

TEACHERS: Music & Movement program is popular at school

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the San Francisco Bay area.

In her spare time she loves being outside and spending time with her husband and nephew.

"I'm looking forward to get to know all my students and participate in all the fun Sisters traditions," she said.

Thomas taught P.E. at Sisters Elementary School nine years ago, when Lamont took a leave of absence to travel to Nepal with his non-profit Ten Friends. Since then she has been teaching at Ponderosa Elementary School in Bend and living in Sisters. She is glad to be working closer to home.

All students at SES have P.E. once per week with Thomas. In addition, she and music teacher Shelley Hicks have combined their efforts to offer Music & Movement every Wednesday for all students.

"We dance, we drum, we bring in guest musicians (at Music & Movement)," said Thomas.

She brought that program with her from Ponderosa Elementary School, and the students have been excited about it so far this school year.

The P.E. program offers a half-time teaching position, which enables Thomas to be home with her three small children — a perfect fit for her schedule.

Ashely Bye, a Culver native, comes to the Sisters School District excited to help kids in the Title reading

and math programs. Bye taught at Sage Elementary School in Redmond, in Madras, and in Arizona prior to arriving in Sisters this year.

The full-time, federal Title position is designed to help bridge the achievement gap within students who may be struggling with core subjects.

Bye says she received her Title credential because she has always enjoyed reading and wants to help foster a love of reading within her students. There are several Title nights planned for students and families that can benefit, and she will be sending information home with students as it becomes available.

"I'm really looking forward to spending time with the kids and watching them grow throughout the year," she said.



PHOTO BY ERIN BORLA

Ashleigh Thomas gets the kids moving.

Report: Oregon's economy is growing, job market tightening

SALEM (AP) — Oregon is experiencing "full-throttle rates of growth," the state says in its economic and revenue forecast, which predicted businesses will find it harder to fill vacancies in a tight labor market.

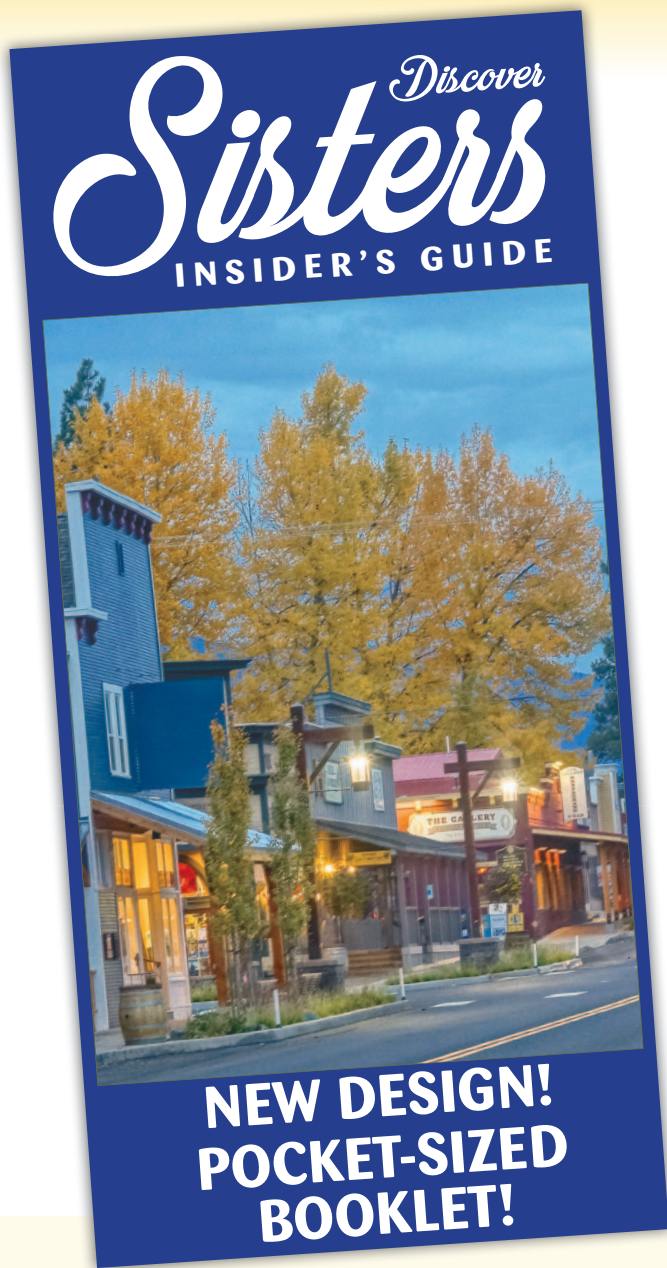
The report published Wednesday, September 14, says "businesses will either take bigger chances on less-than-perfect candidates or hire away workers from competitors with better compensation packages and/or work environments."

Oregon has added an average of nearly 5,000 jobs per month since 2014.

Oregon's average wage is lower than the national's but is at its highest since many lumber mills closed in the 1980s.

Personal income tax collections kept expanding, keeping revenues in line with forecast when the budget was drafted.

Gov. Kate Brown said Oregon is in its 50th straight month of job growth, but economic slow-downs elsewhere call for caution.



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