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# The Nugget

News and Opinion from Sisters, Oregon

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## Sisters canines meet Santa

By Jodi Schneider McNamee  
Correspondent

Animal lovers in Sisters didn't have to worry about their pets feeling left out this Christmas, because Santa made a special appearance for a howl-iday celebration on Saturday at the Maida Bailey building behind the Sisters Area Chamber of Commerce Visitors Center.

The jovial gathering of canines and their pet parents provided Fido with the opportunity to be photographed with the "Big Dog" himself.

Many people consider their pets cherished members of the family; it's no wonder that folks want photos not just of their kids with Santa, but their furry kids as well. And loads of folks and families brought their beloved furry friends inside the festive building Saturday to get a portrait with St. Nick.

"Pet Photos with Santa went fantastic on Saturday! I think everyone had a good time, people and four-leggeds alike," said Furry Friends Foundation (FFF) Founder



PHOTO BY JODI SCHNEIDER MCNAMEE

Greyhounds Charlie, Audrey, and Byron got a photo with Santa to please their people, Jeff Omodt and Winnie St. John.

Kiki Dolson. "The new location at the Maida Bailey building behind the Chamber worked wonderfully with an entrance and exit, so the dogs didn't have to cross paths."

Many volunteers manned the FFF table, where there were plenty of pawsitively great gifts for the holidays, such as hand-painted Christmas ornaments that

could be personalized with your pet's name. And custom dog coats and sweaters hand-made by Monica Rendon and

See PET PHOTOS on page 30

## Sisters in giving mode for holidays

By Erin Borla  
Correspondent

For the past several years the Sisters-Camp Sherman Rural Fire Protection District and their staff have worked alongside the Sisters Kiwanis Food Bank and the Family Access Network (FAN) to ensure all families have a happy holiday.

The Tree of Giving provides over 100 kids, aged newborn to senior in high school, with packages to open on the Christmas holiday including needed clothing items and a new toy. This, coupled with the Spirit of Christmas Foodshare program, allows for families that may have fallen on hard times to have a happy holiday.

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## Tree smashes into house in Sisters

High winds snapped off a ponderosa pine tree about 10 feet above ground level, sending the trunk and branches crashing down on a home at 208 W. St. Helens St. in Sisters Monday evening.

There were no injuries in the incident, although the home was occupied.

Shirley Lalli reported that the tree came down on her kitchen at about 6 p.m., shortly after she had fixed dinner and just before she headed back in there to do the dishes.

"Five more minutes, I'd have been out there doing the dishes," Lalli told *The*

*Nugget*.

"The kitchen is gone," she noted.

A branch penetrated the living room ceiling right above her sister Leora's head.

The fire department required that the Lallis leave the home overnight due to the amount of weight that was resting on the roof. On Tuesday morning, Frank and Shirley were awaiting the arrival of an insurance team to determine their next actions.

High winds were expected through Tuesday night and

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## School maintenance is a big job

By Erin Borla  
Correspondent

The maintenance staff for the Sisters School District always seems to be hard at work on one project or another. It's their job through the direction of the Director of Operations Leland Bliss to keep Sisters students safe and the District's buildings in the best repair possible.

The three maintenance men on staff include Tony Adair, Guy Selig, and Gary Pepperling. These three men work 245 days a year, 8 hours a day — unless there is an after-hours emergency, snow-storm, or other issue.

"My crew is amazing," says Bliss. "They work



PHOTO BY ERIN BORLA

Guy Selig, maintenance staff person for Sisters School District, works on the scissor lift at Sisters High School.

especially hard — we have been down one full-time maintenance position for the last five to six years — and these guys always pick up the

slack."

In addition to the loss of a maintenance position several

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