

LETTERS

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To the Editor:

I hope many of you were able to go to the meetings that introduced Sisters to Speak Your Peace. The energy in the room grew as attendees talked with the group presenting it and among themselves. Yet at the same time there remained a strong sense of frustration. The people wanted to support their community but were afraid to put their ideas into words for fear of being ridiculed.

The Speak Your Peace presenters gave examples of towns similar to Sisters going through growing pains and having a few vocal people put the brakes on community involvement. SYP gave 9 concepts that everyone can use to speak and listen with respect. As people started to understand the empowerment this form of dialogue could give them, they saw that if we all try to stay respectful we will be able to find a common ground and be able to move forward.

It is so encouraging to see not only individuals, but entire organizations wanting to endorse these positive ideals. Let's join together to listen and really pay respectful attention, without gossiping, while being inclusive and agreeable. Let's take responsibility to use constructive criticism and apologize if we stray from that. Let's end it now and continue to work together.

Tracy Stout

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To the Editor:

I enjoyed reading about the revitalization of Family Art Night at Sisters Elementary School.

Its origins began as an outgrowth of the SES Arts Literacy Program I led back in 2006. The inspiration for such an event came about from my own childhood experience at a holiday craft fair. Even though I was only six years old at the time, I have never forgotten that evening. Giving children what can be a first-time experience in hands-on creativity is not simply fun but can strike a deep personal chord in a child's own inventive spirit. It is also an opportunity for community sharing, giving and assisting of others.

The first Family Art Night had about 50 attendees. By the fourth year over 200 people showed up even though there was a large snowstorm going on outside. I recall one parent saying to me, "this is the best thing that happens at this school."

It took a large team effort to make such an evening happen. Congratulations to those who have brought Family Arts Night back. Your time and efforts are much appreciated.

Paul Bennett

ARTISTS: Art inspired by "Euphoria" will be on display in April

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Anthropologist Mead studied indigenous tribes. Through this show, there are lots of opportunities for artists to explore nature, indigenous art, family, passion and grief.

Visit the above libraries in April to view art inspired by "Euphoria." "A Novel Idea" 2016 kicks off on April 9; a complete reader's guide, which includes program times and locations, will be available in mid-March. Lily King will be speaking in Bend on May 1, and free tickets to her talk will be available online and in libraries on April 16.

For more information, contact Zeta Seiple at 541-549-6157 or Linda Davis at 541-549-1222.

Author looks at legendary locals

Local author Les Joslin will read from and sign his book "Legendary Locals of Bend" on Friday, March 18, at 6 p.m. at Paulina Springs Books.

Joslin offers an intriguing look at the people who have made Central Oregon, particularly Bend, such a great place. Some of the people featured in the book, such as legendary explorer John Charles Fremont, are globally renowned, while others are more ordinary people who have done extraordinary things.

Refreshments will be served; \$5 admission will be refunded upon purchase of the featured book.

Paulina Springs Books is



Les Joslin.

located at 252 W. Hood Ave. For more information call 541-549-0866.

Texas songwriter featured in concert

The Belfry will host blues singer Randy McAllister Friday, March 11.

Roustabout, maverick, scrapper, genius, gritty, spiritual, wild, amazing, badass, soulful... These are some of the words used to describe Randy McAllister.

He is one harp-blowin', blues singing', song-writin', Texas bonafide blueblood.

This is blue-eyed Cajun roadhouse soul by one of America's true blues/roots

originals.

The show starts at 8 p.m.

Tickets are available at www.bendticket.com.

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- 2 Call Bend Spay & Neuter for the appointment
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