

Bending over backwards



Track team member Elisa Ruegg practices her high jump form.

Photo by Michael Shindler

Drive to save ski resort falls short

NORTHWEST ASHLAND (AP) — A community drive fell short of raising the \$1.7 million needed to save the ski resort on Mount Ashland, but the owners Monday extended the deadline and dropped the price.

Fund raisers still need \$150,000 to pay \$1.4 million for the resort and create a \$300,000 reserve for years with poor snow. After seeing the effort fall just \$250,000 short, the resort owners dropped the price by \$100,000 and gave the

community another week to raise the money.

"We certainly hope that we are going to be able to make this final kick," said Stephen Jamieson of Mount Ashland Ski Area Inc., the nonprofit organization trying to buy the resort.

Harbor Properties of Seattle put Ski Ashland up for sale last year, after a series of winters with little snow.

The company said it would dismantle the resort and move the lifts to Washington if no

one bought it.

When it failed to attract a private buyer, a community group formed in January to buy the resort and deed it to the City of Ashland, which would lease it back for \$1 a year.

Recognizing the resort's importance to southern Oregon's tourist industry, the state of Oregon pledged \$500,000 in economic development funds to help buy the resort. A concert, auction and donations raised \$90,000 over the weekend.

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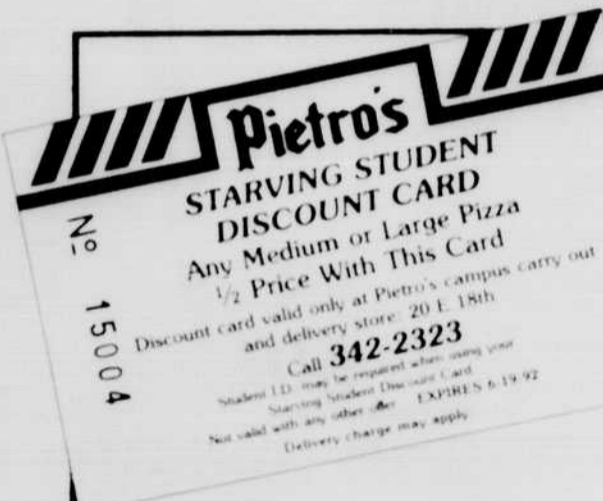
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