

The Nugget

News and Opinion
from Sisters, Oregon

POSTAL CUSTOMER
PRE-SORTED STANDARD
ECRWSS
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
Sisters, OR
Permit No. 15

Vol. XLI No. 38

www.NuggetNews.com

Wednesday, September 19, 2018

Another roundabout for Sisters?

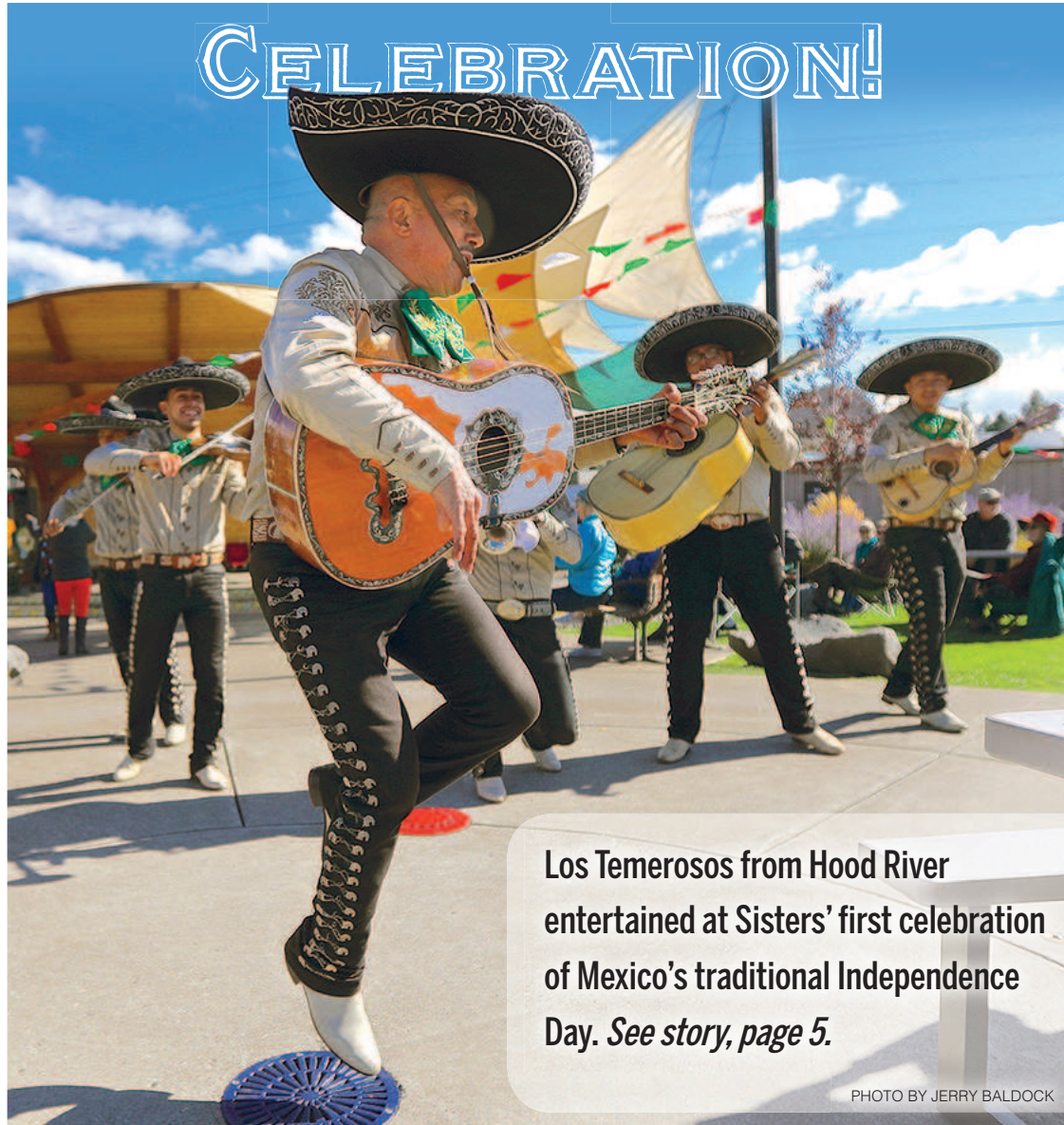
By Sue Stafford
Correspondent

A proposed mini-roundabout at the intersection of Highway 20 and Locust Street by the elementary school would provide a near-term solution to the congestion at that intersection. It would also enable truck traffic to avoid Cascade Avenue by using the Barclay Drive alternate route, because trucks would be able to use the roundabout for left-hand turns from Locust onto Highway 20.

Funding for a roundabout could possibly be secured from the House Bill 2017 Safe Routes to School program because of its proximity to the elementary school. The application is due October 15.

Bob Townsend, Oregon

See **ROUNDBOUT** on page 28



Los Temerosos from Hood River entertained at Sisters' first celebration of Mexico's traditional Independence Day. See story, page 5.

PHOTO BY JERRY BALDOCK

ODOT to begin repairing Hwy. 242

Repairs to Oregon 242 (the Old McKenzie Highway) across the Cascades began Monday, September 17.

Oregon Department of Transportation maintenance crews will be stabilizing slopes and improving drainage, thanks to an \$850,000 reimbursement from the Federal Highway Administration following the devastating Milli Fire of 2017.

The Milli Fire was active in and around the Three Sisters Wilderness area that adjoins the highway, destroying trees, culverts and patches of the highway surface.

Working west from the eastern entrance near Sisters toward a point near the

See **HWY. 242** on page 30

Fighting weeds along the Metolius River

Depending on appropriate weather conditions, the Deschutes National Forest will apply herbicides to invasive plants within an area adjacent to the Metolius River and the Metolius River Trail October 1-5.

The Sisters Ranger District will use two herbicides (Aquamaster and Polaris) to treat invasive non-native ribbongrass, reed canarygrass and yellow flag iris on about 1.5 acres of the Metolius River. Treatments will take place in select locations from just upstream of the confluence with South Fork Lake Creek downstream past Gorge Campground.

The method of treatment will be spot applications with a backpack or hand-sprayer. It involves application of herbicide to foliage

of target invasive plants to minimize effects to native plants. The applied herbicides will dry within an hour of being applied and do not pose a risk to human or animal health under the concentrations being applied, the Forest Service reports.

The Metolius River Trail will remain open during treatment, but the public should remain on the trail during active treatment operations and keep dogs leashed.

Ribbongrass, reed canarygrass and yellow flag iris are aggressive invasive plants that are overtaking native sedges, wildflowers, and shrubs within the river's riparian habitats.

See **WEEDS** on page 18

Cougars are part of the landscape

By Jim Cornelius
Editor in Chief

Authorities shot and killed a cougar in the Mount Hood National Forest last week, a female cat believed to have been responsible for killing 55-year-old hiker Diana Bober of Gresham.

The attack is the only known fatal incident involving a cougar in Oregon.

Cougars are a seldom-seen but ever-present element of the natural world of Sisters Country. There have been several sightings this summer in and immediately around town, and an incident of predation on goats at a Sisters-area ranch. The cougar believed responsible for those killings was trapped and killed. A Bend man shot and killed a cougar last month, when he and his wife went out at night to check on a herd of sheep that had previously



PHOTO COURTESY ODFW

Cougars are a presence around Sisters. They generally avoid human contact.

come under a cougar attack.

The cougar population is widely estimated at approximately 6,600, which is about double the estimated population in 1994, when voters approved a ballot initiative

banning the use of hounds to hunt cougar.

"Measure 18 passed in 1994 by the narrowest of margins," said Duane

See **COUGARS** on page 24

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