The Nugget

News and Opinion from Sisters, Oregon

Vol. XXXIX No. 20 | www.NuggetNews.com | Wednesday, May 18, 2016

Sisters celebrates the arts at MOTH

By Jodi Schneider McNamee
Correspondent

An astonishingly generous community stepped up to raise a grand total of approximately $140,000 to support arts and music programs in Sisters during the 15th annual My Own Two Hands (MOTH) fundraiser last weekend.

The art auction and party held annually at Ponderosa Forge & Ironworks was the scene of hot and heavy bidding on magnificent art — from functional art like furniture and other woodwork, to paintings, to musical instruments to a tipi.

The fundraiser supports the arts and music education and outreach programs of Sisters Folk Festival.

Among some wild bidding wars there were some breathtaking moments of generosity from the contributing artists. Susie Zeitner contributed one of her signature glass light fixtures — along with a working session with the

PHOTO BY JAY MATHER

Susie Zeitner's donation —a hand-crafted glass light fixture got double-action in the MOTH auction.

winning bidder. When two bidders dueled all the way up to $4,000, Zeitner offered to double her contribution. So both bidders won, and the Festival gained $8,000.

Paige Bruguier, a former

student who benefitted from the Festival's programs

Analyzing the Gorayeb report

By Jim Cornelius
News Editor

In the face of an order from District Attorney John Hummel, the Sisters City Council agreed on Monday to release the investigator's report into the conduct of now former city manager Andrew Gorayeb.

Goryayeb had been placed on administrative leave on February 25, after complaints were made by some City employees regarding conduct that was described only as not financial, physical, or sexual in nature. An independent investigation of the complaints took several weeks to complete, followed by lengthy deliberations by the council, which culminated

USFS to identify dead trees for removal

By Jim Cornelius
News Editor

Rough estimates indicated that there are something like 200 trees along the Highway 20 corridor west of Sisters that are dead or dying. The Forest Service and the Oregon Department of Transportation have acknowledged that the use of the pesticide Perspective© — along with environmental factors like drought — caused the die-off.

"Nobody can say for sure how many trees are affected or will be," said Sisters District Ranger Kristie Miller.

Miller told *The Nugget* that the Forest Service is working with ODOT to figure out what the next steps will be in addressing the problem. ODOT is responsible for handling trees that become a safety issue on the highway, and a spokesman told *The Nugget* last week that hazard trees will be cut down as part of regular highway maintenance operations.

Miller said that her agency will conduct an environmental analysis to identify trees that need to be cut down and remove them.

Leave young wildlife in the wild

May and June are the months when newborn animals are getting their start in the wild. Help them out by giving them space and leaving them alone.

ODFW and Oregon State Police remind Oregonians that taking young animals out of the wild isn't just against the law — it's also bad for the animal. These animals miss the chance to learn important survival skills from their parents like where to feed, what to eat, how to behave as part of a group and how to escape from predators.

Every year about this time, ODFW offices across Oregon get calls from people concerned about "orphaned" deer fawns, elk calves, seal pups

PHOTO BY ANNAMARIE NORMAN

Leave 'em alone!

and other animals they find alone. But the mother animal is usually just off feeding not far away. She will return soon, so don't interfere.

"People often pick up

animals they find alone out of good intentions, without realizing they may be sentencing the animal to an early death by removing it from its natural