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Struggling to cope with wilderness visitors

People come from all over the world to experience the natural beauty of Sisters Country and other areas of the central Cascades. But all those visitors have an impact that threatens to damage the very natural beauty that draws them.

On Friday the Deschutes and Willamette national forests jointly released a Draft Environmental Assessment of a project considering new

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Art for Sisters Country...



PHOTO PROVIDED

Laura Campbell and Sisters students are creating a new public art installation celebrating Sisters' natural world. (See story, page 8.)

Changes coming for short-term rentals

By Sue Stafford
Correspondent

Major changes are on the table in the way Sisters treats short-term rentals.

The Planning Commission held their final review of the proposed Short-Term Rental (STR) regulations at their April 18 workshop. The changes to the former Vacation Rental Development Code are comprehensive and extensive in scope. Commissioners indicated that, despite testimony against

See RENTALS on page 37

Another roundabout planned for Sisters

By Sue Stafford
Correspondent

Another roundabout is in Sisters future, along with other plans to improve traffic flow and transportation in and through town.

Eighteen months worth of work on the City's Transportation Plan (TSP) refinement is drawing to a close. The Sisters Planning Commission reviewed the revised text and project maps at their April 19 workshop.

Four specific issues have been the focus in this refinement process:

- Circulation on the east side of town, including Highway 20/126 intersection improvements;

- Near- and long-term improvements to Highway 20/Locust Street and Barclay

Drive/Locust Street;

- Realignment of Barclay Drive corridor;

- Revision to bicycle and pedestrian system plans.

Working with the Public Advisory Committee (PAC), Oregon Department of Transportation, Deschutes County, and the public, City staff and consultant Kittelson and Associates developed the draft TSP refinement document.

A public hearing for the TSP amendment is scheduled for the May 17 Planning Commission meeting where public testimony will be heard.

The proposed long-term improvement at the Highway 20/126 intersection is for a two-lane roundabout to meet

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Saving Grace – one tough mustang

By Katy Yoder
Correspondent

At first glance Grace, a small, bay mustang filly, looks fragile. But in fact, she's overcome incredible odds.

Now she's facing another challenge and she and her owner, Carol Statton, need help. With that help, there's hope she will survive. Approximately four years old, Grace is from the Ochoco Big Summit herd, which totals around 130 mustangs.

Wild horses are protective, especially mares with foals. For every newborn foal, danger can come as soon as they hit the ground. Stallions intent on starting or expanding their families, will use the mare's weakness after giving birth as an opportunity to steal her. In the melee, the mare fights for her freedom



PHOTO BY KATY YODER

Grace has a bad leg and a life-threatening nasal condition. She is under the loving care of Carol Statton.

and safety of her offspring. Sometimes, the foal is kicked or trampled during the altercation and sustains life-threatening injuries. Grace was probably one of those

casualties.

Abandoned and alone after being weaned, Grace's back-right ankle was bowed

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