

Badgers threaten Oregon dam's safety

BEND (AP) — An Oregon dam is at risk from badger tunnels and other passages created by burrowing animals.

The Bulletin reports Johnson Creek Dam owner Debaca Land & Cattle LLC can kill the animals or trap and move them.

Repairs are expected in the coming months.

State engineer Keith Mills told the dam owner in a January letter that the tunnels could cause leaks.

A high winter snowpack is predicted to fill the dam's reservoir for the first time in five years.

The dam made the Oregon Water Resources Department's list of the state's seven unsatisfactory dams.

The department says the dam's failure would likely cause fatalities and impact seven homes.

Safety concerns were raised after the Oroville Dam prompted the evacuation of 200,000 California residents.

Obituary

Natalie J. Packer

Eighty-year-old dear friend and long-time resident Natalie J. Packer passed away on January 29, 2017 at St. Charles Hospital in Bend.

Natalie was born in New York, moved to California where her ex-husband had a ranch, and they bred many purebred dogs.

Natalie was a very compassionate person. She loved the outdoors and was an avid hiker with a love for dogs.

She was a big part in helping build the original Virginia Meissner snow shelter. She loved photography and dogs and horses and was an avid hiker and skier.

Natalie left behind "Jake,"



a long-haired retriever, who has recently found a new loving home. Everyone locally knew Natalie as she walked in Sisters with Jake several times a day. She will be dearly missed by the community, her sister Carla Packer, and her Aunt Ruth.

Her caregiver, Susanna Aston, said, "Natalie and I had a special relationship. We would laugh for hours. Our favorite things to do were to try new restaurants and attend the local gem and holiday shows. Special thanks to her friends Dewayne and Cindy Petri of Bend during this grieving time."



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