

Top women's team snubbed at Hood to Coast

Relay issued public apology

By **BRENNA VISSER**
The Daily Astorian

SEASIDE — This year's Hood to Coast ended with organizers issuing an apology after they failed to recognize the relay's top finishing women's team during the award ceremony on Saturday.

The apology came after Emily Pritt, a member of a team named "Goats N Roses," tweeted about how the top walking, high school and men's teams were awarded trophies, and that when she asked the race's founder, Bob Foote, about why the women's teams weren't acknowledged, she said he told her to "Go talk to someone who cares."

The organization apologized to Goats and Roses in a tweet Sunday, saying the top three women's teams should have been recognized.

"We did not recognize this great achievement and we were wrong," the tweet said. "This will never happen again. We thank Goats and Roses for making us aware of our error."

Traditionally, the race, which spans 199 miles from Mount Hood to Seaside and attracts more than 19,000 participants, only recognizes the top three finishing teams overall, as well as the top high school and walking teams, chief operating officer Dan Floyd said in an interview with Runner's World Magazine.

Goats N Roses finished 12th out of 1,032 teams. Moving forward, the organization tweeted it will make changes to recognize the top women's teams and "it will be because of Team Goats N Roses."

Pritt tweeted on Sunday that Jude Hubber, the race's CEO, has been "positively responsive and extremely apologetic," and that she's encouraged by the organization's efforts to make improvements in response to her situation.

"To be clear, the issue we had and (the) reason for the tweet was because of founder Bob Foote," Pritt tweeted. "Yes, Hood to Coast is his event and he needs to be held responsible, but I do not want to disparage all the work put in by volunteers, sponsors, organizers and teams that make H2C great."

Foote has yet to issue a public response to his alleged remarks.



Members of the Transplant Trotters team watch for their final walker on the Promenade in Seaside.

Relay: 'We are the face of organ recipients, and we look a lot like you'

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The team has hosted a revolving door of participants from around the Pacific Northwest, welcoming organ donors, recipients and their family members.

Andergard has made participating an 11-year tradition since the surgery, often competing side by side with her friend's family members.

According to Donate Life Northwest, 87 percent of all transplants needed in Oregon are kidneys, and the waiting list for transplants can span years. Part of this, Andergard believes, is due to the perception that giving an organ means giving away the possibility of a normal, healthy life.

Andergard, a Warrenton local who now lives in Portland, decided to start competing in the relay to show how the per-

ception is wrong.

"The only thing that has changed in my life is I can't take Advil. I take Tylenol instead. And no contact sports, like football or bull riding, which luckily I never was interested in doing anyway," she said, though she admitted she did make sure to ride a mechanical bull at least once before her surgery.

Walking in the race is especially important to Tracy Hoyle, who over the course of two decades has received two heart transplants and a kidney transplant.

At 29, when she first was told a virus had impacted her heart's ability to function, her life was filled with uncertainty.

"I thought I'd never have a child. I didn't know what to expect," she said. "I have a weird outlook on life that's like 'everything's going to be OK,' so I wouldn't say I was panicked

at any point. But I just never knew I'd be healthy enough to do something like this."

There are some aspects of the race for the Transplant Trotters that aren't realities for other teams.

Everyone chuckles on the registration form when it comes to the question about medications.

"Too many to list," Hoyle laughed.

The team is also less likely to have a "suck it up, buttercup" mentality when it comes to pain, said Andergard, who is always ready with a backup for someone who may be having a bad day.

But otherwise?

"If you saw any of us walking down the street, you wouldn't think that we had transplants," Hoyle said. "We are the face of organ recipients, and we look a lot like you."

In fact, this year, the power walking team finished about an hour earlier than they expected.

"We're pretty proud of that," team captain Lee Golden Jr. said.

For the past five years, Josh Long — an Olney resident and the cousin of Andergard's friend — has set up his house as a rest stop for the team as they arrive in the middle of the night from the first legs of the race. Offering a comfortable place to sleep is an easy thing to do make the relay easier, Long said, and a way to say "thank you."

"Nicole's always been considered family, even before the transplant," Long said. "It's not surprising Nicole would do this. By the time I was worried about Anna being sick it was like she already had it under control. But it's just an amazing gift, that my cousin got to live another 11 years more."

Councilor: 'I'm proud of what we've accomplished'

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term does not end until 2020. If Jones is elected mayor, a new councilor would likely be appointed to fill out his term.

Nemlowill is the marketing director for the Astoria

Co-op Grocery and the mother of three young children. The downtown natural and organic food store plans to expand to a larger building in the Mill Pond neighborhood. Her husband, Chris, is the co-founder of Fort George Brewery, and

she had referenced both job and family obligations as reasons she may not run again.

Nemlowill was elected to the City Council in 2014 after nine years on the Planning Commission. She hoped to be an advocate for younger

families and engage them on diverse city issues.

"It has been an honor to serve with such a talented city manager, staff and colleagues," she said today. "I'm proud of what we've accomplished."

She does not have any

immediate plans to be directly involved with city government when her time on the City Council ends in December.

"In my 13 years volunteering for the city, I've also started a business, sold a business, gotten married, had three

kids and started a new career," she said. "I'm ready to take a little step back from politics, but there are other ways to help make Astoria great, like raising awesome kids and helping community-minded businesses grow and flourish."



Edward Stratton/The Daily Astorian

Cross Development hopes to build a Dollar General store at the corner of U.S. Highway 30 and Hillcrest Loop Road in Knappa.

Store: Dollar General has around 15,000 locations

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The property, owned by Rob Zweber, is the site of the former Hwy 30 Roadhouse restaurant.

Cross Development would demolish the former restaurant and build a new 18-foot-tall store with access off of Hillcrest Loop Road. The project requires a conditional use permit and comprehensive plan amendment because the store would be bigger than the 4,000 square feet usually allowed in a rural community commercial and light industrial zone. Buildings may exceed the limit if they "are intended to serve the rural community, surrounding rural area or the needs of people passing through the area," according to county code.

before the Planning Commission on Sept. 11. Julia Decker, the county's planning manager, said the commission will make a recommendation to the county Board of Commissioners.

Cross Development was recently approved for a store along U.S. Highway 101 in Gearhart after adding more parking. A grand opening is planned today.

The Astoria Design Review Committee last year rejected the design for a proposed Dollar General in the Mill Pond neighborhood. Mike Stults, of Cross Development, said the company is still interested in opening a location in Astoria. City Planner Nancy Ferber said no new proposal has been submitted since the denial.

closures of other national retailers, Dollar General is in expansion mode, focusing on smaller, less-expensive stores and expanding its grocery selection.

"The ability to offer produce, particularly in areas with limited grocery availability, represents an attractive growth opportunity for Dollar General in the years ahead," Todd Vasos, CEO of Dollar General, said in a recent conference call with analysts.

The retailer, now with about 15,000 locations, has opened nearly 3,000 new stores over the past three years, while remodeling or relocating more than 2,500 others, according to Zacks Equity Research. The company plans to open 900 new stores this year, remodel 1,000 and relocate 100.

Plastic bags: Warrenton's support for such a ban is key

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Challenges

Samuel McDaniel, owner of Astoria Downtown Market, studies sustainability at Linfield College. He took over the small grocery last year after working as a manager. The store recently stopped offering plastic bags, handing out its last one earlier this month.

"We have enough plastics as it is. I wanted to get rid of plastic bags, but I was worried about it, you know, hurting my sales because maybe people are going to go to the competition," McDaniel said. "Ultimately I just said I'm going to do away with the bag and whatever happens, happens."

His decision has created challenges, though. The store now must purchase six different sizes of paper bags, as opposed to two for plastic.

"I mean, I can see where business is going to, especially small businesses, are going to not be so acceptable to the ban," McDaniel said.

Some shoppers reuse plastic bags after placing groceries in refrigerators and cabinets. McDaniel said customers can still bring their own plastic bags to the store. He recognized that people who ride bikes or walk long distances to and from the store often prefer to carry their items with plastic handles.

"It's like, 'Good for you. You don't need a plastic bag. Well, you're driving a car that's pumping emissions, so there's other environmental aspects,'" McDaniel said. "Now people that are walking and riding their bikes are being punished

because they don't have a plastic bag."

In addition to clogging landfills, the bags can cause issues when they end up in recycling centers.

"We don't have a market for them," said Rhonda Green, a specialist with Recology Western Oregon. "What happens is they get caught in the teeth of the conveyor system at the recycling center."

Some people who oppose bans describe the utility of plastic bags in situations besides shopping, including cleaning up pet waste. LaMear said she would not propose eliminating plastic dog waste bags offered in public places.

Her goal, rather, is to eliminate single-use plastic bags in grocery stores. The mayor suggested that reusable bags are inexpensive and available at large grocery stores.

LaMear likened her idea to an ordinance passed in Port Angeles, Washington, earlier this year that — after months of debate, three public hearings and a 4-3 vote by the Port Angeles City Council — banned thin plastic carry-out bags at stores. The ordinance also requires stores to charge a minimum of 5 cents for any bag handed out, not including for customers on food assistance programs. Stores that violate the law are required to pay a \$250 fine. The Astoria City Council has scheduled a work session for Sept. 12 to discuss the topic. Gearhart and the county commission have yet to pencil in similar meetings.

LaMear approached the county hoping that it could

lead the effort. Whether that could be one countywide ordinance or a template for cities to follow is unclear. After LaMear reached out to Moore, county commissioners directed staff at a meeting last week to schedule a work session.

"Instead of having a piecemeal from city to city, it would make sense to have one ordinance that everyone can follow and get behind," Lee said.

Warrenton is key

LaMear pointed to the importance of Warrenton's support for such a ban as key. A number of grocers — including Fred Meyer, Walmart and Natural Grocers — are located in Warrenton.

"Unless they joined us, it would make it more difficult," she said.

Warrenton Mayor Henry Balensifer said that, while he wants to have a discussion about how to tackle the issue, he is not necessarily in favor of a ban.

Balensifer pointed to the fact that different types and sizes of plastic bags exist. Other questions, such as how to carry out wet produce if a paper bag is the only option, should also be discussed, he said.

"The concept is something I support, but the devil is in the details," he said. "The market tends to work itself out better than if a piece of legislation forces it."

For McDaniel, a nuanced approach to a plastic bag ban would make the most sense.

"There needs to be more than just a ban," he said. "There needs to be a system set up so that it's successful."