

City snapshot

By Sue Stafford
Correspondent

• Sisters' new City Manager, Cory Misley, has been on the job for three weeks and has been meeting one-on-one with City staff and Council, attending meetings, becoming familiar with the vision process and its results, and learning the lay of the land.

• The recently reinstated Housing Policy Advisory Board held their initial meeting on December 11. Sharlene Weed, executive director of Habitat for Humanity, was selected as chairman. Susan Wilson, vice chairman, is a representative from outside the city and has extensive experience in affordable housing policy development, finance, and construction. The board will meet the second Tuesday of every month at 4 p.m. at City Hall.

• At their December 12 workshop, the Council heard from Mathias Perle of the Upper Deschutes Watershed Council on the 50 percent design review for Whychus Creek where it flows through the city between Creekside Park and the Creekside Campground.

The project, partially funded by several grants, will include making the foot-bridge ADA accessible with the addition of new ramps, creek-bank restoration and riparian management, the creation of specific access points to the creek with installation of split-rail fencing and steps down to the creek, burying the pressure sewer line now hanging on the upside of the Locust Street bridge under the creekbed upstream from the bridge, and grooving of the concrete cap on the gravity sewer line in-stream above the Highway 20 bridge to improve fish passage conditions.

Other pieces of the project include interpretive signage and stewardship education as to why the creek is important to Sisters. Once the work is all completed, it will take three to five years for the vegetation to reach the five-to six-foot height.

• The Community

Planning Assistance for Wildfire study has been completed and results were presented to City Council on December 12. The study involved a competitive application process for communities. Once chosen, Sisters was one of 26 communities across the country to receive the fully funded study.

The purpose of the program is to show communities how to better plan growth in a responsible way to increase their fire adaptation. The study determined that the entire city of Sisters is an interface area due to ember impact. The majority of damage would come from embers floating into town.

In 1997, there were 700 structures lost to wildfire nationally. In 2017, 12,000 were lost. In 2018, more than 12,000 were lost in one fire. The Sisters Vision plan contains strategies addressing hazard mitigation.

• The Sisters Horizons Vision final report will be brought to Council at their February 13 meeting for adoption. That will bring a year-long process to its conclusion. Then the work begins on implementing the plan.

Sisters equestrian earns honors

By Kathryn Godsiff
Correspondent

Year-end banquets for equestrians present an opportunity to socialize and celebrate without the pressure of caring for their horses or prepping for a show. It's also a time to dress up a bit and turn up without hay sticking to one's clothing.

The recent High Desert Hunter/Jumper Association banquet honored Sisters rider Alessandra Wentworth, 14, and her horse Making Change, aka Penny, in several categories. They won High Point Junior, Champion Modified Children's Equitation 2'9", Champion Open Jumper and Champion Low Children's Jumper. They were fourth in .95-1m Jumpers.

The awards were based on points accumulated by Wentworth and Penny during the 2018 show season. They competed in shows organized by HDHJA.

In addition to the accolades and ribbons, Wentworth was the recipient of a \$100 scholarship to be used for lessons, camps, or any other experience that will further her experience working with

equines. She intends to use it as she shadows the equine veterinarians at Broken Top Veterinary at equine medical appointments. The scholarship nominees wrote essays outlining ways in which they would use the scholarship if successful.

The off-season plan for Wentworth and Penny include plenty of riding in the indoor arena at the JGW Ranch in Tumalo where they train with Cindy Shonka. Wentworth is aiming to give three-day-eventing a try next season, which means more dressage and jumping.

"We would like to focus on the bigger shows in the area, which may involve some travel, making this experience even more exciting," she said.



PHOTO PROVIDED

Alessandra Wentworth, 14, and her horse Making Change, aka Penny, had a very strong season.

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