

**GROWTH:** Sisters remains an attractive destination

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& Hotel on East Cascade Avenue is slated to open in late spring-early summer. The City is currently having a fourth well drilled in the Creekside Campground to add to the local water supply. Construction just began at 210 E. Sun Ranch Dr. on a 6,912 sq. ft. warehouse building for local builder Curt Kallberg. Any number of establishments in the downtown commercial area have new owners and/or new names. The Gallery Restaurant and Bar is now owned by Timbers Bar and Grille that also has Bend and Redmond locations. The former Sisters Depot Deli is now owned by Debra Yannariello and Eryn Ross of 503 Uncorked restaurant and wine bar in Sherwood, and is slated to open soon. SoulShine & Co. on West Hood Avenue has changed its name to Marigold & True with the same owner and merchandise. On the lawn east of

Marigold & True is a vegan food cart called Nourish. What was Shulers' Pizzeria located between East Cascade and East Hood avenues, next to Dutch Bros. Coffee, has a new black and white paint job and will soon be opening as Cibelli's Pizza, which has other locations in Central Oregon. Another white building with black trim is the newly opened Sisters Historical Museum on the corner of North Larch Street and East Cascade Avenue. The former home of George Wakefield, the museum showcases the early history of Sisters, with rotating displays, and offers walking history tours in the warm weather months. What aren't currently visible are the land-use applications either recently approved or under review by the City. Laird SuperFood has received approval of its site plan for a 26,412 sq. ft. warehouse on the corner of North Pine Street and Lundgren Mill Drive. Sisters Cottage Inn, 215 N. Locust St. (behind City Hall) received approval of its site plan for a "hotel" with seven rooms in detached small

cottages including ancillary functions (lobby, laundry, manager's quarters). The lot at 352 E. Hood Ave. (across from Ace Hardware) has been approved for division into two parcels. The Barn, to be located at 171 E. Main Ave., has an approved site plan for an eating/drinking establishment with a new 1,760 sq. ft. structure enclosing the bar and commissary kitchen. There will be an outdoor seating area, firepit, stage, and four mobile food units, including Boone Dog Pizza. Following an approved rezone, Jeriko Development has submitted for review a Master Plan and Subdivision to create a 14-lot industrial park at 800 W. Barclay (the former northern section of the Forest Service property). Modification to the Habitat for Humanity Village Meadows Master Plan is also under review to replat four residential lots to 10 residential lots. As of last Monday, November 16, the approval was final for a request to rezone the center portion of the Forest Service



PHOTO BY SUE STAFFORD

Sisters has seen a significant increase in residential and commercial growth, with a population growth rate in the city limits of 4.5 percent.

property from Open Space, Public Facilities, and Urban Area Reserve to Downtown Commercial, Multi-family Residential, North Sisters Business Park, and Open Space to accommodate future residential, commercial, and mixed uses. A site plan review and partition decision were issued and became final on November 2 for the ThreeWind apartment development behind Bi-Mart. They still need to complete a final plat application and submit their building permits before construction can begin. The commercial component is forthcoming and will need to

go through land-use review. In partnership with the Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT), planning and land acquisition is underway for the city's second roundabout planned for the intersection of East Highway 20 and Locust Street, a long-standing traffic bottleneck and safety concern. The City and ODOT have also begun early negotiations with the Forest Service for possible acquisition of the East Portal property (at the beginning of Scenic Highway 242) to create a future transportation hub or other amenity.

Home Sales Within Sisters City Limits – January-October					
	# New Listings	# Sold	Sold volume	Avg. Sales Price	Median Sales Price
2019	277	193	\$98,469,692	\$510,206	\$445,000
2020	310	266	146,819,454	551,953	448,800
Home Sales Within All of Sisters Country – January-October					
2019	416	285	\$152,345,942	\$534,547	\$449,000
2020	422	386	226,753,430	587,444	491,750

## Growth by the numbers

By Sue Stafford  
Correspondent

Those who lived here in 1950 were one of 723 Sisters residents. By 1960, that number was down to 602, a decrease of 16.7 percent. Following the end of the logging business in and around Sisters, the population hit bottom at 516 in 1970. Black Butte Ranch was being developed just about then and the developers helped Sisters businesses spruce up their stores, embracing the 1880s Western theme, to service ranch visitors. Over the next decade, the population grew by 34.9 percent to 696. Things slowed a little during the 80s, dropping the population by 2.4 percent to 679 in 1990. The end of the 90s decade saw Sisters install its municipal sewer system following a vote by the residents and growth became the byword. The 2000 census showed a population increase of 41.2 percent for 959 residents. At that time, there were 397

households and 262 families. The first 10 years of the new century saw Sisters population mushroom to 2,038 or a 112.5 percent increase. The number of households in 2010 was 847 with 557 families. Between 2010 and 2014, the population grew at an annual average of 2.21 percent. At that rate, predictions were made that by 2020, the population would reach 2,535. That number is already in the rearview mirror with the estimated census for 2020 being 3,003, with an average annual growth rate of 4.45 percent. It was recently announced that Deschutes County is second in the nation for people who used to visit and now live here. The Lake Tahoe area was number one and the Jersey Shore number three. As of November 2019, Portland State University reported that Sisters had the fastest growth of any city in Deschutes County, a jump of 9.5 percent over the space of a year.

The figures from the Central Oregon Association of Realtors for the first 10 months of both 2019 and 2020 bear out this population growth with an increase in prices. Sisters is growing fast and it does not appear that it will slow down soon.

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