

# 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. 16

www.NuggetNews.com

Wednesday, April 17, 2019

## Sisters casts a wary eye toward fire season

By Jim Cornelius  
Editor in Chief

Local foresters covered a lot of territory in a public open house on Thursday, April 11 — but one issue loomed over the Sister Fire Hall Community Room like a column of smoke: Fire season is on its way.

“Everybody always wants to know what fire season is going to look like when you bump into them in town,” said James Osbourne, Sisters Ranger District fire management officer.

Osbourne walked through

See FIRE SEASON on page 25

Art, learning and family fun...



PHOTO BY JERRY BALDOCK

Kathy Deggendorfer and her grandson Frankie Borla did some engineering work at the Sisters Middle School Expo last week. Hands on activities brought families together for educational and artistic fun (see story, page 23).

## Plane incident carries lessons for pilots

Brian Lansburgh and a passenger, also a pilot, made a spectacular return home to the Sisters airport on Wednesday, April 10, landing his 1947 single-engine Piper PA-12, then flipping it on final roll-out. After examination of the pilots by paramedics, the only major injury was pilot pride, even though the same can't be said about the plane.

Lansburgh was the CFI (Certificated Flight Instructor) conducting a bi-annual flight review (BFR), a proficiency test required of private pilots every two years. Following completion of the BFR at the

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## Logging project will have traffic impact

A logging contractor will begin falling trees along Highway 20 northwest of Sisters on Monday, April 29. The work is likely to have significant impact on traffic into and through Sisters.

Forest Service project manager Steve Orange told *The Nugget* that many of the affected trees are close to the highway. Between falling the trees and cleaning up debris and hauling logs away, impact on the travel lanes is inevitable and substantial.

The project will affect both sides of 12.5 miles of highway westbound from Sisters.

The Oregon Department of Transportation will provide traffic control during the project, which is expected to run from 7 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. during the workweek and be completed by May 22. ODOT says that motorists should anticipate delays up to 20 minutes.

Goss Co. LLC was awarded a contract for \$225,300 to do the work. The 2,100 trees that are being removed were killed or damaged by the application of the herbicide Perspective. 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. The Forest Service began marking trees to be removed last Monday.

## Runners Rumble in Sisters

By Charlie Kanzig  
Correspondent

The Peterson Ridge Rumble 20- and 40-mile trail race set records on Sunday, April 14: The 17th annual event drew more runners, both two- and four-legged, in the 20-mile portion than ever before.

Sean Meissner, creator and race director, was all smiles as the event wrapped up as he stood amidst hundreds of happy finishers, both human and canine, feasting on post-race food catered by Longboard Louie's of Bend.

“Everything went about as well as I could have hoped,” he said. “The weather was cool, but not a problem, the trail was clear of snow, and everyone seemed to have a good experience.”

Runners are allowed to register with their canine companions for the 20-miler according to Meissner, and

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PHOTO BY CHARLIE KANZIG

Zander Albertson (left), once and always Outlaw, turned out for the 20-mile Peterson Ridge Rumble.

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