

LETTERS

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favor appeared in the first two pages of that column (pages 2 and 9), while those opposed were relegated to the last two pages (pages 10 and 30).

Something's getting crammed down our throats.

Michael Cooper

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To the Editor:

Re: Edinburgh, Scotland - best festival city in the world," (*The Nugget*, May 4, page 20):

Great article and travel tips! We travel regularly to Copenhagen, Denmark. Next time we will visit Edinburgh first!

Gary Breaux

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To the Editor:

I lived in Central Oregon from 1999 to 2009, then moved to Ashland. Last July I began exploring the possibility of relocating back to Central Oregon again, finally moving to Sisters just a month ago. During this nine-month process, I initiated and held individual "creative conversations" with 45+ community leaders from the public, private, and non-profit sectors in Central Oregon. I wanted to learn their perspectives about what is happening currently and what they saw as the needs, challenges, and opportunities.

I found a culture of strong cooperation, collaboration, respect, generosity, and synergy in Central Oregon, with visionary, community-minded "possibility leaders" engaged for the greater good of the larger whole. This culture is unique in my experience, and significantly different than anything I've ever found anywhere else. It is a form of real wealth, as much as our natural resources, financial wealth, and other more commonly identified forms. It's a different form than many people expect, and perhaps a surprising one. As one bank executive said to me, "You definitely captured the essence of our region's 'secret sauce'!"

I am passionate about helping businesses and organizations build vibrant cultures in workplaces and communities so that we all thrive. To that end, since moving to Sisters I volunteered and helped organize the Sisters Country Civility Project, "Speak Your Peace," in April as a way to contribute to building and strengthening that kind of culture. It is encouraging that the Ford Family Foundation is also exploring various ways to support community-building activities and processes here.

From my perspective, this culture is one of Sisters' and Central Oregon's biggest assets. As I see it, strengthening and building on that culture will be vital in order for Sisters and Central Oregon to successfully navigate the current growth-related changes and challenges and become increasingly healthy, vibrant communities. I will continue to do whatever I can to help this happen.

Elaine Cornick

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To the Editor:

We received the final on our new home in October of 2015. The driveway was paved shortly after. The paving covered a much-used access point of the Peterson Ridge Trail, which had been erroneously placed there many years before.

The Sisters Trails Alliance removed the signage and tacked up a small sign stating that the trail was now closed. Since then, a handful of times, we have seen hikers heading down our driveway. If I could, I would politely let them know that the trail access points were now on Elm Street, at the end of Locust Street and behind FivePine. With the advent of all this fine weather, we have experienced a dramatic increase in trespassers. I understand that we humans are creatures of habit. We don't like to be inconvenienced, but we also need to respect the property and privacy of homeowners.

The other day I was sitting by the big picture window overlooking our backyard when a group of hikers approached the house from the woods. They passed by a few feet from where I was sitting in my bathrobe sipping coffee (no face cream or curlers, thank goodness). Second in line, a woman, made eye contact, smiled and waved... It was disconcerting to say the least.

Today, a group of four bike riders zoomed out of the driveway (passing my son's parked truck) and plowed through the new rock we had lining our pavers—leaving tire tracks and spraying rock.

Naturally, we are concerned, but what really scares me is the danger it poses every time I back out of the garage — not expecting or seeing someone on foot or bike. So, if it looks like a driveway, and there is no sign to say that it is a trail access point (even if it appears on an old trail map) it probably is a driveway, and for the safety and consideration of all concerned, please look for another entry point.

Robin Lewis Kane

Newly minted grads...



PHOTO PROVIDED

Three Sister High School 2012 graduates graduated from Azusa Pacific University Saturday night: Sebastian J. Boehm – B.S. in nursing; Lauren E. Rudinsky – B.A. in English; Jared A. Kaping – B.A. in visual arts.

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INDIAN MEADOW WATER COMPANY CONSUMER CONFIDENCE REPORT 2015

Federal and state laws have mandated that all community water systems provide a Consumer Confidence Report (CCR) informing all customers of the quality and source of their water. This is the 2015 CCR to the customers of Indian Meadow Water Company (IMWC).

In 1996 Amendments to the Safe Drinking Water Act required that all states conduct Source Water Assessments for public water systems within their boundaries. The assessments consist of (1) identification of the Drinking Water Protection Area, i.e., the area at the surface that is directly above that part of the aquifer that supplies groundwater to our wells, (2) identification of potential sources of pollution within the Drinking Water Protection Area, and (3) determining the susceptibility or relative risk to the well water from those sources. The purpose of the assessment is to provide water systems with the information they need to develop a strategy to protect their drinking water resources if they choose. The respective Drinking Water Programs of the Department of Human Services and Environmental Quality have completed the assessment for our system. A copy is on file at the water system's office.

IMWC's water originates from three wells, which pump from a ground water aquifer. The wells are located at the corner of Camp Polk Road and Old Wagon Road.

As water travels over the land surface or through the ground, it dissolves naturally-occurring minerals, and in some cases, radioactive materials, and can pick up substances resulting from animal or human activities. IMWC routinely monitors for constituents in your drinking water according to federal and state laws. **Table one** shows the results of tests taken between January 1, 2011, and December 31, 2015. Not all contaminants are tested annually. For those contaminants, which are not tested annually, the most recent sampling results occurring in the last five years must be reported, if the contaminant was present.

To help you understand terms and abbreviations found in the table the following definitions are provided.

Parts per million (PPM) or Milligrams per liter (mg/l)-one part per million corresponds to one minute in two years or a single penny in \$10,000.

Parts per billion (PPB) or Micrograms per liter-one part per billion correspond to one minute in 2,000 years, or a single penny in \$10,000,000.

Action level (AL)-the concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.

Maximum Contamination Level (MCL)-the "Maximum Allowed" (MCL) is the highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. MCL's are set as close to MCLGs as feasible using the best available treatment technology.

Maximum Contamination Level Goal (MCLG)-the "Goal" (MCLG) is the level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MCLGs allow for a margin of safety.

TABLE ONE

Contaminant	Violation yes no	Level Detected	Unit Measurement	MCLG	MCL	Likely Source of Contamination
Copper	tested 8/12/15 No	0.2910	PPM	1.3	AL=1.3	Plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits leaching from preservatives.
Lead	tested 8/12/15 No	5.000	PPB	0	AL=15	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits
Fluoride	tested 11/16/11 No	0.148	PPM	4	4	Erosion of natural deposits, water additive which promotes strong teeth; discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories.

In addition to the contaminants listed in **table one** there are another 90 plus contaminants, which were tested for, but were not present.

If present, elevated levels of lead can cause serious health problems, especially for pregnant women and young children. Lead in drinking water is primarily from materials and components associated with service lines and home plumbing. IMWC is responsible for providing high quality drinking water, but cannot control the variety of material used in plumbing components in your homes. When your water has been sitting for several hours, you can minimize the potential for lead exposure by flushing your tap for 30 seconds to two minutes before using water for drinking or cooking. If you are concerned about lead in your water, you may wish to have your water tested. Information on lead in drinking water, testing methods, and steps you can take to minimize exposure is available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline or at www.epa.gov/safewater/lead.

MCLs are set at very stringent levels. To understand the possible health effects described for many regulated constituents, a person would have to drink 2 liters of water every day at the MCL level for a lifetime to have a one-in-a-million chance of having the described health effect.

It is important to remember that the presence of these constituents does not necessarily pose a health risk. More information about water constituents and health effects can be obtained by calling the Environmental Protection Agency's Safe Drinking Water Hotline (1-800-426-4791).

All drinking water, including bottled water, may reasonable be expected to contain at least small amounts of some constituents. Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immunocompromised persons such as those with cancer undergoing chemotherapy, those who have undergone organ transplants, people with HIV/AIDS or other immune system disorders, some elderly, and some infants can be particularly at risk from infections. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers.

If you have questions about the water system or the quality of our water call Lynn Lounsbury at 541-419-9593 or IMWC office at 541-719-0137. Additional information can be gleaned by attending regular scheduled monthly board meetings held the last Tues. of the month a 5 PM in the front conference room at Ray's grocery store or attend the annual water meeting.

Rodney Gunson Board Chair

Lynn Lounsbury Water System Manager

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