

# Man who beat motel owner sentenced to psychiatric hospital

BEND (AP) — A La Pine man has been sentenced to 20 years in the state psychiatric hospital for brutally beating a 70-year-old woman in a racist attack last year.

*The Bulletin* reports James Lamb Jr. was one of the first people in Oregon charged under a new hate crime law for seriously injuring the co-owner of the Hub Motel, Meena Puri.

Puri is an Indian immigrant who's lived with her family in Central Oregon for most of her life. Early on December 31, 2019, Lamb broke into the office of the motel, where he was staying, after Puri told him he couldn't use the office phone.

Lamb's wife had driven him to the motel the night before because he was acting abusive toward her, according to Redmond Police.

Lamb broke down the office door, grabbed Puri and assaulted her. Police said Lamb told police investigators he wanted to "rid America of people like her."

Puri suffered fractures to her neck, face and shoulder and was hospitalized for several weeks.

Lamb, 54, appeared this week in Deschutes County Circuit Court on charges of bias crime, burglary and assault. A charge of attempted murder was dropped as part of his plea deal.

Lamb was evaluated by psychological experts for the state and defense. Both agreed he met the legal criteria for a defense of guilty except for insanity.

## COMP PLAN: Citizens can serve on committees

*Continued from page 1*

don't live in Sisters proper, but shop, recreate, and generally identify with Sisters.

"Building on the Sisters Country Vision Plan adopted several years ago, we are excited to go back to the community and ask folks for their thoughts on the future of Sisters, so that we can translate that into actual policy and action," said Mayor Chuck Ryan. "This is the community's plan, so it is vital that the people who know Sisters best drive that plan."

A Community Advisory Committee (CAC) is being formed to help advise and guide staff, the Stakeholder Committee, and, ultimately, the Planning Commission and the City Council on the direction of the final document.

The CAC will consist of up to 14 members representing a crosssection of the community, including up to three Sisters Country residents, and

will meet up to seven times over the course of the next six to eight months for approximately two hours each time. Precautions due to COVID-19 will be employed to ensure the community's safety during this process, which will likely involve online meetings. Those interested in being on the CAC should complete an Advisory Board Application at [www.sisters2040.com/get-involved](http://www.sisters2040.com/get-involved), and return it by 5 p.m. October 28, either in the utility drop box at City Hall or by email to either of the staff listed below. The City Council will appoint members at their November 18 meeting. For information, contact Scott Woodford, community development director, at 541-323-5211 or [swoodford@ci.sisters.or.us](mailto:swoodford@ci.sisters.or.us); or Nicole Mardell, principal planner, at 541-323-5208 or [nmardell@ci.sisters.or.us](mailto:nmardell@ci.sisters.or.us).

To learn more about the Comprehensive Plan and how to participate visit [www.sisters2040.com](http://www.sisters2040.com). The website provides information to keep citizens in the loop as the plan progresses and will be updated throughout the process.

## Softball is underway...



PHOTO BY JERRY BALDOCK

Daisy Patterson makes great catch in left field vs. Culver.

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## Sisters salutes...

• Hats off to Sisters High School Athletic Director Gary Thorson, who has shown grace under pressure in navigating the confusing, conflicting path through COVID-19. The experience of high school athletics is an important one for many students, and ensuring that they get the best possible opportunity to have that experience — while keeping them safe and adhering to health and safety requirements — is a big challenge.

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