

# The Nugget

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## Local healthcare providers act on COVID-19

In response to the emerging risk associated with the spread of COVID-19, local first responders and healthcare professionals are taking protective steps.

Sisters-Camp Sherman Fire District personnel are preparing for the possibility that infected patients may call 911 and request ambulance transport to the hospital.

The Fire District has recently provided enhanced training for its emergency responders on appropriate infection control measures, including personal protective equipment and safe work practices. The Fire District has also made some operational changes to protect emergency

See COVID-19 on page 22

## Women build...



Sisters Habitat for Humanity and Lowe's of Redmond partnered for a work project on local homes last week. See story, page 11.

PHOTO BY JERRY BALDOCK

## Rental regulations having an effect

By Jim Cornelius  
Editor in Chief

New rules created in 2019 to regulate short-term rentals (STR) in Sisters are having an impact.

The Sisters City Council received an update on those impacts at their Wednesday, February 26 workshop. According to planner Patrick Davenport, current active licenses for short-term or vacation rentals in town stand at 88, down from more than 100 a year ago. Eleven permits were issued in 2019, down from a high of 44 in 2018. Davenport noted that there was "a flurry of activity" in 2018 because property owners were aware that new regulations were coming.

See RENTALS on page 8

## Historical Society announces new museum

By Helen Schmidling  
Correspondent

The historic bungalow at 410 E. Cascade Ave. (next to Suttle Tea) will be the new home of the Three Sisters Historical Society. A museum, office and gift shop will open in late spring or early summer in the building most recently occupied by Sisters Dental, which has moved its offices to 491 E. Main Ave.

Floyd Leitheiser, president of the Historical Society, made the announcement at the organization's annual meeting Thursday night, following a Fireside Talk at FivePine by Jarold Ramsey of Madras. Ramsey, a long-time board member of the Jefferson County Historical Society, embraced the idea of

a museum in Sisters.

"I commend your timing, as there is a real sense of local history in the three counties of Central Oregon," Ramsey said.

George and Virginia Wakefield, who originally purchased the property on the corner of East Cascade and Larch from R.J. Skelton, built the home in the mid-1930s. Chris Boxwell and Belita Palu-ay now own the property, and will rent a portion of the historic home. The museum will occupy four rooms, and will feature a display of local history, a museum gift shop, and the organization's office. A generous gift from John and Jan Rodgers is making the museum possible.

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## Partnerships key to protecting forest

By Jim Cornelius  
Editor in Chief

As Fred Perl moves on from a 32-year career in law enforcement with the National Parks Service and the U.S. Forest Service, he offers a singular takeaway: partnerships are the critical element in protecting and preserving America's public lands.

Those partnerships are not only between and among agencies tasked with protecting public lands; partnerships with members of the public are equally important.

"It's incumbent upon the community to take care of public lands," Perl told *The Nugget*. "There are warriors and guardians in the community, and they do incredible things."

It was a love for the outdoors that drew Perl into public-lands stewardship — starting with seasonal work



PHOTO PROVIDED

Fred Perl has retired after serving as the USFS law enforcement officer for the past 17 years.

at Crater Lake National Park. "It was actually a classified ad that my mom found in the newspaper about Crater Lake National Park hiring," he recalled.

While working in visitor services, he saw rangers patrolling the Park and it set

his feet on a particular path. "I thought, 'Well, that's kind of a cool job,'" he said.

He entered college at Southern Oregon University with an eye to a career.

"It was through that

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