

**Featuring student art...**



PHOTO PROVIDED

Sisters Middle School students Adrienne Steffen and Brody Duey have their art featured on the spring Voters Pamphlet for Deschutes County. County Clerk Nancy Blankenship visited the school last Friday to present the students in Norma Pledger's class with awards for their efforts.

**HABITAT: Acquisition is part of Whychus campaign**

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own and manage the property for its highest ecological and educational benefit. This agreement provides a clear path forward toward that goal. Now we just need to raise the necessary funds via The Campaign for Whychus Creek to ensure we're in position to realize that initial vision."

Rimrock Ranch is an integral part of the Land Trust's larger conservation efforts on Whychus Creek. The Land Trust has protected eight miles of Whychus Creek and more than 2,200 acres of adjacent floodplains, wetlands, and forests. The Campaign for Whychus Creek will help the Land Trust purchase, protect, and care for important wildlife habitat on Whychus Creek, including those found at Rimrock Ranch. The Land Trust hopes to raise the remaining \$1.9 million in private fundraising by the end of the Campaign in June 2017.

the Land Trust's goal for The Campaign for Whychus Creek, launched in the fall of 2014, is to finish protecting the highest-quality wildlife habitat along Whychus Creek, ensure the permanent stewardship of those lands for generations to come, and engage the community along the way. In the first year-and-a-half of the Campaign, the Land Trust protected two new parcels of land along Whychus Creek. They acquired the 480-acre addition to Whychus Canyon Preserve in October 2014 and the 58-acre Aspen Hollow Preserve in April of 2015.

For more information on Deschutes Land Trust, call 541-330-0017 or visit [www.deschuteslandtrust.org](http://www.deschuteslandtrust.org).

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**CITY: Improvements underway at Creekside Park**

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Living in Sisters — How to Get Involved.

- Restrooms, like those located at Fir Street Park, will be installed this summer at Clemens Park in the southeast corner of the park.

- The City is seeking a volunteer to fill a vacancy on the Parks Advisory Board. The applicant may be a high school student who has time to attend 4 p.m. meetings the first Wednesday of each month or an adult resident of Sisters Country. Applications are available on the City website, [www.ci.sisters.or.us](http://www.ci.sisters.or.us), under Living in Sisters — How to Get Involved.

- The possibility of installing shade sails at Fir Street Park, which currently lacks any kind of shade at all times of the day, is being investigated by the public works department.

- Public works wants to remind everyone that road construction season is coming up and asks citizens to be mindful of equipment and workers on the city streets and roads. Please give them a "brake."

- Drive by Creekside Campground and take a look at all the improvements made by public works to the Locust Street side of the campground, in response to almost two years of meetings and public hearings conducted by the Parks Advisory

Board. They have enlarged and extended the earthen berm and planted 25 large blue spruce trees on it to help screen the campground from the adjoining neighborhood. The old exit has been removed and the existing entrance has been widened to allow for both entering and exiting from one location. Several camping sites located next to Locust have been removed and several others have been shortened to reduce the size of motorhomes able to use those sites.

- The online reservation system for Creekside Campground is performing well. The number of phone calls to the City regarding reservations has been greatly reduced, saving staff time. There are already 1,400 nights reserved, and reservations only started March 1.

- ODOT is moving forward on the planned roundabout for the intersection at Highway 20 and McKinney Butte Road, by Ray's Food Place and the Best Western Ponderosa Lodge. Right-of-way work is underway and ODOT plans to hold focus-group meetings, starting with the businesses closest to the roundabout. They will also be engaging the community, much as they did on the Cascade Avenue project. Construction is projected to begin in 2017.

- The Army Corps of Engineers is beginning a two-year study of the Carver Lake moraine dam, which is located above Sisters in the Whychus Creek watershed.

They will be making presentations to the community regarding the study and why it is being undertaken.

- City Council is preparing to adopt a resolution supporting the Speak Your Peace Sisters Civility Project. They are joining a number of other local businesses and organizations in this community-wide effort.

- In May, a grand opening will be held to celebrate 1.1 miles of accessible trail on the Peterson Ridge Trail near the new scenic overlook. It is the first ADA trail in the Sisters Ranger District and was funded by a grant from the National Forest Foundation. Sisters Trails Alliance assisted in its construction and is providing signage and benches.

- Work on an update to the Transportation System Plan will begin in July and the City will be looking for citizens to serve on the committee.

- Infrastructure improvements on Hood Avenue have been completed. The underground power and irrigation systems are all on the City grid now. The ADA ramp replacements are complete and repaving should be complete this week. The Sisters Arts Association is working with Travel Oregon and the Chamber of Commerce to create an arts district on Hood.

- The Deschutes County Bike and Pedestrian Advisory Committee has an opening for a representative from Sisters. If interested contact Wendy Holzman, [wendomere@gmail.com](mailto:wendomere@gmail.com).

**THE CAMPAIGN FOR WHYCHUS CREEK**

Flowing from snowy mountains, through pine forests and creekside meadows . . . Whychus Creek IS Central Oregon. Donate to the Campaign for Whychus Creek today: [deschuteslandtrust.org/campaign](http://deschuteslandtrust.org/campaign)

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