

Montessori preschool
launched page 9



Sisters is home to
oldest living cat page 18



BBR police marks 25
years' service page 29



The Nugget

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City has struggled with affordable housing

By Sue Stafford
Correspondent

The issue of affordable housing is nothing new in Sisters. In early 2008 the Sisters City Council provided direction to have the Sisters Housing Plan developed by an outside contractor.

The City's concerns back in 2008 were identical to the ones still being discussed in 2015. The Sisters Housing Plan, adopted in January

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Shootout...



PHOTO BY JERRY BALDOCK

No, that's not Sisters... it's the Earps shooting it out with the Cow Boy faction at the O.K. Corral in the Arizona Territory, circa 1881. See story, page 24.

City and ODOT near roundabout agreement

By Sue Stafford
Correspondent

With the successful completion of the Cascade Avenue improvement project under their belts, the City of Sisters and Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) are currently in the process of crafting a Cooperative Improvement Agreement for the intersection of State Highway 20 with Barclay Drive and McKinney Butte Road.

At the August 20 City

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Forest is home to 'industrial' site

By Jim Anderson
Correspondent

Log trucks once rolled through Sisters in great numbers. Not anymore. From the paucity of log rigs, one might think the U.S. Forest Service was out of business — but they're not.

One of the factors that makes our forest valuable — aside from providing wildlife habitat and recreation opportunities — is the diversity of life one can find among all those magnificent trees.

The evidence of all that diversity came to light recently with a call to *The Nugget* from a concerned forest-user regarding what he thought was a messy camping site along Rd. 1217, west of the Metolius River.

Special Forest Products Officer and Forest Protection

Officer Jeremy Fields responded to questions about the reported trash at what appears to be an abandoned campsite. What came out of a meeting with Fields was a surprise — and a good look at how the Forest Service carries out its business.

What the concerned citizen thought was a "messy camping site" is actually a regulated, pay-for-use industrial site used by mushroom-pickers in season. It is presently being used by pinecone-pickers.

Many of the mushroom-pickers are Thai, as Fields noted.

There are frame structures made of poles there, and a black plastic hut that looks out of place in the forest, but upon inspecting the

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El Niño predictions don't bode well

By Ron Thorkildson
Correspondent

After two winters in a row of warm and extremely dry weather here in the Pacific Northwest, many residents have more than a passing interest in the forecast for the upcoming 2015-16 season.

They want to know if a more normal winter is in the offing that might alleviate worsening drought conditions and put some snow in the mountains. According to a growing number of meteorologists and climatologists the answer is probably no.

There is mounting evidence that a strong El Niño is developing in the central and eastern Pacific Ocean. Should this actually occur, it will likely impact various regions of the country in different ways. In California it's a good news/bad news scenario. A more northerly displaced subtropical jet stream

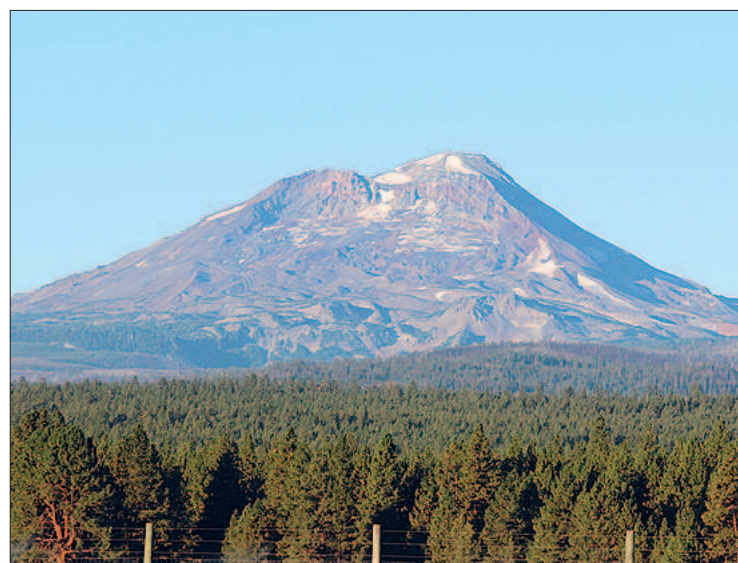


PHOTO BY RON THORKILDSON

Will the upcoming winter season blanket our bare mountains with much-needed snow?

should carry moisture-laden storms across the southern part of the state, helping to ease the extreme drought. But too much rain can also cause a lot of damage from mudslides.

In the Midwest and East Coast it means a reduced

chance of frequent and prolonged outbreaks of arctic air. And the Gulf Coast and Eastern Seaboard should see fewer hurricanes.

For the Pacific Northwest, however, it means more of

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