

## City fills vacancies on boards

By Sue Stafford  
Correspondent

Jack Nagel, a 36-year resident of Sisters and former business owner, was tapped to fill the vacancy on the Planning Commission created by the resignation of Alan Holzman. The Sisters City Council made three new appointments to existing vacancies on committees at their April 9 meeting.

Tim Clem, an architect, will serve out the nine-month vacancy on the Parks Advisory Board. One of three vacancies on the Budget Committee will be filled by William Hall, current chair of the Community Assets Committee. Two vacancies remain on the Budget Committee, which usually meets two to three times during the last two weeks of May, to review the proposed budget for the coming fiscal year.

Lynne Fujita-Conrads, City finance officer, reported that three contracts are up at the end of June, the close of the City's fiscal year. She asked for direction from Council regarding a possible two-year extension to the contracts for the City attorney and the City insurance agent. The City engineer contract requires a new request for proposal. Council will discuss the possible contract extensions at their next workshop.

Patrick Davenport, community development director, received approval from Council to proceed with plans for development of a business owner survey to be conducted this summer, giving owners an opportunity to share their opinions about a number of

issues that affect their businesses. The City is especially seeking input from those business owners who do not live within the city limits and are therefore unable to vote on City matters. The survey will provide a tool for encouraging communication between all business owners and the City.

Due to McKibben Womack's resignation from the Council, effective April 30, 2015, Council is asking interested parties to apply for the remaining two years of his term by submitting an application to City Recorder Kathy Nelson by April 20. Applicants must have been a resident within the city limits for the last 12 months and be a registered voter. Applications are available on the City's website, [www.ci.sisters.or.us](http://www.ci.sisters.or.us), in the announcement section of the home page. For more information, Nelson can be reached at 541-323-5213 or [knelson@ci.sisters.or.us](mailto:knelson@ci.sisters.or.us).

Prior to the Council meeting, at a joint workshop of the City and Deschutes County Councils, Roger Lee, executive director of Economic Development for Central Oregon (EDCO), reported that EDCO has assisted in bringing seven successful business-development projects to Sisters that have created 77 new traded-sector jobs and \$3.5 million in new capital investment. Traded-sector businesses are those whose goods and services are sold to customers outside of Sisters and/or the region, bringing money into the city from outside the area.

Caprielle Foote-Lewis, Sisters' EDCO manager, is currently working on 27

pending projects and is also assisting commercial businesses that are considering relocating to or expanding in Sisters. That assistance is unique to Sisters within Central Oregon because of the importance of commercial businesses to the city's tourism. In other cities in the region, the EDCO staff focus solely on traded-sector jobs.

Foote-Lewis has also worked on several strategic projects with the Sisters business community, including the establishment of Sisters Tech and conducting an inventory of existing industrial space.

The Ford Family Foundation, Rural Development Initiatives, and EDCO are sponsoring an upcoming Sisters Country Economic Vitality Summit on Friday, May 8, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at FivePine Conference Center. The event is free and open to anyone interested in the economic vitality of the region. For more information contact Foote-Lewis at 541-977-5683.

In other County news, Anna Johnson, public communication coordinator for Deschutes County, announced the formation of a 16-person committee to spearhead the creation of the Deschutes County Centennial Celebration in 2016. They are looking for a representative from Sisters to join the committee. Their next meeting is May 12. Those interested may contact Johnson at 541-388-6570.

## Book store welcomes authors to Sisters

Paulina Springs Books will welcome a couple of noted authors in very different fields this month

On Friday, April 24 at 6:30 p.m. at Paulina Springs Books in Sisters, bestselling Oregon mystery author Phillip Margolin will present his new novel, "Woman with a Gun." In this thriller set in Oregon, the Pulitzer Prize-winning photograph "Woman with a Gun," showing a bride facing an expanse of ocean with a six-shooter held behind her back, sparks the imagination of aspiring novelist Stacey Kim — especially when she learns that the woman in question was suspected of killing her millionaire husband on their wedding night.

What does the photographer know?

On Sunday, April 26 at 4 p.m., Thor Hanson will present a talk and slideshow based

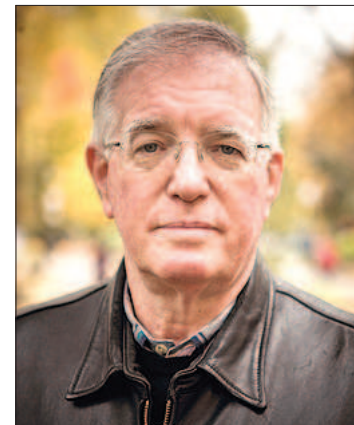


PHOTO PROVIDED

Phillip Margolin.

on his book "The Triumph of Seeds: How Grains, Nuts, Kernels, Pulses, and Pips Conquered the Plant Kingdom and Shaped Human History."

We live in a world of seeds; they support diets, economies, and civilizations around the world. Throughout time, humans have manipulated plants to evolve their seeds into substances we can readily use for everything from food to pharmaceuticals to poison.

In turn, seeds have shaped human history. For example, coffee beans helped fuel the Enlightenment, while cottonseed helped spark the Industrial Revolution — and the fate of nations continues to hinge on wheat.

Refreshments will be served. The \$5 admission will be refunded upon purchase of the featured books.

For more information call 541-549-0866.



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Thor Hanson.

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