

City forester gathering data on trees

By Jim Cornelius
News Editor

City contract forester Dan Galecki and two assistants have been out on the streets of Sisters in recent days, mapping and assessing all of the city-owned trees in the City of Sisters right-of-way. They are building a database that will help the City monitor the health of trees more efficiently in the coming years.

“A lot of municipalities do this all over the country,” Galecki told *The Nugget*. “It’s a money-saver and a time-saver.”

The foresters are recording the attributes of each tree — its condition, GPS coordinates, and address. Each tree is evaluated for its percentage of compromise. With this information in a database that can readily be queried, foresters can pinpoint which trees need particular attention, which trees are more likely to suffer damage from storms, etc. So, instead of having to drive around looking for troubled trees, foresters now have the information about where to go and what to look for at

their fingertips.

Connor MacGeehan and Rebecca Franklin are assisting Galecki with the work.

“We’ll be walking around the streets or driving,” Galecki said. “We’ll walk up to trees and we’ll take measurements and a GPS coordinate.”

The project, which was approved by the City’s

forestry board, is expected to run through fall and wrap up in December. The database will be active and dynamic for years to come as trees grow or decline.

Local folks who encounter the foresters out and about on their rounds are encouraged to ask any questions they may have about the project.

Tailgate parties set to boost Outlaws spirit

Members of Westside Church and Sisters High School are injecting a little extra Outlaws spirit into the football season this fall.

At each home game, they are inviting folks to come out to the teachers’ parking lot at the high school for a barbecue

and tailgate party.

Westside Church is providing a barbecue, but folks are welcome to bring their own.

Jerry Kaping explained the simple premise.

“What we want to do is celebrate the Outlaws and build community,” he said.



Ore. location eliminated in search for geothermal lab site

BEND (AP) — A site near Oregon’s Newberry Volcano is no longer in the running for a federal enhanced geothermal research laboratory.

The Bulletin reports that the decision by the U.S. Department of Energy left sites in Utah and Nevada competing for the lab.

The department put \$29 million into research by a Sandia National Laboratories team in Fallon, Nevada, and the University of Utah’s team in Milford, Utah. The investment is meant to help the organizations prepare for an underground geothermal research lab.

Developers and researchers in Central Oregon say they are surprised and disappointed that the Newberry Geothermal Energy site didn’t make it to the next round.

The location near the volcano was leased by Seattle-based AltaRock Energy Inc.

“I didn’t want to be a patient anymore. I wanted to be an athlete again.”

~Geoff Babb, brain stem stroke survivor

In 2005, Geoff Babb had a brain stem stroke. A 30-year veteran wildland fire fighter, Geoff was very active before his stroke. After months of rehabilitation, he started riding at Healing Reins. In the beginning, two volunteers were required to hold him on the horse. Now Geoff’s new normal is that he is able to ride independently. “When I am on a horse, I feel a lot of freedom ... that I can move.”

Dita Keith, executive director of Healing Reins, said the partnership with St. Charles helps the equine therapy center accomplish its mission. “We are able to help people like Geoff realize their dreams,” she said.

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