

# The Nugget

News and Opinion  
from Sisters, Oregon

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Sisters, OR  
Permit No. 15

Vol. XLIII No. 26

www.NuggetNews.com

Wednesday, June 24, 2020

## Trumpeting a Sisters success story

By Jim Anderson  
Correspondent

There's good news for swan lovers and those who believe in private land-holders helping species at risk. There are now more wild trumpeter swans to go into the breeding pool. Several residents of Aspen Lakes, under the leadership of Robin Gold, have been helping the two trumpeter swans, Eloise and Pete, raise a family.

A small group of Aspen Lake neighbors have pitched in to help the breeding swans ever since they arrived. The group also purchased Pete, a new cob (male swan), and paid for his transport from North Carolina to Oregon.

Gold is the main caregiver and Pam Olivier backs her up.

Residents have also purchased a bubbler to keep a portion of the lake unfrozen in the winter so the swans can keep swimming — which, Gold says, "Is vital to their health." In addition, the residents have supplied automatic feeders stocked with waterfowl maintenance food for juveniles and adults, and waterfowl starter for cygnets (baby swans). Gold has named the supporters "The Friends of Eloise/Pals of Pete."

Over 150 years ago, John



PHOTO BY AL KRAUSE

Trumpeter swans Eloise and Pete and their six cygnets produced this nesting season at Cyrus's Aspen Lakes Community.

James Audubon wrote about how inspired he was watching trumpeter swans as they go about their business, untroubled by the doings of humans — but the humans were

blowing them out of the sky for their delicious meat, beautiful feathers, and tough skin.

However, thanks to the determined efforts of conservationists across North

America, future generations of bird lovers today are continuing to be mesmerized by these impressive birds.

See **SWANS** on page 17

## Sheriff's office adapts in time of tumult

By Jim Cornelius  
Editor in Chief

Law enforcement accountability and reform are at the forefront of a tense and anguished national conversation in recent weeks. For Deschutes County Sheriff Shane Nelson, these are issues that have drawn his office's attention — and action — for several years.

The sheriff's office is in the midst of a selection process for three deputies and a lieutenant to serve consistently in Sisters under a new, enhanced \$725,000 per year contract with the City of Sisters.

According to DCSO public information officer Sgt. William Bailey, three current DCSO deputies have applied for the positions and one lieutenant is interested in the position. Sgt. Bailey — who will be promoted to lieutenant

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## Caught in an avalanche

By Carol Statton  
Correspondent

In the early morning hours of May 23, Danielle Rudinsky and Shelby Lowman set out to climb the southwest aspect of Mt. Hood. Rudinsky and Lowman started up a route unpopulated by other climbers and what awaited them at the top was every climber's worst fear.

Mt. Hood had long been on Rudinsky and Lowman's list of desired accomplishments. Growing up in Sisters provided Rudinsky a unique opportunity to experience the natural outdoor world through a Sisters High School program called the Interdisciplinary Environmental Expedition (IEE) program. Through IEE,

she was taught critical thinking skills to understand the surrounding environment and develop a sense of stewardship for all natural places, as well as what can be accomplished through developing community partnerships and building solid relationships. The program also showed Rudinsky that she could create a career within the natural world that she loved; knowledge which gave her a foundation to begin working to build her resume as a multi-faceted guide.

With roots established right here, her reach grew far beyond the Cascades and yet the Cascades were still calling.

Leading the way on that May morning, with the top

See **AVALANCHE** on page 14

## Folk Festival planning live music

By Ceili Cornelius  
Correspondent

Staff at Sisters Folk Festival are in the beginning stages of planning to offer some small-scale music events during the summer.

Due to the constraints of COVID-19 regulations, Sisters Folk Festival (SFF) cannot move forward with the 2020 festival. The staff and board of directors of Sisters Folk Festival announced at the end of May the difficult decision to postpone the 24th annual festival — originally scheduled to take place September 11-13 — to September 10-12, 2021.

However, organizers and staff at SFF are in the beginning stages of planning to offer some live music later



PHOTO BY ROB KERR

Traditional tent-filling shows are off for 2020 — but SFF staff is working to deliver smaller, physically-distanced events later in the summer.

in the summer.

Executive Director Crista Munro said SFF is working towards an all-day concert in the back lawn at Sisters Art Works on August 1.

"We are working towards a ticketed all-day event on August 1 as a trial run and then again during

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