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Service is a common thread for local quilt group page 12



Local girl wins contest page 9



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Science fair to focus on outdoors

“Outdoor Science” is the theme for this year’s Sisters Science Fair to be held at Sisters High School March 17 from noon until 4 p.m. Community involvement is the key, organizers say.

A Chinese proverb says, “Tell me and I forget. Show me and I remember. Involve me and I understand.” The goal of the Sisters Science Fair is to involve everyone in the area from grandparents, parents, children, and teachers to business owners.

Learning about and taking care of our outdoor native species is a priority for many of us in this area. Jim Anderson will

See **SCIENCE FAIR** on page 13



Eli Pyke captured a moment of frigid beauty atop Black Butte as winter made a belated but emphatic appearance across Sisters Country this month. Storms have dropped several inches of snow and low temperatures dipped into the single digits.

PHOTO BY ELI PYKE

Decision postponed on art for roundabout

With well over 600 comments weighing in on the three finalists to create art for the Barclay Dr./Highway 20 roundabout, the Sisters City Council has pushed back its decision timeline to its March 14 meeting.

Public Works Coordinator Nicole Abbenhuis told *The Nugget* that the Art Selection Committee is sorting through about 650 public comments dropped off at the City Hall lobby, where models of the proposed art are on display.

“They were just not ready to take it to council yet,” she said. “We got so much public input — which is great.”

See **ROUNDBOUT** on page 22

Tree project underway near Crossroads

Residents of the Crossroads subdivision west of Sisters should see evidence of forest thinning operations nearby in March.

Over the next couple months, the Deschutes National Forest’s Sisters Ranger District will be doing thinning operations near the Crossroads subdivision to create a more fire-resilient ecosystem adjacent to the neighborhood.

Fires like the Milli Fire last summer, as well as the Black Crater Fire in 2006, were close calls for Crossroads homeowners. Forest Service officials say thinning of the area will create a more fire-resilient and healthier forest.

The Forest Service reports that, due to a variety of factors, the number of trees per acre across the Deschutes National Forest is well above historic levels. This heavy fuel load has caused fires over the last two decades to generally burn at a higher intensity and at a larger scale, encompassing tens of thousands of acres at a time, unlike the smaller, less-intense fires that occurred historically in Central Oregon’s fire-adapted ecosystems.

The thinning work is a part of the broader Sisters Area Fuel Reduction (SAFR) project and will leave the

See **THINNING** on page 30

Fire destroys family home near Sisters

A fire destroyed a home near Sisters and displaced a family of four in winter conditions on Sunday night, February 25.

The Deschutes County Sheriff’s Office reports that deputies and firefighters from the Cloverdale Rural Fire Protection District were dispatched at about 11 p.m. to a report of a structure fire in the 69000 block of Hinkle Butte Dr. in the Sisters subdivision of Panoramic View Estates.

The homeowners reportedly heard noises in the bedroom area of the home before finding smoke and flames inside their children’s bedrooms. The homeowners pulled their children to safety before attempting to extinguish the fire with a household fire extinguisher. The homeowners’ attempts



PHOTO COURTESY DESCHUTES COUNTY SHERIFF’S OFFICE

Cloverdale firefighters battled a house fire in Panoramic View Estates on Sunday night.

to extinguish the fire did not work and the family fled the home wearing only pajamas.

One of the homeowners

was treated and released at the scene for non-life-threatening

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