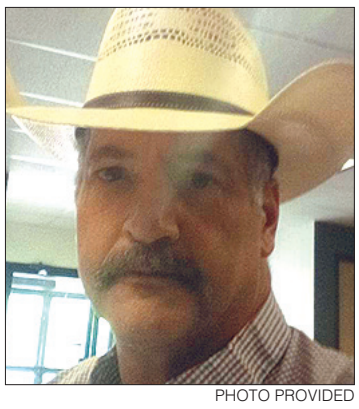

PHOTO PROVIDED

Searchers found the body of Chad Hurtley on Monday.

HURTLEY: Man was well-known sight on horseback in Sisters

Continued from page 1

night. A Life Flight helicopter searched the area before dark, but did not locate Hurtley. Friends and family also searched the area. On Monday, at about 5:20 a.m., DCSO Search and Rescue Volunteers began responding to the Cline Buttes area covering several search assignments, including drone, K-9 teams, man-tracking experts, ATVs, horse teams, ground search and further road searches.

A total of 47 DCSO SAR volunteers responded, as well as six DCSO deputies. There were also several friends and family members of Hurtley who also assisted with the continued search.

At about 9:40 a.m., one of the DCSO SAR volunteer ground search teams located Hurtley's body on the west side of Cline Buttes, approximately 3/4 of the way up to the top of the butte.

DCSO reports that his death was self inflicted.

Hurtley was well-known in Sisters from his rides horseback into town, often carrying the American flag.

OSU to get funds to research quake impact on electrical grid

WASHINGTON (AP) — Oregon State University will receive more than $400,000 in federal funds to research how large earthquakes, like ones that could strike in the Cascadia Subduction Zone, would affect the western electrical grid.

U.S. Sens. Ron Wyden and Jeff Merkley, both Oregon Democrats, announced that the award from the National Science Foundation will provide $433,792 to a project titled, "Earthquake Resilience of the Western Power Grid".

Wyden said it's vital to understand the risks of a big earthquake to the electrical grid that keeps everything running, so local communities can prepare to respond.

Merkley said the grant will allow Oregon State University to conduct critical research so the West Coast can prepare for the challenges that will follow a major earthquake.

Successful balloon launch in Sisters

PHOTO BY CODY ANDERSON

University of Washington researchers worked through the summer to launch an instrument payload via balloon. Last Monday, they successfully launched up and over the Cascades and out into the Pacific Ocean.

The University of Washington's Earth and Space Sciences team led by Research Associate Professor Michael McCarthy returned to Sisters Eagle Airport last week to continue their balloon-based research. They conducted a successful balloon launch on Monday morning.

The goal of these balloon flights is to measure electrical properties of the atmosphere — specifically, the electric current flowing between the extreme upper atmosphere and the ground.

"This current system has long been thought to be primarily driven by global thunderstorm activity," Todd Anderson of UW Earth and Space Sciences reported. "Measuring this current is best done far from pollutants and weather effects near the Earth's surface, so we use a high-altitude balloon to carry instruments well into the ozone layer. By measuring this electric current at high altitude, and simultaneously monitoring thunderstorm activity with a global lightning detection network, we can test this idea with higher accuracy than previous work."

Launch services were orchestrated by Steven Peterzen of ISTAR along with Steven's wife Francie Peterzen managing the helium flow and their son Kyle Peterzen inflating the balloon. Steve and Francie Peterzen are Sisters residents. Steven has worked across the world with high-altitude balloon projects.

The launch took place under mostly clear skis and mild morning temperatures. Peterzen reported that winds were unpredictable which caused concerns with developing crosswinds; however the launch went smoothly and all systems worked 100 percent.

The 79.02-foot tall by 89.38-foot diameter polyethelyne balloon achieved a maximum altitude of 123,461 feet before settling to a float altitude of 116,500 feet.

The balloon and payload climbed to altitude easterly and then shifted to a westerly trajectory over the Cascades towards the Pacific Ocean.