

**LETTERS**

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roundabouts as the first item in its “Proven Safety Countermeasures.” It goes on to state:

- By converting from a two-way stop control mechanism to a roundabout, a location can experience an 82-percent reduction in severe (injury/fatal) crashes and a 44-percent reduction in overall crashes.

- By converting from a signalized intersection to a roundabout, a location can experience a 78-percent reduction in severe (injury/fatal) crashes and a 48-percent reduction in overall crashes.

This information can be found at: [http://safety.fhwa.dot.gov/provencountermeasures/fhwa\\_sa\\_12\\_005.cfm](http://safety.fhwa.dot.gov/provencountermeasures/fhwa_sa_12_005.cfm)

The Barclay/Highway 20 intersection is especially dangerous because it is the transition from highway speeds to in-town speeds and town speeds to highway speeds. If you watch that intersection you will notice that few drivers going either way are going 35 mph, the posted speed limit. A roundabout will slow traffic both ways to 15 mph, which makes serious collisions impossible.

My comment is why not go with the proven safest method to avoid collisions and injuries instead of saying “it hasn’t happened yet”?

Gordon Golden

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To the Editor:

Well, traffic circles aren’t “stinkin” and certainly no joke.

We should be grateful that ODOT is willing to work at and pay for an engineered traffic circle that has been shown to save lives, expedite traffic smoothly and contribute art beauty to an otherwise utilitarian boring intersection.

Moreover, the traffic circle is so in keeping with the City’s desire to avoid looking like any other utilitarian small city with several

stop lights that stop you for minutes with no cross traffic in sight.

The fact that there is only one NOW simply is a step in the right direction with the second one at the other end of town awaiting funds and funding. There is no need to try and turn that into a negative.

Sisters is and looks special, lets keep it that way and embrace the traffic circle and applaud ODOT for the foresight and willingness to embark upon it for the betterment of the special character that is our Sisters.

I wonder who will do the art project in the traffic circle? I know it will be a stand-out introduction to all travelers that this town is special — and welcome, come stay for awhile and maybe move your business here offering family-support jobs.

Jack Addison

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To the Editor:

The Independent Party of Oregon is now the third “major party” in Oregon. We want to offer voters more choices on their ballots.

Anyone possibly interested in running for office as the candidate of the Independent Party needs to change his or her voter registration to “Independent Party” by September 10. It takes about two minutes, here: <http://indparty.com/register>. Or just search “Oregon voter register” online.

Potential candidates need not decide whether to run until the primary election filing deadline, March 8, 2016. But, thanks to the Democrats and Republicans, current law requires signing up for the Independent Party by September 10, more than eight months before the May 2016 primary election.

Dan Meek

Co-chairman of the Independent Party of Oregon

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PHOTO BY DOUGLASS BEALL

The elusive and beautiful evening grosbeak.

## Sisters Country birds

By Douglas Beall

Correspondent

The evening grosbeak (*Coccothraustes vespertinus*) was erroneously named by Midwest settlers in the 1800s, because they thought the birds only came out in the evening to sing. French Americans named them wandering grosbeaks. They travel in flocks, gracing the air with clear ringing chirps, descending to treetops or birdfeeders to enjoy seeds and nuts or tree buds.

Not much is known about their breeding habits, as they are wary and nest mostly in high-altitude spruce trees. The males’ bill becomes greenish

in spring and matches the color of spruce buds.

In the past, flocks of evening grosbeaks have approached 10,000 individuals feeding in the treetops of the Willamette Valley. In Sisters they prefer ponderosa, cottonwood, and alder trees.

A few evening grosbeaks nested in the Camp Sherman area and are bringing their chicks to black sunflower feeders. As fall approaches listen for a raucous group flying from treetop to treetop. For more evening grosbeak photos please visit my website <http://abirdsingsbecauseithasasong.com/recent-journeys>.

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