

# Outlaws softball team raring to go

By Tom Mauldin  
Correspondent

What a difference a year makes.

This time a year ago, Sisters High School's varsity softball field was in game-ready condition, but then first-year Head Coach Dave Smith had a roster of three. It took two weeks of recruiting by Smith and his small roster to fill out a lineup card.

This year, Smith has 15 players raring to go, but the varsity field is covered with snow.

Smith said the team is "looking a lot more promising than the field conditions." And the weather forecast is "iffy" at best. The Outlaws are scheduled to open the season hosting La Pine on March 16. Sky-Em League play opens on April 5 hosting Elmira.

"The numbers are good, but at the moment we are hampered by snow on the field and we are battling for gym space with the other

sports," Smith reported.

Other than that, Smith and crew have a lot to be excited about.

The Outlaws return eight players from last year's 2-15 team (2-13 in the Sky-Em League), including seniors Savana Ryan (first base), Kylie Steiner (second base-catcher) and all-league, left-handed pitcher Amanda Smith. A fourth senior, Brenda Isarraraz, is making her softball debut this season.

After taking her sophomore season off, Cassidy Ling-Scott returns as a junior. Smith said, "We are excited to see her on the field again. At the moment, Cassidy will be joining Smith on the mound."

Returning Sophomores are Sara Hartford, Sophia Affatati, Grace Maiden, Nancy Montecinos and Beth Anne Yount.

New to the roster are sophomores Mya St. Clair, Denise Tapia, Emma Ransom, Rylee Funk and Graciela Isarraraz.

# Band of Brothers donates to ranch

On February 22, a delegation of members from the Sisters Band of Brothers presented a check for \$500 to support the Central Oregon Veterans Ranch, whose mission is "A working ranch that restores purpose and spirit to veterans of all ages."

"On behalf of all the men and women who have served our country and deserve a place to connect, heal, and find a sense of peace and purpose, I can't thank you enough," said Alison Perry, founder and executive director of the ranch. "This generous gift is so very much appreciated."

The Veterans Ranch, located on a 19-acre property just outside of Redmond, was the brainchild of Perry, who long ago realized there was a need for an environment away from the chaos of larger urban areas; where veterans could experience a different kind of healing process utilizing agri-therapy and peer supports.

In 2013, an advisory group came together to imagine, design, and facilitate the ways and means to make the



PHOTO PROVIDED

Sisters Band of Brothers has contributed to the Central Oregon Veterans Ranch, which helps veterans restore a sense of purpose and spirit.

Today, the ranch house has been remodeled, the property is awaiting the construction of its new greenhouse, and the adult foster home is licensed and scheduled to open on May 1. With accommodations for four individuals, resident applications are being taken at this time.

A final fundraising effort is underway to raise \$75,000 by April 15 to ensure a timely opening for the home.

For more information or to make a donation, call 541-706-9062; email [info@centraloregonveteransranch.org](mailto:info@centraloregonveteransranch.org); or mail COVR, P.O. Box 8302, Bend, OR, 97708.

The Sisters Chapter of Band of Brothers meets for a luncheon at 11:30 a.m. every Wednesday at Takoda's restaurant for the opportunity to share friendship, camaraderie, and assistance. Anyone that has served in the military is welcome.



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