

LOGGING: Trees will start coming down April 29

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The disposition of the forest product to be derived from the felled trees remains to be determined.

“It’s going to depend on where ODA (Oregon Department of Agriculture) lands on their permanent rule,” Reid said. “Our interest, certainly, is to be able to sell it as saw timber.”

Implementation of a state-wide rule that would limit the use of the weed killer believed responsible for the death of the trees along Highway 20 was stalled last month by a last-minute request from Bayer, the company that produces it. The Oregon Department of Agriculture’s new permanent rule slated to be adopted on March 22 would prohibit the use of the chemical in areas where the roots of desirable trees — like ponderosa pines — may be present.

The delay means that a new permanent rule cannot be implemented until April 12 at the very earliest.

Reid explained that any restrictions on disposition of the forest product will be included in a prospectus for bidders on a sale of the downed trees. The logs will be decked at several staging areas around Sisters. As soon as those decks are complete, the timber will go up for sale. Reid anticipates the sale will go forward this spring — early summer at the latest.

“You don’t want the wood to check or lose value,” he said.

He said that the Ranger District is eager to get the project underway and “make the best out of an unfortunate situation.”

Oregon Department of Transportation staff will provide traffic control during the project, Monday through Friday from 7 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Motorists can expect to see equipment and work crews close to the highway and should anticipate delays up to 20 minutes. The project is scheduled to be completed by May 22.

For the latest information on road conditions, visit www.tripcheck.com

Have a story idea for **The Nugget?**

We’d love to hear it!

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Grand opening set at housing development

Housing Works will host the grand opening of the new affordable property in Sisters on Friday, April 12.

Beginning at 10 a.m., Housing Works staff will gather with partners, sponsors, government representatives and community members to celebrate the grand opening of Ponderosa Heights. Ponderosa Heights provides 48 affordable apartments with a mix of one-, two-, and three-bedroom units. The new community is located on Brooks Camp Road, behind Ray’s Food Place. The affordable property is income-restricted to households making at or below 60 percent of the area median income with rents starting at \$620.

Housing Works’ Executive Director David Brandt states, “As the affordable housing crisis in Central Oregon broadens and deepens, the urgent need to provide affordable options in our smaller towns has become more compelling. These new homes will provide some relief for 48 low-income households in Sisters that are struggling with rising rental

costs.”

Ponderosa Heights, surrounded by mature ponderosa pines, is made up of six two-story, Craftsman-style buildings on two lots totaling 2.12 acres. The property includes a community room, play area, and rental office. The waiting list for the property, managed by EPIC Property Management, is now closed, and all 48 apartments are leased up and occupied.

The grand opening event will include speakers from state and local governments and financial partners. After a ceremonial ribbon-cutting, guests will be invited to tour the property and enjoy light refreshments. Members of the public are welcome to attend the event.

In addition to Housing Works, the development team included general contractor R&H Construction, architect Doug Circosta, investor PNC Real Estate, lender Washington Federal and property manager EPIC. Ponderosa Heights was constructed using funds from Oregon Housing and Community Services’ LIFT



PHOTO PROVIDED

Ponderosa Heights in Sisters is now open and occupied.

Housing Program, 4% low-income housing tax credits (LIHTC), Housing Development Grant Program funds and a grant from the City of Sisters.

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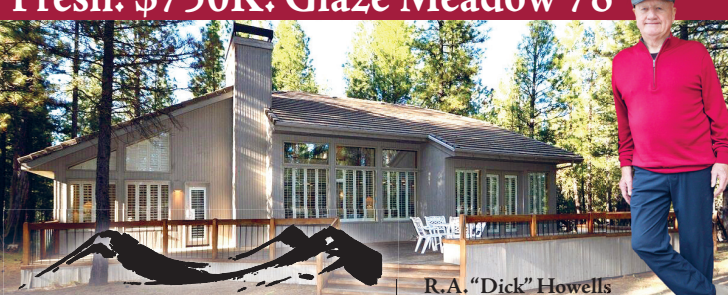
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