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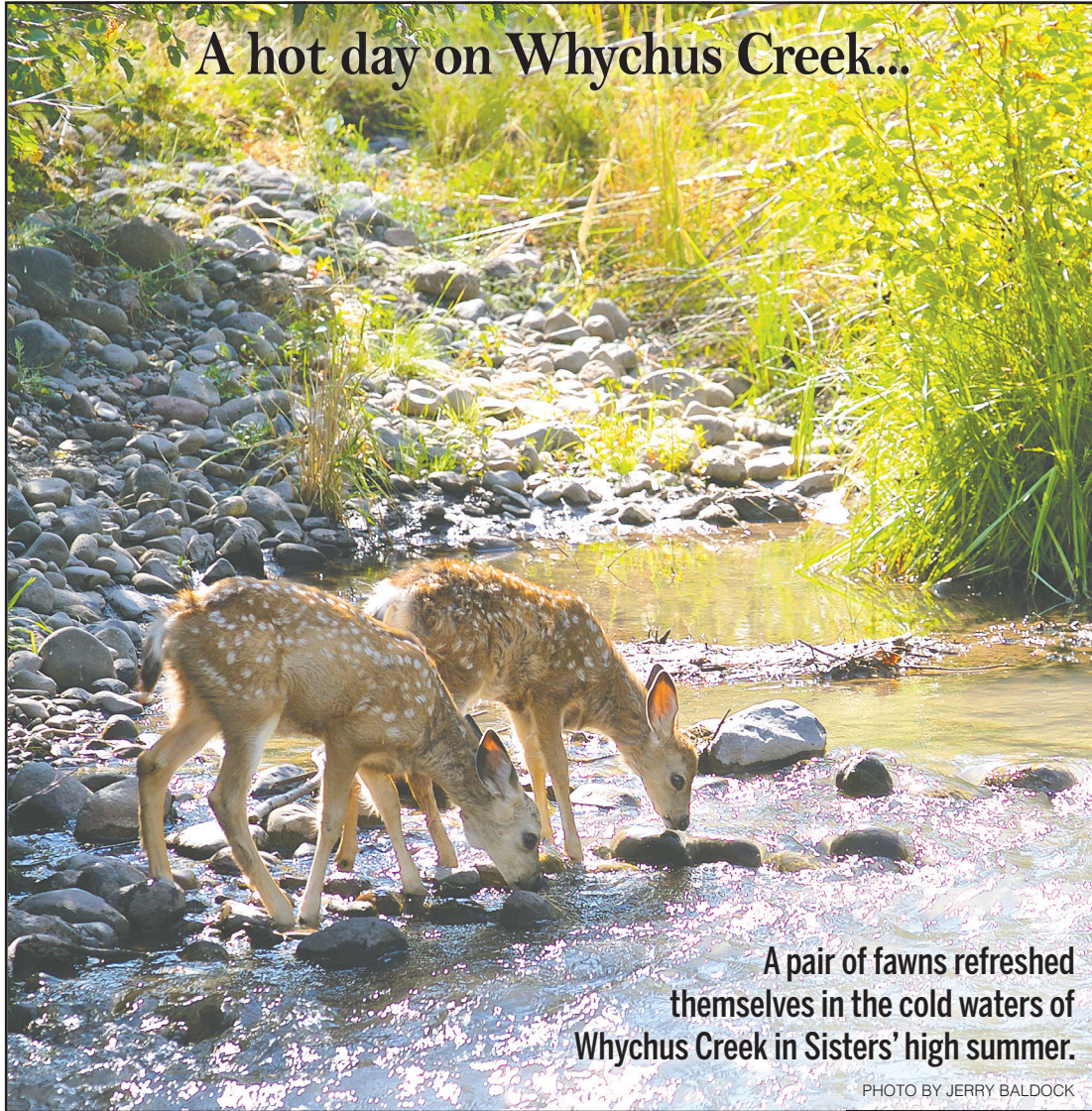
Sisters attorney wins landmark case

By Jim Cornelius
Editor in Chief

On January 21, 2017, Andrew K. Myers' life changed irrevocably.

The airline pilot, who had flown for JetBlue Airways since 2002, was in a JetBlue Airways plane on the tarmac in Portland, conducting run-ups on a plane engine when the cockpit and cabin of the plane filled with fumes. Myers suffered multiple medical complications from his exposure to the toxic chemical fumes — complications

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A hot day on Whychus Creek...

A pair of fawns refreshed themselves in the cold waters of Whychus Creek in Sisters' high summer.

PHOTO BY JERRY BALDOCK

Sisters sees more cops on the street

By Sue Stafford
Correspondent

Sisters' new deputies aren't on the job yet — but the community is already seeing a greater law enforcement presence.

The new law enforcement contract between the City and the Deschutes County Sheriff's Office (DCSO) went into effect July 1, 2020. When fully in force, the contract calls for a permanent supervising lieutenant and three full-time deputies. The DCSO is currently training new replacement deputies to fill the current positions

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OSAA: No high school sports before December

By Charlie Kanzig
Correspondent

The OSAA (Oregon Scholastic Activities Association) announced a big change to the 2020-21 high school sports seasons in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. The decision came following an executive session on Wednesday, August 5.

In essence there will be three seven-week competitive seasons within a truncated 6-1/2-month time period between December and June.

The OSAA actually defined four "seasons" under the plan: "Season One" from August 31-January 3 will be considered a time that high school students could be allowed to take part in sports and activities not overseen by the OSAA, but approved by the Oregon Health Authority, Oregon Department of Education, the Governor's Office and local school districts. In other words, it may be possible that a club sport,

for example, will be allowed under specific guidelines. Conditioning and training during this period, conducted by coaches, would be allowed but cannot be considered mandatory.

Gary Thorson, athletic director and head football coach for Sisters High School, is hopeful some activities will be possible in the fall.

"The 800-pound COVID gorilla needs to be dealt with before we get too excited about what we can and can't do during that (Season One) time period, but if and when we get a green light from the state and district our athletes and coaches will be active," he said. "We have been very limited to what we can and can't do, but if things open up to the point that we can have scrimmages and competition with local schools we will, for sure. We want all our kids safely competing and getting things back to normal ASAP, all the way down to the youth

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Dwarf mistletoe a problem in forests

By Craig F. Eisenbeis
Correspondent

Dwarf mistletoe continues to pose a threat to Sisters Country forests.

Dwarf mistletoe falls into the broad definition of a pathogen and is a parasite that infects coniferous trees such as the firs and pines in our local forests. Although mistletoe does have some chlorophyll capable of producing nutrients, that capability is a mere fraction of what typical plants produce. As a result, mistletoe gets the vast majority of its water and sustenance from a host tree; and it's voraciously parasitic in doing so — literally sucking the life from its host by sending root-like tendrils into the tree itself.

While a host tree can tolerate some mistletoe, the drain of nutrients and water from a significant infestation takes a severe toll. Over time, the tree's growth will be stunted, perhaps deformed, and the tree weakened. It may take several years for the tree to actually die from an infestation; but, in the meantime, the



PHOTO BY CRAIG F. EISENBEIS

Dwarf mistletoe is a parasite that feeds on conifers, such as this young ponderosa pine along the Whychus Creek Scenic Overlook Trail.

weakened tree also becomes more susceptible to other diseases and attacks from insects such as pine beetles. Infected trees have a far higher mortality rate than healthy trees.

Local interest in the disease recently emerged for two reasons: First, a significant infestation west of Sisters, in and around Suttle Lake, has sparked a major logging operation to remove thousands of infected trees. Second, the disease has become noticeable at the Whychus Creek

Scenic Overlook Trail.

Infestations have been seen on young ponderosa pines right at eye level along the Overlook Trail — which makes the Overlook an excellent place to view the parasite up close.

The Suttle Lake project is ongoing, and logging operations have caused some temporary trail and road closures in recent weeks. Jean Nelson-Dean, Forest Service Public

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