

CIVILITY: Multiple community meetings are on offer

Continued from page 1

as churches, will meet noon to 1:30 p.m. for lunch at the Sisters fire station community hall, 301 S. Elm St., hosted by C4C. RSVP to C4C at 541-549-1482.

Thursday evening, 5 to 7 p.m., C4C will host a free all-community meeting at the fire station community hall. No RSVP necessary.

At each of the Thursday meetings, questionnaires will be available for citizens to complete and then, on Friday, January 15, 8 to 9:30 a.m. at the fire hall, there will be a "Next Steps" meeting, for anyone interested in hearing the results of the questionnaires and helping to plan how and if to proceed with the Civility Project in Sisters. Those unable to attend a Thursday meeting are encouraged to come to the Friday gathering.

A graduate of University of Kansas in journalism with an MBA from University of Chicago's Booth School of Business, Karwath began his journalistic career as a reporter at one of America's leading newspapers, the *Chicago Tribune*, where he eventually became the business editor, general manager and director of product development. As business editor, he led a team of reporters whose series on the downfall of the Arthur Anderson accounting firm in the Enron scandal was

a finalist for the 2003 Pulitzer Prize.

Karwath's career has involved other print, online, and broadcast journalism jobs in both Chicago and Duluth, MN, until he returned to Duluth in 2011 to establish North Coast Communications, where he serves as president and CEO. His firm helps large and small clients navigate the complex world of communications and messaging.

The Duluth Superior Area Community Foundation, which established the SYP project in 2003 to address difficulties the communities were having in solving difficult challenges, was Karwath's first client and accounts for about half of his business. He serves as their national representative when inquiries regarding SYP are received from across the U.S. and the world.

Karwath, who as a journalist first viewed SYP with skepticism and a mild disinterest, has experienced first-hand the positive impact of the project when bringing together disparate parties with deep-seated differences, as well as those who are in agreement but stuck in their process.

In his experience with SYP, he has observed that breakdowns in process and communications usually come not from dealing with big issues but rather from not observing very simple tenets of civility, which allow everyone involved to feel heard and fairly treated. Often opportunities are missed or suboptimized when the attitude is, "We know what they're going

to say before they say it; there's no point in engaging."

When communities or organizations agree to adopt the SYP tenets of civility, or some version of them, they are agreeing to conduct themselves and work on issues, being guided by the overarching concept of "Is this process, communication, or action civil or not civil?"

Karwath summed it up: "The SYP project provides a community of any kind with an intellectually simple, easy-to-understand set of tools.... SYP doesn't provide a single 'aha' moment nor is it a one-time inoculation that is good for life."

Rather, it is a way to create a safe platform for people to respectfully communicate with each other in public



PHOTO PROVIDED

Speak Your Peace national spokesperson Rob Karwath will introduce the community-building initiative to Sisters January 14 and 15.

meetings and organizational settings, to minimize divisiveness and misunderstanding, and to maximize collaboration and creative problem-solving.

For more information, contact Robyn Holdman 541-549-1482 or the SYP national office www.dsaspeakyourpeace.org.

Local nonprofit promotes civility

Citizens4Civility (C4C) is a local nonprofit corporation formed in 2015 by residents of Sisters Country who care deeply about the community.

They came together around the idea that when citizens in a community are provided with tools for information, education, and communication, they will have every opportunity to create a safe and respectful platform

from which to work to improve business, economic, and social aspects in Sisters.

They have observed over the past few years that Sisters Country has faced many challenges that have created controversy in the community. Communication often broke down and the quality of the discourse became unproductive.

As a volunteer-driven,

grass-roots effort, their goal at this time is to give citizens an opportunity to become familiar with Speak Your Peace (SYP), a successful program that has been replicated in some 34 communities around the country.

Following the SYP introduction on January 14-15, and with community feedback, C4C will assess how to move forward.

LAREDO

Award-Winning Home Builder & Renovator

541-549-1575 • LaredoConstruction.com

Maintenance • Repairs • Insurance Work CCB#194489

Specializing in Central Oregon Rural Properties

Kathy Hansbrough
Broker, CDPE, GRI, SRE
Cell: 541-408-2998
Office: 541-728-0033

kjhansbrough@remax.net
www.kathyhansbrough.com

RE/MAX Key Properties
431 NW Franklin Ave. Bend, OR 97701
Licensed Broker in the State of Oregon

BLACK BUTTE RANCH REAL ESTATE HOWELLS REALTY GROUP

ROCK RIDGE 13
\$355,000 mls #201504916

GOLF HOME 214
\$1,349,000 mls #201308539

EXCLUSIVE ONSITE REALTOR FOR THE RANCH

Don Bowler, President and Broker ~ 971-244-3012
Gary Yoder, Managing Principal Broker ~ 541-420-6708
Dick Howells, Principal Broker ~ 541-408-6818
Phil Arends, Principal Broker ~ 541-420-9997
Joe Dye, Broker ~ 541-595-2604 | Carol Dye, Broker ~ 541-480-0923
Steve Post, Broker ~ 541-480-5415

Come see us daily at The Ranch, 9 to 5
Our office is adjacent to the new Lodge Pool Complex
541-595-3838 The Ranch • 541-549-5555 in Sisters
see all our listings at blackbutte.com

SOLD

Jodi Satko Broker
541-550-0819

satkosellsoregon@gmail.com
Resort, Residential & Ranch Specialist
with 25 Years Experience

CENTRAL OREGON

KELLERWILLIAMS

GO OUTLAWS!

595 NW York Drive #100, Bend, OR

Each Office Is Independently Owned & Operated