

# Winter closures enacted to protect wildlife

Forest Road 16 at Upper Three Creek Sno-Park and Forest Road 700 in the Three Creek Winter Recreation Area, both on the Sisters Ranger District, are now gated for the winter season.

December 1 also marked the beginning of critical habitat closures for deer and elk winter range across the forest. This closure includes all motorized vehicles (including snowmobiles and electric bicycles) and has been put in place to protect deer and elk during the winter.

These protected areas usually have minimal amounts of snow-cover and provide vegetation for forage, hiding, cover and protection from weather. There are four of these closure areas on the Deschutes National Forest — Cabin/Silver Lake, Metolius Winter Range, Opine Travel Management Area and Tumalo Winter Range.

For more information, including maps of these areas, visit the “What is winter range?” section at: [www.fs.usda.gov](http://www.fs.usda.gov).

The public is reminded to be cautious when driving on all forest roads in the winter months. Not all roads will be gated, and those that are blocked by snow or water should be considered impassable for public safety as well as the protection of natural resources. The public needs to be prepared at all times,

whether it is a short or long journey into the forest. Take all precautions as weather and road conditions can change rapidly. Be prepared for winter driving, limited sight distance and bumpy driving on all Forest Service roads.

## LETTERS

*Continued from page 2*

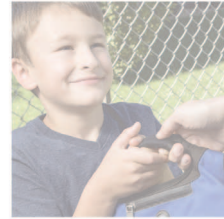
sides of the pit are not high enough to stop stray bullets, many of which can travel for miles.

The Jimerson trail was built when the pit was being used by a private business. When that company subsequently abandoned the pit, it gradually became a place for target practice. While the pre-existing trail, built with Forest Service approval, could be moved, we can't move Crossroads, or Trout Butte Creek, or surrounding roads. Shooters, on the other hand, have several other locations they can safely use for target practice in Sisters

Country. The Ranger District office in Sisters will give out maps showing how to get to the Zimmerman Cinder Pit, Fourmile Butte Cinder Pit, Melvin Cinder Pit and Pole Creek Cinder Pit — all safe and approved places for target shooting.

I fully support the right to bear arms and the many responsible shooters who are not using this unsafe location for target practice. Shooters who are using McKenzie Pit would do everyone in our community a big service by switching to an approved pit. No one wants to see anyone, especially a child, injured or killed by a stray bullet when it is so easy to prevent.

Chuck Humphreys



Community in the Park

“ St. Charles is a valuable partner to us. They support our event in multiple ways and serve side-by-side with us.”

~Gary Buss, Community in the Park organizer

In Jefferson County, more than one-third of community members live below the poverty level. And a recent survey ranked it as one of the least healthy counties in the state.

To change those statistics for the better, Faith Based Network started Community in the Park — a one-day event where dental exams, haircuts, clothes, blood pressure and blood sugar checks, auto and bike repair, car washes and more are all offered at no charge.

Whether discovering someone is pre-diabetic and connecting that person to health services or fixing a neighbor's car so he or she can get to work, the volunteers make a difference. Community in the Park is all about meeting practical and critical needs, providing support, having fun and, most of all, connecting with one another.

Creating America's healthiest community,

# together.



[StCharlesHealthCare.org/Together](http://StCharlesHealthCare.org/Together)

### Touch of Class Tours

[www.touchofclasstours.com](http://www.touchofclasstours.com)  
[connie@touchofclasstours.com](mailto:connie@touchofclasstours.com)

**WINNEMUCCA 4-DAY/  
3-NIGHT NEW YEAR'S TOUR**  
 DEC. 30-JAN 2 | \$119 PPDO  
 Receive \$30 free slot play and \$15 food coupons.

**WINNEMUCCA**  
 FEB 24-26 | \$89 PPDO  
 Deluxe motorcoach transportation. 2 nights, \$30 in free slot play, and \$15 in food coupons!

**RENO/LAUGHLIN/DEATH VALLEY**  
 MARCH 19-26 | PRICE TBA  
 8 days/7 nights on this tour to a very requested destination!

**OR CASINOS (VISIT 5 CASINOS)**  
 APRIL 12-14 | \$279 PPDO  
 One night Ashley Inn in Lincoln City, One night The Mill Casino in Coos Bay. Receive one breakfast, food coupons, more!

**AMERICAN QUEEN STEAMBOAT RIVER CRUISE!**  
 MAY 6-16 | START AT \$3,164 PPDO  
 Cruising from Memphis, TN to New Orleans, LA. Includes two pre-cruise nights in Memphis and one post-cruise night in New Orleans, air, taxes, transfers, tours (Graceland, etc.), shore excursions, beverages!

**PENDLETON "COME TO LIFE" TOUR**  
 MAY 19-20 | \$289 PPDO  
 75 actors bring the underground past back to life! Includes breakfast, 1 dinner, Pendleton Woolen Mills.



**Connie Boyle**  
 541-508-1500  
 Box 615 Sisters,  
 OR 97759