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IT'S IRONIC. Federal Emergency Management Agency, (FEMA) is trying its best to showcase Loyalton and most of Sierra County and Sierra Valley as a floodplain while we're having to shut off watering outside due to the worst drought in many, many years, blamed on "climate change," made worse with a major leak.

* * * * *

LOYALTON'S WATER TANK LEVELS were dipping and not meeting capacity needs mid-July due to the massive leak with lowest levels at 10-feet which were usually at 28-feet. Residents were told on July 18th, the regular no-water day, to cut outside watering for one week with a focus on lawns to let the well recharge until Tuesday, July 26th. Mayor Sarah Jackson told concerned residents it was okay to hand water vegetable gardens as they didn't want them to die.

It was unusually hot and kids love water play and we had our 8-year-old grandson. What better to do than take Lucas to the Portola Swimming Pool and he was delighted.

It wasn't as easy for Alicia Barney at Sierra Kids Child Care Center with so many kids. She said they kept the drip line on their vegetable garden but cut off all other outside water, explaining to the kids it was to "fill up the water table." They had the kids play inside. She made it a lesson and told anyone complaining how towns in southern California had NO water due to drought. Once the week hit, she says they took a couple more days since the leak wasn't corrected. She was adament to, "Not stop watering and then to mow it." She said even at home they aren't mowing the lawn. It's good advice.

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IN THE BIDEN ADMINISTRATION'S effort to reduce carbon emissions, it seems the perfect time to get the Sierra Brooks trail going. There's been talk of it for years and now there's been an additional bussing crisis which the trail would help alleviate when kids ride their bikes to school in Loyalton.

AUTHOR SUSAN WINTERS

A VISIT to Loyalton's Milton Gottardi Museum ended with an interview at the *Sierra Booster*.

Susan Winters and her boyfriend were well impressed with Loyalton's history which included the *Sierra Booster*.

In interviewing Jan, Susan revealed her published books and the interview turned to her.

Susan told how she worked fulltime and wrote on weekend mornings while everyone else slept in when her kids were small. "I finished my first book, *Mixed Blessings*, but wasn't able to land an agent or a publisher for it, so I continued to write freelance articles for local parenting magazines as well as work on other fiction projects, including a paranormal romance featuring a single mom who is a werewolf, but doesn't know it *(Howl)*." In 2009, she submitted *Howl* to The Wild Rose Press and after much back and forth with the editor, *Howl* became her first published e-book in March 2010.

She admits *Howl* is on the spicy side, and used a pen name for her romance titles. Though the Rhythm & Romance and the Knit & Brews series have "sexy covers," their stories are more sweet than spicy, she says, and she enjoys both styles of writing.

She learned about Indie Publishing from local romance writer friends and published *Mixed Blessings* out of the drawer as an indie title. To date, She has nine titles, two as Susan Winters and seven as Mariposa Cruz.

In addition she has written articles for *edible Reno-Tahoe*, including "Cooks &Canines," Busy Reno-area chefs make time for their furry friends.

Tomorrow, August 5th 4:30-7:30, she will be at a pop-up craft fair with her books at the Nevada Sunset Winery.