

The Nugget

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Artists demonstrate their work in tour

By Jodi Schneider
Correspondent

Those who love the arts in Sisters got the opportunity last weekend to see some of the region's finest in action.

The Sisters Art Association (SAA) Artist Studio Tour celebrated four years of offering a unique opportunity for art enthusiasts to visit studio spaces of 36 artists at 26 locations in and around Sisters Country. From 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Saturday and Sunday, September 26-27, a dynamic group of local artists showcased unique collections of work in the free, annual, self-guided SAA Artist Studio Tour.

The tour offered visitors the special opportunity to visit many of the talented artists as they worked in their studios. Most artists on the tour — whether appearing at their private studios or joined up in small outdoor groups around one home — actively demonstrated their craft. This allowed guests to gain insight into the materials, techniques and processes used in creating a work of art. Artists participating in



PHOTO BY JODI SCHNEIDER

June Jaeger demonstrated her work with dyes during an Artist Studio Tour last weekend that brought a welcome sense of activity and vitality to Sisters' arts community.

the tour specialized in a wide variety of mediums, ranging from painting to ceramics to jewelry and textiles.

Tom Williams was on the tour on Saturday.

"We went to the studio

tour last year," he said. "But this year we met many new artists and really loved them and their art. There has been so much limited availability of things to do and something like this is a great chance to

get out. We've seen a lot of things just today that we hadn't seen before. I'm very impressed."

A full-color tour guide

See **STUDIO TOUR** on page 23

Fires postpone Whychus Creek dam removal

By Katy Yoder
Correspondent

Restoring Whychus Creek as a healthy waterway has taken many years, multiple funding sources, and teamwork. The removal of the last dam and fish passage barrier will help support reintroduction of Chinook and steelhead, which started in Whychus Creek in 2007. Efforts are helping transform the once-dammed and over-stressed water system into a life-giving, vital flow of clean, hospitable water able to support a diverse habitat.

The final dam removal was planned for September. But recent fires and suffocating smoke from around the state increased the fire-threat level on the Deschutes National

See **DAM REMOVAL** on page 14

Sisters voters have choices to make

Sisters voters will decide who will serve on Sisters City Council. Voters in the greater Sisters area will vote on who will serve as Deschutes County Sheriff for the next four years and on who will serve four years in Position #2 on the Deschutes County Board of Commissioners.

Incumbent Phil Henderson is being challenged for the seat by Phil Chang (see profile of Henderson on page 6 and profile of Chang on page 7).

Stories on the sheriff's race between incumbent Sheriff Shane Nelson and Bend PD officer Scott Schaeir will be forthcoming in subsequent editions of *The Nugget*, along with profiles of the five candidates vying for three seats on City Council.

The five candidates for

three open positions are: Gary Ross; Elizabeth Fisher; incumbent Andrea Blum; Susan Cobb; and Jennifer Letz.

In addition, local voters will decide on whether to allow additional marijuana-growing operations in unincorporated areas of the county, and vote on bonds to renovate, upgrade, construct and equip library facilities.

Ballots will be mailed out October 14. The last day recommended to mail them in to the County Clerk is October 27. Election Day is November 3, and all ballots must be received by 8 p.m. on election day in order to be counted. *Postmarks do not count.* There is a secure ballot drop at Sisters City Hall, 520 E. Cascade Ave. Deadline to register to vote is October 13.

K-3 students return to school

By Charlie Kanzig
Correspondent

For the first time since mid-March students in kindergarten through third grade will return to Sisters Elementary School (SES) for in-class instruction, thanks to a consistent drop in COVID-19 cases in Deschutes County.

The statistical metric of fewer than 30 cases per 100,000 has held for over three consecutive weeks, allowing the return of the youngest members of the Sisters School District to move from "Comprehensive Distance Learning" to "Hybrid Learning." (Cases did jump again late last week).

Students will attend classes in person Monday through Thursday and continue to take part in Comprehensive Distance



PHOTO BY CHARLIE KANZIG

A student goes through the check-in process with staff before being dropped off at Sisters Elementary School Monday morning.

Learning on Fridays.

Getting students back into the school building requires a comprehensive plan to meet health and safety standards, according to Superintendent Curt Scholl.

"We are excited to get to see our K-3 students for in-person instruction," he said. "Our elementary staff has done a great job preparing

See **SCHOOL** on page 16

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