

Community steps up in fire response



About 40 adults and children gathered at Sisters High School last Friday morning to paint signs of gratitude to those who worked the Grandview Fire.

PHOTO BY JERRY BALDOCK

By Sue Stafford
Correspondent

For a week, the sky over Sisters has been crisscrossed by helicopters towing buckets of water and tanker planes carrying fire retardant to slow the Grandview Fire and keep it from spreading through Squaw Creek Canyon Estates and vicinity and into Sisters.

All the efforts by 55 fire companies and seven agencies, amounting to 822 personnel at the peak of the fire, were successful in stopping the blaze at 6,032 acres, as of July 19. Not one structure or life was lost.

The spirit of cooperation and generosity was apparent in Sisters Country in response to the fire and the efforts of

those who fought it.

As with previous fires, the Sisters Rodeo grounds hosted the fire camp, where personnel slept and ate. Sisters High School opened their air-conditioned gymnasium for sleeping during the day for those on the night crews. While there, they could avail themselves of showers in the locker room.

Fire companies came from all over the Pacific Northwest, some from as far away as Whidbey Island and Chelan, Washington. Now that the Grandview Fire is contained, some personnel are leaving to return home and wait for the next assignment.

The high school commons

See **COMMUNITY** on page 15

Sisters community grapples with bullying

By T. Lee Brown
Correspondent

While school is on its annual summer hiatus, folks in Sisters continue to discuss larger social issues relevant both inside and outside the schools. *The Nugget* previously spoke with Sisters School District superintendent Curt Scholl about issues specific to equity and racism.

The conversation continues, discussing bullying and how community members can get involved (see *“Responding effectively to bullying,”* page 3).

“We want to make sure that all of our kids have a voice and that we’re supporting them along the way,” Scholl said.

If a child or adult witnesses

See **BULLYING** on page 14

Local trekkers pass halfway mark of PCT

By Charlie Kanzig
Correspondent

Melissa Stolasz and her daughter Sasha set out April 12 from the California/Mexico border with the intention to through-hike the entire 2,650 mile Pacific Crest Trail (PCT) with an eye to finish by August 27 in order to get back in time for both to return to school.

Melissa teaches science and math at Ridgeview High School and Sasha is a senior-to-be at Sisters High.

At the end of June they passed the halfway mark and took a break in Shasta, California for a resupply. While on the rest day the pair took a few minutes to check in with *The Nugget*.

Melissa feels that the journey has gone very well so far, but dealing with the

recent heat wave encompassing the west, the hikers made the decision to skip a three-day section in order to move northward toward the Trinity Alps to escape the triple-digit temperatures.

“We couldn’t afford to sit and wait for the temperatures to cool, so at this point our plan is to come back to this area over Labor Day and finish this section so we can truly complete the entire trail,” said Melissa.

Adjusting to conditions, circumstances, and personal needs is the name of the game on the PCT. A big adjustment came early in the trip when Brittany Terra, a cousin of Melissa’s husband Jeff, who had started out with Melissa and Sasha, decided to head home to Rhode Island 12 days into the venture.

See **TREKKERS** on page 9

Drought worsens across county

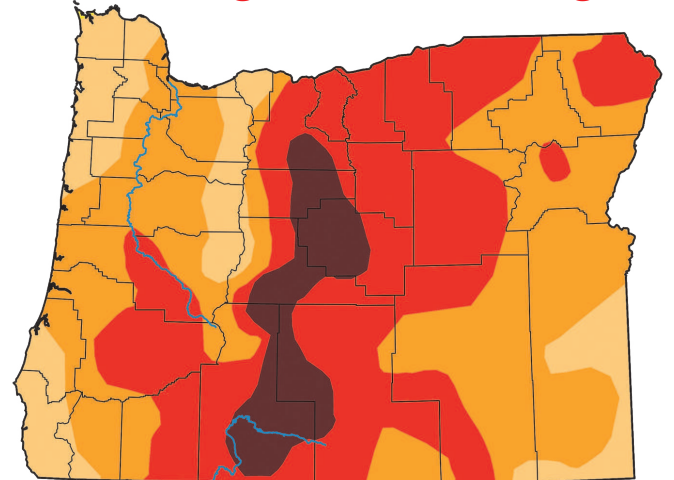
By Bill Bartlett
Correspondent

It does not take a hydrologist to know that Sisters is in the midst of a drought. By the numbers, 100 percent of Deschutes County is affected by the drought — all 157,733 persons. June was the 38th driest for that month in 127 years and the eighth-driest year to date since records began in 1894. On the Palmer Drought Severity index Sisters was at 93 — “severe.” It is expected to reach a level of between 95 and 98 within four weeks — identified as “extreme.”

Roughly a quarter of Deschutes County is already at the “D4 Exceptional Drought” level, the highest ranking on the Drought Monitor scale produced by University of Nebraska at Lincoln, the nation’s definitive source. The accompanying graphic tells the story convincingly.

See **DROUGHT** on page 8

U.S. Drought Monitor Oregon



Intensity:

- None
- D0 Abnormally Dry
- D1 Moderate Drought
- D2 Severe Drought
- D3 Extreme Drought
- D4 Exceptional Drought

USDA NDMC droughtmonitor.unl.edu

GRAPHIC CREATED BY DEBORAH BATHKE, NATIONAL DROUGHT MITIGATION CENTER

Deschutes County is all in drought, ranging from “moderate drought” at the western edge, to “exceptional drought” across a wide swath of the region. Data generated July 6, 2021. The Drought Monitor focuses on broad-scale conditions. Local conditions may vary.