

# The Nugget

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from Sisters, Oregon

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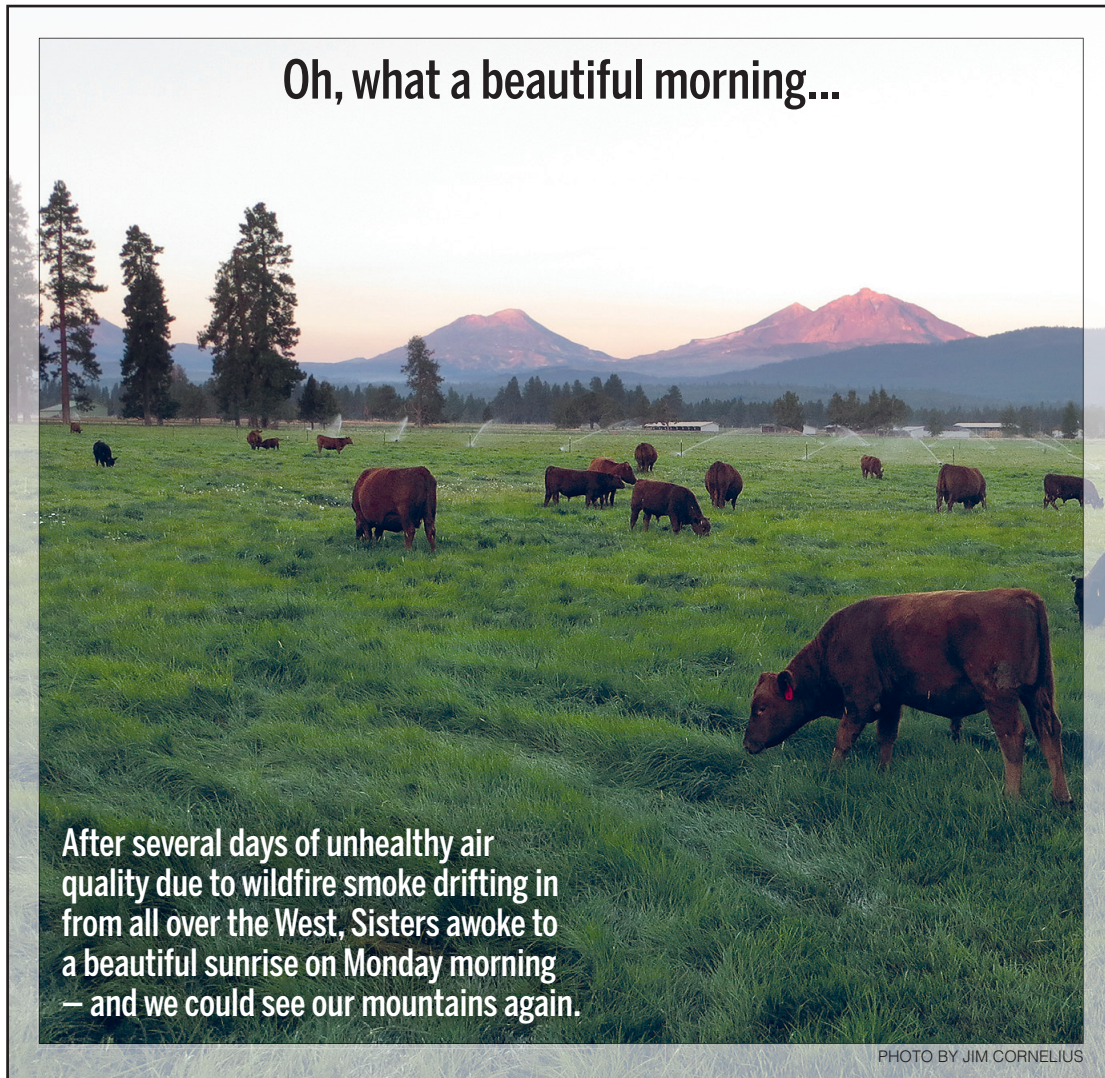
## Sisters city manager in running for new post in Hood River

By Sue Stafford  
Correspondent

The City of Sisters may soon be looking for a new city manager. Cory Misley is a finalist for the city manager position in Hood River, a town of 8,313 residents with a city staff of about 70.

When hired for the position in Sisters, Misley agreed to stay for at least three years in light of the rash of personnel changes at the City before he was hired. He has reached the three-year mark and has been looking for a new

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Oh, what a beautiful morning...

After several days of unhealthy air quality due to wildfire smoke drifting in from all over the West, Sisters awoke to a beautiful sunrise on Monday morning – and we could see our mountains again.

PHOTO BY JIM CORNELIUS

## Scholl affirms school standards in Sisters

By Charlie Kanzig  
Correspondent

News last week regarding the passage of Senate Bill 744 and subsequent approval by Governor Kate Brown might be compared to the wildfires burning all around the State this summer.

Citizens are hot.

The change in the law suspends for three years the graduation requirement for students to show proficiency in “Essential Learning Skills,” which

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## Sisters Country faces surging delta variant

As the highly contagious delta variant of COVID-19 surges across Sisters Country, St. Charles Hospital is urging residents to get vaccinated and, whether vaccinated or not, to wear a mask in public places.

Joe Sluka, president and CEO of St. Charles Health System sent out a Central Oregon-wide message last week urging individual action.

“We already know the best way out of this pandemic, and that’s by vaccinating more people, wearing masks in public places, and practicing good hand hygiene,” he said. “When people get vaccinated, they greatly protect themselves against severe illness and death from COVID-19. When you wear your mask, you slow the spread of the virus, protect others from infection and hospitalization, and reduce strain on our health system. And please believe me: We need to reduce the strain on our health system. Right now.”

The strain is significant

enough that the National Guard has been called out in support of the healthcare system.

St. Charles Hospital will receive a deployment of 150 National Guard personnel next Friday.

This is part of a deployment of up to 1,500 Oregon National Guard members in support of frontline healthcare workers as hospitals face a surge of hospitalizations due to the rapid spread of the delta variant. Guard personnel will provide logistical support as materials handlers and equipment runners, as well as assisting with COVID-19 testing and other necessary services to support hospital operations.

“The stress on Oregon hospitals right now is truly unprecedented. Our resources are stretched woefully thin at the same time we are seeing a frightening rise in COVID cases,” said Sluka. “We are grateful for the Guard’s help. We look

See COVID-19 on page 21



PHOTO BY KATY YODER

## High Desert drought affects SISTERS AGRICULTURE

Seed to Table is fortunate to be able to utilize a well to water crops on its three-acre farm off East Black Butte Avenue.

By Katy Yoder  
Correspondent

Waves of record-high temperatures, combined with low rainfall and dwindling snowmelt needed to replenish aquifers and river systems, are affecting Sisters Country. Farmers and ranchers have known for years that the area is in trouble. How it’s affecting them varies based on how

they get their water and what kind of agricultural practices they have in place. Efforts focus on maximizing available water while minimizing losses through water-saving practices.

According to the National Integrated Drought Information System (Drought.gov), June 2021 was the driest year over the past 127 years. One hundred

percent of Deschutes County is at least D2 – Severe Drought, 55.31 percent is considered D4 – Exceptional Drought status. Dry conditions result in less production and food for people and livestock. Reservoirs and lakes are low and irrigation water is scarce.

As the cost of doing

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