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First swim: Holiday outduels Northwood

By **DEREK WILEY**
Of the Keizertimes

Holiday Swim Club knocked off defending all-city champion Northwood to open the season.

Swimming at home on Thursday, June 28, Holiday outscored Northwood 263-247.

Holiday swept the 8-and-under and 11-12 year old medley relays. Holiday also won the girls and boys 8-and-under freestyle relays as well as the 15-18 girls free relay.

Individually, Kyra Norstrom led the Holiday girls, winning the 11-12 medley, butterfly and backstroke.

Claire Hicks placed first in

the girls 8-and-under free and breaststroke. Ella Gerig had the fastest times in the girls 9-10 free and breaststroke.

Other 8-and-under girls winners were Holiday swimmers Kaiya Turner in the IM, Olivia Anderson in the fly and Avelyn Sparks in the backstroke.

Erika Robinett took first in the 11-12 breaststroke. Jaelynn Love touched the wall first in the 13-14 fly and Kassy Winters won the 15-18 fly.

Tessa Talento placed first in the 15-18 backstroke.

Haley Vanderweed swam the fastest time in the 13-14 IM.

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LEFT: Northwood swimmer Molly Eisele, who won the 11-12 girls freestyle, swims butterfly on Thursday, June 28 at Holiday. ABOVE: Holiday swimmers Jaelynn Love, Kyra Norstrom and Emery Love cheer on a teammate during the meet.



Volcanoes sweep Eugene

By **HERB SWETT**
Of the Keizertimes

The Volcanoes put on a show of hitting, pitching, and fielding June 28 to whip their Eugene visitors 7-3.

Completing a three-game sweep of the Emeralds to reach a 10-4 record, Salem-Keizer prepared for a five-game series in Vancouver.

Three of the Volcano runs came in the first inning. Kyle McPherson hit a one-out infield single, and David Villar followed with a two-run home run over the center field wall. After another out, Robinson Medrano was hit by a pitch for the fifth time this season and scored on a double to right center by Wander Franco.

Keaton Winn pitched the first two innings for the Volcanoes, allowing no runs and striking out three. However, in a move manager Hector Borg explained after the game, he brought in Greg Jacknewitz to pitch the third inning. With two out in the top of the third, Luis Vasquez hit his first homer of the year, clearing the left field fence.

Jacknewitz retired the next batter and stayed in the game through the seventh inning,

allowing one more run, which was unearned.

Salem-Keizer added three runs in the fourth. Kevin Rivera led off with an infield single and continued to second base on a throwing error by third baseman Ramsey Romano.

Mikey Edie moved him to third with a sacrifice bunt. Jose Layer singled on a grounder to center, driving Rivera in. McPherson hit his first homer of the season, to right field, and the Volcanoes were ahead 7-1.

In the Eugene sixth, Vasquez walked and moved to third on a double to center by Nelson Velasquez. An error by Layer in center field enabled Vasquez to score. Velasquez then stole third base on a call that brought protests from the stands and argument from Borg. Two were out by then, and Jacknewitz struck out the next batter.

The last Emerald run came in the eighth. Matt Frisbee relieved Jacknewitz to start the inning and walked Fernando Kelli. In an attempt to pick Frisbee off, the throw went wild, and Frisbee went to second.

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Volcanoes third baseman Trevor Adams is hitting .361 with eight doubles, a triple and home run through 15 games.

Old Man left plunking for steelhead



The rod tip whips wildly as the aluminum bell clangs to the ground. The Old Man struggles out of his lawn chair, shuffles to his rod, jerks it out of the sandspike and sets the hook. A chrome-bright, winter steelhead, blasts out the water.

"The Old Man's got another one on," a nearby angler yells. "Somebody cut his line,"

he adds with a laugh.

Others come running with the net, and offer the obligatory advice, common in these situations.

"Keep his head up." "Watch out for the snag."

Plunking for steelhead has worked once again for the Old Man. He has fished this river 45 years.

Plunking is a social affair of

sorts. Hours of downtime. It is a lay-back way to fish. Toss out lure/bait, anchor it in place with a heavy sinker, place rod in sandspike, attach a bell to the rod and wait for a bite. Bells are a key piece in the system. Some guys can hear a bell at 50 yards and know whose bell it is.

Small groups form to visit. Sometimes a campfire will be built.

Many of the same guys come together every year, driven by a passion for a special fish. "Riverside friendships" have developed over

the years. Telephone networks share current fishing information.

Some have been riverside friends for 30-50 years. They know each other's work history, family status, hunting and fishing backgrounds.

Most are on a first name basis. It's usually first names. In cases where two or more names are the same, something like adding where the person is from: Silverton Ron, Salem Ron, or it could be based on physical stature: Tall Bill. Short Bill, Skinny Tom.

The Old Man has the du-

bious distinction as oldest of the regulars. One-by-one he has seen the "old guard" fade away. In 2017, he saw the last one pass.

It isn't the same anymore. It was always fun to relive the old days with those who shared them with you. Stories of; numbers of fish, numbers of anglers, changes in the river, and the unforgettable characters that fished the river.

Somehow, stories seem so much more believable when several guys get together and share those experiences.

After four decades of drift-

fishing, age--and medical challenges--have relegated the Old Man to plunking.

When he was a young man, wading up and down rivers, he and his buddies would make remarks about "those old guys plunking, sitting on their butts and not catching steelhead."

Now, fifty years later, as he puts it, "I is one."

Being recognized as the oldest on the river has some perks at times. Younger anglers watch out for him, helping untangle lines when arthritic hands have trouble.

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