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Lionshead Fire shuts down Mt. Jefferson Wilderness



The Lionshead Fire on the Warm Springs reservation reared up and roared last week, growing to 18,615 acres on Monday.

PHOTO BY KRIS KRISTOVICH

By Jim Cornelius
Editor in Chief

As firefighters gained 100 percent containment on the Green Ridge Fire just north of Sisters, the Lionshead Fire blew up.

Fueled by hot temperatures, low-humidity, and gusty winds, the fire on the Warm Springs Reservation to the northwest grew last week until it hit 18,615 acres by Monday. Over the Labor Day weekend, the smoke from Lionshead and dozens of fires in California created a thick haze across Sisters Country. Air quality in Sisters

was deemed “unhealthy” on Sunday night.

Camp Sherman residents were placed on Level 1 evacuation notice, urging them to be aware of potential danger from the big blaze 10 or 12 miles to the north.

Given the fire’s rapid growth and a forecast that called for unusual and heavy winds through the first part of the week, authorities essentially shut down the Mt. Jefferson Wilderness, closing trails and campgrounds in and beyond the Metolius Basin — including a section of the Pacific Crest Trail.

Willamette National Forest officials were concerned that the fire could spill over the Cascade Crest and enacted an extensive closure in the Mt. Jefferson Wilderness on the west side.

On Monday, September 7, Sisters-Camp Sherman and Cloverdale fire districts announced a ban on all recreational burning effective immediately. The ban included all areas within the fire districts.

Recreational fires include those used for pleasure, religious, ceremonial, cooking, warmth or similar purposes. Barbecues and propane fires

are not included in the ban.

Residents are strongly encouraged to contact their local fire protection agencies for additional burning information and regulations. Sisters-Camp Sherman and Cloverdale fire departments will continue to monitor weather and fuel moisture conditions in their districts and may make modifications on a day-to-day basis. Call your fire agency for information. In Sisters, call 541-549-0771. In the Cloverdale district call 541-548-4815 (burning information) or 541-389-2345 (office). At Black Butte Ranch call 541-595-2288.

Outdoor education on two wheels

By Jim Anderson
Correspondent

This was the 4th season for Heather Walden to take her Sisters Country kids out on what she calls “One part biking, one part nature watching and one part art creating” — exploration from Camp Sherman to Suttle Lake and back.

She had a thousand ideas swimming around in her head for new and exciting ways to present opportunities to her bikers for exploring their beautiful surroundings. One way was to help out in a survey of local bumblebees. This would be a wonderful way to bring kids closer to the nature of their land and obtain a good idea of how our local bumblebees were doing.

Then came March and COVID-19. Walden was about to throw in the towel

See **ECO BIKING** on page 7



PHOTO COURTESY BLACK BUTTE ECO BIKERS

Cyclists launched their functional art in Link Creek.

New art graces Sisters spaces

By Helen Schmidling
Correspondent

Late on a Friday afternoon, artist Katie Daisy sat on the lawn between SoulShine & Co. and the soon-to-open food cart called Nourish. She watched her

See **PUBLIC ART** on page 9

Zone change a major step for development

By Jim Cornelius
Editor in Chief

The first major steps in a development that could bring 250 to 300 new homes to Sisters in the next

See **DEVELOPMENT** on page 25

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A TRIBUTE TO

Sisters Folk Festival

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