

The Nugget

News and Opinion
from Sisters, Oregon

POSTAL CUSTOMER
PRE-SORTED STANDARD
ECRWSS
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
Sisters, OR
Permit No. 15

Vol. XLII No. 8

www.NuggetNews.com

Wednesday, February 20, 2019

Thousands of dying trees to be logged

By Jim Cornelius
Editor in Chief

Some 2,100 trees in the corridor leading into Sisters from the west will be logged in a project slated to begin sometime around the middle of April.

Sisters District Ranger Ian Reid signed a decision memo on February 8 detailing the scope of the 514-acre project, which was necessitated by a massive die-off of pines along Highway 20 due at least in large part to the Oregon Department of Transportation's use of an herbicide for weed abatement.

The problem began developing from 2013 to 2015 when an herbicide named Perspective was used along the highway corridor, within the Oregon Department of Transportation's right of way, to remove brush. The herbicide harmed ponderosa pines and other trees in the area where it was applied.

The Forest Service plans call for the felling of herbicide-affected trees with 90 percent or greater canopy damage, regardless of



PHOTO BY JIM CORNELIUS

Several of the dead trees along Highway 20 have come down in recent windstorms. The corridor will be logged in April to remove herbicide-affected trees.

diameter, within 75 feet of the highway. ODOT and the Forest Service will split the cost of the project, which Reid declined to disclose until after the project is bid.

The felled trees will become "forest product."

"Our desired use would

be saw timber," Reid told *The Nugget*. "There's some mature timber out there."

The sale of trees for lumber would provide the greatest return for taxpayers, Reid noted, mitigating the cost of the project. Other products could include chips or

firewood.

What uses will be allowed for the timber will depend upon what the Oregon Department of Agriculture determines in crafting a new rule regarding the use of the

See TREES on page 22

City/County look to a populous future

By Sue Stafford
Correspondent

Managing growth that could double the size of Sisters and more than double the population of Deschutes County was on the table at a joint Sisters City Council/Deschutes County Commissioners meeting held at City Hall on February 13.

The Sisters Horizon Visioning Project was lauded as the first major joint plan undertaken by the City and County with funds and staff of each entity involved in the process.

The Visioning Project is now transitioning into the implementation phase. City Manager Cory Misley

See POPULATION on page 31

Roundabout art to be installed in March

By Sue Stafford
Correspondent

Installation of the art in the Barclay/Highway 20 roundabout is moving closer. Sisters Public Works Director Paul Bertagna announced at the February 13 City Council meeting that 75 percent of the casting of the bronze statues is complete.

The foundations on which the statues will stand are to be installed this week. Installation of the bronze work is scheduled for mid-March, according to artist Danae Bennett Miller.

The work was originally scheduled for installation in fall 2018; there were unavoidable delays at the

foundry in Eugene where the casting is being done. Bertagna explained that the entire process of creating the sculptures includes three complete building processes before the pieces reach their final form in the roundabout.

Bennett Miller, of Tumalo, created the art proposal, recommended by the Sisters Art Selection Committee and approved by the City Council 11 months ago. Her design, titled "A Land of Contrasts," was one of three finalists chosen from 125 initial entries.

Her design includes life-size cast bronze sculptures of an elk and several antelope set among basalt columns

See ROUNDABOUT on page 22

Community mourns deputy's passing

The Sisters and Camp Sherman community is mourning the sudden death of Jefferson County Sheriff's Deputy Dave Blann, at the age of 63.

Blann was a beloved fixture of the Camp Sherman community, serving as its resident deputy for more than 20 years.

Jefferson County Sheriff's Office Undersheriff Marc Heckathorn reported that on Friday, February 15, at about 5 a.m., medics from the Sisters-Camp Sherman Fire Department were summoned to the Camp Sherman home of Senior Deputy Blann. Medics were informed Senior Deputy Blann was unresponsive and CPR was in progress. Upon arrival medics continued advanced medical care but ultimately Senior Deputy

Blann was pronounced dead.

The Jefferson County Sheriff's Office and Oregon State Police investigated his death in coordination with the district attorney and medical examiner. Senior Deputy Blann is believed to have died from natural causes.

A multitude of personnel from different agencies responded to the call, and an impromptu procession of emergency service providers escorted Senior Deputy Blann from his home to Bel-Air Funeral Home in Madras. More than 50 vehicles were in the procession that went from Camp Sherman to Madras. Heckathorn extended thanks to members of the Oregon State Police, Deschutes County Sheriff's Office, and Redmond and Madras police departments for closing side



PHOTO PROVIDED

Deputy Dave Blann served Camp Sherman for two decades.

streets allowing the procession to safely make its way across two counties.

Senior Deputy Blann began his law enforcement career as a reserve with the

See BLANN on page 30

Inside...

Letters/Weather	2	Bunkhouse Chronicle	8	Announcements.....	12	Sisters Salutes	18	Classifieds.....	26-28
Meetings	3	Obituaries	10	Entertainment	13	Crossword	25	Real Estate	29-32