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City adopts new water/sewer rates

By Sue Stafford
Correspondent

Some utility users in the city of Sisters will see bigger bills for water and sewer usage. However, low usage could result in reduced bills for others.

The findings of a recent rate study of the City water and sewer utility rates by FCS Group resulted in a recommended 2 percent increase in annual rate revenues for both sewer and water utilities, to reflect the actual cost of providing service.

The increase is driven primarily by capital funding requirements that the City has embedded in its utility rates. The proposed increases are also partially attributable to rising operating costs driven predominately by personnel

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A Habitat family in Cambodia...

PHOTO BY GARY MILLER

A Sisters Habitat for Humanity team traveled to Cambodia for a World Build program. The members of the team took ownership as they built each wall, trying to do their best for the family that would call this structure home. (See story, page 4.)

County approves marijuana grow

By Jim Cornelius
Editor

A proposed marijuana production facility east of Sisters can move forward after a 2-1 vote of the Deschutes County Board of Commissioners on Wednesday, November 29.

Norma Tewalt proposes a 3,600-square-foot marijuana greenhouse on her approximately nine-acre property at 69188 Goodrich Road, north of Highway 126. The proposal had earlier won administrative approval, but that action was appealed by a neighbor. The Commissioners held two public hearings and tentatively upheld staff approval of the application on November 8, pending more information.

See MARIJUANA on page 30

Council reviews rental recommendations

By Sue Stafford
Correspondent

Several Sisters City Councilors are calling for tighter regulation on vacation rentals.

Councilors reviewed recommendations from the Sisters Planning Commission regarding changes to the City vacation rental (VR) regulations at the November 29 Council workshop. Several councilors want more regulation on density and spacing between rentals.

Over the past three months, staff has been working with the Planning Commission to evaluate

the current VR regulations, identify key issues, and form recommendations for modifications to the existing VR regulations (see *The Nugget*, "Planning Commission recommends caps on vacation rentals," November 22, page 9).

Council did approve increasing the current \$250 application fee for VRs to \$500.

Councilor Andrea Blum told her fellow councilors she was "less than pleased that existing VR owners aren't participating in the discussions." She went on to say

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Scouts seek donations for shelter

By Sue Stafford
Correspondent

Sisters Girl Scout Troop #10732 has placed large decorated boxes in both the elementary and middle schools, asking for donations to the Sisters Cold Weather Shelter. Donations will be accepted from now through Friday, December 15.

The types of items the Scouts are asking for include: twin-size bedding; plastic storage bins; Tracfone minute gift cards for shelter phone; movie DVDs, puzzles, and playing cards; disposable plates, coffee cups, paper towels, and toilet paper; coffee, tea, hot chocolate, creamer and sugar packets; snacks to go such as granola/protein



PHOTO BY SUE STAFFORD

Sisters Girl Scout Troop #10732 is collecting necessary items for the Sisters Cold Weather Shelter.

bars, yogurt, fruit, etc.; hand warmers; toiletries; gift cards and certificates to local merchants; Chamber bucks; and warm gloves, hats, scarves, boots, and jackets.

The eight members of the troop, which is comprised of fourth- and fifth-graders, made flyers to inform students

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