

Local advocate wins scholarship *page 6*



Two new food carts arrive in Sisters *page 9*



Sisters student hones leadership skills *page 26*



# The Nugget

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## Careless cigarette destroys restaurant deck

An investigation by the Sisters-Camp Sherman Fire District determined that a patron's careless use of a cigarette destroyed the deck at Takoda's Restaurant in Sisters early Friday morning, June 21.

The Fire District reports that a security camera shows a restaurant customer flicking hot ashes from a cigarette into bark mulch used for landscaping. The bark mulch smoldered into the night before igniting the large deck on the east side of the business. A passerby reported the fire at 6:38 a.m. Friday morning.

Sisters-Camp Sherman Fire District responded with 11 firefighters and four emergency vehicles. Additional units from Cloverdale and Black Butte Ranch Fire Department also responded. Firefighters were able to quickly extinguish the fire and prevent flames from extending inside the restaurant.

Takoda's was open for



PHOTO COURTESY SISTERS FIRE DISTRICT

Sisters firefighters kept a fire on the deck at Takoda's from entering the building. The deck was lost, but the business is open as usual.

business the same day.

Bark mulch fires are usually caused by improper disposal of smoking materials

into the dry, fine materials used to landscape many homes and businesses, fire officials note. These fires

are normally found while still small, but they have the

See **DECK** on page 30

## Road rage leads to Sisters arrest

Police with guns drawn arrested a 39-year-old Forest Grove man in the Bi-Mart parking lot in Sisters on Sunday evening, June 23.

According to the Deschutes County Sheriff's Office, the arrest came after an alleged road-rage incident on Highway 20 near Cloverdale Road.

According to police, on Sunday, June 23, at approximately 5:55 p.m., the Deschutes County Sheriff's Office received a report of a road rage incident near the intersection of Highway 20 and Cloverdale Road heading toward Sisters.

Deschutes County 911

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## Airport, ODOT come to terms

By Jim Cornelius  
Editor In Chief

A long-simmering legal battle between the Oregon Department of Transportation and the owners of Sisters Airport has been resolved by a settlement arrived at this spring.

ODOT had sought the return of \$733,000 in Connect Oregon funds granted in 2016 for extensive improvements to the local airport. The settlement — arrived at after a Marion County court summary judgment — and a joint statement effectively acknowledge that funds were not misused as ODOT had claimed.

The statement notes

that "any and all liability is expressly denied," and that the agreement "fully satisfies all Connect Oregon V grant agreement accounting issues." The statement acknowledges that, "both sides acted in good faith throughout the process." ODOT also "acknowledges the public benefits of the airport improvement funded by the grant to the Central Oregon community."

The funds from the grant were legitimately spent on the project and the costs were reasonable and appropriate for the project.

Airport owners Benny and Julie Benson did agree to repay \$115,000 over 15

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## Logs sold after Sisters project

By Jim Cornelius  
Editor In Chief

Thousands of board feet of logged ponderosa pine is for sale along the highway in Sisters.

Sisters District Ranger Ian Reid gave an update to *The Nugget* on the tree-clearing project on Highway 20. The project, which was completed ahead of schedule in May, removed 2,100 trees — mostly ponderosa pines — that were killed due to the application of an herbicide along the highway.

The Forest Service determined that thousands of trees in the corridor were dead or dying after the application of Perspective, an herbicide that was used to remove brush within the right-of-way of the Oregon Department of



PHOTO BY JIM CORNELIUS

Massive slash piles will cure for about 15 months before being burned in place.

Transportation. It harmed ponderosa pines along with other trees alongside the highway.

A month or so after the completion of the project,

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