

# The Nugget

News and Opinion from Sisters, Oregon

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## Local authors shine at Festival of Books

By Ceili Cornelius  
Correspondent

Authors from the local community got their moment in the spotlight in the inaugural Sisters Festival of Books this past weekend. Local authors kicked off the weekend with a reception at FivePine Lodge on Friday evening.

Twelve local authors brought themselves — and their diverse books — to the kickoff event.

Sisters-based author Julia Huni, author of the “Space Janitor” series, spoke about how her book series started originally as a set of science fiction short stories.

“My friend who read it told me I had to write the story and so they became a series,” Huni said. “My books are heavy on the fun and light on the science.”

The festival was Huni’s first author event, and she enjoyed being able to rub shoulders with other authors.

“Writing is a very solitary profession, so it’s nice to get out and socialize with fellow



PHOTO BY JERRY BALDOCK

Paul Bennett was one of a dozen local authors featured in the opening night of the Sisters Festival of Books.

writers,” she said.

Jill Stanford, author of the “Cowgirl Cookbook” series, was presenting with her

seventh book.

“I write books about cowgirls and everything that goes along with them,” she said.

She has written poetry books, books on the history of

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## Sisters schools state scores announced

By Charlie Kanzig  
Correspondent

The Oregon Department of Education (ODE) released state assessment scores last month with little fanfare, and Sisters School District once again scored above the state average overall. However Oregon, as a whole, did not have a particularly good showing compared to other states that use the Smarter Balanced assessment.

Like other states, Oregon requires state assessments as a gauge for learning progress. In Oregon students take Smarter Balanced assessments in grades 3-8 and in grade 11 for language arts

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## Sisters woman arrested in graffiti case

Law enforcement investigators have arrested an 18-year-old Sisters woman in connection with a series of vandalism cases in the Sisters area. Deschutes County Sheriff’s Office personnel have been investigating the cases since July.

The vandalism involved graffiti both inside and outside the city of Sisters that had occurred over a several week period. On Tuesday, deputies arrested Sofia Affatati in connection with this investigation. Affatati has been lodged in the Deschutes

County Sheriff’s Office Adult Jail on two counts of Criminal Mischief I and five counts of Criminal Mischief II, the sheriff’s office reports.

The spate of vandalism last summer prompted a number of Sisters citizens to take up patrolling the community at night to report on any suspicious activity.

The investigation is still ongoing and additional arrests are possible. Anyone with information about this investigation is asked to call non-emergency dispatch at 541-693-6911.

## Woman recounts harrowing ordeal

By Jim Cornelius  
Editor in Chief

In a split second on August 5, Dawn Cooper found herself in the path of a drunk driver who had fled from police miles down Highway 20 and into Sisters.

According to an Oregon State Police report, at about 3:40 p.m., on that summer day, an OSP trooper reported a reckless driver on the east side of the Santiam Pass on Highway 20 traveling eastbound. He was unable to catch up to and stop the reckless vehicle, which was picked up a short time later by another OSP officer as it



PHOTO COURTESY DAWN COOPER

Dawn Cooper of Sisters was hurt when a man fleeing police hit her nearly head-on on West McKinney Butte Road last summer.

was approaching Sisters.

There was a short pursuit, which the OSP trooper terminated.

It turned out that the driver, Troy Brandon Harris,

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