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Representing Caldera at White House

By Jim Cornelius
News Editor

A young Sisters artist who admittedly came to the Caldera arts-based mentorship program as “a shy and timid seventh-grader who rarely voiced opinions for fear of the repercussions,” stepped into the national spotlight on Tuesday, November 17.

Alena Nore, now 18 and a senior at Sisters High School, visited the White House to receive an award from First Lady Michelle Obama. Alena attended a special White House ceremony as a youth representative of Caldera, which was being honored for its excellence in mentoring youth through the arts and humanities.

Caldera, located west of Sisters on the shores of Blue Lake, mentors youth with seven years of continuous, year-round arts and environmental programming. Since its founding in 1996, the



PHOTO PROVIDED

Alena Nore is a dedicated artist who developed her passion at Caldera.

program has engaged approximately 1,900 young people — from both urban and rural areas — who come to the program with myriad strengths

but limited opportunities.

Recognized with a 2015 National Arts and Humanities Youth Program Award, Caldera becomes the first

Oregon nonprofit to be so honored.

The award is the nation’s

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Keeping letter writing alive in Sisters

By Erin Borla
Correspondent

In a world and a generation so connected to electronics, the Great American Mail Race helps keep the art of letter-writing alive in the spirit of young people.

The Great American Mail Race has students from across the country researching schools and sending out letters — like an old-fashioned pen pal. Sixth-grade language-arts students in Mrs. Becky Aylor’s classes have written to over 180 different schools across the country this year alone — and some

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McKenzie Meadows gets extension from City

By Sue Stafford
Correspondent

McKenzie Meadow Village, represented by partner Mike Reed, requested an extension of their approved subdivision from the Sisters Planning Commission at their Thursday, November 19 meeting. The commission unanimously consented.

The extension request was due to delays in construction because of a Land Use Board of Appeals (LUBA) filing by Pinnacle Alliance Group, the organization originally contracted with for construction of MMV Phase 1 — an assisted-living facility.

After three-and-a-half years of being unable to

secure the necessary financing by Pinnacle, MMV severed the contract. Since that time, Pinnacle has been actively filing appeals that have delayed the beginning of construction of Phase 1 by Kevin Cox, who has his financing and all necessary approvals. Reed reported that Cox is leery of beginning work due to the LUBA appeal. It was reported that Cox has been unable to get a legal brief from the City attorney so he can see where he stands.

When asked how long the LUBA decision might take, Patrick Davenport, community development director, said that the attorneys for

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Be alert for weather conditions

The season of wild weather has announced itself in Sisters Country.

A windstorm that featured gusts upwards of 60 miles per hour roared through town on Tuesday, November 17, felling trees and leaving a mess of debris.

A tree fell across Highway 20 near Black Butte Ranch, and was hit by a semi-truck. No one was hurt, but nighttime traffic on the highway backed up while Oregon Department of Transportation crews cleared the tree.

It was a near miss for Sisters educator and *Nugget* freelancer Charlie Kanzig, who was on the road when the tree went down.

“That was a scary deal,” he told *The Nugget*. “If that truck had not hit the tree first as I approached I am not sure I



PHOTO BY CHARLIE KANZIG

A semi-truck hit a downed tree last week during a big wind storm.

would have stopped in time.”

Part of a tree fell on the bed of a pickup truck parked in front of Sisters Movie House, and a tree or part of one reportedly fell on a

residential trailer in Sisters. In all cases, there were no injuries.

A soaking rain moved in overnight on Wednesday; by

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