

C O M M U N I T Y

For concerned citizens, 'Green Forests Matter'

By Jim Cornelius
Editor in Chief

Susan Wilson and Virginia Silvey are concerned about the ever-present threat wildfire poses to the future of Sisters.

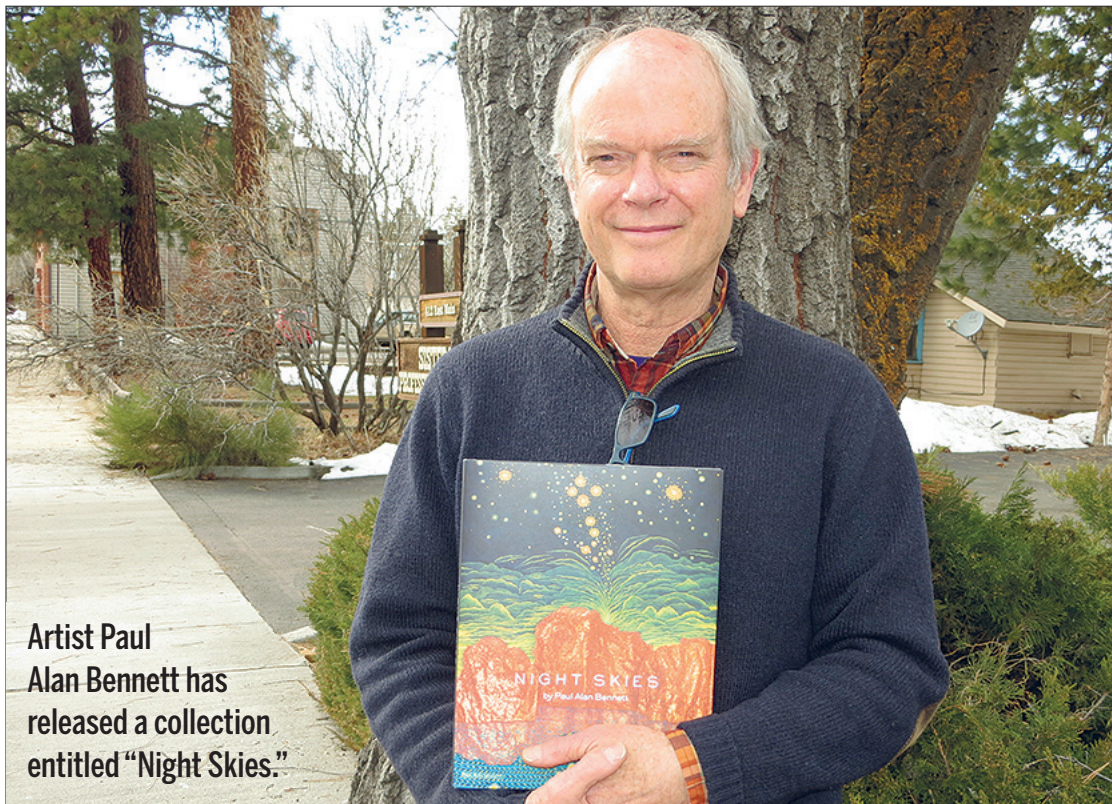
Watching the horrific events of the Camp Fire unfold in Paradise, California, last summer spurred them to action. The Sisters women are in the process of forming a non-profit called Green Forests Matter – and they're hosting a series of presentations on wildfire mitigation at

Sisters Library through April.

"We think that what happened in California could happen here," Wilson told *The Nugget*. "And there are some obvious opportunities to change that."

The women hope to effect change through education, and they're bringing subject matter experts to Sisters to talk about smoke reduction zones; the potential for biomass to jumpstart forest health projects; and the Greater Sisters Community

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Artist Paul Alan Bennett has released a collection entitled "Night Skies."

PHOTO BY JIM CORNELIUS

Land-use codes can mitigate wildfire danger

By Doug Green
Correspondent

As wildfires grow in size and frequency – and as the dangers rise – helping communities reduce wildfire risks and costs is a top priority. Protecting homes and structures threatened by wildfires depletes local, state and federal agency budgets, and increasingly places firefighters' lives in danger. The effects of climate change, alongside increasing development within the wildland-urban interface (WUI), amplify these adverse

outcomes.

Sisters Country is no exception. Recent large fires like Milli and Pole Creek were in striking distance to Sisters, and the Rabbit Brush fire burned within the community, destroying two homes.

It is not a matter of if fire strikes again in the Sisters community, but when.

Today, one-third of all U.S. homes are in the WUI, the area where flammable vegetation and homes meet or intermingle. With more

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Artist's book celebrates 'Night Skies'

By Jim Cornelius
Editor in Chief

Sisters artist Paul Alan Bennett's latest venture makes it very easy to have his world-renowned art in your home — and in your hands.

He has combined a life-long fascination with the night sky — which he has depicted often in his art — and his love for Greek mythology in a new book titled "Night Skies." The book features 44 paintings with text that feature the night sky.

Bennett has had a long relationship with the night sky.

"I remember being about 10 and looking at the night sky and feeling like something wonderful was about

to happen," he said. "I felt it in every cell of my body."

Then, with his trademark sly grin, he said, "I think the next day I went through puberty!"

Bennett has been painting the night sky for years, some of the paintings inspired by long drives across Central Oregon, with the headlights probing the vault of the heavens.

"It's part of our landscape, just like the mountains, the rivers, the trails," he said.

Greek myth, which Bennett became enamored with during his art studies in Greece as a young man, also play into the narrative of Night Skies.

The Greeks threw their

mythology into the skies and named the constellations that we know today.

"It's all quite wondrous, I think," Bennett said.

Bennett plans to tour Oregon bookstores in support of Night Skies, — and playing related original songs on his ukulele, yet another of his artistic passions.

"Music is such a wonderful way to create that whole other world where anything is possible," he said.

Like music, the night sky can be enjoyed and appreciated without an intricate knowledge of how it is composed. And Bennett urges his fellow Sisters residents to

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SISTERS AREA MEETING CALENDAR

BOARDS, GROUPS, CLUBS

Al-Anon Mon., noon, Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church. 541-549-8737 or 541-549-1527.

Alcoholics Anonymous Thurs. & Sun., 7 p.m., Episcopal Church of the Transfiguration / Sat., 8 a.m., Episcopal Church of the Transfiguration / Mon., 5 p.m., Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church / Big Book study, Tues., noon, Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church / Gentlemen's meeting, Wed., 7 a.m., Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church / Sober Sisters Women's meeting, Thurs., noon, Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church / Step & Tradition meeting, Fri., noon, Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church. 541-548-0440.

Alzheimer's & Dementia Caregiver Support Group 1st Tuesday, noon, Sisters City Hall. 800-272-3900.

Black Butte Ranch Bridge Club Tuesdays, 12:30 p.m., BBR community room. Partner required. 541-595-6236.

Central Oregon Fly Tyers Guild For Saturday meeting dates and location, email: steelefly@msn.com.

Central OR Spinners and Weavers Guild One Saturday per month, Jan. thru Oct. For schedule: 541-639-3217.

Council on Aging of Central Oregon Senior Lunch Tuesdays, noon, Sisters Community Church. 541-480-1843.

East of the Cascades Quilt Guild 4th Wednesday (September-June), Stitches Post. All are welcome. 541-549-6061.

Friends of the Sisters Library Board of Directors 2nd Tuesday, 9 to 11 a.m., Sisters Library. www.sistersfol.com.

Go Fish Fishing Group 3rd Monday, 7 p.m. Sisters Community Church. All ages welcome. 541-771-2211.

Heartwarmers (fleece blanketmakers) 1st & 3rd Tuesdays, 1 p.m., Sisters City Hall. Materials provided. 541-408-8505.

Hero Quilters of Sisters Thursday, 1 to 4 p.m. 541-549-1028 or 541-719-1230.

Military Parents of Sisters Meetings are held quarterly; please call for details. 541-388-9013.

Oregon Band of Brothers – Sisters Chapter Wednesdays, 11:30 a.m., Takoda's Restaurant. 541-549-6469.

SAGE (Senior Activities, Gatherings & Enrichment) Monday-Friday, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Sisters Park & Recreation District. 541-549-2091.

Sisters Family Aglow Lighthouse 4th Saturday, 10 a.m., Ponderosa Lodge Meeting Room. 503-930-6158.

Sisters Area Photography Club 2nd Wednesday, 4 p.m., Sisters Library community room. 541-549-6157.

Sisters Area Woodworkers 1st Tuesday, 7 to 9 p.m. 541-639-6216.

Sisters Astronomy Club 3rd Tuesday, 7 p.m., SPRD. 541-549-8846.

Sisters Bridge Club Thursdays, 12:30 p.m., The Pines Clubhouse. Novices welcomed. 541-549-9419.

Sisters Caregiver Support Group 3rd Tues., 10:30 a.m., Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church. 541-771-3258.

Sisters Cribbage Club Wednesdays, 11 a.m. to 2 p.m., Ray's Food Place community room. 541-923-1632.

Sisters Habitat for Humanity Board of Directors 4th Tuesday, 6 p.m. Location information: 541-549-1193.

Sisters Kiwanis Thursdays, 7 to 8:30 a.m., Brand 33 Restaurant at Aspen Lakes. 541-410-2870.

Sisters Parent Teacher Community 2nd Tuesday, 6:30 p.m. at Sisters Saloon. 541-480-5994.

Sisters Parkinson's Support Group 2nd Tuesday, 1 p.m., Sisters Community Church. 907-687-8101 or 541-668-6599.

Sisters Red Hats 1st Friday. Location information: 541-279-1977.

Sisters Rotary Tuesdays, noon, Aspen Lakes Lodge. 541-760-5645.

Sisters Trails Alliance Board 1st Wednesday, 5 p.m. Sisters Art Works. Public welcome. 541-719-8822.

Sisters Veterans Thursdays, noon, Takoda's Restaurant. 541-903-1123.

Three Sisters Irrigation District Board of Directors 1st Tuesday, 4 p.m., TSID Office. 541-549-8815.

Three Sisters Lions Club 1st Thursday, noon, Ray's Food Place community room. 541-419-1279.

VFW Post 8138 and American Legion Post 86 1st Wednesday, 6:30 p.m., Sisters City Hall. 541-903-1123.

Weight Watchers Thursdays, 8:30 a.m. weigh-in, Sisters Community Church. 541-602-2654.

SCHOOLS

Black Butte School Board of Directors 2nd Tuesday, 5 p.m., Black Butte School. 541-595-6203.

Sisters Christian Academy Board of Directors 2nd Thursday, 8 a.m., RE/MAX office. 541-549-4133.

Sisters School District Board of Directors One Wed. monthly, SSD Admin Bldg. See schedule online at www.ssd6.org. 541-549-8521 x5002.

CITY & PARKS

Sisters City Council 2nd & 4th Wednesday, 6:30 p.m., Sisters City Hall. 541-549-6022.

Sisters Park & Recreation District Board of Directors 1st & 3rd Tuesdays, 5:30 p.m., SPRD bldg. 541-549-2091.

Sisters Planning Commission 3rd Thursday, 5:30 p.m., Sisters City Hall. 541-549-6022.

FIRE & POLICE

Black Butte Ranch Police Dept. Board of Directors Meets monthly. 541-595-2191 for time & date.

Black Butte Ranch RFPD Board of Directors 4th Thursday, 9 a.m., Black Butte Ranch Fire Station. 541-595-2288.

Cloverdale RFPD Board of Directors 3rd Wed., 7 p.m., 67433 Cloverdale Rd. 541-548-4815. cloverdalefire.com.

Sisters-Camp Sherman RFPD Board of Directors 3rd Tuesday, 5 p.m., Sisters Fire Hall, 541-549-0771.

Sisters-Camp Sherman RFPD Drills Tuesdays, 7 p.m., Sisters Fire Hall, 301 S. Elm St. 541-549-0771.

This listing is for regular Sisters Country meetings; email information to lisa@nuggetnews.com