

ELLIOTT: Two-time mayor saw major changes in Sisters

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serve in that capacity through 2006.

It was an era of significant change in the community. As a city councilor and then as mayor, Elliott helped guide the community through a period of growth and densification allowed by the construction of a sewer system approved by voters in 1998.

“That led to shrinking lot sizes and all the infill,” Elliott recalled.

While that change brought development and economic growth, it was also controversial, as it changed the character of the town.

In addition to the massive undertaking of installing a municipal sewer system, the City of Sisters also completely revamped its water system and dedicated several new parks. City Hall was then located in a small decrepit box of a building where Fir Street Park is now, and Elliott takes considerable pride in the project that produced Sisters’ current City Hall, which is part of a campus of public buildings — including the Sisters School District offices and the Deschutes Public Library — which was created during Elliott’s tenure on council.

The physical plant wasn’t the only thing that changed. The City moved from having a City Administrator to a City Manager — a reflection of the growing complexity of municipal government — and Elliott worked for many years with then-Manager Eileen Stein.

There were many controversies along the way, and tensions among council members — but Elliott recalls that the diverse group managed to get a lot of important work done.

“We agreed to disagree and we moved on and we did a lot,” he said.

Elliott also served on the fire district board at a time of crisis and change. Elliott took the reins as board chair after

former Deschutes County Sheriff and fire district budget officer Greg Brown was convicted of embezzling hundreds of thousands of dollars from the district and helped the district restore its confidence and morale.

He was deeply involved in the voter-approved construction of a modern new fire hall facility on Elm Street and the hiring of Fire Chief Tay Robertson. Elliott resigned on the day Robertson retired and handed the reins to current chair Chuck Newport.

Now Elliott is leaving the town he helped to bring into the current era. His son Mitch, who served for many years as a Black Butte Ranch police officer is now Undersheriff in Wheeler County — “and he loves it,” Elliott said.

Mitch and Karen and Dave and Janet had been contemplating purchasing a spread together for some time, and they found their spot at what they call Hilltop Ranch.

“(The ranch house has) got a big back porch with a rocking chair. Of course, I don’t know how much time I’m going to spend in that...”
— Dave Elliott

Dave, at 70, will maintain the property, where they will raise beef cattle for personal use and where he plans to have an extensive garden.

Dave doesn’t feel strange about leaving the town where he lived for four decades and where he served for years.

“I’ve been out of it for long enough, and the town — what they call Sisters Country — has grown so much,” he said. “It’s changed. The small-town atmosphere has changed... We’re just going to go out and retire in the countryside. (The ranch house has) got a big back porch with a rocking chair. Of course, I don’t know how much time I’m going to spend in that...”

Girls lacrosse gets new head coach

By Rongi Yost
Correspondent

Sisters girls lacrosse players have got themselves a new head coach in Shelby Wilcox, who was just recently hired to fill the position. Wilcox brings lots of player experience and a deep knowledge of the game.

Wilcox grew up in Livermore, California, and started playing lacrosse in middle school. She went on to play four years on varsity at Grenada High School. Shelby played on defense all through middle school and her freshman year in high school, and then her final three years played at attack-mid. Wilcox went on to play one year at Utah Valley University on a club team.

During her varsity years, Shelby also played on a highly competitive team called Bear LAX, and had the opportunity to play against some of the most experienced clubs in the country, many of which were from the East Coast. Wilcox traveled with Bear LAX to tournaments all over the West Coast, including Colorado, New Mexico, and California.

Wilcox got married to her husband, Derek, in 2017 and they have been living in Central Oregon for the past two years. Shelby has been in search of a coaching position and first heard about the girls lacrosse coaching opening from Peggy Hogue, the LAX

committee chair.

“Peggy reached out to me because I’d initially contacted Bend, and their coach sent my information to her,” said Wilcox. “Following her recommendation, I interviewed with Chad Rush, recreation programs director at SPRD (who administers the lacrosse program).”

A couple days later, Shelby got a call from Rush, and was offered the job, which she readily accepted.

“This is my first coaching job and I’m super excited,” said Wilcox. “Growing up, I watched my uncle coach and teach, and I gained a lot of respect for how integrated he was in the community and how everybody knew and respected him. When this opportunity came to me, he was the first thing that came to my mind, and I hope to be just like him and do the same thing.”

Wilcox has moved a lot over the past years, and she told *The Nugget* that she and her husband “are really excited to plant some roots and integrate into the Sisters community.”

Shelby shared with *The Nugget* where she plans to start.

“I’m excited to start building a level of trust and respect with the girls,” said Wilcox. “I’m looking forward to assessing their abilities and



PHOTO BY RONGI YOST

Shelby Wilcox is the new Outlaws girls lacrosse coach.

seeing where we are as a program. I really want us to focus on the basics, because solid, basic LAX skills are a good place to start.

“I would love to see a larger integration between the youth programs at SPRD and at the high school,” added Wilcox. “And, I’d love to give these girls the opportunity to consider a college opportunity with lacrosse.”

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