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Law enforcement contract seen as success

By Jim Cornelius
Editor in Chief

Sheriff Shane Nelson is satisfied with the way the nearly two-year-old revised law enforcement with the City of Sisters is going.

“I feel like we’ve got excellent coverage,” he told *The Nugget*. “And, most important thing about it is having the relationship with the community.”

The City of Sisters and the Deschutes County Sheriff’s Office (DCSO) agreed to a \$711,200 annual contract in March of 2020. The contract allows for a DCSO lieutenant

See **SUCCESS** on page 21

Winter coat...



PHOTO BY BILL BARTLETT

Icy fog creeps into the bones, but it makes for a spectacular landscape, including this scene in Indian Ford Meadow. Sisters enjoyed a couple of icy mornings last week.

Sisters Trails Alliance welcomes new board members

The Sisters Trails Alliance (STA) welcomed Kathy Campbell and David Duehren to the board of directors at their January meeting. Campbell and Duehren, both Sisters residents, bring a wealth of nonprofit expertise to their new roles.

Campbell has a long-standing interest in preserving recreational opportunities with an environmentally conscious approach. She and her late husband, Steve Ponder, had supported STA in various ways, and Campbell was

See **STA** on page 14

New SES building project on track

By Charlie Kanzig
Correspondent

Ground will not likely be broken for the new Sisters Elementary School until early spring, but Superintendent Curt Scholl confirmed that the project is moving forward as expected.

“Yes, the building schedule is ambitious, but we are sticking with the plan to open in the fall of 2023 at the new site,” he said.

The general plans for the K-5 building are largely complete and Scholl hopes to be able to share some drawings and designs with the public in the upcoming weeks.

“We are hoping that when we get what are called the ‘50 percent designs’ done we will be able to make them available for everyone to see,” he said.

Scholl had some good financial news about the money generated by the bond levy. Thanks to the sale of bonds at a premium,

the amount available to the district grew from the original \$33.8 million to \$39.2 million.

“So even though we didn’t get a state grant that we applied for, to go toward the building, the extra \$5 million-plus covers what we were hoping to get from the grant,” said Scholl.

The architecture firm for the project, BLRB, which has offices in Tacoma, Spokane, Portland, and Bend has built schools in Gresham, Cottage Grove, and the Portland area, as well as North Star Elementary School in Bend.

When asked about any concerns regarding the supply chain or labor shortages, Scholl indicated that shortage of building materials has improved and that builders are confident they will have the personnel to get things done.

Scholl did concede that money concerns can always pop up and inflation is

See **ELEMENTARY** on page 14

Water problems? What water problems?

By Bill Bartlett
Correspondent

The Nugget’s Sue Stafford is doing extensive reporting on the effect of long-term drought in Sisters Country, and specifically on the impact to homeowners with water wells running dry. As she has reported, residents within the city limits are served municipally. The City is projecting more than adequate capacity to meet growing demand with no foreseeable shortages.

Outside the City’s boundary it’s an entirely different story, since property owners must drill their own well if they are not part of a community system provided by private water companies, like Avion Water Co., for example, who serves Squaw Creek Canyon Estates.

Depending on location, private wells are plumbed as little as 300 feet in depth or up to 800 feet in the vicinity of Mountain View Road to reach water. The cost of a 750-foot well is between

See **WATER** on page 22



PHOTO BY BILL BARTLETT

Well drilling is a demanding job.

Inside...

Letters/Weather.....	2	Obituaries	4	Entertainment	11	Crossword	18	Real Estate	22-24
Meetings	3	Announcements.....	10	Fun & Games.....	16	Classifieds.....	19-21	Sisters Naturalist.....	23