

Local family endures terrifying flight Agendas...

By Jim Cornelius
News Editor

The Rhett family of Sisters was on their way home from a family vacation in New England last Friday when they flew into a nightmare.

Over Nebraska, Delta Flight 1889 from Boston to Salt Lake City ran into severe turbulence. Lightning flashed and big hailstones pelted the plane.

“Suddenly we just dropped,” said 12-year-old Simon Rhett. “And then we’d rise up and then drop again. People were just looking at each other like ‘this isn’t supposed to happen.’”

As the plane was buffeted by the convergence of two powerful storms, passengers began to scream in fear.

“The screaming and the hail and lightning — it was really chaotic. Crazy,” Simon recalled.

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— Simon Rhett



PHOTO BY SIMON RHETT

Severe hail damage was apparent as the Rhett family left the plane after a scary flight.

Simon and his mom, Angeline, saw bursts of fire coming out of an engine.

The plane dropped 15,000 feet in just a few seconds.

“I think basically the pilot dove out of the storm,” said Angeline.

Simon recalled that the pilot came on the intercom to inform the passengers that they were going to divert to Denver.

“We have a little windshield damage,” the pilot told them.

That was an understatement.

When the Airbus A320 landed safely in Denver, fire engines and police were on

the tarmac. Ground crews gathered to look at the plane. When the Rhetts turned around after disembarking, they saw the full extent of what had happened during the storm.

The windshield was a spiderweb of cracks, the nosecone of the aircraft was stove in and all the paint chipped off.

“When we looked, it was just hard to take it in,” Angeline Rhett said.

The experience was as chilling in retrospect as it was terrifying in the moment.

“You really have no control and it’s a long way down,” Angeline said. “I

really enjoy flying — but I’ve lost my flying innocence.”

For his part, Simon has an amazing story to tell — but one he’s not anxious to experience again.

“I probably will get on an airplane,” he said. “But not any time soon.”

Sisters City Council
City Hall, 520 E. Cascade Ave.

Thursday, August 13.
6 p.m. workshop

- 911 presentation/letter of support — Steve Reinke, Deschutes County 911 Service District Director

- Letter of support review — Sisters to Black Butte Ranch Trail

- Letter of support review — Petersen Ridge Trailhead.

- Department of Land Conservation and Development (DCCD) Technical Assistance Grant.

7 p.m. regular meeting:

- Resolution No. 2015-18: Approving fire protection code.

- Resolution No. 2015-19: Supporting Carver Lake Moraine Dam Risk Analysis and Reduction Project.

- Resolution No. 2015-20: Amending City pay plan classification.

- Letter of support for the formation of a new 911 Service District establishing a permanent tax rate and conversion to a regional radio system.

- Approve Deschutes County 911 Service District Document No. 2015-109 amending Operating Agreement DC 2013-654 — K.

- Title VI plan.

- Recommendation to the Oregon Liquor License Commission on the annual

renewal of liquor licenses for Sisters businesses.

- Declare certain City property as surplus and authorize the city manager to dispose of the equipment.

- Modify U.S. Bank authorized account signers.

- Easement agreement between the City of Sisters and Sisters Lodge Holdings, LLC for a bicycle and pedestrian path.

- Dedication agreement between the City of Sisters and Sisters Lodge Holdings, LLC for a public right-of-way dedication.

- Water right transfer application.

Sisters Planning Commission

City Hall, 520 E. Cascade Ave., Thursday, August 20, 5:30 p.m.

Workshop discussion: Comprehensive Plan and Development Code amendments.

- Pine Meadow Village — discussion on adopting PMV planned unit development standards.

- 1.3 — Definitions for formula foods establishments;

- 2.2 — Residential;

- 2.3 — multifamily residential;

- 2.4 — Downtown Commercial District;

- 3.2 — Landscaping.

- Review of residential units summary and neighborhood development status

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Bob & Carolyn Burdick

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