

2020 YEAR IN REVIEW



A stiff windstorm hit Sisters on January 1, with gusts hitting 60 miles per hour. The wind caused a bit of a ruckus.

JANUARY

Sisters hit by heavy winds

The year 2020 blew into Sisters like a freight train. A heavy windstorm broke trees, tore up roofs, knocked over signs and buffeted houses throughout the afternoon on January 1.

Sisters Eagle Airport recorded sustained winds at 31 mph at 1:55 p.m. with gusts hitting 59 mph. Winds were sustained at 35 mph with a gust at 60 mph at 3:55 p.m.

Winds were sustained in the high 20 mph range with gusts to just under 40 mph for about three-and-a-half hours from 1 to 4:30 p.m.

The windstorm followed moderate rain on New Year’s Eve.

Supporting youth mental health in Sisters

A heavy emphasis has been placed on mental health among youth nationally, and Sisters School District continues to focus on ways to support students from kindergarten through graduation.

In order to best serve students and families, the district’s counselors are working to help define their roles as compared to other counseling-related resources — including professional therapists, psychologists, and mental-health support programs.



Outlaws students trek in the Cascade high country as part of the IEE program at Sisters High School.

Students big winners in tech competition

Sisters Middle School teacher Jeff Schiedler’s seventh- and eighth-grade technology class is one of two in Oregon to win the Samsung Solve for Tomorrow Contest, resulting in a prize worth \$15,000 in technology supplies and equipment.

The nationwide competition challenges students in sixth through 12th grades to creatively use STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) skills to address real-world issues in their communities.

Homelessness affects students in Sisters

According to a state report released near the end of 2019, homelessness among school-aged children affects families in every school district in Oregon, including Sisters.

Oregon has one of the highest rates in the nation for homelessness among students.

For the 2018-19 school year, 20 different families accounting for a total of 39 students were counted as homeless in the Sisters School District, which is just over three percent of the District’s student population.

Sisters Rodeo earns award

Sisters Rodeo recently received the prestigious award “Large Rodeo of the Year” chosen by the board of directors of the Columbia River Circuit, which includes 32 of the best PRCA rodeos throughout the Pacific Northwest.

When asked what makes the Sisters Rodeo stand out, President Curt Kallberg mentioned not only the outstanding volunteers, stock, competitors, and professional staff including the ever-popular rodeo clown J.J. Harrison, but also that “fans don’t come to see our rodeo, they are a part of our rodeo.”

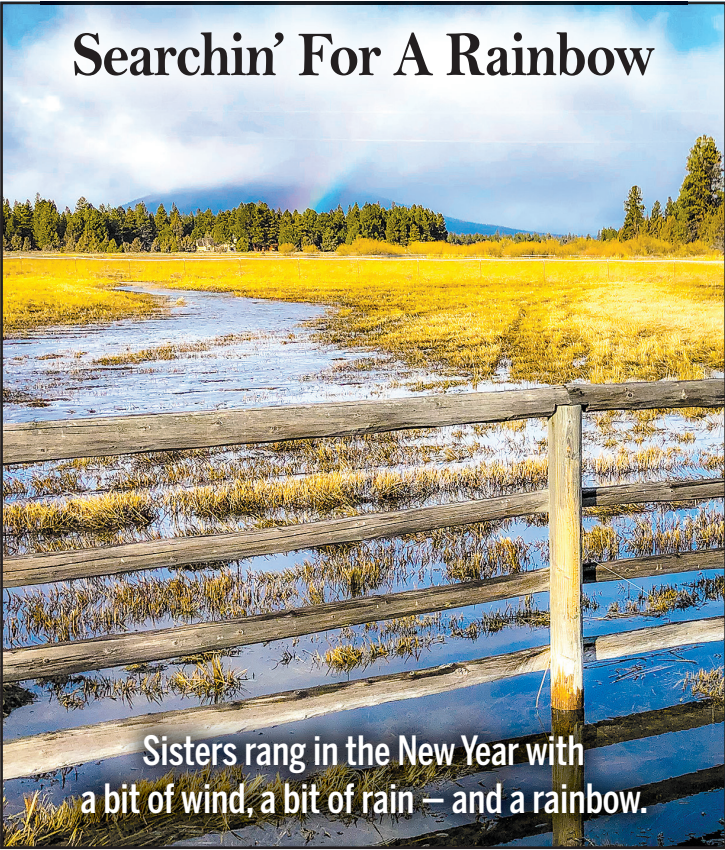


PHOTO BY CAT CONNOR

Sisters Science Fair off for 2020

The long-running Sisters Science Fair scheduled for March has been canceled as the Sisters Science Club and the Sisters School District work on a plan to carry the event into the next decade.

The Sisters Science Club has taken the lead on the event over the past eight years. As Sisters Science Fair Director Carol Packard noted last year, “Usually science fairs depend on teachers and invite the public. In Sisters, the public is inviting the teachers!”

Cal Allen, one of the pioneering members of the Sisters Science Club, told *The Nugget* that they made a proposal to the school district to take the lead.

District to tighten policies on coaching

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.

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