

# District ponders Tollgate station

Officials with the Sisters-Camp Sherman Fire District will meet with residents of the Tollgate Homeowners Association Thursday, June 6 to solicit input regarding the future of the Tollgate Fire Station.

The District has maintained an unstaffed, volunteer station within the subdivision since 1988. Changes in District staffing and the construction of a new station in downtown Sisters has resulted in a diminished use of the facility in recent years. In addition to the diminished

use of the facility, the District received a new Insurance Services Office Public Protection Classification (PPC) rating in 2017. Most insurance companies use the PPC rating to establish homeowners' insurance premiums. The new rating dramatically improved for Tollgate homeowners as well as all other residents of the District.

As a result of the new insurance rating, the Tollgate Fire Station was no longer recognized as an active fire station.

District Fire Chief Roger Johnson said, "We were approached by residents of the community asking if the District would consider transitioning ownership of the facility to the homeowners association."

The Board of Directors for the fire district has scheduled the community meeting to solicit input from residents prior to making a final decision on use of the facility. The meeting will be held at 6:30 p.m. at the Tollgate Homeowners Association Club House.

## LETTERS

*Continued from page 2*

month. As a long-time coach, I can testify, emotions run red hot in athletics. Especially nowadays.

Barry Clock

♦ ♦ ♦

To the Editor:

Regarding the Wildfire Defense Systems insurance article in the May 8 *Nugget*: I find such insurance offensive because I remember reading stories of such insured homes amidst those not insured being attended to all the while the other homes were ignored.

Well, of course you say, they paid for Fire Protection Insurance. We all pay for public fire service with our tax dollars and all such fire defense, mitigation and protection programs coordinate with one another from Federal to State to Local. Not always the case with for-profit fire protection.

These privately funded fire services can cause blockages (their vehicles in the way of those that serve all of us or inadvertently, blocking neighbors evacuating in an emergency) as had happened in the past per such articles out of Southern California.

This is yet another step toward privatization, this time it is our socially provided fire services under attack.

Susan Cobb

**POLLEN:** Allergens my friend, are blowin' in the wind

*Continued from page 17*

Unlike the olive, the great *Pinus Ponderosa* just makes an interesting yellowy mess.

Supplement sellers and alternative health providers tout the benefits of pine pollen. Used by indigenous tribes and in traditional Chinese medicine, pollen from various species of pines are said to boost energy, encourage weight loss, and increase testosterone levels.

According to *Lost Empire Herbs*, pine pollen was mixed with honey and taken internally "to promote beauty in the face" during the Tang Dynasty. In the Song Dynasty arose pine pollen cakes made in the shape of "ancient dragon cakes." Sweet tasting,

they were eaten to increase one's beauty and will.

The stuff was also used in Japanese and Korean medicine. Heo Jun was a court physician in 17th century Korea, noted for writing the *Dongui Bogam*, considered the defining text of traditional Korean medicine.

In it he wrote, "Pine pollen is sweet, mild, heart and lung nourishment, Qi-tonifying medicine and with a function to stop bleeding." In contemporary Western medicine, one study found that pine pollen "improved memory latency time" in mice.

Should you start collecting pine off your rooftop and eating it? Please, ask your doctor before engaging in such shenanigans.

But don't blame the ponders for the uptick in your allergy symptoms this season. The fault probably lies elsewhere.

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