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PHOTO BY JAY MATHER

Sunday afternoon's intense thunderstorm left in its wake a glorious sunset over the Cascades captured by Sisters photographer Jay Mather.

Plan will shape future growth

By Jim Cornelius
Editor in Chief

Sisters is growing and changing rapidly. Those who want to shape what growth and change look like over the next decades will have a significant opportunity as the City of Sisters updates its comprehensive plan.

The City has contracted for up to \$95,000 with Angelo Planning Group, Inc. out of Portland for technical assistance with the state-mandated comprehensive plan update. Work begins in

earnest this fall.

"It's the guiding legal document for the City in terms of growth and development," said City Planner Nicole Mardell.

As required by the State of Oregon's robust land-use-planning laws, the comprehensive plan covers transportation, water/wastewater infrastructure, an economic opportunity analysis; a natural resources inventory and a buildable lands inventory. Development can only occur within an Urban Growth Boundary.

The principles outlined in a comprehensive plan are enacted through the City's Development Code.

The last full revision of the comprehensive plan took place in 2005.

"It's been 15 years since we fully updated it," said City Manager Cory Misley. And in those 15 years, the city has almost tripled in size."

While they are required to have certain content in the plan — including technical

See **PLAN** on page 16

Santiam Lodge restoration continues

By Craig F. Eisenbeis
Correspondent

Eighty years ago, the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) completed construction of a new recreational ski lodge at the summit of Santiam Pass. The unique architecture is characteristic of six ski lodges built by the CCC in the Pacific Northwest. For nearly a half century thereafter, the Santiam Pass Ski Lodge offered outdoor recreation opportunities, first as a public skiing area, hiking center, highway stopover and rest area and, later, as a church camp.

It all ended in 1986, when the lodge was shut down. So, for the next 32 years, the lodge sat empty and deteriorating. Firefighters were able to save the historic structure

during the 2003 B & B Fire, which scorched over 90,000 acres in the area. Hope for a new chapter in the lodge's history began two years ago when Dwight and Susan Sheets obtained a special-use permit from the Willamette National Forest to restore the lodge, and Friends of Santiam Pass Ski Lodge was born.

"We both grew up in Salem and spent a lot of time on the Santiam Pass skiing, hiking and backpacking," Sue Sheets said. "We visited the lodge when we were younger and always loved the place. As time went on we became frustrated that year after year the lodge was falling into an increasing state of disrepair." And so, she explained, that sentiment led to their involvement in

See **RESTORATION** on page 23

Moving new roundabout toward reality

By Sue Stafford
Correspondent

The City of Sisters, the Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT), and the Sisters School District (SSD) are working together to make the proposed Highway 20/Locust roundabout a reality.

The eventual construction of the roundabout will require a right-of-way acquisition from the Sisters School District for land at the grade school that is the current site of two tennis courts. The City of Sisters is already working in conjunction with the Oregon Department of Transportation for

construction of the roundabout — when funds become available — to alleviate long-standing traffic safety issues at the Highway 20/Locust intersection.

The process has already begun with the review by the City and ODOT of the 30 percent Design Acceptance Plan (DAP) provided by the ODOT Roadway Team. That review will be completed in the next 30-45 days, at which time the project team will have DAP-approvable plans ready to be submitted to the State Transportation Engineer. Those 30 percent plans establish the project footprint which defines

See **ROUNDBOUT** on page 22

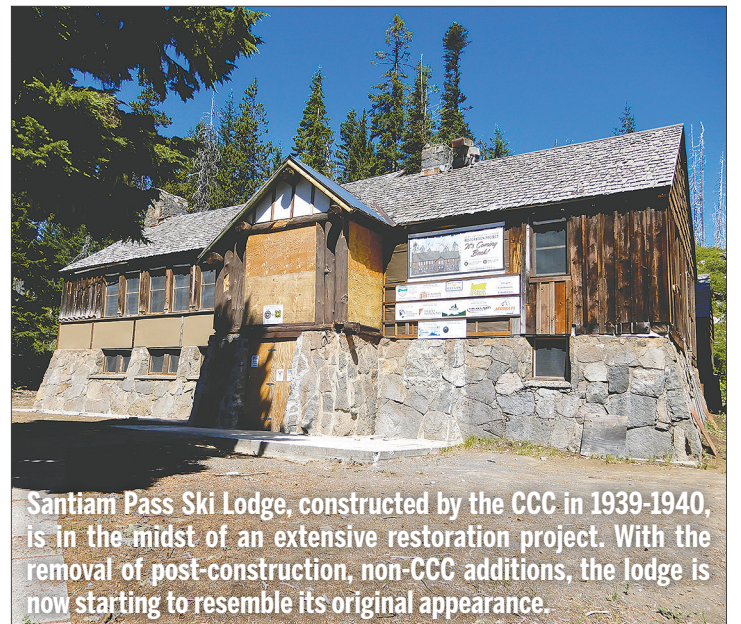
Board meeting focuses on school start

By Charlie Kanzig
Correspondent

School administrators are managing what seems to be daily updates as to how the 2020-21 school year will operate in light of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.

The August 12 Sisters School District board meeting, conducted via Zoom, took place a day after the Oregon Department of Education released its latest update of guidance

See **SCHOOL** on page 21



Santiam Pass Ski Lodge, constructed by the CCC in 1939-1940, is in the midst of an extensive restoration project. With the removal of post-construction, non-CCC additions, the lodge is now starting to resemble its original appearance.

PHOTO BY CRAIG EISENBEIS

Inside...

Letters/Weather	2	Hike	8	Entertainment	11	Crossword	17	Sudoku	19
Meetings	3	Announcements.....	10	Fit for Sisters.....	14	Classifieds.....	18-20	Real Estate	20-24