

2020 YEAR IN REVIEW

Remembering Sisters woman at sentencing

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.

Sisters has a new Eagle Scout

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... I wonder if the residents of Junipine would like to have some kiosks...”

He consulted with Gretchen Matos who, in partnership with her husband, 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. Heuberger built and installed three kiosks on Junipine Acres’ common areas for his Eagle Scout project.



PHOTO BY ERIC LIDDELL

Austen Heuberger.

City makes changes to event rules

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.

According to City Manager Cory Mисley, staff and Council have undertaken the task of rebuilding the framework of the City’s codes to tighten up the language for better clarity, remove outdated and irrelevant regulations, and make improvements so that the City codes more realistically reflect what the future of Sisters will need.

Man arrested on child pornography charges

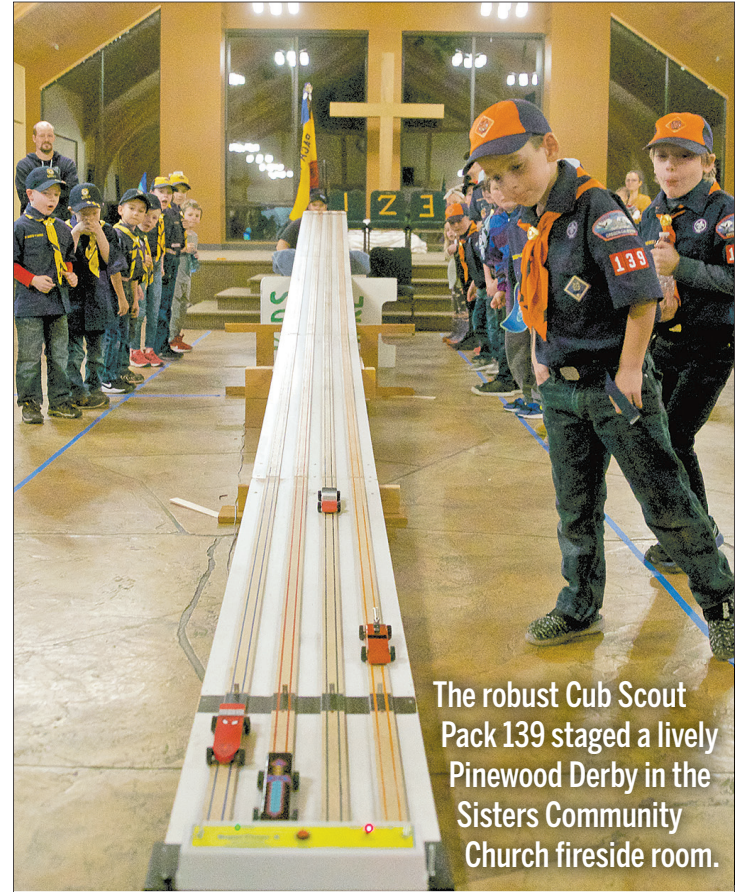
A 44-year-old Sisters man faces 22 child pornography-related charges after being arrested on Tuesday, January 21, in the wake of a six-month investigation by the Deschutes County Sheriff’s Office.

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.

During the investigation detectives reportedly confirmed that Wills was the person involved.

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.



The robust Cub Scout Pack 139 staged a lively Pinewood Derby in the Sisters Community Church fireside room.

PHOTO BY JERRY BALDOCK

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.

FEBRUARY

Cub Scouts revel in Pinewood Derby

The racing action was hot Friday night at Sisters Community Church, as Cub Scout Den 139, and friends and family, gathered in the fireside room for their annual Pinewood Derby and potluck.

A few weeks prior, each scout had been tasked with designing and building their own derby car — with a few requirements. Each derby car had to weigh less than five ounces and be built mainly by the scout it belonged to.

New planner in place at City Hall

Nicole Mardell, the City’s new principal planner, who

joined the staff in December, became familiar with Sisters as a facilitator for the Sisters Country Horizons Vision Project while she was a member of the Deschutes County Project Management Team.

“Through that process I found a deep appreciation for the community here, the history that led to the Sisters we see today, and the shared goals for the future,” Mardell said.

Project to require cutting trees

Some 500 trees will need to come down to clear an existing power-line corridor in Camp Sherman.

A proposed project in the recreational area west of Sisters will establish a 20-foot-wide corridor and upgrade 131 poles along 13 miles of Central Electric Cooperative power line right-of-way across National Forest land.

The project will, in part, mitigate against the danger of the kind of fire that occurred in November 2018 in Paradise, California, when high winds caused PG&E power lines to malfunction.

Shootout!...



PHOTO BY JERRY BALDOCK

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

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