



The Nugget

News and Opinion
from Sisters, Oregon

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

Vol. XLIII No. 5 www.NuggetNews.com Wednesday, January 29, 2020

People's Choice Awards honor five

By Helen Schmidling
Correspondent

More than 250 Sisters art-lovers streamed through the doors of the Sisters Library Friday night to mingle with their friends and local artists, and cast final votes for the People's Choice Awards at the Sisters Library Annual Art Exhibit. While anxiously awaiting the results, people strolled through the library, nibbled on veggies, shrimp, and mini-wraps, and listened to music provided by The Renaissance Sisters, under

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Out for a stroll...

PHOTO BY JERRY BALDOCK

A pair of Sisters residents forded Whychus Creek on a wintery day last week.

City makes changes to event rules

By Sue Stafford
Correspondent

Creekside City Park will be closed to large events, and event-related street closures will be cut back and streets will not be closed for events during the summer — with exceptions for the Rodeo Parade and the Sisters Outdoor Quilt Show. Those are key results of new City Ordinance 500, having to do with public events, and Ordinance 501 regarding transient merchants, passed on a four-one vote at the January 22 Sisters City Council meeting.

See the accompanying

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Man arrested on child pornography charges

A 44-year-old Sisters man faces 22 child pornography-related charges after being arrested on Tuesday, January 21, in the wake of a six-month investigation by the Deschutes County Sheriff's Office.

The sheriff's office reported Wednesday, January 22, that the detectives division had acted on a tip from Internet Crimes Against Children (ICAC) regarding Michael Wills possibly possessing and distributing child pornography. The Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force Program is a national network of 61 coordinated task forces representing over 4,500 federal, state, and local law-enforcement and prosecutorial agencies.

During the investigation

detectives reportedly confirmed that Wills was the person involved.

On January 14, detectives contacted Wills at his residence near Sisters. Detectives interviewed Wills, and a search warrant was later served at his residence. During the search warrant service, detectives seized various electronic devices belonging to Wills. A search warrant to analyze the electronic devices was later granted, and, according to DCSO, a forensic examination of the electronic devices revealed Wills was in possession of images of child pornography.

Wills was contacted again on January 21, and interviewed regarding the

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New Habitat home dedicated

The sun came out as Sisters Habitat for Humanity dedicated a home with the Likens family on Tuesday, January 21, in the Village Meadows subdivision.

Seth, Kastle, Araya and Malita are the 69th family to benefit from the Sisters Habitat Homeownership Program.

Board President Chuck Harper welcomed the crowd of about 100 people as everyone celebrated and honored the donors, volunteers, and the family. The home was built by Youth Build students and Habitat volunteers.

James Collins from Heart of Oregon spoke about the Youth Build Program and how it impacts the lives of young adults who choose the path of learning a trade. Ray Hendricks, an AmeriCorp volunteer with Youth Build, grew up in a Habitat home and stressed the importance of stable, affordable housing as he was growing up.

Family Partners Berni Huggett and Pat Woollard presented gifts to the family including a Children's Bible and a handmade quilt by Susan Cobb.

Michelle Ehr welcomed the Likens



PHOTO BY JERRY BALDOCK

The Habitat community celebrated with the Likens family as they dedicated their new home in Sisters.

family to the neighborhood on behalf of the other neighbors. Following the blessing by Nate Kaping, the family cut the ribbons to their new home. Refreshments were served and guests were invited to tour the home.