

# COMMUNITY

## Commentary...

# Lending a hand in a moment of need

By **Hollie Foster**  
Guest Columnist

On January 3 at about 7:30 p.m., during a winter storm, Jefferson County Reserve Deputy Mark Foster received a 911 call from dispatch for a motor assist in Camp Sherman at the “Four Corners” stop sign. A large semitruck had slid off the road into deep snow at the stop sign, blocking one lane.

Why and how did it get there?

Having passed through Sisters, the semi was on Highway 20 en route to Corvallis to deliver cargo. Santiam Pass was closed. Nearing the Camp Sherman Road junction, the driver had received an erroneous GPS notice to detour to Camp Sherman for an alternative route over Santiam Pass. Being first-time visitors to Central Oregon from the Deep South, the driver and passenger — two young women — were quite unfamiliar with Oregon’s routes, mountain passes, winter snow storms, avalanches, and potentially lengthy pass closures.

Traveling through the dark forest on the Camp Sherman road during a windy, swirling snowstorm, the driver finally reached the stop sign — and got stuck.

After calling 911, she called several nearby towing companies for assistance; unfortunately, no one was available to help them that night due to other stranded motorist 911 calls.

What the stranded driver

and passenger didn’t know then was that, in Camp Sherman, the best place to get a cell signal is precisely at the Four Corners stop sign area, known locally as the “cell phone booth.” They had unknowingly picked the perfect spot to become disabled and successfully reach 911 as well as their own trucking company dispatch.

Responding to the call, Mark Foster set out traffic cones to mark the hazard spot. By then, in addition to being stuck in deep snow, the truck had completely run out of diesel fuel and also had an untimely battery failure.

The women had started walking toward Highway 20 to seek help. Finding no one in the truck, Mark proceeded to look for the driver. He found the women walking on the road. They spotted the sheriff’s truck with flashing lights and, relieved, turned and walked toward it. They told Mark of their

predicament.

Since the semi could not produce heat for the sleep quarters cab due to an empty fuel tank, Mark’s plan was to transport the women to the Best Western Ponderosa Lodge in Sisters for overnight lodging. Before heading to Sisters, Mark stopped to pick me up at my daughter’s home to accompany him.

Along the route, the young women excitedly called their worried moms back home in the Deep South, retelling their unfolding story play by play. We could hear the voices of their grateful moms thanking us.

In Sisters, we bought the women dinner and paid for their lodging at the Best Western. We also bought them a U.S. Rand McNally Road Map and an Oregon road map for handy and much-needed use. They greatly appreciated all of our assistance and continually



PHOTO PROVIDED

Jefferson County Reserve Deputy Mark Foster helped a pair of truck drivers who got stuck in Camp Sherman during last week’s snow storm.



PHOTO PROVIDED

Rochelle, Jacquela, and their stuck truck.

addressed “Mr. Mark” as their guardian angel.

The next morning, on January 4, Mark brought the driver and passenger back to Camp Sherman along with two 40-pound diesel tanks of fuel in an attempt to spark the engine to start. Two tanks were not enough, so back to Sisters he went for more fuel.

After returning to the Four Corners with fuel, Mark drove to House on Metolius to exchange his truck for Big Blue — the resort’s snow plow — as a backup if needed at the Four Corners.

By then, Davis Towing had arrived on the scene. Inch by inch, creaking all the way, the large semi was successfully hauled out of the snow onto the road.

During the tow truck operation, I enjoyed spending time and talking with Jacquela, 30, the semi driver; and Rochelle, 25, the

passenger and soon-to-be semitruck driver. Throughout their entire winter storm rescue event, Jacquela and Rochelle both had maintained a positive attitude, displayed humor, were greatly appreciative for all of the assistance received, and were absolutely delightful to get to know.

It is evident to me that this event was not a coincidence of random events, but rather God’s hand of impeccable timing and detailed organization for a rescue from a humble Camp Sherman man whose heart just keeps on giving and joyously serving his community.

We have corresponded since their departure, and Jacquela and Rochelle have said that they plan to return to Camp Sherman in the summer and rent a cabin.

Happy journey and return, friends!

## SISTERS AREA MEETING CALENDAR

### BOARDS, GROUPS, CLUBS

**Al-Anon** Mon., noon. / Thurs., 10 a.m., Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church. 541-610-7383.

**Alcoholics Anonymous** Thurs. & Sun., 7 p.m., Episcopal Church of the Transfiguration / Sat., 8 a.m., Episcopal Church of the Transfiguration / Mon., 5 p.m., Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church / Big Book study, Tues., noon, Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church / Gentlemen’s meeting, Wed., 7 a.m., Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church / Sober Sisters Women’s meeting, Thurs., noon, Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church / Step & Tradition meeting, Fri., noon, Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church. 541-548-0440.

**Black Butte Ranch Bridge Club** Tuesdays, 12:30 p.m., BBR community room. Partner required. 541-595-6236.

**Central Oregon Fly Tyers Guild** For Saturday meeting dates and location, email: steelefly@msn.com.

**Central OR Spinners and Weavers Guild** One Saturday per month, Jan. thru Oct. For schedule: 541-639-3217.

**Council on Aging of Central Oregon Senior Lunch** Tuesdays, noon, Sisters Community Church. 541-480-1843.

**East of the Cascades Quilt Guild** 4th Wednesday (September-June), Stitchin’ Post. All are welcome. 541-549-6061.

**Go Fish Fishing Group** 3rd Monday, 7 p.m. Sisters Community Church. All ages welcome. 541-771-2211.

**Heartwarmers** (fleece blanketmakers) 2nd & 4th Tuesdays, 1 p.m., Sisters City Hall. Materials provided. 541-408-8505.

**Hero Quilters of Sisters** Thursdays, 1 to 4 p.m. 541-668-1755.

**Citizens4Community, Let’s Talk** 3rd Monday, 5:30 to 8 p.m. RSVP at citizens4community.com

**Military Parents of Sisters** Meetings are held quarterly; please call for details. 541-388-9013.

**Oregon Band of Brothers – Sisters Chapter** Wednesdays, 11:30 a.m., Takoda’s Restaurant. 541-549-6469.

**SAGE (Senior Activities, Gatherings & Enrichment)** Monday-Friday, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Sisters Park & Recreation District. 541-549-2091.

**Sisters Aglow Lighthouse** 4th Saturday, 10 a.m., meeting by Zoom. 503-930-6158.

**Sisters Area Photography Club** 2nd Wednesday, 3:30 p.m., at Sisters Community Church. 541-549-6157.

**Sisters Area Woodworkers** 1st Tuesday, 7 to 9 p.m. 541-231-1897.

**Sisters Astronomy Club** 3rd Tuesday, 7 p.m., SPRD. 541-549-8846.

**Sisters Bridge Club** Thursdays, 12:30 p.m. at Sisters Community Church. Email sistersbridge2021@gmail.com.

**Sisters Caregiver Support Group** 3rd Tues., 10:30 a.m., Village Green Park. 541-771-3258.

**Sisters Cribbage Club** Please call for details. 541-923-1632.

**Sisters Habitat for Humanity Board of Directors** 4th Tuesday, 6 p.m. Location information: 541-549-1193.

**Sisters Kiwanis** Thursdays, 7 to 8:30 a.m., Brand 33 Restaurant at Aspen Lakes. 541-410-2870.

**Sisters Parent Teacher Community** 2nd Tuesday, 6:30 p.m. at Sisters Saloon. 541-480-5994.

**Sisters Parkinson’s Support Group** 2nd Thurs., 1 p.m. Sisters Library. 541-668-6599

**Sisters Red Hats** 1st Friday. Location information: 541-279-1977.

**Sisters Rotary** 1st and 3rd Tuesdays, Noon, Aspen Lakes. 541-760-5645.

**Sisters Trails Alliance Board** 1st Monday, 5 p.m. Sisters Library.

Public welcome. 808-281-2681.

**Sisters Veterans** Thursdays, noon, Takoda’s Restaurant. 541-903-1123.

**Three Sisters Irrigation District Board of Directors** 1st Tuesday, 4 p.m., TSID Office. 541-549-8815.

**Three Sisters Lions Club** 2nd Thursday, 6:30 p.m., Spoons Restaurant. 541-419-1279.

**VFW Post 8138 and American Legion Post 86** 1st Wednesday, 6:30 p.m., Sisters City Hall. 541-903-1123.

**Weight Watchers** Thursdays, 8:30 a.m. weigh-in, Sisters Community Church. 541-602-2654.

### SCHOOLS

**Black Butte School Board of Directors** 2nd Tuesday, 3:45 p.m., Black Butte School. 541-595-6203

**Sisters School District Board of Directors** One Wed. monthly, SSD Admin Bldg. See schedule online at www.ssd6.org. 541-549-8521 x5002.

### CITY & PARKS

**Sisters City Council** 2nd & 4th Wednesday, 6:30 p.m., Sisters City Hall. 541-549-6022.

**Sisters Park & Recreation District Board of Directors** 2nd & 4th Tuesdays, 4:30 p.m., SPRD bldg. 541-549-2091.

**Sisters Planning Commission** 3rd Thursday, 5:30 p.m., Sisters City Hall. 541-549-6022.

### FIRE & POLICE

**Black Butte Ranch Police Dept. Board of Directors** Meets monthly. 541-595-2191 for time & date.

**Black Butte Ranch RFPD Board of Directors** 4th Thursday, 9 a.m., Black Butte Ranch Fire Station. 541-595-2288.

**Cloverdale RFPD Board of Directors** 3rd Wed., 5:30 p.m., 67433 Cloverdale Rd. 541-548-4815. cloverdalefire.com.

**Sisters-Camp Sherman RFPD Board of Directors** 3rd Tuesday, 5 p.m., Sisters Fire Hall, 541-549-0771.

**Sisters-Camp Sherman RFPD Drills** Tuesdays, 7 p.m., Sisters Fire Hall, 301 S. Elm St. 541-549-0771.

This listing is for regular Sisters Country meetings; email information to beth@nuggetnews.com