Nutrition expert offers free discussion on boosting energy

By T. Lee Brown Correspondent

What are the top reasons that people seek out natural health practitioners? According to Kim Hapke, ND, one big motivator is energy level. People want to feel more energetic. A naturopath based in Sisters, Hapke

invites the public to join in a free, informative discussion on the subject, July 28 at Sisters Farmers Market.

When people say they are fatigued or have low energy, "They are basically saying, I don't feel as good as I used to. I don't have the capacity to do what I used to do, or I feel bad after I do this activity," Hapke told The Nugget. "It's different for everybody.

What seems like "low energy" can be based on low mood or depression-or it can come from not getting enough iron or vitamin B-12. Many other factors play into the sensation of being tired and not feeling good. "I'm looking at people's diets, recent stressors, what people have gone through over the years," Hapke explained.

Hapke's discussion will cover several energy-making processes in the body, factors involved in low energy, and lifestyle and nutritional



support for the different energy pathways in the body.

Hapke sees many patients who want to address their energy levels. Time-of-life changes for women, stressful life events for people of any gender, and everyday fatigue are common in her private practice, Meaningful Medicine.

"We can address that through nutrition, herbal support, and sleep," she said.

In her talk, Hapke plans to focus on "energy sappers." Nutritional deficiencies are common; so are food sensitivities. "Fatigue can be a common symptom that a particular food isn't working very well for your body," she said. Adrenal, mitochondrial, and neurological fatigue are

frequently addressed in her practice. Hapke sees many patients

who are looking for new options. "People are coming in saying, 'I would like to avoid going on medication for my rising blood sugar,' or it's their blood pressure, mood, energy, sleep," she said.

In Central Oregon, said Hapke, "a lot of people are here for a healthy, outdoor lifestyle, so if they can address something naturally, they want to. I'm getting people who are pretty savvy."

She has noticed an emergence of metabolic-related issues like PCOS (Polycystic Ovary Syndrome), blood sugar levels, and "anything related to the rise in Type 2 Diabetes." Men's and

women's fertility issues are increasing in her practice and nationally.

"I'll see mothers who are at year three, their babies are sleeping-they've come through a long period of sleep deprivation and adrenal fatigue," she said.

Gluten is another rising factor. "People are curious to know how gluten might be affecting them," Hapke said. "Non-celiac gluten sensitivity is getting better researched, there's more things to learn about it, and patients are interested in how that's affecting their health."

Hapke delves into new research. She is excited about the new understanding of conditions like Chronic Fatigue Syndrome and fibromyalgia

as "partially mitochondrial issues... Doctors start to look for answers to support people's health in different ways."

In addition to her private practice, Hapke works as a consultant and teacher, with extensive education in therapy as well. An adjunct faculty at the National College of Natural Medicine, she assists students in their personal development "so they are better able to facilitate sensitive doctor/patient relationships."

One of her clients is local nutritional supplement company Metabolic Maintenance, a sponsor of Sisters Farmers Market. In its research and development arm, Hapke consults on researching new

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