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# The Nugget

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## Starry Nights goes back to the future

By Jim Cornelius  
News Editor

The Sisters Starry Nights concert series, which has raised over \$1 million for the Sisters Schools Foundation over nearly 20 years, came full circle Sunday night.

The inaugural Starry Nights performer, Karla Bonoff, took the stage at The Belfry for an intimate evening of song. Her first appearance on the Starry Nights stage was in 1997, the year that Starry Nights was formed to raise funds to preserve programs in the face of budget cuts.

“To put it in perspective, I wasn’t even born in 1997,” said Sisters High School senior Maggie Bidasolo, who was master of ceremonies for the event.

Bidasolo noted that Sunday evening’s event was the 39th Starry Nights show, the second held at The Belfry. Funds raised through the concerts — in which the performers donate their time and talents to the cause — have provided everything “from



PHOTO BY DIANE SILLAN ISAACS

Karla Bonoff and Nina Gerber offered up an evening of song at The Belfry.

a pitching mound to a saxophone,” Bidasolo noted.

The concert series is run by volunteers, including co-chairs Jeri Fouts, Novella Swisher and Susan Arends. Schools Superintendent Curt Scholl noted, “These kinds of

community partnerships and events are what make Sisters special.”

Bidasolo concurred, noting that “I would not trade growing up in Sisters for anything.” And she says that her peers all feel the same way

— grateful for “community caring and commitment.”

In her fourth Starry Nights appearance, Bonoff transitioned seamlessly between acoustic guitar and

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## Council reviews manager report

By Jim Cornelius  
News Editor

The Sisters City Council reviewed an investigator’s report regarding workplace issues concerning City Manager Andrew Gorayeb in executive session on Monday.

By statute, executive sessions held for such personnel matters are closed. Media may attend in an observer’s role but are enjoined from reporting on the session.

Mayor Chris Frye and City Attorney Steve Bryant told *The Nugget* that Gorayeb remains on paid administrative leave while the City Council conducts its review. The Council received the report late last week from an independent investigation into employee complaints.

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## Sisters entering the burning season

Beginning as early as this week, fuels specialists on the Sisters Ranger District intend to ignite 500 to 1,000 acres of prescribed burns.

Individual burn units are scattered across four separate project areas called Highway 20, Sisters Area Fuels Reduction (SAFR), McCache (Hwy 242) and Metolius Basin projects. All prescribed burn units will be scheduled to take advantage of spring weather and forest fuel conditions.

This is a continuation of treatments utilizing prescribed fire in a historic fire-adapted ecosystem to reduce

and remove hazardous fuels that contribute to high-intensity fire events which may occur during the normal fire season. The areas on the map are project units that are near or adjacent to Sisters communities.

No road closures are anticipated with any of the projects, although drivers may expect traffic control on Highway 20 and Highway 242 during periods of time where dense smoke may limit visibility. Smoke from the Sisters Area Fuel Reduction (SAFR) may impact Sage

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## Winter weather defied El Niño

By Ron Thorkildson  
Correspondent

Old Man Winter officially departed the scene at 9:30 p.m. local time on Saturday, March 19. The weather he dished out this season, taken as a whole, turned out to be about normal with regard to temperature and precipitation. But, as the saying goes, the devil is in the details.

Last fall climate scientists were watching a large mass of very warm water that was advancing eastward across the tropical Pacific Ocean. They warned that when this slug of unusually warm water reached the eastern Pacific off the coast of South America, it very likely



PHOTO BY JIM ANDERSON

Active winter weather provided the central Cascades with an average snowpack.

would trigger a super-strong El Niño that would dominate the upcoming winter’s weather worldwide. In fact, it had the potential to become the most powerful El Niño

in more than 65 years, they said.

This pronouncement was regarded as bad news indeed

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