

The Nugget

News and Opinion
from Sisters, Oregon

POSTAL CUSTOMER

PRE-SORTED STANDARD
ECRWSS
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
Sisters, OR
Permit No. 15

Vol. XLII No. 21

www.NuggetNews.com

Wednesday, May 22, 2019

Fire consumes yurt in Sisters yard

A blaze in a Sisters yard on Wednesday, May 15 quickly escalated to a grass fire that destroyed a canvas yurt.

Units arriving at 273 E. Black Crater Ave. witnessed an explosion with a fireball that extended 10-15 feet in the air, and was visible over the roof of the garage on scene. Personnel on scene located the origin of the fire, an approximate 25-foot diameter fire burning in debris on the ground, and extending to a wood fence at the lot line of the property.

It was later determined that the burning debris on the ground were the remnants of a 16-foot diameter canvas yurt and the contents inside. Firefighters believe the explosion/fireball came from an oil-filled heater that over-pressurized due to direct flame contact.

A nearby outdoor trampoline and two fence panels also burned.

The owner of the yurt was outside and reported seeing the yurt on fire and called 911.



PHOTO PROVIDED

Firefighters battled a blaze on Wednesday, May 15, that consumed a canvas yurt.

The fire quickly engulfed the yurt and began to spread. Personnel on scene quickly extinguished the fire, removed fence panels, and rails from the fence that had been on fire. The fire was

controlled within 10 minutes of initial dispatch.

Sisters-Camp Sherman Fire District responded with six firefighters and four emergency vehicles. An additional unit from Cloverdale brought

one additional firefighter. The fire safety manager for the Sisters-Camp Sherman Fire District performed an initial investigation of the fire, and stated that the cause is still under investigation.

Sisters man arrested on child porn charges

Acting on a tip from the organization Internet Crimes Against Children (ICAC), Deschutes County Detectives served a search warrant at the residence of George C. Staab on Cayuse Drive in Sisters on Tuesday, May 14. Staab, age 73, was suspected of possessing and distributing child pornography.

DCSO reports that during the search detectives located a large amount of child pornography. Based on evidence located at Staab's residence and statements allegedly made by Staab during his interview, he was lodged in the Deschutes County Adult Jail on charges of Encouraging

See **STAAB** on page 30

Sisters to mark solemn holiday

By Jim Cornelius
Editor in Chief

Memorial Day is often seen as the kickoff to the summer season — a three-day weekend filled with barbecues and outdoor activities.

But its true meaning is a solemn one: It is a day of remembrance created to honor those who have fallen in the armed services defending the United States of America.

Sisters veterans organizations will mark the day in honor and remembrance at 11 a.m. on Monday, May 27, at the Village Green. American Legion Commander Lance Trowbridge will serve as master of ceremonies. The keynote address will be given by SSAF Brig. General

Jim Cunningham. The Sisters Veteran served his country for more than 40 years, as an Air Force pilot and as commander of the Air National Guard. He has since served his community on several nonprofit boards, including Sisters Habitat for Humanity and Sisters Folk Festival.

Cunningham did two tours of duty during the Vietnam conflict in the air arm of a special operations program. He flew OV-10 Broncos in Forward Air Control — a singularly dangerous mission that involved target acquisition and required flying “low and slow” in enemy territory.

“FAC was the mission, but I didn’t do it in Vietnam,” Cunningham says. “I did it in

See **MEMORIAL DAY** on page 29

Circle of Friends builds relationships

By Helen Schmidling
Correspondent

Circle of Friends in Sisters pairs adult mentors with young people. Begun eight years ago, the original intent was a long-term relationship between adult mentors and children (mentees) from kindergarten through grade 12.

Circle of Friends adapts, as mentees’ siblings enter the Circle, as kids and adults move, as family situations change, and as technology broadens the scope of what needs to be known. Through growth, Circle of Friends has become an inclusive solution for any young person facing challenges in school and in life. It’s a win-win for the parents, the kids, and the mentors in the program.

Two of the Circle of

See **MENTORS** on page 24



PHOTO PROVIDED

Mentor Terry Buckholz instructs Circle of Friends STEM group in building a bottle rocket.

Inside...

Letters/Weather2 Sisters Naturalist.....8 Announcements.....12 Kids in Print.....19-20 Classifieds.....33-35
Meetings3 Sisters Salutes11 Entertainment13 Crossword32 Real Estate35-40