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Limiting entry to the Sisters wilderness

By Jim Cornelius
Correspondent

How does the Forest Service manage the Sisters backcountry when all the people who run to it to escape the maddening crowd become... a maddening crowd? Starting in 2020, they plan to limit access to the most heavily used parts of the wilderness.

Under a draft decision issued last week by the Deschutes and Willamette national forests, wilderness day-use would be managed with a limited-entry permit system at 30 of the 80 trailheads across the Mount Jefferson, Mount Washington, and Three Sisters wilderness areas from the Friday before Memorial Day through September 30 every year.

Some portion of next-day or same-day permits will continue to be available for individuals to spontaneously enjoy wilderness access at the limited-entry trailheads, the Forest Service reported



PHOTO BY JIM CORNELIUS

The Central Oregon wilds lure so many visitors that there is concern about the wilderness being "loved to death."

on Thursday, November 15. Overnight backpacking will be managed with a limited-entry permit system at all trailheads across the Mount Jefferson, Mount

Washington, and Three Sisters wilderness areas. Waldo Lake and Diamond Peak wilderness trailheads would not be impacted by this decision and will still

have free, self-issue, same-day permits available.

"We are delighted to see that a portion of

See WILDERNESS on page 38

Council split on short-term rental policy

By Sue Stafford
Correspondent

Just like the community it represents, the Sisters City Council is split on how best to manage short-term rentals in the city.

The Sisters City Council will hold a second reading at their November 28 meeting of proposed Ordinance #489, amending the City's Development Code to update provisions for short-term rentals (STRs) and make other changes.

Councilors split their vote on the ordinance, three for and two against, which

See RENTALS on page 37

Sisters man arrested in road rage incident

A 71-year-old Sisters man was arrested in Bend on Thursday, November 15, after he allegedly pointed a firearm at another driver in an incident Bend police describe as "road rage."

According to Bend police, officers were dispatched at about 2:39 p.m. to a reported incident near NE 8th Street and NE Olney Avenue. Officers learned the victims in this incident, Kory Allen and Brittani Williamson, called to report a man later identified as Zeke Duge pulled a gun and pointed it at them near the intersection. Two small children were in Allen's vehicle at the time of

this incident.

Officers located the suspect vehicle near NE Neff Road and NE Purcell Avenue and took Duge into custody without incident.

Law enforcement officials report that officers confirmed that Duge did point a loaded firearm at Allen's vehicle and all four occupants. A firearm was recovered from Duge's vehicle and he was transported to the Deschutes County Adult Jail where he was lodged on charges of Reckless Endangering; Unlawful Use/Carry of a Weapon; Disorderly Conduct II; Menacing; Driving Under the Influence of Intoxicants.

Hot tub blamed in structure fire

A glow through the bedroom window early Wednesday morning, November 14, alerted an occupant of a vacation rental in Sisters to a hot tub on fire outside the residence. The first fire units to arrive found the hot tub and a corner of the structure on fire and quickly extinguished the blaze.

The occupants, a family of four, evacuated the home when they discovered the fire and attempted to alert the neighboring residents. The fire, approximately seven by 14 feet in area, was confined to the exterior wall and the hot tub. Damage is estimated to be approximately \$10,000.

Fire crews removed burnt siding and applied plastic to the damaged area to protect



PHOTO PROVIDED

Firefighters quickly extinguished a blaze that apparently started in a hot tub and caught the exterior of a house on fire.

the structure from weather. The cause of the fire is still under investigation, but is believed to be a hot tub

malfunction. Sisters-Camp Sherman

See FIRE on page 38

Inside...

Letters/Weather	2	Bunkhouse Chronicle	7	Entertainment	13	Of a Certain Age	22	Classifieds.....	33-35
Meetings	3	Announcements.....	12	Fit for Sisters.....	15	Crossword	32	Real Estate	35-40