

Artist taps heritage, 'connections' page 5



People meet eagles at Eagle Watch 2016 page 11



Book store to host evening 'on the border' page 23



The Nugget

News and Opinion from Sisters, Oregon

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Sisters, OR
Permit No. 15

Vol. XXXIX No. 9

www.NuggetNews.com

Wednesday, March 2, 2016

City Manager placed on leave

Sisters City Manager Andrew Gorayeb was placed on paid administrative leave Thursday afternoon, February 25, as the City requested an outside investigation into workplace issues raised by some City employees.

Sisters Mayor Chris Frye told *The Nugget* Friday morning that "we received some employee complaints." He declined to specify who made the complaints or the number

See GORAYEB on page 24

Improvements at the park...



PHOTO BY JIM CORNELIUS

A City public works crew has been improving access between Fir Street Park and the Sisters Area Chamber of Commerce Visitors Center.

Local man arrested after pursuit

A Sisters man was taken into custody along Highway 126 after a pursuit involving Redmond police, state police, and Deschutes County sheriff's deputies.

According to the Redmond Police Department, on Tuesday, February 23, at approximately 4:16 p.m., an off-duty Redmond police sergeant was driving a marked patrol vehicle westbound on Highway 126 near mile post

See LEACHMAN on page 14

City adopts wastewater facilities plan

By Sue Stafford
Correspondent

Sisters City Council has unanimously adopted a wastewater system capital facilities plan with a \$1.5 million price tag. Improvements are planned for wastewater collecting, treatment, and effluent disposal.

The current permitted limit of 178 acre-feet of effluent will be exceeded in 2018. One feature of the capital facilities plan includes utilizing new forest land and the Lazy Z property for effluent dispersion (2017/18). Those 49 additional acres will allow for a maximum application rate of 255 acre-feet per year, which is projected to be sufficient until 2031.

Security upgrades are scheduled at the City's treatment facility for 2017/18. An interceptor at Locust Street will hook up to a line running along Black Butte Avenue to

pump station No. 1 in 2020. Replacing and increasing the size of aeration equipment at the treatment facility will be needed in 2017/18.

A biosolids management plan for removal and disposal on a portion of the Lazy Z, where it will be watered into the soil is scheduled for 2017. New pumps at station No. 1 will be needed by 2022-25.

A second expansion of effluent dispersion by 2031 (including crop irrigation), which increases the inches per year that can be spread, will allow more acre-feet per year. Different crops and soils have different uptake rates. In Central Oregon, with so few frost-free days, hay works well as a crop and can be used by livestock. The crop management can be contracted out so the City won't have to be in the

See WASTEWATER on page 16

Big blowdown on Metolilus Trail

Nugget freelancer Jay Mather encountered several massive blow-down trees on a hike along the popular Metolilus River Trail in Camp Sherman.

Mather contacted Chris Sabo, the trails supervisor for the Deschutes National Forest, to find out how the local ranger district handles such obstacles.

"His sense of things is that there won't be any removal of the numerous trees that have fallen along the trail on the west side of the Metolilus River below the Canyon Creek Campground trailhead until spring," Mather said. "Also, he said that while the (Forest Service) uses volunteers in trail maintenance, they would not be working on trees of the massive sizes of several of the fallen ponderosas."

Each tree has to be evaluated before action is taken for safety and habitat concerns.

"The one large tree that fell over a year ago just upstream from the springs will be



PHOTO BY JAY MATHER

Some big ponderosas have come down on the Metolilus River trail.

scrutinized by the (Forest Service) and folks who manage the Wild and Scenic Metoilus corridor," Mather reported. "One, they need to be sure that the tree is stable enough if it's cut through for the trail, and two, that if part of the tree goes into the water, it's determined where it might wind up. Fishery people like new habitat for the fish.

"As for the big tree further downstream, the situation is

much the same. Is the tree going to further slide down the hill if it's cut? Is there any ongoing danger to trail users? What will the portion of the tree that's in the water now do when it's cut and freed?"

Mather further noted that Forest Service and trail users are concerned about new paths created around the trees in terms of creating erosion of the hillsides, and for the potential for hiker falls.

Inside...

Letters/Weather 2 Announcements.....12 Bunkhouse Chronicle 16 Looking Outward.....21 Classifieds.....26-28
Meetings 3 Movies & Entertainment....13 Obituaries17 Crossword 25 Real Estate28-32