



PHOTO BY JEFF OMODT

Denaro Guzman will use Sisters Kiwanis Career Opportunity Fund grant money to seek a commercial driver's license.

Sisters Kiwanis helps man seek CDL

Genaro Guzman recently received funding from the Sisters Kiwanis Career Opportunity Fund. He plans on using the funds to obtain training for a Commercial Drivers License (CDL) from IITR in Redmond.

A U.S. Marine Corps veteran, Genaro most recently worked at Ray's Food Place and Trail Stop Market. He wants to drive trucks because he loves driving and expects to make better wages than jobs he's had in the past. He cites his previous experience driving as the motivation for the next stage of his career.

"Of all the jobs I've had in my life so far, driving is the one that I've enjoyed the most," he said. "I would go to work full of enthusiasm to do a job that I truly enjoyed and had fun at. I've driven an L.A.V. (light armored vehicle) in the Marines as a crewman of 3 to 4 personnel. Driven an armored truck for Loomis in Los Angeles. Driven a delivery truck for Levitz Furniture on the east

side of San Francisco Bay area, driven cars for an auto auction, also in the Bay area, and drove a taxi in Oakland."

Kiwanian Jack McGilvary reports that the Kiwanis Career Opportunity Fund (COF) has given away over \$76,000 in the last 10 years. The COF provides assistance to start, augment, or complete a career opportunity that may include, but is not limited to — vocational, technical, artistic, or general fields of study. The fund is available to qualified residents of Sisters School District, regardless of age (except minimum), sex, disability, marital status, race or current occupation.



Cougar sighted near trailhead in Sisters

The Forest Service alerted Sisters Trails Alliance last week that a cougar had been sighted in the area of one of Sisters' most popular trails.

Steve Orange of the Sisters Ranger District sent a message on Wednesday, September 11, stating: "I wanted to give you a heads up that a cougar was seen crossing the 16 road only about 200 feet from the main Peterson Ridge trailhead at city limits. This sighting occurred at 4 p.m. today. With the amount of dogs and kids walking on this section of trail being so close to town, I thought it would be good for you to know in case you want to do a social media post or signage at the trail head."

Cougars generally roam large expanses of territory, so it is possible that the cougar was simply moving through the area. Cougar sightings occur with some regularity in the Sisters area, and there were several last spring.

The Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) "Living With Wildlife" website (<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."

If you encounter a cougar...

- Cougars often will retreat if given the opportunity. Leave the animal a way to escape.
- Stay calm and stand your ground.
- Maintain direct eye contact.
- Pick up children, but do so without bending down or turning your back on the cougar.
- Back away slowly.
- Do not run. Running triggers a chase response in cougars, which could lead to an attack.
- Raise your voice and speak firmly.
- If the cougar seems aggressive, raise your arms to make yourself look larger and clap your hands.
- If in the very unusual event that a cougar attacks you, fight back with rocks, sticks, bear or pepper spray, tools or any items available.

Cases dismissed in Sisters dispute

Two cases stemming from a confrontation at a campground near Sisters last May have been dismissed.

The Deschutes County District Attorney's Office in July dropped charges and dismissed cases against both Jonathan Stark and Justin Swope "in the interest of justice."

The two had faced charges relating to an employment dispute that had allegedly escalated over a period of several days.

District Attorney John Hummel told *The Nugget* that, "Swope and Stark were dismissed because the victim did not appear to testify at the grand jury hearing and without the victim's testimony we had insufficient evidence to proceed."

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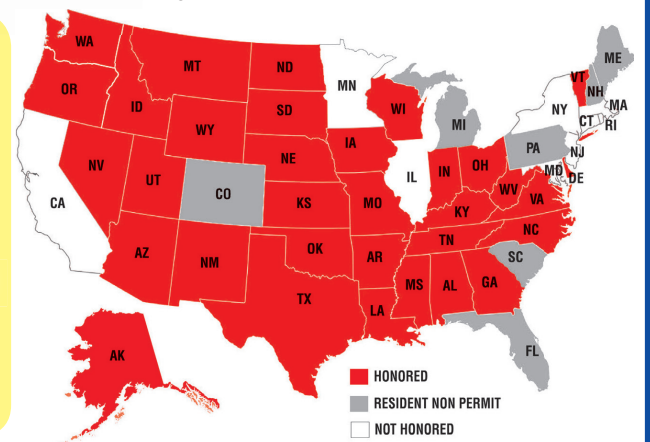


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