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Wildfires spark calls to thin tree- choked forests

By Andrew Selsky
Associated Press

SALEM (AP) — Wildfires that are blackening the American West in one of the nation's worst fire seasons have ignited calls, including from Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke, to thin forests that have become so choked with trees that they are at "powder keg levels."

The destruction has exposed old frictions between environmentalists and those who want to see logging accelerated, and it's triggered a push to reassess how lands should be managed to prevent

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A red sunrise...



PHOTO BY CAROL STATTON

Sisters' persistently smoky skies have made for a lot of breathing problems, negative economic impacts and some dreary days. But sunrise and sunset can be exceptionally beautiful.

City, Chamber work on fire impact

By Cody Rheault
Correspondent

The effects of smoke and a decrease in visitors have impeded businesses over the summer. The City of Sisters and the Sisters Area Chamber of Commerce are making efforts to minimize the economic impact.

Local companies and City leadership met last Tuesday for a closed-door meeting at the Chamber of Commerce to discuss options leading into the fall season following a summer short on expected profits.

The convergence of a heavy winter, the Milli Fire, the shortage of eclipse traffic, and the cancellation of the Sisters Folk Festival has put many businesses in a

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How did the Milli Fire get so big?

By Sue Stafford
Correspondent

"Perfect storm" is a term being bandied around lately in the reporting of wildfires, floods, hurricanes and other natural and man-made catastrophes.

Unfortunately, at the time of a lightning strike nine miles west of Sisters on August 10, the situation meteorologically, coupled with heavy deployment of firefighting resources elsewhere, both nationally and locally, combined to create the perfect firestorm dubbed the Milli Fire.

As the fire grew in size, locals were asking, "Why didn't they jump on the fire when it was small and put it out?" Seems like a logical solution to avoid losing over 24,000 acres of forest.

At last week's Sisters City Council meeting, representatives from the Central Oregon Fire Management Services (COFMS), and employees of the Sisters Ranger District, presented a detailed explanation of how the fire started and why it grew in size. Their PowerPoint presentation was

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Inductees welcomed to Hall of Fame

By Charlie Kanzig
Correspondent

Guests at the third annual Sisters High School Hall of Fame banquet heard first-hand tales of early Outlaws history as well as reflections of more recent times as nine individuals, teams, and organizations were honored for contributions to the spirit and culture of Sisters.

The event, held in the high school commons Saturday, September 16, was catered by Tate and Tate. Dennis Dempsey served as the emcee for the evening.

Following introductions by Athletic Director Gary Thorson and Hall of Fame



PHOTO BY JERRY BALDOCK

The 2017 class of the Outlaw Hall of Fame.

board member Don Pollard, Gordon Mouser — an inductee to the hall of fame last year — stepped to the

podium and delivered a message to the crowd focused

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