



The Nugget

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Fans brave the elements for the big show

By Craig Rullman
Correspondent

Thousands of rodeo fans ignored occasional rain, constant wind, and low temperatures to enjoy five days of spills, thrills, chills, and a new arena record in tie-down roping at the 77th annual Sisters Rodeo.

Sisters Rodeo offers the largest purse anywhere on the rodeo circuit during the second week of June, which virtually guarantees that the nation's top cowboys and cowgirls will come from across the nation, and indeed the world, for a shot at the money and a champion's buckle.

Veteran announcer Curt Robinson, who has been bringing his distinctive voice to rodeo for over 30 years, told *The Nugget*, "I think it went really, really well, considering the weather. The crowds were outstanding every night."



PHOTO BY GARY MILLER

The weather was chilly, but the action was as hot as ever at Sisters Rodeo.

Robinson, who — along with his partner in the announcing booth Wayne Brooks — brings insight, humor, and his distinctive voice to every performance,

remarked that "Except for one night when we threw off all the bull riders, we had somebody in the money every night."

Wednesday featured the

sixth annual offering of Xtreme Bulls, a Professional Rodeo Cowboys Association event which lures the nation's

See **RODEO** on page 31

Firefighters tackle blazes in Sisters

Firefighters took on two different house fires in the Sisters area over two days.

A Sisters area home located at 16275 Riata Court was damaged by fire early Sunday morning.

The 911 call was received shortly after midnight when the occupants of the home noticed the wood shake roof was on fire near the chimney and along the lower edge of the roof where the shake roof was close to the ground. The home was an "A" frame style of home with a steep tall roof that extended from close to the ground to over 20 feet in height.

Firefighters worked 3-1/2 hours extinguishing the fire.

See **FIRES** on page 25

Wildland firefighters to train in Sisters

The heavy, wet winter has created extra opportunities for fire specialists to wield the tool of prescribed fire in the fire-adapted ecosystem of Sisters Country.

To date area fuels specialists have completed approximately 1,000 acres of prescribed fire in areas south and west of Sisters as well as in the Metolius Basin. An additional 135 acres could be treated over the next couple of weeks, as long as weather conditions are favorable through the month of June, according to the Forest Service.

This week the Central Oregon Fire Management Service, made up of Deschutes and Ochoco National Forests and Prineville BLM fire staff,

is hosting an interagency series of fire classes to train new wildland firefighters. This year's class of 45 students will have spent 40 hours in the classroom learning about fire behavior, the incident command system (ICS), and wildland firefighter techniques, and will spend time in the field learning how to dig fire line, utilize pumps and hoses, and how to safely put fire on the landscape. The new recruits will be supervised and assisted at all times by experienced and qualified wildland firefighters while they experience a live fire exercise on Thursday, June 15.

The 23-acre live fire
See **FIREFIGHTERS** on page 29

Class of 2017 is off to the future

By Charlie Kanzig
Correspondent

The Sisters High School class of 2017 wrapped up their Outlaw experience on Thursday, June 8 at the 69th commencement ceremony in the school's history — the 25th since the high school returned to the community in the fall of 1992.

A total of 87 students participated in the ceremony, which broke from tradition this year with the addition of a speech by a faculty member. After introductions by Principal Joe Hosang and a beautiful rendition of the national anthem by the SHS Jazz Choir, English teacher Matt Bradley, who started his career at Sisters High when the class of 2017 entered as freshmen, wove together a 40-minute message that



PHOTO BY JERRY BALDOCK

Sisters High School graduates stepped into their future Thursday night.

included words of wisdom along with a personal anecdote about each and every one of the graduates.

In his initial address, Bradley urged the class to

See **GRADUATION** on page 30

Inside...

Letters/Weather	2	Obituaries	11	Movies & Entertainment....	13	Sisters Naturalist.....	19	Classifieds.....	27-29
Meetings	3	Announcements.....	12	Paw Prints	18	Crossword	26	Real Estate	29-32