

ART: Council to make final decision at March 14 meeting

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Bennett Miller’s design includes life-size cast bronze sculptures of elk and antelope set among basalt columns. The landscape architecture firm of Cameron McCarthy of Bend will be working with Bennett Miller to design the plantings and rock installation to augment her sculptures.

The art installation is projected for completion by fall 2018. The project is fully funded by a Federal Lands Access Program Grant in the amount of \$200,000.

Besides providing an artistic gateway to Central Oregon and entrance to Sisters, a partial function of the landscaping and the artwork will be to obscure a straight view of the highway beyond on the other side to slow traffic down as it travels through the roundabout.

CORRECTION

An alert reader caught *The Nugget* in an egregious error last week. Our teaser in the upper-right-hand corner of the front page reminded readers to set their clocks forward for “Daylight Savings Time.” This is incorrect. It should have read “Daylight SAVING Time.” This is important, because setting clocks forward is an attempt to “save daylight” and not to create a savings on daylight.

In any case, the days are now longer. Except, they’re not. Not really.

Jim Cornelius
Editor in Chief



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at
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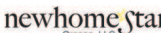


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ACADEMY: School making appeal to the community

Continued from page 1

While the school is a non-denominational Christian K-8 academy, Storton and Principal Cheryl Peterson hope that the entire Sisters community will recognize the importance of maintaining this educational option in Sisters. The academy offers very small class sizes (10 to 16 students) and a lot of one-on-one engagement, which can be vital to some students’ success in school.

“The intimacy gives them such a great start,” said Storton.

Several SCA students have gone on to be valedictorians at Sisters High School, an indication of the quality of instruction they receive from a fully accredited staff.

Peterson noted that education also focuses on character. The whole school will focus for a period of time on a particular character trait — like diligence.

“Even a kindergartner will say it means get started right away, work hard, and finish well,” she said.

The format of the school works well for some students who struggle in public schools, regardless of their faith background, Storton and Peterson said.

While SCA has 72 students enrolled, 22 of those are in the pre-school program, which only pay partial tuition. The school needs at least 65 students in the K-8

program to be viable.

Declining enrollment is not unique to SCA — the problem has also plagued Sisters’ public schools, and for many of the same reasons. There is competition from online education, and some families choose to homeschool, though that is, Peterson says, “a huge commitment that is not for everybody.”

SCA is likely affected by the relatively high housing costs (and lack of rentals) and narrow employment opportunities that are also believed to play a roll in the public schools’ enrollment woes.

Additionally, as a private school, there is a financial commitment that may strain young families, even with scholarships and discounts for multiple children.

“These parents believe so strongly in the educational environment here... that they’re willing to pay their taxes AND pay tuition,” Peterson said.

There just needs to be more of those committed families.

SCA also faces a dilemma familiar to many a cash-strapped business: They believe in their product, but they don’t have a lot of budget to spread the word.

“We never have money to do other things, like



PHOTO PROVIDED

Small classes and lots of one-on-one attention make for a strong educational environment at Sisters Christian Academy.

marketing,” Storton said. “I think that marketing would do an awful lot.”

Storton and Peterson told *The Nugget* that SCA will make an appeal to local churches and take a direct campaign for donations out into the Sisters community,

seeking the support of individuals who believe in Christian education, and/or simply support having the alternative in the community.

For more information visit www.sisterschristianacademy.com or call 541-549-4133.

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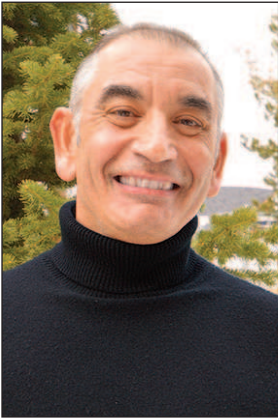
Since beginning my real estate practice, I’ve become the top producer in the Sisters area, last 4 years and counting. I hold the designation of resort and second-home specialist. When I’m not listing or selling real estate (which is not very often), I enjoy working out, food, wine and travel.

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