



PHOTO PROVIDED

Sisters veterans presented Anna Mensing with a \$400 check and other awards for her essay on "What Makes America Great."

Veterans present award to high school student

Sisters High School junior Anna Mensing earned honors from Sisters veterans last week.

Sisters VFW Post 8138 on Wednesday, December 11, presented the annual Voice Of Democracy essay contest award to Mensing, a junior attending Gail Greaney's Political Science class at Sisters High School, for her essay on "What Makes America Great."

Anna was presented with a letter of commendation, a Voice Of Democracy medal, a gold-plated flag pin, and a check for \$400. Her essay

will be forwarded to VFW District 10 for consideration in state competition with 16 districts in Oregon. The state prize is \$5,000, and the National Award top prize is \$15,000.

Pictured left to right are Jeff Mackey, post quartermaster; Pat Bowe, commander; Anna Mensing, student; Bill Anttila, service officer; and Earl Schroeder, post vice commander.

"The men and women of VFW Post 8138, Sisters, salute Anna for a great job expressing her patriotism in her essay," Anttila said.

Ski team prepares to hit the slopes

By Rongi Yost
Correspondent

The Outlaws ski team boasts a roster of 23 racers this year, and both the boys and girls teams look strong and are expected to perform well this season.

On the boys side, seniors Evan Palmer, Mitchell Griffin, George Chladek, and Colton Seymour; juniors Simon Rhett, Christopher Lundgren, Ian Cash, Connor Petke, Corbin Johnson, Vicente Robolledo; and sophomore Oscar Rhett return for another season on the slopes.

Palmer is back for his fourth year on the varsity. His tall, athletic build gives him an advantage on the giant slalom and he's expected to be a top performer in that event this season. Griffin also returns as a four-year starter and one of the team's most technical skiers. Mitchell's experience, combined with his technical expertise, should consistently put him at the top of the pack this year. Evan and Mitchell were elected by the team as team captains and are stepping up as leaders during training.

Chladek is another four-year racer. George has been one of the team's top racers for the last three years, and was the team's fastest racer

in the slalom event last year. He's an instinctive skier and is expected to have a great final season. Seymour just joined the ski team last year, but he came from a history of club racing and had the team's highest combined giant slalom/slalom score last year.

Rhett will race for his third season. Last year Simon was consistently the team's fastest JV racer. Simon also did race a bit on the varsity team. His experience and tall build should give him an advantage in the giant slalom, and Coach Gabe Chladek hopes he will ski more on varsity this year. Lundgren has also been on the ski team since his freshman year. Christopher has gained a lot of experience and is a steady racer. Chladek stated that Christopher can be counted on to finish his run and hold a respectable spot in the finish order.

Cash started as a freshman with limited skiing experience, and has become a consistent racer who has picked up his speed on the course. Chladek noted that Ian has set a great example for the new skiers on the team. Petke is a third-year skier. Connor had some set-backs due to illness since his freshman year, but Chladek told *The Nugget* that he continues to train when

he can and races with all his heart when he's on the course, which shows in his finish times.

Corbin Johnson and Vicente Robolledo were on the ski team last year, but were not able to compete due to extenuating circumstances. This year they both are off to a strong start with training, and coaches expect both of them to race regularly this season.

Oscar Rhett is back for his second season, is refining his skills as a racer, and is expected to move up in the finish order this year.

Six new skiers joined the squad this year including freshmen Corbin Fredland and Bela Chladek, who come with previous club racing experience. They both will push the older racers and will be competitive varsity racers. Senior Ethan Eckert, sophomores Ashton King and Ilya Goheen, and freshman Aiden Eckert are all out for their first year of racing, and come with various skiing backgrounds.

Coach Chladek said, "It's really encouraging to see new skiers join the sport and support the Sisters team into the future."

The girls team also looks strong as they return for

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