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New Peterson Ridge Trailhead dedicated

By Sue Stafford
Correspondent

Peterson Ridge Trail, a popular destination for cyclists, hikers and runners across the Pacific Northwest, has a new trailhead.

It took a concerted collaborative effort to get a project approved, funded, designed, and to build the new 25-space parking lot with restrooms and a soon-to-be-completed kiosk for trail information and maps.

The old trailhead, located on the south side of Sisters off Elm Street and Tye Drive, has for a long time been inadequate to keep up with the popularity of the PRT.

According to Sisters Trails Alliance member Gary Guttormsen, "It didn't take long for the Sisters Trails Alliance, the Forest Service, and the City to start getting complaints from the residents on Tye adjacent to the trailhead parking area." He went on to say, "The complaints were justified because trailhead users started parking their vehicles wherever they could find room, often on the lawns of neighboring houses. Also, folks would park illegally on the undeveloped private



PHOTO BY SUE STAFFORD

Longtime trails advocate Gary Guttormsen was the symbolic first person across the threshold of the new Peterson Ridge Trailhead.

property on the north side of the street. A huge issue (was) folks relieving themselves out in the forest closest to the trailhead and within view

of the houses! Not a pretty picture."

It took many hands to do the groundwork to get the project from an idea to

completion. Adam and Jana Novotny of Buck Run were instrumental in organizing

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Schools will be online for six weeks

By Charlie Kanzig
Correspondent

In a letter shared with school district staff and families dated July 30, Superintendent Curtiss Scholl announced that school will be conducted under Comprehensive Distance Learning (CDL) model for the first six weeks of the 2020-21 school year, based on health metrics in Deschutes County.

Scholl's announcement came just two days after Governor Kate Brown's press conference which outlined the latest state and county health guidelines that are required to allow in-person education.

School districts throughout the state have made similar decisions and announcements since Brown's press conference, including Bend-La Pine School District, which additionally made the decision to push its start date to September 14 in order to give

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SAR teams recover body of climber

Search and Rescue teams from across the region coordinated last Saturday to recover the body of a climber who fell to his death on Mt. Jefferson last week.

According to Jefferson County Sheriff Jim Atkins, on Saturday, July 25, a group of experienced mountain climbers were traversing a glacier on the east side of Mount Jefferson. One of the climbers, David Freepons, 65, from Kennewick, Washington, slipped and fell. Freepons, who had decades of experience, was unable to stop his descent. He fell several hundred feet downhill. His climbing companions found him dead.

Due to hazardous

conditions, distance, and the inability to safely move Freepons to a Life Flight helicopter's location, personnel returned to the airport.

In the early morning hours of Saturday, August 1, expert mountain climbers from several counties recovered Freepons' body from Mt. Jefferson.

Sheriff Atkins reported that the recovery team started hiking into the remote wilderness location on Friday afternoon, hiking approximately 15 miles and climbing Mt. Jefferson until about 10 p.m. They spent the night on the mountain and began their day at 3 a.m. preparing

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Battling invasive weeds in Sisters

By Sue Stafford
Correspondent

There is a weed among us, and we need to be on the lookout for it because, left to its own devices, it will take over our fields, gardens, public rights-of way, and stream beds.

Knapweed (*Centaurea maculosa*) fools some people because it looks like a wildflower — but "wild" is the operative word.

When the flowers of the weed are through blooming, which is about this time of the summer, they form fluffy white seed heads that blow in the wind, leading to approximately five million acres in the U.S. infested with knapweed. These groups of weeds (there are seven varieties) are highly competitive and



PHOTO BY MATT LAVIN

Don't let appearances fool you, Knapweed (*Centaurea maculosa*) is a destructive noxious weed... and it's illegal to allow it to proliferate.

invasive, crowding out native plants. They create havoc on Western rangeland and invade pastures and fields

in the Midwest and Eastern states.

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