



The Nugget

News and Opinion from Sisters, Oregon

POSTAL CUSTOMER
PRE-SORTED STANDARD
ECRWSS
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
Sisters, OR
Permit No. 15

Vol. XXXIX No. 11

www.NuggetNews.com

Wednesday, March 16, 2016

Students shine in epic Battle of the Books Council to review report on city manager

By Charlie Kanzig
Correspondent

Sisters Middle School was teeming with young readers of all ages on Saturday, March 12. An epic battle was joined, involving students from throughout the greater Central Oregon region. Book titles were tossed like grenades, arsenals of author's names flew like arrows, and highly detailed facts from some of today's best books became the weapons of choice in hand-to-hand combat between the teams.

And one Sisters team did well enough to qualify to travel to state competition.

According to its website, Oregon Battle of the Books (OBOB) is "a state-wide voluntary reading motivation and comprehension program sponsored by the Oregon Association of School Libraries in conjunction with a Library Services and Technology Act grant. Students in third through 12th grade, regardless of ability, are exposed to quality literature representing a variety of



PHOTO BY JERRY BALDOCK

Sisters fifth graders qualified for state competition in the Battle of the Books that packed the middle school.

literary styles and viewpoints. The mission is to encourage and recognize students who enjoy reading, to broaden reading interests, to increase reading comprehension, promote academic excellence, and to promote cooperative learning and teamwork

among students."

By the end of the day, all squads felt the weariness of the clash, but also the satisfaction of good teamwork and true sportsmanship, according to event organizer and Sisters Middle School teacher Deb Riehle.

"One thing I love is how intense each battle is, and how exhausted they are afterwards, like a true competition of any kind," she said. "These teams of kids work very hard and compete very hard as well. It

See BOOKS on page 22

Council to review report on city manager

By Sue Stafford
Correspondent

The investigation into complaints received from several Sisters City Hall employees regarding City Manager Andrew Gorayeb is complete, and the Sisters City Council is trying to determine how to review the report.

According to Mayor Chris Frye, the investigator hoped to have the report completed by the end of this week, with perhaps an executive summary prepared by the time of an already-scheduled executive session on Wednesday, March 16. However, that executive session was canceled on Monday.

See GORAYEB on page 26

Sisters veteran testifies in Washington

On February 24, representatives of the American Legion from all over the United States converged on Washington D.C. to present the Legion's Legislative Agenda to the 114th Congress, 2nd Session, subcommittee on Veterans' Affairs.

The American Legion serves as a voice for over two million American veterans and service members.

Representing Oregon was Sisters resident Eugene Hellickson, 2nd Vice Commander Department of Oregon. Leading the Legion's agenda in a packed chamber

was National Commander Dale Burnett, retired Army Lieutenant Colonel and West Point graduate.

The primary focus of this year's testimony before the subcommittee was centered on driving accountability. The federal government has struggled with accountability in recent years, in particular in regards to veterans. Issues facing veterans are numerous and complex. No one wants another gross systematic failure in the Department of Veterans Affairs like the one that led to preventable death.

See HELLICKSON on page 25

Winter storm blankets Sisters Country

Jim Cornelius
News Editor

It may be a little late in the season for some folks' taste, but a heavy winter storm brought good news to irrigators and skiers, dumping well over two feet of snow across the Cascades.

The heavy snowfall means that Hoodoo Ski Area west of Sisters will have prime conditions for skiing when Sisters schools let out for spring break next week.

The ski area will host a demo day, "Preview the New," on March 19, providing free test runs of new ski and snowboard models.

The snowpack, which was just about normal or slightly



PHOTO COURTESY HOODOO

Hoodoo is reveling in a heavy blanket of late-season snow – just in time for spring break.

above normal through most of the Deschutes Basin, received a significant boost from the heavy high-elevation snowfall.

Precipitation falling in the

form of snow instead of heavy rain means the water stays locked up for longer, instead of simply washing down

See SNOW on page 27

Inside...

Letters/Weather	2	Obituaries	8-9	Movies & Entertainment....	11	Crossword	27	Classifieds.....	28-30
Meetings	3	Announcements.....	10	Focus on Health	13-21	Sisters Salutes	27	Real Estate	30-32