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PRIZED WATER SUPPLY



Ryan Brennecke/Bulletin photos
A water gauge is placed on the edge of Arnold Irrigation District's main canal.

Irrigation district, residents, tangle over seeping canal



A small section of Arnold Irrigation District's main canal is lined with concrete near Bend.

BY MICHAEL KOHN • The Bulletin

From above, the Arnold Irrigation District main canal appears like a serpent, meandering in gentle green curves along the southern fringe of Bend. At ground level, the canal is lined with shrubs and ponderosa pine trees, perfect cover for mule deer and other wildlife. It seems idyllic.

But just below ground is a highly prized water supply that is under fierce debate.

The water supply that feeds this ecosystem is the result of water seeping into the ground from the canal, which was installed more than a century ago by settlers who could not predict the problems, debates and environmental impact their irrigation projects would cause later generations of Bend residents.

Arnold Irrigation District wants to stop the seepage with a \$34 million pipeline. Piping, the district says, could have kept irrigation water flowing until September this year. Instead, the district ran out of water a month ago, leaving the canal bone dry.

See **Water** / A6



Geoff Reynolds, left, and Mark Elling stand above a short section of Arnold Irrigation District's main canal that has been lined with concrete near Elling's home. Save Arnold Canal, a community-led grassroots movement, wants the canal lined with concrete to conserve some water but also allow a percentage to seep into the ground to charge the shallow aquifer.

“We think for everyone’s sake, whether it’s keeping water in the reservoir for threatened species habitat in the winter time or transferring water to North Unit in Madras, we think there are other ways to achieve that, which don’t have the collateral damage of the pipeline.”

— Mark Elling, president and board member of Save Arnold Canal

HUNNELL ROAD

Homeless: Firearm incidents cause concern

BY JOE SIESS
The Bulletin

Homeless residents living on Hunnell Road in Bend are wondering if they were targeted earlier this month when they say someone fired multiple rounds from what sounded like a high-caliber rifle at their campsites.

While nobody was injured, the residents said they are unsure if the shots were from an individual being negligent with a firearm, or if someone was purposefully shooting at them from a neighboring property.

Witnesses said shots were fired twice: first from the west at around 5:30 p.m. Aug. 5, and then again, between 7:30 and 8 p.m. that day from the northeast, not far from U.S. Highway 97.

The first episode was the most intense, striking vehicles and dumpsters and ricocheting off the street for about 15 minutes, they said.

During the first shooting, residents said they took cover in their tents and dwellings, laying on the ground to avoid being struck. Kierra Jackson, who lives on Hunnell Road, said bullets whizzed past her head. She took cover behind vehicles and couches along the road.

“I could see the bullet, it was going like three or four inches from my head,” Jackson said. “It was literally at head height. It would’ve been a head shot.”

See **Homeless** / A5



Ryan Christopher Jones/for The Washington Post
Fire ecologist for the National Park Service, Tony Caprio, spends time in a patch of burned forest called Sugar Bowl in Kings Canyon National Park.

Will logging save giant sequoias?

BY JOSHUA PARTLOW
The Washington Post

KINGS CANYON NATIONAL PARK, Calif. — Every June, Tony Caprio and his wife Linda hike into the Sugarbowl — a cluster of giant sequoias high in the Sierra Nevada — to admire the profusion of wildflowers and walk among some of the oldest and tallest trees on the planet.

See **Sequoias** / A7