

HISTORY

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relief — again next year if she can find a team of dogs to race.

Mark Stamm of Riverside, Washington, won the highly competitive 100-mile race. The next three finishers crossed the finish line within two minutes of one another. And only two seconds separated third-place finisher Emily Gibson of Carlton, Washington, from fourth-place finisher Laurie Warren of Council, Idaho.

Bend resident Jane Devlin, who won the 31x2 mile event (31 miles on each of two days) in 2018, was in no hurry in this year's 100-mile race. She took the red lantern award as the last musher in.

"The trail was pretty slick, and in places where there was a cliff on one side, I treated it more like a training run," she said. "I wanted to teach my team of young dogs to stay away from the edge."

Charlotte Burkhardt of Oggau, Austria, won the 31x2 race with a doughty performance.

She won the junior race in 2017 when she was an exchange student living with Morgan and Craig Anderson. This year, she was in Wallowa County for a visit and "wasn't planning on racing, but just helping Morgan and Craig, and helping out with the race," she said.

But when Warren offered Burkhardt a sled and team of six dogs to race, she couldn't resist.

Burkhardt won the first 31-mile leg of the race. She came in first on the second day as well — but not before hitting a rough and icy patch on the trail coming down Canal Road toward the finish. Thrown off balance, she grabbed the side of the sled and was dragged for several hundred yards.

"I yelled at the dogs but they didn't pay much attention," she said. "I think they finally realized the sled was harder to drag than usual, and they stopped."

She got back on the sled and finished with a smile.

At the Saturday night ECX banquet, Andrew McCormack was recognized as volunteer of the

year for his work in maintaining and improving radio and other communications at Fergi. Race head veterinarian Dr. Kathleen McGill took the ECX "Lead Dog" award, and Jerry Hustafa received a standing ovation and the Terry Heinsly award for his work in setting up, maintaining and taking down fences and other guides for racers and spectators.

"I have no idea why so many people work so hard for a dog party," he said with a laugh.

Best-kept team awards went to Patrick Roy in the 200-mile race and Warren in the 100-mile race. Warren also received the Sportsmanship award for helping another musher bring in his team.

The Eagle Cap Extreme all-volunteer staff of 170 people won accolades from many racers for organization, friendliness and a well-maintained racecourse.

"This is the best race in the country," said veteran musher Rob Greger of Bozeman, Montana. "It's like coming home."



Ellen Morris Bishop/EO Media Group

Hugo Antonucchi's lead dog is anxious to get started in the 100-mile race at the 16th annual Eagle Cap Extreme Sled Dog Race in Wallowa County.

MERKLEY

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to the presentations." Senators are banned from talking or using cellphones during the proceedings and are only supposed to read materials directly related to the impeachment trial. They are only allowed to drink milk or water, but can grab snacks from the "candy drawer" on the floor.

After the call with reporters on Thursday morning, Merkley said he would be heading over to take a look at a one-page classified document — the only document available so far for the trial.

"In the (Bill) Clinton trial, 90,000 documents were provided upfront as a foundation of the trial," he said.

While senators voted on some rules for the trial before opening arguments began, the vote on allowing witnesses and documents

to be presented has been pushed to after the opening arguments are done. Merkley said he was concerned about the fact his Republican colleagues were facing "tremendous pressure" from Sen. Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, R-Kentucky, to not allow the inclusion of such evidence at all.

"If the foreman of the jury was working with the defendant to block documents and witnesses from ever being presented, that's what you would expect in a trial in Russia or China, but not the United States," he said.

Senators spent last week listening to House prosecutors lay out the case for the two articles of impeachment the House sent to the Senate. The first — abuse of power — states that Trump improperly used his office as president by withholding a sought-after meeting and millions of dollars of military

aid that Congress had dictated should go to Ukraine.

They argue the evidence shows he did so not out of concern for the interests of the United States, but as a way to pressure Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky into announcing an investigation into his political rival Joe Biden, and an investigation into a theory that it was Ukraine, not Russia as United States intelligence agencies have stated, that hacked Democratic National Convention servers during the 2016 election.

The second article of impeachment is for obstruction of Congress, stemming from the fact that Trump directed his administration to ignore Congressional subpoenas for witnesses and documents, which they did.

On Saturday, senators switched to hearing arguments from Trump's lawyers, who will argue that Trump's

actions on Ukraine reflected his concern about Ukrainian corruption and were not a "quid pro quo" requirement for the Ukrainians to help him in his re-election bid — something they say is evidenced by the fact he has since released the aid despite no announcement of the investigations he requested.

They also are expected to argue that Trump was not breaking the law when he did not turn over documents that were subpoenaed, because he was exercising executive privilege to protect confidential information.

Merkley said he is bound by oath to listen to both sides with an open mind before coming to a conclusion about what Trump did and whether what he did rises to the level of removal from office.

"I'm committed to doing that as close as I can as humanly possible as an impartial juror, and I'll be working

hard on that," he said.

Oregon's other senator, Ron Wyden, is also a juror in the trial. On Wednesday, he released a video saying he had been hearing from constituents in Oregon that what they wanted was "a full and fair trial," which he said should include presentation of witnesses and documents.

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YFC

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its spaciousness inside often surprises people.

"A lot of times people (going inside for the first time) will say, 'Wow!'" Rainey said.

The new building's total cost is expected to be \$900,000, about \$50,000 more than the original estimate, Rainey said. Grants and donations are covering that cost. The largest grant was \$250,000 from the M.J. Murdock Charitable Trust of Vancouver, Washington. The money from Murdock will be in the form of a "top off" grant, which comes only after the building is ready for occupancy.

Rainey said after the Murdock Charitable Trust announced the local youth organization would receive the Murdock grant, YFC obtained a \$250,000 bridge loan to fund the completion of the project. Youth for Christ will use the grant to pay off the loan, Rainey said, which came from donors who will not charge interest.

Contractors, including the project's general contractor, Summit Construction of La Grande, provided in-kind work to help reduce the cost of the building project.

"It has been a huge blessing," Rainey said of the in-kind work.

Rainey said YFC still needs to raise \$150,000 to finish the new project. He said he believes there is a

good chance the funds will come through in the next four months from grants YFC plans to pursue plus additional in-kind donations.

People interested in making donations can visit the YFC website, www.eoyfc.org.

Features of the new J House will include a gym space for sporting activities, including basketball; a foldable stage with sound system and lighting; a commercial-grade kitchen, a steam banquet table to keep food warm; and meeting rooms and offices. The new J House also will have cafeteria tables from the old Central Elementary School on K Avenue, which was torn down about three years ago.

The new building also will have a space for Taste of the Tiger, La Grande High School's student-run coffee shop, which will rent space at the J House. The shop will sell coffee and snacks.

"That will be a big draw for the kids," Rainey said.

All high school and middle school students will be welcome at the new J House, just as they were at the old one, regardless of whether they are YFC club members.

"It will be place for youths to hang out with adult supervision," Rainey said.

YFC had to curtail a number of its activities during the past year while the new building was under construction but managed to continue its high school and

middle school clubs, which have been meeting at the First Baptist Church.

Once the new facility is open, the organization will restore serving free lunches to high school students twice a week, with tacos on Tuesdays and macaroni and cheese and chicken nuggets on Thursdays. The lunches drew about 150 students each day, and Rainey said he believes this number will jump to 200 once the new building opens because of its additional space. The menu will be the same as it was. Rainey said students weighed in on that.

"They were adamant they did not want it changed," he said.

YFC will offer drop-in hours from 3-5 p.m. Monday through Thursday at the facility, as it did before, and will provide rides home to youth who need them.

The new J House also will be open in the mornings before school Monday through Thursday. Rainey said this will be important because some students arrive at school in buses quite early and need somewhere to go before school starts.

Students, as they do now, will have plenty of opportunities to participate in Bible study activities, but Rainey emphasized the new J House will continue to be open to all youths regardless of their religious affiliations.

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