

The Nugget

News and Opinion
from Sisters, Oregon

POSTAL CUSTOMER

PRE-SORTED STANDARD
ECRWSS
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
Sisters, OR
Permit No. 15

Vol. XLIV No. 19

www.NuggetNews.com

Wednesday, May 12, 2021

Sisters votes on May 18

Many folks in Sisters have doubtless already turned in their ballots for the May 18 election. If not, it's probably best to drop off ballots at the secure drop-off in front of Sisters City Hall (520 E. Cascade Ave.).

Ballots must be received by 8 p.m. on Election Day to be counted; postmarks do not count.

For Sisters Country, the election will decide some significant issues. Voters in the Cloverdale Fire District will decide whether to approve a five-year local option levy to

See **ELECTION** on page 14

Cattle country...



PHOTO BY BILL BARTLETT

Sisters Country is cattle country, with a number of boutique cattle operations using innovative management techniques that are good for cattle, the land, and humans. See "Roundabout Sisters," page 6.

Grappling with homeless issues

By Jim Cornelius
Editor in Chief

Like communities across the nation, Sisters is grappling with the complex issues surrounding homelessness.

Because of where it's situated, Sisters' homeless population largely camps on public lands in the Deschutes National Forest.

Colleen Thomas is Deschutes County's Homeless Services Coordinator. She and

See **HOMELESS** on page 21

Target is on Sisters poachers

Hunters outraged by wanton slaughter of elk want to see poachers in the cross-hairs of the law. The reward for information on a poaching case near Sisters has hit \$10,000.

In early April, the Oregon Hunters Association Bend, Redmond, Capitol, Josephine, and Mid-Columbia chapters, along with several private donors, pooled resources to increase the initial reward amount to \$6,500. Additional private donations and an infusion of \$1,000 from the OHA State Board last week raised the total to \$10,000. Several thousand dollars of the reward was donated to OHA by nonhunters who are equally outraged.

OSP Fish and Wildlife Troopers located the cow elk carcass on October 30 after a hunter scouting the Dry Canyon area east of Sisters reported it to the Turn In Poachers (TIP) Line. Troopers then discovered a large bull elk carcass nearby. The bull elk's head had been removed as a trophy. Although bull elk were in season at the time, it is a crime to leave carcasses to waste.

Two days later, on November 1, a hunter

reported the carcass of a one-year-old male spike elk about 40 yards from where the cow had been found. Based on decomposition, all three animals were shot at or near the same time, and certainly the same day according to OSP F&W Senior Trooper Creed Cummings, who processed the scene.

OHA Vice President Steve Hagan, who oversees the TIP rewards program for the organization, describes the case as upsetting.

"This case has generated outrage in Central Oregon," he said. "This happened a while back, but we haven't forgotten about it. Hopefully, this increased reward will help generate leads towards a resolution to this case."

Oregon's Stop Poaching campaign coordinator Yvonne Shaw agrees.

"This is a blatant waste of Oregonians' natural resources," she said, "Not only have these animals been removed from legal hunting in season, but they have also been removed from chance encounters with hikers, photographers, and others who appreciate the opportunity to experience wildlife. Poachers take from all of us."

Quilt Show planning to move ahead

By Jim Cornelius
Editor in Chief

The path isn't completely clear yet, but Sisters Outdoor Quilt Show (SOQS) Executive Director Dawn Boyd reports the outlook is positive for a modified show Saturday, July 10.

SOQS has submitted a health and safety plan for the outdoor event, and Boyd said that the City of Sisters has indicated that it is satisfied with it. The Deschutes County Health Department has to sign off, but that is not expected to be a major hurdle, Boyd told *The Nugget*.

"We've had very, very positive feedback on the process," Boyd said. "I believe it's going to be two or three weeks before we get that final stamp of approval, but we're going to move forward with plans as though we're going to get that stamp of approval."

Sisters City Manager Cory Misely confirmed that, while the sign-off is in the hands of the County Health Department, the City of Sisters is happy with the Quilt

"We're excited. We want it to happen."
— Cory Misely



PHOTO BY JERRY BALDOCK

The Sisters Outdoor Quilt Show is planning to return this July, with a modified event that can meet safety protocols.

Show's plans.

"We're excited," he said. "We want it to happen."

He also noted that everyone anticipates that the state will be "in a much better place" regarding COVID-19 by July, which contributes to the sense of optimism.

While the event isn't happening for another eight weeks, it takes a lot of time and work to ramp up for the event, even at a modified scale. The organization could not delay a decision on moving ahead any longer.

Plans currently call for about 50 percent of the usual amount of quilts to be on display, more widely separated than they ordinarily would be

to promote physical distancing. That means there will be some 500 to 600 quilts. There won't be any on Main Avenue, and a limited number on Cascade Avenue, with most of the show being displayed on Hood Avenue.

"Probably just over half of the quilts will be part of special exhibits," Boyd said.

The annual educational component of the program, Quilters Affair, will be held virtually this year, as will the international Tentmakers of Cairo special fundraising event on the Wednesday before the show.

Boyd noted that virtual

See **QUILT SHOW** on page 23

Inside...

Letters/Weather	2	Stars over Sisters	4	Entertainment	11	Obituaries	15	Classifieds.....	18-20
Meetings	3	Announcements.....	10	Fun and Games	12	Crossword	17	Real Estate	21-24