

911 to offer texting option starting soon

Starting Monday, December 12, people in Deschutes County can text their emergencies to 911. Text-to-911 is a tool for people who may not be able to speak due the nature of their emergency, such as a home-invasion robbery or an abusive partner. It will also benefit individuals who are deaf, hard of hearing, or have speech disabilities. “We know calling 911 isn’t always an option,” said Deschutes County 911 Service District Director Steve Reinke. “When a phone call isn’t possible, the Service District’s Text-to-911 service will help people get the assistance they need.” To text Deschutes County 911, users should look for the message icon on their cell phones and enter 911 in the number field of the text message screen. Then, users should type the location and type of emergency in the message field.

Texting to 911 is intended to benefit people who may not be able to speak in an emergency. Authorities urge users to “call if you can, text if you can’t.”

When texting to 911 for an emergency, the first message

should be the location of the emergency (including city) and the type of help needed (police, fire, or medical).

Keep text messages brief and concise; use full words.

Stay with your phone and be prepared to answer questions and follow instructions from the 911 dispatcher.

At this time, 911 can’t accept photos, videos or emojis. They will corrupt your text.

You can’t include 911 in a group text or while roaming.

Text-to-911 service isn’t available state-wide. If you send a text to 911 from a wireless carrier or a city or county 911 center without Text-to-911 service, you should receive a message saying text-to-911 service is not available. Reinke emphasized Text-to-911 should only be used when it isn’t possible or safe to communicate with 911 by voice.

“We can process an emergency call faster using voice communication, but when a voice call isn’t possible Text-to-911 will help us help people get the assistance they need,” he said. For more information visit www.deschutes.org/911 or www.nwtext911.info.

Boys hoops returns talented players

By Rongi Yost
Correspondent

The boys basketball team returns a mix of talent, along with some new faces, and the squad is excited about the upcoming season.

The Outlaws lost key players Hayes Moore, Steen Johnson, Scott Waddell and Connor Lake, but are back with three experienced players from last year’s team. Seniors Keegan Greaney, who was a first-team all-league player; Tyler Head, a second-team pick; and dynamic guard Ben Saba are back for their final season as Outlaws.

Senior Jake Larson, an excellent defensive player and a spark off the bench last year, will see more time on the court this season, and senior Jonathon Bertagna, who worked into some varsity minutes last year, is expected to be a steady presence in the paint.

“Everyone in the program is really happy that Tanner Head (senior) is back out after some really difficult injuries last year kept him out of

all sports,” said Coach Rand Runco. “I’m really excited about all of our seniors. They are tough and really play hard on the defensive end and bring not only experience, but great leadership. You just couldn’t ask for a better group of guys to lead our program this year.”

The Outlaws also have a great group of younger players that are working their way into important roles.

Last year, sophomore Jack Berg was the Most Valuable JV Player, and this year he will be a key varsity player, due to his ability to shoot and score from all ranges.

Junior Ty Horner, who moved back to Sisters after a year in Portland, is expected to have an immediate impact in the paint and outside.

“Ty is a big man that has really worked to develop all of his skills,” said Runco. “I see his role growing on a daily basis.”

Sophomores Noah Richards and Zach Anderson worked hard in the off-season, and according to Runco are playing very well.

“Noah will be a key guard, and Zach a rebounding slasher,” noted Runco. “I believe both will have an impact this season.”

The Outlaws also have a group of juniors and sophomores who are currently swing players, but as the season progresses Runco expects them to be fighting for varsity positions. Juniors Peyton Myhre, Taylor Scholl, James Cecelliani and Austin Lake all worked in the off-season, and according to Runco are right on the edge.

Sophomores Brad Eagan, Korbin Sharp, Ryan Waddell and Hunter Lucas are also showing great potential.

Runco commented, “The first two weeks have been very competitive for positions, and a lot of learning. We have a long way to go on the defensive end, but have some good offensive talent. We have a really tough pre-season schedule with 5A opponents that should really get us ready for league.”

The Outlaws will play at home on Friday, December 2, against Crook County.



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