

SKIING

Continued from Page A1

Oregon within the Umatilla National Forest at milepost 22 along Oregon Highway 204.

An Olympic history

Created by the Blue Mountain Ski Club, Spout Springs served as the Nordic training center for the United States Olympic team and the Norwegian jump team in preparation for the 1955 and 1964 Winter Olympics. The U.S. Olympic Committee recognized Spout Springs' connection to the Winter Olympic Games and granted the ski area permission to fly the Olympic flag.

The ski area covers 1,413 acres and has a vertical drop of 530 feet, according to the Forest Service. Spout Springs is at an elevation of 4,920 feet and on average receives 130 inches of snow per year. The recreation area includes two large chalet-style buildings, which have been used as the main lodge and rental shop.

Skiers and snowboarders are taken up the mountain via two double chairlifts, where they have access to 13 downhill runs. Previous owners of Spout Springs said the ski area is an ideal place for alpine skiers of all skill levels to hone their skills, in part due to the varied terrain.

Some of the downhill runs can be illuminated for night skiing,

and there are also more than 20 miles of nordic ski trails with varied levels of difficulties.

Change in ownership

The ski area has been closed since 2016, Weseman said. That left the previous owners in a "state of noncompliance" she said. John and Nancy Murray — who had owned and operated Spout Springs since 1999 — had safety concerns for skiers due to snow-mobilers using the north parking area. According to Weseman, the Forest Service worked with the Murrays and tried to resolve the conflict, but no resolution was ever reached. In November 2021, their permit was revoked and the infrastructure became property of

the U.S. government.

"The Forest Service is committed to providing for public safety while maintaining a balance of public access to the Forest surrounding Spout Springs Ski Area," Weseman said.

Spout Springs' future

The list of required duties to operate Spout Springs is long. Weseman said the new operators will be responsible for the operation and maintenance of infrastructure and equipment, physical site management, staffing, food and beverage, planning and development. Interested parties are encouraged to include ways the recreation area could be used

year-round in their proposals. Weseman said candidates should consider four-season operations in order to make the opportunity more lucrative and successful. Previous owners have promoted summer recreational activities, such as mountain biking and hiking, and the Umatilla Forest Service is open to allowing activities aligned with the intended use of the land, like camping. The ultimate goal is to sell the existing infrastructure and issue a new Ski Area Term Permit to a qualified application. According to Weseman, the ski area could be operated under a special use permit for government-owned facilities until the sale of the infrastructure is finalized.

EQUITY

Continued from Page A1

added in 1967 and golf came in 1971. Oregon held its first state volleyball and cross-country championships in 1974, basketball in 1976, and soccer in 1977. Softball was added in 1979 and wrestling came in 2019.

Baker High School has worked hard to make sure its female athletes have the same opportunities as the male athletes.

"We did an audit when I got here a couple of years ago to make sure we have the same number of sports being offered," said Baker's athletic director, Buell Gonzales, "to make sure those things that should be happening are happening."

Baker is adding a girls

wrestling coach this season for equal and proper instruction.

"The sport is different for boys and girls and requires a different background," Gonzales said. "It's worth the investment. Our baseball and softball facilities are good, they share the gym and the weight room, and we have a couple of soccer fields behind the sports complex."

A true pioneer

Anderson is not one to sit still very long. She took a 27-mile bike ride on July 2 before settling in for an interview. She had returned from a camping and kayaking trip the day before.

"I usually travel to a foreign country once or twice a year," she said. "I do go to Baja for two to three weeks

of kayaking per year. I do a lot of hiking, I ride a bike and I kayak. Do I go to very many sports? No. I watched enough as athletic director. I do have tickets for the world championships. I follow track and field more than anything."

Anderson graduated from Wilson High School in Portland in 1959. She went to Lincoln High School her freshman year and was on the swim team. When she moved to Wilson, she was on the tennis and golf teams for three years.

"They only had individual sports, no team sports," Anderson said of girls' athletics. "I played on softball and basketball teams in the park bureau. I went to Eastern in 1963 and they had tennis. In 1965, we added field hockey, volley-

ball, basketball and track and field."

Anderson said schools in Eastern Oregon were very active in sports pre-Title IX.

"Rural Eastern Oregon was more advanced in providing opportunities than Western Oregon was," Anderson said. "There is equity in most schools, and most schools have tried and have addressed facilities. It's not perfect. Some areas are stronger than others."

As Title IX came in, Anderson was excited about the opportunities it would bring for female athletes, but female coaches had to make the decision to stay in athletics or move full-time into education.

"In 1972, 90 to 100% of women's teams were coached by women," Anderson said. "In 1992,

less than 50% of women's teams were coached by women."

Anderson was at EOU from 1963-72. She helped start the women's basketball, field hockey, volleyball and track programs in 1965-66.

She left EOU to get a doctorate degree from the University of Wisconsin-Madison, then she was on staff at University of Arizona, where she worked a little magic to get the school to allow her to start the women's cross-country and track programs in the late 1970s.

Though the programs were successful, she was given the option in 1979 to coach or to teach.

"That's when it started opening the doors for men to go into coaching wom-

en's programs," Anderson said. "If a person is talented enough, knowledgeable and works well with people, they can coach anywhere."

Anderson returned to EOU in 1986 as athletic director and professor of physical education. She retired from the AD job in 2001 and from teaching in 2006.

Cashell, now the commissioner of the Cascade Collegiate Conference, carried on Young's mission for equality in women's sports.

"Now, in his line of work, he does presentations on Title IX at NAIA national conventions," Weissenfluh said. "I'm fortunate there were pioneers who fought hard. I didn't feel like I had to fight for the opportunities. I am thankful for that."

www.lagrandeobserver.com

CAPSULE

Continued from Page A1

installed at lower and upper Ladd Canyon.

Allen says he now has evidence indicating that the Walnut Street marker was made from lava flows underlying the north flank of Sugarloaf Mountain, about 9 miles northwest of La Grande. An analysis of the stone the marker was made from was com-

pleted by the Baker City field office of the Oregon Department of Geology and Mineral Industries.

The testing conducted in June indicates that the marker was made from rock that is identical to the stone the one at lower Ladd Canyon was made from. Allen earlier had the stone from the lower Ladd Canyon marker tested by the same office, which determined it likely came from Sugarloaf Mountain.

WE MAKE IT EASY with an online application

It's easy to apply for a home mortgage loan at Allied Mortgage Resource. Simply go to lagrandemannmortgage.com and complete an application form. After we process your request, we will contact you to meet with one of our financial officers. We make it easy for you to start the process of owning your own home.

1429 Adams Ave
La Grande, OR
541-962-7557

ALLIED MORTGAGE RESOURCE
A Division of Mann Mortgage, LLC #2550

TEN DEPOT STREET

Open Fri-Sun 5pm-8pm

"Real Food for the People"

Take-out Menu Updated Weekly

www.tendepotstreet.com
541-963-8766
tendepotstreet@gmail.com

LA Z BOY®

WORLD'S GREATEST RECLINER SALE

BORN 1927

GET RECLINING & GET SAVING!

Choose from an amazing selection of our greatest recliner styles and features including power, leather, swivels and more

MORRISON **all sale priced to fit comfortably into your budget!**

\$699 only

JASPER Recliner only \$699

JOSHUA Rocker Recliner only \$799

GIBSON Recliner only \$799

Shop our special hours, 8:30-5:30 as we participate in La Grande Crazy Days

GLOBE furniture

1520 ADAMS AVENUE La GRANDE, OREGON 97850

HOURS: Mon. - Fri. 9:30 am-6:30 pm
Sat. 9:30 am-5:30 pm
Sun. 12 noon-4 pm

(541) 963-4144 • 888-449-2704

- Free Delivery
- In-Store Credit
- 70 Store Buying Power
- Decorating Assistance