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Missing rider found dead on Cline Buttes

Searchers found the body of Chad Hurtley after an extensive search in the Cline Buttes area west of Sisters on Monday.

Hurtley was reported missing on Sunday, September 1, after his horse was found on Cline Falls Road. Hurtley had left his home near Cline Falls Road around 10:30 a.m. on horseback. He regularly rode from home into the Cline Buttes area for a few hours and then returned home.

Deputies assisted by SAR volunteers searched into the

See **HURTLEY** on page 14

Legacy of fire...



PHOTO COURTESY CENTRAL OREGON FIRE INFORMATION

A small lightning sparked blaze is burning in the Mt. Washington Wilderness – in the area of other burns (see story, page 8). Approximately 50 percent of the Sisters Ranger District has been hit by wildfire in the past two decades, leaving scars that actually protect from the spread of other fires.

Festival is a 'family reunion' for many artists

By Ceili Cornelius
Correspondent

This year's Sisters Folk Festival brings back many musicians who have played the festival multiple times and have become part of the Sisters music community. Among them are Martyn Joseph, Ellis, Johnsmith, Beth Wood, Keith Greeninger and Dayan Kai, and David Jacobs-Strain.

Jacobs-Strain has performed in Sisters countless times since his first appearance at the Sisters Folk Festival

See **FAMILY** on page 16

How the planning commission works

By Jim Cornelius
Editor in Chief

The recent news that the City of Sisters is conducting a site-plan review on a potential Dollar General Store near Bi-Mart has led some in the community who dislike the idea to call upon the planning commission to determine what kind of business is best for Sisters.

Planning Commission Chair Jeff Seymour said, "Certainly, the commission is sensitive to what the public is saying. We live here, too, and we see it."

However, he and Planning Commission Vice Chair Cris Converse noted that the commission works within strict legal parameters.

Seymour said that the planning commission acts as "a quasi-judicial commission that reviews land-use applications and applies the existing Development Code to those applications to determine

if those projects are viable based on that code."

The commission — by law — cannot discriminate and say that a certain business that meets code requirements can't come to Sisters.

"Law does not allow us to discriminate against a particular business," Converse said.

"We can only look at and really discuss the existing application that is in front of us," he said. "We can't change the code (on the fly) and we can't change the application."

The matter at hand is a site-plan review on a 9,100-square-foot retail sales establishment to be located on the south side of McKinney Butte Road directly adjacent to Bi-Mart and The Pines residential community.

The store to be built has been identified as Dollar General, a national corporation that has over 15,000 stores in small- to mid-size

See **PLANNING** on page 24

Gratitude, faith help Sisters couple

By Carol Statton
Correspondent

On December 11, 2018, in little more than a split second, life changed dramatically for Larry and Terry Hardin. The Hardins were just beginning their newly planned "snowbird" status down south when Larry suffered a tragic fall from a camp chair.

What should have been the beginning of a winter spent in the warmth and sun of Southern California instantly became something completely different. The next five months would be spent between three different hospitals spanning two states; hospitals that would become home and provide necessary care and encouragement. Fundamentals of faith, family, friends and focus would carry them through.

They say lightening never strikes twice, but science and Larry know a different truth. Five years previously, Larry found himself undergoing

See **HARDIN** on page 19



PHOTO BY CAROL STATTON

A fall has left Larry Hardin paralyzed, but he continues to look for good — and find it.

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