

The Nugget

News and Opinion
from Sisters, Oregon

POSTAL CUSTOMER

PRE-SORTED STANDARD
ECRWSS
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
Sisters, OR
Permit No. 15

Vol. XLIII No. 47

www.NuggetNews.com

Wednesday, November 18, 2020

COVID drops coal in Sisters' stocking

By Jim Cornelius
Editor in Chief

The coronavirus pandemic just put a big lump of coal in Sisters' Christmas stocking.

In the face of surging case-loads and hospitalizations across Oregon and Deschutes County, Sisters Area Chamber of Commerce has announced that they are canceling their traditional holiday activities in Sisters Country. That means no Community Christmas Tree Lighting, no Christmas Parade, and no visits with Santa.

That announcement came

See **CANCELED** on page 16



Carving a new trail...

PHOTO BY MAY FAN

Sisters Trails Alliance volunteers have completed construction of a new trail to the top of Peterson Ridge. See related story, page 19.

Watching Sisters grow

By Sue Stafford
Correspondent

If you haven't been out and about lately in Sisters, other than a trip to the grocery store or post office, take a tour to areas you don't regularly visit. Drive, ride, or walk to all four corners of the city limits and down the side streets.

You will discover many new homes under construction in all parts of town. Warehouses and live/work buildings are filling up the northern light industrial area. A new Mid Oregon Credit Union building has taken shape on Arrowleaf Trail. The new Ski Inn Tap Room

See **GROWTH** on page 17

Students find a new way to honor veterans

By Charlie Kanzig
Correspondent

For over two decades the schools in the Sisters School District have made special efforts to honor veterans during the week of Veterans Day, but with the pandemic closing down the middle and high schools, they had to get creative to keep the tradition alive.

The result is a student-leadership-produced video made available last week that includes music, commentary, and educational information related to veterans.

The video is available on *The Nugget's* Facebook page as well as via a link available at the end of this story.

Eighth grader Jack Turpen took a lead role in the production including a video featuring the nonprofit Mission 22, now based in Sisters, that provides comprehensive care for veterans and their families with an underlying mission of preventing veteran suicide,

which averages 22 a day in the United States.

Mission 22 programs include equine therapy, a "recovery and resilience" program, distance counseling, a "vets feeding vets" grocery program and much more. The Mission 22 website is www.mission22.com.

Additionally, the presentation included a Zoom rendition of the "Star-Spangled Banner" by the Sisters High School jazz choir, an explanation of the "missing man" table ceremony narrated by senior Shelby Larson, the playing of taps, a reading of a 2016 letter delivered to Sisters High School from John McCain by Joe Hosang, dozens of thank-yous from students and staff and a closing musical piece, "American Patrol" by the Sisters High School wind ensemble.

"We weren't going to let the pandemic keep us from honoring our veterans," said Hosang.

The link to the video is <https://bit.ly/SistersVeterans>.

Andersons honored for stewardship

Jim and Sue Anderson were honored as Deschutes Land Trust 2020 Volunteers of the Year.

Each year, the Land Trust recognizes volunteers who have provided outstanding service to the organization and its effort to conserve and care for land in Central Oregon. Though this year has been unlike any other, and the volunteer landscape has changed considerably, the Land Trust still wanted to recognize the people who dedicate themselves to the land.

Jim Anderson has been a Land Trust volunteer since the early 2000s. A lifelong naturalist, Anderson has dedicated a portion of his time to help wildlife thrive at Land Trust Preserves. Whether helping establish initial wildlife lists or building and installing nesting boxes for birds or flying squirrels, Jim's efforts always enriched habitat for wildlife.

Those who have met Jim Anderson also know that he is a lifelong storyteller. Combine stories and the natural world and visitors get an amazing natural history tour.



BY ALAN ST. JOHN

Jim Anderson installs a bird box on Deschutes Land Trust lands.

Jim led tours for the Land Trust for many years at many of our protected lands. His tales of the forest and vast knowledge of the natural

world have delighted many hike participants over the years.

See **ANDERSONS** on page 8

Inside...

Letters/Weather 2 Your Story Matters 6 Events 11 Fit for Sisters 15 Classifieds 20-22
Meetings 3 Announcements 10 Happy Thanksgiving 12-13 Crossword 19 Real Estate 22-24