Around South County: South River's first graduating class celebrates 35 years

South River High School's Class of 1979, the first class to graduate from the school, presented a commemorative plaque to the school Friday before the varsity football game against Severna Park High School. Pictured from left are Paul Noone, Joan Scible Wood, Sandy Fairbank Chambers, Jeannie Davidson Gernatt, Jackie Mahoney Lewellyn, Zane Rettstatt, Mary Spicknall Glumsic, Margie Nichols Groninger, Principal William Myers, Scott Lee, Gayle Lare Haines and Jay Haines. (By Jerri Anne Hopkins, Correspondent)

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They could have been attending Elvis Presley High School. Or Sky High. Instead thousands of South River High School graduates can thank — or blame — the Class of 1979 that they are Seahawks.

Class member **Zane Rettstett**, who now lives in Lusby, is proud of the part his class played in the school's beginning. They got to choose the name of the school, the Seahawk mascot and the school colors of blue, silver and white, from a number of choices submitted and put to a vote, including the names Elvis and Sky High and mascots Raiders and Blue Crabs. They also named the yearbook Tides.

Many graduates have seen their own children attend and graduate from their alma mater. For the members of the South River's inaugural graduating class, the 35th anniversary seemed the perfect time to give back to their school.

Many Class of 1979 members have kept in touch over the years and a lot of them still live in the area. So, when they decided to hold a reunion in October, they decided to present a plaque to the school. The plaque honors current and future students, faculty and administration with a message of treating the school and each other with honor, class, dignity and respect, a theme that the school stresses in its core beliefs on a daily basis.

"Everybody got along. All the members of our class were close to one another," Rettstett said. "There were never any big issues."

Rettstett, helped guide the reunion plans and was in charge of preparing the plaque. "The school and especially Principal **William Myers** and athletic director **David Klingel** have been so very supportive of this presentation. They suggested we do it at the football game and helped make it happen."

"I am honored to have received this plaque from the inaugural class. It will go on display in the main office and it's something we will cherish," Myers said. "It's my job and that of those who come after me to uphold the dignity and honor of the school for all time. I'm always going to be proud I'm a Seahawk."

The Class of 1979 also wanted to open the time capsule they left behind during the official reunion on Saturday. Unfortunately, after 35 years, no one can remember where they put it.