

LETTERS

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population to vote for the good local?
B. Graham

To the Editor:
I appreciated the column by Steve Nugent (Who’s at fault for our immigration situation?), published in the October 10 issue of this newspaper. The column ends with words: “We need to start valuing immigrants more; after all that’s who built this country.” The same day I read the article, I saw a sign in downtown Bend which reinforces the truth of those words, while adding some local context. The sign is on the O’Kane building, located at the corner of Bond and Oregon streets, and part of the National Register of Historic Places.
The sign begins with these words: “Hugh O’Kane, an illegal immigrant from Ireland, built the magnificent O’Kane Building. Regarded as the finest example of the Chicago Mercantile Style in Bend, it is still the largest commercial structure in downtown Bend.”
Let’s all remember how we got here and who built this place we are fortunate enough to call home.
Chris Harker

To the Editor:
We’ve all seen the billboards with the looming photo and words, “Greg Walden working for us.” Perhaps Rep. Walden refers to the royal “us” meaning he is working for himself and his corporate contributor Big Pharma (pharmaceutical industries). According to the website www.opensecrets.com, he is the No. 1 recipient of Big Pharma campaign contributions in the House — over \$500,000 this cycle alone.
While only eight percent of his campaign contributions come from our district, 63 percent come from PACs like Big Pharma. So, we might ask, who are his constituents?
In contrast, Jamie Mcleod-Skinner has refused to take PAC money. She is committed to a bi-partisan approach for assuring accessible and affordable healthcare in our district and that includes managing costs. A recent survey in Healthcare Finance reported 87 percent of doctors feel Big Pharma is the main cause of our health costs sky rocketing. As a nurse, I agree with them and perhaps you do, too.
Please join me in supporting Jamie Mcleod-Skinner for congress. She will work for US, the people of District 2 unlike her opponent who will work for U\$, Big Pharma.
Maggi Machala, MPH, RN

To the Editor:
Right on the heels of utter devastation wrought by hurricanes Florence and Michael, comes an alarming report in the prestigious journal *Nature* that mitigation of global climate change will require a massive switch to plant-based eating.
The report concludes that global warming threatens the world’s very food supply, in addition to generating scorching heat, raging wildfires, devastating hurricanes, massive flooding, and rising sea levels. It was compiled by an international panel of 23 climate experts and follows the latest warning about rising temperatures by the United Nations Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change.
A 2010 United Nations report blamed animal agriculture for 19 percent of greenhouse gas emissions, 70 percent of freshwater use, and 38 percent of land use. Carbon dioxide is emitted by burning forests to create animal pastures and by operating factory farms. The more damaging methane and nitrous oxide are released from digestive tracts of cattle and from animal waste cesspools, respectively.
In an environmentally sustainable world, just as we replace fossil fuels by wind, solar, and other pollution-free energy sources, we must also replace meat and dairy products in our diet by vegetables, fruits, and grains.
Our next supermarket visit offers a superb opportunity to get started.
Skyler Nash

To the Editor:
Lack of adequate transportation contributes to isolation and depression. What is often found, even now, is that seniors are so isolated, independent-minded, depressed or needy that they do not reach out to get the assistance they desperately need. Their families often do not know the resources. The hope is that a neighbor or friend aware of them and services will help them.
Council on Aging provides an Information and Resource Specialist, Toni Landis. She is available on first and third Tuesdays from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Sisters Community Church. She can find the service needed. Call COCA or Toni at 541-678-5483.
Council on Aging recently published a new *DIRECTIONS*, the resource guide for Older Adults in Central Oregon. Get one at the Community Church on a Tuesday, see Toni, and also eat a home-made luncheon for seniors prepared by Lisa Fetrow of COCA. There are fun activities and informative speakers, too.
Perhaps, too, Sisters’ final goals will include support by city officials to designate the city of Sisters

to be one of the world’s many age-friendly communities to guide and direct and reward Sisters with that official name through WHO (World Health Organization). According to AARP Sisters is age-friendly already, easily meets the criteria and with the beautiful Lodge (residential and assisted living) finished soon, Sisters attracts families and friends of seniors. It gives jobs to many and is good business in a tourist town.
An exciting proposal by Claudia Bisso-Fetzer, PhD is to launch an all-inclusive gala event probably at the high school in the spring 2019. It will be a culmination of activities shared by young and old throughout the year. Claudia, a visionary with much experience working with people of all ages, plans this will be an annual event and a model for Oregon towns and beyond.
Joann Power

To the Editor:
I have known Patti Adair for several years and have worked alongside her during her time at DCRP and Central Oregon Federation of Republican Women.
Anyone who knows her will agree with me that she is brilliant, honest, tireless, a problem-solver, and she cares deeply about preserving our lovely Central Oregon.
What an asset we have in Patti. Add her to Phil Henderson and Tony DeBone for a complimentary trio of greatness for our county. Join me in voting Patti Adair for Deschutes County Commissioner.
Joyce Waring

To the Editor:
Good schools, superb outdoor recreation, shops, galleries and restaurants, Sisters is a rare gem, a distinctive and special place to live and visit. So, what do we gain by adding the sale of marijuana to a winning list of favorables?
We are not and do not have to be like other towns and cities in Oregon that offer marijuana for sale. We can stand apart. We can continue to be distinct. We can learn from others and not make the same mistakes.
In Colorado’s first two years, hospitalizations related to marijuana tripled from 803 per 100,000 to 2,413, and calls to poison centers rose sharply. A *Newsweek* article mentioned the, “drip, drip, drip of unintended consequences such as increased use among teenagers resulting in education problems in middle and high school, a spike in edible-related emergency room visits and consumption by children

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