The Nugget

News and Opinion from Sisters, Oregon

Winter weather finds Sisters Country

By Jim Cornelius
News Editor

After a warm and dry November, Old Man Winter decided to pay a visit to Sisters Country. And it looks like he's planning to stay a while.

Snow started falling on December 6, and by Monday, December 12, the Sisters Ranger District was reporting an accumulation in town of a modest-yet-respectable 5.5 inches. Skiers who trekked up Highway 20 to Hoodoo reported nearly 10 times as much on the mountain — somewhere around 50 inches. And, as one of them reported, it was in the form of "awesome powder."

Low visibility deterred some skiers over the weekend, but others were thrilled to put down tracks in the perfect snow — and were happy to see the season start well before Christmas.

Brad Boyd, owner and

PHOTO BY JERRY BALDOCK
The snows of winter have arrived — and right on time.

operator of Eurosports, rents ski equipment and snowshoes and sells winter gear. He says that the timing of snowfall is

economically critical for all businesses that benefit from holiday vacation trade.

"Obviously, we'd like

to see the snow fall before Thanksgiving, to be honest,"

Enrollment shows small increase

By Steve Kadel
Correspondent

Sisters School District is coming closer to enrollment projections for the school year, although the number of students still lags behind what was anticipated.

"We're climbing," Superintendent Curtiss Scholl said Wednesday, December 7 during the monthly school board meeting. "We're getting nearer to where we expected to be."

Enrollment has a financial impact because the State of Oregon allocates about $7,000 per student to each

After 'Ghost Ship': What's safe?

By Jim Cornelius
News Editor

In the wake of the horrific fire in the "Ghost Ship" warehouse/off-the-books housing complex/party venue in Oakland, California, the Sisters fire department has been fielding a greater-than-usual number of calls from citizens concerned about the safety of a variety of Sisters-area structures and activities.

"We're going to see increased awareness," Fire Chief Roger Johnson told *The Nugget* last week. "It has really shaken a lot of people, and they're going to reach out to us… I think it's normal when something like that happens; people get on edge."

The fire department and/or the State Fire Marshal's Office is obligated to investigate complaints, but Johnson and Sisters Fire Manager Gary Marshall emphasize that their role is education first and enforcement last. They are not out to "bust" people or to shut down activities; their goal is to work with property owners and/or businesses or venues to help them come into compliance with codes and safety practices.

And sometimes something that seems like a hazard to the public really isn't — and an inspection turns up no issue at all.

Both men want the public

Multiple deer rescued out of pond

By Jim Anderson
Correspondent

Bob and Diane Storlie have a good sized pond on their place in Sisters, stocked with trout and bass. Recently, they began to have an influx of mule deer drinking from the pond.

Last Sunday, the Storlie's saw a mule deer fawn in their fish pond. Bob and Diane called 911 as they saw the fawn about to go under for the third time.

However, seeing the water-logged deer was about to drown, Bob didn't wait for emergency services to arrive, but rigged up a lariat and threw it out toward the fawns's head. He missed, and coiled it up again and gave another toss.

"I think God dropped the loop on him." Bob said.

PHOTO BY JIM ANDERSON
Mule deer dragged from a frozen pond in Sisters Country.

He and Diane took up the slack, watching as the fawn went under again.

Tugging and pulling with

all they had, the Storlie's managed to drag the fawn