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IEE students take on Middle Sister

By Ceili Cornelius
Correspondent

The cold wind is blowing hard against your face. It's a different kind of wind — cold and foreboding. This is what students felt atop Hayden Glacier on Middle Sister two weeks ago.

The IEE program at Sisters High School offered the junior class the opportunity to spend three days in the Three Sisters Wilderness. IEE stands for Interdisciplinary Environmental Expedition. The class is offered to high school juniors and combines English, science, and physical education — English taught by Samra Spear, science by Glen Herron, and PE led by Rand Runco.

IEE started 15 years ago with the leadership of Runco and Kirk Metzger.

"We've built this program one backpack at a time," said Runco about the evolution of the program.

The class conducts two expeditions, in the fall and the



PHOTO BY CEILI CORNELIUS

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IEE students rappelled down a cliff during their recent expedition into the Three Sisters Wilderness.

Unger submits trail letter to USFS

By Jim Cornelius
News Editor

Deschutes County Commissioner Alan Unger has submitted a letter to Sisters District Ranger Kristie Miller urging her to consider restarting the process to evaluate a paved trail from Sisters to Black Butte Ranch.

The complete letter may be viewed online at www.nuggetnews.com.

The proposal for a paved multi-use path running along the south side of Highway 20 has been controversial, with proponents touting its positive social and economic effects and opponents raising environmental and privacy concerns.

Miller earlier pulled an environmental assessment (EA) regarding a paved path,

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Blum signs on for Sisters City Council

By Sue Stafford
Correspondent

Sisters City Council will once again be operating at full strength with the appointment of Andrea Blum to fill the vacancy created by the resignation of Wendy Holzman.

Blum's experience, skills, and interests are expected to add significantly to the Council's capabilities. For over 20 years Blum has been actively involved with the Deschutes County League of Women Voters, serving in all the leadership positions, currently as secretary.

"My experience with the

League of Women Voters has taught me how to study an issue by drawing back, doing research, evaluating all sides, and then working together to come to a consensus," Blum said. "I learned how to knowledgeably testify on an issue and not come from a reactionary position."

After moving to Central Oregon in 1988, Blum served as the recording secretary for the Deschutes County Commission, providing her a broad education in local government issues, particularly those related to land use. She

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Burning season gets underway

By Jim Cornelius
News Editor

'Tis the season for prescribed burning in Sisters Country.

The season kicked off with a 51-acre fire set east of Black Butte Ranch in the Glaze Forest restoration project last week. The purpose of the burn was to expand and increase aspen habitat primarily through burning off duff, which requires an increased level of intensity.

More work is planned across the Sisters Ranger District and the Deschutes National Forest generally. Prescribed fire is used to reduce fuels for wildfires and to enhance forest health. The



PHOTO BY LARAE GUILLOREY

Fire managers ignite a burn in an aspen stand near Black Butte Ranch.

type of forest found in Sisters Country evolved with regular cycles of fire that cleared out underbrush and thinned out stands, leaving the forest healthier. Now, prescribed fire is used to mimic that natural

process.

But drought conditions across the region are complicating fire managers' job. Forest Service spokesperson

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