Kettering on the Board of Directors, the Cloverdale Fire District has continued to advance in their fire protection and emergency medical service capabilities.

The Cloverdale residents can be secure in their trust of the fire district personnel's ability to provide exceptional service in times of need. It was under the direction and support of these directors that the district bond measure was developed and brought to fruition. With their vision and leadership, the Cloverdale Fire District is moving forward to design and build new fire apparatus and equipment facilities to provide the proactive services the residents expect and deserve from their fire district.

The terms on the board for Jerry, John and Tom are coming up for renewal. I therefore strongly recommend the residents of the Cloverdale Rural Fire Protection District vote to return Jerry Johnson, John Thomas and Tom Barrier to the board of directors in this upcoming election. Their experience, knowledge and understanding of the district, its changing population and the requirements therein necessitate your voting for their continuation on the board of directors.

David Hiller

To the Editor:

My name is Rob Malone; I am running for the position of director for the Cloverdale Rural Fire Protection District.

I and my family have been members of the Sisters Country Community for more than 15 years. I decided to run following the passage of the bond measure for new equipment and facilities as I feel strongly taxpayer money should be shepherded well. I did a little homework and found what, perhaps, is an insufficient level of oversight by the board as it relates to significant monetary decisions.

I watched the new offices at the end of

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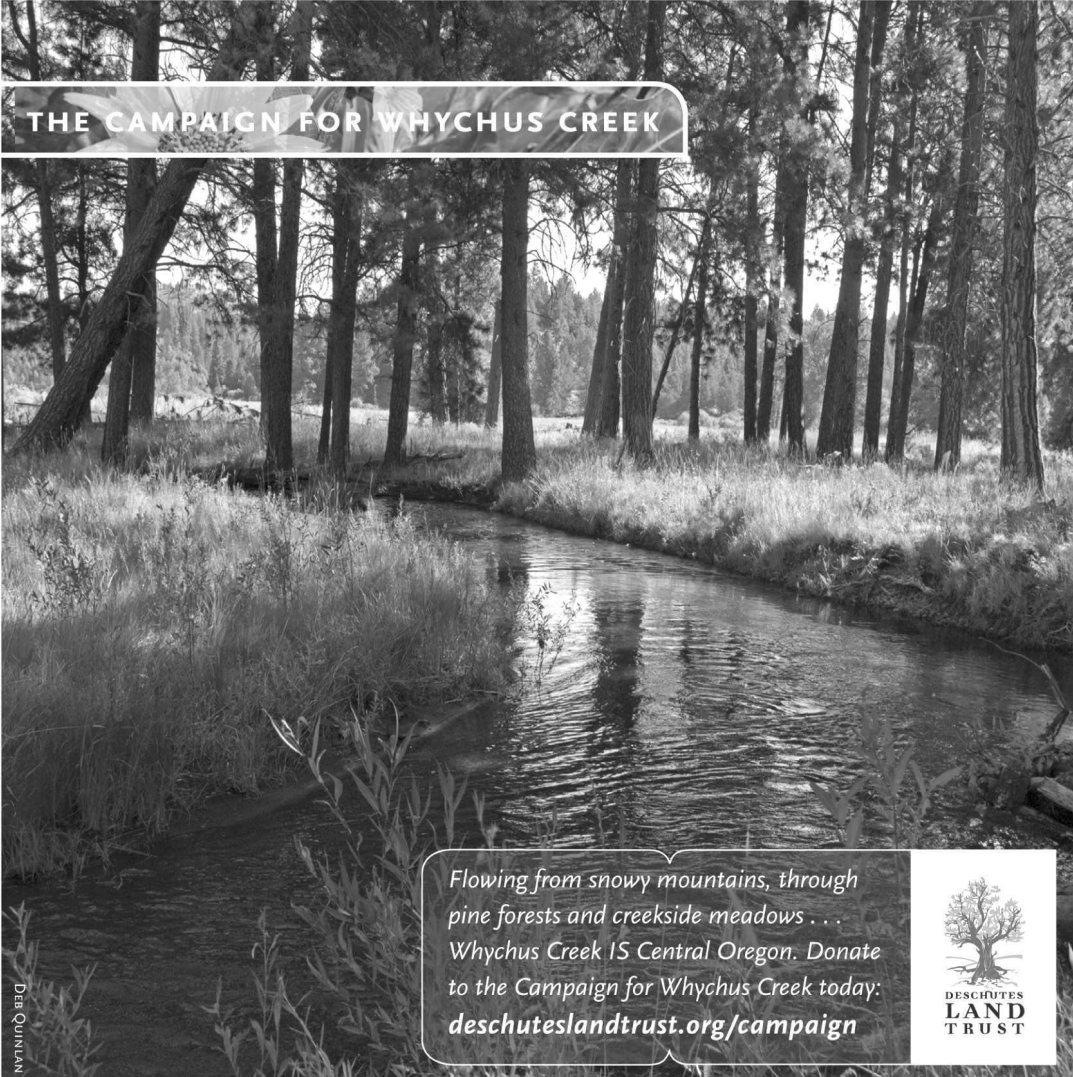
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