

# Mushing through the snow

By Jodi Schneider  
Correspondent

When a last blast of winter walloped Sisters with over 30 inches of snow in some areas last week, it made for treacherous driving conditions, and had some folks homebound. Snow may be beautiful to look at, but it can certainly make a mess out of traveling back and forth to work.

Many people had been hitting the snow-packed roads with cross country skis, but if you wanted to get somewhere faster, for some — mushing was the way to go.

Mushing is a sport or transport technique powered by dogs. The practice of using

dogs to pull sleds dates to 2000 BC, and it was the right strategy to get around for Dr. Kelly Barton, veterinarian associate at Sisters Veterinary Clinic. Barton is a dog musher both recreationally and competitively.

During Barton's trek to work last week she had to break trail with snowshoes for over a mile to reach the highway.

"The snow was too deep for a single sled dog to drag a sled with a person on it," Barton said. "It was also too deep to drive my small SUV out, which is what precipitated this whole event."

Barton noted, "Once my dog Wing and I got to the

highway, I took the snowshoes off and put them in my sled. Then we worked together to drive two and a half miles to Sisters Veterinary Clinic for work that day. Wing was a trouper and got me to work on time. He is trained to stay to the right side of the road/trail, so we were generally on the shoulder of the road but did have to go to the other side when the plow came through just on the edge of town."



PHOTO PROVIDED

Dr. Kelly Barton is a musher — which came in handy for last week's commute.

Barton joined Sisters Veterinary Clinic in November of 2018. She earned her Bachelor of Science at Oregon State University (OSU) in Zoology, her Doctor of

Veterinary Medicine at Ross University in the West Indies, and completed her clinical year at Iowa State University.

Barton began mushing as a hobby in 2006 with her



"Deer in the Snow"  
Sammy Williams, Age 10

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Due to space limitations, publication of submissions is not guaranteed. We seek to showcase a wide range of ages, styles, and abilities that represent the diverse talents of the youth of our greater Sisters community.

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# KIDS IN PRINT

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## "What I love about winter in Sisters"



Aksel Miller 2019

### Snow Day Art

Aksel Miller made this painting during last week's time off school. He used acrylic paint and black felt-tip pen on canvas. Aksel is a second-grader at Sisters Elementary. He likes to go on cross-country skis through town. Best of all during snow days is jumping into deep snow up to his neck!

There are no bad parts to snow days, according to Aksel. He thought it was exciting when the power went out, and his family had to use candles and flashlights to see anything.



PHOTO BY RANDI SLOTNAES

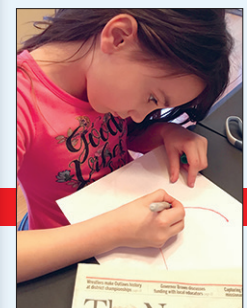


PHOTO BY TL BROWN

Nayeli Frye made this drawing after playing in the snow and dancing. She got help on the colorful lettering from her friend Gusty Berger-Brown. They are in the same class at Sisters Elementary School.