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Sisters roundabout has new residents

By Sue Stafford
Correspondent

Three years ago it was the sketchy, uncontrolled intersection of Highway 20/ Barclay Drive/McKinney Butte Road. On Monday, April 8, after years of planning and construction of a new roundabout, it became the home of sculptor Danae Bennett-Miller's "Land of Contrasts."

Large bronze statues of an elk and three antelope were lowered in place by a boom truck from Empire Stone.

Bennett-Miller, a resident of Tumalo, was on hand, in her yellow rain slicker to stay dry in the morning drizzle, to oversee the placement of the statues. She had originally brought cardboard copies of the statues to determine the proper location for each art piece and, as the bronzes were placed one by one, it was obvious she had made the perfect selection for each statue.

Traffic was heavy Monday morning around the intersection, with a number of oversized loads and a high volume of cars and trucks



PHOTO BY JERRY BALDOCK

Danae Bennett-Miller (yellow rain coat) supervised the installation of her art work titled "Land of Contrasts" in the Barclay Drive roundabout on Monday.

circling the roundabout while rocks and statues were being offloaded into the center of the roundabout.

Bennett-Miller's pleasure at seeing her installation take shape was evident.

"In my 40 years of

sculpting, this is my favorite project," she said. "I'm so glad to have this in Sisters."

The artist estimated the elk probably weighs around 1,300 pounds, maybe more. The statues are all anchored in place with large bolts sunk

into concrete pads with a few attachments to adjacent rocks.

Many of the rocks used in the installation are nature's works of art, with large basalt pillars from eastern

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Cougars on the rise in Sisters Country

By Jim Anderson
Correspondent

Several local residents have reported sightings of cougar or cougar sign in Sisters Country, from the outskirts of Tollgate to a trail cam capture near a house in Camp Sherman.

The Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) "Living With Wildlife" webpage (<https://www.dfw.state.or.us>) notes that, "Oregon is home to more than 6,000 cougars, or mountain lions. While cougar sightings and encounters are rare, it is wise to educate yourself about the big cats."

Cougars can be found anywhere in the state, but the highest concentrations are in the Blue Mountains and the southern Cascades. Cougars

See **COUGARS** on page 23

Hwy. 20 logging project will start next week

By Jim Cornelius
Editor in Chief

Forest Service crews will mark the trees that will fall along the Highway 20 corridor starting Monday, April 15.

Sisters District Ranger Ian Reid told *The Nugget* on April 8 that Goss Co. LLC had been awarded a contract for \$225,300 to do the work. They are expected to start removing some 2,100 trees near 20 west of Sisters on Monday, April 29. The trees were killed or damaged by the application of the herbicide Perspective.

"Part of the proposal is a lot of hand-falling, so there will be a lot of workers out there — skilled workers,"

Reid told *The Nugget*.

In addition to falling, there will be a limited amount of tree-topping to leave wildlife snags in the area.

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

An assessment by the U.S. Forest Service determined that thousands of trees in the corridor west of Sisters are dead or dying.

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Nordell wins ultra marathon stage race

By Charlie Kanzig
Correspondent

Sisters ultra-runner, Ashley Nordell, 38, put another feather in her cap with a big-time win at her favorite event, the Three Days of Syllamo, a three-day ultra-marathon stage race challenge held in northern Arkansas.

Counting this year, Nordell has taken part in the Syllamo race nine times and the event remains her favorite among ultra marathon competitions, due in large part to the camaraderie that has developed among runners over the years.

"It's a very low-key sort of event that's really down home," said Nordell. "It's

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PHOTO PROVIDED

Ashley Nordell of Sisters (right) continues to stand among the elite in ultra marathon running.

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