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College students build
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The Nugget

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Firefighters battle major blaze

A major fire at a large home east of Sisters tested firefighters from across the region last weekend.

On Sunday afternoon, March 19, at about 3:30 p.m., Cloverdale Rural Fire Protection District units were dispatched to a structure fire at 17655 Varco Rd. Upon arrival, firefighters found "heavy fire conditions" in the center portion of the 17,000-plus-square-foot, three-story home.

While responding from an earlier medical call, Cloverdale Fire Chief Thad Olsen began calling for additional resources as a column of smoke rose skyward from the residence.

Due to the remote location of the residence, resources included a strike team of water tenders from Deschutes and Jefferson counties. Fire units from Sisters-Camp Sherman, Black Butte Ranch, Bend, Redmond, Crooked River Ranch, Jefferson



PHOTO BY GARY MILLER

Firefighters had their hands full battling a structure fire in a 17,000-plus square-foot home.

County #1, Sunriver, and Warm Springs Fire districts, along with personnel from Central Electric Cooperative,

Deschutes County Roads Department, Deschutes County Building Department, Deschutes County Sheriff's

Office, and Black Butte Ranch Police Departments

See **FIRE** on page 15

Kiwanis Food Bank supports those in need

By Erin Borla
Correspondent

Some 167 families utilized the Sisters Kiwanis Food Bank throughout the month of January.

Oftentimes donations can slow during the months after the Thanksgiving and Christmas holiday season. The need for food donations is still there.

The community of Sisters always steps up to help and donate food as well as volunteer hours.

For the second year in a row Sisters Elementary

See **FOOD BANK** on page 30

Aviation board to revisit airport listing

By Jim Cornelius
News Editor

After voting unanimously on March 7 to add Sisters Eagle Airport to Oregon's list of airports of state concern, the Oregon Department of Aviation decided to unwind that action last week after written testimony was left out of the record.

"We got a whole bunch of emails and somehow we left about 31 of them out of the packet and the staff report that the board voted on (on March 7)," ODA director Mitch Swecker told *The Nugget*. "We're adding them (the emails) to make it fair to everybody."

The board will revisit the issue again at its April 20

meeting in McMinnville. The omitted emails and the ODA staff report are available for review on the ODA website.

The procedural glitch is the latest development in what has become a tangled knot of issues surrounding the operations of Sisters Eagle Airport. The airport under the ownership of Julie and Benny Benson has made significant grant-funded improvements to its runway, added a fuel depot and has hosted increased aviation activity, including a highly regarded student aviation program affiliated with Sisters High School, and a controversial skydiving operation.

See **AIRPORT** on page 35

Fair encourages futuristic thinking

By Jodi Schneider McNamee
Correspondent

The Sisters High School commons transformed into a giant science laboratory buzzing with activity last Saturday, as students from all three Sisters schools demonstrated their projects. From fishing for magnetic fish to trying to ride a backward bike, folks of all ages got a charge as they made their way around the maze of educational experiments.

Sisters Science Club President Bob Collins was having a great time watching students engage hundreds of spectators in learning the science behind each unique project.

"We have loads of new projects this year including the new greenhouse that looks like an outer space

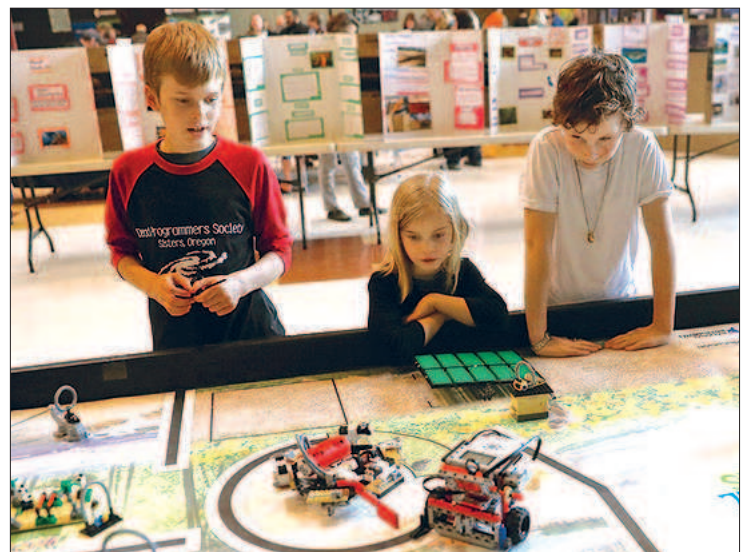


PHOTO BY JERRY BALDOCK

Young students were fascinated by the Lego robotics interactive display.

station!" Collins said. "Each year we get a little busier, but we feel we have a little more room inside the commons this year so it has a good flow and everyone can work freely

with their own projects and experiments."

Some exhibits were located down the school

See **SCIENCE FAIR** on page 36

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