

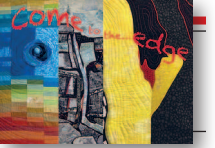
Seattle woman wins dog-themed quilt *page 12*



Girls cross-country wins division at Seaside *page 15*



Quilters push themselves to the edge *page 17*



# The Nugget

News and Opinion from Sisters, Oregon

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## Habitat celebrates 25 years of building

By Jodi Schneider McNamee  
Correspondent

Twenty-five years ago Sisters Habitat for Humanity founder Hort Hammond knew that some folks in Sisters needed affordable housing, so he organized Habitat for Humanity in Sisters.

Habitat is dedicated to more than building homes; it's about building communities, and building opportunities for families to help themselves.

On Sunday, September 18, Habitat celebrated their 25th anniversary of building homes with groundbreakings followed by a dedication ceremony for their 60th home, all at N. Desert Rose Loop in Village Meadows.

During the first groundbreaking for Sharyn Benson, emcee Chuck Harper, board member for Sisters Habitat, introduced Sisters High School construction class teacher, Tony Cosby. Cosby told the guests that his students will help with the construction of Benson's house. He and his students have



PHOTO BY JERRY BALDOCK

Habitat For Humanity and Marla Brinkman, with daughter McKenna, break ground for their new home.

been working with Habitat for quite a few years building walls for houses.

"My students build walls for houses at the high school, and then we load them up on

a flatbed truck and run them over. Then we have our wall raising day. It's such an exciting time and it's a great exposure for them to learn how to frame the walls. But it also

gives them the opportunity to give back to the community. It's one of the most successful things I do in my program."

See HABITAT on page 25

## County nixes airport discussion

By Jim Cornelius  
News Editor

The Deschutes County Board of Commissioners canceled a discussion of issues related to Sisters Eagle Airport that had been set for September 19.

In an email sent out to interested parties on Wednesday afternoon, County Community Development Director Nick Lelack said:

"The Sisters Eagle Airport will not be scheduled for the Board of County Commission's (Board) Monday, September 19 work session due to the pending uncertainty of the proposed mapped boundaries. Once the Oregon Department of Aviation (ODA) formally schedules a public hearing

See AIRPORT on page 29

## School enrollment falling short

By Steve Kadel  
Correspondent

Enrollment in Sisters School District is falling short of the projected number of students this fall, a decline that would reduce the amount of funding from the state.

Superintendent Curt Scholl said during the September 7 school board meeting that projections called for about 1,109 students districtwide. He emphasized that was a preliminary look because records requests had not been received from students who might be attending a different district this fall.

However, the picture became more clear in an interview on Wednesday, September 14, when Scholl said enrollment is down by 30 students. If that holds, the district would lose about \$7,000 in funding for each of the 30 children, although the exact amount depends on factors unknown at this time.

"It depends on the entire number of students in the state and a lot of variables," Scholl said. "Potentially (the revenue loss) could be a couple hundred thousand dollars or more. Losing kids doesn't help us,

See ENROLLMENT on page 30

## Hemp growing in Sisters Country

By Jim Cornelius  
News Editor

A small hemp crop is growing east of Sisters, pioneering what may become a significant agricultural industry in the region.

The operation drew attention last week as helicopters were brought in at night for frost abatement. The rotors of a helicopter stir the air enough to prevent frost from forming on plants. The noise from the choppers over the Cloverdale Road area and landing to refuel at Sisters Eagle Airport in the early morning hours raised some ire among neighbors, but grower Matt Cyrus told *The Nugget* that the aerial operations are over.



PHOTO PROVIDED

Industrial hemp may be a viable crop in Sisters Country.

Cyrus said that the helicopters were brought in as a short-term frost-abatement method.

"(We) anticipated that it would only be a couple of nights," Cyrus said, noting

that he instructed pilots to try to avoid flying right over people's houses. "We've used it probably 10 times as much as we anticipated."

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