

# The Nugget

News and Opinion  
from Sisters, Oregon

POSTAL CUSTOMER

PRE-SORTED STANDARD  
ECRWSS  
U.S. POSTAGE PAID  
Sisters, OR  
Permit No. 15

Vol. XLIV No. 45

www.NuggetNews.com

Wednesday, November 17, 2021



The larch trees along the Metolius River have put on a spectacular fall display in recent weeks as autumn heads toward winter.

PHOTO BY BILL BARTLETT

## Foundation launches campaign

By Jim Cornelius  
Editor in Chief

For over two decades, the Sisters community has enhanced the educational experience of Sisters students through donations to the Sisters Schools Foundation (SSF).

Currently SSF is in the midst of its fall donation campaign to fund a range of educational needs in all three Sisters schools that fall outside the school district's

regular budget. Teachers make requests for high-priority items and programs, which are reviewed and acted upon by the Foundation.

Such needs include COVID-related tools for individualized classroom spaces, an outside PE system, and more at Sisters Elementary School. Sisters Middle School is seeking support for the Student Leadership Outlaw Spirit Program and the Scholastic Scope Reading Comprehension Program.

Sisters High School needs art supplies for distance learning, woodshop building materials, biology bird-study guide books, and more (*visit <http://ssd6.org/ssf> for more information*).

Teacher salaries and other compensation are not funded by SSF.

The Foundation's work provides a significant boost to programs.

"This year we gave a total

See **FOUNDATION** on page 19

## Sisters man swept up in drug raids

A 48-year-old Sisters area man — as yet unidentified by law enforcement — was among those swept up in a long-term investigation into the manufacturing and distribution of controlled substances within the Central Oregon area.

The investigation involved the Deschutes County Illegal Marijuana Enforcement team and the Deschutes County

Sheriff's Office Street Crimes Unit.

On November 11, around 9:30 a.m., Central Oregon Drug Enforcement Detectives executed three search warrants in Bend, Sisters, and Terrebonne. These locations included the 6000 Block of NW 10th Street in Terrebonne, the 17000 block

See **DRUG RAIDS** on page 19

## Planners hear case for development in Sisters

By Sue Stafford  
Correspondent

A project that would add approximately 359 new housing units to Sisters got a hearing before the Sisters Planning Commission on Wednesday, November 10. No final decisions were made: Commissioners voted in favor of continuing the hearing on the Sisters Woodlands project to Thursday, December 2, at 5:30 p.m.

The oral and written records pertaining to the Woodlands Master Plan are closed; the purpose of the special December 2 meeting will be to allow the Commissioners time to deliberate on approval,

approval with conditions, or rejection of the Woodlands application, and whether it should be referred to City Council for their review.

The four files making up the development's application are a request for a 186-lot mixed-use development on the middle section (31.56 acres) of the former Forest Service Sisters Ranger District headquarters property. The Woodlands would consist of approximately 359 residential units including cottages, townhouses (some with accessory dwelling units below), apartments, a congregate housing facility, mixed-use commercial, approximately 44,000

See **HEARING** on page 16

## Reactions to Sisters Woodlands mixed

By Sue Stafford  
Correspondent

Sisters residents who signed in and commented during the Sisters Planning Commission meeting on the Sisters Woodlands project on Wednesday, November 10, were fairly evenly divided between those who supported the project and those who had objections.

The proposed development would add some 359 residential units of varying kinds to Sisters. (*See related story, at left.*)

Via Zoom, Dixie Eckford asked if there is going to be any type of fencing around or within the development. The applicant responded the only fencing will be between the Woodlands and the point of land on the corner of North Pine and Highway 20

being retained by the Forest Service. The entire development will be open, with walking paths crossing the property. Eckford said she appreciated the applicant's thoroughness in creating their application.

Gary Leiser, who has been a vocal opponent of the development, stated, "I have great reservations about this project." He listed three major objections, the first being that the plan "flies in the face of City goals, obliterating any natural beauty." He said with the Woodlands development, the new apartments being built behind Dollar General, and encouraging more industry on the north side of town, the city will be "paralyzed."

"Who wants to live in or visit a traffic jam?" he queried. He was concerned that

the Woodlands will require "a huge withdrawal of water."

"It is ill-conceived and not in the best interests of the city," he concluded, adding that the size of the project should be drastically reduced.

Public Works Director Paul Bertagna reported that the Woodlands will utilize water-wise procedures.

"We have a robust, powerful aquifer under us. In tests, it recharges in seconds, not minutes. We drilled the new well to create more capacity, not because we're running out of water," reported Bertagna.

In the staff report presented by Scott Woodford of the City of Sisters Community Development

See **REACTIONS** on page 11

## Inside...

Letters/Weather ..... 2 Obituaries ..... 5 Events ..... 11 Crossword ..... 19 Sudoku ..... 21  
Meetings ..... 3 Announcements ..... 10 Thanksgiving ..... 12-13 Classifieds ..... 20-21 Real Estate ..... 21-24