

Sisters School District highlights

By Charlie Kanzig
Correspondent

The Sisters School Board met for the first time in 2021 on Wednesday, January 6 via Zoom.

- Superintendent Curt Scholl thanked the teachers and support staff for continuing to have a common focus and working together for the sake of Sisters’ students.
- Early indications show little increase in enrollment, but housing projects continue to boom in the area, so an enrollment increase is strongly anticipated. Scholl reported that with the expected growth for next year, the elementary school may need to install one or two portables to accommodate students.
- Scholl reported that the elementary school conducted the first week back from the

holiday break in distance learning, but returned to the hybrid model January 11, which they have been in for most of the school year. Fifth and sixth grades at Sisters Middle School and ninth and 10th grades at Sisters High School will start in the hybrid model January 25, followed by seventh and eighth along with 11th and 12th on February 1. In both schools students will attend classes on two days and have Comprehensive Distance Learning on the other days.

• Board member David Thorsett asked if there would be a chance that schools would open more fully during this school year. Scholl explained that, while it is possible, many factors are at play including whether staff will be vaccinated, how community spread of the virus

is trending, how to manage physical space, etc.

- Director Jay Wilkins reminded the board that his position, along with those held by David Thorsett and Edie Jones, will be open as of May 31, and that he will not seek re-election.
- A Political Action Committee (PAC) is being formed to aid in the passage of rolling over the school bond the district has been operating with. Wilkins volunteered as one of two board members who can serve as board liaisons.
- The board acknowledged the dedication and contributions to the district by Kristy Rawls and Michele Hammer, who are retiring.
- The next school board meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, February 3, at 6 p.m. and will likely be conducted via Zoom.

Runners’ efforts help charity

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The pandemic has impacted local sports as well as the ability to gather, but cross country coach and teacher Josh Nordell came up with a simple way to do some real good during the holiday season through a running challenge designed to put a little money into some local charities.

Nordell contacted Peterson Ridge Rumble Race Director Sean Meissner and asked if he would be willing to put up some funds from the race to help make the idea work.

The two settled on a plan in which anyone could be involved. For every mile covered by biking, walking, running, rowing, skiing or whatever, the Rumble would donate 10 cents. Nordell shared the “Outlaw 1000 Mile Challenge” with high school

runners and other contacts with the notion that being active during the mid-winter is especially important during COVID and being connected through a project of giving is a concrete way to practice community.

The Challenge lasted from December 19-January 3.

By the third day of the challenge, a few dozen people had jumped onboard, recording their activity on a shared Google Docs file. The 1,000 mile mark fell by the wayside sooner than expected, so Nordell opened it up toward 2,000. The final tally ended up to be over 1,773 miles.

Members of the high school cross country team will soon decide which charity the \$170 (or more) donation will be delivered to.

Meissner said, “Josh just sprung this idea on me sort of out of the blue, like friends do sometimes, and I loved the

idea, both to get the Outlaw Community moving throughout the Christmas break and also to make the challenge a benefit for a local nonprofit.”

Meissner, who now resides in Colorado, lived in Sisters for many years, and has developed the Peterson Ridge Rumble trail run into one of the most popular ultra-running events in Oregon. He has been very generous with the funds raised by the race over the years.

“It was super-inspiring to see so many different people take part in it,” he said. “Kudos to Josh for the idea and to everyone who did all their miles to help contribute.”

In Nordell’s mind it was a win-win-win situation.

“Everyone involved benefitted with the Challenge,” he said. “It turned out better than I imagined and I think it may very well become a tradition for the community.”

Another beautiful evening sky...



PHOTO BY KRIS KRISTOVICH

Local photographer Kris Kristovich captured a colorful mid-January sunset on Mt. Jefferson.

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