

Father, daughter are ace swimmers

By Jim Cornelius
News Editor

Swimming is a family affair for Christian Tujo and his 9-year-old daughter Alexis. And both are very, very good in the water.

Alexis was ranked top 5 in the state in her age group in the 200 individual medley for 2015. Christian was, for the second year in a row, named to the U.S. Masters Swimming All-Star Team for long distance. He was also named All-American.

"I worked real hard in the 200 IM," Alexis said.

The IM is a test of the all-around swimmer, consisting of butterfly; backstroke; breaststroke; and freestyle. Alexis says she is strongest at the breaststroke, but notes, "I just love swimming; I love all the strokes."

Alexis finds her inspiration for developing her talents close to home. She developed an instant aspiration to compete and win when her dad showed her a trophy he had won in the pool — and offered to swap with her once she'd won a medal of her own.

Alexis started competing at age 5. She earned her top-5 standing at the Oregon State Championships in March.

"An early start in competitive swimming is a family tradition," according to Christian.

"It was just something my mother pushed us to do," he said.

Lately, Christian has ventured from the pool into open water, encouraged by his training buddies at Sisters Athletic Club — Tom Landis, Kris Calvin and Scott Miller.

He swam in a 10k lake swim in Lake Delvalle in the Bay Area and won a two-mile cable swim in Lebanon. He's swimming in the 45-year-old category, since he'll hit that age in May.

He says that he stays motivated for a variety of reasons.

"First and foremost is staying healthy, staying in shape, conditioning," he said.

He also enjoys the camaraderie of swimming with his friends. He said Tom Landis, who has shattered numerous masters records, "has been an inspiration for me in my swimming — especially in long distance."

And, he says, "It's nice to be competitive at 45."

Christian coaches Alexis in the Sisters Athletic Club pool, which both say is a key resource for local swimmers.



PHOTO PROVIDED

Alexis and Christian Tujo are top-rated swimmers.

He's also added another swimming element to his resume: he's become a swim official for USA Swimming.

"I got so tired of being nervous at events waiting for (Alexis) to swim — I needed something to do," he explained.

The summer season is getting underway.

"We have summer nationals coming up," Christian said. "My goal is to be top 10. Actually, my goal is more to be top five in nationals in three events."

Alexis says, "My goal is to have better technique and just have a good 10-year-old state time so I can go to State once again and just enjoy it."

COUNCIL: Civility project is popular through Sisters

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feelings you may have and consider the good of the community" when voting on the resolutions.

Steering committee chairperson Robyn Holdman thanked Council for their letter of support to the Ford Family Foundation for the C4C fund request to bring Rob Karwath, SYP representative, to Sisters to facilitate public forums last winter.

Holdman read a statement from C4C committee member Kent Neff reminding Council that the civility principles are simple and encouraging, and that it is a program of empowerment.

Clark Brody, C4C committee member, told Council of his experience sharing the message of SYP with organizations at Black Butte Ranch — police, fire, and homeowners board of directors — and their responses of adopting the nine tools.

Brody stressed that the civility project is not a platform from which to judge others.

"We don't need civility police," he said.

Rather, it is an invitation to join the effort of SYP in Sisters, and it begins with each individual making the choice to join.

Later in the evening, Council voted to incorporate the nine Tools of Civility into their own code of conduct and also approved the resolution on behalf of the City. Mayor Chris Frye and Councilor Andrea Blum were not in attendance, but with a quorum present, Council was able to vote on both resolutions. All three councilors voted to approve incorporating the nine tenets into their own code of conduct. Council president Nancy Connolly and Councilor Amy Burgstahler voted in favor of the City of Sisters accepting the nine tools. David Asson voted against that resolution.

When asked by *The Nugget* to explain his split votes, Asson said, "Council has the right to decide to adopt the nine tenants of civility for their own code of conduct but not for the City as a whole. People who come to City Hall have strong feelings one way or another. We shouldn't be expressing a point of view as a City that would impede them from freely expressing themselves (if they did it in a way that wasn't in line with the nine tenets)."

The resolution passed.

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