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School staff begin receiving vaccine

By Charlie Kanzig
Correspondent

About 30 specialists, paraprofessionals and support staff were the first of the Sisters School District staff members to receive their initial dose of the COVID-19 vaccination. The vaccinations come amidst concern that Oregon's supply may not be as substantial as first reported (see related story, page 12).

In a news conference on Friday, January 15, Governor Kate Brown expressed her dismay that the total number of available vaccines was apparently misrepresented,

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What's happening with Sisters' weather?

By Ron Thorkildson
Correspondent

Except for a couple of light dustings of snow that quickly came and went, Sisters Country has been remarkably free of winter-like conditions even as we advance deeper into the heart of the cold season.

Last fall weather prognosticators advertised a La Niña was on the way that would likely result in a colder and wetter than normal winter. Not only was her arrival right on time, but she's

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New well will add to Sisters' water system

By Sue Stafford
Correspondent

Sisters is adding a new well to its water system, which will substantially increase its pumping capacity.

At last Wednesday's City Council meeting, the City awarded a public improvement contract to J. P. Prinz Co. LLC in the amount not to exceed \$713,317, the lowest of five bids received for the construction of a new Well 4, Phase B.

Phase A, just completed, was the drilling of the well by Abbas Drilling on land at the east end of the Creekside Campground. While Phase A was underway, the design for the well house and all the equipment (Phase B) was being finalized. The well

depth ended up being 293 feet. Work included drilling, casing, screening, grout seal, developing and testing as required for a complete 1,500-gallons-per-minute well.

Water, or the lack of it, here on the high desert determined what areas were settled and farmed back in the late 1800s. As in the past, water today determines how much growth is possible.

The first water brought to Sisters came from the surrounding creeks in the hand-dug ditches that crisscrossed the region with water from high up in the Three Sisters. People were awarded water rights for their use and historic early water rights are valuable to have because

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Local public officials sworn in

By Sue Stafford
Correspondent

Three city councilors, two new and one re-elected, were sworn into office on Wednesday.

Michael Preedin was elected the new mayor by a unanimous vote of the Council at their first meeting of the year, and Nancy Connolly was again elected to serve as council president and will act as mayor in Preedin's absence. She is beginning her seventh year as a councilor.

Jennifer Letz was elected to a four-year term and Gary Ross to a two-year term. Returning Councilor Andrea Blum will serve for four years.

Letz's work as a sustainability specialist with the U.S. Forest Service and earlier as a wildland firefighter for the National Park



Michael Preedin, left will serve as Sisters' mayor, working with City Manager Cory Misley.

Service have equipped her to serve as a councilor addressing issues of importance to Sisters, such as managing growth while enhancing sustainability, and wildfire preparedness in Sisters Country.

Ross has previously served as an elected official in Springfield and has extensive experience with public budgeting, long-range

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