

# The Nugget

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## Tree lighting kicks off holiday season

By Jodi Schneider  
Correspondent

The City of Sisters kicked off the most wonderful time of the year with the 15th annual Christmas tree lighting in Fir Street Park. The weather outside was frightful, but that didn't keep people from turning out to celebrate the onset of the Christmas season.

This American holiday tradition continues to bring residents together to share in a message of hope and peace. It's part of getting into the Christmas spirit, getting the kids involved and watching the Sisters community gather together.

Sisters Mayor Chuck Ryan got the festivities rolling by thanking the City for all their hard work this year, the Sisters Area Chamber of Commerce for continuing to make Sisters the go-to destination for Central Oregon, and the public works department for stringing up 1,600 bulbs on the live Christmas tree.

Jerry Buckmann, Sisters Area Chamber of Commerce events director, asked the



PHOTO BY JERRY BALDOCK

The Victorian Carolers sang Sisters into the holiday season at the annual Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony.

crowd if they've seen the Capitol Christmas tree this year.

"The Capitol Christmas tree stopped in Bend and drove through Sisters. It

was a pretty awesome sight and we should be proud that Oregon is going to be part of Christmas back in our nation's capital," she said.

A popular custom is to

bless the Christmas tree before lighting. Troy Meeder, co-founder of Crystal Peaks Youth Ranch (CPYR), took

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## Sisters volunteers see horizon in vision work

By Sue Stafford  
Correspondent

The Sisters Community Fire Hall was abuzz one afternoon last week with the sound of over 30 Vision Action Team (VAT) members working on crafting a final draft of the Sisters Horizons Visioning project.

There are four teams, each addressing one of four focus areas about which data was gathered through a series of interviews, meetings, and online surveys starting last spring and running through the summer. Thousands of data points were collected, recorded, analyzed, and grouped into four categories: Livable Sisters, Connected Sisters, Resilient Sisters, and

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## Search still on for SPRD executive director

By Sue Stafford  
Correspondent

The recently completed search for a new executive director at Sisters Park & Recreation District came up empty.

The preferred candidate, selected by both the board and the citizen committee, received an attractive offer from his current employer when they found out he was considering a position with SPRD — an offer that he couldn't refuse. He notified SPRD he was withdrawing his name from consideration.

Courtney Snead, the current interim executive director, told the board it is important to keep looking to find

a person who is the right fit and suggested that now, being holiday time and the end of the year, is not a good time to begin another search.

Snead is able to stay on and continue to implement the transition activities and programs she has undertaken, including getting all of the financial records in good order, and initiating needed maintenance projects on the physical plant and grounds. She is also assisting the board in establishing a retirement plan for all full- and part-time employees.

Finance Manager Kris Harwell, who served for a time as the interim executive

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## Winter driving conditions arrive

It doesn't take multiple inches of snow to make for winter driving conditions in Sisters Country.

A bit of rain and below-freezing overnight temperatures can turn roadways into ice rinks. Traction tires and all-wheel or four-wheel drive can only marginally improve your chances on the roads when they're slick. Four-wheel drive does not equate to "four-wheel stop"; increase your following distance and above all, slow down.

Even when the temperatures rise, icy conditions can persist on shaded curves and over bridges.

Twilight falls early over Sisters Country — right on time for most people's commute home from work. At this time of year, pedestrians are especially hard to spot.



PHOTO BY SUE STAFFORD

Roads can be very slick in the early morning hours, as a driver learned in a single-vehicle wreck at the east end of Sisters on Thanksgiving morning.

Shoppers rushing home with their treasures are especially vulnerable on Sisters' streets. It is often difficult to discern pedestrians even in a crosswalk at this time of year, and there have been incidents in

the past of pedestrians being hit while crossing Cascade Avenue.

Residential streets can be even darker.

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