

# The Nugget

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*A welcome sight...*



Folks in Sisters have seldom been so happy to see snow on the peaks. Hopes are high that this winter can break a severe drought.

PHOTO BY BILL BARTLETT

## Veterans program builds community in Sisters

By Sue Stafford  
Correspondent

When Sara Johnson, CEO, talks about the Mission 22 program that grew out of the suicide of a Green Beret who served with her husband, Magnus, her whole face glows with passion, dedication, and love for the program and all those it serves.

Magnus served as a U.S. Army Special Forces soldier (Green Beret) for eight years, including the invasion of Iraq and two tours in Afghanistan. His job involved the disposal of explosive ordnance, for which he was awarded a Bronze Star Medal for Exceptionally Meritorious Service.

Upon his discharge from

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## Bidding wars continue over Sisters real estate

By Bill Bartlett  
Correspondent

If the second half of September is anything like the first half, home sales in zip code 97759 will surpass records. While single family home sales in Bend and Redmond appear to be calming, the market in Sisters remains red hot.

The median price of homes in Bend dropped \$15,000 to \$635,000 from July to August according to Beacon Appraisal Group, while homes in Sisters Country rose from \$600,000 to \$665,000.

The median price is the one favored by analysts. It is the midpoint for sales, meaning in August half of the 35

zip code 97759 sales were under \$665,000 and half over \$665,000. Using the average can be very misleading as it only takes one super-size sale to skew the data. The Sisters market had eight sales over \$1 million last month, raising the average to \$821,000.

Already in September, of the 24 recorded sales, six (25 percent) are \$1 million or

more. And the median thus far is rising again from \$665,000 to \$697,000. Realtors say this is unsustainable. They have said that for months now. Of the 63 real estate listings for 97759 today, more than half (34) are priced at \$1 million plus, with 11 over \$2 million and two for over \$5 million.

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## Forest Service takes on weeds in Metolius Basin

Depending on weather conditions, the Deschutes National Forest will apply herbicides to invasive plants in an area adjacent to the Metolius River and the Metolius River Trail in late September.

The treatments will occur September 27-30, 2021, along the Metolius River Trail (trail 4020 on the west side and trail 4018, east side). The Sisters Ranger District will use Roundup Custom and Polaris to treat invasive non-native rib-grass, reed canarygrass, perennial peavine, and yellow flag iris on about one acre of the Metolius River. In locations over 15 feet from water, Transline may be used on perennial peavine.

Treatments will take place in select locations

from upstream of the confluence with South Fork Lake Creek downstream to Candle Creek Campground.

The method of treatment will be spot applications with a backpack or hand-sprayer by certified herbicide applicators. It involves application of herbicide to foliage of target invasive plants to minimize effects to native plants. The applied herbicides typically dry within an hour of being applied and do not pose a risk to human, wildlife, or animal health under the concentrations being applied, the Forest Service reports.

The Metolius River Trail on both sides of the river will remain open during treatment, but the public

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## Hop festival canceled – but not the hops

By Bill Bartlett  
Correspondent

If you think you and your friends are disappointed that this year's 11th Annual Fresh Hop Festival has been canceled, imagine being a brewer. Imagine being the organizer, Three Creeks Brewing Co. Beer drinkers and event goers take for granted the months of work that goes into planning and promoting such an event.

Fresh hop beers from over 20 Oregon craft brewers were on slate alongside music bands, food carts, and other vendors. Then there's the loss of the estimated \$10,000 that would have been donated to Ronald McDonald House Charities, beneficiaries of the popular fall event.

What is fresh hop beer?

"In order for a beer to be considered 'fresh hopped' the hops must be picked and then brewed within 24



PHOTO BY BILL BARTLETT

Ryan McVey, Three Creeks Brewing Co. brewmaster, brewing fresh-hopped beer.

hours," said Ryan McVey, brewmaster at Three Creeks Brewing Co.'s brew pub in the FivePine Campus. "The

only time fresh hop beer can be created is during harvest

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