

CITY: Firefighters to be thanked at Village Green on October 22

Continued from page 3

types, tire pressure checks, hearing and dental checks; free lunch vouchers for the Tuesday senior lunch, SPRD exercise class passes, and smoothies and trail mix.

• Sisters Country has an opportunity to thank all the firefighters who worked for weeks to fight the 24,000-acre Milli Fire that struck the Sisters Ranger District in August and September. On Sunday, October 22, 1:30 to 3 p.m. at Village Green Park, the community will gather to collect drawings, messages, cards, and paintings to be sent to the agencies from across the state and the nation who came to Sisters' aid.

Local choirs will be providing music. In the schools, students have been creating thank-you art. Bring your own thank-yous, and your favorite dessert to share; utensils and plates will be provided. Volunteers will serve attending community members, firefighters, cooperating agency personnel, and public safety workers. All ages are welcome.

• Sisters City Council approved the release of a request for proposals (RFP) to secure professional facilitators for the upcoming visioning process. Interviews should occur in mid-November with a proposal back to the Council by the end of November. The entire

visioning process is estimated to take about a year. There will be a number of opportunities for citizens of Sisters Country (within the Sisters School District boundary) to participate.

• The restroom at the East Portal of the Highway 242 Scenic Byway is now closed for the winter.

• The City of Sisters will be receiving approximately \$6,800 in state shared revenue from the tax on marijuana sales for the first half of 2017, even though there are no marijuana outlets in town. Unless an establishment were to open in Sisters, no more shared revenue will be coming to the City after this initial disbursement.

• The City wants to remind all residents that to help prevent car break-ins: Be sure automobiles and trucks sitting out are locked and never leave valuables in the vehicle.

• Although on the surface things appear to be booming in Central Oregon, Sisters City Manager Brant Kucera reported to City Council that at a recent meeting he attended, there was talk of several potential problems percolating behind the scenes. St. Charles Medical Center is looking at having to cut some services and increase costs for other services. Utility companies are possibly facing the need to cut back on available power to the area. Because of the high cost for housing in the area, Central Oregon is losing employees who can't afford to live here, negatively impacting businesses.

CERTAIN AGE: Gratitude and positive action help relieve stress

Continued from page 16

am reminded that time is running out to set my affairs in order, so I don't leave a mess for my two sons. And thankfully, I have two sons who are realizing that I need help around the house and in the yard. They are both now living closer, one in Bend, and that is a comforting thought, but may not be a permanent situation.

I know I am fortunate to have my health with just a few minor glitches, my family and friends, a roof over my head, no debt other than the reverse mortgage, and a car that is paid for. I am living exactly where I want to be. I am alive to watch another summer meld into fall as the leaves are painted by frosty nights and the world settles in for a long winter's nap.

A deep breath or two to release the tension, a silent offer of gratitude for all that is good, and a focus on positive action all help to tame the stress dragon when he rears his ugly head.

Sisters man guilty in luring case

A Deschutes County jury has found a 36-year-old Sisters man guilty on three charges related to an attempt to lure a 15-year-old girl for sex last year.

Matthew Taylor Smith left a suggestive note for the girl, including his phone number, after seeing her at a Burger King in Bend last year. The girl's mother provided the note to Redmond Police, who began contact with Smith via text message, posing as the girl.

A relative of Smith told *The Nugget* that Smith had initially thought the girl was an adult and does not have an interest in underage girls. However, after a lengthy series of text exchanges,

Smith arranged to meet with (as he thought) the girl at a park in Bend. There, Redmond Police officers arrested him on charges of luring a minor, first-degree online sexual corruption of a child, and second-degree attempted sexual abuse.

Smith's lawyers and Smith's relative argue that the man would not have attempted to meet for sex with the girl if the police had not broken down his objections to having sex with a minor and led him into it through a lengthy, graphic exchange of texts.

Smith pleaded not guilty, but a jury last Wednesday handed up guilty verdicts on all three counts. He faces sentencing on November 1.

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