

Swimmers excel at pre-district sprint meet

By Rongi Yost
Correspondent

The swim team performed well in the pre-district swim meet held in Albany on Saturday, January 24. The Outlaws went up against tough district competition, which included North Marion, Blanchet Catholic, Sweet Home, Stayton, Cascade, Philomath, Salem Academy and Junction City.

Best swims of the day came from Maddi Boettner in the 200-yard freestyle and Anna Bartlett in the 500-yard freestyle. Both Boettner and Bartlett got the close competition they've been waiting for all season and ran with it.

Boettner stayed neck-and-neck with three other girls until the very last length. Maddi came in third in her heat with a time of 2:35.38, a personal record by five seconds.

"Maddi's race is a mental game," said Coach Brittany Morioko. "She needs to be able to see a swimmer directly next to her in order to give her a push. In the coming weeks before district we will be working on her kick at the end of her races."

Bartlett swam her best 500 freestyle of the season. Anna stayed right with two other girls for almost the entire race. In the last 75 yards of the race, Anna kicked it up and pulled ahead, winning her heat by almost a body-length with a time of 6:44.56.

"In that long of a race, to stay with someone that long is rare, even at the state level," said Morioko. "However, they went into turn after turn at each wall simultaneously."

Several other swimmers had notable races. Mary Stewart earned a first-place finish both in the 50-yard

freestyle (25.95) and 50-yard butterfly (29.04). Emily Christen came in second in the 100-yard freestyle with a time of 1:00.67, and Hannah Stuwe took five seconds off in the 50-yard butterfly for a time of 36.25. Alex Cyrus shaved two seconds for a 100-yard freestyle time of 1:03.82. Shawn Horton swam a 10-second personal record the 500-yard freestyle for a time of 6:02.18.

In the girls 200-yard medley A relay, Madelyn Zadow, Anna Bartlett, Mary Stewart and Emily Christen came in third behind Sweet Home and Salem Academy with a time of 2:07.04.

The boys 200-yard medley A relay (Shawn Horton, Jonathan Luz, Will Werts and Alex Cyrus) came in sixth with a time of 2:01.10.

The addition of Will on this relay swimming fly has made an incredible impact. Will has really come a long way over the last couple of years.
— Coach Brittany Morioko

"The addition of Will on this relay swimming fly has made an incredible impact," said Morioko. "Will has really come a long way over the last couple of years."

The swim team will spend the night in Salem on Friday, January 30, for two back-to-back meets. The first meet, on Friday, will be in Sweet Home, and the next day swimmers will be at the Kroc Center in Salem for the KROC Blanche Invitational.

Assets group updates city council

By John Griffith
Correspondent

A citizens' committee is finalizing the business analysis of the four potential "community assets."

Last June the City chartered an ad hoc group to investigate four ideas for potential community projects. Bill Hall, chair of the ad hoc Community Assets Committee (CAC) shared a PowerPoint presentation at a city council workshop Thursday that indicated that the committee would be wrapping its analysis at their February 5 meeting. They will also be looking at possible combinations of the projects for the first time.

The current projects under consideration are a Sisters Park & Recreation fieldhouse to allow for indoor community sports activities, especially in the winter months; a mid-sized convention center; a winter sports complex/ice rink; and a science/art/history center.

The CAC will be previewing their preliminary findings before the local Rotary and Kiwanis clubs over a series of four meetings in March.

On April 26, the refined project findings will be presented to the public in a meeting at FivePine Lodge & Conference Center, that will be designed to generate "passion, involvement and commitment" according to committee member Bill

Willitts. FivePine is donating the use of the center as well as beer and wine for the event. Hors d'oeuvres will be provided by the CAC.

Each of the project finalists will be presented at its own booth.

The CAC is also developing opinion surveys to be used in the Rotary and Kiwanis presentations and at the FivePine meeting. Plans to reach out with a survey directly to the community at large are still being worked out.

Both Hall and Willitts praised the group for rising above their individual business interests and working toward the best solutions for the greater community.

The Community Assets Committee was formed by former Mayor Brad Boyd in response to the input received at the town hall held at Sisters Middle School in March 2014 to brainstorm projects that the community would be interested in investigating.

The town hall meeting was called after the community uproar that resulted from the council's proposal to build an amphitheater. At the time the amphitheater plans were announced, a significant segment of the community expressed their frustration about the perceived lack of process, lack of community involvement, and lack of transparency involved in rolling out the proposal,

which many thought was "a done deal."

The amphitheater project was cancelled.

Four projects emerged as having the most community interest and the Community Assets Committee was formed to assess their potential viability.

As initially chartered, the committee is made of 10 local volunteers. The group has met 12 times since they were pulled together June 2014.

Committee members include: Matt Cyrus, Aspen Lakes; Jerry Norquist, Cycle Oregon; Bill Willitts, FivePine; Bill Hall; Caprielle Foote-Lewis, Economic Development for Central Oregon; Liam Hughes, Sisters Park & Recreation District; Marshall Jackson, Sisters School District; Ann Richardson, Sisters Area Chamber of Commerce and Sisters Folk Festival; and representatives from the city council, Wendy Holzman and McKibben Womack.

In other council business, City Manager Andrew Gorayeb was voted a merit raise based on his most recent review in December. The vote was 3-1 in favor of the raise. New councilor Nancy Connelly abstained, citing the fact that she was sworn in after the review process had taken place. Councilor David Asson voted no. There was no discussion on the motion.

LETTER FROM SISTERS CITY HALL

In an effort to better engage the public and keep the public informed, every two weeks in this space you will find information about what is happening in Sisters from the City's perspective — projects that are underway, how they are progressing, ideas the Council is considering and general updates. We want to do our very best to keep you informed.

Here's what's going on in Sisters:

City Council The City Council will hold its annual goal-setting session on Thursday, January 29 from 8 to noon. This is a time when the Council comes together to produce overarching goals for the city and identifies the tasks to produce those goals. As always, the public is encouraged to attend.

New Website Launch The City is beta-testing its new website prior to its official launch and requesting feedback from the public. The beta site is available at <http://sistersoregon.gelfuzion.net>. The website includes many new features including meeting recording, lots of additional information, updated photos, links to many other agencies and easier navigation. If you have comments or recommendations, please forward them to City Recorder Kathy Nelson at knelson@ci.sisters.or.us.

Street and Sidewalk Improvements Street, sidewalk and Americans with Disabilities (ADA) improvements have begun on Hood Avenue between Fir Street and Pine Street and will continue over the next few weeks.

Job Openings The City is accepting applications for the position of Associate Planner and Community Development Director. Information on job qualification and applications can be found on the City's website at www.ci.sisters.or.us or at City Hall, located at 520 E. Cascade Avenue.

As always, if you have questions or concerns about anything going on in the City of Sisters, please contact one of your City Councilors (their contact information is available on the City website, www.ci.sisters.or.us) or City Hall at 541-549-6022.

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