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The Nugget

News and Opinion
from Sisters, Oregon

Vol. XXXVIII No. 50

www.NuggetNews.com

Wednesday, December 16, 2015

City reaffirms its findings on TUP issue

By Sue Stafford
Correspondent

City staff, and council with a Thursday-night approval of additional findings, reaffirmed their previous rulings on a controversial land-use application for events on a vacant lot on Cascade Avenue.

Sisters City Council voted on December 10 to approve a motion making additional findings as outlined in a remand by the Oregon Land Use Board of Appeals (LUBA) regarding an appeal by Sisters entrepreneur Celia Hung of a land-use application for a temporary-use

See PERMITS on page 22

Singing out in holiday spirit...



PHOTO BY JERRY BALDOCK

Noah Eckstine, Mark Gross, Aaron Cermak and Joe Eckstine belt it out during the annual Holiday Showcase featuring the talents of students from the Sisters High School choir and jazz choir, as well as select singers from across the Sisters community.

Schools take a hard look at safety

By Erin Borla
Correspondent

It is of utmost importance to everyone in the Sisters School District to keep the students and staff safe at all times. There are a variety of factors that must be considered when talking about safety at the District.

Director of Operations Leland Bliss recently had a walk-through of all three schools with Chris Dorn, the Regional School Safety Specialist from High Desert Education Service District (ESD). Dorn's first priority was to review safety services and provide additional feedback and perspective.

See SAFETY on page 18

Keep dogs safe during trapping season

By Jim Cornelius
News Editor

Trapping season is underway across Sisters Country, and the Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife is putting out the word to dog owners to keep them from inadvertently getting snared.

Traps can be set on public land, but state regulations require they be set at minimum distances from designated trails and public-use areas. Traps may also be set on private land by permission of the landowner.

"Dogs running loose run the risk of being accidentally captured in legally set traps, which could cause serious

injury or even death," said Derek Broman, ODFW furbearer coordinator. "To help keep dogs safe and prevent such tragedies from happening, we want their owners to be aware of the possibility of trapping activity in areas where they spend time outdoors with their dogs."

Such a tragedy took place along the Metolius River in February 2012.

Kieri, an 8-year-old wheaten terrier belonging to Jill and Jack Williamson was caught in an unmarked conibear trap placed improperly just 18 inches from the trail near Wizard Falls Fish

See DOG SAFETY on page 24

SFF upgrades school equipment

By Jim Cornelius
News Editor

Whether they're performing music or doing a video presentation in an assembly, it's important that students sound as good as they can. With that in mind, Brad Tisdell and Pete Rathbun of the Sisters Folk Festival (SFF) recently installed new sound equipment at Sisters Elementary School. And they're doing another upgrade this week at Sisters Middle School.

The equipment is provided as part of a Studio to Schools grant through the Oregon Community Foundation. The program is a five-year statewide project to enhance arts education K-8. The program is a seamless fit with



PHOTO BY LYNN WOODWARD

Sisters Elementary School Principal Becky Stoughton looks on as Brad Tisdell hooks up new sound equipment donated by Sisters Folk Festival.

the festival's ongoing music education outreach programs, including the Americana Project and the high school

guitar-building program. SFF Creative Director

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