Veterans contribute to community



American Legion Post 86 hosted an oratorical contest on January 22.

The American Legion, Sisters Post 86, is part of a national organization. The history of the American Legion began with a charter from Congress in the year 1919, following the end of World War I, when Congress recognized the need to help veterans who were disabled by the war or had families who needed support.

Post 86 established its charter in 1986 and serves the Sisters community by supporting veterans and their families with memorial services, flying the American flag on national holidays, and maintaining a veteran memorial at the Village Green Park.

Post 86 veterans operate a firewood ministry, providing wood to those families living on a limited income. The post also has veterans who work at the Kiwanis Food Bank every Thursday.

Another service provided by Sisters Post 86 includes children and youth support activities. One of those activities is the Oratorial Program, where high school students compete for scholarship dollars by giving speeches related to the Constitution of the United States. There are three levels of competition - Post, District, and Department of Oregon. If a freshman in high school were to compete all four years of high school, he or she could amass up to \$5,000 per year.

Other programs include

the Law Enforcement Camp, which is a week-long activity in June, where participants learn the basics of becoming a police officer. Another program is Boys State and Girls State, where students learn how the Oregon State Legislature works at the capi-

tol in Salem. Sisters Post 86 meets with the VFW Post 8138 the first Wednesday of each month. The members participate in Memorial Day observances, the Rodeo Parade, Veterans Day in the schools, and the Christmas Parade.

Contact Post 86 by calling Lance Trowbridge at 541-903-1123, or the VFW Post 8138 by calling Pat Bowe at 541-588-0192.

Outlaws swimmers making progress

By Charlie Kanzig

Correspondent

Sisters High School athletes are back in the pool after the 2021 season was stymied by the pandemic. New coach Alex Bick reports that the team is building up its strength once again.

In the team's most recent five-way meet at Stayton, sophomore Ella Bartlett, who is also on the Nordic ski team, had a busy day. Bartlett notched a runner-up finish in the 400-meter freestyle with a time of 5:40.14 and placed sixth in the 100-meter breaststroke in 1:36.80.

The team of Bartlett, Elizabeth Bates, Lizzie McCrystal, and Neya Kountchev placed sixth in the 200-meter freestyle relay in 2:31.00. The same group also

took sixth in the 200-meter medley relay in 2:54.09.

Kountchev placed fifth in the 100-meter freestyle with a time of 1:20.59. She also placed eighth in the 50-meter freestyle, with a time of 35.53.

Highlighting the boys' results was the one-two finish in the 50-meter freestyle as Clayten Heuberger dominated the field in 26.90, while his teammate Joseph Souza placed second in 28.71. Heuberger was a doublewinner with his performance in the 100-meter backstroke, finishing in 1:06.95, which was over 21 seconds ahead of second place.

"Our team is small, but it's so good for the kids to be able to be back in the pool," said Bick. "They are showing a lot of dedication to making this season happen."



