

# The Nugget

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## Sisters parades its holiday spirit

By T. Lee Brown  
Correspondent

Snowfall framed the picturesque 42nd annual Sisters Christmas Parade on Hood Avenue last Saturday. Horses and dogs, Zumba dancers and firefighters braved the cold, waving and handing out candy to a thin but enthusiastic crowd.

“Horse, and Santa Claus,” were the parade’s highlights, according to local resident Iliana Gonzales, age four. She had many gorgeous equines to choose from. Many pulled festive carts and carriages. Sisters Rodeo Queen Riann Cornett rode by on her horse, Tequila. There was a fuzzy miniature horse named Monty, from Natural Hoofcare of Bend. Monty was shod in handsome hoof boots to protect his bare feet from the hard pavement, instead of traditional horseshoes.

The classic small-town parade was led by veterans bearing flags and waving to the crowd. Red light swirled from atop fire trucks, their sturdy tires clattering with chains.

Dogs could be seen in abundance, from corgis



PHOTO BY CODY RHEAULT

Santa Claus closed the Sisters Christmas Parade, then adjourned to the Sisters Area Chamber of Commerce Visitors Center to visit with Sisters Country youth.

to Newfoundlands to a St. Bernard. Some pulled merrily decorated mini carriages. Others pulled their owners.

The Pacific Northwest Newfoundland Club showed off their “gentle giants.” Some of the dogs were so friendly, the owners could hardly pull them away from the crowd.

A singer-guitarist and keyboard duo played and sang

rockin’ Christmas carols atop a float from Sisters Church of the Nazarene. Sisters Park & Recreation District’s Zumba fitness dancers grooved down Hood Avenue, following their banner. It was carried by SPRD kids Amaya Wyrick and Paxton Seeley, dressed in candy-cane-striped stockings.

The High Desert Brigade and NW Civil War Council

wished visitors “Merry Christmas from 1863.” Clad in beautiful costumes evoking the 19th century, they asked longtime emcee Bob Buckmann to tell the crowd about their annual Civil War enactment in Camp Sherman.

At the end came Santa’s picture-perfect, old-fashioned

See **PARADE** on page 22

## Winter driving conditions have arrived

Severe winter weather arrived early in Sisters Country last week, bringing with it hazardous driving conditions.

There were multiple slide-offs on Camp Polk Road north of Sisters and spinouts in the roundabout and on intersections with sharp turns. A Deschutes County Sheriff’s Office sergeant averted a near-tragedy east of Sisters in Tumalo (see related story page 3).

Traction tires and all-wheel or four-wheel drive can only marginally improve your chances on the roads when they’re slick with snow and ice. Four-wheel drive does not equate to “four-wheel stop”; increase your following distance and above all,

See **DRIVING** on page 29

## Comments still accepted on wilderness permit fee

The Deschutes and Willamette National Forests are extending the public comment period for input on a proposed special recreation permit fee as a part of the new limited entry system for day and overnight use in three Central Cascades wildernesses. The original ending date of the public comment period was November 25. The new ending date for the public comment period will be January 10, 2020.

The limited entry system will go into effect beginning the summer of 2020. The special recreation permit fee, if approved, also would go into effect in the summer of 2020.

The limited entry

system is designed to alleviate impact from the increased traffic in wilderness areas, but it has drawn some fire from some local people who objected to restrictions on access to what they consider their backyard. Others object to paying additional fees.

Comments on the special recreation permit fee can be mailed to the Willamette National Forest, ATTN: Recreation Fees, 3106 Pierce Parkway, Ste. D, Springfield, OR, 97477. Comments can also be submitted by email to WillametteRecFeeComments@usda.gov or dropped off at any Willamette or Deschutes National Forest office during

See **COMMENTS** on page 30

## Man rescued from deep snow, cold

With the snow piling high and temperatures plunging well below zero on Sunday night, a man camping at high elevation in the forest near Camp Sherman decided he had better get out.

“He’d been fairly prepared,” Jefferson County Sheriff’s Office Emergency Manager Sgt. Dave Pond told *The Nugget* on Monday. “He was there during the initial snowstorm. He’d finally had enough and was running out of supplies and he thought ‘I’d better leave.’ I believe it was -12 degrees last night where he was at.”

The man, in his mid-30s, tried to drive out in his truck but got stuck in a deep snowdrift. He was able to call 911 and Sgt. Pond responded. The sergeant tapped Brett Miller of the veterans assistance



PHOTO PROVIDED

Sgt. Dave Pond and Brett Miller of Warfighter Outfitters came to the aid of a man who was stranded in deep snow in the forest near Camp Sherman.

organization Warfighter Outfitters for assistance. Miller, who lives in Camp Sherman, used his Jeep to get himself and Sgt. Pond to the location where the man was camped.

Pond and Miller transported the man out of the woods unharmed and left him in Camp Sherman.

“He has family there, so that’s where we took him,” Pond said.

Anyone traveling in winter conditions, regardless of how short the planned excursion, should plan for adverse conditions and be prepared with emergency supplies and equipment.

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