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Firefighters get live-fire training in Sisters

By Jim Cornelius
Editor in Chief

You just can't replicate the heat, the feeling of being in a building that's on fire," Sisters Fire Chief Roger Johnson told *The Nugget* on Sunday, as teams of firefighters entered smoking buildings in a live-fire training exercise. "You just can't replicate that kind of training."

Firefighters and other personnel from Sisters, Cloverdale, Black Butte Ranch, Bend, Redmond, and Crooked River Ranch engaged in extensive training drills on property that is now part of the Sisters Woodlands development just off Pine Street on the west side of Sisters, on Sunday, February 13. The developers offered structures that were formerly part of the Sisters Ranger District facilities on the site for use in the training exercise.

Firefighters practiced search and rescue skills along with fire attack, ventilation, and exposure protection in the day-long session, which will be repeated on Sunday, February 20.

Chief Johnson noted that the session was also an opportunity to train live-fire instructors. They learn how



PHOTO BY JERRY BALDOCK

Dozens of firefighters trained in search and rescue and fire suppression in a training exercise at the future site of Sisters Woodlands. The exercise continues next Sunday.

to prepare a building for safe training scenarios and how to organize a successful training session.

Johnson expressed appreciation to developers Paul Hodge and Paul and Carla Schneider of Sisters for making the training opportunity possible.

"It's getting harder to get acquired structures," Chief Johnson explained.

A good "burn to learn" location needs to be a safe distance from neighbors, and operations can only be conducted during times of year when fire spread is not a significant danger — which is a

short window nowadays. The Sisters Woodlands location fit the bill.

"It's an exceptional location and a great opportunity," Chief Johnson said. "We're very grateful that the developer saved it for us."

See LIVE-FIRE on page 6

Spa owner hit with \$14,000 in fines

By Jim Cornelius
Editor in Chief

Mike Boyle of Sisters has been hit with significant fines by the Oregon Board of Massage Therapists (OBMT). Boyle is facing civil and criminal charges in association with alleged actions committed at Hop in the Spa in Sisters.

Jeff Van Laanen, compliance and licensing manager for OBMT, told *The Nugget* last week that the board met in executive session on January 31, and elected to charge Boyle with 13 violations of ORS 687.021 (1) (a) (practicing massage without a license); and one violation of ORS 687.021 (1) (c) (improperly advertising that the person engages in the practice of massage). The violations carry a total of \$14,000 in civil penalties.

Boyle is expected to enter a plea on multiple criminal charges on February 17.

See FINES on page 13

City investigating new tourism model

By Sue Stafford
Correspondent

Sisters is moving toward a holistic approach to tourism, considering the benefits for the visitors balanced with the quality of life for the residents. The City Council and City staff are investigating a fairly recent development in the tourism industry known as destination management.

Destination management involves coordinating tourist activities across multiple agencies, businesses, and organizations to manage visitor impacts on the area while improving livability for the local residents.

Council President Nancy Connolly explained the

Council's interest in exploring destination management.

"Council is looking at destination management because it is the right time to be thoughtful regarding visitors. It is time to harness the state-mandated Transient Lodging Tax (TLT) to benefit residents and visitors. Destination Management Organizations (DMOs) are a cultural shift addressing tourism.

"The goal is not to 'bring more people,' the goal is to bring people who share our culture and values and to provide a sustainable year-round tourism base. As stewards of public funds, and in

See MODEL on page 8

Sisters marks passing of Glenn Miller

Glenn Miller, a long-time Sisters builder and leader of the Sisters Rodeo, died last week after a long period of ill health.

The Sisters Rodeo Association made the announcement, reflecting on the giant boot prints Miller made in the Sisters arena.

"Holding the position as our rodeo president for 21 years he invested so much of his life into our organization," the association statement noted. "There may be a few other people who have dedicated as much of their lives to Sisters Rodeo as Glenn Miller in the rodeo's 83-year history, but there is no one else who has led the rodeo with more vision and inspiration than him."

Miller first served as Sisters Rodeo Association



PHOTO PROVIDED

Glenn Miller had a tremendous impact on Sisters Rodeo and the Sisters community at large.

President in 1988. During that term of service he convinced the board of directors to join the Professional

Rodeo Cowboys Association (PRCA). He was elected

See MILLER on page 15

Inside...

Letters/Weather..... 2	Announcements.....10	Fun & Games.....17	Classifieds.....19-21	Real Estate21-24
Meetings 3	Entertainment 11	Crossword18	City Snapshot21	Obituaries 22