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The Nugget

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Taking on wildfire planning in Sisters

By Sue Stafford
Correspondent

The public is invited to a kickoff presentation on Tuesday, February 20 at 9:30 a.m. at the Sisters-Camp Sherman Fire Hall to learn how Sisters is working to address local wildfire challenges in the city.

Sisters is one of eight communities recently selected through a nationwide competitive process to participate in the 2017-18 Community Planning Assistance for Wildfire (CPAW) program.

"Our CPAW team was highly impressed with your application, and we believe the opportunity to provide assistance is well-timed with your community's goal," said a November 2017 letter to Patrick Davenport, community development director,



PHOTO BY JIM CORNELIUS

A Forest Service prescribed burn last week reminded Sisters that the fire season is looming on the horizon. The City of Sisters has received a planning grant to address wildfire-related issues.

announcing Sisters' selection. Over the course of 2018 the City of Sisters will receive full assistance in addressing how to reduce local wildfire

risks through improved land-use planning. The CPAW team who will be working with local officials consists of land-use planners, foresters,

researchers, and wildfire-risk modeling specialists.

At the kickoff meeting,

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Sisters faces up to suicide risk

By Charlie Kanzig
Correspondent

When Jason Winebarger began telling his story to an audience of about 80 last Monday night, the lecture room at Sisters High School fell silent and remained so for the duration of his 26-minute talk, which chronicled the events surrounding his son Jacob's suicide two years ago at age 12, in Bend.

Winebarger's main message to the parents in attendance: Talk to your kids directly about how they are doing. Ask them if they ever feel depressed. Ask them if

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Councilors tour cannabis facilities

By Sue Stafford
Correspondent

In an effort to more clearly understand the many facets of the burgeoning marijuana industry, representatives of Sisters City government spent Monday, February 5, touring three facilities in Bend engaged in some phase of the business.

City Councilors Chuck Ryan and Andrea Blum, City Manager Brant Kucera, and Community Development Director Patrick Davenport toured a production-licensed facility (cannabis farming), a laboratory-licensed business (cannabis testing), and a processing-licensed business (cannabis extracts, concentrates, edibles, etc.).

"We knew little about production, testing, and processing, so what better way to

learn about these businesses than visiting them in person and discussing key aspects of the business with ownership," said Mayor Ryan.

"We all needed education and to see actual operations," said Kucera.

Davenport needed to see how the businesses would fit into current City ordinances and what might be needed to make it work. He was also interested in the impact of the facilities on City infrastructure and utilities.

All four City representatives concurred on the high level of education and professionalism of the owners and employees and the quality of their facilities.

"The people we met were well-educated, motivated small-business owners," said

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Chamber honors citizens, businesses

By Jim Cornelius
Editor in Chief

Local citizens and businesses regularly step up in extraordinary ways to enhance the quality of life in Sisters. And each year, the Sisters Area Chamber of Commerce brings community members together to honor those contributors.

The Chamber hosted its annual awards banquet at FivePine Lodge & Conference Center on Thursday, February 8.

President Chris Wilder honored Heartwarmers with the President's Award. The organization, a 501(c)(3) charitable organization, creates fleece blankets, fleece and knitted hats, scarves, baby blankets, lap robes, capes, and ponchos for 26 Central Oregon agencies that provide assistance to children who are facing traumatic experiences or difficult



PHOTO BY JIM CORNELIUS

The Sisters Area Chamber honored local business and citizens for their contributions to the local community.

transitions.

Founder Mary Tomjack accepted the award on behalf of the organization, which welcomes creators to help out with "scissors and a smile." She thanked The Pony Express for their

assistance with shipping and The Open Door for including Heartwarmers in their Dine For A Cause fundraising events.

Robyn Holdman returned

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