

# Foundation helps paint school gym

Thanks in part to a grant from The Roundhouse Foundation the Sisters Elementary School gymnasium received a fresh coat of paint over the holiday break.

In October, The Roundhouse Foundation trustees worked with both Becky Stoughton, the principal at Sisters Elementary School, and Leland Bliss, director of operations for the Sisters School District, to support some projects at the school. It is important to the Foundation to leverage each grant made so those grants make a larger impact on the community as a whole.

“Think of it as the ripple effect,” said trustee Kathy Deggendorfer. “Funding some key improvements at the school will help to enhance the learning environment for students, which will improve school pride, which makes the community stronger.”

The gymnasium-painting project has been on the facilities list for quite some time — it just hadn’t been a priority. With a grant of \$15,000 The Roundhouse Foundation was able to fund the painting of the gym over the break as well as a few other projects slated to be finished throughout the school year. The grant will also fund painting “The Loft,” a meeting room above the gymnasium used by teachers, staff and parents; adding a fresh coat of paint on the bathroom doors throughout the school; the installation of two new water fountains with the ability to



PHOTO BY ERIN BORLA

Tim Wonderly’s painting crew refurbished the Sisters Elementary School gymnasium over the holiday break.

fill water bottles; and a new sink for the art room.

The gymnasium was a big job — working through the District office beginning in November, the job went out to bid. Tim Wonderly Painting Co., a local Sisters business, got the job. The old pale blue and white walls were covered with a soft cream with brown trim to mimic the high desert colors of the Sisters community. The darker color on the bottom will help to protect the wall from shoes, balls and other gym-related hazards.

“What a great way to start the new year,” says Becky Stoughton. “People have

already been down to the gym to check it out. The commons is too small for our all-school assemblies anymore; a new gym with fresh colors allows our students and staff to show off their school with pride.”

The Roundhouse Foundation is a Sisters-based private foundation. The Foundation’s goals are to fund collaborative, community projects that celebrate the arts and heighten community awareness in areas including the arts, environment, social services, and community leadership. For more information visit [www.RoundhouseFoundation.org](http://www.RoundhouseFoundation.org).

# Writing competition open for submissions

The Waterston Desert Writing Prize 2016 is now open for submissions. Applicants can submit online through April 1.

The prize honors creative nonfiction that illustrates artistic excellence, sensitivity to place, and desert literacy, with the desert as both subject and setting. Inspired by author and poet Ellen Waterston’s love of the high desert of Central Oregon, a region that has been her muse for over 30 years, the prize recognizes the vital role deserts play worldwide in the ecosystem and the human narrative.

Submission guidelines are available at the Writing Ranch website: [www.writingranch.com/waterston-prize-for-desert-writers](http://www.writingranch.com/waterston-prize-for-desert-writers).

The prizewinner will receive a \$1,500 cash award, a reading and reception at the High Desert Museum in Bend, and a four-week residency at PLAYA at Summer Lake.

Rebecca Lawton, winner of the 2015 prize, said, “The honor of the Waterston Desert Writing Prize and the time at Playa are both strong

medicine for a writer’s soul. I feel forever changed by my time, both with the supporters of the prize and in the high desert that inspires it. I encourage desert writers to study up on the roots of the prize, apply for it, and give back to it — large in its impact, it has deep ties to community and place.”

The prize is funded from an endowment managed by the Oregon Community Foundation, with the impetus for the creation of the endowment provided by actor Sam Waterston, after whom the prize is named. As the endowment for the prize grows, so will the annual prize amount. The \$1,500 cash award for the 2016 Prize is an increase from the \$1,000 award in 2015. Tax-deductible donations can be made to the Waterston Desert Writing Prize, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, and mailed to P.O. Box 640, Bend, Oregon 97709.

For more information about the Waterston Desert Writing Prize, visit the Writing Ranch website, email [info@writingranch.com](mailto:info@writingranch.com), or call 541-480-3933.

Classifieds are online at [NuggetNews.com](http://NuggetNews.com)

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