

# The Nugget

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## Amid clamor to increase prescribed burns, obstacles await

By Andrew Selsky  
Associated Press

SALEM — In the 1950s, when University of California forestry professor Harold Biswell experimented with prescribed burns in the state's pine forests, many people thought he was nuts.

"Harry the Torch," "Burn-Em-Up Biswell," and "Doctor Burnwell" were some of his nicknames from critics, who included federal and state foresters and timber groups.

Six decades after Biswell

See **FORESTS** on page 21



One last wall...

PHOTO BY JIM CORNELIUS

Sisters High School woods teacher Tony Cosby (red shirt) led a crew of students in a wall rasing for Habitat for Humanity. Cosby will semi-retire next year. See story, page 5.

## 'Critical Race Theory' and Sisters schools

By Bill Bartlett  
Correspondent

Critical Race Theory (CRT) is one of the most contentious issues in the nation. It is also known as Critical Race Training, or occasionally as Culturally Responsive Teaching. CRT is not, as is frequently suggested, a curriculum.

Critical Race Theory is an academic concept that is more than 40 years old. The core idea is that racism is a social construct, and that it is not merely the product of individual bias or prejudice, but also something embedded in legal systems and policies.

The basic tenets of CRT

See **CRT** on page 23

## Sisters on high alert over holiday weekend

It should be obvious to everyone that record heat and extremely dry conditions make for extreme fire danger in Sisters during the upcoming holiday weekend.

Local officials and citizens alike hope that no one is foolish enough to indulge in shooting off fireworks to celebrate the Fourth of July.

"I would encourage people to go to the public displays if possible," said Sisters-Camp Sherman Fire Chief Roger Johnson. "Pilot Butte (in Bend) is still on, and we're hearing that's going to be a spectacular show."

Fireworks displays, in Redmond and Bend are scheduled to begin at dusk. The Redmond show will be at the Deschutes County Fairgrounds and requires a free fireworks parking permit if parking at the fairgrounds. Visit [www.visitredmondoregon.com/events/4th-of-july](http://www.visitredmondoregon.com/events/4th-of-july) for more information.

The Bend show will take place at the top of Pilot Butte.

**Fireworks are illegal anywhere in Sisters, in surrounding subdivisions, and**

**on national forest lands.**

"We'll be sure to have deputies out patrolling and looking and educating — but also enforcing," said City Manager Cory Misley.

While they don't have an enforcement roll, firefighters will be out and about as well.

"We always patrol on the Fourth," Johnson said.

The fire district will have "vehicles staffed and ready to respond" to any fire outbreak.

Fireworks are not the only concern. Campers and recreationists out in the forest must be extremely careful. People should be mindful of where they drive or park a vehicle in the forest, as a hot exhaust manifold can start a fire when conditions are this dry and hot. Open fires, including wood stoves and charcoal briquette fires, are prohibited in Deschutes National Forest except in certain designated campgrounds. Under current public use restrictions, smoking is prohibited in the forest, except within an enclosed vehicle or building,

See **HIGH ALERT** on page 20

## Beware of **EXTREME HEAT**



The splash pad at Fir Street Park was a popular destination last weekend as a severe heat wave clamped down on the Pacific Northwest.

PHOTO BY BILL BARTLETT

Central Oregon's extreme heatwave is expected to continue for at least another week. When temperatures reach 90s and enter into the triple digits, it becomes more important to take care of yourself and to be aware of signs of heat-related illness.

When it's hot, you should:

- Drink water and bring extra bottles for yourself and others.
- Drink more water than usual and don't wait until you are thirsty. Talk to your doctor first if you are on water pills.
- Avoid alcohol and sugary

beverages.

- Take a cool shower or bath.

- Use air conditioning or a fan.

- Don't use a fan to blow extremely hot air on yourself; use it to create cross-ventilation.

- Wear lightweight and loose clothing.

- Avoid using your stove or oven.

- Avoid going outside during the hottest part of the day (3 to 7 p.m.).

- Take care of those around you:

- Check in on elders and

vulnerable neighbors during warm weather — twice a day is best.

- Never leave a person, child or a pet in a hot car.

- Regularly check on how babies and toddlers, seniors, pregnant people, people taking mental health medications, and people with heart disease or high blood pressure are doing. See the symptoms of heat stroke and heat exhaustion, page 20.

- Share a fan.

- Invite a friend to a splash pad, movie, mall, or museum.

See **HEAT** on page 20

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