

Two decades of digging
in Sisters page 5



Stars over
Sisters page 16



Owls, owls and
more owls page 17



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Keown tapped to lead ranger district

Long-time U.S. Forest Service biologist Kevin Keown has taken up the reins as Acting District Ranger at Sisters Ranger District as Kristie Miller stepped into retirement at the end of March.

Keown has worked for the Forest Service for more than 26 years, beginning his career as a biological technician and advancing as a professional wildlife biologist and district ecology staffer. He has most recently served as the Forest Wildlife Biologist for the Ochoco National Forest and Crooked River National Grassland.

The majority of his career

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Yarn bomb!



PHOTO BY JERRY BALDOCK

Young artists, reportedly under the direction of Kit Stafford, conducted a guerrilla art operation in downtown Sisters at dawn on April 1. They “yarn bombed” the stallion that guards the east end of Cascade Avenue. Their work remained up through Saturday.

Kallberg will be Rodeo grand marshal

By **Bonnie Malone**
Correspondent

Curt Kallberg has been selected as the Grand Marshal of the 2017 Sisters Rodeo Parade.

The former wild horse racer, current auto racer and contractor is a man who thrives on action and speed, ready to do what it takes to get something done.

In Sisters, Kallberg became a whirlwind in a town that had stopped shrugging its shoulders in accepting the inevitable, to become

See **KALLBERG** on page 23

March was warmer and wetter than usual

According to preliminary data received by NOAA's National Weather Service in Pendleton, temperatures at Sisters averaged slightly warmer than usual during the month of March.

The average temperature was 40.1 degrees, which was 0.5 degrees above normal. High temperatures averaged 51.5 degrees, which was 0.2 degrees below normal. The highest was 67 degrees on March 15. Low temperatures averaged 28.6 degrees, which was 1.2 degrees above normal. The lowest was 18 degrees, on March 5.

There were 20 days with the low temperature below 32 degrees.

Precipitation totaled 1.70 inches during March, which

was 0.72 inches above normal. Measurable precipitation — at least .01 inch — was received on 10 days with the heaviest, 0.60 inches reported on March 24.

Precipitation this year has reached 5.97 inches, which is 1.79 inches above normal. Since October, the water year precipitation at Sisters has been 10.92 inches, which is 1.86 inches above normal.

Snowfall totaled 1.6 inches, with at least one inch of snow reported on one day. The heaviest snowfall was 1.6 inches reported on March 7. The greatest depth of snow on the ground was two inches on March 7.

The highest wind gust was

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DLT secures 130 acres near Sisters

The Deschutes Land Trust has purchased and permanently protected 130 acres of land along Whychus Creek near Sisters.

The new Willow Springs Preserve — located below the Rim at Aspen Lakes — includes nearly one mile of Whychus Creek, creekside meadows, juniper and pine woodlands, and rimrock cliffs. The acquisition is part of the Land Trust's ongoing Campaign for Whychus Creek.

“The purchase and creation of Willow Springs Preserve is a great example of how the Campaign for Whychus Creek can leverage local resources to conserve the best of Whychus Creek,” said Brad Chalfant, Deschutes Land Trust executive director. “Early donors to the Campaign provided



PHOTO COURTESY DESCHUTES LAND TRUST

The Willow Springs Preserve is located below the Rim at Aspen Lakes.

the essential private funding which allowed us to work with partners to quickly secure the property. The Campaign is now in the final months and we need the community to continue stepping up, donating to the Campaign and helping us achieve

this important community vision.”

Willow Springs Preserve includes one mile of Whychus Creek and its associated meadow floodplain. While currently providing

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