

BRIEFS

Coats for Kids drive collecting winter clothes this month in Silverton

Silverton community members and businesses are participating in the annual Coats for Kids Drive going on now through Wednesday, Oct. 23.

The drive seeks the donation of new or gently used coats, jackets, sweat-shirts, hoodies, hats, scarves and mittens for the youth of the community.

Items of all sizes are needed, as many teens wear adult sizes, organizers said, pointing out coats for boys are especially needed as they tend to be more scarcely donated.

Area businesses, churches, classrooms, organizations and individuals are encourages to participate. Organizers say over 35 groups have participated in this event every year since it began in 2002.

Items may be dropped off any Tuesday or Thursday from 9 a.m. to noon at the Community Services Clothing Center located behind Silverton Community Seventh-day Adventist Church, 1159 Oak St.

Silverton Together will also serve as a drop off location from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Monday through Friday, at the Community Center located at 421 S Water St.

Past drives have yielded approximately 600 coats that are distributed to

those in need, according to a release. Volunteers at the Community Services Clothing Center will distribute the coats from 9 a.m. to noon Thursday, Nov. 7.

There are 40 total locations accepting donations for the “Coats for Kids Drive.” For a full list, go to www.silvertontogogether.org.

For more information, contact Jan Holowati with Silverton Together at 503-873-0405.

Habitat for Humanity set for Oct. 19

North Willamette Valley Habitat for Humanity is hosting its biggest fundraiser of the year on Oct. 19.

Tickets are available for the Framing the Future Dinner and Auction, set for 5 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 19, at Mt. Angel Festhalle, 500 Wilco Hwy. NE.

Cost is \$50 per person or \$400 per table of eight.

The event will feature a silent auction and live auction, program and a buffet-style dinner from Zest Catering.

The fundraiser helps North Willamette Valley Habitat for Humanity assist local families in accessing affordable housing.

For more information or to purchase tickets, go to nwvhabitat.org/events/2019-framing-future-dinner-auction.

Backpack

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ting feedback on the proposal.”

The public can comment on the plan from Wednesday until Nov. 25. Public comments can be sent to: **Willamette-RecFeeComments@usda.gov**.

Multiple backpackers said charging both per person, and per night, was too much.

“I believe that there should be a family fee rather than charging families as if you had four separate adults,” said longtime hiker Gordon Banks.

Weinheimer pointed out that Oregon’s current permit system — for Obsidian Trail and Pamela Lake — only requires paying for one group permit at a flat price per night.

“You just pay per night for the permit which encompasses up to 12 people. That makes more sense to me,” she said.

Overall, the concern was that locals would be unable to go on their normal

backpacking trips.

“In my perception, our area isn’t as iconic or as busy as a place like Glacier, but maybe that’s all relative,” Sulak said. “What makes a place like Glacier more worth protecting with expensive permits, or on the contrary, what makes the Three Sisters ‘less worth it?’ I don’t know, but as a local, it’s hard to swallow that a lot of other locals simply can’t afford to go there anymore.”

Peterson said the Forest Service is leaving all options on the table. If enough people comment about the high cost of backpacking trips — or are looking for a family discount — the agency will consider it.

“This is the time to let us know what you think,” he said.

Others said they were OK with the proposed fees.

“I believe they are fair prices,” said wilderness photographer Jeff Green. “The wilderness areas will see reduced human impact and improve user experiences. I’m all for it. And quite honestly, if it’s not somebody else’s idea of enjoying



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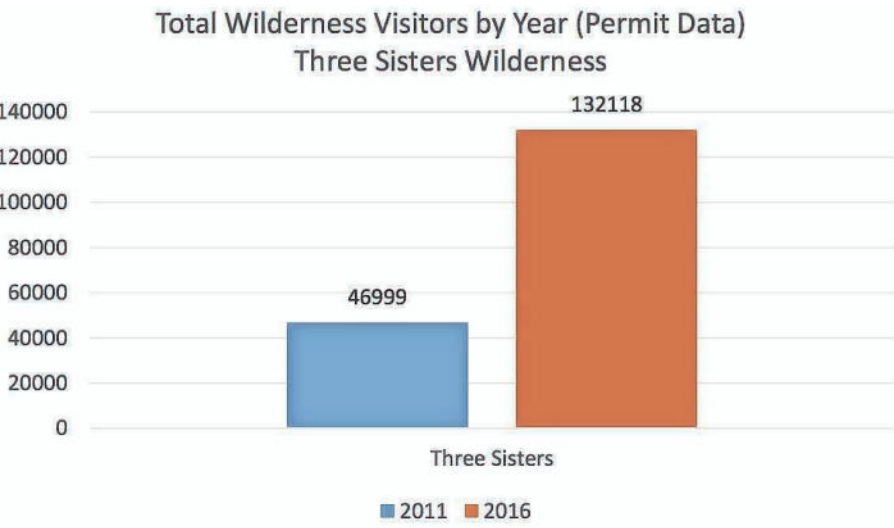
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Graph shows increase in visitors to Three Sisters Wilderness. US FOREST SERVICE

the great outdoors, there will still be hundreds of other non-permit areas in Oregon to recreate in.”

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Forest Service officials also said they planned on “partnering with nonprofit organizations to make fee-free permits available to anyone deterred from visiting because of the cost,” Deschutes National Forest spokeswoman Jean Nelson-Dean said.

Either way, the days of \$5 buying backpackers weeks of wilderness bliss is likely coming to an end in the vast wilderness between the Three Sisters and Mount Jefferson.

Campfire ban, PCT hikers, hunting exemptions

In addition to the permit system, officials made a few other changes in place for 2020.

- Thru-hikers traveling more than 500 miles on the Pacific Crest Trail will be allowed to camp in PCT corridor — within a quarter mile of the trail. However, PCT hikers will be prohibited from camping in a few areas, including Jefferson Park and Obsidian Limited Entry Area.

- All campfires will be banned above 5,700 feet in the three wilderness areas.

- The trailhead for Broken Top will be pulled back to Road 370, tacking on an extra 1.3 miles of hiking.

- Hunters with a High Cascade deer or elk rifle season hunting tag will be exempt from the permit requirement. Those with a general archery deer hunting license will also be exempt from the day-use permit.

Zach Urness has been an outdoors reporter, photographer and videographer in Oregon for 11 years. Urness is the author of “Best Hikes with Kids: Oregon” and “Hiking Southern Oregon.” He can be reached at zurness@StatesmanJournal.com or (503) 399-6801. Find him on Twitter at @ZachsORoutdoors.

Medicare Event
Wednesday, Oct 23rd 2:00PM

Medicare
2020 Review

Comparing
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Location: Silverton Senior Center

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