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Schools focus on honor for veterans

By T. Lee Brown
Correspondent

On the Friday before the holiday weekend, veterans were honored at an assembly presented by Sisters Elementary School (SES). The respectful, educational, and emotionally moving assembly was professional in its presentation and sincere in its gratitude.

"I've never been more honored as a veteran than here," David Vaux said of Sisters.

He moved here a little over a year ago, shortly before the SES Veterans Assembly of that year. He enjoyed it greatly.

"And then I spent three hours crying," he said.

SES Principal Joan Warburg thanked service members for giving of their lives and time.

"We don't take that lightly," she said.

Then the school's music teacher, Sara Miller, took the stage, leading students, veterans, and others in the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance and singing the "Star Spangled Banner."



PHOTO BY JERRY BALDOCK

Sisters Elementary School staff and students welcomed veterans for a special celebration on November 8.

A slideshow celebrated veterans who are related to SES students, with photos submitted by families. Andres Nieto, Andy Levesque, William Dixon III, Brian Hale, Reese Miller and many others: each service

member's photo was shown, along with information about their service and which students they were related to.

Kids sang, "We are proud of our veterans — proud of you all. You are patriots and heroes who answered the

call." As they sang, "Thank you, thank you," fourth-grade leadership students turned and sang to the seated veterans, and also used the sign language for "thanks."

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Smoldering burn piles ignite small fire

By T. Lee Brown
Correspondent

A neighbor in the Crossroads subdivision a few miles west of Sisters noticed smoke rising from debris near a house on Graham Court last Sunday morning. As the fire began to consume a fence, he reported the fire to Tim Craig, deputy chief of Sisters-Camp Sherman Fire District.

Two fire trucks and a smaller emergency vehicle could be seen at the site, along with at least four personnel. They subdued the fire with apparent ease.

"In this case I wasn't worried about evacuating the neighborhood or anything; there wasn't a wind up — but that's not to say a small fire can't take out one or two houses," said Craig.

See **FIRE** on page 30

Sisters Fire crew travels across the pond

By Ceili Cornelius
Correspondent

Sisters-Camp Sherman RFPD EMT firefighters Pat Burke and Damon Frutos just returned from an exchange program with Hampshire County Fire and Rescue in southern England.

Hampshire County is one of the most densely populated areas in the world. This urban landscape and area were new for Burke and Frutos because they were both trained and work in rural environments.

Burke, engineer medic with SCSRFPD, went on the exchange for the experience and to learn more about rescue and firefighting. The

exchange program started in 2015 as a way to share cross-organizational knowledge. The exchange with the two departments started with a conversation between the Hampshire Fire Chief and Station Manager David Hodge and Sisters Fire Chief Roger Johnson at a conference in Portland five years ago. They found the conversations they were having about the different types of firefighting in different areas to be very beneficial. They thought it would be interesting to actually have the two sets of fire lines do an exchange.

The program is in its

See **EXCHANGE** on page 22

Two Outlaws are state champions

By Charlie Kanzig
Correspondent

The OSAA Cross Country State Championships turned out to be historic for Sisters High School runners Ella Thorsett and John Peckham — and for the boys' team.

Before the day was done the Outlaws had two individual champions and a second-place team trophy for the boys team.

No Outlaws runner had ever claimed the individual title in cross-country, but freshman Ella Thorsett changed that with a record-breaking run in a blistering time of 17:43.

About an hour later, John Peckham became the second Outlaw to complete the feat.

"Amazing," said Coach Josh Nordell. "We knew it



PHOTO BY CHARLIE KANZIG

Ella Thorsett turned in a blistering time to earn the Outlaws first individual state title in cross country.

could happen that we end up with two individual champions, but the way they did it was truly amazing."

Peckham entered the meet as the favorite, but Thorsett's

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