

The Nugget

News and Opinion
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Sisters rider shines in rodeo competition

By Jim Cornelius
Editor in Chief

Adriene Steffen has added to her collection of rodeo trophies with a Reserve Champion finish in pole bending at the Junior World Championships Rodeo held December 7-12 in Fort Worth, Texas.

The 15-year-old rodeo competitor from Sisters has racked up considerable success in the arena, competing nationally since 2017.

Steffen turned in blazing-fast times of 20.7 seconds and 20.1 seconds on her 19-year-old horse named Bully, whom she started working with a year ago.

"I was really proud of my horse," Steffen told *The Nugget*. "Those were the fastest times we've run. He's a super-good, easygoing horse that you just have to be there for the ride and help him out."

Top honors went to Macie Kulikov of Sanger, California, whose runs included extraordinary sub-20-second times.

Pole bending is a timed



Sisters youth rodeo competitor Adriene Steffen earned Reserve Champion honors in pole bending at the Junior World Championships in Fort Worth, Texas.

event that features a horse and rider, running a weaving or serpentine path around six poles arranged in a line,

similar to a skiing slalom. Achieving times in the low 20-second range is tough, especially in

an indoor arena. Steffen explained that horses often

See **RODEO CHAMP** on page 23

Sisters will grow through 2021

By Sue Stafford
Correspondent

Growth in Sisters is keeping up a steady pace in early 2021. Numerous commercial and residential projects are in various stages of approval and implementation.

• Approved: Three Winds Apartments (West Hood Avenue behind Bi-Mart). Partition to divide the property into three parcels. Site Plan Review to allow for three, 10-unit multi-family residential buildings on new Parcel 2 and two 10-unit multi-family residential buildings on new Parcel 1, for a total of 50 units.

• Approved: 201 E. Sun Ranch Dr., map and tax lot 151004CA01900. Request:

See **GROWTH** on page 14

Staying safe this winter on national forests

People are flocking to the mountains this winter, filling up sno-parks, ski areas, and other recreation sites on national forest lands.

While winter is a great time to explore public lands, forest officials caution that there are additional precautions and steps to take before heading out. Recreation staff and emergency responders ask everyone to follow these tips and stay safe this winter:

• Always check weather and road conditions before leaving home.

• Prepare your vehicle for conditions at high elevations, carry tire chains and keep a winter weather kit in your vehicle.

The Deschutes County Sheriff's Office Search and Rescue team rescued a man and his 13-year-old daughter who got stuck in snow in a four-wheel-drive truck on a

forest road north of Paulina Lake. DCSO reminds the public to use caution when traveling on forest roads this time of year due to snow-pack. Road conditions vary significantly and roads can quickly become impassable. If you are traversing in these conditions be sure to bring appropriate vehicles, equipment, lighting, clothing, food, water, navigation and communication devices.

Traffic may be heavy around popular winter recreation sites so have a back-up plan if the site you wanted to visit is full. Consider week-day visits or local transit options rather than driving to areas and always carpool if possible.

If a parking lot is full, do not park along the highway, in no-parking zones, or block

See **SAFETY** on page 14

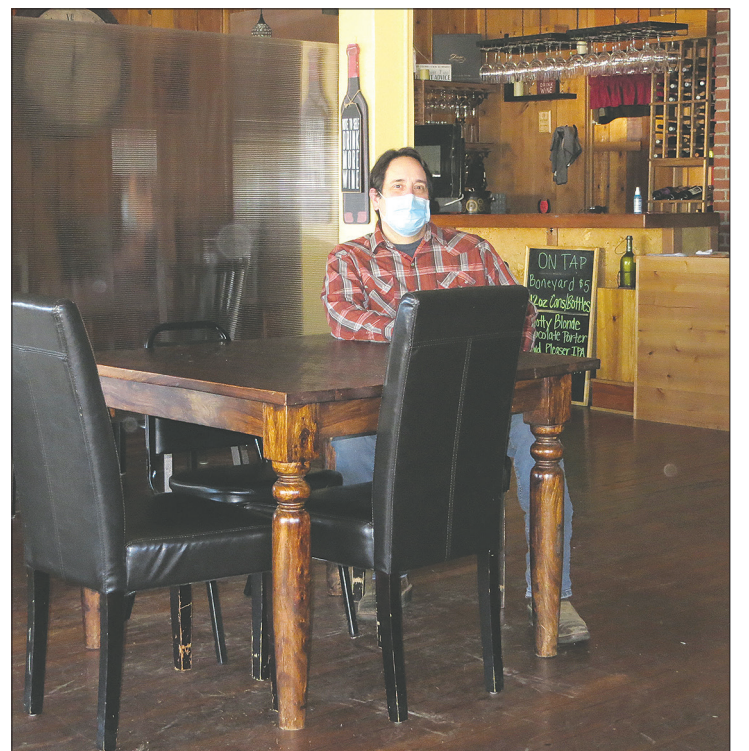
Restaurant to open despite ban

By Jim Cornelius
Editor in Chief

For Tom and Jeannie Gilgenberg Buck, keeping their wine bar and bistro closed indefinitely isn't an option. The couple opened Cork Cellars for in-restaurant dining on January 1 — in spite of state mandates prohibiting indoor dining in counties deemed at "extreme risk" in the current surge of COVID-19 cases.

"Tom and I seriously considered closing," Jeannie told *The Nugget* on December 31. "If we don't do this, there will not be a Cork Cellars."

The restaurant opened with the same safety and sanitation protocols that were in place before Governor Kate Brown and the Oregon Health Authority (OHA) imposed tighter restrictions in November. Those restrictions prohibit all indoor dining, gym openings, and indoor entertainment in "extreme



Tom Buck and his wife, Jeannie, opened Cork Cellars on January 1 with the protocols that were in place before the shutdown of indoor dining.

risk" counties — including Deschutes — in an effort to blunt a surge in COVID-19 cases that has seen more

hospitalizations and fatalities in Oregon than at any time

See **RESTAURANT** on page 8

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