



The Nugget

News and Opinion from Sisters, Oregon

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Sisters roundabout project moving closer

By Jim Cornelius
News Editor

The design for a roundabout at the west end of Sisters passed a pair of live-fire tests by the trucking industry with flying colors. That moves the long-contemplated project a significant step closer to reality.

The Oregon Department

See **ROUNABOUT** on page 30

Champs!



PHOTO PROVIDED

The Outlaws won the Chandler Prep Baseball Classic in Chandler, Arizona, for the third year in a row over spring break. The squad went undefeated in its roll to victory. (See story, page 4.)

FS plans restoration project on Indian Ford Creek

The Forest Service is planning a significant restoration project along Indian Ford Creek, restoring wet meadows and aspen stands and improving fish passage and riparian habitat.

The project would cover about 1,432 acres, with 454 seeing active management.

A draft environmental analysis (EA) for the "Indian Ford

See **RESTORATION** on page 34

Council tables urban renewal project grants

By Jim Cornelius
News Editor

Nineteen Sisters property owners will have to wait to hear whether they have been approved for grant funding to assist with exterior improvements to their commercial properties in downtown Sisters.

The Sisters City Council on Thursday, with Mayor Chris Frye absent, tabled the grant applications that were before them after councilors David Asson and Nancy Connolly raised concerns about whether the grants were in the public interest and whether other uses for urban-renewal funds might be more appropriate.

The Council had previously allocated \$100,000 for the grants, and the City of Sisters had called for applications in February. Funds for the grants come from tax dollars paid by property owners

of the Urban Renewal District, which basically encompasses the downtown commercial district of Sisters. The grants are matching reimbursement funds for up to 50 percent of the cost of façade and site improvements (up to \$10,000) and up to 50 percent for signage with a \$1,000 cap. There is also a \$500 reimbursement grant for design costs.

Property owners were required to submit three bids for a proposed project as part of the application.

Twenty-one properties applied; two were found ineligible, one because it was outside the Urban Renewal District and one because the bids were not completed.

"I have serious concerns that it is not in the public interest," Councilor Asson told *The Nugget*. "I think some of the projects are more building upgrades instead of

See **GRANTS** on page 14

City working on Creekside park fixes

By Jim Cornelius
News Editor

The City of Sisters is moving closer to fixes for Creekside Park that will make it more functional for travelers in their RVs and less of a burden for neighbors who feel increasingly impacted by the presence of the park.

City staff presented a phased proposal to the City's parks board on Wednesday afternoon.

The proposed actions would eliminate four sites close to Locust Street, which are a problem for neighbors; eliminate one site along the Tye Drive border of the park; replace those sites by converting five sites in the center of the park to full-hookup sites; move the dump station to the east; and improve and increase screening berms.

Plans also call for creating a parking area for "walk-in" camping at the eastern end of the park and developing some dry-camping non-RV sites.

Plans call for widening



PHOTO BY JIM CORNELIUS

The Locust Street entrance is a point of concern for residents.

an apron inside the park near the Locust Street entrance to eliminate "staging" out on the street and eventually closing the Locust Street entrance entirely. Closing the Locust Street entrance would please neighbors, but, as planned that is a "Phase III" development, dependent on opening an ingress/egress on Highway 20 near the weigh station.

Sisters Public Works

Director Paul Bertagna explained that the land in that area is up for a land swap between the Oregon Department of Recreation and the Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT). ODOT wants the land for eventual highway widening. Bertagna encouraged the City to let its needs be known so

See **CREEKSIDE** on page 28

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