

# GET PREPARED FOR WILDFIRE

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# The Nugget

News and Opinion  
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Making a splash...

Ella Thorsett crosses a water obstacle on the way to an individual title in cross country's district competition. See story, page 7.

PHOTO BY CHARLIE KANZIG

## Sisters: A history of pioneer resilience

By Jim Cornelius  
Editor in Chief

Sisters is marking a significant anniversary in 2021 — the 75th anniversary of the 1946 incorporation of the City of Sisters.

Of course, Sisters' founding long predates incorporation. It was "discovered" long before Euro-American settlers found it — as a place where Paiute, Warm Springs, and Wasco peoples stopped during movement across the

See RESILIENCE on page 4

## Stancliff named Sisters High School principal

By Charlie Kanzig  
Correspondent

Steven Stancliff has been named the new principal of Sisters High School, replacing Joe Hosang, who, after 10 years as principal, is moving to a new position at the district's administrative office.

Stancliff, a native of Alaska and resident of Central Oregon since 2005, comes from a background in teaching, as well a variety of administration positions. He is finishing up his fifth year as principal of Pilot Butte Middle School in Bend.

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## Fire volunteers earn promotion

The Sisters-Camp Sherman Fire District (SCSFD) has promoted volunteer firefighters Ben Duda, Travis Bootes, and Rachel Ulm to the position of fire lieutenant. A formal promotion ceremony was held on Thursday, March 25, at the main fire station, and broadcast virtually so that friends and family members could participate in a safe manner.

A fire lieutenant is the first-line supervisor for a group of five to seven firefighters, often called a "fire company."

According to Deputy Chief Tim Craig, the lieutenant is one of the most important positions in the fire service.

"We are very careful to choose people for promotion to lieutenant who have great leadership and decision-making skills. All three of our new lieutenants bring incredible value to our organization, and I am extremely proud of each of them," said Craig.

Duda began his fire-service career in the wildland



PHOTO PROVIDED

Sisters Fire Chief Roger Johnson presided over a promotion ceremony for Travis Bootes, Ben Duda, and Rachel Ulm, each of whom has attained the volunteer rank of fire lieutenant.

arena during the fire season of 1994. He gained experience and qualifications in wildland firefighting, eventually achieving the position of Sisters Protection Supervisor for the Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF) in 2006. Duda began his volunteer service with SCSFD in 2018. His experience and leadership skills lent themselves well to the structural fire service. Over the last three years Duda has

gained additional certifications in structural firefighting that qualified him for the new position.

Travis Bootes has served as a volunteer firefighter since he was 15 years old, starting out as a cadet with the Harrisburg Fire Department. When he moved to Sisters with his family in 2014, he chose to continue his volunteer

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## Schools expanding in-school instruction

By Charlie Kanzig  
Correspondent

All Sisters School District students will be attending school four full days a week beginning Monday, April 12 according to a letter published by Superintendent Curt Scholl on April 1.

The much-anticipated decision came as a result of

the reduction in the allowable physical distancing within classrooms, adopted by the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) — down to three feet between students in classrooms. County metrics of infection rates for COVID-19 have continued to stay in the range that allow this change to

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