

# The Nugget

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from Sisters, Oregon

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## What is the future of the East Portal?

By Sue Stafford  
Correspondent

Mention the 80-acre Forest Service property to a Sisters resident and they will share their idea of what would be a good use of that property. It has been a topic of conversation in town for years, ever since the Forest Service announced plans to sell it and build a new headquarters.

At long last, and after a number of changes in the condition of sale, the property was divided into three parcels, two of which have sold or are under contract. The southern 14 acres, known

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Jayden and Joel Vogt of Sisters worked with lambs in their first year of 4-H. The 4-H event was canceled due to tightened COVID-19 restrictions. See story, page 9.

## Striving toward a plan for fall school sports

By Charlie Kanzig  
Correspondent

As the state of Oregon continues to struggle with how to safely open schools in the fall in the midst of an ongoing coronavirus pandemic, the Oregon Sports and Activities Association (OSAA) presented its first round of recommendations and guidelines for the high school sports seasons for 2020-21.

In a hopeful move, the OSAA's initial guidelines say

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## Sisters vigil takes on racial issues

By Katy Yoder  
Correspondent

Sisters activists held a vigil at Village Green Park on Saturday, July 25, on the two-month anniversary of the killing of George Floyd. Floyd was a 46-year-old Black man who died in police custody in Minneapolis, Minnesota, on Memorial Day after being accused of using a fake \$20 bill to buy cigarettes. A cellphone video showed an officer pinning Floyd to the ground with his knee on Floyd's neck while he was handcuffed and repeatedly saying, "I can't breathe."

Since then, officer Derek Chauvin, who had his knee on Floyd's neck, was charged with third-degree murder and second-degree manslaughter, and a subsequent additional second-degree murder charge was added later.

Floyd's death, and those of other Black people killed by police, reignited efforts to

address racial injustice and the need for police reform in the United States. Since the Floyd killing, Sisters residents have peacefully demonstrated along East Cascade Avenue to show solidarity with Black Lives Matter.

At the Saturday vigil, organizers from Indivisible Sisters held an event to remember Floyd's murder and read the names of 97 other Black Americans killed by police. Floyd's name was read last with a moment of silence for eight minutes and forty-six seconds, which was how long Chauvin had his knee on Floyd's neck.

Sisters High School 2020 graduate Olivia Hougham was invited to speak at the vigil.

In an interview prior to the event, Hougham said, "So many people see Sisters as this positive place with everyone coming together as a community. But that was not my experience. I want

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## Fire closed Hwy. 20 east of Sisters

An empty refrigerator truck trailer caught fire on Tuesday afternoon, July 21, on Highway 20 just east of Sisters.

The blaze, which spread to surrounding trees and brush, caused the highway to be closed in both directions for over two hours as Cloverdale Fire District Firefighters, backed up by Sisters-Camp Sherman firefighters and personnel from the Sisters Ranger District doused the flames.

Cloverdale Fire Chief

Thad Olsen told *The Nugget* that the fire was probably caused by a brake problem.

"There's skid marks you can see for about 500-feet before he pulls over," Olsen said.

That, the Chief said, indicates that the brakes may have locked up and overheated, causing the tires to catch fire, in turn setting the trailer on fire. The truck, owned out of Minnesota, was empty — except for 100 gallons of diesel fuel used to run

the refrigerator unit.

Chief Olsen said that the driver disconnected the truck and tried to put the fire out himself before calling 911. He was not injured.

Cloverdale firefighters doused the trailer fire while a crew from the Forest Service caught the blaze that had spread into the roadside brush.

"This time of year, that's our biggest concern," Olsen said.

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PHOTO COURTESY DESCHUTES COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

An empty refrigerator truck caught fire on Highway 20 east of Sisters last week. The incident blocked traffic for about 2.5 hours.

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