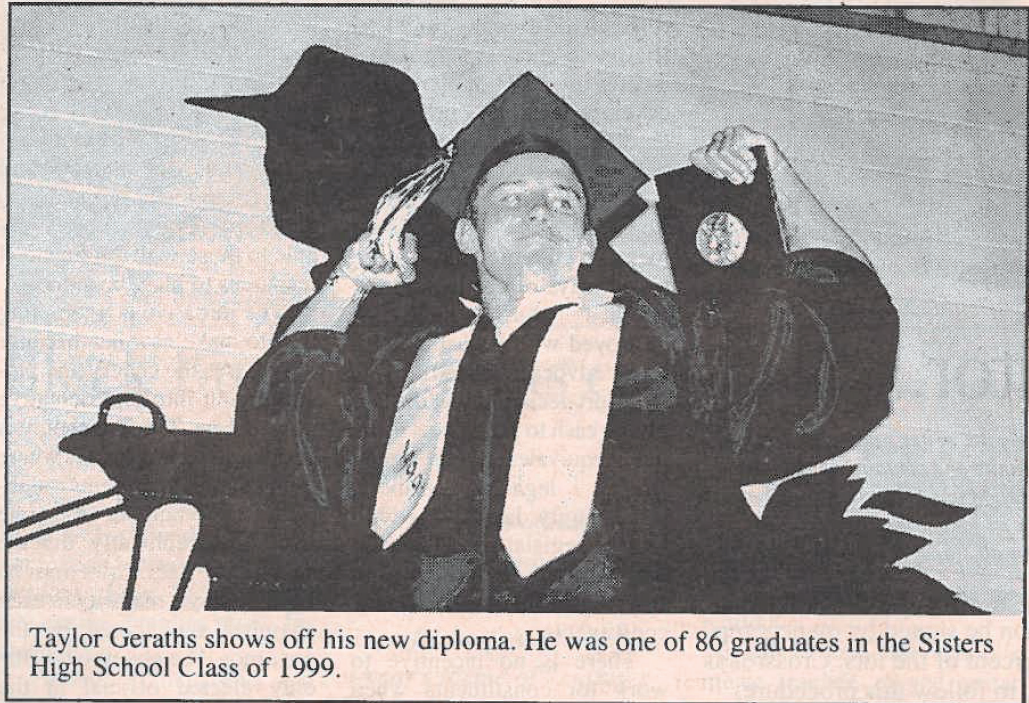


THE
Nugget

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SISTERS, OREGON
Wednesday, June 9, 1999



Taylor Geraths shows off his new diploma. He was one of 86 graduates in the Sisters High School Class of 1999.

Seniors celebrate commencement

By Charlie Kanzig

The 51st Sisters High School Commencement held Friday, June 4, marked the beginning of life after high school for 86 graduates.

The ceremony included all the traditional elements — caps and gowns, speeches, farewells, flowers — along with some nontraditional additions, including a video featuring grads from babyhood to adolescence.

Associated Student Body president Jeff Guggenheim welcomed the capacity crowd to the celebration of the Class of 1999, and introduced special guests Guy Gleason, representing the school board, and Carol Dixon and Michael Baynes, teachers chosen by the seniors to distribute diplomas and dispense congratulatory hugs and handshakes.

After the presentation of roses by individual graduates to their mothers, Sydney Dixon

gave the salutatory address. Breaking from the traditional welcome, Dixon presented her views on censorship. She chose the topic after the live coverage of the Littleton, Colorado, shootings was turned off throughout the high school when some staff members agreed the spontaneous live broadcast might be too traumatic for students to watch live.

"Censorship is the cataract
See GRADS on page 8

Sisters Rodeo ready to ride for 59th year

The seats are sanded and the rocks are being picked out of the arena as Sisters gets set to host the nation's top cowboys as they go up against the best stock in the 59th annual Sisters Rodeo June 11-13.

This year's rodeo will feature four performances: Friday, June 11, 7 p.m.; Saturday, June 12, 1 p.m. and 7 p.m.; and Sunday, June 13, 1 p.m.

The rodeo parade will clog down the streets of downtown Sisters, Saturday, June 12, starting at 9:30 a.m.

"Ticket sales are progressing extremely well, particularly for the Saturday performances, and we're hoping to round out our attendance," said Cathy Williams, rodeo spokesperson.

For rodeo information, call the ticket hotline at 549-0121, or 800-827-7522.

Two nabbed in sign-shooting incident

Two Sisters youths have confessed to shooting holes through a McKenzie Scenic Byway sign on Highway 242 last March.

An investigation by the Deschutes County Sheriff's Office and the U.S. Forest Service turned up a suspect in the incident and a deputy interviewed the young man at the Sisters Sheriff's Station last month.

According to sheriff's office

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Sisters' class sizes to shrink next year

By Jim Cornelius

Class sizes in Sisters schools will drop next year if the proposed 1999-2000 budget holds fast.

The budget was adopted by the Sisters School Board on Monday, June 7.

Next year's kindergarten and first grade classes are expected to have a ratio of 20 students to each teacher. This year's two first grade classes have a ratio of 25:1, according to Sisters Elementary School secretary Kathy Perry.

Next year, there will be two first grade classes and one blended class of first and second graders, Perry said.

According to schools superintendent Steve Swisher, the rest of the classes through middle school should hold close to a 25:1 ratio, which also represents a reduction. Some classes this year have "bulged" up to 27 or 28 students, Swisher said.

The drop in class sizes in first grade are the result of federal funds "targeted" to reduce class size and will require the hiring of one teacher.

"That's what's making the difference in the first grade," Swisher said.

"Some of the state appropriation is expected to be targeted at reducing class size as well," Swisher noted.

The actual amount of the state appropriation remains unknown. The \$6,866,667 Sisters School District general fund budget is based on the assumption that Governor John Kitzhaber's \$4.95 billion education budget will be approved. The legislative leadership is proposing \$4.76 billion.

"We'll probably see that \$4.95 billion," Swisher said, "but the character of it ... is really the question."

The superintendent expects the money to come with

See BUDGET on page 25



Interpretive art...

Dennis McGregor worked with the Forest Service's Roberta Hilbruner and Terry Slider on a mock up of the interpretive map that will go in the McKenzie Highway Scenic Byway Portal.

Photo by Jim Cornelius

Haynes suit dismissed

By Eric Dolson

The lawsuit filed in state court by former police chief David Haynes against the City of Sisters has been dismissed. A similar case in Federal Court is on appeal after Haynes lost a ruling there.

Haynes was fired by the city on May 15, 1997, following nearly a year of conflict, primarily with City Administrator

Barbara Warren.

In the lawsuit, Haynes accused the city of breach of contract, violating the "Whistle Blowers Statute" and he accused Warren of "interference with economic relationship."

Haynes had dropped a claim for wrongful discharge.

In requesting dismissal of

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