



# The Nugget

News and Opinion from Sisters, Oregon

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## Firefighters knock down two blazes in Sisters

Alert residents and neighbors and quick response from firefighters kept two structure fires from being much worse over the weekend in Sisters.

Quick reaction by bystanders and an immediate response by Sisters-Camp Sherman Fire District kept a wall fire at a duplex on the afternoon of Saturday, December 9, from spreading to the entire unit.

Bystanders noticed the fire in an exterior wall of the duplex and called 911.

The bystanders evacuated the residents and put water on the fire in the wall while the fire department responded.

When firefighters arrived on scene they found fire smoldering in an exterior wall and used a chainsaw to remove the exterior siding and water was applied until the fire was extinguished.

Improperly stored ashes on a wood deck were believed to be the cause of the fire, which caused an estimated



PHOTO PROVIDED

Firefighters battled a roof fire in Tollgate Sunday morning.

\$2,500 in damage to the unit. Ashes should be disposed of in a tightly covered metal container. The container

should be placed outdoors, at least 10 feet from the home and any other nearby buildings. Ashes may retain heat

for days after they appear to be out.

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## School district bus barn plan on hold

By Sue Stafford  
Correspondent

The Sisters School District has decided to “pump the breaks” on construction of the proposed transportation facility slated for the high school parking lot. Contractors who were involved in making bids on the project have been notified that it is not moving forward at this time.

The project was going to be paid for with money from the \$4 million state grant funds unexpectedly received by the district as a result of Senate Bill 447. The announcement by the District

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## HOA removes airport runway runout

By Jim Cornelius  
Editor

An excavation crew broke up and hauled away asphalt paving on approximately 300 feet of runway “runout” at Sisters Airport last week.

The demolition was undertaken on behalf of the Sisters Eagle Air Estates (EAE) Homeowners Association and resolves longstanding contention over the paved area, which was constructed in 2015 without permits and on property not owned by the airport, but on the common area owned by the adjacent Eagle Air Estates subdivision.

The Robinson & Owen Heavy Construction crew removed asphalt and base

material down to a level consistent with the pre-overrun flow of water across the meadow. The crew removed the asphalt to Robison & Owen’s Cline Butte facility for recycling and will store the base material in that location for later use.

Eagle Air Estates Homeowners Association President Todd Newman told *The Nugget* that the approximately \$10,000 cost of the project will be borne by the HOA and shared among the 12 properties in the subdivision, which lies just north of the airport.

The runout issue had been under mediation between the airport and the HOA.

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## Hunters and wildlife remain robust

By Craig Rullman  
Correspondent

Despite increased fees, interest in hunting remains strong in Oregon.

As the 2017 hunting season draws to a close, *The Nugget* spoke with Corey Heath, a wildlife biologist with the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife’s Bend office, on a range of wildlife and hunting-related issues.

In various media outlets, and around the water cooler, there has been much recent discussion about a so-called “death spiral” related to increases in hunting fees. It has been suggested that fee increases, including recent fee hikes for hunters, lead to fewer people buying licenses and tags, meaning less money for ODFW budgets, which results in even more



PHOTO BY JIM CORNELIUS

Deer populations were hit hard by the harsh winter, while elk fared very well. The overall wildlife picture is always mixed and complex.

fee increases and even fewer hunters.

Heath told *The Nugget* that while it is generally true that in the first season following a fee increase there are fewer hunters, “the numbers (of hunters) typically come back up for general season

hunts.” Heath pointed out that for limited-entry hunts, there is still far more demand than available tags, which indicates steady and consistent interest from Oregon hunters.

In recent years, ODFW

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