

HOMELESS: Problem is growing across western states

Continued from page 22

period. ... You’ve got to serve the food in a place where mental health is being provided.”

But Marbut insists that camping bans or crackdowns don’t work. And in fact, the encampment at the riverbed began when police in a host of cities refused to let the homeless sleep in parks or on bus benches. They headed to the trail along the flood channel, which is county property and cuts through several cities.

In recent years, the number of tents on the trail along the dried out riverbed has soared. Tents and tarps are surrounded by cardboard boxes and litter. Some of the people who live there travel up and down the trail on bikes, toting blankets or cans for recycling.

People say they ended up there for different reasons. For some, it was drug addiction. Others lost their jobs and couldn’t make rent.

Aly, the homeless advocate, said for those living there basic sanitation is key. His latest plan is to station a trailer he fitted with portable toilets and shower stalls on a street near the encampment but Anaheim city officials have raised health and safety concerns.

Many neighbors want help moved off the trail entirely. They said nearby neighborhoods have suffered as the encampment has grown. Hypodermic needles have been found among pine needles in a park next to an elementary school. Shopping carts rattle as they’re pushed down otherwise quiet streets.

Some homeowners said their neighbors’ mail has gone missing, and potted plants

from outside their homes. Some moved to Anaheim years ago when the city was smaller and more suburban to escape the bustle and traffic of Los Angeles. Now, they find themselves grappling with some of the same big-city problems.

City officials said they want to move people off the riverbed and that any aid should be part of a broader effort to help people find a way out: “The goal shouldn’t be to make it slightly more comfortable there to live that way but rather, how can we get those folks to a better place?” said city spokesman Mike Lyster.

Unfortunately, those better places are limited. Orange County has shelter beds but they largely fill up. And many homeless said they don’t like the shelter’s curfew or rules barring pets and prefer their privacy, even outdoors. From 2015 to earlier this year, the number of people staying in Orange County shelters went down slightly, but the number living on the streets jumped by 17 percent, federal data shows.

County authorities say they want to clear the riverbed and are trying to connect the men and women living there with the assistance they need to get back on their feet. Last summer, the county started providing showers along with case management services, hoping they can help those who want to find a way out.

Larry Ford, a 53-year-old U.S. Army veteran, said he is grateful for any help. But like those at the beach in Dana Point, he insists food and showers don’t tether him to the tents surrounded by plastic bottles and toppled furniture.

“Look at this,” he said, pointing to heaps of garbage by his feet. “What is this enabling here?”

“This is devastation.”

Bundy mistrial draws Sessions probe, calls for broad review

By Ken Ritter
Associated Press

LAS VEGAS (AP) — A mistrial in the federal prosecution of a family of ranchers who led an armed standoff against government agents has prompted Attorney General Jeff Sessions to launch an investigation into the case.

It’s also renewing calls from defense lawyers for a broad review of U.S. attorneys in Las Vegas. Big cases have collapsed in the last 15 years over federal prosecutors’ failure to share evidence with defendants.

A Justice Department spokesman declined Friday to go beyond Thursday’s announcement. It said Sessions “takes this issue very seriously and has personally directed” a review of the case against Cliven Bundy and others.

Bundy backers say they’ve asked for months for Sessions to get involved.

A judge declared a mistrial this week in the case, saying prosecutors willfully failed to share evidence that could’ve helped defense attorneys.

NUGGET FLASHBACK

Who was playing in the snow in 1993?

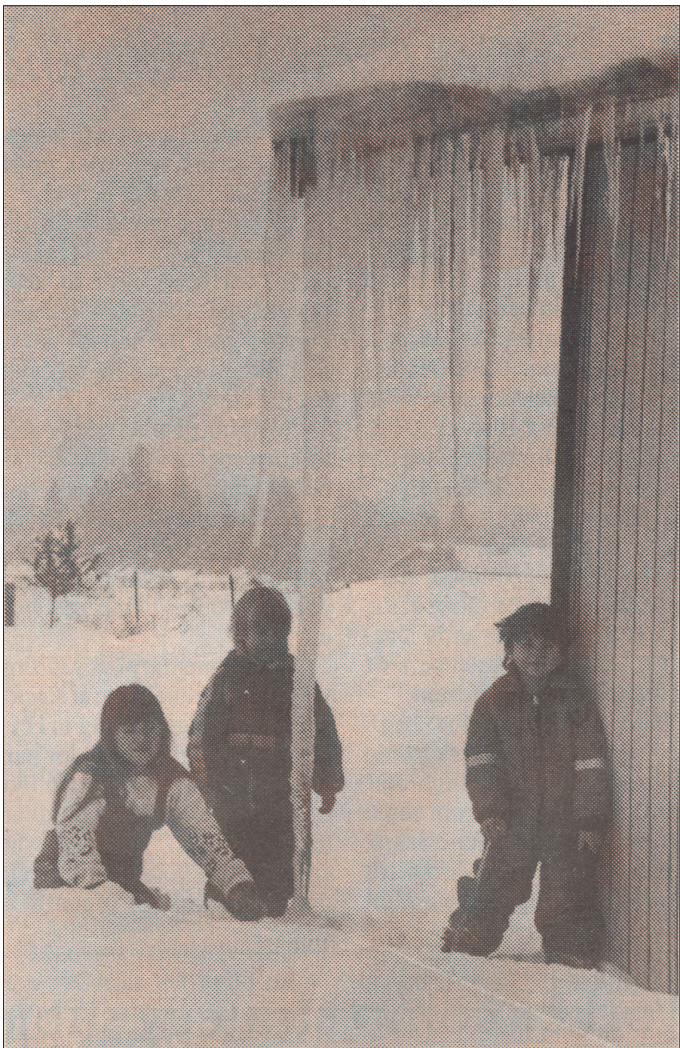


PHOTO BY TERRI CONNER

Icicle hangs from the eaves to the earth. Circa 1993.



Phil Arends
541-420-9997
phil@blackbutte.com

HOWELLS REALTY GROUP

PEAK PROPERTIES PARTNERSHIP

Black Butte Ranch, Sisters Area, and Central Oregon



Dick Howells
541-408-6818
rahowells@blackbutte.com

Let our 40+ years of combined experience work for you.
Whether you are buying or selling, call us for a no-obligation consultation.

www.realestateinsisters.com | 220 S. Ash St., Sisters

IT'S NOT TOO EARLY TO THINK ABOUT LISTING YOUR HOME...LET US HELP YOU WITH THE PUNCH LIST.



ALI MAYEA
Principal Broker/Owner 541-480-9658
401 E. Main Ave., Sisters

SISTERS HOMELAND REALTY

A Partnership Beyond Your Expectations



Western Title & Escrow

Stop by and visit with Tiana Van Landuyt & Shelley Marsh.
220 S. Pine St., Ste. 102 | 541-548-9180

NEW HOME FOR THE New Year



HAYDEN-HOMES.COM
Building Better Communities Since 1989

CALL OR VISIT ONLINE TO SEE THE WINTER SAVINGS!

(541) 316-4952

HAYDEN HOMES at VILLAGE AT COLD SPRINGS

Visit model for full promotion terms and conditions.
New Home Star Oregon, LLC CCB# OR-172526

ATTENTION MUSIC TEACHERS!

Piano? Drums? Fiddle? Ukelele? Clarinet? Flute? Guitar? Saxophone? Let the Sisters community know about the lessons you offer! Place a classified ad in the Nugget's **CLASSES & TRAINING** category. Just **\$2 per line** the first week, \$1.50 per line on repeat weeks.
And it goes online at no extra charge!

Placement deadline is Monday before noon at 541-549-9941 or nuggetnews.com.

