

School district waives athletic fees

By Charlie Kanzig
Correspondent

In a gesture to help families and to promote participation, the Sisters School District has announced that the pay-to-play fees for middle school and high school sports is being waived for the school year.

Superintendent Curt Scholl and high school athletic director Gary Thorson made the announcement last week.

Any families who have already paid for upcoming sports seasons will be reimbursed, according to Thorson.

“Our ‘Season One’ that took place with limited activity was no charge, so this decision is focused completely on the upcoming seasons,” he said.

Thorson said, “We have seen positive results from other school districts that have done the same and Superintendent Scholl made this a priority for our district. The benefits of cocurricular activities are crucial to the development of our students, and this removes a barrier for more participation from both the middle and high schools.”

Being able to offer families a financial break during the pandemic also played a part in the decision.

“Obviously this year in particular has been hard financially on many families, and the timing of this could not be any better,” said Thorson. “I am very appreciative of Superintendent Scholl and the SSD School Board making this commitment



PHOTO BY CHARLIE KANZIG

Cross-country runners like Hayden Roth and Kaleb Briggs will be running “free” this season thanks to pay-to-play fees being waived this year.

that will benefit so many in the community. They have shown great leadership during difficult times and we are lucky to have them in the positions they are in.”

The move is financially possible for the school district due to the fact that athletic spending has been almost completely nonexistent since virtually no teams have been competing since last March, resulting in budget savings on transportation, facility maintenance, officials and other expenses normally associated with athletics.

The Oregon School Activities Association (OSAA) announced a new athletic calendar that begins in January in the hope that many, if not all, sports will at least be able to have an abbreviated six-week season.

The traditional “fall” sports are scheduled to begin February 22, 2021. “Spring” sports will begin April 5, and “winter” sports are set to start May 3.

Volunteers named to city committees

By Sue Stafford
Correspondent

Large numbers of local volunteers will help guide Sisters into the future.

A record number of volunteers turned out in November to fill positions on City boards and commissions, with terms beginning on January 1, 2021. The interested residents all filled out City applications and participated in Zoom interviews with several City councilors and City staff before the final selections were made.

Council President Nancy Connolly told *The Nugget*, “I believe the people we selected are a fair representation of the community.” She indicated that the large number of applicants was a validation for the council and staff for being open and inclusive.

At the December 9 City Council meeting, Mayor Chuck Ryan formally appointed the following people to committees and boards:

- Planning Commission: Jeff Seymour, Scot Davidson, and Tom Reis for four-year terms.

- Public Works Advisory Board: Dave Moyer, Robert Hatfield, John Herman, Bill Kelly, and Jenn Rambo. Term lengths will be determined at the first meeting.

- City Parks Advisory Board: Dixie Eckford and Sarah McDougall to one-year terms; Eli Madrone for three-year term.

- Urban Forestry Board: John Myers, three-year term.

- Budget Committee: Susan Cobb, Briana Metzler, and Robin Smith to three-year terms. One position still open.

Going forward, new board members will be appointed every year in January and members whose terms are expiring will go off the board as of December 31. All new appointees will receive training for their positions in board protocols, City requirements, and particular expectations for each board.

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