

**GRADUATION: One-of-a-kind ceremony to take place at rodeo grounds**

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For those unable to attend in person, plans for a live feed are in the works so people can watch from home on their phones or computers.

Preliminary plans do include making a way for students to “cross the stage” to be recognized individually, according to Principal Joe Hosang.

“Essentially, we will organize very small groups of graduates to line up next to the stage, maintain a 10-foot distance from each other, wear an Outlaw mask, cross the stage, receive a diploma, have a picture taken and return to the family car,” he said in a letter sent out to students and families.

Following the ceremony those in the vehicle with their graduates will be escorted back to Sisters by the Sisters-Camp Sherman Fire Department for a parade through town, ending at the high school, according to Hosang.

In acknowledging that many details still need to be worked out and that things can change so rapidly regarding the virus, Hosang added, “Our motto during distance learning is ‘In Grace, Flexibility and Patience,’ so things may adjust a bit and all details are subject to social distancing guidelines changing between now and June 12.”

Hosang wanted to especially thank Mel Petterson, Lynne Fendall and Jillian Frankl for their help in making the ceremony a reality. “These three have put in many hours working to problem-solve this event in order to make it happen.”

Seniors are required to attend a practice for the event on Thursday, June 11 at 9 a.m. to help ensure things will run smoothly the following day. In following state guidelines, students will be asked to drive individually to the rodeo grounds where they will be directed for parking. Students will stay in their vehicles during the practice unless instructed otherwise.

“We really can’t allow students to ride with other students and still be adhering to the guidelines,” said Hosang. “It’s a bit of a hassle, but we want to do this right.”

Any students with issues for transportation will be aided by contacting Jillian Frankl via email at [jillian.frankl@ssd6.org](mailto:jillian.frankl@ssd6.org).

On Friday, May 29, seniors are required to come to Sisters High School between 11 a.m. and noon to turn in school materials, including Chromebooks, as

well as to pick up their graduation caps and gowns.

“We are working to make this time part of the senior’s celebration, so we hope that all seniors can make it during the time frame,” said Hosang. “We will have them pull into the bus circle out front to take care of this process.”

Graduate Resource Organization (GRO) Scholarship winners, who will have been notified prior to May 29, will pick up packets confirming their awards along with instructions for other tasks related to the scholarships, according to counselor Rick Kroytz.

“The packets include information about how to make sure their scholarship money gets to the proper school as well as instructions for how to thank the donors, which we feel is very important,” he said.

Hosang is grateful to be able to honor the class of 2020 after all the interruption of their senior year.

“As the principal of Sisters High School I want to extend a huge thank you to all our community partners, parents, teachers, and staff who have contributed to ensure the Class of 2020 is honored and has a graduation ceremony that will most certainly be memorable,” he said. “On a daily basis the list of people to thank is growing.”



**Paw Prints**

**Jodi Schneider McNamee**  
Columnist

**Bringing puppy into the great outdoors**

You’ve finally done it. After months of dreaming, you finally made the decision to take the plunge and bring home your own little bundle of furry joy. Now that it’s warming and heading towards summer you can’t wait to hit the trails with your new pup and introduce him to a life of adventure.

However, since puppies don’t typically finish their initial series of inoculations at the veterinarian until they’re 16 weeks old, there’s time for your little pooch to learn basic training before going on that fun hike.

Puppies are vulnerable to several diseases that can be caught from exposure to other dogs, their feces and urine, and even mosquitos, before their shots are finished.

You also need to take into

consideration your pup’s age, size, breed, and health before you start going on those big adventures.

During your pup’s first year of life his limbs will grow longer. While your pup is still growing they are also at risk for growth plate injuries.

A puppy is a baby, so you will need to take it slow as you introduce him to hiking. If you want to turn your young pooch into an adventure dog, prepare for hiking by training him.

Start with 10-minute walks on flat ground. As they get older, increase the length and difficulty of their walks. Not only do they need to build up the muscles to carry them, their paws need to adjust to the wear from hiking long distances or over rough terrain

Before you head out on the perfect trail with your eager pooch, it’s worth spending some time on a few commands that could potentially keep your furry friend out of hot water. This will give you something to focus on also, so you are not tempted to push him too far too fast.

The most important lesson that you can teach your puppy before taking him hiking is recall.

Learning to come when called, or recall to you, is one of the most important skills your dog can learn. But teaching a recall can be

challenging, as dogs find so much of the world so interesting. Each time we ask our dog to come to us, we’re asking him to stop what he’s doing.

That means turning away from other interesting smells, dogs, and food, to come to us.

There are lots of cool finds on hiking trails — sticks, leaves, abandoned snack food, poop, dead animals — some of which can make your dog sick if he’s not trained to recall.

Most puppies will come to you whenever you decide to walk away because they instinctively follow you. Making this a reliable response usually takes months of consistency and positive training.

You need to perfect the command by practicing in different locations and with different levels of distractions. When you are backpacking, you need your dog to respond reliably to recall in any number of different situations. It’s a matter of safety.

Practice recall every day until your dog responds to your whistle or call, even in high-distraction areas.

If you haven’t quite perfected recall, it’s not the end of the world. Just keep your pooch on a long line. Long leashes allow your pup to explore, but you still have

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