

Girls basketball loses on the hardwood

By Rongi Yost
Correspondent

Sisters' young squad lost two more games on the hardwood last week. The Lady Outlaws fell 31-17 to Cottage Grove (CG) at home on Wednesday, February 8, and two days later lost 58-28 to the Falcons at Elmira.

Due to inclement weather, the Outlaws' Tuesday game against CG was rescheduled and played a day later. Once again, the team struggled to make baskets.

Sisters only shot 16 percent from the field and 56 percent from the stripe, and the fast pace of the game resulted in 22 turnovers.

Hogan Hernandez led the Outlaws with seven points, and Grace Sundstrom added four.

Two days later, Sisters lost to No. 4-ranked Sutherlin.

The game featured two completely different halves. In the first half, the Bulldogs hit seven shots from behind the arc for 21 of their 38 first-half points, while Sisters was held to eight points in the half.

In the second half, the Outlaws played much better, and stayed even with the Bulldogs. Both teams put 20 points on the scoreboard.

Rylee Weber led the team with 11 points, four steals and two assists. Olivia Hougham contributed seven points and three steals, and Hernandez added five points.

Despite the frustrations, the young and fairly inexperienced Outlaws continue to work hard and hold their heads high.

Rylee Weber said, "It stinks to have games where our



PHOTO BY JERRY BALDOCK

Rylee Weber goes up for two.

shots won't fall, and Sutherlin is a very well-coached group of girls. Our team works hard and has great attitudes, and I'm proud to play and learn with them, win or lose."

Coach Alan Von Stein commented on the Outlaws struggles:

"The girls have grasped the offense and defense, but have struggled with turnovers and getting the ball through the

hoop. As they get more court time and the game begins to slow down for them, the turnovers will start to decrease. The same is true for putting the ball in the hoop."

The Outlaws have two games left in the season. They were to play at home against Junction City on Tuesday, February 14, and then wrap up the year on Friday, February 17, at Elmira.

Sisters Folk Festival to unveil 2017 poster

Sisters Folk Festival will unveil Dennis McGregor's latest creation promoting the 2017 Festival on February 22 at Sisters Gallery & Frame Shop in downtown Sisters.

Festival poster artist Dennis McGregor will be on hand to unveil his latest creation. As always, Dennis has thought deeply about the image, the impression it will leave on the viewer and how it represents the Festival. Light hors d'oeuvres, wine and beer will be provided. The event is from 4:30 to 6 p.m. and open to the public.

The original artwork will remain on display at Sisters Gallery & Frame Shop, along with Dennis' other original paintings, giclee prints, and

note cards.

All-event passes for this year's Sisters Folk Festival, September 8-10, are still available, and organizers indicate they are going fast. The festival has sold out for five years in a row, last year's sellout happening in June.

The 2017 poster artwork will be displayed on the Sisters Folk Festival and Sisters Gallery websites after the event. For tickets or information about the Sisters Folk Festival, visit www.sistersfolkfestival.org or call 541-549-4979. Sisters Gallery & Frame Shop is located at 252 W. Hood Ave. in Sisters, 541-549-9552; www.sistersgallery.com.

www.NuggetNews.com

Try to Overcome Roadblocks to a Comfortable Retirement

In your life, you will want to take many journeys. Some are physical – perhaps you'll finally visit the French Riviera or the Caribbean. Others involve personal growth – one day, you'll finally become fluent in that foreign language you've been studying. But of all the destinations you can identify, few will be as important as retirement – specifically, a comfortable retirement. And that's why it's so important to consider the "roadblocks" you might encounter on your road to the retirement lifestyle you've envisioned. Here are five of the most common obstacles:

- **Insufficient investments** – Very few of us have ever reported investing "too much" for their retirement. But a great many people regret that they saved and invested too little. Don't make that mistake. Contribute as much as you can afford to your 401(k) or other employer-sponsored retirement plan, and increase your contributions whenever your salary goes up. Even if you do participate in your retirement plan at work, you may also still be eligible to fund an IRA, so take advantage of that opportunity, too. And always look for other ways to cut expenses and direct this "found" money toward your retirement.

- **Underestimating your longevity** – You can't predict how long you'll live, but you can make some reasonable guesses – and you might be surprised at your prospects. According to the Social Security Administration, men reaching age 65 today can expect to live, on average, until age 84.3, while women turning age 65 today can anticipate living, on average, until age 86.6. That's a lot of years – and you'll need to plan for them when you create long-term saving, investing and spending strategies.

- **Not establishing a suitable withdrawal rate** – Once you are retired, you will likely need to start withdrawing money from your 401(k), IRA and other retirement accounts. It's essential that you don't withdraw too much each year – obviously, you don't want to run the risk of outliving your resources. That's why you need to establish an annual withdrawal rate that's appropriate for your situation, incorporating variables such as your age, the value of your retirement accounts, your estimated lifestyle expenses, and so on. Calculating such a withdrawal rate can be challenging, so you may want to consult with a professional financial advisor.

- **Taking Social Security at the wrong time** – You can start taking Social Security as early as age 62, but your checks will be bigger if you wait until your full retirement age, which will probably be 66 or 67, or when your payments "max out" at 70. You might not be able to afford to wait until then, but by postponing the date you begin taking withdrawals, you could help yourself considerably.

- **Ignoring inflation** – It's been low in recent years, but inflation hasn't disappeared, and it could rise at exactly the wrong time – when you're retired. That's why you'll want your portfolio to include some investments with the potential to outpace inflation, even during your retirement years. By being aware of these roadblocks, and taking steps to overcome them, you can help smooth your journey toward retirement – and once you get there, you may enjoy it more.

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