

SCHOLARSHIPS:

Awards are given out at end of May

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School graduates. This year 40 individual scholarships are being offered by generous private donors and philanthropic organizations in the Sisters community. Last year, nearly \$148,000 was awarded to 57 deserving recipients.

Three new annual scholarships are being offered this year: Shibui Scholarship (\$1,000), SisTech Manufacturing Engineering Scholarship (\$8,000), and SisTech Manufacturing Scholarship (\$1,000).

Scholarships will be awarded at Senior Celebration where all seniors are recognized on Tuesday, May 24, at 7 p.m. at SHS. If you are family or friend of a Sisters High School senior, encourage them to apply for as many scholarships as they are eligible for.

Sisters GRO notes that now is an excellent time to contribute to one of many scholarships to further the goal of awarding every deserving SHS scholarship applicant. Contact Betsy Leighty-Johnson 541-549-4907 for more information.

Of a certain age

By Sue Stafford
Columnist

The Facebook post said it all. Palm trees, ocean waves, a beautiful sunset — in the middle of February.

Outside my window, a cold wind, leaden gray sky, occasional rain showers, and no signs of spring yet.

The invitation — come for a visit. My reply — made plane reservations that evening and sent a copy of my itinerary.

My friend Mary, who I first met in 1968, has a condo in Nuevo Vallarta, on the western Mexican coast. A spontaneous invitation answered by a spontaneous “you bet” finds me spending a wonderful 10 days with a dear long-time friend. We have shared innumerable laughs, a flood of reminiscing, and hours of being brought current in each other’s life.

We shared and supported one another through some significant life transitions, while both living for many years in the Seattle area. Now, when not in Mexico, Mary lives on Bainbridge Island near Seattle and I am here in Sisters.

Our friendship is one of those that doesn’t require constant contact or frequent visits. She is, instead, a sister of my soul. No detailed explanations are necessary as we pick up right where we left off. Since leaving Seattle 12 years ago, I can count on one hand the brief times we have spent together, and yet I count her as one of my closest friends.

We know each other’s children, former husbands, likes and dislikes, habits, and deepest yearnings. We both have an outsized love of animals and nature.

What part does friendship like this play in my life? Mary is a mirror, reflecting how I have changed each time we have the opportunity to spend time together. We tell each

other the truth about what we see in one another. We share information — Mary is a born researcher who has always kept abreast of the latest on a myriad of topics.

As I age, it is the deep, enduring friendships, which span decades, that provide context, meaning, and true joy to my life. Fortunately, those treasures are all still part of my world, and I know that sooner rather than later holes will start appearing where a part of my heart used to be, and my life will be a little diminished for it.

My hiatus in Mexico with Mary has been a good reminder to keep in touch more often, talk about everything important, and tell those souls I hold so dear how much I love them and what they mean to me.

EMBEZZLEMENT: Alleged loss approximately \$430,000

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and public works projects as well as land development projects throughout Central Oregon for over 16 years.

According to Robinson & Owen Construction management, their total loss suffered from Waldron’s alleged ongoing embezzlement of company funds was approximately \$430,000, over the course of several years.

“We’ve had a recent rash of greed induced crime in Deschutes County,” said District Attorney John Hummel. “People who think they are smarter than the IRS and law enforcement will lose in the end.”

Waldron’s first court hearing was scheduled for Tuesday.

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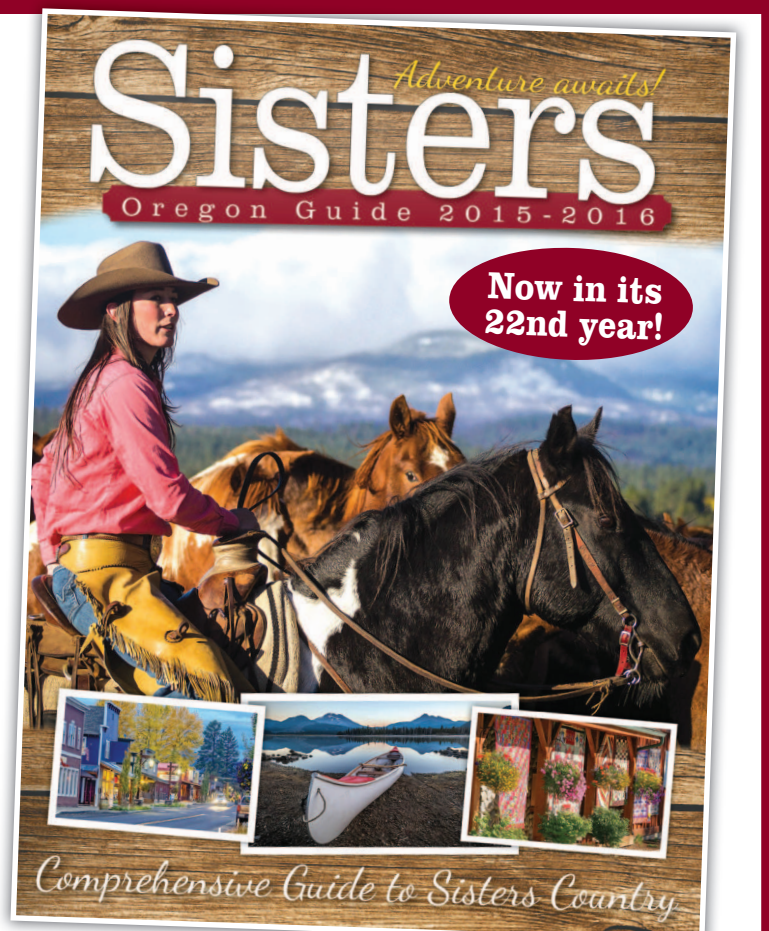
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