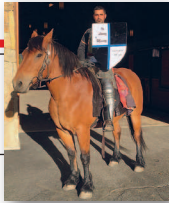


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The Nugget

News and Opinion
from Sisters, Oregon

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Wednesday, September 14, 2016

World-class festival entertains Sisters

By Jodi Schneider McNamee
Correspondent

The theme for this year's Sisters Folk Festival poster "Hot Dogs," an original painting by Dennis McGregor, portrays an eclectic bunch of dogs sitting around a campfire enjoying music together.

Sharing music together around a campfire shaped cultures and maybe even helped develop our ability to understand one another. McGregor captures the communal feeling of the musical experience that happens to all of us during the three-day weekend at Sisters Folk Festival (SFF).

It's the connection with the soulful music, with the original artists, and with each other that keeps the fans coming back.

Last weekend 45 incredible acts performed throughout Sisters at 11 venues — ranging from the sweet country folk music of The Novel Ideas with their harmony-driven sound, to the music of Baskery, three sisters from Sweden with a unique



PHOTO BY JAY MATHER

A multitude of musicians gathered in town last week for the annual Sisters Folk Festival.

energetic pace.

Elements of folk, rock, country, soul and bluegrass filled the air and all the town once again became a stage. There was something for everyone's taste.

Many of the artists were new to the SFF, but some

were returning from previous years. The Ballroom Thieves returned and filled one of the late-night dance venues at Sisters Saloon.

After a five-year hiatus from the festival, Sisters Saloon & Ranch Grill was back as a venue. New owners

Aaron and Ashley Okura did renovations of the historic building last November and added a small stage in the main dining room and recently redid the whole patio and built a new stage as an

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School board approves teachers' contract

By Steve Kadel
Correspondent

The Sisters School Board has voted unanimously to approve a new two-year contract for the district's teachers.

The pact OK'd on Wednesday, September 7, includes a 1.5 percent cost-of-living salary increase this year and another 1.5 percent boost in 2017. The contract becomes effective this month.

"It's a fair deal, given the (financial) circumstances," said Shawn Swisher, attorney for the High Desert Education Service District, who helped in negotiations. "Hopefully this will see us through until the economic climate improves. It gives some labor stability for

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Council earmarks \$300k for housing

By Sue Stafford
Correspondent

Sisters City Council approved \$300,000 in funding support for an affordable-housing project in Sisters in a 3-1 vote last Thursday.

There was strong disagreement in the Council chambers as to whether the financial commitment is either affordable for the City or the right allocation of funds.

Tom Kemper, executive director of HousingWorks, has been working with City Council and City staff this year to bring an affordable townhouse rental project

similar to Tamarack Village to Sisters.

In previous workshops, Kemper presented to the Council information regarding the LIFT program (Land Innovation and Fast Track Housing Program) as well as concept drawings of the units. If built, the project will be on currently vacant land behind the shopping center where Ray's Food Center is located. A similar project is currently underway in Bend.

In 2015, the Oregon legislature committed \$40 million of general obligation

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County to address airport questions

By Jim Cornelius
News Editor

The Deschutes County Board of Commissioners will grapple with several questions related to the operation of Sisters Eagle Airport at a work session on Monday, September 19.

According to a memorandum from Senior Transportation Planner Peter Russell prepared for the session, the commissioners will discuss a paved "runout" on the airport runway; a pending request by the airport to be added to the Oregon Department of Aviation's (ODA) list of recognized airports; and the use of a property on Barclay Drive as a



PHOTO BY JIM CORNELIUS

The county commissioners will discuss several issues related to Sisters Eagle Airport on September 19.

landing site for skydivers.

Contacted by *The Nugget* for the airport's point of view on the matters up for discussion, airport manager David Campbell said he was out of town and referred *The*

Nugget back to Russell.

According to Russell, the paving of the runout in 2015 poses several "challenges" for the County

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