

Data from balloon launch under analysis

High-altitude balloons lofted into night sky above Sisters Eagle Airport last month as the airport once again hosted the science team from the University of Washington's Space and Earth Science department led by Associate Professor Michael McCarthy.

For the June 2021 launch program, three balloons were sent aloft at night during the week of June 20. The first launch took place at 11 p.m. on June 22, followed by a launch on June 24-25 between 10 p.m. and 11:30 p.m.

Launch operations were performed by ISTAR (International Science Technology And Research of Sisters). The ISTAR team launch effort was orchestrated by Steven Peterzén, President of ISTAR, Francie Peterzén, Rima Givot, Teri Ast, Rod Moorehead, Chris McDougall, and Rod Gunson, all of Sisters, along with Kyle Peterzén of Albany.

All three balloons climbed out easterly turning to the west before reaching a float altitude of 39 km (127,953 feet). The balloons performed perfectly and stayed at the desired altitude for more than four days, with the termination of the flight along the coast of Unalaska Island in the Aleutian Islands of Alaska, where recovery operations took place. Data analysis is now being examined.

Todd Anderson, researcher with the University of Washington Space and Earth Sciences explained, "The science experiment is measuring the electrical properties of the atmosphere or the electrical current flowing between the upper atmosphere and the earth. Measuring the current is best done far from pollutants and weather effects that are near the Earth's surface so we make use of high altitude balloons. By measuring the electric current at high altitudes and simultaneously monitoring thunderstorm activity with a global lightning network, we can get this measurement with higher accuracy than previous work."

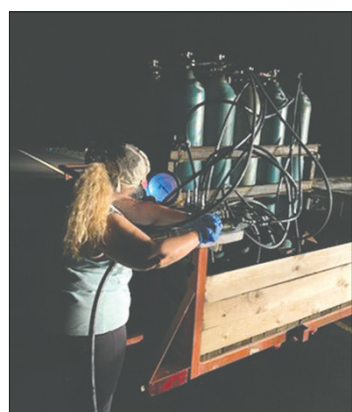


PHOTO BY TERI AST

Francie Peterzén managing gas calculations and flow for inflation.



PHOTO BY TERI AST

Inflation of the 9,000 m3 Stratospheric Balloon.

The next campaign for ISTAR will be a series of balloon launches on a DARPA (Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency) contract from Maui, Hawaii.



PHOTO BY ROD MOOREHEAD

Science payload being teated pre-launch.

City's Comp Plan nears finish line

By Sue Stafford
Correspondent

The year-long process of crafting an updated Comprehensive Plan for the City is in the home stretch, according to Community Development Director Scott Woodford.

Over the next month, City staff will take the final draft prepared by the consultants hired to conduct the update process, and will create the narratives, adding photos and resources that will put the goals and policies into a cohesive document.

Woodford indicated he has been pleased with the process, which included considerable outreach to the community, even without being able to have large in-person meetings. They were able to conduct smaller meetings with a variety of community groups, two online open houses, two online surveys, and tabling events around the city to gather input from the public.

The two advisory committees, Community and Stakeholders, represented a broad cross-section of Sisters residents and City partners.

These two groups have done a majority of the hard work in reviewing current policies and making suggested additions and deletions. Each committee met a total of seven times via Zoom.

When the staff is finished with the narratives, the document will be presented for review at hearings before the Planning Commission on August 12 and 26 and to the City Council on September 8 and 22. Additional hearings may be scheduled, if needed. The public is invited to those hearings and may testify.

Once the Comprehensive Plan is approved by the Council, it will be sent on to the Oregon Department of Land Conservation and Development for preliminary review and eventual acknowledgement. Woodson said that if someone wasn't able to directly participate in the process, it is likely there was someone else with similar thoughts who did participate.

"It became challenging

to hear something new by the time we were through with the process. But until the Council gives its final approval, the plan is still considered in process and comments from the public are accepted," Woodford offered.

The two major concerns that surfaced out of all the comments received dealt in some way with the pace of growth in Sisters and — if Sisters must grow — how it can be done successfully while finding ways to balance the options of infill within the current Urban Growth Boundary (UGB) and possible outward expansion of the UGB into underutilized farm and forest lands, all without destroying the unique character of Sisters.

The Comprehensive Plan process is one required of every sized city, town, and village in the state of Oregon. Because Sisters has less than 10,000 residents, the Comprehensive Plan is not required to be updated as often as in larger cities.

SCHEDULE YOUR FENCING PROJECTS NOW!

Craftsman-Built Custom Fencing, Ranch & Agricultural, Residential, Commercial

Sisters Fence Company
541-588-2062
CCB#228388

FREE ESTIMATES & COMPETITIVE PRICING
Locally Owned, Superior Customer Service

www.SistersFenceCompany.com

\$10 OFF DOT & FAA PHYSICALS

WALK IN OR SCHEDULE YOUR APPT. TODAY!
Valid through 7-28-21

YourCare
your health
4541-548-2899
3818 SW 21st Pl., Ste. 100
Redmond • Open every day
yourcaredmedical.com

URGENT CARE • OCCUPATIONAL MED • TELEMEDICINE • X-RAY

BATTERY POWER. MADE BY STIHL.

RMA 510 BATTERY LAWN MOWER SET

Delivers a powerful and convenient mowing experience for the suburban homeowner with a large 21" cutting deck.

Includes AP 300 battery, AL 300 charger.
\$589⁹⁹

RMA 510 V SELF-PROPELLED BATTERY LAWN MOWER SET

Gives the performance of a gasoline-powered mower without any of the hassles. Instant starting, less noise, zero gasoline costs and zero exhaust emissions.

Includes AP 300 battery, AL 300 charger.
\$759⁹⁹

RMA 460 BATTERY PUSH LAWN MOWER SET

Provides quick and efficient cutting — ideal for small to medium suburban yards.

Includes AK 30 battery, AL 101 charger.
\$449⁹⁵

SISTERS RENTAL

541-549-9631
331 W. Barclay Dr., Sisters
Mon-Fri: 7 am-5:30 pm | Sat: 8 am-5 pm
www.sistersrental.com