

# The Nugget

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## SHS classes launch science balloons

By Ceili Cornelius  
Correspondent

On a clear spring day in Sisters last Thursday, the Sisters High School chemistry classes instructed by Rima Givot launched two stratospheric balloons from Sisters Eagle Airport, loaded with students' experiments.

This is the fourth year of launching the weather balloons with students. Students learn about weather patterns, atmospheric pressure, temperature change, and UV level change, while analyzing the effect on certain materials during flight.

This project is made possible with the leadership of Steven Peterzen of the stratospheric ballooning company ISTAR, and funded through a grant recently awarded to the program by Battelle Memorial Institute, and mentorship by Rod Moorehead and Ron Thorkildson.

The students have been building their own experiments at home and collaborating virtually to build the "payload." The balloons are inflated with helium in order to float up far into the atmosphere. The purpose of



PHOTO PROVIDED

Rancher Jim Wood, who lives part-time in Sisters, found one of the Sisters High School scientific balloons when it landed on his ranch near Post.

launching the experiments into the atmosphere is to see what happens to them passing through the various layers of the atmosphere. The payloads include a number of various experiments including fruits, bread, activated yeast, salmon eggs, feathers, and mold growth. Cameras are also attached to the payload to capture what happens

to the experiments during flight and observe the flight of the balloon. The payloads also contain UV sensors to test the effect of sunlight at certain elevation on certain experiments.

GPS trackers are enabled to track where the balloon eventually lands.

During the preparation for launch, a few students were

on site, live-streaming the launch to their classmates virtually.

"While the students will not be as active in the launch as in the past, their experiments will still get flown up so they can learn from this experience," said Givot. "We had to get creative in

See **BALLOONS** on page 11

## Redmond woman drowns at Scout Lake

A 44-year-old teacher from Redmond drowned at Scout Lake on Sunday.

Jefferson County Sheriff's Office reported that emergency responders were dispatched at 12:35 p.m. on May 10 to the report of a possible drowning at Scout Lake, near Suttle Lake and Highway 20 about 12 miles west of Sisters.

Dispatch was told a female had fallen from her stand-up paddleboard into the lake. She was reportedly not wearing a life jacket. The woman, later identified as Valerie Mallory, was pulled from the water and CPR was started. Medics from the Sisters/Camp Sherman Fire Department arrived but were unable to resuscitate the woman.

She had friends and family on scene.

See **DROWNING** on page 11

## New Sisters Farmer's Market to launch June 7

By Katy Yoder  
Correspondent

There's a lot of change happening at the Sisters Farmer's Market. Some is in response to COVID-19 and safety measures for participants. For the first time, Seed to Table will be running the market and has hired the first paid market manager. In keeping with Seed to Table's mission, there will be expanded outreach and access to locally-sourced, fresh products.

Audrey Tehan, Executive Director of Seed to Table, explained some of the changes.

"We've been involved in brainstorming ways to revitalize the market," said Tehan. "To realize the potential of the market, we looked

at how many hours it takes to run it. Our goal is to increase health and wellness in the community and promote local farmers and small businesses. It's been a yearlong conversation with Sisters Park & Recreation District, who was the fiscal sponsor, as well as vendors and the City and market participants. We asked for input to understand what we needed to be successful."

The market had been run mainly by volunteers. They received a stipend, but it didn't come close to covering the hours invested in the market's success.

Tehan praised past managers and the fantastic job they've done.

"It was clear it was time

See **MARKET** on page 16

## Home near Sisters destroyed by fire

A home in Cascade Meadow Ranch west of Sisters was destroyed by fire early Thursday morning. First-arriving units found the residence at 15169 Windigo Trail already fully engulfed by the blaze.

The 3,600-square-foot home was unoccupied at the time of the fire. Damage estimates are unknown at this time, but the home is a total loss, the fire department reported.

The fire department reported that fire crews performed a defensive fire attack because of how much the fire had already progressed when they arrived on scene. The cause of the fire is under investigation by the Oregon Office of State Fire Marshal and Oregon State Police.

Sisters-Camp Sherman Fire District responded with seven emergency vehicles;



PHOTO PROVIDED

Fire consumed a 3,600-square-foot home in Cascade Meadow Ranch last Thursday, May 7. The home was unoccupied at the time of the blaze.

three additional units from Black Butte Ranch Fire District and four additional units from Cloverdale Fire District also responded to the fire. A total of 30 firefighters responded to the incident. One firefighter suffered a minor injury, not requiring

treatment, during the fire.

Fire Chief Roger Johnson said "Due to the time of day, and rural nature of the subdivision, the fire was not detected until the home was heavily involved with fire and unsafe for firefighters to enter."

### Inside...

Letters/Weather .....	2	Announcements.....	10	Crossword .....	18	Sudoku .....	20
Meetings .....	3	Sisters Naturalist.....	13	Classifieds.....	19-21	Real Estate .....	22-24