

2020 YEAR IN REVIEW

Sisters moves into Phase I reopening with county

Sisters is cautiously emerging from the COVID-19 shutdown after Governor Kate Brown last week gave Deschutes County the green light to enter Phase I of the state’s “reopening” protocol as of Friday, May 15.

Matters were thrown into confusion on the afternoon of Monday, May 18, when a Baker County Circuit Court Judge invalidated all of Brown’s restrictions on businesses and social gatherings along with other executive orders around the coronavirus outbreak dating back to Thursday, March 12. On Monday night, the Oregon Supreme Court stayed that ruling, leaving restrictions in place pending an appeal.

Many retail businesses and restaurants were back in operation under Oregon Health Authority guidelines over the weekend, while some announced that they were deferring opening into this week to allow them time to conform to those guidelines.

Class of 2020 to have ceremony

A team of dedicated educators and parents have saved the day and created a plan for the Sisters High School class of 2020 to have a commencement ceremony after all, despite the limitations imposed by COVID-19.

The one-of-a-kind ceremony will take place at the Sisters Rodeo grounds at 7 p.m. on Friday, June 12. Due to health restrictions, the event will not be open to the general public and will be a drive-in style event.

Retailers happy to be open for business

The road to recovery has started for local businesses in Sisters. They unlocked their doors on Friday, May 15, the day Deschutes County moved into Phase I of the state’s reopening.

For the first time in weeks, many retailers welcomed people in their stores and said it’s giving them a sense of normalcy. Some small business owners in Sisters are still erring on the side of caution, sticking with curbside pickup. A couple are remaining closed.

Police seize heroin in Sisters traffic stop

A traffic stop on the outskirts of Sisters on the afternoon of Wednesday, May 20, led to the seizure of heroin and other drugs, a set of brass knuckles, and more than \$3,000 in cash.

The Deschutes County Sheriff’s Office reports that its Street Crimes Unit has been investigating 33-year-old Derek Chamberlain of Bend for the sales of controlled substances in Deschutes County.



PHOTO BY JODI SCHNEIDER

The staff at Bedouin is masked up and helping customers.

JUNE

Sisters Folk Festival off for 2020

The Sisters Folk Festival (SFF) cannot go forward in 2020, due to the constraints imposed by the COVID-19 pandemic. However, SFF staff and board remain determined to safely and responsibly provide live music experiences for Sisters locals through the summer and fall, and the festival will return in September 2021.

The staff and board of directors of Sisters Folk Festival announced Wednesday that they have made the difficult decision to postpone the 24th annual Sisters Folk Festival — originally scheduled to take place September 11-13 — to September 10-12, 2021.

Planned development will add housing

Sisters could see 250 to 300 new homes in the next couple of years as plans get underway for the development of 31 acres of land along Pine Street and Highway 20.

Kevin Eckert of Build LLC is designing the project for Paul Hodge and Paul and Carla Schneider of Sisters, who purchased the property that was formerly part of the U.S. Forest Service administrative site.

Eckert said that an application is in process at City Hall and the planning commission should meet on the project in August. The developers hope to be through the planning process by October or November.



PHOTO BY CEILI CORNELIUS

Beth Wood got on the bandwagon to offer mobile music to Sisters. The Sisters Folk Festival artist and educator launched what will be an ongoing effort to serve up a little fun and raise awareness of festival programming.

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Wednesday, June 3, 2020 *The Nugget Newspaper*

Editorial... We’re all on edge

Here at the office of *The Nugget* we consider ourselves among the fortunate ones. The press, like it or not, are deemed essential in times of crisis, so we get to work through this global pandemic. So most of our work these days centers around this crisis, and the pain and disruption that it is causing.

All of us have seen friends and loved ones lose jobs over the past two months. One in four Americans have been forced out of their jobs. That’s pretty depressing for the out-of-work, who may struggle to find value in their lives and to pay their bills. And it’s depressing for those of us still employed.

But people who work in the media tend to be different from most folks in that we thrive on conflict. This newspaper suffers from the same affliction. And for good reason. It’s not that we relish bad things happening to people, it’s simply that conflict is what makes for good story telling.

So we hope you’ll believe us when we state, things are not as bad as you see, read, and hear in the national media, especially in the electronic media.

Clickbait is a term that applies to the headlines in electronic media that are specifically designed to get you to click on a link, transporting you (they promise) to a story that will change your life.

And with a fourth of us unemployed, and a third of who’s left working from home, we’re all spending more time getting our news from social media. This isn’t a harmless practice.

Perhaps you already scroll past all of the nonsense: speculation of what might happen or a story about one person is incensed for what they interpret to be an offense.

Well-intended people, masons of the pathway to Hell, use social media as a platform to rise to the defense of someone who wasn’t actually offended. The Internet is well-populated with both amateur-police and amateur-journalists.

This has the effect of an Ouroboros, the snake eating its own tail. Anger begets more anger and modern technology spreads conflict virally (excuse the pun), the effects of which are insidious, damaging our souls rather than our flesh.

As we emerge from two months of sheltering and begin the inevitable rebuilding of our society, please be kind to the people whom, for whatever reason, aren’t wearing a mask. And be kind to those people who are wearing masks.

We’ve all been cooped up for too long, getting our news from sources designed to make us angry. Our real-world social skills are a bit rusty. Please be patient with each other and rather than condemning someone’s actions, try to help those in need.

Tom Mullen



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