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# The Nugget

News and Opinion  
from Sisters, Oregon

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## Sisters Country set for spring burning

Beginning as soon as this week, fuels specialists on the Sisters Ranger District will begin prescribed burning throughout the district.

Depending upon weather conditions and resources, fuels specialists hope to ignite 1,200 acres of prescribed burns this spring. Burn units are located in four separate project areas called: Highway 20, Sisters Area Fuels Reduction (SAFR), McCahee (Highway 242) and Metolius Basin projects.

More detailed information, through future press releases, will be provided to the public and media as

See **BURNING** on page 26

On the run...



PHOTO BY JERRY BALDOCK

Some 400 runners hit the trails around Sisters for the Peterson Ridge Rumble, which features 20- and 40-mile races. (See story, page 19.)

## More than 40 apply for city manager post

By Sue Stafford  
Correspondent

The search for Sisters' new city manager is moving forward and on schedule, according to recruiter Erik Jensen of Jensen Strategies in Portland.

The names of all the candidates will remain confidential until the finalists come to Sisters for a series of meetings with the Sisters City Council and senior staff, the community, and active and retired local government officials. Many of the applicants

See **APPLICANTS** on page 31

## ODOT extends deadline on grant demand

By Jim Cornelius  
News Editor

The Oregon Department of Transportation has extended the deadline on their demand for 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 by Sisters Eagle Airport.

The state agency alleges that the airport "misexpended" grant funds allocated for specific airport improvement projects. Benny Benson told *The Nugget* earlier this month that "the Sisters Airport and its principals, Benny and Julie Benson, will follow Oregon

Administrative Procedures in the review and response."

"The Sisters Airport management retained an attorney, who asked ODOT for two more weeks to get up to speed with our dispute claim," ODOT spokesman David Thompson told *The Nugget*. "We certainly granted that. So the new deadline for response is April 20."

ODOT's Thompson says that the agency has no further comment on the grant repayment demand for the time being.

"...Now that the two sides are about to engage in discussions of the dispute, we're not going to say anything else about it until something

See **DEADLINE** on page 25

## Flying out on missions of mercy

By Jim Cornelius  
News Editor

There are children living in the hinterlands of Oregon who have never had their teeth brushed, who go to bed at night with a bottle full of juice or soda; children whose teeth are in terrible shape. They need dental surgery, but there's no way their parents will ever get them to a dental clinic or hospital.

So, early in the morning, often several times a week, Jessica Slaughter flies out of Sisters Airport to reach these children and bring dental surgery to them.

Slaughter is a Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetist (CRNA). She contracts with Advantage Dental and travels with dental surgeon Sarah Post to provide services to rural pediatric patients who



PHOTO PROVIDED

Jessica Slaughter flies out from Sisters Airport several times a week to provide dental surgery services to rural children.

are enrolled in the Oregon Health Plan. They travel to dental clinics in rural areas across the state, where parents bring their children in for help.

"I bring in the supplies and make an operating room out of a clinic," Slaughter

explained. "Basically bring an operating room to a dental clinic."

Slaughter uses medications rather than gas to put patients to sleep. Over 4-1/2 years, "it's been super safe,"

See **RURAL DENTAL** on page 18

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