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on Thanksgiving page 4



Christmas Tree Hunts are a  
local family tradition page 17



The Zen of construction  
in Sisters page 25



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# The Nugget

News and Opinion  
from Sisters, Oregon

Vol. XXXIX No. 48

www.NuggetNews.com

Wednesday, November 30, 2016

## Holiday season kicks off with parade

By Jodi Schneider McNamee  
Correspondent

Dark skies with the threat of rain couldn't hold back the hundreds of spectators that lined both sides of Hood Avenue on Saturday for the 39th Sisters Christmas Parade sponsored by the Sisters Area Chamber of Commerce.

This year's theme, "A Country Christmas," was the perfect fit for Sisters to show off its small-town charm.

Spectators Sharon and Gary Campbell from Tumalo have been living in Central Oregon for nearly 40 years and remember being in the Sisters Rodeo and Christmas Parade on a horse at least once.

"We've been coming to the Sisters Christmas Parade for many years; it's become a tradition. Our kids grew up in the area," Gary said.

With a combination of floats, fire trucks and animals, the Christmas Parade had little folks and big folks alike



PHOTO BY JODI SCHNEIDER MCNAMEE

Santa came to town for the Christmas Parade last Saturday, marking the start of the season.

applauding, laughing, and cheering as each entry made its way past, with emcee Bob Buckmann narrating.

Frosty the Snowman created some excitement among the kids as he made his way down the street waving, later

followed by the Hoodoo mascot Harold the Hodag.

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## Missing woman found dead

A 24-year-old woman who had been reported missing last week from a home in the Plainview area east of Sisters was found dead Friday morning, November 25.

Investigators assured the public that the death did not involve foul play.

According to Deschutes County Sheriff's Office Detective Chad Davis, Nickel C-Ann Bird was reported missing from a residence on Paladin Drive at 6:02 p.m. on Tuesday, November 22. Deputies, a K-9 unit and an Oregon State Police aircraft participated in a search of the surrounding area while detectives followed tips from the public and interviewed family members and tried to develop information on Bird's possible whereabouts.

See BIRD on page 30

## Local woman wins 100-mile race in Ozarks

By Charlie Kanzig  
Correspondent

Ashley Nordell of Sisters won the overall individual title at the Ozark Trail 100 Mile Endurance Run in Missouri on November 4.

The race for first came down to the final miles, making her first mixed 100-mile race victory a real barn-burner.

Nordell and runner-up Tommy Doias of Missouri were together at the final aid station with 6.5 miles to go, but Nordell prevailed, pulling away from Doias to win in 19 hours 58 minutes and 58 seconds. Doias came through in 20 hours 7 minutes and 17

seconds.

Nordell, 36, had completed 11 100-milers prior to her trip to Missouri, and did not have her sights on winning, but had checked the course record and made some tentative splits prior to the race.

"It's hard to know what the day will bring until you are in the moment," she said. "I try to have an open mind before every race and not take a performance for granted."

The course, which is actually 101 miles, runs almost entirely on the Ozark Trail and included at least 20 creek crossings, some knee-deep,

See NORDELL on page 24

## Liden retiring from Sisters chorale

By Jim Anderson  
Correspondent

Irene Liden is stepping aside from her long-time position as director of the Sisters High Desert Chorale.

Liden's not moving on; she just wants to retire to see and enjoy more of Central Oregon. She came to Sisters from San Antonio 11 years ago, fell in love with all there is to do here, and now finds herself without enough time to get to doing it.

This will mark yet one more time Liden has retired in her professional career: once from 40 years at San Antonio College, teaching music theory, music ensembles, classes and private voice; and as a professional opera singer.

As Irene puts it, "I retired

to ski, hike and take in all there is to see and do here, but the call of music was hard to resist, especially when I met all the musical talent already organized in Sisters 11 years back"

Liden earned her Bachelor of Music degree in opera and voice performance from The Eastman School of Music in Rochester, New York, considered one of the finest music schools in the world. She then earned her Master of Music from the University of Southern California in Los Angeles, and went on as a post-graduate in voice performance at the University of Texas in Austin, and then to the University of Arizona in Flagstaff.

It was from that point she entered the world of opera in



PHOTO BY JIM ANDERSON

Irene Liden, retiring director of the Sisters High Desert Chorale.

Santa Fe, New Mexico, performing with the Shreveport

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