

The Nugget

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Sisters doctors urge resilience

By Jim Cornelius
Editor in Chief

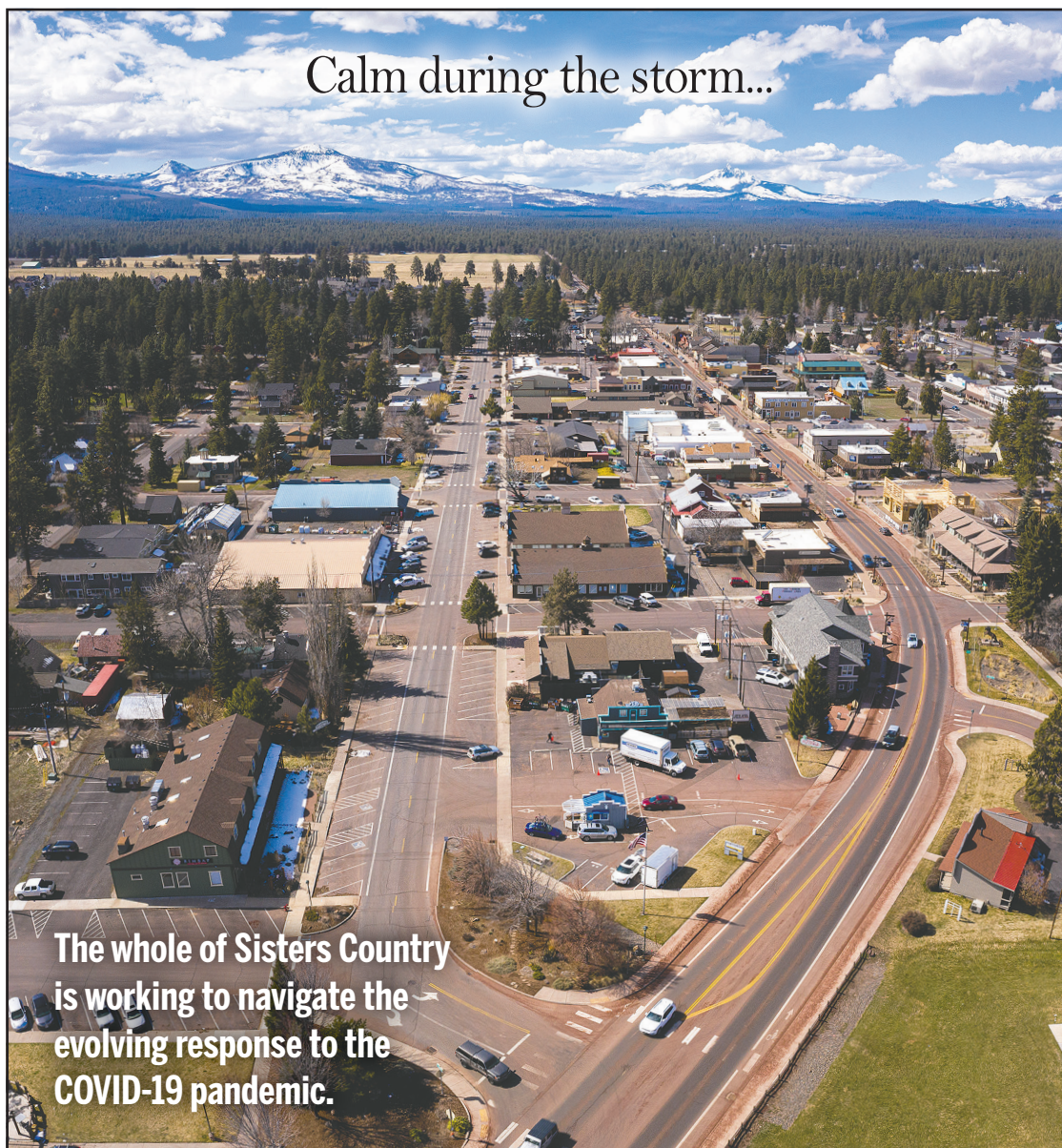
Dr. Kevin Miller has a message for Sisters: The draconian measures we are taking to battle the COVID-19 virus are necessary — and Sisters can stand up to the test.

Dr. Miller, who partners with his wife, Dr. Eden Miller, at High Lakes Health Care in Sisters, says that self-isolation is the most powerful tool available to stave off rapid and destructive spread of the virus.

“The power is in the people in this,” he told *The Nugget* last week. “We’re using age-old technology to combat it. It slows the spread.”

Dr. Miller explained that COVID-19 is roughly twice

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Calm during the storm...

The whole of Sisters Country is working to navigate the evolving response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

PHOTO BY CODY RHEULT

Sisters navigating COVID-19 response

By Jim Cornelius
Editor in Chief

As new restrictions continue to be imposed on activities, Sisters residents and businesses are trying to navigate an uncertain path.

On Monday, Governor Kate Brown issued a stringent “Stay Home, Save Lives” order that restricts any recreational or social gathering of any size and requires “non-essential businesses” to close. Restaurants will still be able to offer takeout, but gyms, indoor party places such as jump houses for children or laser tag facilities, hair salons, furniture stores, boutiques, ski resorts and museums will be required to close.

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Sheriff investigates explosion on Fryrear Rd.

The Deschutes County Sheriff’s office is investigating an explosion on Fryrear Road east of Sisters.

On March 21 at about 11:45 a.m., Deschutes County 911 received a report of a loud explosion in the 68000 block of Fryrear Road. Deschutes County Sheriff’s Office deputies responded to the area along with Cloverdale Fire Department personnel.

Upon arrival, deputies located debris strewn about the area and found a couch frame hanging from the power lines. The investigation revealed unknown persons detonated an explosive device, which blew up a mattress and couch. The blast was significant enough to launch the couch frame into the air where it hung up on the power lines, which were approximately 20-30 feet above the ground.

A resident approximately a mile away reported the blast

shook the windows of their residence. No significant power outages were reported in the area.

The sheriff’s office reports that a late model, white, full-sized Chevy or GMC pickup was seen leaving the area. It was described as lifted with off-road tires and possibly had out-of-state license plates. The truck was operated by a white male and white female with long dark hair. They are believed to be in their 30s.

An Oregon State Police bomb technician responded and investigated the scene along with a Central Electric Cooperative crew who removed the frame from the power lines.

The Deschutes County Sheriff’s Office is asking anyone with information regarding this incident to call non-emergency dispatch at 541-693-6911. Reference case number 20-70067.

Gonzaga students volunteer

Eleven Gonzaga University students out of Spokane, Washington, spent their spring break in Sisters, volunteering for Sisters Habitat for Humanity as part of Habitat for Humanity International’s “Collegiate Challenge.”

They were among the last groups allowed to travel before Habitat International suspended all builds requiring domestic or international travel in response to the COVID-19 outbreak.

The students installed siding on the Neal family’s home, and built heat pump surrounds for two other homes in the Village Meadows neighborhood.

Only two of the students had any previous construction experience. Habitat’s experienced construction crew took most of the first day to familiarize the students with safety protocols and introduced them to power tools and construction techniques. The construction crew worked closely with each student



PHOTO PROVIDED

Gonzaga University students were hardworking and picked up skills quickly on Sisters Habitat for Humanity projects.

team to make sure their work met Sisters Habitat’s quality standards.

The community of Sisters embraced the students with open arms. Sisters-Camp Sherman Fire Department opened their Community Room for a “Welcome to Sisters” potluck the first day; Shepherd of the Hills

Lutheran Church provided shelter for students; Sisters Athletic Club allowed them to use their showers; and teams of Habitat volunteers provided lunch to the jobsite each day.

No stranger to volunteerism, most of the students

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