



PHOTO BY JERRY BALDOCK

Samantha Silva makes a dig vs. Crook County. The Outlaws played in a tournament and a pre-season game last week.

## Outlaws faced tough competition at tourney

By Rongi Yost  
Correspondent

The Lady Outlaws finished fifth out of the 12 teams that attended the Mt. View Tournament held on Friday, August 31.

Sisters opened pool play a bit slow against South Albany, but finished well and took the first set 25-20. The Outlaws hung onto the momentum as they started the second set, quickly went up 6-0, held the lead, and sailed to a 25-13 finish. The lead changed several times in the third set, both teams battled for every point, and unfortunately the Outlaws came up short in a close game, which ended in a 23-25 loss. Sisters posted 19 kills in the match, with Sophie Silva leading the squad with seven kills.

The Outlaws fell short by one point, 26-27, in their next match against a tough Mt. View team. Mt. View took the momentum with them into the second set, the Outlaws struggled with their passes, and lost the set 17-25. Sisters settled down and came out swinging in the third set, went up 5-0, didn't look back, and crushed the Cougars 25-14. Sisters had 33 kills in the match, again led by Silva, who recorded nine.

Sisters wrapped up pool play and made it to the Gold Division seeded sixth. They faced a very good Silverton squad, struggled to find a rhythm in their passing game, and lost in two close sets, 24-26, and 19-25. Silva had eight kills in the match, and Kendra Sitz added six.

After their loss to Silverton, the Outlaws wanted to finish with a win in their final match of the tournament against Pendleton. They regrouped, refocused, came ready to play, and

won both sets, 25-13, 25-15. Sisters posted 21 team kills, led by Greta Davis who tallied seven and Silva, who added five.

The Outlaws finished the day with 28 serving aces and 94 kills as a team.

Coach Rory Rush said, "The girls played well today. This tournament was about playing tough competition, and learning and finding chemistry. It was a great opportunity for us to work out some kinks as we get ready to head into league play. Every practice, every match, we continue to improve."

## Spruced up schools greet students

By Jim Cornelius  
News Editor

Thanks to the support of Sisters Country voters and some additional financial good fortune, Sisters students are returning to school with considerably improved facilities.

Sisters Middle School is the last of the three schools to undergo renovation funded by \$10.7 million in voter-approved bonds, augmented by a \$4 million state grant. The school district decided last year that the construction work at SMS would be too disruptive to conduct during the school year, so it was scheduled for this summer. It is now wrapping up.

"I'm feeling more and more confident about opening," said Sisters Schools Superintendent Curt Scholl in an interview last month. "I think we'll have 95 percent of it done when student show up."

Construction project manager Brett Hudson told *The Nugget* that the SMS work is under budget — even with some additional work being added to the scope, including a paint job. SMS was allocated a \$2.9 million budget and the project has come in at \$2.8 million.

"We've added a lot of site work, concrete work... I was able to patch additional

asphalt," Hudson noted.

Good timing in the bond market and the extra \$4 million from the state allowed the district to set aside \$1 million as a fund to cover deferred maintenance.

"We've started to budget that out over the next five years," Scholl said.

Hudson noted that the district is already seeing savings from improved heating and cooling systems, and from high-efficiency lighting. He noted that Reed Stadium's lighting is now reduced to four poles, all for less than what one pole used to require in output. The light diffusion from the stadium lighting has also been cut, reducing the impact outside the stadium.

Scholl said he would like to see high-efficiency lighting in the school gyms.

Additional projects may be feasible.

Scholl noted, "we're tracking right now to have \$1.9 to \$2 million left after the middle school."

That means that the district can pursue construction of a transportation facility in the area of the high school, replacing the cramped and outdated bus barn at Sisters Elementary School. A previous plan for a new bus barn including some vo-tech space located in the high school parking lot proved

controversial and was withdrawn. The current idea is to build a transportation facility somewhere in the area of the SPRD headquarters, accessed off of Highway 242. The school board has already allocated \$1.5 million for such a project.

The facility would enable the district to consolidate its equipment, provide storage and a larger, more functional facility for maintenance of the fleet. Hudson said he expects to have a site plan ready for approval in early 2019.

The district is looking at another piece of good news going into the 2018-19 school year: Enrollment is looking to be up by about 20 students.

SSD has bumped along with essentially flat numbers for several years. Since state funding is allocated on a per-student basis (and funds from bonds can't be used for operations) additional student enrollment is key to a healthy operating budget.

Scholl says that, while numbers always fluctuate, especially at the beginning of a school year, the district is looking at K-8 enrollment of 650 and high school enrollment of 450. In a small district, adding 20 students is a nice shot in the arm.

"That's my cautiously optimistic line right now," Scholl said.

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