

GENETICS: Science Club is sponsoring event in Sisters

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such as 23andMe and others. Her concise advice? “Buyer Beware.”

Although some offerings of many of these tests are based on solid scientific evidence, some are not, Pettersen explains. Some are still in flux and based on very early evidence with interpretations that are likely to change over time as new knowledge is acquired.

When clients arrive in a genetic counselor’s office with their DTC test results in hand, the counselor knows a complex discussion is about to begin.

From the human perspective, Pettersen sees the ethical and societal implications of uncertain genetic science with unpredictable consequences.

The whole world may look different in the future when the science of gene editing using CRISPR and other tools is available to anyone for any purpose. Pettersen will provide some context for the public debates about this emerging technology: what it is, how it works, what it’s being used for currently, what it could be used for in the future, and the potential promises and pitfalls of being able to edit the genome of any organism on Earth.

Pettersen has held positions at the University of Colorado Health Sciences Center, Stanford University Medical Center, the Kaiser-Permanente Medical Center-San Jose, and at Genetic Counseling of Central



PHOTO PROVIDED

Barbara Petterson will speak in Sisters on genetics January 30.

Oregon. She currently works at Natera, Inc., a genetic testing laboratory in San Carlos, CA. She has served on the Board of Directors of both the National Society of Genetic Counselors and the American Board of Genetic Counseling.

Social hour begins at 6 p.m. with light fare, beer and wine available. The lecture begins at 7 p.m. Admission is \$5; Science Club donors, teachers and students are admitted free.

The Belfry is located at 302 E. Main Ave., Sisters.

Trespassers entering closed areas

PORTLAND (AP) — Trespassers continue to venture into areas closed after a Columbia River Gorge wildfire to get to nature attractions despite dangers, Oregon authorities said.

Authorities have handed out \$280 trespassing citations to 49 people and let hundreds go with a warning, *The Oregonian/OregonLive* reported.

Half of the citations were issued after the Multnomah Falls Lodge reopened in late November, they said.

Authorities put up a fence and closed off trails after the blaze, which began in early September and burned nearly 77 square miles.

The fence has not stopped some from trekking to a lower viewing platform to look at the falls, said Rachel Pawlitz, spokeswoman for the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area.

Authorities have verbally warned almost 600 people about trespassing since Sept. 19, according to numbers provided Wednesday by Pawlitz.

Other hot spots for trespassers include Eagle Creek and Larch Mountain.

Although the fire is 100 percent contained, Pawlitz said authorities saw smoldering stumps as recently as December.

Hazards such as landslides, falling trees and tumbling rocks exists, officials said.

There are also logjams that have formed on the streams and above waterfalls that can bursts and flash flood or rock-fall threats, Pawlitz said.

Search and rescue efforts

would be expensive and dangerous, authorities said.

The area is considered so dangerous that the Multnomah County Sheriff’s Office’s Green Hornet trail rescue team has yet to train there, said Lt. Marc Shrake, the agency’s spokesman.

The lower Multnomah Falls viewing platform is expected to reopen early this year and the Benson Bridge may be reopen in the summer.

Some trails at the center of the burn could be closed for up to five years, Pawlitz said.

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