## YCC offering summer jobs

## By Craig F. Eisenbeis Correspondent

The Central Oregon Youth Conservation Corps (COYCC) is currently accepting applications for nearly 100 summer jobs, and one of the crews will be based here in Sisters. Amy Racki, the Forest Service's recreation team leader for the Sisters Ranger District, made the local announcement and said that applicants must be 16 to 18 years of age.

"These programs offer youth a great opportunity to be employed, work in and learn about the management of their national forests, and provide a sense of accomplishment and confidence," said Racki. "In addition, the Forest Service is able to complete additional projects on the ground that benefit both the public and the environment.'

COYCC operates under the auspices of Heart of Oregon Corps, a local Bendbased nonprofit, which provides natural-resource employment and on-the-job education for conservation projects on the Ochoco and **Deschutes National Forests** and the Crooked River National Grassland.

The COYCC jobs will pay minimum wage, and work will be nine hours a day, Monday through Thursday for a total of 36 hours per week from June 27 to August 18. Racki said that the work will include projects such as stream channel restoration, trail maintenance and construction, road decommissionings, hand-thinning of trees and reforestation, bridge repairs, maintaining fences, piling hazardous fuels, restoring campgrounds, improving wildlife habitat, and other types of conservation work.

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"The Sisters Ranger District does a fantastic job of diversifying the handson experience that the youth take part in," Racki said. She emphasized that the program not only provides work experience for the area's young people, but it also directly benefits the community and the local environment.

COYCC applications are

being accepted now through May 1. In addition to work experience and wages earned, the program also offers opportunities for school credit and college scholarships, while also exploring posthigh-school opportunities and careers. In addition to Sisters, crews will also be based in Crescent, La Pine, Bend, Redmond, Prineville, Madras, and Warm Springs. Applicants are also required to attend a one- to two-hour orientation prior to employment.

Applications are available online at www.heart oforegon.org. The Central Oregon Youth Conservation Corps program is operated by Heart of Oregon Corps, in partnership with the Central Oregon Intergovernmental Council and the U.S. Forest Service. Funding for the 2016 program includes support from the United States Forest Service, United Way of Deschutes County, and the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs.

For further information. contact COYCC Summer Program Coordinator Yancy Wilkenfeldt at 541-633-7834, extension 24, or Forest Service YCC Coordinator Paul Smith at 541-416-6431. Questions may also be directed to coycc@heart oforegon.org.

## Sisters Rodeo work parties begin

Sisters Rodeo work parties kicked off the season with 40 rodeo members and volunteers starting the tasks for the 2016 rodeo, the second weekend in June.

The infamous "painting crew" was in the bleachers putting a new coat of paint on rails while manpower began checking the boardwalks for replacement of weathered timber.

Another big crew was burning waste and downed trees in the newly dug sixfoot-deep fire pit, while other workers cleared the stock pens of debris and weeds.

In the clubhouse, Amanda Kempton-Fildes and her assistant began an inventory of merchandise to set up the UPI sales scanners that will be introduced this year to improve sales time in the Rodeo Trading Post.

The rodeo board of directors was very pleased with this first Saturday turnout, and happily noted how much was accomplished on the first day.

Sisters Rodeo has a reputation for being among the most beautiful settings and grounds in the West. The rodeo welcomes community members who want to volunteer at the work parties or during the rodeo. Work parties are held every Saturday from 8:30 a.m. to 1 p.m., with lunch served.



