

# The Nugget

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## Food pantry gets hand from law enforcement

By Cody Rheault  
Correspondent

The clamor of brown paper bags being filled with edible goods echos throughout the Bread of Life food pantry at the New Hope Christian Center in Sisters. A team of volunteers fills 200 bags full of dried goods, fresh produce, and essentials to be handed out to local families during the weekly food drive.

Every Thursday, the Bread of Life ministry serves members of the community its most basic of needs, food — now a vital short-coming since the recent spread of the coronavirus. Since the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic, the food pantry has seen the need increase, supplies plummet, and the need for volunteers to step up and meet the demand.

Last Thursday, March 26, the Deschutes County Sheriff's Office (DCSO) Detective Division volunteers met that need and sent eight

See **FOOD PANTRY** on page 21



PHOTO BY CODY RHEAULT

Helping with food delivery was an opportunity for law enforcement personnel to have some positive engagement with a stressed community.

## Officers investigate dog bite on trail

Sheriff's deputies are investigating an incident in which a man was bitten by a loose dog on the Peterson Ridge Trail at the south end of Sisters on Wednesday, March 25.

A man was reportedly running on the trail when a medium-sized black dog ran past him and bit him on the calf. According to an account provided by a friend of the runner, the man fell to the ground and threw rocks at the dog to scare it off.

Two women described as being in their 50s to 60s approached and according to Deschutes County Sheriff's Office Public Information Officer Sgt. William Bailey,

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## Task force warns against dropping guard

A state task force warned against easing restrictions in the effort to stem the spread of the COVID-19 virus in Oregon. The warning came as part of a Health Care System Action Plan developed by the "Governor's Joint Task Force for Health Care Systems Response to COVID-19."

"The fight against the coronavirus depends on Oregon hospitals having enough beds to treat the coming surge in patients who will become seriously ill with the virus," the task force stated in a news release. "Today, Oregon health officials and hospitals announced a joint statewide action plan to dramatically bolster the state's ability to treat people with COVID-19 illness who need hospital care."

The plan was convened by the Oregon Health Authority (OHA). It was released on Thursday, March 26, as Oregon announced 50 new confirmed cases of

coronavirus in Oregon, with five new cases reported in Deschutes County.

It includes a broad range of health systems, health-care providers, human services organizations, public health and public safety agencies, insurers and other organizations.

The plan addresses four urgent actions necessary to expand the healthcare system's capacity and maintain its capability as Oregon braces for a projected spike in new coronavirus cases:

1. Procure and distribute critical medical supplies, including personal protective equipment (PPE) for health-care workers and ventilators.
2. Optimize hospital capacity to be able to treat COVID-19 cases.
3. Mobilize the health-care workforce to respond to COVID-19.
4. Maintain a unified, coordinated and transparent

See **TASK FORCE** on page 23

## Locals rally to support med personnel

By Jodi Schneider  
Correspondent

A crusade of noble intentions has been underway in Sisters Country. Homebound residents are crafting hundreds of facemasks to help shield healthcare workers and others from the coronavirus.

Last week, Sisters resident Pete Shepherd launched a campaign: 5 day/500 Mask Challenge.

"The virus is pitching one fastball after another, high and tight to the chin. We come to the plate individually, and yet each of us can help all of us by watching for a pitch that we can hit," Shepherd said. "Staying home is one of the most important things any individual can do for all of us. Making masks for use by healthcare providers is another pitch many of us can hit."

He added, "We started with just an idea a week ago. Nearly 50 volunteers have contributed to the 5 Day/500 Mask Challenge. We



PHOTO PROVIDED

Sherrill Beck of Sisters at work crafting masks for healthcare workers.

received assistance from Age Friendly Sisters Country, Citizens4Community (C4C), *The Nugget Newspaper*, Your Store in Sisters, and many members of the faith and quilting communities of Sisters Country."

A local business, Your Store, donated some of the raw materials needed, such

as cotton T-shirts, while other volunteers made all the other parts and put together kits. Each kit included all parts for five masks, together with simple instructions. A sewing machine and minimal sewing skills are all that are required. Printed and

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