

The Nugget

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COVID-19 shuts down Sisters Rodeo

By Jim Cornelius
Editor in Chief

The Biggest Little Show in the World is standing down this year, due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Sisters Rodeo President Curt Kallberg told *The Nugget* on Wednesday, April 8, that the Rodeo Board of Directors made the difficult call to cancel the 2020 rodeo by a unanimous decision at a meeting Tuesday night, April 7.

“It was a terrible decision

See **RODEO** on page 22



Sign of the times...

Even the horses that welcome folks to Sisters are observing their pandemic protocols — although they might need to work on their interval. A little bit of wry humor has brought a smile to quite a few travelers who pass the iconic sculpture on the Lazy Z.

PHOTO BY BILL BARTLETT

City discouraging visitors during pandemic

By Sue Stafford
Correspondent

Sisters usually throws out a welcome mat for visitors — but in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic, that welcome mat is being pulled.

The City of Sisters is releasing an administrative order strongly discouraging visitors from coming to town — the same kind of order already issued at the Oregon

coast, the Columbia Gorge, and in the City of Bend. It will be in effect through May 15.

The order will be sent to all short-term rental property permit holders. Most hotels/motels are already totally closed or only making a few rooms available for essential personnel and workers temporarily here who need lodging.

See **VISITORS** on page 22

Sisters schools empty until fall

By Charlie Kanzig
Correspondent

As parents and students lined up in their cars to pick up materials at Sisters Elementary School last Friday, the sadness was palpable. The reality of school being shut and distance learning being put in place really began to sink in following Governor Kate Brown’s announcement on Wednesday, April 8, to close schools for the remainder of the year.

Sisters School District staff worked all throughout last week to make contact

with students and families via phone calls and emails in order to begin the transition to distance learning, and once Brown made the announcement Wednesday school staff faced head-on a challenging and emotional reality.

Elementary Principal Joan Warburg acknowledged the emotional aspect of the abrupt change.

“There were many tears and a lot of grieving as our team realized there would be no community again with their classes in the building,” she said. “Education is primarily about relationships,

and the loss of those daily connections has been felt by students, parents and staff alike. The parent and student connections this week via phone call and on Friday during materials pick up were wonderfully affirming and helped all of us begin the rebuilding process. We are looking forward to the time when we can all come back together once again.”

High on the list of questions Governor Brown addressed in her announcement was the status of seniors in high school. According

See **SCHOOLS** on page 19

Operation Inspire steps up to help

By Charlie Kanzig
Correspondent

When St. Charles Health System put out a call for 10,000 masks to protect medical personnel as the COVID-19 outbreak ramped up, Wes Fisher of Credit Associates in Bend answered.

“One of the people who works for me... they own a garment business here in town,” Fisher told *The*

Nugget. “I hooked up with them to do 2,000 masks.”

The masks are cut and sewn to meet St. Charles’ specs.

Luan Pham, chief revenue and marketing officer for Laird Superfood in Sisters knows Fisher and he got wind of the project — and Laird jumped in with a commitment to produce an additional

See **INSPIRE** on page 14



PHOTO BY CHARLIE KANZIG

Teachers showed their spirit to parents and students in Sisters.

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