

## Nordic team hard at it in snow

By **Charlie Kanzig**  
Correspondent

The Sisters High School Nordic ski team has been hard at it again this season, and with the state meet approaching at the end of the month Coach Kelly Crowther is pleased with his team's progress thus far.

In their most recent competition at the XC Oregon Invitational, January 28 at Mount Bachelor, the Outlaws girls placed 10th with 114 points. The boys team, with one skier, did not get a team score.

Engracia Diez completed

the 5,000-meter course in 24:04 to lead the scorers for Sisters. Tate Ricker came through in 28:36, while Caitlin Schwab made it across the line in 35:21. Liv Downing, a national-class skier competing for Summit, won the race in a stellar time of 13:55.

For the freshmen boys, Samuel Thorsett clocked 18:33 as the sole entrant for Sisters, finishing near the middle of the pack.

The Outlaws raced at Diamond Lake on January 7 and at Hoodoo January 21, and look forward to hosting the annual Hood Night Race

on February 16, sponsored by Sporthill, according to Coach Crowther.

"Everyone is getting better with each race and gaining more confidence in their skiing," he said.

The season concludes with the State Meet at Mt. Bachelor on Friday and Saturday, February 24 and 25. All teams from the Southern Division and the Northern Division will be eligible to compete.

"Our league includes everything from expert skiers to absolute beginners, so our focus this year is on improving from week to week," Crowther said.

## Charges filed in Sunriver shooting incident

Deschutes County District Attorney John Hummel has filed charges stemming from a New Year's Day shooting in Sunriver. The DA's office announced the move on Monday, February 6.

Mikhail Mykhaylovich Pitsual, a 21-year old resident of Antelope, California, was charged with five counts of recklessly endangering another and one count of pointing a firearm at another.

According to the DA's office, Pitsual and numerous friends and family members rented a house in Sunriver for the New Year's holiday. At approximately 2 a.m. on New Year's Day it is alleged that Pitsual retrieved his loaded handgun and interjected himself into

a verbal argument that two other people were having in the house. A struggle ensued, the gun discharged, and two people were struck by the bullet.

"Alcohol and guns are the worst possible combination," said Deschutes County District Attorney John Hummel.

"The residents of this house were intoxicated and a gun was the last thing they needed to be brought to the party."

Hummel went on to say: "Sunriver is one of the safest resort communities in the world. The actions of Mr. Pitsual should be viewed as the anomaly it is."

Pitsual's next court hearing is set for February 22.

## Bend puts off decision to allow Uber, Lyft

BEND (AP) — Officials in the Central Oregon city of Bend have decided to halt a proposal that would allow ride-hailing companies such as Uber to Lyft to operate in the city.

The *Bend Bulletin* reported city councilors say they need more time to work out details.

The council discussed changing part of the proposal to allow people with certain criminal convictions

to become drivers and distinguishing ride-hailing companies from other forms of transportation for hire.

Under the measure, both cab and Uber drivers would be subject to background checks and required to hold certain licenses and insurance policies. Ride-hailing companies would also be required to give the city trip data so it could analyze residents' travel patterns and examine impacts

on roads.

The council is expected to revisit the proposal within the next month.

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