

Sisters Country birds

By Douglas Beall
Correspondent

The northern pintail is a relatively common dabbling duck feeding on grains, seeds, crustaceans and aquatic insects. It gets its name from the long tail feathers ending in a distinctive narrow sharp tip.

They begin nesting in very early spring, laying 6-12 pale olive eggs which hatch in 21-25 days. Ducklings leave the nest immediately and are capable of flying in 38-45 days.

Pintails once were one of the most abundant ducks in North America but have suffered a disturbing decline since the 1950s. A loss of 2.6 percent population per year between 1966 and 2012 resulted in a cumulative decline of 72 percent. In 2009 the pintail's population was estimated at 3.2

million birds well below the American Waterfowl Management Plans objective of 5.5 million.

Slim and long-necked, the northern pintail displays an elegant appearance on water and in flight, earning the nickname "greyhound of the sky."

Groups of pintails are known as a "paddling," "raft," or a "flush."

For more images visit <http://abirdsingsbecauseithasasong.com/recent-journeys>.



PHOTO BY DOUGLAS BEALL

The northern pintail.

Hospital reaches settlement in medication error death

BEND (AP) — The family of a woman who died after being given the wrong medication at St. Charles Medical Center has reached a settlement with the Bend hospital.

The Bend Bulletin reports that 65-year-old Loretta Macpherson, of Sisters, died in December 2014. The hospital found that a pharmacy worker had inadvertently filled an IV bag with the wrong drug, which caused Macpherson to suffer cardiac

arrest and brain damage.

An attorney for the family says they reached a settlement with the hospital on Thursday, but she could not disclose the monetary amount.

Deschutes County District Attorney John Hummel said in an email Tuesday that his office is continuing an investigation into Macpherson's death that will determine whether the hospital will face criminal charges.

Sisters women create quilts for kids

By Jim Cornelius
News Editor

There comes a time in some children's lives when they really need the comfort of a warm, colorful quilt. Perhaps they've been in an accident or a house-fire, or experienced some other trauma.

Those quilts are on hand for local law enforcement agencies and fire departments to distribute at need, thanks to the efforts of the ladies' sewing group at St. Edward the Martyr Roman Catholic Church in Sisters.

"Twice a year we do a week of sewing and we give the quilts to the sheriff and the fire department," said Mary Richards, the leader of the sewing group.

"We made this week alone 51 quilt tops," she told *The*



PHOTO BY JIM CORNELIUS

Quilters at St. Edward's Catholic Church have made quilts for kids in need.

Nugget last Friday. "They're not all finished, but they'll get finished. We had probably 10 or 12 ladies here every single day."

The motivation for that commitment of time is simple, Richards says: "The satisfaction is that some child is going to smile. I think there are a lot of hurting kids out there."

Sisters icon set to return...



PHOTO BY JIM CORNELIUS

The historic Hotel Sisters is home to the new Sisters Saloon, set for a grand opening on April 1.

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