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Storms were good, but won't bust drought

By Bill Bartlett
Correspondent

Looking out the window at the Three Sisters or hiking along Whychus Creek, one might think the deep snow and partial flooding would be a good predictor that our years-long drought might be alleviated. Not so fast say the folks who make a living measuring and tracking these things.

Drought maps like the one shown on page 8 from January 4 produced by the National Integrated Drought Information System, a federal agency, are still discouraging. Sisters Country is still in category D3-Extreme Drought as is 57.9 percent of Oregon overall.

Stream flows are deceiving if looked at only over a period of a few day or weeks. Winter is a months-long process of

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Chloe the Bernadoodle enjoying a romp in the snow with her friends.

PHOTO BY BRENDA JAROS

Vigil marks January 6 Capitol riot

By T. Lee Brown
Correspondent

Sisters residents commemorated the January 6, 2021 riot at the United States Capitol with a lively online event. Members of Indivisible Sisters hosted 72 attendees, gave rousing speeches, and presented guest speaker Jamie McLeod-Skinner, a local candidate who has personal experience related to authoritarian governments.

Master of Ceremonies Mary Chaffin opened with a land acknowledgment to tribes that historically lived in or roamed upon what is now called Sisters Country. She drew attention to "the grievous wound to our democracy" served by the insurrection. Last January represented the only time "in 244 years that we didn't have peaceful transition of power" after a presidential election, she observed.

McLeod-Skinner spoke of coming together in "a combination mourning

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Schools determined to keep kids in class

By Jim Cornelius
Editor in Chief

State education officials are making ominous rumblings about the potential for the omicron variant of COVID-19 to push students back to online learning.

"Student access to in-person instruction is under serious threat," the Oregon Department of Education and the Oregon Health Authority said, as students returned to school after Christmas break.

Sisters schools are determined to keep students in class.

"It's always been our priority since the start of this thing to keep in-person education," said Sisters Schools

Superintendent Curt Scholl. "We know it's critically important to have our kids live, in person, in school."

Scholl told *The Nugget* that he hasn't heard anything directly from the State that would indicate that in-person education is under immediate threat.

"The biggest rumbling is that they're looking at co-curricular," he said.

According to Associated Press, state officials have suggested schools suspend extracurricular activities or ensure they follow safety protocols. They also warned that rapid transmission of the omicron variant is expected

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PHOTO BY BILL BARTLETT

Mainline Station's EV charging station is currently the only one in Sisters available to the general public.

By Bill Bartlett
Correspondent

Laura, a reader and recent transplant from Portland,

was frustrated by the dearth of EV (electric vehicle) charging stations in Sisters. While she took the time to let *The Nugget* know of

her experiences in recharging while shopping, there is ample anecdotal evidence of

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