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Making the Metolius a healthy home

By Jim Cornelius
Editor in Chief

For more than a decade, the Forest Service has been making home improvements for the fish population of the Metolius River.

Last week, work crews conducted the latest phase of a project adding large logs and downed trees into the stream to restore fish habitat.

The work is part of an ongoing project that began in 2008 to restore large wood to the river to improve fish habitat. Nearly 1,000 trees have been placed in the river since that time. Certain areas were left alone to act as a “control” sample for the effects of the additional habitat.

“The monitoring we did on the fish showed 300 percent increase in chinook [salmon],” said Deschutes National Forest Fisheries Biologist Wendy Brewer.

Redband trout saw a 200 percent increase.

Such results encouraged the Forest Service to fill in the control areas with additional habitat.



PHOTO BY JERRY BALDOCK

Logs were lifted and dropped or skidded into the stream on the Metolius River, where they will eventually become overgrown and resemble islands. That makes for prime habitat for Chinook salmon and other fish.

The project mimics historical conditions when “tree falls would pretty much choke this river,” Brewer explained.

The new habitat won’t choke the stream now — in fact, care is taken to make sure no logs span the channel so that kayakers can navigate

safely.

The logs quickly become overgrown with grasses and

See METOLIUS on page 23

ODOT will remove hazard trees along highways

By Jim Cornelius
Editor in Chief

Dead and dying trees will be removed in coming months along Highway 20 and 126 east of Sisters. The Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) will cut down trees that are deemed a hazard.

Peter Murphy, spokesman for ODOT, told *The Nugget*, that trees in the right-of-way are being evaluated now, and when they are determined to be a hazard, “we will remove them through our hazard tree removal process.”

This process does not include testing to see if the trees were affected by the

See TREES on page 20

COVID has not peaked in Deschutes County

By Bill Bartlett
Correspondent

COVID-19 “may have plateaued but has not crested” in Deschutes County, according to Mike Johnson, senior data scientist at St. Charles Health System.

Johnson reported last week that the hospital is still seeing a steady number of cases every day in September, roughly 100 per day, the same number as in August.

Both Johnson and Dr. Doug Merrill, medical director at St. Charles, expressed chagrin that local behavior is not changing, observing a sense in the community that the pandemic is over.

“It’s not,” Merrill said emphatically.

He is somewhat appalled seeing stadiums full of unmasked, cheering, shouting fans.

“Delta is eight times as effective as COVID from last spring,” Merrill said, adding, “We’re combining irresponsible behavior with a far more malicious version of the virus.”

It’s a revolving door, Johnson indicates. On September 21, 16 patients were discharged and 16 admitted.

“As ugly as August was, September is on track to be a new record,” Johnson said.

Merrill is disheartened that some recent headlines touting the decline in cases statewide have been perceived as being out of the woods.

“All pandemics are local,” Merrill said.

They are dependent on local behavior — masking, handwashing, distancing. He expressed gratitude that

See DELTA on page 27

Glory Daze was ‘glorious’ & ‘dazzling’



PHOTO BY BILL BARTLETT

Cheryle Bridge of Bend matched her bright yellow '56 T-Bird.

By Bill Bartlett
Correspondent

“Glorious.”
“Dazzling.”

Those were two of the many superlatives tossed about Saturday when Glory Daze commandeered three

blocks on Main Avenue to showcase 75 vintage or pristine cars and trucks. The car show is sponsored by Sisters Park & Recreation District (SPRD).

The lineup of vehicles ran the gamut and was divided into eight categories: Muscle

Cars, Pickup, Stock Restored, Corvette, Sports Car, Foreign Car, Model A, Street Rod, and Ladies Car. The High Desert Corvette Club came as a group with eight 'Vettes all lined in a row.

See CAR SHOW on page 20

Inside...

Letters/Weather	2	Roundabout Sisters	8	Announcements.....	12	Obituaries	13	Classifieds.....	24-26
Meetings	3	Stars over Sisters	10	Entertainment	13	Crossword	23	Real Estate	26-28