

# The Nugget

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from Sisters, Oregon

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## Sisters Post Office slammed by holiday demand

By Jim Cornelius  
Editor in Chief

The “happiest time of the year” is by far the most stressful time of the year for the clerks and carriers that man the Sisters Post Office. They’re busier than elves in a North Pole workshop.

The rush starts right after Thanksgiving and lasts till about a week past Christmas.

The Sisters Post Office normally handles 400 to 600 parcels a day, according to Officer in Charge (OIC) Tony Schlichting. At

See **POST OFFICE** on page 30



*The Greatest Stories Ever Told*

The 9- to 11-year-old Broadway Jazz class of Sisters Dance Academy performed “You’re A Mean One Mr. Grinch!” in Saturday’s recital. See story, page 8.

PHOTO BY JERRY BALDOCK

## Sisters business poised for major expansion

By Sue Stafford  
Correspondent

The infusion of \$32 million of private investment capital in Laird Superfood, which currently employs 70 people, could change the economy in Sisters over the next five years and beyond.

Laird Superfood, with two new buildings on Lundgren Mill Drive across from the Clear Pine neighborhood, was poised to go public with an IPO when, at the last minute, they unexpectedly received the offer

See **LAIRD** on page 28

## Warm, dry winter in Sisters Country?

By Ron Thorkildson  
Correspondent

Earlier in the fall climate forecasters began to speculate about the kind of weather the Pacific Northwest might experience this winter. On September 20, Pete Parsons, meteorologist for the Oregon Department of Agriculture in Salem, issued a forecast for the period October through December. It called for October to start out relatively quiet, turning more stormy by the end of the month and continue through December. Although his forecast was primarily targeted for the area west of the Cascades in Washington and Oregon, a look at the data for Sisters during this period offers an insight into the broad-scale weather pattern.

The precipitation total for October was more than half an inch below normal. Only

two minor frontal systems even approached our region. Temperatures were slightly cooler than average. A high pressure ridge kept storms at bay for the first two-thirds of November before finally breaking down and allowing about an inch of rain to fall during the remainder of the month. The moisture deficit for November was a full inch. Maximum daily temperatures were about 3° F above normal while minimum temperatures averaged 4° F below average, consistent with the high frequency of cloudless skies.

December started off cold and dry as the thermometer fell to 2° F on December 7 and 8. An active front finally made it across the mountains and deposited nearly half an inch of rain in Sister Country on December 12.

When Parsons released his

See **WINTER** on page 19

## A river rescue off an icy road

By Jim Cornelius  
Editor in Chief

Jeremiah Johnson knows how treacherous the winter highway from Salem to Sisters can be. He has been crossing the Cascades for a year from the Clutch Industries headquarters in Salem to manage the construction of The Lodge at Sisters assisted-living facility on Larch Street just south of the post office.

On Wednesday, December 12, his alertness to conditions and the dangers they posed led to the rescue of a family whose vehicle had plunged off of Highway 22 into the North Santiam River.

“I like to leave this time of year at that time, because it gives the (Santiam) pass a 30-minute window of sunlight hitting it before I have to drive through it,” he wrote in an email to his boss, Chris Blackburn, who provided the note to *The Nugget*. “You’d be surprised as to the difference that 30 (minutes) of



PHOTO PROVIDED

The construction manager for The Lodge at Sisters rescued a family from a wreck on Hwy. 22 last Wednesday. Their vehicle was in the North Santiam River.

fairly warm makes on the icy roads. I stopped in Detroit for a cup of coffee, conversed with a couple of the workers I’ve gotten to know that work at the store there, (and) headed up the hill. The gentleman there said as I walked out the door, ‘be careful out there, it’s icy!’ I said, ‘Thank

you, I’m pretty cautious these days!’ and walked to my truck (and) off I went.”

Johnson made his way into the mountains, throwing on his four-wheel drive as the temperature dropped with elevation and the road began

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