

# Sisters salutes...

• Dave Johnson, DVM, wrote: I commend Tate Metcalf and his staff of the Sisters Athletic Club with excellence in operating the Club with competence, astute cleanliness/sanitation, and exceeding the Oregon criteria during COVID-19.

As a member, it is a pleasure to use your facilities and personally witness the compliance by your members and staff in following your well-explained COVID-19 criteria. Particularly noteworthy is mandatory mask wearing, one-way traffic flows, separation of members using the facility along with your staff's pleasurable approach for enforcement of these special health safety measures.

You manage our club with safety, sanitation, cleanliness, health, flow patterns of members, distancing, installation of clear plexiglass barriers in front of reception counters, as well as other positive methods. A notable example is the reservation system of one swim lane per person per hour. The staff provides exceptional guidance and methods for ease of compliance. This protects members using the swimming facility and locker areas.

Sisters Athletic Club is an illustrious example for other athletic clubs, fitness clubs, and health clubs to emulate. The State of Oregon is fortunate to have your leadership with

managing a health club during this pandemic.

As a career commissioned officer of the US Public Health Service, I am pleased to provide you my full endorsement of your health practices and especially during this COVID-19 pandemic. You are clearly adhering to the top recommendations by esteemed health leaders such as Anthony Fauci, MD.

• 24/7 Sports listed Sisters High School graduate Thomas Arends, Oregon, Director of Player Personnel in its list of "College football's rising stars: The 30Under30 for 2020." The citation reads:

The Ducks have gone from dormant power to Pac-12 favorite under Mario Cristobal's direction, and the recruiting department is a huge reason why. Arends helps lead a recruiting outfit that's produced back-to-back No. 1 overall classes in the Pac-12, including a 2019 group that finished seventh nationally, the best class in Oregon history. Before returning to his alma mater — Arends started his career as associate director of player personnel under Chip Kelly — Arends worked at Baylor. He helped the Bears put together their 2018 class, which finished 29th nationally despite some difficult circumstances as a program.

Thomas Arends' mother, Susan, and father, Phil, both reside in Sisters.

## FIRES: Climate, management, lifestyle are all factors

*Continued from page 6*

through prescribed burns and careful logging will help prevent forests that cover vast tracts of the American West from threatening cities with fire.

But whether that would have spared towns is less clear. Strong winds sent flames racing down the western slopes of the Cascade Range into small towns like Detroit, Oregon, wiping them out.

"In a wind-driven event at 30 miles an hour, where you've got embers flying far ahead of the actual flame fronts and flame lengths being much greater than normal, is thinning going to really be enough to stop a home from burning in an inferno like that?" Gersbach said.

Millions of dollars are spent on tree thinning and brush clearing every year in Western states, though many argue more needs to be done. But scaling up the costly, labor-intensive work as more people move into mountains and forests has many challenges.

Forest thinning helped save the town of Sisters, Oregon, from a wildfire in 2017. But out of 30 million forested acres statewide, prescribed burns have been used on only roughly a

half-percent a year, Gersbach said.

In Washington state, a prescribed burning program hasn't yet begun on state lands, said Department of Natural Resources spokesman Thomas Kyle-Milward. The state helps manage deliberate fires on thousands of acres of federal lands each year.

Many places don't have the capacity or the money to do the work, said John Bailey, an Oregon State University professor of tree growth and fire management. There are no longer enough mills to handle salvageable timber, whose proceeds can help offset the costs of forest thinning.

"Sometimes I feel like we are making progress at increasing the pace and scale of resilience treatments, but largely, the same issues are at play, and progress has been slow," Bailey said. "More folks are probably 'on board' to the ideas, but implementation is hard."

And as more people move into rural areas or build vacation cabins in the woods, prescribed burning is less of an option.

"Where you have lots of people living on small

acres close together, and you've got houses and barns and sheds and corrals and fences, it's very difficult to do a prescribed burn," Gersbach said. "You've got a lot of things that, if that fire for some reason escapes, you're almost immediately into someone else's property."

**“Where you have lots of people living on small acreages close together, and you’ve got houses and barns and sheds and corrals and fences, it’s very difficult to do a prescribed burn.”**  
— Jim Gersbach

At least 10 people have been killed in Oregon. Officials say more than 20 people are still missing, and the number of fatalities is likely to rise as authorities search. In California, 24 people have died, and one person was killed in Washington state.

# Rotary Club offers 'mega raffle' fundraiser

Winners for 12 prizes totaling \$3,000 in value will be drawn October 31 in the Rotary Club of Sisters' Mega Raffle. The Mega Raffle is in support of Rotary Club service projects in Sisters Country that include Books for Kids, Sisters High School Scholarships, Sisters Park & Recreation District (SPRD), Family Access Network (FAN), Adopt-A-Road, Operation School Bell and more.

Only 500 tickets will be sold.

Donations to Rotary Club are \$10 per ticket and tickets can be obtained by calling 541-301-0300. Among the prizes are a three-night stay at a luxury Oregon beach house; a \$250 case of wine from Cork Cellars; a \$450-value family photo package; dinners; and five \$100 certificates good at Sisters retailers.

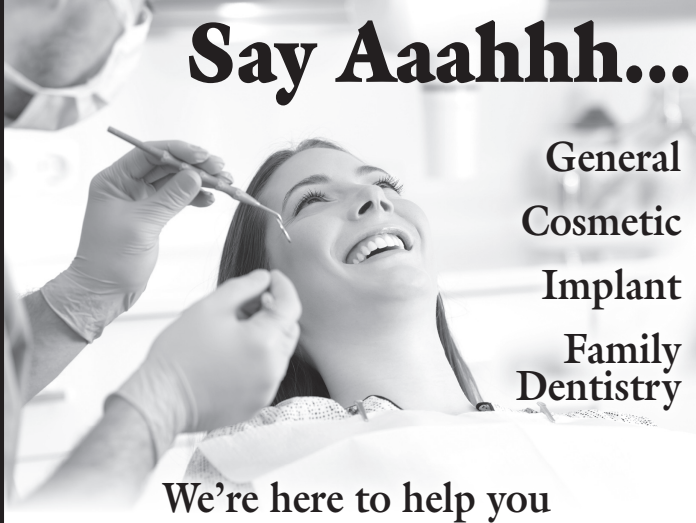
For more information and description of prizes visit [www.sistersrotary.org](http://www.sistersrotary.org) or call 541-301-0300.



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# SISTERS-AREA Entertainment & Events

**SEPT 24 THUR** **Paulina Springs Books Virtual Event Books In Common Regional Literary Event Series with Ginger Gaffney & Pam Houston** 6:30 p.m. For more information call 541-549-0866 or go to [BooksInCommonNW.com](http://BooksInCommonNW.com). 

**Food Cart Garden at Eurosports Trivia Night** 5:30 to 6:15 p.m. Family-friendly trivia. Socially-distant. Free. For additional information call Eurosports at 541-549-2471. 

**SEPT 25 FRI** **Food Cart Garden at Eurosports Friday Car Show** 5-6:30 p.m. Bring your cool or vintage car for the free Friday car show. For more information call Eurosports at 541-549-2471. 

**SEPT 26 SAT** **Sisters Area Sisters Arts Association Artist Studio Tour** 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Free self-guided tour of 26 private artist studios. Go to [www.sistersartsassociation.org/sistersstudiotour](http://www.sistersartsassociation.org/sistersstudiotour) for more information. 

**Paulina Springs Books Virtual Event Books In Common Regional Literary Event Series with Craig Johnson** Noon. For more information call 541-549-0866 or go to [BooksInCommonNW.com](http://BooksInCommonNW.com). 

**SEPT 27 SUN** **Sisters Area Sisters Arts Association Artist Studio Tour** 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Free self-guided tour of 26 private artist studios. Go to [www.sistersartsassociation.org/sistersstudiotour](http://www.sistersartsassociation.org/sistersstudiotour) for more information. 

**Fir Street Park Sisters Farmers Market** 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Every Sunday: fresh local produce and more. Pre-order and details at [sistersfarmersmarket.com](http://sistersfarmersmarket.com). 

**OCT 1 THUR** **Paulina Springs Books Virtual Event Books In Common Regional Literary Event Series with Maxim Loskutoff & Joe Wilkins** 6:30 p.m. For more information call 541-549-0866 or go to [BooksInCommonNW.com](http://BooksInCommonNW.com). 

**Food Cart Garden at Eurosports Trivia Night** 5:30 to 6:15 p.m. Family-friendly trivia. Socially-distant. Free. For additional information call Eurosports at 541-549-2471. 

Events Calendar listings are free to advertisers. Submit items by 5 p.m. Fridays to [lisa@nuggetnews.com](mailto:lisa@nuggetnews.com)