

# Swimmers work to rebuild squad

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Correspondent

The swim team graduated eight strong seniors last year, and this year's plans are to work to rebuild the squad and plan for the future.

Sisters returns seniors Cody Martin, Partrick Krevi, Madelyn Zadow, and Tara Greaney, junior Will Werts, and sophomores Hawley Harrer and Camilla Knoop.

Coach Brittany Morioka said that she hopes Werts will develop more this year as he gets stronger, and focus on gaining power and speed through strength training, not just time in the pool.

The girls team would most likely have placed overall at state this year, however, without the return of Mary Stewart, they will have their work cut out for them. Zadow and Harrer will be swimmers to watch.

"We will be shifting our focus from the girls relay to getting these two girls (Zadow and Harrer) to state individually," said Morioka. "Hawley will most likely be competing in the 50-yard and 100-yard freestyle, while Madelyn will focus on the 100-yard backstroke, and possibly the 100-yard freestyle."

Seven new swimmers will join the squad: senior David Keeton, sophomore

Delaney Newport, and freshmen Brooke Robillard, Ezra Williams, Cymbrie Lagao, and Jackson Rhueben.

Robillard and Newport have both participated in club swimming under Morioka's coaching, which will make for an easy transition to the high school team.

"Brooke and Delaney both come with a strong background, and an excellent work ethic," said Morioka.

Williams and Rhueben are expected to contribute a bunch of positive energy to the team, and are also expected to be swimmers who will emerge as leaders as they grow and mature in the pool.

"All of our new swimmers have an awesome willingness to try anything in practice," stated Morioka. "The whole atmosphere this year is great. It's a building year and our numbers are low, however, this is providing us with the opportunity to individualize everyone's programs. Lower numbers will allow us to really focus in on technique and hopefully build a solid foundation of underclassmen that will carry us in the years to come."

# Museum issues call for blankets

The High Desert Museum is collecting donated blankets with personal stories behind them to be used in a new exhibition opening next spring.

Portland-based artist Marie Watt will shape some 300 blankets into a sculpture called "Blanket Stories," a tower that carries the poignant stories of the blankets' owners. The stories behind the blankets could be as dramatic as a blanket that traveled across the Oregon Trail or as common as one that kept a newborn warm as it was brought home from the hospital. Combined, they tell the story of the community.

Watt's sculpture, along with works by Portland glass artist David Willis and Allan McCollum, a New York artist, will be included in the Museum's exhibition, *Art for a Nation: Inspiration from the Great Depression*, which opens April 16, 2016. The exhibit focuses on the Works Progress Administration (WPA), a U.S. government program that employed

millions of Americans including artists, musicians and writers during the Great Depression. In the spirit of the WPA, the High Desert Museum commissioned these artists to create original works that will be a part of the exhibition.

Watt's artwork reflects the significant role blankets play in our lives, in Native American culture and in the settling of the West. Her blanket towers have been exhibited by the Smithsonian, Tacoma Art Museum and Seattle Art Museum, to name a few. Anyone is welcome to donate a blanket, but those made from natural fibers are preferred. The blankets will become a permanent part of the sculpture and will not be returned. "If a blanket is too treasured to part with, a 'stand-in' may be submitted rather than the original," said Curator of Exhibitions & Collections Faith Powell.

Blankets may be dropped off at the Museum's admissions desk through January 31. Donors are asked to write

the blanket's story on a provided tag. In exchange for the blanket, donors will receive a special print by Marie Watt. The artist also will lead a public sewing circle at the Museum on January 16. Materials will be provided and no previous experience is necessary.

Through partnerships with other organizations in Central Oregon including the Central Oregon Symphony, Tower Theatre and Deschutes Public Library, there will be complementary events and programs in connection to the exhibition, including a film screening, live music, fashion show, lectures and more.

The Museum has been awarded funding from the Oregon Cultural Trust, Oregon Arts Commission, Oregon Community Foundation, The Roundhouse Foundation, and Bend Cultural Tourism Fund for this exhibit, which will run through September 5, 2016.

For additional information, visit [www.highdesertmuseum.org](http://www.highdesertmuseum.org).

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