## Descendent of pioneers to speak in Sisters page 4 Sist TOPORTONIC Sisters Page 4

Sisters skier headed to nationals page 7



News and Opinion

from Sisters, Oregon

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## A tale of two winters

#### By Ron Thorkildson Correspondent

Sisters Country might as well have had two winters this season — one mild and dry, and one with plenty of snow and chilly temperatures.

When a neutral El Niño-Southern Oscillation (ENSO) signal was measured in the tropical Pacific Ocean last fall that looked like it might morph into a La Niña by winter, it's understandable why many seasonal forecasters foresaw roughly normal conditions with regard to temperature and precipitation for the Pacific Northwest this winter, with "ample" mountain snow.

What they got right was that a La Niña did indeed

See WEATHER on page 30



PHOTO BY JERRY BALDOCK

Austin Lake pulls down the rebound in Outlaws Boys Basketball action versus Henley. The win earned the Outlaws a berth at the state championships. *See story, page 8.* 

## An Olympic celebration for Sisters couple

#### By Charlie Kanzig Correspondent

When it came to planning the celebration of his 50th birthday in February, Tate Metcalf and his wife Aimee put no limits to ideas when they began to brainstorm possibilities. Sharing ideas, their focus turned from warm, sandy beaches on an exotic island to the Winter Olympics in Pyeongchang, South Korea.

"After a while we had so many ideas it got overwhelming," said Aimee. "Finally we asked 'What does Tate love?' "The answer was sport,

any and all kind of sport,

See OLYMPICS on page 21

# Snowpack levels show dramatic decline

#### By Mark Floyd Correspondent

CORVALLIS – A new study of long-term snow monitoring sites in the western United States found declines in snowpack at more than 90 percent of those sites - and one-third of the declines were deemed significant. Since 1915, the average snowpack in western states has declined by between 15 and 30 percent, the researchers say, and the amount of water lost from that snowpack reduction is comparable in volume to Lake Mead, the West's largest manmade reservoir. The loss of water storage can have an impact on municipal, industrial and

agricultural usage, as well as fish and other animals.

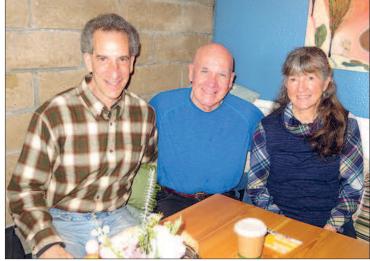
Results of the study are being published today in NPJ Climate and Atmospheric Science, a Nature publication.

## To save a life in Sisters

**By Jim Cornelius** Editor in Chief

David Adler is still coming to terms with a journey right up to the threshold of death.

On February 12, while he was working out at Sisters Athletic Club, Adler, 65, collapsed in sudden cardiac arrest. Thanks to quick, concerted action by the people around him, Adler not only survived - despite the fact that he was not breathing and had no pulse when he hit the floor – he is expected to make a full recovery. "It will take a long time before I fully process it," Adler said. "In truth, I can't stop thinking about how extraordinary it is that I am actually alive — and well."



"It is a bigger decline than we had expected," said Philip Mote, director of the Oregon Climate Change Research Institute at Oregon State University and lead author on the study. "In many lowerelevation sites, what used to fall as snow is now rain. Upper elevations have not been affected nearly as much, but most states don't have that much area at 7,000-plus feet.

"The solution isn't in infrastructure. New reservoirs

See SNOWPACK on page 25

It was a very, very

David and Marcy Adler met with Clyde Dildine and *The Nugget* to recount David's near death due to sudden cardiac arrest.

close-run thing.

Adler's wife, Marcy, recalled that David had wanted to go down into the crawl space under the house for a second time to check a gas line that had been giving them trouble. She persuaded him not to do that, and he went to the club instead.

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PHOTO BY JIM CORNELIUS