

Council to discuss community Vision Action Plan

The Sisters City Council will be studying the final draft of the Sisters Country Horizons Vision Action Plan at their workshop at 5 p.m. on Wednesday, January 9. It will be submitted to the Council for final approval on Wednesday, February 13 at their regular 6:30 p.m. meeting.

Based on the work of the project’s 32-member Vision Action Team (VAT) in October and November, the plan was previewed to Council at its workshop on November 28. The plan includes 20 strategies, along with numerous action steps, all meant to help Sisters Country move in the direction of the community’s long-term vision and to improve residents’ quality of life.

Each of the plan’s actions is intended to be championed by one or more suggested lead partners from the public, private and nonprofit sectors. The City will be implementing a number of actions itself and began the process of meeting with other suggested partners in December. Most of the plan’s major partners were active members of the VAT.

To determine the community’s long-range vision and to analyze what residents value about the community, Sisters Country Horizons engaged in an extensive community conversation in 2018 that included surveys, stakeholder interviews, public meetings and forums. Close to 2,000 participants contributed thousands of individual comments and ideas.

Sisters Country Horizons is sponsored by the City of Sisters, Deschutes County and the Central Oregon Intergovernmental Council.

House escapes serious damage in chimney fire

Alert residents and properly functioning smoke detectors enabled Black Butte Ranch firefighters to quell a chimney fire at a home on the Ranch before it did serious damage.

The fire occurred on Wednesday evening, January 2, at about 7 p.m. The residents noticed smoke in the room where their wood stove was burning, and their smoke detectors went off.

According to Black Butte Ranch Fire Captain Tom Ward, the burning was confined to the decorative wooden chase built around the chimney, and the blaze was above roof level. The chase was damaged and there was some smoke damage, but no significant damage to the structure.

“This wasn’t a flue issue as far as we could see,” Ward observed.

The fire captain noted that the incident is a good reminder to keep smoke alarms in working order, as early detection enabled quick response before the fire spread.

Sisters-Camp Sherman Fire also sent an engine to the scene.

Reporting deadline for game tags extended

The deadline to report all 2018 big game and turkey tags has been extended until April 15, (from January 31) to give hunters more time to report under ODFW’s new licensing system.

The new deadline applies to all 2018 deer, elk, cougar, bear, antelope and turkey tags. Anyone who purchased one of these tags needs to report — even if they were not successful or didn’t go hunting.

Hunters who fail to report a 2018 deer or elk tag by the new deadline of April 15 will have to pay \$25 when they go to purchase their 2020 annual hunting license.

Hunters are encouraged to report online at ODFW’s Licensing page after using the “Verify/Look Up Account” button to find their account in the new licensing system. After verifying their account, hunters will be able to report and see other account information such as preference points, previous year’s application history, and have the option of going paperless for 2019 license and tags.

Hunters can also report by phone to ODFW’s Licensing Division 503-947-6101. However, ODFW’s Licensing Division is currently experiencing high call volumes from hunters who want to report by phone or have questions about the new licensing system. The deadline extension will help reduce hold times for customers.

Some hunters who inadvertently created a new account online (rather than verifying/looking up their existing account) are not seeing their tags to report on in the online system. Hunters who are experiencing this

problem should send an email to ODFW.Websales@state.or.us that includes the ODFW ID# for their incorrect account and their Hunter/Angler ID# (printed on all licenses/tags from 2018 and prior). The problem will be corrected with 10 business days and hunters will be able to report online.

“We are extending the deadline to provide better customer service to our hunters as they get familiar with our new licensing system,” said Doug Cottam, ODFW Wildlife Division Administrator. “We really appreciate hunters taking time to report, even if they did not hunt or weren’t successful.”

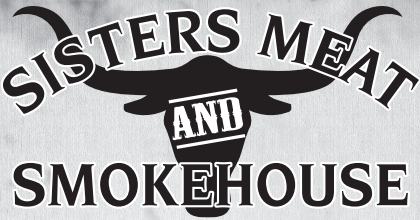
The fastest and easiest way to report is to go to MyODFW.com and click the green “Buy License/Report Hunt” button. If you have not already verified your account on the new system, use the “Verify/Look Up Account” button (see image) and enter your Hunter/Angler ID (printed on all 2018 and prior licenses and tags) as the ODFW ID, or your email or phone number plus last name and date of birth, to find your profile in the system. After completing account verification online, go under Outcome Reporting and click “Mandatory Reporting” or “Hunting & Fishing Outcome Reporting” to complete your reports for each big game or turkey tag. Note that a unique email address (not shared by anyone else in the system, including a relative) is required for anyone age 12

and older to create an online account and report online.

Computers are also available at some ODFW offices (Adair Village/Corvallis, Bend, Clackamas, La Grande, Portland-Sauvie Island, Roseburg, Salem Headquarters, Springfield, Tillamook) to Verify/Look Up your account and report online.

To report by phone, all ODFW Licensing Division at 503-947-6101 during regular business hours (Monday-Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.). Have your 2018 license or tag available to provide your Hunter/Angler ID number. ODFW staff who take your call will take a few extra minutes to verify your account in the new system. Important note: the number printed in 2018 Oregon Big Game Regulations (1-866-947-6339) was managed by the old license vendor so reports can no longer be accepted at that number.

The information hunters provide through these reports is used to help understand big game population trends and for setting controlled hunt tag numbers and hunting seasons. Hunter reports help ODFW determine how many people went hunting, how many big game animals were harvested, plus antler points and success rates for each hunt—information which is posted at ODFW’s Big Game Hunting Harvest Statistics page at <https://myodfw.com/articles/big-game-hunting-harvest-statistics>



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