

# The Nugget

News and Opinion  
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## DCSO hound is on the scent in Sisters

By Bill Bartlett  
Correspondent

In all of Washington and Oregon there is only one “employed” bloodhound in law enforcement. That would be Copper, all 81 pounds of him, assigned to the Sisters Substation of the Deschutes County Sheriff’s Office.

Copper is all muscle and all heart and every bit as playful as you might expect of any dog under two years old. But he also knows his job that he takes seriously.

Bloodhounds have been immortalized in dozens of Hollywood films featuring jail break and prison break scenes where the trusty hounds track down the prisoners through all sorts of gnarly terrain. It has never been fully decided if the loveable Disney character Pluto is at heart a bloodhound. Then there’s Bruno from Cinderella and Trusty from Lady and the Tramp adding to the lore and



PHOTO BY BILL BARTLETT

Deputy Donny Patterson works with the bloodhound, Copper, out of the Sisters Sheriff’s Substation.

affection of the long-eared breed.

Copper and his handler, Deputy Sheriff Donny

Patterson, just completed their rigorous certification testing in California’s Riverside County by the

National Police Bloodhound Association, where the team

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## Providing for hospice care

By Sue Stafford  
Correspondent

As a healthcare professional and owner of Integrated Care in Sisters, Maureen Bidasolo, R.N., is well-acquainted with the vital services provided to her clients by local hospices and the Partners In Care Hospice House.

According to Bidasolo, her 10-person team of caregivers “help seniors stay in their homes, wherever that may be.” They start out being companions to their clients, providing house-keeping, meal preparation, and medication management, for which they are specially trained.

As clients’ health issues become more serious,

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## Roundabout concept taking shape

By Sue Stafford  
Correspondent

Most local residents avoid trying to enter Highway 20 from North Locust Street. There are long delays for pedestrians, bicyclists, and motorists wanting to cross the highway, or for vehicles wanting to turn left onto or off the highway.

Plans are currently underway to remedy that situation with construction of a new roundabout intersection the same size as the one at the other end of town at Barclay Drive and Highway 20. Because Highway 20 is a state highway, the City is working with the Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) in a partnership to acquire the property necessary to build the roundabout and funding for its construction. Most of that property belongs to the Sisters School District, the majority being part of the elementary school’s playground, including the tennis courts,

and some on the corner of the Administration building property.

According to a draft update presented at last week’s City Council meeting, the Highway 20/Locust intersection went through a thorough feasibility study in 2011 due to both safety and congestion issues. The feasibility study included polling Sisters’ citizens. Residents favored the roundabout solution over a traffic signal by 93 percent.

Additional public outreach occurred with the 2018 City of Sisters Transportation System Plan (TSP) update, resulting in overwhelming support for a roundabout. Continued backing from the community made this a high-priority action item in the recently completed 2020 Sisters Country Vision Plan.

This project proposes the construction of a single-lane roundabout at the intersection

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## Repairing a truck restored a future

By Julie Spor  
Correspondent

To graduate from high school in Oregon a student must have 24 credits in a variety of subjects. In September 2020, the start of his senior year, Astyn Buring had completed five.

“Astyn was always a nice kid, but I couldn’t get him to respond,” said Neil Fendall, dean of students at Sisters High School.

Astyn moved to Sisters in the fourth grade with his brother, mom, and stepdad. By the time he was 14 years old, Astyn was living in a trailer with his 16-year-old brother, on a property outside of Sisters owned by his brother’s girlfriend’s family.

“My sophomore year, my brother and I would skip class, drive around out in the woods, and work sometimes,” said Buring. “I didn’t really have any structure at that time because I was living alone.”

At one point his sophomore year, Astyn was officially unenrolled from Sisters High School.



PHOTO PROVIDED

Left to right: Skylar Sutherland, Astyn Buring, and Eric Spor.

That is when Rod Roberson stepped in. “Astyn and my son, Jackson, were friends around

age 14,” said Robinson. “Astyn would come over to

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