



In the PINES

By T. Lee Brown

Change is one phone call away

Sometimes it seems impossible to change things. I mean, it's hard enough to eat better or get more exercise. What about changing *the world*?

It looks impossible. Governments, businesses, bureaucracies — they seem so huge and impenetrable. We call our senators, send petitions to CEOs, show up to council meetings — and nothing changes.

At least, it doesn't change fast. Our gumption-impaired culture doesn't prepare us for long, complex efforts.

There's a popular saying to express the resulting bitterness: "You can't fight City Hall!"

Oh, really? Tell it to the

suffragettes. In 1848 some ladies thought women ought to be able to (gasp!) vote. At the Seneca Falls Convention, they vowed to make it happen.

"You can't fight City Hall" frames government, or some other large and convenient scapegoat, as the bad guy. There's no point trying, in that viewpoint; you'll never get entrenched bureaucracy to budge. May as well stay home and watch Fox News or Rachel Maddow.

Problem with that view? It ain't true.

Things do change. They change because people get out there and make stuff happen.

For the suffragettes, everything went smoothly along, women received equal pay to men's, and a woman president was elected... ha ha, just kidding. No, the movement advanced in fits and starts, complete with hunger strikes and prison sentences.

In 1920, the 19th Amendment to the Constitution was passed.

It reads, "The right of citizens of the United States to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any State on account of sex." Nice work, gals!

Fighting for what you believe in can be frustrating. It can take a long time. The suffragettes were at it for over 70 years. As an ovary-toting

American, I'm awfully glad they bothered.

One cause I care about is reducing single-use plastics. Some view it as a doomed cause; they say Americans will never change. SUPs are great for Big Oil and convenient for makers of packaged goods.

But boy oh boy, are they bad for our health.

Plastic doesn't biodegrade. Instead it breaks down into teeny-tiny particles, releasing toxic chemicals in the process.

The toxins show up in water systems and the bloodstreams of humans and animals. They disrupt our endocrine systems, causing cancer, infertility, birth defects, and other fun stuff.

Even before they break down, SUPs cause problems. They're found inside dead birds and whales. Lightweight plastic bags blow into forests and oceans. Animals become entangled in them; some animals mistake them for food.

They ingest our plastic junk, and it kills them.

Here in Sisters, hardworking students petitioned City Hall to ban those deadly, unnecessary bags. City Hall wasn't up for the challenge.

The answer to that isn't, "Let's give up. Boo hoo."

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Obituary

Daniel Roger Mills

July 29, 1949 – February 26, 2019

Was born in Jacksonville, Florida, son of James Howard Mills and Mabel Nadine Aaron. He was a retired software engineer. He transplanted from Los Angeles, California, to Sisters in 2004 and never looked back.

Dan loved to play tennis, take pictures, surf, work on computer problems, spend time with his dog Dakota and help out his friends, family and neighbors. He loved to make people laugh with his wit, charm, and wicked sense of humor.

He is survived by his daughter Adena of California, his brother John Mills of California, and his



daughter Mychelle of Texas, along with seven grandchildren and one great-grandchild. He was a loving, caring father, brother, grandfather and friend and he will truly be missed.

There will be a celebration of life for family and friends this summer.

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Thank You For Your Patience and Support



Central Electric Cooperative thanks you for your patience and words of appreciation during the February 2019 snow event.

We would also thank your crew members' families. They were digging out of the same snow conditions while their loved ones were in the field restoring everyone's service.

