

## New greenhouse is shaping up

By Jim Cornelius  
News Editor

Back in February 2014, a massive snowstorm hit Sisters Country, dropping nearly three feet of snow in a couple of days. The greenhouse at Sisters Middle School, where students learned about plant life, couldn't handle the load. It collapsed in a pile of bent and twisted metal and plastic, never to rise again.

But the community of volunteers who cared about the greenhouse, from teachers to seed-to-table advocates to the Sisters Science Club and Sisters Kiwanis weren't about

to let the greenhouse die an ignominious death.

After determining that it would better serve students if located at Sisters High School, a volunteer crew began making preparations for building a new, improved greenhouse. It hasn't been easy. Insurance money only covered a portion of the new greenhouse, which required a much more robust design, capable of withstanding the kind of snowfall that killed its predecessor.

The school district had a little bit of money to contribute.

"The rest of it came from

community donations," said Kiwanian and project leader David Hiller. "We've had a brand-new family move into town and they've been very generous."

A slab was poured and the parts ordered for a custom greenhouse. But there were the kind of complications you get when you try to mix a custom design with standardized parts: difficulties getting the parts to match the plan — or the plans to match the parts as the case might be.

Greenhouse technician Steve Leitzel took it upon himself to come to Sisters from Salinas, California, to get the project lined out.

"He was exceptional," said Hiller. "He worked all day."

With Leitzel's expertise, a volunteer crew was able to get the structure up.

"It's structurally finished," Hiller told *The Nugget*.

Trenching was to get underway this week for wiring and utilities, and the greenhouse is slated to be finished and operational by September 1, so that students can begin using it for their science classes and their seed-to-table curriculum.



PHOTO BY DAVID HILLER

The greenhouse is structurally finished.



Best Vue Blinds

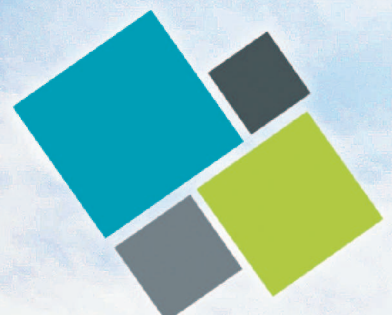
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