

Swim team ready to plunge into season

By Charlie Kanzig
Correspondent

The 2017-18 edition of Sisters High School's swim team includes a total of 30 athletes under the leadership of first-year Head Coach Bryn Singleton. That's one of the largest squads in school history.

With the competitive season beginning on Saturday, December 2 at Madras, the 13 boys and 17 girls on the roster will take their first steps toward building on last year's success, which included a fourth-place finish at state by the girls team.

Rosie Horton will be serving as an assistant for the team, taking the spot Singleton held for the past three years.

The top returnees for the girls team include senior Hawley Harrer, juniors Brooke Robillard and Meredith Mandal, and sophomore Lydia Bartlett.

Robillard is the girls team captain, and Jackson Rheuben serves as the boys captain. Other top returnees for the boys team include Jordan Polard, Connor Crowe and Sam Mitchell.

During pre-season practices, Singleton has found the team to be enjoyable to work with.

"They seem to be an enthusiastic bunch, so it will be exciting to watch them learn over the course of the season," she said. "The girls who went to state last year are great role models and I expect they will help us have a very successful season, both in individual events and on our relay

teams."

The Outlaws compete in Special District 3, which includes 4A/3A/2A/1A schools Blanchet, Junction City, Cascade, North Marion, Salem Academy/Western Mennonite, Stayton, Sweet Home and Philomath.

Sweet Home is a perennial power. The Husky girls won the state title last year with a whopping 99 points, followed by North Bend (58), La Grande (32), and Sisters (29) as the other trophy teams. Sweet Home's boys team also won the state title last year.

Singleton's goal for the team is that every member feels valued, regardless of speed or ability.

"I intend to structure my practices and team activities so that everyone improves in the sport, and most importantly, has fun being part of the team," she said.

With two weeks of practices completed, Singleton is pleased with what she is seeing thus far.

Fire personnel reach out for holidays

The Sisters-Camp Sherman Fire & Ambulance Association is sponsoring the annual "Spirit of Christmas Giving Tree" to provide Christmas gifts to families in need in Sisters Country this holiday season. They expect to serve close to 250 families this year.

Gifts are available to children age newborn to seniors in high school of low-income families who live within the Sisters or Black Butte school districts. The Association is collecting new unwrapped gifts at the main fire station at 301 S. Elm St. in Sisters. There are "Spirit of Christmas Giving Trees" at Sisters Ray's Food Place, Sisters Bi-Mart, Black Butte Ranch Post Office and Black Butte Ranch Police Department.

Last year, the Association launched a new virtual "Spirit of Christmas Giving Tree." On the District website at www.sistersfire.com you will be able to pick a tag and help make Christmas a little more special for a Sisters family in need right from the comfort of your home or from anywhere

you have Internet access.

Volunteers encourage you to pick a gift tag for a child from one of the trees and purchase specific gifts requested by the families rather than just donating a non-specific gift.

Spirit of Christmas
GIVING TREE LOCATIONS:

- Sisters Ray's Food Place
- Sisters Bi-Mart
- Black Butte Ranch Post Office
- Black Butte Ranch Police Department

For those folks that would like to participate in the program but are unable to purchase a specific gift, the Association will also accept cash donations. Cash donations are tax-deductible and will go toward gift-buying. Cash donations can be made at the main fire station, by mail at P.O. Box 1509, Sisters, Oregon, 97759, or online at www.sistersfire.com.

The deadline for gift donations is Friday, December 1.

The tags that are not filled by the community will be filled by Sisters Fire District volunteer shoppers using donated funds, which mean that no qualifying child gets left without a gift.

If you haven't seen the Christmas lights display at the main fire station at 301 S. Elm St. in Sisters, be sure to drive by and stop and listen. The light display is accompanied by music each evening from parade day until after Christmas.

On Christmas day, The Sisters-Camp Sherman Rural Fire Protection District and the Sisters-Camp Sherman Volunteer Fire and Ambulance Association invites the public to join them at the Annual Sisters Community Christmas Dinner to be held Christmas day at 1 p.m. in the Sisters Fire Station Community Hall. Everyone in the community is welcome and no reservation is required.

For more information contact the Sisters-Camp Sherman Fire District at 541-549-0771.

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