

★ SPRING ★ THE OBSERVER



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Spring artist self-publishes anti-‘sickerette’ book

By SARAH PARKER
sparker@hcnonline.com

“Texas” Tim Webb has been writing anti-smoking and anti-drug nursery rhymes and poems for more than 10 years now.

“There are some for young kids and some for older, high school kids,” Webb said of his canon.

In January, Webb self-published a selection of his rhymes as a coloring book, “Smoke in Your Eye Makes You Cry.”

Webb’s goal is to provide a means for parents to teach their kids to refrain from smoking, or as he puts it, “to dodge the smoking bullet.”

When asked why he picked up that cause in particular, Webb responded that he was repulsed by the habit.

“To see a young person ... or a pregnant lady smoking, it’s about the ugliest, low-class things I’ve seen. It’s as silly as a cigarette in a dog’s mouth.”

Webb said that in each poem, an animal character points out what people have to lose when they start smoking. He named the financial expense of smoking, the health risks associated and the social risk of losing one’s non-smoking friends as examples touched on in his book.

Ollie Owl, for example, can fly for miles because smoking doesn’t negatively affect his health.

Or Freddy Frog, one of Webb’s favorite characters, answers a fisherman who offers him a cigarette with a pun:



“Texas” Tim Webb, of Spring, self-published a book a coloring book of anti-smoking poems. It’s available through his website, www.texasstim.com.

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“What, me use tobacco?/You think I want to croak?”

Freddy Frog, is shown jumping away from a cigarette on a hook, Webb said, noting the symbolism. The smoke from the “sickerette,” as it’s called in the book, forms a monster’s head.

The artist and poet points to Freddy’s scenario as a prime example of the convergence of word play, imagery, puns and comic effect he exercises throughout the book.

The early-year release coincides with American Heart Month, which is in February. Dr. Denton A. Cooley, M.D., founder, president and surgeon-in-chief of the Texas Heart Institute, wrote the book’s foreward, saying “this book belongs in every child’s ‘survival kit.’ The knowledge will serve them from childhood through adulthood into their parenthood.”



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