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Cresting the Cascades on a glorious day

You just never know. Last year, the Crest the Cascades ride was a test of cyclists' willingness to put up with almost wintery temperatures and cutting winds. This year, thanks to perfect Saturday weather, it was a postcard.

According to Sisters Park & Recreation District, some 126 riders pedaled up the McKenzie Highway on its last car-free weekend, in a ride that serves as a fundraiser for the district's programs.

Shannon Rackowski, who worked the event from SPRD's headquarters next to Sisters High School, said that she believes a majority of riders took advantage of perfect temperatures and bright sunshine to enjoy the ride over the top of the summit and down the other side – and back again.

"Quite a few went to Belknap (Hot Springs)," she noted.

The Crest the Cascades riders made up only about half of the cyclists who were out on the McKenzie on a Saturday that offered



PHOTO BY JERRY BALDOCK

Cyclists enjoyed a pretty much perfect day during Saturday's Crest the Cascades ride.

temperatures in the low-to-mid-70s and just enough breeze to cool down a hard-pedaler.

Rackowski noted that many riders returned to SPRD and stayed for a couple of hours to enjoy music and

food — and a shower.

"They were so excited they could take showers," she said.

Students build guitars, ukuleles

By Ceili Cornelius
Correspondent

Last week students who are part of the Woods 2 class at Sisters High School presented their completed guitars and ukuleles to the public.

The showcase was held at Sisters High School and was presented in partnership with Sisters Folk Festival.

The Woods 2 class is taught by Tony Cosby, alongside volunteers from the community who come in and help students build their guitars and ukuleles. Marcy Edwards, Cory Stengel and David Perkins are a few of the many volunteers with the ukulele program. It takes one semester to make a ukulele, versus the entire year

See LUTHIERS on page 29

Spectacular sky show is on the way

By Jim Hammond, Ron Thorkildson
Correspondents

Few sights in nature can equal the exquisite and awe-inspiring beauty of a total solar eclipse. To gaze upon the sun's pearly white corona, upon which orange colored prominences occasionally dart from the limb of the moon, all the while engulfed in darkness, is an experience never to be forgotten.

And, as luck would have it, the laws of celestial motion will align in such a way that this phenomenon will grace the skies of many Americans from Oregon to South Carolina on August 21, 2017.

Traveling at more than 2,400 miles per hour, the umbra (where a total eclipse is visible) of the moon's shadow will first contact the west coast of the United States just north of Newport, Oregon, at 10:15:50 a.m. PDT on Monday, August 21, then race eastward across the state, exiting it by 10:27:10 a.m. In this relatively short span of time, weather permitting, hundreds of thousands of Oregonians and visitors will have witnessed one of the finest events that astronomy has to offer.

But what should observers

See ECLIPSE on page 24

Camp Sunrise helps youth grieve

By Sue Stafford
Correspondent

The loss of a loved one is never easy, but for a child the trauma can create feelings of confusion, overwhelming sadness, loss of control, anger, guilt, and abandonment. Most children, especially the younger ones, lack the vocabulary to express what they are feeling.

For 18 years, Camp Sunrise — a place for grieving children — has held a weekend camp that provides a safe, nurturing place for children ages 7-14 to gather with others who have lost a loved one and explore their grief and loss, and begin the healing process.

When children arrive



PHOTO BY SUE STAFFORD

A volunteer shares a quiet moment with a young camper at Camp Sunrise.

Friday evening at Camp Sunrise, a program of Hospice of Redmond held at Suttle Lake United Methodist

Camp, they may be nervous, scared, excited or a mix of

See CAMP on page 20

Inside...

Letters/Weather	2	Obituaries	8, 14	Movies & Entertainment....	13	Paw Prints	18	Classifieds.....	26-28
Meetings	3	Announcements.....	12	Sisters Salutes	15	Crossword	25	Real Estate	28-32