

**LETTERS**

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whatever reason that turns out to be: mental health, gang violence, crime, etc. Are we willing to sit down and quit being hypocrites with an agenda and really talk about common-sense fixes like guards in each school, teachers willing to be trained and conceal carry, better security systems in place and being willing to spend what it takes at all levels to make it happen?

No one wants their cell phone taken away, yet more are killed or injured each year by phones than guns ever have. So let us not take away our individual rights for a political agenda and get some common-sense fixes in place to save our children.

Gary Lovegren



To the Editor:

In Central Oregon, not very many people think that oil pollution is a problem. People like to think that because we are far away from the ocean it is not a problem, but that is not the case. Every day, oil is frequently spilled, and it adds up.

Oil from cars and machinery that is spilled and improperly disposed of can easily get into drainage that leads to rivers. When it rains here in Central Oregon, the oil buildup on the roads is washed all at once into drains where in some places the water is cleaned, and in others it is drained straight into our rivers and creeks. Storm-water drained from some of Bend's paved areas has little to no treatment before it is drained into the Deschutes River. This oil that makes its way into water causes many problems for animals. Ingestion of oil can result in lung, liver and kidney damage, often leading to death for animals.

Inhaling the fumes also causes a lot of damage.

Oil is an unfortunate problem that many people ignore, but everyone can help by changing small habits. Household oils like cooking oil is often improperly disposed of. Even small amounts add up, so it is important to properly dispose of household oils. These oils can be safely disposed of by putting them in sealed containers before throwing them away, or mixing the oil with something like cat litter that absorbs it. Leaked motor oil also contributes to oil pollution, so if possible we should bring our vehicles to professionals to get oil changes so that spills are minimal and that the used oil is disposed of properly.

Another way people can help is by not using their vehicles unnecessarily. Here in Central Oregon we have a wonderful climate perfect for walking and biking, which people should take advantage of, or at least carpool instead of drive. Everyone can help by doing small things to protect our waters and wildlife.

Sarah Rubbert



To the Editor:

(Wednesday, May 14) some of our students were involved in a student walk-out in protest against gun violence and the tragic shooting deaths of 17 youth in Florida. As a district we decided to keep a normal day but were prepared that some students would walk out. We did not bring any additional attention to the matter because we did not want to misrepresent our intentions. Since this is the first time we've encountered this situation of such magnitude, we decided that if students choose to walk out and they're respectful and orderly and do not disrupt the learning environment for others, they would not receive any disciplinary action.

What ended up happening is that it became a

lesson in civics. The students were asked to know their "why." They were asked to know the fundamental reason why they were walking out. Secondly, we asked them to know the consequences. Every action has some sort of reaction. This could be formal or informal, positive or negative consequences. Thirdly, we asked students to think about other methods that might be more productive to accomplish their goal. Sometimes civil disobedience is justifiable, but sometimes there are other ways to achieve the same goal.

With this in mind, one option that seems to fit well with our caring community is the "walk-up" option. Several school communities have adopted the idea of a walk up, not walk out. "The walk up movement asks students to reach out with friendliness and compassion to their more solitary peers," writes Dwight Adams in his *IndyStar* article. By moving out of their comfort zones and helping their peers feel more welcome at school, we curb angry outbreaks by disconnected students.

I feel we have a strong school culture in Sisters. I would challenge us to continue to support the Outlaw Culture in more than being an activist on this one day. Reach out to a classmate that you might not typically talk with. Sit next to the person that sits in the corner of your class and engage them in a conversation. Have lunch with someone that is sitting alone or that is outside of your normal group.

I would echo the message of care and connect from our recent community meeting. This is what will keep the Outlaw Culture strong and safe. Regardless of your position on the National Walkout day, I ask all students, and staff to walk up as we move forward and continue to strengthen the Outlaw Culture.

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