

**SHERIFF CALLS:**  
Bike patrol set for summer in Sisters

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mental-health services within the state, patients are “cut loose” with no place to go.

The other large increase is evident in the number of motor-vehicle accidents both with and without injury in Sisters. For 2016, there were five accidents with injury; 16 so far in 2017. There were 60 non-injury motor vehicle accidents in Sisters in 2016, 81 so far in 2017.

Significant decreases in the number of calls are evident in several areas: bar checks, 120 down to 39; follow-up calls, 629 down to 457; and drug offenses, from 35 down to 14. Prowler calls decreased from 184 to 109 so far this year. Traffic stops to date in 2017 are down by almost 200.

As Garrison reported last month, a bike patrol officer will be on Sisters’ streets starting next summer. This will provide a greater police visibility in the community, with an officer who is able to quickly roll up on situations. Garrison envisions the officer will be on site to take a report before a phone call will even be made. The bike patrol will also allow for a more personable relationship between the officer and the citizens.

“Presence is the best deterrent,” cited Garrison.

Officers in cars may soon be more noticeable as the department begins speed surveys around town in an attempt to curb speeding through the downtown streets and as traffic approaches and exits town.

**SKI INN:** Clean-up planned before renovation

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purchase by Pacwest, the City Council adopted, on September 27, 2017, City ordinance No. 479, an ordinance amending the nuisance, abandoned vehicle, and dangerous building provisions of several chapters of the Sisters Municipal Code. The chapters had been determined to be outdated and difficult to efficiently and effectively administer. The ordinance became effective 30 days from date of adoption, or October 26, 2017, one day after the City Council and URA meeting.

The City Development Department intends to initially work cooperatively with property owners whose properties are found in violation of the ordinance.

The Ski Inn, as it stands now, is in violation of the new ordinance. Davenport contacted Jim Yozamp of Pacwest Builders, and a Sisters resident, to discuss possible solutions to mitigate the violations prior to work beginning on the new building.

One possible solution would be for Pacwest Builders to apply for a URA grant to demolish and remove the building, not a solution originally sought by Yozamp. He preferred to work with the existing remains of the Ski Inn and equipment contained therein. The request for the URA grant came following discussions with Davenport.

Currently, the County assesses the property at \$31,000 real value and levies \$600 a year in property tax. If



PHOTO BY SUE STAFFORD

The City of Sisters declined to offer a grant for demolition of the Ski Inn, but the building – abandoned since a ponderosa pine fell on it several years ago – is expected to be cleaned up soon.

the building is totally demolished, that action removes it from the tax rolls. Pacwest’s preliminary designs for the property include incorporating the existing structure because it has value.

Demolition is estimated to cost \$7,590 (the amount of the URA grant request), not including costs of removal of the septic tank, propane tank, temporary fencing, asbestos inspection, and County permits.

Members of the URA declined the grant request, citing former difficulties with some previous URA grants and wanting to avoid

regression in their URA policies.

Davenport and Yozamp met last Thursday to find a reasonable and equitable solution to the need to abide by the amended nuisance ordinance until construction begins in the spring on the new building, and yet minimize the expenses for the owner to temporarily improve the appearance of the building over the winter.

Davenport reported that Yozamp’s interim solution would attempt “to make the building look more vacant than abandoned,” a subjective measure. The work will

probably include the removal of the denim jeans, the boots sticking out of the roof vent, and perhaps painting parts or all of the building, and a new door.

“I’m glad they are going to clean up the property,” said Davenport. “Yozamp is a local guy who cares about the community. I anticipate the final project will be a quality one.”

Yozamp informed the City he anticipates beginning the clean-up within several weeks. Davenport said he is “cautiously optimistic” that the work will soon be underway.