

Youth program builds opportunities

By Jim Cornelius
Editor In Chief

A little over a year ago, Evelyn Lopez was falling way behind in school.

“Public school was not my calling,” the Sisters youth told *The Nugget*. “Not enough teacher one-on-one time, which I really needed.”

Fast-forward to January 2022, and Lopez is thriving. Last Thursday, she was selected to cut the ribbon on Heart of Oregon Corps’ new child and youth development training classroom and pre-apprenticeship construction classroom in Redmond.

As she works to catch up on credits to gain her GED or diploma, she’s transitioning into the brand-new career track program in child and youth development. And she’s excited.

“I’m in YouthBuild construction,” she said, “and I’m transitioning into the child development program... Construction is great; I like it, but it’s not what I’d want to have a career in.”

Child development and child care, however, is.

“I just kind of want to be a role model... and make kids happy,” she said.

Through the new career track program and its



Evelyn Lopez of Sisters cut the ribbon on a new Heart of Oregon classroom and shop facility in Redmond last week. She plans to transition into a new child development program.

PHOTO BY JERRY BALDOCK

partners in the community, Lopez and her peers will get hours of hands-on experience, learning to engage appropriately with a range of age groups of children. They will learn CPR and sleep-safe protocols and become well enough versed in child and youth development to

move into the field.

Program Director Kara Johnson told *The Nugget* that the organization considered a variety of potential career tracks to add to its successful construction program. They settled on child and youth development in part because there is a tremendous

community need.

At Thursday’s open house, Child and Youth Development Trainer Tanner Rohne told the assemblage that Central Oregon is “a child care desert,” with one slot available for every three

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Hospital announces COVID-19 treatments

Last week, St. Charles Health System started offering three new outpatient treatments for people with COVID-19. However, supplies are “severely limited,” according to Dr. Jacoby Allen.

“Studies are showing that these medications do have some benefit. They seem to be effective in preventing severe disease and hospitalization for those at high risk,” Allen said. “It’s availability that’s the big issue. We are going to try to deploy them as equitably and appropriately and quickly as possible, but we’re not going to have enough on hand to treat our current surge.”

The three treatments are:

- Paxlovid, an oral antiviral treatment.
- Sotrovimab, a monoclonal antibody infusion.
- Molnupiravir, an oral antiviral treatment.

Per National Institutes of Health recommendation, health care organizations

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City to enforce Dark Skies ordinance

By Sue Stafford
Correspondent

One of the appealing features of Sisters for residents and visitors alike is the ability to see the stars – a whole lot of stars – on any clear night. But that special feature is under attack as more outside lights appear in burgeoning developments and more LED lights are used in outdoor lighting. Voices of concerned citizens are getting louder, and the City is hearing them.

At last week’s City Council workshop, Community Development Director Scott Woodford brought before Council a proposal for Sisters Development Code amendments related to

the dark-sky lighting code.

Woodford told the Council that from time to time, it is necessary to amend the Sisters Development Code to respond to emerging issues or to update code language for sections that don’t adequately address issues. Staff is proposing anticipated amendments for the above area of the code in early 2022 and asked for Council input. With the input received last week, staff will prepare specific development code amendments for Planning Commission and City Council review, including a public hearing, with approval in the spring.

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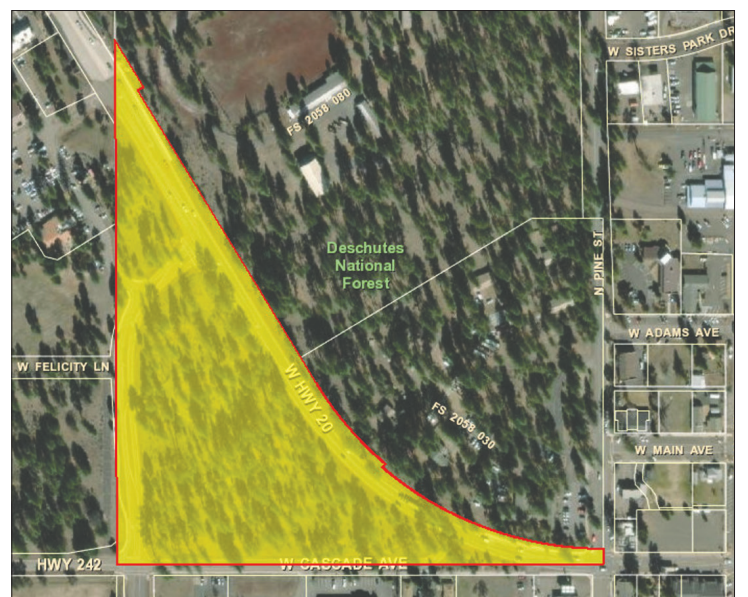
City offers \$675,000 for East Portal

By Sue Stafford
Correspondent

The City of Sisters is offering the U.S. Forest Service \$675,000 to purchase the 14.51-acre East Portal property.

The property is located at the eastern terminus of Highway 242 at the northwest corner of west Highway 20 and Highway 242 and bordered on the west by West Hood Avenue. It is the final parcel of USFS land that was available for sale to help support redevelopment of the Sisters ranger station.

Sisters District Ranger Ian Reid told *The Nugget* that the purchase of the property by the City is “fantastic news.” He said the property has been on the market for a long time and the \$675,000 offer from



GRAPHIC PROVIDED

The City of Sisters has made an offer to acquire the East Portal where Highways 20 and 242 meet from the U.S. Forest Service.

the City was the first legitimate offer received.

“That money will go a long way toward building

the new ranger station and keeping the Forest Service in

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