

## Vandals strike on Whychus Creek

Recent vandalism to an area near Whychus Creek is causing erosion into the creek and impacting stream banks and the scenic beauty of the area, according to Forest Service officials.

About a week ago, a volunteer River Steward reported to the Forest Service that vandals had destroyed a scenic area near the Whychus Creek trail.

Eleven large boulders had been dug out of a steep bank below the trail and pushed down an embankment creating unstable soil, which is vulnerable to erosion from winter rains. Since the first report of the damage, Sisters Ranger District employees have worked to assess and repair some of the damage.

The trail was built in 2011 and has been a key part of managing recreation use and building community stewardship of Whychus Creek, which is a designated Wild and Scenic River.

“We have received great community support through our volunteer River Stewards as well as major fundraising efforts such as the Quilt for Two Rivers, Ride for Two Rivers and the annual Plain Air Paint Out. The River Stewards help maintain the area and the fundraising efforts helped to restore Whychus Creek and

its stream banks. It is so disheartening to see this senseless damage, particularly for those who have contributed to this important stewardship effort,” said Kristie Miller, Sisters District Ranger.

To get involved with trail stewardship or become a River Steward on Whychus Creek or the Metolius River, contact [vicechair@sisterstrails.com](mailto:vicechair@sisterstrails.com).

Or contact Amy Racki, recreation team lead for the Sisters Ranger District, at 541-549-7730 to find out more information on how you can help in land stewardship.

“We’re so grateful for the help we receive because we can’t do it alone. We depend on volunteers and observant recreationists who treasure these places to help us watch

over them. If you see something happening that doesn’t seem right, please say something and call us,” said Miller.

Damaging a natural feature is a violation of Federal law. If anyone has information about the incident or observes other illegal activities on the National Forest, call the Sisters Ranger District at 541-549-7700.

## Business at a glance

• **Sisters City Council** has asked staff to start sending the **Sisters Area Chamber of Commerce** land-use notices so that the Chamber can forward them on to members. The move is part of an effort to improve public outreach and let as many people as possible know about land-use applications.

Meet our latest  
**commitment**  
to your health.

*John Winters, MD,  
Michael (Andy) Monticelli, MD  
and Stacie Koehler, MD*



**St. Charles Cancer Center is pleased to welcome John Winters, MD, Michael (Andy) Monticelli, MD and Stacie Koehler, PA-C, to its team.**

The three providers are excited to join the established St. Charles Cancer Center group where they can provide compassionate care to cancer patients throughout the region.

Dr. Monticelli completed his training at the University of Colorado and practiced in Eugene for 16 years before moving to Central Oregon. Dr. Winters trained at the University of Oklahoma and recently completed his fellowship at Fletcher Allen Health Care at the University of Vermont. Koehler received her masters of physician assistant studies from the University of Nebraska Medical Center and worked for a practice in Medford before moving to Bend.

All three providers are active outdoor enthusiasts who are committed to providing holistic care that combines the best in cancer treatment with lifestyle and behavior modifications to help control cancer symptoms.

To make an appointment, call St. Charles Cancer Center at **541-706-5800**.

## Oregon K-12 enrollment up slightly this school year

PORTLAND (AP) — The state Department of Education reports that 570,857 students enrolled in K-12 public schools last fall, a gain of less than one percent from 2013-14.

Of Oregon’s 197 school districts, 58 percent had an enrollment increase, 41 percent saw a decrease and 1 percent had no change.

Portland remains the largest district with 47,647 students, followed by Salem-Keizer, Beaverton and Hillsboro. North Clackamas edged Bend-La Pine and Eugene for the fifth spot.

Hispanic students now represent 22 percent of the overall student population. Deputy Superintendent Rob Saxton said in a news release Wednesday that educators must adapt to the demographic changes because the state’s future depends on closing the achievement gap.

**541-706-5800**

2500 NE NEFF RD. BEND, OR  
[StCharlesHealthCare.org](http://StCharlesHealthCare.org)

