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Sisters gets two days of live *fire training*

By Jim Cornelius
Editor in Chief

“Train like you fight; fight like you train” is an axiom from the military to the martial arts community to the fire service. The more realistically you train, the better you will perform when it’s all on the line. Sisters-area firefighters got two days of invaluable experience fighting fire during a “burn to learn” exercise over the weekend.

The exercise — which consumed two houses located at the corner of Jefferson Avenue and Larch Street — involved firefighters from Sisters-Camp Sherman Rural Fire Protection District, Black Butte Ranch, and Cloverdale Fire District. It simulated a “room and contents” fire.

Developer Paul Holstege approached the Sisters fire district with the opportunity.

“We knew we had to demo

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PHOTO BY JERRY BALDOCK

Man hurt himself outside shelter

By Jim Cornelius
Editor in Chief

One of the guests at the Sisters Cold Weather Shelter harmed himself after leaving the shelter at Westside Church on Saturday morning, January 5. The incident sparked concern from nearby residents and a response from organizers of the shelter, which provides shelter to homeless people in Sisters during the winter months.

“A male guest had spent the night and followed the shelter rules and behavior expectations, Sisters Cold Weather Shelter Steering Committee Chair Gary Eidsmoe wrote in a

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Pay, benefits at heart of St. Charles negotiations

By Sue Stafford
Correspondent

Nurses at St. Charles Medical Center Bend have been working on an expired contract for seven months. Local nurses and St. Charles executives are currently in federal mediation with the next two sessions scheduled for January 10 and 11.

The almost 900 nurses at St. Charles Bend are represented by the Oregon Nurses Association. Nurses at the other three St. Charles hospitals each have their own bargaining unit and contract and are not part of this negotiation.

The discussions between St. Charles Bend leadership and the nurses has been long and contentious. The two sides have met 24 times to negotiate a new contract since June 2018. According to Iman Simmons, St. Charles

Health Systems chief operating officer, “At this point, the negotiation is down to essentially two things — wages and benefits.”

According to a guest column from the January 3, 2019 *Bulletin* newspaper by nurses who are leaders on the ONA’s contract negotiation team, “We disagree with Simmons and St. Charles executives on many basic facts — from St. Charles’ fuzzy financial math to what contract negotiations are about — and we think we understand why. St. Charles executives don’t have a problem talking, they have a problem listening.”

The nurses contend they have been speaking up about staffing and safety issues at St. Charles Bend for years.

“Since 2015, Bend nurses have reported more than 600 unsafe or inadequate staffing

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What it was like... **GROWING UP IN SISTERS**



By Sue Stafford
Correspondent

Three Sisters Historical Society is offering its popular Fireside Stories Evenings again this winter, beginning with Back in the Day — Growing Up in Sisters, on Tuesday, January 15, at FivePine Conference Center. Doors will open at 6 p.m. with the program beginning at 7 p.m.

Five longtime Sisters residents will share their stories of family, friends, neighbors, school, hijinx, and the fun

and work of growing up in Sisters in the 1950s and '60s. Be transported back to a simpler time when everyone knew everyone and lots of residents were related to one another.

Floyd Leithauser, now of Camp Sherman, is the fourth generation of his family in Sisters. He will be the emcee for the evening and engaging former Outlaws in storytelling. Leithauser attended all 12 grades in Sisters, then graduated from Oregon State University with a Bachelor of Science in Engineering.

After serving in the Coast Guard, he worked in the oil fields of Oklahoma, Texas, Kansas, California, and Alaska. When he left Sisters after graduation, he thought he was leaving forever, but in 2006 he and his wife, Sue, returned to care for Leithauser’s mother, Edith, and they are still here.

Joel Aylor moved to Sisters with his father, Bill, Aylor and his wife, Trudie, and younger brother Daryl. He graduated from Sisters

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