

## Sisters Cascade of Gifts has a new owner

By Jim Cornelius  
News Editor

One of Sisters' most iconic businesses is under new ownership.

Kara Lappe wasn't necessarily looking for a business opportunity when she headed to Sisters with her husband.

"I was looking for land," she said, "because I've wanted to live here since I was a little kid. I ran across a store — completely unplanned!"

That store has been a fixture of downtown Sisters for decades; first under the long-time ownership of Barbara Turner (1980-2011), then in recent years with Virginia Patskowski (2011-2016).

Lappe knows that she is carrying on a beloved legacy — especially with the store's specialty fudge.

"It was the fudge business that really drove me," she told *The Nugget* last week.

Kara is an avid baker and

loves to cater, and she sees opportunities with the fudge that has become a must-have destination item for tourists to Sisters.

"I'm sure that part of the business will grow," she said.

As all those who take on an iconic business must, Lappe is balancing tradition with some strategic changes. There's a new pet department with plush toys and organic treats — and a percentage of sales will benefit Furry Friends Foundation. There's a bar accessory area, and she's expanding the home-décor options. Other aspects of the store will remain the same.

"We still have Smokey (Bear)," she said with a smile.

Kara has more than operating "a cute, adorable store in a great area of town" in mind. She's plotting to get both of her sisters here.

"We are the three sisters and I'm trying to get all of the sisters here," she said. "That's



PHOTO PROVIDED

Barbara Turner and Virginia Patskowski visited new Sisters Cascade of Gifts owner Kara Lappe at her opening last week.

my ultimate goal. I'm just the first one."

Kara grew up in Damascus and vacationed in Sisters as a child. For the past few years she and her husband have been living in California, and she's ready to get back to country

living and horses — and her venerable-yet-new store.

The doors are open now, and a grand opening celebration will be held soon.

Sisters Cascade of Gifts is located at 150 W. Cascade Ave. in downtown Sisters.

## Lawmakers wrap up first month in Salem

By Kristena Hansen  
Associated Press

SALEM (AP) — The Oregon Legislature wrapped up its first month of the 2017 session last week, and the state's ongoing housing crisis, budget issues and changes proposed by the new White House administration have dominated discussions in Salem thus far.

Here's a recap of some of the biggest proposals most recently debated and what's coming up next week:

House Bill 2004 drew dozens of Oregonian tenants and landlords Thursday to Salem, where they spent almost six hours voicing polarized opinions about whether to do away with no-cause evictions statewide. The proposal would prohibit landlords from evicting month-to-month tenants without cause and 90 day-written notice, with some exceptions, or otherwise pay the equivalent

of three months-worth of rent to cover tenants' relocation costs. Cities could also impose caps on rent hikes within their jurisdictions, a practice currently banned by state law. The Democratic-supported proposal essentially expands similar, recently-adopted provisions within Portland city limits to the statewide level. Critics argue the bill could adversely affect Oregon's affordable housing situation, which is largely instigated by short supply, while supporters say it's an immediate fix for struggling households. Friday was the deadline to submit public testimony for HB 2004.

Senate Bill 863 may soon put a stop to Oregon pot shops' record keeping of their recreational and medical customers' personal information — a practice that's either banned or discouraged in Colorado, Alaska and Washington state. Amid worries of a federal

crackdown on state-approved marijuana laws, the bipartisan bill would require legal pot retailers to destroy customers' data — such as names, addresses, birthdates, driver's license numbers, any marijuana products they purchased and on which dates — from their books within 48 hours. Retailers log the information from patrons' IDs or medical cards, which state law says must be checked at the door, to help build customer rapport and loyalty, and also stay on track with various regulations. Lawmakers argue it puts customers at risk of having their personal information seized from businesses by federal agents. The first public debate of SB 863 was scheduled for Tuesday.

House Bill 2232 would require Oregon health insurers to maintain free birth control coverage and also cover other reproductive health services,

including abortions. Oregon has among the most liberal abortion laws in the nation. The Democratic-supported proposal aims to protect reproductive health care across the state. The bill has yet to advance to its first public hearing as Obamacare repeal discussions in Washington were still underway, and state Attorney General Ellen Rosenblum recently told The Associated Press she vows to fight back if federal funds are pulled from Planned Parenthood.

House Bill 2193 and Senate Bill 828 — packaged as sister proposals in both statehouse chambers — would require certain employers in the restaurant, retail, hospitality and other service-and trade-related industries to honor employees' preferred work hours and post employee schedules two weeks in advance, or otherwise pay a penalty wage for any changes.

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