

PLANNING DEPT.:
Hardie will remain
to train replacement

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City Manager Andrew Gorayeb reported. "It affords her the opportunity to work in a different environment that is potentially less stressful (and) offers better compensation, she avoids a 20-hour per month commute and can spend more time with her children."

Hardie took the position of community development director in July 2010, after being hired in 2007 as a senior planner.

"Her contributions are enormous, and she will be sorely missed," Gorayeb wrote in a letter informing the city council of her decision.

Earlier Friday, planning commission member Cort Horner resigned the position he took up in July, citing the need to focus on his other personal and professional commitments.

The City of Sisters is also parting ways with senior planner Eric Porter and is looking to hire an associate planner.

The department has come under intense scrutiny numerous times over the past several years in controversies over decisions ranging from the issuance of temporary-use permits to the recent staff approval of food carts sited at a downtown business. The City has acknowledged that staff failed to follow standard practice in handling the site-plan review in that case, and numerous others, and the Council has directed staff to come up with clear code language in an effort to avoid a recurrence.

Several people associated with the most recent controversy have taken a beating in social media, including calls from critics for planning commission chair Alan Holzman and city attorney Steve Bryant to step aside.

Mayor Chris Frye expressed concern that the climate surrounding the planning department and City politics in general is pushing people away.

"Contention and controversy are to some degree always going to be a part of the political landscape," he told *The Nugget*. "The concentrated effort of a few to cast aspersion, attack character, and question integrity on a personal level is what is causing these individuals to leave or think about leaving. Quite frankly it makes me mad, and it should make the community at large mad as well. Anyone who knows

Darren Layne, Cort Horner, Alan Holzman, Pauline Hardie, and Steve Bryant know that these are people of unquestionable character and integrity, and they most certainly do not deserve the personal attacks that they have had to endure.

"It saddens me greatly that Sisters has lost and is losing such a talented group of individuals; however, the well of talent runs deep in this town and we will continue on," he said.

At the same time, Frye recognized that the City must improve its work.

"The goal of staff and this council is to improve transparency, better public outreach, engage the community, and work at ensuring good process is being followed," he said. "As we improve in these areas, I expect the climate to change. To receive trust we first must earn trust and we understand that takes time."

The department is engaged in ongoing efforts to reform code regarding transient and temporary businesses, formula food establishments, and back-in parking.

The undoing of back-in parking on Main Avenue and a couple of side streets is of keen interest to many in Sisters Country, but planners have not had time to tackle the issue.

"Back-in parking is still on the back burner," Gorayeb told *The Nugget*. "We hope to get it addressed in the next two to three months, but (it) may take longer due to unexpected disruptions."

In its hiring notice, the City described the associate planner position: "Under general supervision, the associate planner conducts reviews on current development applications and sign permits; works on long-range land-use plans; writes findings, notices and reports; and conducts weed abatement. The associate planner will have frequent and direct interaction with the city council and planning commission and other advisory groups and the general public."

Porter was hired as Sisters' community development director in September 2007. He stepped back to the position of "principal planner" in July 2010, citing ongoing vision problems, and Hardie was named community development director, the position she now holds.

"We will move forward and find a qualified replacement," Gorayeb said of Hardie's departure. "Pauline will help train that replacement and the associate planner position as well."

Girls beat Sweet Home on hardwood

By Rongi Yost
Correspondent

The Lady Outlaws earned a big 54-31 win over the Sweet Home Huskies at home in Sisters on Tuesday, January 20, but three days later the tide turned and Sisters fell 41-24 to Junction City.

In Tuesday's match-up, six of the Lady Outlaws combined for 22 points in the first quarter, including three-pointers from Boston Moore and Cassandra Arruda. The Outlaws played strong throughout the quarter, and it was evident they came ready to play. At the close of the period Sisters held a 22-11 advantage over the Huskies. The Outlaws out-scored the Huskies 10-7 in the second quarter and closed out the half with a 32-18 advantage.

In the second half, Sisters took off their backcourt press and focused on their half-court pressure. The Outlaws worked hard to get good looks at the basket, hit the open player, out-scored the Huskies 22-13 in the half, and recorded the win.

"I was very happy with how well we played in the first half to set the tone for the game," said Coach Julianne Horner. "Our focus has been on becoming an offensive threat. We had nine of the 10 players who played in the game score, and were able to accomplish that goal this game. We were able to use this game to show us what we are good at."

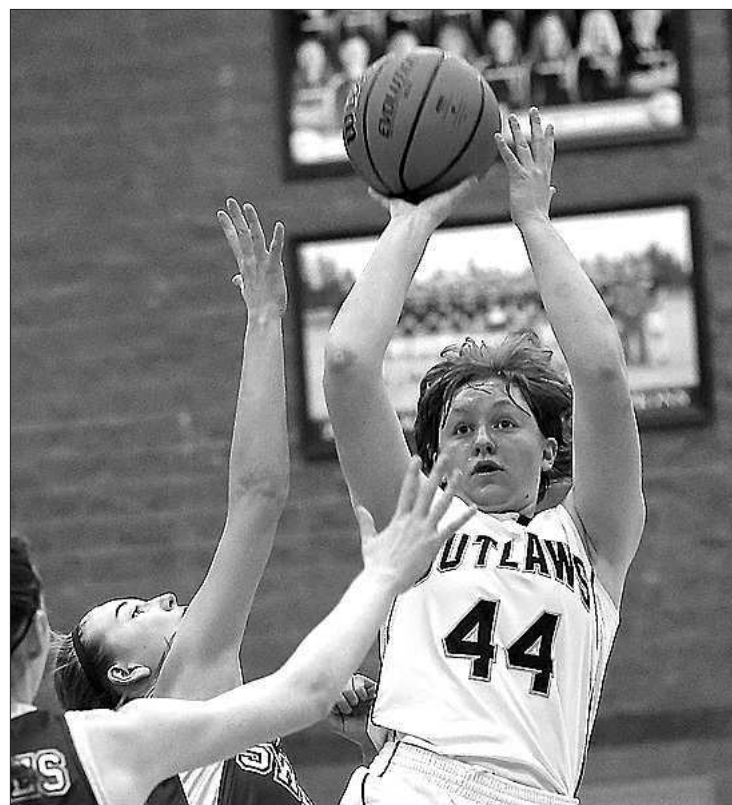


PHOTO BY JERRY BALDOCK

Bethany Bachmeier takes her shot against Sweet Home.

Moore paced the Outlaws with 18 points, and Arruda tallied nine. Nina Horner and Bethany Bachmeier each contributed six points. Haylie Hudson and Cierra Mann each pulled down eight boards and Olivia Stewart recorded six.

On Friday, the Outlaws suffered a brutal loss at home against the Tigers of JC.

Sisters just couldn't get their shots to fall, and at the half they found themselves down 25-9. The Outlaws did a better job in the second half, but the first-half deficit was too much to overcome.

The Outlaws shot only 33

percent from the floor and 44 percent from the free-throw line. Players who normally put up points for the Outlaws weren't able to get anything to drop through the net.

"The girls worked at getting shots and playing defense but just could not get momentum until the last three minutes of the game," said Horner.

Mann led the Outlaws with 10 points, Moore scored seven, and Stewart added five.

The Outlaws were to play at Elmira on Tuesday, January 27. On Friday, January 30, Sisters will play at home against Sutherlin.

**FAMILY FUN
DANCE NIGHT
FUNDRAISER FOR
SHS GRADS!**

Saturday, January 31 • The Belfry
Enjoy '80s Dance Night with
Fun Bobby from 7 to 10:30 p.m.

This is a fundraiser for the 2015 Sisters High School Grad Night Party.
Tickets are \$15 for adults and \$10 for students and may be
purchased at Common Threads, www.bendticket.com,
or at the door.

FOR INFORMATION CALL LISA AT 541-480-6525