

November 2025

GRIZZLY CHRONICLES



The newsletter for and about alumni of Skyline High School

SGAA at 5 years: New traditions build a growing legacy

“Community is more than belonging to something; it’s doing something that makes belonging matter,” according to corporate advisor Brian Solis. Those words capture the spirit of high school alumni associations everywhere—including our own.

The Skyline Grizzlies Alumni Association (SGAA) builds community by supporting the school and its students, past and present. As SGAA marks its fifth anniversary, here’s a look at what we’ve accomplished—and where we’re headed next.

Formed in 2020, SGAA was founded by alumni themselves—not by the school district. Volunteers established the basics: incorporation, tax-exempt status, a website, and social media presence. Since then, we’ve built strong relationships with District 91, Skyline’s administration, and the Booster Club. Faculty liaison McKenna Klepfer now attends board meetings, ensuring steady communication and collaboration.

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Once a Grizzly, Always a Grizzly

SGAA relies on volunteers for 100% of what we do. More volunteers means more can get done.

We hope that this 5-year retrospective gives you ideas for how you might like to get involved. We’ve highlighted a few areas in which we particularly need a few more volunteers.

To volunteer or to find out more, visit SkylineGrizzliesAlumniAssoc.org and fill out the contact form to let us know more about you and what your interests are. You, too, can help the SGAA and Skyline succeed and excel.



Photo montage by Kari McKim, '70

SGAA Activities

SGAA ski trip 2026: Grand Targhee March 4

Snow-loving alumni will gather at Grand Targhee Ski Resort on Wednesday, March 4, 2026 for the fourth annual Skyline Grizzlies Alumni Association ski trip.

We will meet in the morning at the base lodge, ski, have lunch, and enjoy an after-ski get together. The 2025 rendezvous attracted ten alpine and cross-country skiers along with others who came to socialize.

For more information, contact Bob Schoch at bobschoch@comcast.net.

Students' awards

Drama students perform well in Dist. VI competition

Skyline Drama students placed first among Class 5 high schools, and third overall, in the Drama District VI competition at Hillcrest High School Nov. 14 and 15.

More than 270 students participated in the competitions in acting and technical events, according to Sue Parrett, the SHS drama and speech teacher. Class 5 schools in the district include Blackfoot, Bonneville, Hillcrest, Idaho Falls, Shelley, and Skyline high schools.

About two dozen SHS students qualified for the State Drama Competitions Dec. 5 and 6 at Thunder Ridge High School in Idaho Falls. They will compete in categories such as Ensemble Musical Theater, Solo Audition, Pantomime, Make-up Design, and Technical Props.



Reunions: The Heartbeat of Grizzly Connections

Class reunions bring a special kind of joy. Old friends pick up conversations as if no time has passed. Laughter comes easily to classmates who marvel at how much, and how little, everyone has changed. You learn things you never knew before about them — and something about yourself, too. New connections form among people who barely knew each other in high school.

These gatherings remind us that Skyline's spirit doesn't end at graduation — it continues in every career, family, and community that our alumni touch.

For those reasons and more, the SGAA works to support class reunions. Each year, we get a few inquiries from people asking for information on when and where their reunion will be. We love it when we can put them in touch with a reunion committee that has been looking for them.

The SGAA aided three reunions this past summer and hopes to help more in the future. Use [the contact form](#) on the SGAA website to tell us about any reunions being planned for the summer of 2026. If you let us know your class year, contact person, and tentative dates, we can help to spread the word through our Facebook page and newsletter, and share your reunion details on the alumni website.

Two years ago, lacking storage space, Skyline gave the SGAA nearly 100 scrapbooks compiled by classes and clubs like Girls Federation and Drama. The SGAA can supply these for reunions, where they can spark many memories. Just get in touch with us at least two weeks before your reunion, and we can check to see what we have from your high school years.



SGAA's first five years *Continued from page 1*

More than 600 alumni have connected through our site or Facebook, and over 100 have donated. "Those contributions cover the SGAA's operating expenses and enabled the board to stop collecting annual dues," Treasurer Garth Blanchard said. "That lets us focus on program activities—what we really want to be doing."

Supporting Skyline and Its Students

- Scholarships:** Since 2023, two seniors each year have received \$1,000 scholarships from the SGAA. College and Career Advisor Juliette Bruner said, "The life changes that come with graduation are understandably unnerving, so every bit of support can mean so much to seniors."
- Mentoring:** More than 40 alumni have volunteered to serve as consultants on senior projects. (See story on page 4.)
- Signage:** When Principal Josh Newell requested a sign directing visitors to Skyline's secured entrance, SGAA donors and volunteers made it happen.
- Inspiration:** SGAA inducted international philanthropist Greg Carr into Skyline's Hall of Fame and continues to seek other alumni whose achievements inspire students and bring pride to our community. To suggest additional inductees with significant lifetime achievement, please use the 'Alumni Recognition' form on the SGAA website.

Student Activities: SGAA supports the Booster Club and recently launched a grant program to help fund students' academic extracurriculars, such as a 2024 national academic bowl trip.

Serving Alumni

- Public Shout-outs:** Skyline now features brief, SGAA-created profiles of alumni at events and on digital boards. Do you know someone—a sibling? A buddy?—who deserves a quick, public high-five from the school? Nominate them using the 'Alumni Recognition' form on the SGAA website.
- Staying in Touch:** Through this newsletter and Facebook, SGAA keeps alumni connected—but we could do even better. If you know an alum who understands "SEO" and "CTR," let them know SGAA needs a volunteer social media manager.
- Celebrating Sports Alums:** SGAA organized a halftime ceremony honoring football alumni from 13 classes at the 2024 Emotion Bowl.

Social Connections: SGAA has organized alumni floats in two Homecoming Parades and launched an annual ski trip that's becoming a tradition.

All this has been accomplished by just 17 volunteers—but we could do even more with your help. Upcoming goals include building a scholarship endowment, strengthening reunion support, and expanding our online presence.

"We'd also like to expand the board," President Bob Schoch said. "There are six of us serving now, all from the classes of 1970 and 1971. We'd love to add three new members, especially alumni who graduated in the 1980s or later."

Secretary Kari McKim added, "We especially need volunteers who live in Bonneville County who can attend events, take photos, or represent SGAA at games and meetings."

Getting involved with SGAA offers camaraderie and a real sense of purpose. We hope this brief look back—and ahead—has sparked ideas for how you might take part. To get involved, visit [SkylineGrizzliesAlumniAssoc.org](https://www.skylinegrizzliesalumniassoc.org) and fill out the contact form.

SGAA Activities

Butler hot rod shines in homecoming parade

Once again this year, Skyline alums walked, rode, and biked in the Grizzly homecoming parade on October 9, throwing candy to kids under a bright Skyline-blue sky.

Nancy (Butler) Jones, '70, provided the vintage automobile, a 1931 Ford Model "A" hot rod complete with an "a-oo-ga" horn, and Garth Blanchard, '71, provided the tiara and sash for our very first Alumni Homecoming Queen, Jody Caraher, '71. Blanchard and Tom McMillin, '71, rode their cycles.

"It was loads of fun!" Jones said. "You're suddenly 17 again, you hear the marching band kick in, and the memories come flooding back!"

We will announce the date of Skyline's 2026 homecoming parade as soon as we know it, so follow us on Facebook or sign up on our website to get email updates. Particularly if you're in IF, why not join the parade with some classmates? Maybe someone can put together an alumni marching band...?



What's it like to help with a Senior Project?

By Dan Neal, Grizzly Chronicles editor

The state of Idaho now requires all graduating seniors to complete an in-depth study project, which often involves the student serving an internship or interviewing a professional with expertise in the chosen topic. These projects present a rich volunteer opportunity for Skyline alumni.

My name was on a list of alumni experts that the SGAA compiled earlier this year and provided to senior project advisor Julie Nawrocki. Intending to study journalism in college, Skyline senior Geny Shaw contacted me in September to set up an interview. We got together in the school's media center November 6.

Project requirements demand that students answer "three driving questions" about their chosen subject, Shaw said. Students can interview a professional who has worked in the field and other mentors as they seek those answers.

Shaw's first question — why I chose journalism as a career — drove me back into my past life. I told her that I fell into journalism after the expected novels simply would not roll out of my typewriter. Instead, I lucked into a career that I loved.

As for what I got out of it, well, I met more kinds of people, thinkers, poets, and politicians than I had any right to expect. Journalism fed my family and paid my taxes. And it was fun, I told her. I looked forward to going to work every day.

We talked about the mechanics of reporting, cultivating relationships and sources, figuring out who might know about a particu-

lar topic and how to track them down, and the magic of a buzzing newsroom.

Shaw has more work ahead to finish her project. She will shadow Skyline English teacher Heather Martin, who taught Shaw's journalism class when she was a sophomore, for up to 15 hours.

"The other things I need to complete (are) my Interface Log, my Presentation, a reflective essay and my research logs," she wrote in another email message.

Shaw will make the oral presentation describing her project and "what I have learned," to Nawrocki.

Last year, Nawrocki told the newsletter that students can identify and start their projects at any time, though she encourages them to start early, before "senior-itis kicks in." Shaw is not worried about making her deadlines.

"I'm really organized. Sometimes I get things done before they're due."

Now there's a lesson an old journalist should have learned years ago.



Right: Skyline senior Geny Shaw, future journalist

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