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Milli Fire changes Sisters' landscape

By Jim Cornelius
News Editor

Sisters' landscape will be altered by the 18,000-plus-acre Milli Fire. Areas of the forest will be deeply scarred by the flames that have roared across it for more than two weeks now.

But the effects of the blaze are not uniform. Some areas burned very hot and are severely damaged; others saw low- to moderate-intensity burning that may prove ultimately to be beneficial. Firefighting strategies to introduce low-intensity burning to prevent high-intensity fire will leave portions of landscape burned over — but not too severely.

Reports and observation from a distance indicate that Trout Creek Butte — a central swath of green on the Sisters skyline — burned in a classic "mosaic" pattern. That means that despite appearing to have been consumed by the



PHOTO BY GARY MILLER

Fire moving into unburned fuels near Black Crater on Sunday night created an eerie swath of deep red and orange across the nighttime skyline.

ravenous fire, there will be areas of green trees left intact and relatively undisturbed by the fire's passage.

Fire information officers Jinny Reed and Stacey Lacey took *The Nugget* on a tour of some of the areas where

the fire had passed through during a hard run to the east

See **MILLI FIRE** on page 27

School delayed by fire's impacts

Disrupted by the Milli Fire, Sisters schools have delayed the start of the academic year.

In a message to the district, Superintendent Curt Scholl announced a plan to push back the start of school. Currently, 1st-9th grades will start on August 30; 10th-12th grades start on August 31. The lost days will be added back the Monday and Tuesday of Thanksgiving week.

Scholl said he made the decision due to loss of preparatory work time for teachers. He saluted them for their efforts in the face of poor air quality conditions.

"The most important guiding principle for me is the

See **DELAY** on page 29

Body of Sisters man recovered at Suttle Lake

The Jefferson County Sheriff's Office reported on Tuesday, August 22, that the body of Ben Hendrickson, the Sisters resident who was last seen August 12 at Blue Bay Campground at Suttle Lake, was recovered from the lake on Tuesday morning.

The sheriff reports that no foul play is suspected and alcohol is believed to have been a factor in the drowning. Family members have been notified and the sheriff asks "everyone to respect their privacy and pray for them, as they deal with this tragedy."

Hendrickson, 33, was reported missing from the Blue Bay Campground near Suttle Lake on Sunday afternoon, August 13. He had not been seen since late Saturday

night.

Jefferson County deputies responded to a missing person's report, and conducted extensive searches of the area.

They found Hendrickson's kayak and some personal property on the first day of searching east of the campground along the south side shoreline

A GoFundMe page has been set up to assist Ben's family. Go to GoFundMe.com and search Ben Hendrickson - Help Heather!

A fundraising benefit for Ben's family is planned on Saturday, September 2, at Hardtails Bar & Grill on Larch Street in Sisters.

See **DROWNING** on page 29

City, schools compromise on trees

By Sue Stafford
Correspondent

The Sisters School District (SSD) and the City of Sisters have reached a compromise regarding the removal of trees on school district property.

As part of the current parking lot remodel project at Sisters Elementary School, a number of large ponderosa pine trees were recently removed from a public right-of-way located between East Cascade Avenue and the school parking lot.

The trees in public rights-of-way are under the jurisdiction of the City of Sisters under the advisement of the Urban Forestry Board (UFB) and the city forester. No request was made of the City for approval by either the school district or their



PHOTO BY SUE STAFFORD

A large ponderosa is marked for removal due to leaning, stem pressure, and heaving causing hazard to the adjacent building and SES playground.

contractor, Bear Mountain Fire, to remove the trees.

That incident prompted the City to request of the

school district a copy of their Tree and Forestry

See **TREE REMOVAL** on page 20

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