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Camp Sherman resident Bill Johnson (left) confers with Mark Rapp of the Sisters Ranger District about plans for forest projects.

Sisters Ranger District presents projects

By Stephen Shunk

Local Forest Service staff discussed plans for the Suttle Lake Resort, as well as other forest projects, with over 30 residents from the Sisters area at a recent open house held at the Sisters Ranger District. District Ranger Bill Anthony and the district staff hosted their annual open house on Thursday, January 22, to educate the public about the past year's events as well as current and upcoming projects. Anthony said that most public meetings staged by the Forest Service focus on specific forest issues but that this forum presented a different opportunity.

"It was a great chance to talk to people from the com-

munity about anything they wanted to talk about," Anthony said.

The redevelopment of the Suttle Lake Resort was the most popular topic of the two open house sessions, according to Anthony and District Lands Forester Jeff Sims. Sims said resort managers have shaped the resort master plan to reflect feedback received from the public and the Forest Service. The Forest Service is currently exploring three alternatives for the project which include no action and two alternatives with varying amounts of development. The Sisters Ranger District also used the open house to thank the community partners who have cooperated with the

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All-day kindergarten program is a success

By Jim Cornelius

Sisters' kindergartners seem to be taking to an all-day schedule. The all-day kindergarten program implemented this year has 19 students and, according to Sisters Elementary School Principal Tim Comfort, they seem to be thriving.

"The students are definitely

motivated and like school," Comfort said. "They're learning. We have not seen fatigue or irritability." The full-day program is subsidized by participating families, who pay \$200 per month in tuition. The program is optional; the school also offers a traditional morning and

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Hurtley Irrigation suit settled

By Stephen Shunk

Years of litigation culminated in a settlement Friday, January 22, as residents of Panoramic View Estates ended their lawsuit against David Hurtley and the Hurtley Irrigation System. Ten residents living in or near the Panoramic subdivision filed suit against Hurtley in 1996. They alleged that he interfered with their water rights, denying them irrigation water and using it for his own purposes. Four of the plaintiffs claimed that Hurtley trespassed on their property to install shut-off valves on their irrigation pipelines. According to Hurtley and

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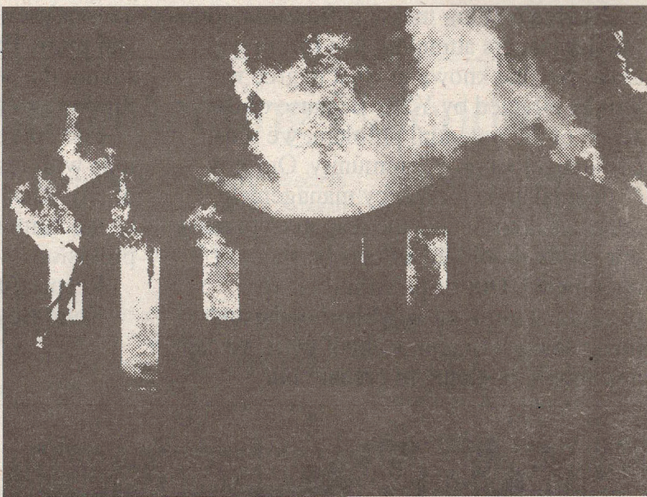
Planners move to shore up western theme

By Jim Cornelius

Planners are working to tighten up city ordinances in an effort to strengthen Sisters' 1880s western theme. The Sisters Urban Area Planning Commission discussed proposed changes to the zoning ordinance in their Wednesday, January 20 meeting. The most significant change would require developers and builders to stick closely to the false-front architecture laid out in the ordinance's appendix. Exceptions to the classic false-front style would be allowed only if a builder plans to replicate an 1880s commercial building of a different style that existed east of the Cascade mountains in Oregon. The builder would have to produce an historical photograph of the proposed building. Planners hope the changes will take some of the subject-

tivity and interpretation out of the building review process. The changes came after citizens expressed concerns that some recently constructed buildings — while they have the required architectural elements — are not "western" in style. Other proposed changes include mandating the use of flat or semi-gloss paints; high-gloss finishes would not be allowed. Under current rules, flat or low-gloss paints are recommended but not absolutely required. Commissioners also discussed requirements for fences and gates. They proposed requiring wood as the sole building material, at least in visible parts of the fences (metal posts would be faced with wood). Again, exceptions would require submitting an historical photograph.

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Torching The Pines has been a training boon for local firefighters.

Firefighters train live

By Jim Cornelius

Every Monday night, firefighters from Sisters and other local agencies put the torch to a couple of buildings in The Pines. The deliberately set fires provide an unprecedented opportunity for the firefighters to hone their tactics, learn how fires behave and practice arson investigation techniques. With

24 buildings to burn, the training sessions are the most extensive and comprehensive Sisters area firefighters are ever likely to get. "I've never seen an opportunity like this," said assistant Sisters fire chief Ken Enoch. "You can fight the fire different ways and determine what's the best way to put out the

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