



# The Nugget

News and Opinion from Sisters, Oregon

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## Truckers take on 'roundabout rodeo'

By Jim Cornelius  
News Editor

Truck drivers ran through a mockup of the proposed Highway 20/Barclay Drive roundabout last Friday at the Deschutes County Fairgrounds.

Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) engineers laid out a simulation of their design for the roundabout and invited a crew of eight truck drivers to run the course.

"We're looking to see that it's an adequate design for the speed that's proposed," said ODOT spokesman Peter Murphy. "It's the comfort level for trucks going through it."

The test run was designed to allow the ODOT engineers to evaluate their design in a "live" setting and for the drivers to give their feedback based on multiple runs.

"Our engineers are confident that the design will work, but we're partners with the trucking industry and we want to hear what they have to say," Murphy said.



PHOTO COURTESY PETER MURPHY, ODOT

Davis Towing was one of several trucking companies that navigated a mock-up of a proposed roundabout.

Art Davis of Davis Tire and Towing in Sisters gave the proposed roundabout a thumbs-up.

"It's a good design," he told *The Nugget*. "It gives us room for the trucks to get through there."

He said his team navigated the roundabout at 10 to 15 mph. The overall speed limit in that zone is 35 mph.

The drivers ran it six to eight times, simulating an approach eastbound going halfway around the roundabout and continuing down the highway, which, for Davis, would be the most common maneuver.

The vehicle and trailer Davis used was 106 feet long.

A similar test of a roundabout for Highway 47 is scheduled in Portland soon.

Roundabouts on highways are not common, but these two projects indicate a growing comfort level with their use.

The roundabout for Sisters is scheduled for construction in 2016.

"It's still going to be congested in town," Davis noted. "This isn't going to do anything for that. It does help that intersection, though."

## Golden a finalist for Albany job

Sisters School Superintendent Jim Golden is one of two finalists for the superintendent's position in the Greater Albany School District. The Albany School Board announced the finalists in a February 24 education update. Members of that board were in Sisters for a site visit on Thursday.

Sisters School Board Chair Don Hedrick said that the district is awaiting word on whether Golden wins the post, which they expect to hear early this month.

"We don't do anything until he actually announces that he has a job," Hedrick said. "Then we have to do a superintendent search."

Contrary to earlier reports that Golden had applied at three district, the Albany position is actually the only job he is seeking.

See **GOLDEN** on page 18

## Council tries to navigate food cart controversy

By Sue Stafford  
Correspondent

The City Council took no new action at their February 26 meeting to unwind the Planning Department approval granting former mayor Brad Boyd the right to have food carts on his Eurosports property on Hood Avenue.

They did, however, indicate willingness to look at possible changes to the Development Code regarding food carts, which are not currently specifically regulated.

Despite continued urging — occasionally angry

— from the public to redo the application process, or at least to rectify the failure of former senior planner Eric Porter to provide the decision to the planning commission, the Council has let the approval stand.

The Council is caught between a rock and a hard place. Any decision made in this matter is sure to anger someone. Some citizens perceived that Porter had made errors in his interpretation of the development code and in his failure to forward his decision on to the planning

See **FOOD CARTS** on page 30

## Sisters students pursue passion

By Sianna Flowers  
Correspondent

"We go into school hoping to find a job, but why not create one?" says Sisters entrepreneur Bill Willitts.

This is the spirit behind one of Sisters' many unique high school classes — Pursue Your Passion.

Pursue Your Passion (PYP) has been offered at Sisters High School (SHS) for three years now. The course is taught by six community members and teacher Jon Renner. PYP gives teens the opportunity to pursue their passion — be it waffles or drones — in a business setting. Local business owners come to the high school



PHOTO BY JEFF WESTER

Cammi Benson, with parents Julie and Benny, won a cash prize in Pursue Your Passion.

and teach students how to estimate start-up costs, use marketing techniques, and sell their idea. For the first

couple weeks it is a lecture-style class until the students

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