

ATHLETES OF THE MONTH

★ OUTLAWS ★

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★ ★ ★ **ELLA THORSETT** ★ ★ ★ **JOHN PECKHAM** ★ ★ ★

Runners crowned season with championships

Ella Thorsett and John Peckham are Outlaws cross-country state champions — and the Sisters High School Athletes of the Month.

Each turned in magnificent individual performances at the OSAA Cross-Country State Championships on November 9, crowning a tremendous season with championship honors.



PHOTO BY CHARLIE KANZIG

“While Ella’s run at state will be one of legends, throughout the year Ella has demonstrated time and again that she is a remarkable young woman,” said Coach Josh Nordell. “She is incredibly brave and has the ability to set her ego aside and put everything on the line. She is willing to take the risk. Most importantly, Ella has handled her success with wisdom beyond her years and even in success she cares about her team, puts the team ahead of herself, and is a good friend and makes sure everyone has a good laugh every day at school and practice.”

“John’s success at state was the result of discipline, the willingness to work and the consistency to get better for the last two years,” said Nordell. “The body of work and strength John and his teammates have developed are remarkable. Through it all John has remained humble, caring and passionate about his team and sport. His



PHOTO BY CHARLIE KANZIG

race and results are more than a coach could ever ask for. John’s love for running is evident and his growth has been remarkable, but best of all John is running with his best friends and a day doesn’t go by when John isn’t leading a great group of men on shenanigans they will never forget.”

Forest roads closed for winter

With significant snow forecasted for the week in Central Oregon, the Deschutes National Forest closed the gate on Forest Road 16 outside of Sisters near Three Creek Sno-Park for the season on Tuesday, November 26.

Beginning December 1, winter wildlife closures will take effect across the forest. There are four winter wildlife closure areas on the Deschutes National Forest — Cabin/Silver Lake, Metolius Winter Range, Opine Travel Management Area and Tumalo Winter Range. Motorized vehicles (including snowmobiles and electric bicycles) are prohibited in the closure areas to protect deer and elk during the winter. These protected areas usually have minimal amounts of snow cover and provide vegetation for forage, hiding cover and protection from weather.

The public is reminded to be cautious when driving on all forest roads in the winter months. Not all roads will be gated, and those that are blocked by snow or water should be considered impassable for public safety as well as the protection of natural resources. Take all precautions as weather and road conditions can change rapidly. Be prepared for winter driving, limited sight distance and bumpy driving on all Forest Service roads. Bring extra clothing, food, water, blankets, first aid kit, shovel and tire chains. Let someone know your destination and expected day/time of return.

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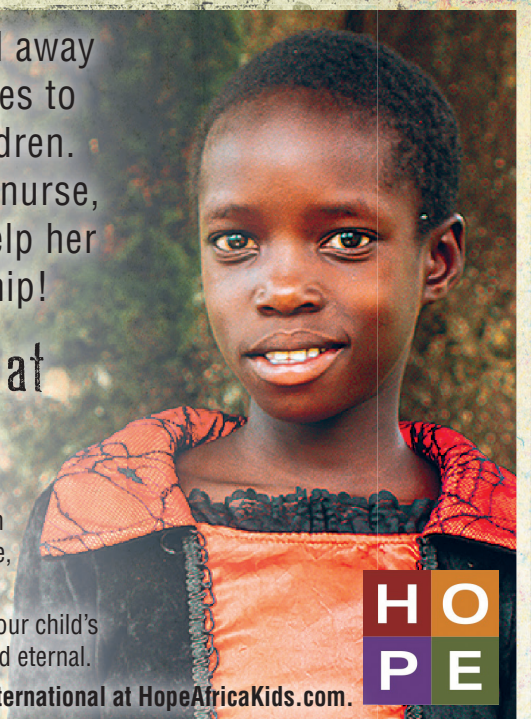
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