

# The Nugget

News and Opinion  
from Sisters, Oregon

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## District to tighten policies on coaching

By Jim Cornelius  
Editor in Chief

Brittany and Tom Niebergall continue to coach varsity girls basketball at Sisters High School, and the District will revise its hiring protocols and coaching practices and policies in an effort to ensure that all student athletes have a positive experience in their sports.

Those were the outcomes of a five-hour hearing before the Sisters School Board on Thursday, January 16, addressing an investigation into concerns of several Sisters parents regarding coaching in the Sisters High School girls basketball program. The investigation was conducted in response to a

See COACHING on page 26

## Shootout!



PHOTO BY JERRY BALDOCK

Reese Moore drives for Outlaws 5th grade boys during Sisters Shootout. The annual event offers fun and competition for youth basketball players from across the region.

## Sisters history and art on display

By Helen Schmidling  
Correspondent

It's not the New Hampshire Primary, or even the Iowa Caucus, but voters in Sisters Country are heading to the little ballot box in the Sisters Library. Voting ends on Friday, January 24. The results will determine this year's People's Choice Awards at the library's Annual Art Exhibit, sponsored by the Friends of Sisters Library. Results will be announced during a reception in the library from 6 to 7:30 p.m., with hors d'oeuvres and beverages, coinciding with the Sisters Arts Association's Fourth Friday Artwalk.

Across town, the Artwalk starts at 4 p.m., so folks will have plenty of time to look

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## Remembering Sisters woman at sentencing

By Jim Cornelius  
Editor-in-Chief

Judge Wells Ashby told a packed and solemn courtroom on Tuesday, January 14, that no sentence can "properly honor Jenny Cashwell or square the ledger on her death."

Alan Peter Porciello, 37, shot and killed Cashwell after a date on January 12, 2019, in his apartment in Bend. Porciello pleaded guilty to second-degree manslaughter in the killing, which occurred when, as he told police, he was "being facetious, acting like I was going to shoot her, and accidentally did."

On January 14, the judge sentenced Porciello to nine years in prison with 12 months of post-prison

supervision. Any firearms and ammunition that he possessed are to be forfeited and he is to have no weapons of any kind after release.

In a statement to the court, Porciello said, "I take 100 percent responsibility, because I broke the cardinal rule of gun (handling)... I am so very sorry, from the bottom of my heart."

Family and friends of Cashwell did not speak at the sentencing hearing — but many people in the Sisters community wrote letters to Judge Ashby describing the impact Cashwell had on their lives. The judge told Deputy District Attorney Dan Reesor that he had read "every single one."

See CASHWELL on page 24

## Sisters has a new Eagle Scout

By Jim Anderson  
Correspondent

When an Eagle Scout candidate gets it into his head that he wants to do a community project, get out of his way — or be prepared to give him a hand.

Austen Heuberger, a Sisters High School junior member of Boy Scout Troop 188 was hiking around on the common area of Junipine Acres where he lives when he thought, "Gee whiz, there's no information about the boundaries of the property, places for wildlife viewing, seasonal closures or historical notes around here. I wonder if the residents of Junipine would like to have some kiosks along here and make this a trail..."

He consulted with Gretchen Matos who, in partnership with her husband,



PHOTO BY ERIC LIDDELL

Austen Heuberger standing next to one of the three kiosks he built and installed on Junipine Acres common areas for his Eagle Scout project.

Gary, are part of the Common Area Committee of Junipine Acres, and they lit upon an idea to create an informational kiosk, and away they went.

"When we moved to

Junipine Acres (north of Sisters) we knew we had found a special place. Land, beautiful ponderosa pines

See EAGLE SCOUT on page 25

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