

**LETTERS**

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To the Editor:

Greg Walker's May 31 *Nugget Newspaper* letter regarding Erik Kozowski, candidate for Deschutes County Sheriff, left me with a question. Have advanced degrees in the sheriff's office served Deschutes County well thus far? Given the series of misconduct, lawsuits, missing records, theft, etc., Greg Walker's lack of concern over the unprofessionalism and unaccountability in the sheriff's office is puzzling.

A visit to Erik Kozowski's website, [www.Kozowski4sheriff.com](http://www.Kozowski4sheriff.com), reveals years of police work, 1,700 hours of police certifications and trainings, awards, experience in the private sector, military service, work with district attorneys prosecuting criminal cases. Training and experience are more reliable indicators of professionalism, leadership and effectiveness than an advanced degree.

Voters are concerned with the pattern of behavior within the sheriff's office under sheriffs Blanton and Nelson. A series of

sexual misconduct; theft; lack of transparency; missing records; wrongful death of an inmate and the resulting multimillion-dollar lawsuit; cronyism.

Sheriff Nelson has promised change. He not only rehired Larry Blanton, sheriff during Scott Beard's malfeasance, misconduct in the department has continued under his lack of leadership. Recognizing the need to hire from outside of a good ol' boy system is essential to overcoming internal problems. Sheriff Nelson may lack the ability to make these tough decisions. Holding coworkers accountable is a requirement of leadership.

Erik Kozowski has spoken out against the culture of corruption in the sheriff's department. Kozowski is running as an alternative to the failed leadership of the current Deschutes County Sheriff. Voters have the ability to return professionalism and accountability to the Deschutes County Sheriff's Office. Elect Erik Kozowski to Deschutes County Sheriff.

Janet Dorgan



**BLACK HILLS:** There is much to see and do in the Black Hills

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in Central Oregon. This particular intrusion, however, took on the shape of a massive stump; and, when surrounding sedimentary rock eroded away over the ensuing millions of years, what we know today as Devil's Tower was what remained.

Here again, we did something we hadn't done on previous visits; and it also involved another trail, which, of course, helps legitimize my writing about this in my hiking column. While there are several miles of trails to choose from within this iconic national monument, we specifically planned to take the 1.3-mile Tower Trail that

circumnavigates the base of the tower. The trail wanders through a very nice pine forest and is paved for its entire distance. Except for a steep stretch leading out of the parking lot, the trail is relatively flat; and we even saw wheel chairs negotiating the trail around this unusual landmark.

On our return route, we looped around through the Bear Lodge Mountains, then headed south to Spearfish, South Dakota, and concluded that outing with a scenic drive through the little-known, but beautifully unique, Spearfish Canyon.

So, when you go to see Mt. Rushmore, remember that there is much to see and do in the Black Hills. Take advantage of the opportunity and see it all. And don't forget to get out of your car and enjoy the trails and the other high-lights that await you.

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