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# The Nugget

News and Opinion from Sisters, Oregon

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## ODOT demands repayment of grant funds

By Jim Cornelius  
News Editor

The Oregon Department of Transportation is demanding from Sisters Airport the repayment of \$377,152 in ConnectOregon V grant funds and payment of an additional \$13,033 to meet the minimum requirement for matching funds for grants entered into in 2015.

The state agency alleges that the airport “misexpended” grant funds allocated for specific airport improvement projects.

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## Dousing the flames...



PHOTO BY JIM CORNELIUS

Sisters firefighters responded quickly to quell a small blaze that started in a wall near a fireplace at a Sisters residence along Highway 20 last week. The residents called 911 at the first sign of fire, and the quick response meant that it didn't spread far.

## Sisters pioneer Georgia Gallagher passes

*Editor's note: One of Sisters' iconic residents, Georgia Gallagher, died last week. In recognition of her life, The Nugget is running an excerpt from a profile of Gallagher written by freelance writer Bill Mintiens in 2008.*

Georgia Gallagher was born in 1922 on the 640-acre Edgington Ranch, which was located about two miles south of Sisters, west of South Elm/Three Creek Lake roads and south of the present-day Patterson Ranch. Georgia Edgington became

See GALLAGHER on page 30

## A greenhouse rises from beneath the snow

By Erin Borla  
Correspondent

In 2014, a kind of tragedy struck at Sisters Middle School when the newly refurbished greenhouse was crushed under a snowstorm.

David Hiller of the Sisters Science Club — who had spent time, energy and money restoring the 2002 structure originally built by the Forest Service — worked with the Sisters School District personnel to discuss rebuilding. Those discussions led to a new greenhouse in a new location.

“After discussion with District staff we determined it wasn't feasible to have high school students trek to the middle school to use a

greenhouse,” Hiller said.

So together, they came up with a new plan: A greenhouse behind Sisters High School. In the spring of 2016 volunteers from the community and the Sisters Science Club graded the area and installed electrical cable and water lines, and then began working on the new greenhouse. Hiller, a retired Merchant Marine with quite the background in engineering and architecture of large ships, designed the plans, designed, and helped build the facility.

By November 2016 the 30-by-50-foot structure was complete. The brand-new building was set to

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## Legion Commander visits Sisters

By Jim Cornelius  
News Editor

Sisters hosted a distinguished guest on Sunday: American Legion National Commander Charles E. Schmidt.

Commander Schmidt is the first national commander to hail from Oregon, and as such his visit to Sisters was a kind of “welcome home” event for Oregon American Legion members.

Legionnaires golfed, visited the High Desert Museum, and strolled the streets of Sisters

“My wife contributed a bit to the local economy,” Schmidt joked.

A banquet at FivePine Lodge & Conference Center capped the visit, and included such distinguished guests as Medal of Honor recipient



PHOTO BY JIM CORNELIUS

Gene Hellickson of Sisters' American Legion Post 86, welcomed National Commander Charles E. Schmidt to town last weekend.

Robert Maxwell, of Bend. American Legion veterans in attendance hailed from Oregon, Washington, Idaho, New Mexico and Colorado.

Schmidt is an Air Force veteran who enlisted in 1965 and served active duty until retirement in 1993.

“I had a big brother who was a post commander (in Missouri) and he said I ought to join the American Legion,” Schmidt told *The Nugget*. “I just wanted to get involved in a post and give back.”

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