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Kids get their hands dirty on the farm

By Jim Cornelius
News Editor

Sisters students know something that too many Americans in the 21st century have forgotten: Food doesn't just magically appear in the grocery store.

A group of sixth-graders got a hands-on lesson in where their food comes from on Friday, through the Seed-to-Table program. The kids piled out of busses at the Seed-to-Table Farm adjacent to Mahonia Gardens on the southeast edge of Sisters. The farm plot is located on land donated by the Tehan family and funded by community sponsors and the Sisters Science Club.

The students had already done some work on the projects that would absorb them through the morning. They had started seedlings of kale, radishes, spinach and more in a greenhouse, and now they were going to put them in the ground under the supervision



PHOTO BY JIM CORNELIUS

Sisters sixth-graders planted seedlings at the Seed-to-Table Farm at the edge of town.

of Lauren Griswold, a Seed-to-Table coordinator.

The seed-to-table concept is literal: the students will be eating their own produce.

"You'll have to keep your eyes peeled in the cafeteria, because this very spinach, kale ... radishes might turn up in your salad bar," said

Griswold. "Seed-to-table!"

Griswold supervised and assisted the students as they

See SEED TO TABLE on page 29

Sisters set to celebrate the arts

Sisters' biggest celebration of the arts kicks off on Friday with a parade and an art stroll, featuring works that will be auctioned the following day at a party at Ponderosa Forge & Ironworks.

The annual My Own Two Hands celebration of the arts is not only a way for the community to enjoy and rejoice in the exceptional arts and music scene that has developed here over the past two decades — it is also a primary fundraiser for the programs offered by Sisters Folk Festival (SFF). The Americana Project, the guitar-building program and other endeavors are all funded through the sale of works donated by a who's-who of

See MOTH on page 28

Fire district election turns contentious

By Jim Cornelius
News Editor

Fire district elections are usually quiet affairs that garner little attention. But this spring's election for the Cloverdale Rural Fire Protection District board has gotten heated. Candidates are placing ads and putting up yard signs across the district in what has turned out to be a contested — and contentious — election.

Incumbents Jerry B. Johnson, current board president John Thomas, and Tom Barrier are seeking reelection, campaigning on their successful shepherding of a \$2.475 million bond to replace fire engines and replace the

Cloverdale Road fire station, and for renovation of the George Cyrus Road fire station.

Johnson is challenged by Rob Malone, who is director of golf at Aspen Lakes, and Barrier is facing a challenge from Alycia Downs, who has been volunteer secretary for the fire district.

Backers of Downs have alleged that Barrier intends to resign if elected, allowing the board to appoint another member and circumventing the election process.

Barrier heatedly denied that. He said he had planned to retire from the board, but was talked into running again

See ELECTION on page 31

County declares drought emergency

By Jim Cornelius
News Editor

Everybody who irrigates knows it — and last week the Deschutes County Board of Commissioners made it official: There's a drought emergency on the Three Sisters Irrigation District (TSID).

The county declaration is, in effect, a recommendation that will be passed up to the state level and requires the signature of Gov. Kate Brown. The declaration is expected to be approved by the state drought council in their May 16 meeting.

"The purpose of the drought declaration is multiple," said TSID manager Marc Thalacker. "Once it is in place and the governor declares a drought for us, that kind of opens the door for our



PHOTO BY JIM CORNELIUS

Whychus Creek didn't get the snowmelt runoff it should this season, which poses a crisis for irrigators.

farmers to avail themselves of local and state programs."

The declaration expedites processes for irrigators to

change their point of diversion or to switch to irrigating

See DROUGHT on page 28

Inside...

Letters/Weather	2	Announcements.....	12	Gotta Have It.....	19	Obituaries	24	Classifieds.....	25-27
Meetings	3	Movies & Entertainment....	13	Student of the Month	20	Crossword	24	Real Estate	27-32