

LETTERS

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Comparing skydiving to other routine airport uses, such as use by a local pilot or a pilot visiting for a weekend, is comparing apples to oranges.

The noise problem created by skydiving is very real to many people in this community, regardless of whether they live adjacent to or miles from the airport, and is increasingly becoming an issue of concern for others considering moving to Sisters. I believe the airport is either misinformed or has more options available to address and resolve this problem than it is willing to acknowledge.

David Adler



To the Editor:

Last week's coverage of the "Major Blaze" included a captioned photo of a water tender ("one of those that made relays...") employed in the attempts to suppress the fire.

I must conclude that a high desert, hard rock, domestic water well was incapable of producing sufficient volume to quell the flames of a 17,000-square-foot, wood-frame, single-family residence.

What might be learned from this unfortunate event?

John Grant



To the Editor:

I would like to address some of Mr. Mackey's comments and concerns brought up by his letter to the editor on March 15. In regards to his taking exception to those applying the word "Nazi" to our present administration, I would suggest he look up the website for The United States Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington, D.C. After perusing

the list of "early warning signs of an encroaching fascist government" displayed thereon, I would suggest Mr. Mackey see how many of those signs have already been checked off by President Trump's comments and edicts.

A prior response to Mr. Mackey's claims about the number of people detained due to the travel ban has already been put forward, but I might add that why has it not been blaringly brought out that the majority of the terrorists who perpetrated 9/11 were from Saudi Arabia — a country which was not banned, and which undoubtedly has large financial dealings with the Trump empire. Finally, it is unconstitutional to discriminate based on race and religion.

In regards to outrage about underfunding of veterans — I agree, and congress did attempt to pass a bill to increase financial aid to veterans; unfortunately, the bill did not pass due to the fact that the Republicans attached a provision to it that funds be cut to Planned Parenthood, an organization that gives mostly under-served women life-saving tests. Clearly, it was more important to the Republicans to defund PP than to help the veterans who also needed life-saving procedures.

Finally, Mr. Mackey, if women marching in protest of our present administration are wearing hats with representations of vaginas, perhaps one of the many points they are trying to bring home is the fact that they feel they are in danger of losing the right to make decisions concerning their own bodies, and their reproductive choices. And there is no worry that you will have to "envision a similarly orchestrated men's march," as men do not now, nor have they ever, had to worry about their reproductive rights being similarly in danger.

Michelle Tormey



Class preps volunteers to mentor children

Central Oregon Partnerships for Youth (COPY), a program of the Deschutes County Sheriff's Office, is offering a class to prepare volunteers to become mentors for children with an incarcerated parent.

After initial training and comprehensive background checks, volunteers are matched with children in Sisters that share similar interests and activities and commit to spending a few hours a week together for a minimum of one year. This time is often spent going to community events, working on homework, attending art programs, participating in sports, or simply hanging out and talking.

On Saturday, April 8, COPY will offer an orientation/training class. This six-hour class covers program policies, how to establish a mentor relationship, the impact incarceration has on families, and communication skills. There is no cost to attend, but advanced registration is required. This will be

the last training class offered until the fall. For more information call 541-388-6651 or email COPY@deschutes.org. Additional program information is available at the Sheriff's Office website at www.sheriff.deschutes.org/copy.

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COMMANDER: First national commander from state of Oregon

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Legionnaires have been giving back to their country and fellow veterans since the organization was founded in 1919. Schmidt noted that it was a legionnaire who crafted the GI Bill, which enabled so many veterans to achieve home-ownership and college education. The American Legion is also a significant advocate for veterans' health issues and supports the Veterans Administration in providing health services.

Schmidt recently testified before the U.S. Congress to promote the American Legion's legislative priorities.

Schmidt transferred his American Legion membership to Harney County Post 63 in Burns, when he moved

to Oregon for a 15-year career at the Greater Oregon Federal Credit Union. He retired from the credit union as the executive vice president.

For Schmidt, his high degree of commitment and level of service boil down to the simple principles of the American Legion: Veterans service veterans and veterans continuing to serve America.

“ I think there's still that love of country, in addition to making sure your buddies are taken care of.”
— Charles E. Schmidt

“I think there's still that love of country, in addition to making sure your buddies are taken care of,” he said.

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