

The Nugget

News and Opinion
from Sisters, Oregon

POSTAL CUSTOMER
PRE-SORTED STANDARD
ECRWSS
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
Sisters, OR
Permit No. 15

Vol. XLII No. 6

www.NuggetNews.com

Wednesday, February 6, 2019

Starry Nights' intimate evening of song

By Jodi Schneider
Correspondent

Two of America's premier singer-songwriters joined forces for an acoustic evening backed by nothing but their superb voices, first-rate guitar playing and charming reminiscences in Sisters Starry Nights 40th live music show Tuesday, January 29, in Sisters High School (SHS) Auditorium.

Starry Nights is a fundraiser for the Sisters Schools Foundation and has raised more than \$1.3 million since its inception in 1997. The event is run by volunteers including Jeri Fouts, Susan Arends and Novella Swisher. The event raises funds for both curricular and co-curricular programs for Sisters elementary, middle and high schools.

Swisher said, "In 1996 when my husband, Steve, became superintendent of Sisters schools, discussions



PHOTO BY CODY RHEAULT

True Duerden sang Lyle Lovett's "Closing Time" on stage at the January 29 Starry Nights concert.

revolving around fundraising for the schools was one of the first topics addressed."

Steve Swisher founded the

Sisters Schools Foundation to gather fundraising efforts under one umbrella, and Fouts conceived the idea of

a concert series to benefit the foundation.

See **STARRY NIGHTS** on page 22

Coaching can be a challenge in 2019

By Jim Cornelius
Editor in Chief

Editor's note: This is part one of a two-part look at the challenges of coaching high school sports in Sisters in 2019.

For the men and women who coach Sisters Outlaws athletic programs, coaching is a calling.

Sisters High School (SHS) Head Football Coach Neil Fendall was called early.

"I think I decided I was going to be a coach when I was a sophomore in high school," he told *The Nugget*. "I was 15 and a sophomore in

See **COACHING** on page 24

Addressing state strategies for wildfire

By Andrew Selsky
Associated Press

SALEM (AP) — Plagued by wildfires in recent years, Oregon will evaluate the effectiveness of its system to combat the blazes as fire seasons grow longer and more severe.

Governor Kate Brown said Wednesday, January 30, she has issued an executive order establishing the Oregon Wildfire Response Council. The council is tasked with evaluating Oregon's current response system to large fires and making recommendations in September on the future of Oregon's wildfire response infrastructure.

"Oregon's firefighting approach leads the nation in effectiveness," the Democratic governor said in a statement. "However,

wildfire dynamics are changing and it is never too soon to evaluate the approach to wildfire education, prevention, suppression, attack, and community recovery."

Senate Republican Leader Herman Baertschiger Jr., of Grants Pass, said he's encouraged by the governor's actions.

"This is a great first step, but we need to take a serious look at how we manage our forests, including creating a long-term 100-year plan to prevent these massive fires from occurring in the first place," Baertschiger said.

The Senate minority leader has said state and federal governments should reevaluate policies that restrict harvesting of natural

See **WILDFIRES** on page 30

Artists win Scholastic Awards

Creative Sisters students had their artwork judged against some tough state-wide competition and came out winners. This year, there were about 7,000 entries in the Scholastic Art & Writing Awards in Oregon.

Sisters students will be celebrated at an Awards Ceremony Saturday, February 9, at 1 p.m. at Central Oregon Community College. Then the 400 art pieces from Central Oregon students will remain on display at the Pence Pinckney Art Gallery at COCC through March 1. The six Gold Key recipients have their art sent to National Judging with results released in March.

"I continue to find the Scholastic Art and Writing Awards to be a valuable experience for students because it gives them validation for their creativity and hard work in a typically behind-the-scenes passion, connects them to a greater art community, and



PHOTO BY SUSAN SPRINGER

Winners share their artwork. Back row: Spencer McKeown, Sierra Henneous, Delia Hoyt, Grace Maiden, True Duerden. Front: Katie Springer, Meaghan Greaney, Maddison Anderson.

gives them real-life experience in the world of submitting their art for judging. The show this year at COCC is just as inspiring as ever. Wish our Gold Key recipients luck as their work is forwarded

to national judging!" said Bethany Gunnarson, Visual Arts Teacher at Sisters High School.

Since 1923, the annual See **ART AWARDS** on page 20

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