HAYDEN HOMES:

Developer will come back to the table

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During the hearing, Sisters resident Cort Horner expressed concerns about allowing lower-density construction in one of the few multifamily zones left. Habitat for Humanity Executive Director Sharlene Weed said that the number of apartments and townhomes planned was insufficient to help meet the current need for those types of residences in Sisters.

Hayden offered to build 24 apartments in the first phase of the modified plan, but the total of 48 proposed units was a considerable reduction from the original plan. Unable to reach an agreement, the planning commission continued the hearing to June 29.

In the meantime, Hayden reported they have been working on a revised plan that addresses the concerns raised at the Commission hearing.

"In order to satisfy the items discussed (at the June 16 hearing), we believe that the application should be a modification to the original master plan (with an update to current code and public works standards) rather than removing the eastern property and submitting a new master plan," explained April Pust, PE, land development manager for Hayden.

When informed that Hayden plans to submit an application for modification of the 2005 master plan, Horner was hopeful.

"I'm very glad Hayden is coming back to the table

again. I hope a compromise is reached that all parties can be happy with," he said. Hopefully they will "consider the immediate needs in the community, and weigh them against the other present options," he added.

Weed stressed the importance of sufficient rental housing in Hayden's new application.

We desperately need rental housing, so a new agreement needs to include a minimum of 100 apartment units...

— Sharlene Weed

"I see where compromise could benefit both Hayden and the City. We desperately need rental housing, so a new agreement needs to include a minimum of 100 apartment units with at least 1/3 of them built in the first phase. Anything less would be giving away the farm," she said.

In Pust's letter to Davenport, she expressed Hayden's desire to complete the Village at Cold Springs subdivision and have it be a positive development for everyone.

"Hayden Homes is working diligently on this application, and we plan to submit a master plan modification concurrent with tentative plat application for all phases as soon as possible. We believe it is in everyone's best interest to get construction started in the first phase in 2016," Pust wrote.







LIZARD: Reptile is great at pest control around the house

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vegetation and grasp butterflies, moths and honeybees as they sailed by close to the ground looking for flowering plants to nectar in.

Surprisingly, I've never found an alligator lizard in Sisters Country, or around Central Oregon for that matter. Maybe it's too cold in winter for them; perhaps our lizard-eating kestrels are too efficient and the lizards can't escape them. Or I'm going blind. So, please go out and find one for me in the Trout Creek Natural Area, Camp Polk or around Smith Rock.

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lizards is hard on the females because of the male's tendency to take possession of the female of his choice. During the spring breeding season, a male lizard grabs onto the head of a female with his tiny, needle-sharp teeth until she's ready to let him mate with her. They can remain attached this way for several hours, almost oblivious to their surroundings.

Besides keeping her from running off to mate with another male, this probably shows her how strong and suitable a mate he is.

The female will give birth to four to 15 live young between June and September, and she'll keep them away from the "Old Man," just in case. But keeping them safe from a marauding kestrel will be difficult to impossible.





