

# The Nugget

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## Sisters loses a beloved resident

Sisters and the Aspen Lakes Community recently lost a beloved resident.

Pete, a male trumpeter swan and mate to Eloise, had to be humanely euthanized after battling a lethal infection. The loss not only has the local community mourning, but is also a blow to the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife/The Trumpeter Swan Society breeding restoration program.

Pete was recently discovered to be lame by an Aspen Lakes resident. He was taken to Broken Top Veterinary Clinic for examination and X-rays. Dr. Lodge found no evidence of a break or fracture, so it was hoped that he had a sprain. Pete was transferred to Think Wild in Bend for rehabilitation. When he didn't respond to initial treatments, a further work up was done and those results revealed a bacterial infection.

At that point, Pete was diagnosed with septic arthritis. The source of the infection is unknown, but was likely a cut or scrape on his leg that allowed bacteria to enter his blood stream.

Septic arthritis is usually



PHOTO BY AL KRAUSE

Pete, Aspen Lakes' trumpeter swan, has succumbed to a bacterial infection.

a fatal infection that causes crippling pain. Pete's case was no exception. In spite of aggressive treatments and

therapies, Pete continued to be unable to bear weight or eat on his own after a week. At the suggestion of local vets

and three avian specialists on the East Coast, the decision

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## Sisters Folk Festival moves to October

Sisters Folk Festival (SFF) is packing up its big tents and moving to October.

The Festival has announced a permanent move away from the traditional festival weekend that could begin as early as 2021 — if the pandemic is controlled enough to allow the event to take place safely.

Sisters Folk Festival produced a COVID-safe Close To Home concert at their outdoor backyard venue in early August of 2020. Seating was sold in pods of two to four people, with ample spacing in between, and mask use was required. Since SFF had to be postponed last year because of COVID, staff built on that successful concert model and planned to host a weekend

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## City launching major biosolids project

By Sue Stafford  
Correspondent

The City of Sisters is not letting waste go to waste.

The Sisters City Council last week awarded a public-improvement contract in the amount of \$153,092 to Clear Harbors Environmental Services of California for the Biosolid Removal Project at the City's wastewater treatment plant.

The project is part of the 2016 Wastewater Capital Facilities Plan and was estimated to occur in 2021 — 20 years from when the plant was started up. Establishment of the City sewer system was approved by the voters in 1997-98. Mayor Steve Wilson acquired the 160 acres at the end of Locust Street from the U.S. Forest Service for locating the sewerage treatment plant.

The removal of the biosolids required the creation of a Biosolids Management Plan (BMP) to determine the disposal method and location of the disposal site. Staff developed the BMP and received Department of Environmental Quality approval last November. Three bids were received from companies in Iowa, California, and Washington, all coming in under the budgeted \$250,000.

Biosolids removal includes the removal of "sludge," or the material that remains in the ponds after treatment. These biosolids accumulate in the ponds and reduce their capacity over time. The City's treatment plant is comprised of three ponds with the 2.1-acre, 10-foot-deep primary lagoon,

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PHOTO BY TROY RAYBURN

The City of Sisters Public Works crew performs countless daily tasks to keep Sisters operating properly and looking good. Pictured from left to right: Todd Milburn, Josh Stotts, Jackson Dumanch, Gus Johnson, Travis Quimby, and Doug McIntosh. Not pictured, Troy Rayburn and Paul Bertagna.

By Sue Stafford  
Correspondent

It's 1 a.m., and there is a big windstorm coming down off the mountains, whipping the trees and power lines back and forth. Without warning, a large

ponderosa tree on the south side of town is blown down across the street and lands on a homeowner's car. The City of Sisters Public Works crew is there within a matter of minutes, removing the tree. Just as quickly, for safety's sake, they are gone.

One of the best-kept secrets in town is the City's Public Works headquarters and shop located down at the end of South Locust Street, behind a modest gate. Public Works truly is

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