

WELL: New wells and wells gone dry have kept well-drillers busy

Continued from page 1

drill a foot deeper and lower the new pump to the bottom of the well. The result: water for 12 more years — until this past summer when the well really did go dry.

An entirely new well had to be drilled, going down 764 feet. At 660 feet, they found water that provided about four gallons/minute, so they went deeper until it ran at eight gallons/minute, which Holly said is adequate for a single person.

The new well is a pitless system, which means that the waterline running 30 feet from the well to the well house runs three feet underground to help keep the pipe from freezing. The pump discharge pipe is installed below the surface using a pitless adaptor, which ensures that a sanitary and frost-proof seal is maintained. Holly elected to install the pitless system because the well head used to freeze.

Well-drillers and all the other service

For people who have moved to Sisters Country from metropolitan areas, where all they needed to do to get their water was turn on a faucet, a basic understanding of where your Central Oregon water comes from is important.

Those living within the city limits of Sisters still just turn on the faucet to access the municipal water supply, which comes from four wells and a reservoir owned and operated by the City. Residents pay the City a monthly charge for their water. If something goes wrong with one of the wells, or a water main breaks or leaks, it's up to the City to address the problem.

Residents living outside the city rely either on a water company that serves a particular area or have their own private well, like Braxton Holly (*see story, page 1*). Water companies, like Sun Mountain Water System or Squaw Creek Canyon Water Co., are established to provide water to subdivisions or developed areas. The company owns and maintains the wells and waterlines to individual lots.

Because the State of Oregon owns all the water in the state, the companies must secure a permit to pump water out of the ground to provide to their customers. They are limited on the amount of water they can pump. During the summer, there is greater demand for water when sprinklers are running. The water is intended to supply customers with domestic water (for homes) and small lawns and gardens. It has never

providers required to put in a new well have been busy of late due to a number of wells in the area needing to be made deeper, or new ones drilled.

Holly said that when the drillers say it will cost \$40,000 to drill a new well, that just gets the hole drilled. He shared the total cost of his new well: \$40,000, hole drilled; \$2,500-\$3,000, plumber; \$4,500, electrician; \$10,000, excavation of three-foot deep trench from well to tank (rock had to be chipped out); and \$10,000, concrete to fill voids.

Holly said that after six truckloads of concrete didn't fill the voids, the driller brought in a combination drill/casing rig to finish the job. If that rig had been in place from the start, the concrete wouldn't have been necessary.

The cost of the well necessitated a mortgage through NeighborImpact on Holly's property that will be payable when he leaves the property.

Holly had a reminder for other well owners: If your well runs dry, be sure to turn off your water heater.

been the intention to provide irrigation water for large properties or agriculture.

Sun Mountain reports that of the 300 homes on their system, during the summer, 75 homes never exceed 10,000 gallons/month. Eighty-five percent of customers use less than 70,000 gallons/month in the summer. Only a handful of the 300 homes on the system use more than 4,000 gallons/month during the winter (November-March). However, two properties used more than 250,000 gallons/month for multiple months.

Starting January 1, 2022, new water rates were established for Sun Mountain customers, 85 percent of whom won't be affected by the rate increase. It will only affect those customers with high water usage during the summer for irrigation.

Property owners outside the city who are not customers of a water company need their own well, which they must maintain. As seen in Holly's example, new wells can be an expensive proposition.

Regardless of the source of your water, water conservation is going to be a more and more important practice everywhere in Central Oregon.

The Nugget Newspaper Crossword

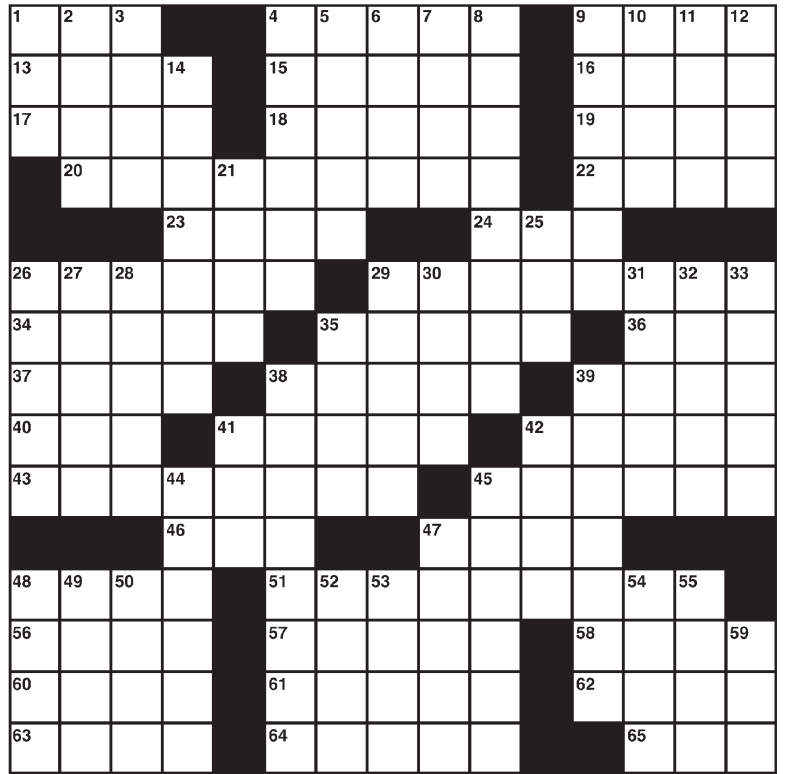
By Jacqueline E. Mathews, Tribune News Service

ACROSS

- 1 Say "I do"
- 4 Bags
- 9 Close with a bang
- 13 Mosque leader
- 15 Old hag
- 16 As ___ as the driven snow
- 17 Highest digit
- 18 Traveler's stop
- 19 Dainty trim
- 20 Knoxville's state
- 22 Smallest continent: abbr.
- 23 Easy to handle
- 24 "Blue Bloods" network
- 26 Room recess
- 29 Sentry
- 34 Joyful
- 35 Ran fast
- 36 Hullabaloo
- 37 Gets older
- 38 Summoned on a loudspeaker
- 39 Summer Olympics sport
- 40 Gullible fool
- 41 Eggs on
- 42 Prehistoric homes
- 43 More tired
- 45 Move away; withdraw
- 46 Horned animal
- 47 Too slender
- 48 Gigantic
- 51 Helper
- 56 Daytime shop window sign
- 57 Instruct
- 58 Put cargo on a truck, e.g.
- 60 Unacceptable action
- 61 Spine-chilling
- 62 Word attached to for or keep
- 63 Recognized
- 64 BBQ rods
- 65 Clucker

DOWN

- 1 Victory
- 2 Give off, as fumes
- 3 Great ___; large dog
- 4 Plot craftily
- 5 Got up
- 6 Portable beds
- 7 ___-high; long socks
- 8 Picked
- 9 Pool party noise
- 10 Outdoor meal
- 11 Eyebrow shapes
- 12 Track-and-field event
- 14 Trusted advisers
- 21 Shade of blue
- 25 A-E connection
- 26 Pile up
- 27 ___ age; 18, in most states
- 28 Brunch fare
- 29 Bet
- 30 Big diamonds
- 31 Shade of purple
- 32 ___ up; tallied
- 33 Adjustable loop
- 35 Lose one's temper
- 38 Monkeys & apes
- 39 Wild canines
- 41 "Pull ___ chair"; friendly request
- 42 Coin worth little
- 44 Before today, in poetry
- 45 Chicken pox symptoms
- 47 Allowable
- 48 Goose's greeting
- 49 Come ___; find
- 50 Kelly or Wilder
- 52 ___ through; penetrate
- 53 Calcutta souvenir, perhaps
- 54 Early shipbuilder
- 55 ___ off; depart
- 59 Home office, maybe



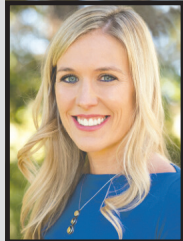
Created by Jacqueline E. Mathews

— Last Week's Puzzle Solved —




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