

## Obituary

### Gerald Wayne Kimball

December 12, 1939 – December 25, 2016

Wayne Kimball passed away after a long illness at St. Charles Hospital on Christmas Day. His wife Carol was at his side. He was 77.

Born in Eugene, Oregon, Wayne attended Springfield High School. He graduated from the University of Oregon in 1961 with a BA in Chemistry. He later completed Masters Degrees in Urban and Regional Planning and Public Administration.

After graduation, he was commissioned in the U.S. Army. Colonel Kimball's 27-year career included combat service in Vietnam where he was awarded the Bronze Star and the Air Medal. He graduated from the Special Warfare School in 1961, and the U.S. Army Command and General Staff College, graduating on the Commandant's List in 1974. His last 10 years of service were devoted to the creation of Army Cadet Command, and he retired as the first National President of High School ROTC. He was awarded the Legion of



Merit.

The Kimballs retired to Sisters in 1992. They attended Calvary Chapel. Wayne served on the Sisters Planning Commission, and was a member of the Reserve Officer's Association. He was active with the Boy Scouts and the elementary school reading program START.

He is survived by his wife, Carol; son Daniel and daughter Kathy.

There will not be a local service; he will be buried with military honors at Willamette National Cemetery near Portland.

Contributions may be made to the Sisters-Camp Sherman Fire Department.

## Looking back on 2016

By **Jim Cornelius**  
News Editor

The year 2016 closed out with Sisters Country under a thick blanket of snow, as the region experienced a long stretch of below-normal temperatures and above-average precipitation.

Local ski areas and those catering to winter adventurers and tourists had plenty to smile about.

The year-end took a dark turn, with a Sisters man jailed for the alleged attempted murder of another Sisters man in a stabbing incident last week (see story, page 1).

The nature of the final week of 2016 was symbolic of a year that saw significant highs and some tumultuous lows in Sisters.

Sisters continued to produce significant athletic accomplishments. The Sisters Outlaws volleyball team notched a state championship. Sisters ultra-endurance runner Ashley Nordell took top honors in the Ozark Trail 100-Mile Endurance Run in Missouri.

Sisters High School student Logan Miller battled back from a near-fatal car crash on Highway 20 to make a strong recovery, supported by an outpouring of love from his community.

The City of Sisters continued to face turmoil, with the departure of City Manager Andrew Gorayeb in the wake of an investigation into complaints from some employees about the work environment at City Hall. The episode also led to the firing of the City's law firm.

Rick Allen took the reins as interim city manager, and a search is expected to begin in 2017 to find a full-time manager, under the direction of newly elected council, which includes two new members: Chuck Ryan and Richard Esterman.

Kathy Nelson, city recorder, retired after a long and distinguished career with the City. Her successor is long-time Sisters resident Kerry Prosser (see story, page 3).

Housing continued to be a pressing issue for the City, which approved the expenditure of \$300,000 to support the construction of some low-income apartments.

Even as the City grapples with a tight and increasingly expensive housing market, a group of volunteers set up a cold-weather shelter for those without a roof over their heads (see story, page 1).

The U.S. Forest Service is exploring the possibility once again of putting the property that currently houses the Sisters Ranger District offices up for sale, with the proceeds being used to construct a new Sisters headquarters. It is not clear at this point what portion of that property might be available for housing construction.

The economic engine of Sisters seems to be running well, with a busy tourist season extending into winter, aided by a timely Christmas snowfall. East of town, the Cyrus family experimented with a hemp crop, which has

the potential to significantly strengthen the agricultural sector throughout Central Oregon. Keeping frost off the crop proved a challenge, and there were issues with noise as helicopters and fans were brought in for frost abatement.

Concerns over noise were also an issue for some local residents as Sisters Eagle Airport expanded its activities. Questions over the scope of future land-use issues at the airport were largely addressed by an Oregon Department of Aviation ruling that the airport's boundary is a matter for local jurisdictions.

Sisters resident Erik Himbert demonstrated a talent for innovation, winning a national contest with his design for a stand-up wheelchair.

The 2016 holiday season marked the retirement of Irene Liden, who built the Sisters High Desert Chorale into a successful and much-loved institution.

2017 will bring work on a roundabout at the intersection of Highway 20 and Barclay Drive. Actual construction is scheduled to begin in February 2017 with completion by Memorial Day 2017 in order to limit the upset to tourist traffic as much as possible.

### Chukkars in Sisters...



PHOTO BY JEREMY AST

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