

Boys golf plays at Florence Golf Links

By Rongi Yost
Correspondent

The boys golf team traveled to the coast on Monday, April 22, and played for the first time at the Florence Golf Links, formerly called Sand Dunes. The course is built right on the Oregon Sand Dunes, and one of the best courses in the state.

Coach Bill Mitchell said, "It was a nice day to play golf. It was dry, and not much wind, which is a bonus when you play on the coast. And we even got to stick our toes in the Pacific."

Dylan Vantress and Connor Crowe had their best round of the season, and both finished with a 111. Mitchell told *The Nugget* that Crowe's ball-striking has been better and he's learning to relax,

and Dylan is doing better, but just needs to slow everything down.

The highlight of Connor's round was a par on the second hole. Connor drove the ball about 250 yards down the long, narrow fairway, and then used his seven iron to hit it onto the green about 20 feet from the cup. His first putt put the ball eight inches from the hole and then he tapped it in for par.

Connor said, "I've been struggling with my first shot, so I've really been working on my long-distance drives off the tee box. It was nice to get a nice straight shot. Usually I don't do well on the first couple of holes because I'm so tight and nervous, so it was great to do well on the second hole."

Vantress shared his

thoughts about the course.

Dylan said, "It was a really fun course, and it was nice to play by the ocean. Some of the holes were close to 500 yards long, which was hard, but we pushed through. The greens were slow and sandy and that was hard to adjust to."

Other scores for the Outlaws were: Dan Schmidt (113), Felix Leahey (117), and Ashton King (126).

The Outlaws will host a home tournament at Black Butte Ranch on Thursday, May 2. Districts will be held Monday and Tuesday, May 6 and 7, at Tokatee.

The girls golf team did not play this past week, but will compete at Districts which will be held Monday and Tuesday, May 6 and 7, at the Santiam Golf Course.

Driving for glory...



PHOTO BY JERRY BALDOCK

The Central Oregon Shootout teed off under gorgeous conditions at Aspen Lakes last week.

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HOA attorney threatens appeal

By Sue Stafford
Correspondent

The attorney for the Village at Cold Springs Homeowners Association (HOA), Ed Fitch, threw down the gauntlet at last week's public hearing regarding the connecting of streets between the Village and the proposed McKenzie Meadows Village (MMV).

Fitch stated that should the Sisters City Council approve the proposed street connections on Hill and Williamson Avenues, the HOA would file an appeal with the Land Use Board of Appeals (LUBA). The planning file for the Hayden Homes MMV development continues to work its way through the City approval process.

Following a public hearing before the Planning Commission earlier in April where the file was approved with a 6-1 vote, the City Council held a public hearing on April 24 regarding Ordinance 496. The ordinance concerns the MMV Master Plan, subdivision, zone change, plan amendment, and development agreement.

At the conclusion of the public hearing, Council chose to close the oral testimony but leave the record open for further written comments from the public until 5 p.m. May 1, with further rebuttals to testimony given on April 24 or during the week up to May 1, due May 8 by 5 p.m. A final seven days are for the applicant (Hayden Homes) to submit further written rebuttal by May 15.

Council will continue the

public hearing on May 15 during their regular meeting, with deliberations on the ordinance.

The majority of oral testimony was supportive of the MMV development. Members of the HOA at Village at Cold Springs, which is the Hayden project adjacent to MMV, testified about their opposition to the connection of Hill and Williamson avenues between the two properties. They want gates installed to keep out through traffic. Hayden, knowing the wishes of the HOA, submitted their first set of plans showing gates on those streets. The Sisters Fire Department signed off on the gates. The City said current code does not allow for the gates.

The streets in the Village are privately maintained by the HOA. They are narrower than the current code requires and the streets the City wants to connect them to on either side would be regulation width with a higher speed limit than the 10 mph in Village at Cold Springs.

Residents are concerned about the safety and livability of their neighborhood with increased traffic possibly traveling at higher speeds on narrow streets. They are also aware that increased traffic could give rise to more maintenance issues with the streets, and increased costs for repair.

The HOA has been consistent with their letters, emails, diagrams and photos to the City outlining and supporting their concerns. The contracted traffic engineer for the City, Joe Beeson, cited studies

saying that narrow streets provide a traffic-calming influence. The HOA isn't buying it and has numerous stories to the contrary.

Citing current City code, staff is recommending to Council that the entire planning file ordinance, with one condition, be approved. The HOA is contending that the City cares more about ordinances and codes than the safety and quality of life of some of its residents.

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