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Citizens weigh in on future of SPRD

By Sue Stafford
Correspondent

Last week's public meeting on the next two years for Sisters Park & Recreation District was modest in size (12 people), but rich with insightful, thoughtful input from those in attendance.

"It is exciting to see community members taking the time to share with us their thoughts and opinions on how Sisters Park & Recreation

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Local veterans have placed a large wreath to left of the flag pole at the Village Green veterans memorial, adorned with bright red tags. Each tag has a name of the 42 local veterans who are buried at Camp Polk cemetery. The wreath was to be placed at the cemetery, but snow forced another plan. The wreath was donated by a local resident, and will stay at the park through the end of the year. Veterans who worked on this project were Lance Trowbridge, Earl Schroeder, Jeff Mackey and Bill Anttila.

PHOTO PROVIDED

Assessing public safety in Sisters

By Sue Stafford
Correspondent

The Deschutes County Sheriff's Office motto is "Proudly Serving Our Community," and the Sisters-Camp Sherman Rural Fire Protection District puts the residents of the district at the top of their organization chart. Both agencies are charged with providing for the public safety of the communities they serve with police and fire

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Slash pile burning created smoky skies

By T. Lee Brown
Correspondent

Slash burning in Deschutes National Forest west of Sisters caused unhealthy air and confusion about burning regulations last Friday and Saturday. Large landing piles were lit Friday morning by the U.S. Forest Service (USFS).

By afternoon, they looked like early solstice bonfires. Smoke billowed in columns of slush-gray and pine-yellow. Walking among the fires, the forest looked like a scene from "The Lord of the Rings" movies, with signal fires blooming across snow-capped peaks.

USFS chose Friday to burn landing piles despite indications of stagnant air in the area. In town, measurements of PM2.5, fine particulate matter, pushed up to 183 on Friday, according to the World Air Quality Project's realtime air quality map. The map uses monitoring data from sources including the State of Oregon's Department

of Environmental Quality (DEQ).

The 183 level is in the "red zone," considered unhealthy for breathing — slightly worse than Beijing's air quality, which stood at 181 that day. The red zone covers fine particulate matter measurements of 151 through 200.

According to AQICN, "Everyone may begin to experience health effects; members of sensitive groups may experience more serious health effect."

By Saturday morning, a shroud of smog wrapped around the homes of Crossroads, several miles west of town near Highway 242.

USFS Fire Management Officer James Osbourne told *The Nugget*, "We took a number of calls because of the air stagnation reports."

On Thursday, Crossroads residents had received notices stating: "Please be advised that Sisters-Camp Sherman Fire Department has closed outdoor burning due to a

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Project will plant thousands of trees

By Jim Cornelius
Editor in Chief

It will take a generation for the landscape to recover from the devastating Milli Fire that scorched over 24,000 acres in Sisters Country in the late summer of 2017. Some local youth are giving the forest a jumpstart with a plan to plant 10,000 trees in the Trout Creek area this spring.

Representatives from the Waldorf School of Bend will have a table at Sisters Coffee Co. on Saturday, December 21, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. where they will share information on the project and accept donations for a fundraiser for the school.

The project grew out of a sixth-grade fundraiser at the school, where students auctioned off a community effort to reduce carbon footprint by creating a "micro-forest."

Waldorf School parent Erin Hansen told *The Nugget*, "we ended up getting some surplus trees from the Forest Service."

There were 500, in fact, and Hansen wasn't sure the young students would be able to knock the work out



PHOTO PROVIDED

Pete Stoddard of the Sisters Ranger District found a good place for students to plant and explained reforestation in a burned forest.

in the time they had. But Pete Stoddard of the Sisters Ranger District found a safe and viable spot for them to work — and work they did,

getting all 500 trees planted in about 2-1/2 hours.

Stoddard provided a real

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