

COMMUNITY

Scholarship program helps dreams come true

For the past 10 years, Sisters Graduate Resource Organization (Sisters GRO) has been helping Sisters graduates realize their post-high-school plans and dreams.

Sisters GRO was founded as a 501(c)(3) organization in 2008 to offer assistance and administrative support in the scholarship process to Sisters High School graduates. There has been a long history of support for higher education in the Sisters community, but prior to 2008, no central entity to facilitate coordination of the student scholarship application and donor selection, award and disbursement process existed.

Over the last 10 years, GRO has established the Endowment for Dreams fund with the Oregon Community Foundation; developed a fair, streamlined scholarship application process meeting IRS requirements; and worked with donors to establish lasting relationships to help them support our graduates in pursuing whatever path they choose post-high-school: two- and four-year college scholarships, career technical education, “real-life” job internships, military and other areas of endeavor.

Sisters GRO is the only

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PHOTO BY CAROL PACKARD

Sisters Middle School sixth-grader Miliani Spencer presented an elephant in origami that she made for Don and Linda Miller.

Warmer, dryer than usual for November

November was a little warmer and drier than usual in Sisters, and December looks to be the same.

According to preliminary data received by NOAA’s National Weather Service in Pendleton, temperatures at Sisters averaged slightly warmer than normal during the month of November.

The average temperature was 37.4 degrees which was 0.4 degrees above normal. High temperatures averaged 48.2 degrees, which was 0.8

degrees above normal. The highest was 69 degrees on November 24. Low temperatures averaged 26.5 degrees, which was normal. The lowest was 18 degrees, on November 4.

There were 25 days with the low temperature below 32 degrees. There was one day when the high temperature stayed below 32 degrees.

Precipitation totaled 0.42 inches during November,

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Elephants take center stage

By Jim Anderson
Correspondent

Fifth- and sixth-graders at Sisters Middle School were treated to a program about the elephants of the Namibia Desert of Africa on Monday, November 27.

Don and Linda Miller, elephant researchers from Whidbey Island, were in town to deliver a similar message to the folks of the Sisters Country the next day in a Sisters Science Club/Friends of the Sisters Library event at The Belfry.

Don Miller is a great believer in getting people involved in his talks, and true to form, he asked for a student in the audience to come down

and help him as he began to tell the story of elephant genetics. Jake Buetler came forward and did a superb job of assisting Don as he went through a detailed discussion regarding the genetics of elephants and how that aspect of their biology, combined with the social order of elephants, has made them what they are today.

Don asked for questions toward the end of his talk, and was rewarded with several students asking well-thought-out questions about elephant society and individuals. All the time Jake had his hand in the air, but Don was caught up with other students’ questions and the program ended before Jake could

get an answer to his. He wanted to know if the stories about the accuracy and longevity of an elephant’s memory were true.

“Yes, Jake, it is,” Miller replied.

He recalled several instances when he discovered elephants he knew personally returning again and again to watering holes and feeding areas they remembered, as well as meeting other elephants they knew over the years. Even baby elephants can remember places to avoid because of some type of danger.

In the 1960s, Miller and his parents regularly traveled

See **ELEPHANTS** on page 9

SISTERS AREA MEETING CALENDAR

BOARDS, GROUPS, CLUBS

Al-Anon Mon., noon, Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church / Wed., 6 p.m., Episcopal Church of the Transfiguration. 541-549-8737 or 541-549-1527.

Alateen Thursday, 7 p.m., Episcopal Church of the Transfiguration. 541-549-1527.

Alcoholics Anonymous Thurs. & Sun., 7 p.m., Episcopal Church of the Transfiguration / Sat., 8 a.m., Episcopal Church of the Transfiguration / Mon., 5 p.m., Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church / Big Book study, Tues., noon, Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church / Gentlemen’s meeting, Wed., 7 a.m., Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church / Sober Sisters Women’s meeting, Thurs., noon, Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church / Step & Tradition meeting, Fri., noon, Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church. 541-548-0440.

Black Butte Macintosh Users Group 3rd Thursday, 3:30 to 5:30 p.m., Sisters Library community room. 541-549-1471.

Black Butte Ranch Bridge Club Tuesdays, 12:30 p.m., BBR community room. Partner required. 541-595-6236.

Central Oregon Council on Aging Senior Lunch Tuesdays, noon, Sisters Community Church. 541-678-5483.

Central Oregon Fly Tyers Guild 4th Saturdays, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. For location information: 541-549-2072.

Central OR Spinners and Weavers Guild 4th Saturday, 1 to 3 p.m. Sisters Library (Jan.-Oct.). 541-639-3217.

Central Oregon Woodworkers Guild 2nd Tuesday. 541-639-6216.

East of the Cascades Quilt Guild 4th Wednesday (September-June), Stitchin’ Post. All are welcome. 541-549-6061.

Friends of the Sisters Library Board of Directors 2nd Tuesday, 9 to 11 a.m., Sisters Library. 541-977-8285.

Heartwarmers (fleece blanketmakers) 1st & 3rd Tuesdays, 1 p.m., Sisters City Hall. Materials provided. 541-408-8505.

Hero Quilters of Sisters Thursday, 1 to 4 p.m. 541-549-1028 or 541-719-1230.

Military Parents of Sisters Meetings are held quarterly; please call for details. 541-388-9013.

Oregon Band of Brothers – Sisters Chapter Wednesdays, 11:30 a.m., Takoda’s Restaurant. 541-408-5594.

SAGE (Senior Activities, Gatherings & Enrichment) Wednesdays, 1 to 4 p.m. at SPRD. 541-549-2091.

Sisters Area SketchUp Users Group 2nd Wednesday, 7 p.m., Earthwood Timber Frame Homes. 541-549-0924.

Sisters Astronomy Club 3rd Tuesday, 7 p.m., SPRD. 541-549-8846.

Sisters Bridge Club Thursdays, 12:30 p.m., The Pines Clubhouse. Novices welcomed. 541-549-9419.

Sisters Caregiver Support Group 3rd Tuesday, 10 a.m., Ray’s Food Place community room. 541-771-3258.

Sisters Cribbage Club Tuesdays, 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., Ray’s Food Place community room. 541-923-1632.

Sisters Habitat for Humanity Board of Directors 4th Tuesday, 6 p.m. Location information: 541-549-1193.

Sisters Kiwanis Thursdays, 7 to 8:30 a.m., Brand 33 Restaurant at Aspen Lakes. 541-410-2870.

Sisters Parent Teacher Community 3rd Wednesday, 3 p.m., Sisters Elementary C-wing. 971-570-2405.

Sisters Red Hats 1st Friday. Location information: 541-279-1977.

Sisters Rotary Tuesdays, noon, Aspen Lakes Lodge. 541-977-6545.

Sisters Veterans Thursdays, noon, Takoda’s Restaurant. 541-903-1123.

Three Sisters Irrigation District Board of Directors 1st Tuesday, 4 p.m., Three Sisters Irrigation District Office. 541-549-8815.

Three Sisters Lions Club 1st Thursday, noon, Ray’s Food Place community room. 541-419-1279.

VFW Post 8138 and American Legion Post 86 1st Wednesday, 6:30 p.m., Sisters City Hall. 541-903-1123 or 541-549-1132.

Weight Watchers Thursdays, 9 a.m. (weigh-in is at 8:30 a.m.), Sisters Community Church., 541-602-2654.

SCHOOLS

Black Butte School Board of Directors 2nd Tuesday, 5 p.m., Black Butte School. 541-595-6203.

Sisters Christian Academy Board of Directors 2nd Thursday, 8 a.m., RE/MAX Out West Realty office at Outlaw Station. 541-549-4133.

Sisters School District Board of Directors One Wednesday per month, SSD Admin Bldg. See schedule online at www.ssd6.org. 541-549-8521 x5002.

CITY & PARKS

Sisters City Council 2nd & 4th Wednesday, 6:30 p.m., Sisters City Hall. 541-549-6022.

Sisters Park & Recreation District Board of Directors 2nd & 4th Tuesdays, 6 p.m., SPRD building. 541-549-2091.

Sisters Planning Commission 3rd Thursday, 5:30 p.m., Sisters City Hall. 541-549-6022.

FIRE & POLICE

Black Butte Ranch Police Dept. Board of Directors Meets monthly. 541-595-2191 for time & date.

Black Butte Ranch RFPD Board of Directors 4th Thursday, 9 a.m., Black Butte Ranch Fire Station. 541-595-2288.

Cloverdale RFPD Board of Directors 3rd Wednesday, 7 p.m., Station 602, 67433 Cloverdale Rd. 541-548-4815. See the agenda at cloverdalefire.com.

Sisters-Camp Sherman RFPD Board of Directors 3rd Tuesday, 5 p.m., Sisters Fire Hall, 541-549-0771.

Sisters-Camp Sherman RFPD Drills Mondays, 7 p.m., Sisters Fire Hall, 301 S. Elm St. 541-549-0771.

