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Land-use laws manage growth

By Sue Stafford
Correspondent

Sisters is currently experiencing unprecedented growth. That growth is to be managed under a system of land-use laws.

The state of Oregon is unique for any number of reasons and since the 1970s, the state has been particularly unique when it comes to managing land use and development. Land-use planning in Oregon consists of a system of laws and government collaboration that is rare in the United States. Voters approved the framework for

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No hitter...

Garrett Vohs struck out 11 and gave up a single walk in a no-hitter against Woodburn last week. See story, page 9.

PHOTO BY JERRY BALDOCK

COVID cases require quarantine for schools

School activities resumed Thursday afternoon after a brief shutdown was called over reports of COVID-19 cases at both Sisters High School and Sisters Middle School.

Superintendent Curt Scholl declined to specify numbers, citing concerns about medical privacy in a small community, but acknowledged “multiple cases” in the low single digits. Contact tracing led to a 14-day quarantine of 24 students at Sisters High School and the entire sixth grade at

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Roth named principal at Sisters Middle School

By Charlie Kanzig
Correspondent

The Sisters School District decided on an “in-house” hire in naming current assistant principal Tim Roth as the principal at Sisters Middle School.

Roth, a native of Bend, takes over from Alison Haney who stepped down from the position after three years.

Roth is no stranger to the community; he worked as the athletic/activities director at Sisters High School from 2012-2017, including one year as vice principal.

From 2017-2019 Roth and his family lived in Hohenfels, Germany, where he taught students of military families advanced science courses on a U.S. Armed Forces NATO training base.

He and his wife, Laura, who is also a teacher, and their two children, Hayden and Maya, returned to Sisters in 2019 when Roth was hired as an assistant principal for the middle and high school.

He moved into the full-time position at Sisters Middle School for the 2020-21 school year.

Roth holds his undergraduate degree from Willamette University and a master’s degree in teaching from the University of Portland. His administrative license work came from Concordia University-Chicago and through the Confederation of Oregon School Administrators.

Roth has 13 years of classroom experience and seven as an administrator and is overjoyed to be the next principal at SMS.

“My vision for SMS is to focus on two primary pillars: culture and instructional strategies,” he said. “I want SMS to have the kind of culture in which students feel unconditionally loved and supported in a climate where everyone works hard, but have some fun along the way.”

He continued, “I also want

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Worker shortage causing woes

By Bill Bartlett
Correspondent

There are plenty of job openings in Sisters. The lack of applicants is reaching critical proportions for area businesses, however. Help Wanted signs appear all over town and in *The Nugget* there have been multiple ads in the classified section for a range of jobs. Some employers have taken to running color ads in the main news section of the paper in hopes of drawing even more notice.

The problem has been building for a year and the reasons are numerous. The best illustration is probably McDonald’s, where crew shortages have caused a reduction in operating hours — notwithstanding last week’s order from the Governor closing indoor dining again for at least two weeks, McDonald’s has not been adequately staffed for several months to serve diners in their dining room or for walk-in takeout. Only the drive-thru is open.

McDonald’s is synonymous with entry-level jobs



PHOTO BY BILL BARTLETT

Businesses of all types in Sisters are struggling to fill job openings. Some are offering signing bonuses.

where millions of students have traditionally learned job skills while earning for college, their first car, or to help with the family budget. Despite the local McDonald’s offering up to \$18.25 per hour, \$6 more than the current state minimum wage, plus a retention bonus of \$1,000, hire-a-friend bonus of \$750, and up to \$3,000 in tuition assistance, Sisters McDonald’s has been short-handed for nearly a year.

The first problem for all Sisters employers for jobs

under \$25 per hour is a small labor pool. Sisters Country population is dominated by retirees and empty nesters, even as our schools are adding students. Affluence in the community is a negative when attracting employment with starting wages. The median income for ZIP code 97759 is \$76,012. In Redmond, where the majority of our workers reside, it is \$65,788 and the median age is 39.7 vs. 53.7 for Sisters.

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