

LETTERS

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intersection may or not be with a roundabout.

While I understand the emotional involvement of writing to express an opinion, the reader should also read the letters with analytical thinking.

B. Graham



To the Editor:

I read with interest the article and letters about the proposed roundabout at Highway 20 and Barclay.

I don't really understand the reasoning behind the letters in favor of a traffic light. It seems to me that safety and efficiency of traffic control and movement would be the highest priorities, with aesthetic appeal being a nice-to-have.

If traffic circles are navigable by trucks — and they certainly are by cars — and they're substantially safer than lights, I'm not sure what the appeal of a traffic light might be. They're also "obeyed" 24 hours a day, where traffic lights have less observance overnight (would we want red-light cameras?). And a roundabout has substantially more aesthetic possibilities than a traffic light.

There seems to be a bit of conspiracy paranoia, with questions of a "done deal," but I think that misses the point of this discussion. The issue is about good public policy — which we want based on experience gained from scientific studies, and not someone's personal opinion.

As for business in Sisters and a truck bypass, I would be much happier walking downtown without breathing clouds of diesel smoke, and there are probably potential visitors who feel the same. If we get roundabouts at Barclay and Locust and trucks out of our core, the loss of some car drivers who would take a bypass would be balanced against the improved pedestrian experience and more positive attitude of visitors who choose to see what we have.

And aren't happy visitors more likely to be customers?

Steve Bryan



To the Editor:

I am very concerned with the safety of our high school drivers in regards to the proposed roundabout on a major interstate [sic]. I love roundabouts but not on a major interstate [sic]!

This will surprise and confuse tourists entering our town along with intersecting with a road that young drivers use up to three times a day. I just don't buy into the safety studies

after hearing all of the safety studies of back-in parking and seeing the results of that poor choice.

I don't understand why officials don't choose the easiest, safest and most cost-effective system. That traffic light should have never been taken down.

Please let the locals vote on this important matter!

Shirley McBride



To the Editor:

As the former owners of Camp Tamarack, we encourage everyone who has experienced outdoor school, or had a child attend one, contact our state legislators with support for House Bill 2648 and Senate Bill 439. Both of these support Outdoor school for all students. Passing them would provide every fifth- or sixth-grader in the state with the opportunity for a full week of Outdoor school or a comparable outdoor education experience that meets local needs and conditions.

The Sisters School District has a long history of participating in Outdoor school. However, that is not the case for all districts. Today, approximately 50 percent of Oregon's fifth- and sixth-graders are denied the opportunity to experience Outdoor school. Only five of Oregon's 36 counties report 100 percent Outdoor school program participation, four counties report no participation at all and eight counties report less than 20 percent student participation.

It has long been recognized that hands-on experiences such as outdoor school teach collaboration and community-building skills, build self-sufficiency and leadership skills, and drive interest in science, technology, and natural resources. All of these help to alleviate the achievement gap in schools, one of the blights on our Oregon education system. Passing either of these bills will provide students with hands-on learning that helps them understand the world through their local communities, connect with their peers, and discover valuable information about themselves.

A solid-waste fee and unclaimed bottle-deposit fund have been targeted as possible funding avenues, both of which stay away from dollars already earmarked for education.

Having seen first-hand the value of Outdoor school, we strongly urge you to contact our legislators ASAP, imploring them to support this valuable legislation. (Sen.TedFerrioli@State.Or.US and Rep.JohnHuffman@State.Or.US).

Eddie and Ted Jones



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SPRD offers free self-defense class

No matter how safe a woman might feel in Sisters, it is an inescapable fact that women are especially vulnerable to attack.

Sisters Park & Recreation District is offering a free class on Saturday, May 23, from noon to 2 p.m. to give women a basic rundown of self-defense that could get them out of a serious jam.

The class will be led by martial arts instructor Charles Quandt, better known as Coach Q; Sherri Hermans; and Kim Manley.

Coach Q explained that the class will provide useful information that can help women avoid being in the position where they have to deploy self-defense measures.

Attendees will learn to "guard against placing themselves in dangerous situations," Coach Q said.

The first principle of self-defense is to avoid making yourself a target.

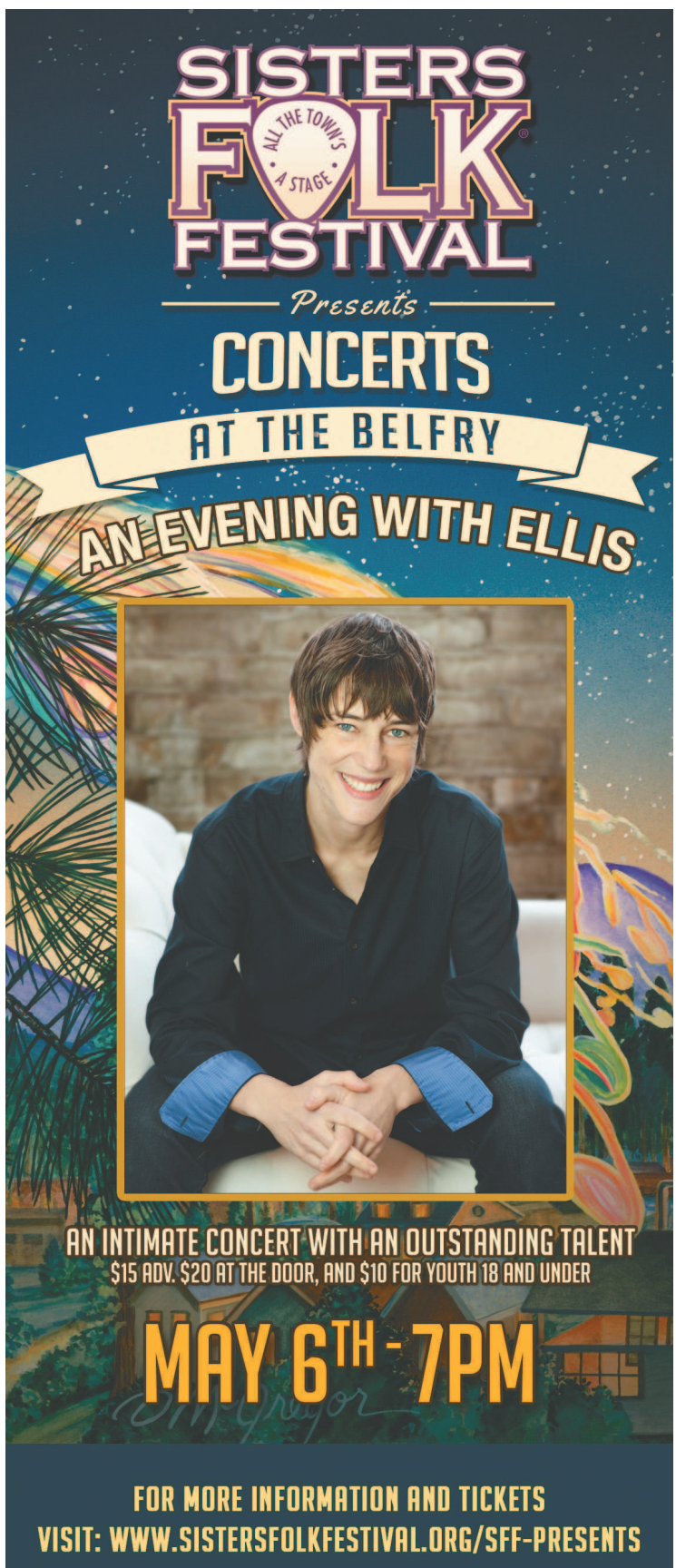
"That's what a lot of predators are looking for," Coach Q said. "An easy target."

The class will offer "street self-defense" based on Coach Q's background in aikido, kickboxing, taekwondo and ju-jitsu. Participants will learn about vulnerable targets on an attacker and quick and effective techniques that can extricate a person from a dangerous position.

While the class is free, space is limited and advance registration is requested. Wear comfortable clothes you can move in and bring water. Extended training is available.

Coach Q teaches martial arts at SPRD on Tuesdays and Thursdays, 4:45 to 6 p.m.

For more information, contact him at 541-549-4177.



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