

## ITALIAN: Language learners gather to speak — and share

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surprised to hear Italian at the table next to them.

Just this past Wednesday, on August 21, a couple that was visiting family from Tuscany stopped by the table to chat with the group.

When asked what Williams enjoyed most about the Italian group he explained, “Learning Italian in retirement has greatly enriched our travel experiences in Italy, but it has also given me a valuable combination of intellectual stimulation, a sense of accomplishment, and very enjoyable social relationships with fellow Italian-speakers here in Sisters.”

He likes how practicing another language is “an outstanding exercise for the brain” and a good experience to socialize, both with native Italian speakers while traveling abroad and among members of the Sisters community. He is happy to speak with more members of the Sisters community about joining the Italian group.

Many group members pointed out the community aspect of the language group as its greatest appeal. Kim Marsan, who lived in Italy for several years, described how the group creates a “positive community that brings people



PHOTO PROVIDED

**Some 15 Sisters area residents gather regularly to dine and share the Italian language.**

together from all over the world.”

Meanwhile Suzan Ard pointed out that “meeting with this group is a great opportunity to practice the language you have been learning in a fun environment. With a few exceptions I wouldn’t know any of these people here if not for the Italian group.”

Another group member who was raised in Italy, Christina Cappy, said that the community and fun aspect of the Italian group inspired her to start a new business called Bend Language Institute. She wants to create a central hub where different language communities can get together and practice their languages in an interactive environment. Beyond offering small eight-week classes in several languages, she organizes a number of workshops that allow people to use their languages through everyday activities.

“I call them Language in Action Workshops,” she

explained. “The idea behind them is that the best way to learn a language is by doing the language and also by making language learning fun.”

Upcoming workshops include discussing the history of winemaking in Italy in Italian, cooking Chinese food while speaking Mandarin, and practicing yoga in Spanish — one that she is particularly looking forward to as she is also a Spanish-language learner.

Cappy is hosting an opening event for Bend Language Institute on September 27 at 5 p.m. at 416 NE Greenwood Ave., inside the Mactek building. For more information contact her at 541-728-3022 or bendlanguageinstitute@gmail.com. She wants to invite all members of the Central Oregon community to meet each other and connect with diverse language communities.

## VOLUNTEERS: Rodeo is bringing families into the fold

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husband, is one of the impressive collection of members who show up for work parties all through the spring and then continue their service as volunteers during the rodeo.

Nick Jacobsen and Paul Yost were awarded silver Sisters Rodeo buckles and a plaque. The two men have become an invaluable asset to the rodeo with their variety of skills. John Leavitt noted in presenting the awards that whenever you needed anything done, both these young men were right on the job. They are the symbols of rodeo future, as enthusiastic and willing as members of far more years, including their own families.

The event also introduced new officers of Sisters Rodeo, President Curt Kallberg; Vice President Chris Schaad; Secretary Patty Cordoni and

Treasurer Rick Wageman.

Past President Glenn Miller was able to attend the event after a long five months of continued recovery from a life-threatening illness. The ovation for him was several minutes long, expressing great appreciation for his service to the rodeo since the 1970s.

Sometime later, he was on the dance floor with his wife, Tove, demonstrating that he’s not riding off into the sunset, leaving Sisters Rodeo behind.

Under a perfect summer sky, the nearly 200 attendees danced to the music of Dry Canyon Stampede, celebrating into the night.

Sisters Rodeo is focused on bringing families into its fold.

“Most of our members are not spring chickens,” said President Kallberg. “We need to get new members and families involved, so a next generation will carry our banner into the future.”

For information about joining Sisters Rodeo, write to info@sistersrodeo.com.

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