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'The Snow Queen' alights in Sisters

By T. Lee Brown
Correspondent

Great tufts of snow wafted to the white ground outside Sisters High School last weekend as audiences made their way inside to "The Snow Queen."

Produced by Missoula Children's Theatre (MCT), in partnership with Sisters Folk Festival and Sisters Schools, the show was borne of an interesting premise: that students can learn their lines, blocking, and several short songs in just five days' time, then perform for the public.

Many kids arrived at auditions with no prior stage experience. As Brad Tisdell of the Folk Festival acknowledged in his opening remarks, there is a shortage of theatre education in Sisters Country.

More than 60 local kids were cast to act and sing in the show. Three were selected to learn the backstage arts as assistant directors: Norah Thorsett, Kaidyn Wetherell, and Jaxon Wetherell.



PHOTO BY JERRY BALDOCK

"The Snow Queen" came to Sisters with Missoula Children's Theatre.

The classic tale hinges on young Kay, a boy transformed by an evil magic mirror and lured away by the

Snow Queen. (If you're more familiar with Narnia than fairy tales, think Edmund and the White Witch in The

Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe.)

See **PLAY** on page 16

Continued growth forecast for Sisters

By Sue Stafford
Correspondent

"You are growing very fast and changing fast and I know I don't need to tell you that," Brendon Buckley of Johnson Economics told the Sisters Planning Commission at their February 21 meeting.

Since 2000, Sisters has grown roughly 185 percent with an increase of nearly 1,800 people, a much greater percentage growth than either Deschutes County or the state.

Buckley was explaining the draft results of his firm's Housing Needs Analysis (HNA), which analyzes the 20-year housing needs for Sisters for the period 2019-2039. The HNA will be compared to the City's Residential

See **GROWTH** on page 30

What will become of USFS property?

By Sue Stafford
Correspondent

If the U.S. Forest Service property housing the Sisters Ranger District headquarters at the west end of town sells, what will be built on that land? That has been a big question on the minds of Sisters citizens ever since the Forest Service announced the property was for sale.

City staff is continuing to explore options to facilitate and support future land-use entitlements on the property. The "middle" portion of the property is approximately 32 acres and zoned Public Facility (PF). The Comprehensive Plan text designation for this area identifies three development options, all of which

indicate a desire for thoughtfully planned mixed-use development.

Option A would include relocating the Ranger District to the 13 acres north across Barclay Drive with mixed use on the remaining land, which could include highway commercial, downtown commercial, residential, and light industrial. Option B would be for residential with some commercial and a buffer along Highway 20. Option C is another variation of the same components.

At a variety of past public forums on the best use for the property, suggestions have included a performing arts center, a community swimming pool, affordable

See **PROPERTY** on page 29

Big winter storm smacks Sisters

By Jim Cornelius
Editor in Chief

Folks in Sisters Country might be forgiven for looking askance at anyone who says "better late than never" when it comes to winter storms.

After a relatively mild and dry January and early February — and after several predicted storms fizzled out or skirted the area — Sisters got hit with a mighty wallop Sunday and Monday as a heavy winter storm dumped more than two feet of snow.

Massive snowfall in the Cascades caused avalanches that blocked all or part of Highway 20 near Santiam Pass on Sunday and Monday, delaying or halting travel. Commuting to Bend and Redmond was possible — if you could get out of your

See **WINTER** on page 31



PHOTO BY GARY MILLER

Smokey Bear's hat turned into a snow gauge as about two feet of snow (in places, more) fell over Sisters Country Sunday and Monday.

Inside...

Letters/Weather	2	Obituaries	5	Entertainment	13	Nugget Flashback	24	Classifieds.....	27-28
Meetings	3	Announcements.....	12	Sisters Naturalist.....	14	Crossword	26	Real Estate	29-32