



# The Nugget

News and Opinion from Sisters, Oregon

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Sisters, OR  
Permit No. 15

Vol. XXXIII No. 41

www.NuggetNews.com

Wednesday, October 13, 2010

## Sisters schools earn high marks

By John Griffith  
Correspondent

Sisters School District turned in an excellent performance on the Oregon State Department of Education (ODE) "Report Card." The annual summary of individual school and district performance across the state rates all three Sisters public schools as "Outstanding."

Superintendent Jim Golden said these ratings are based on discipline (primarily attendance), state OAKS test scores, and dropout rate. This year the criteria also included

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Capturing the beauty of nature...



PHOTO BY CURTISS ABBOTT

Curtiss Abbott shot Paulina Springs during the Photography in the Aspens course taught by Rick Schafer last week at Black Butte Ranch.

## Weed seeks another term

By Bill Mintiens  
Correspondent

Sharlene Weed, 45, has been a Sisters City Councilor now for about six years. She's running again this year to retain her council seat.

Raised in Yreka, California, Weed spent much of her early years in that Northern California community of about 5,000 people. She's also proud of the fact that the nearby town of Weed was named after her great-great-grandfather, who founded the community.

"Having lots of family around was really a 'pioneering' feeling, really grounding for me," said Weed.

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## Watching it burn?

By Jim Cornelius  
News Editor

An incident last month in Obion County, Tennessee, has thrown a harsh light on what happens when a rural homeowner doesn't pay for fire protection services.

A family's home burned to the ground while firefighters watched from their truck (they had been summoned to protect neighboring homes, whose owners had paid a \$75 fee).

The incident sparked an outcry and became a *cause celebre* amongst political pundits. But the circumstance in which the Tennessee family found themselves is not that unusual in rural areas — and some residences in the Sisters Country are similarly vulnerable.

According to Sisters Fire Chief Tay Robertson, there are "quite a few" residences that lie beyond the boundaries of the Sisters-Camp Sherman

Rural Fire Protection District and are not covered by any municipality or other district.

In the Tennessee case, the homeowner had not paid for protection as required in an agreement with the local municipal fire service. Robertson said the Sisters district has "had some experience with homeowners who do not pay."

Homeowners of residences outside district boundaries can contract with the Sisters-Camp Sherman RFPD for fire protection at the same rate (2.73 cents per \$1,000 of assessed value) as taxpayers pay within the district. If they do, they're covered. If they don't? What happened in Tennessee is unlikely to happen on the Sisters Fire Department's watch.

"We'll never watch something burn," Robertson said.

Robertson noted a recent

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## Lumberjack show thrills Sisters crowd

By Jeff Spry  
Correspondent

The cry of "Yo-Ho!" rang out into a steel gray sky during the D.L. Weatherhead Timberworks Lumberjack Show, as a lively crew entertained a damp but energetic crowd on Saturday.

Forty-five-foot American-flag-topped climbing poles flanked the main stage and drew curious visitors onto bleachers and soggy haybales. The impromptu logging camp rose out of the barren field at the end of Hood Avenue, as lumberjacks, with axes and saws at the ready, showcased old-fashioned skills that formed the daily life of turn-of-the-century lumbermills and timber gangs.

Between shows, chainsaw artist Skip Armstrong provided a demonstration of his unique work at an outdoor gallery showcasing several dramatic sculptures



PHOTO BY JERRY BALDOCK

Mike Palladino makes the chips fly in a lumberjack demo.

of eagles in flight, swirling salmon and stampeding buffalo. Armstrong cut and diced a hunk of dark walnut with each grinding pass, while

onlookers tried to guess what the finished animal would be. As he switched chainsaws for

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