

GORAYEB: Investigation may take a couple of weeks*Continued from page 1*

of complaints, citing a pending independent investigation. However, he said that there were “several.”

The nature of the complaints was also not specified, though Frye said, “It’s not financial, it’s not physical, it’s not sexual.”

Frye told *The Nugget* that, after receiving the complaints, he contacted Citycounty Insurance Services (CIS), the City’s insurance carrier.

“They laid out a course to follow,” he said.

That course included requiring Gorayeb to turn in his keys and codes, which, Frye said, is necessary to protect everyone’s interests, including Gorayeb’s.

“This is a normal thing for them (CIS),” he said.

CIS was to send out an investigator who was expected to arrive in Sisters on Tuesday, March 1. The investigator will produce a report that will be reviewed by Sisters City Council, the city attorney and CIS legal staff. Frye said he requested that the report be completed in a week, but “there’s a lot of

variables, so it’s hard to say for sure” what the timeline of the investigation will be.

Gorayeb told *The Nugget*, “It’s something personnel and that’s all I know. So, they’ll investigate and hopefully they’ll talk to everybody at City Hall and hopefully they’ll get a clear view of things and it will be whatever it is.

“My hopeful expectation is that I will be exonerated and this is something procedural that had to happen because of the nature of things. We’ve got a good team, we’re doing great work and as far as I know, everybody is happy and working hard and trying to give taxpayers some value.”

“They’ll step in wherever they can; I’ll step in wherever I can.”

— Mayor Chris Frye

Frye said that staff will step up to take on whatever duties are necessary while Gorayeb is absent, particularly City Recorder Kathy Nelson and Public Works Director Paul Bertagna.

“They’ll step in wherever they can; I’ll step in wherever I can,” Frye said.

Heads-up on concussion safety

By Jim Cornelius
News Editor

It’s a measure of how high a profile the issue of sports-related concussion has attained: Outlaws parents and players received a thorough briefing on the subject at last Wednesday’s mandatory spring sports meeting.

Retired neurologist and Sisters Science Club co-founder Bob Collins offered up a thorough presentation on what concussion is, how it can be avoided, and how it must be treated to ensure the safety and health of young athletes.

Collins started with a snapshot of a magnificent play in the 2015 NFL season, when Aaron Rodgers of the Green Bay Packers put up a Hail Mary pass that won victory over the Detroit Lions.

“That’s fantastic — phenomenal entertainment,” Collins said. “The NFL is just great. Or is it really?”

He noted that there were nine men in his picture.

“A third or more of them already have a degenerative disease of the brain and they don’t know it,” Collins said.

The sad fate of a number of NFL players — early dementia, suicide — has led

to an understanding that the repeated head traumas endured over a long career dating back to childhood have had a devastating effect on their brains.

“I think that when this came out, I think it sent shudders through schools across the world,” Collins said.

Such a result might make a parent or a student athlete think twice about playing football. But that misses the point.

“It is not football per se,” said Collins. “It is repetitive head trauma per se.”

Concussion is an injury to the brain, Collins explained. Repeated injury, and injuries that occur before the brain has healed from previous impact, can lead to severe long-term problems.

The key to preventing that from occurring is identification of concussion when it occurs, and an appropriate protocol to ensure that an injured athlete heals.

Recognition of an injury is critical, and if an injury is suspected the player must be removed from play.

“When in doubt, take them out,” Collins said.

A suspected concussion should be evaluated by a trainer — and The Center Foundation has helped to

make trainers available in Central Oregon High Schools.

If a concussion is identified, the player needs rest.

“We can’t put ice around the brain or an ace bandage,” Collins said. “But we can put the brain to rest.”

A player must be shown to have recovered before returning to play.

Both players and parents need to be aware of concussion symptoms and be on board with rest and recovery, even if it means missing playing time, Collins argues. No sport is worth long-term brain damage.

Dr. Viviane Ugalde of The Center was in attendance at the Wednesday, February 24, meeting.

She emphasized how critical it is to have athletic trainers available in local schools — a project The Center Foundation works diligently to fund.

She also emphasized that awareness is the key to preventing and/or mitigating concussion damage. The more people know, the better armed they are. And the culture must encourage players and parents to speak up about their own injury or a friend’s.

“Recognize the signs of concussion and tell someone about it,” she said.

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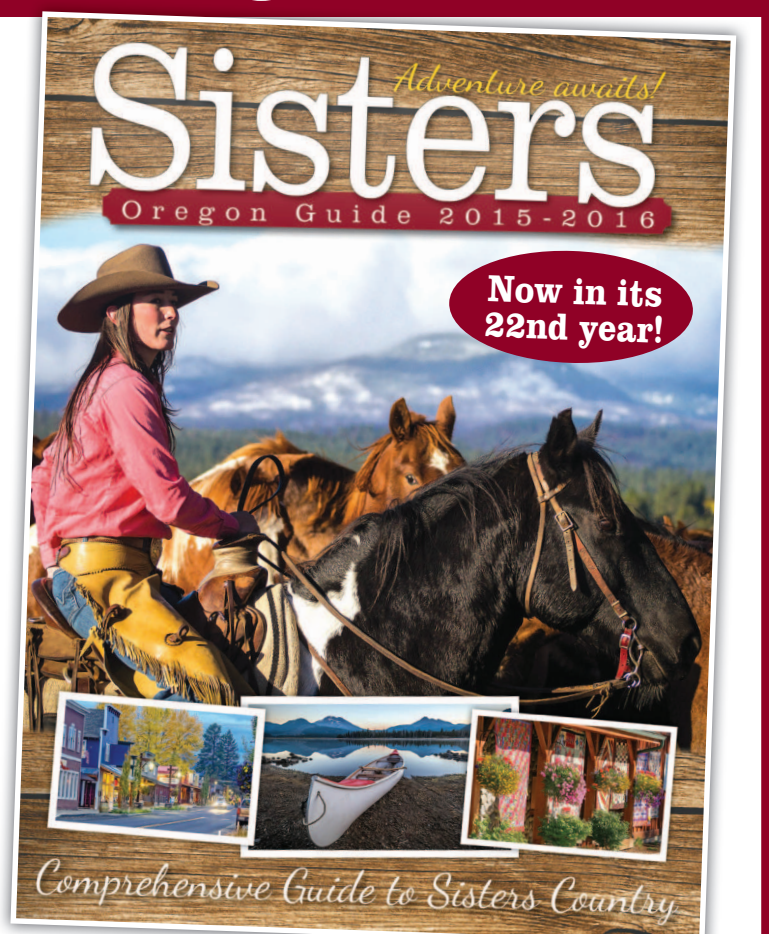
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