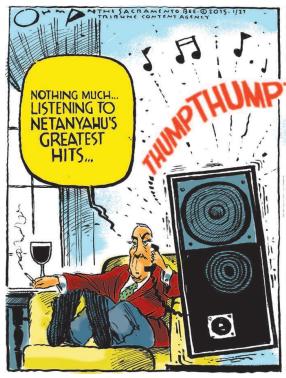
O P I N I O N





Letters to the Editor...

The Nugget welcomes contributions from its readers, which must include the writer's name, address and phone number. Letters to the Editor is an open forum for the community and contains unsolicited opinions not necessarily shared by the Editor. The Nugget reserves the right to edit, omit, respond or ask for a response to letters submitted to the Editor. Letters should be no longer than 300 words. Unpublished items are not acknowledged or returned. The deadline for all letters is noon Monday.

To the Editor:

My dog and I were about two minutes into our usual walk on the popular path at the corner of McKenzie Highway and Edgington Road when my dog lagged behind. I turned to find him sniffing a gruesome sight: a completely skinned, crimson red and frozen animal — dog-like but unlike anything I'd ever seen. No fur, no evidence of a fight.

Non-emergency animal control explained that they don't remove animals from the forest like this. I told them it was on a well-used path. Still not their job. I showed the picture to a deputy at the sheriff's department who explained that what I was seeing was the completely legal killing and skinning of coyotes for their fur.

"And its OK to just leave them?" Also legal.

I also learned when I connected with Jim Anderson that while all this is legal, it is also the case that lead ammo is left in the dead animals and that raptors and other birds are poisoned when they feed on the carcasses. I had hoped that at least the dead animal would be a useful part of a food chain.

Learning that what we discovered was the aftermath of sportsmanlike pursuits that are legal, I hope that those who hunt and skin animals this way might leave animal remains far from public areas and could remove ammunition from the bodies so that other animals aren't also hurt.

Annie Painter Bridgeford

To the Editor:

One week after a newly elected(?) mayor and the boat is already rocking! To "sneak" the food cart issue thru without public input reeks of disrespect and disconnect to our community by city officials AGAIN! Holy Mozart! What did that amphitheater presentation cost us? Thank you, Mr. Asson, to

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nd other birds are

Sisters Weather Forecast
Courtesy of the National Weather Service, Pendleton, Oregon

Wednesday
Mostly cloudy, 152/30

Thursday
Mostly sunny
50/28

Friday
Mostly sunny
47/28

Saturday Mostly sunny 49/33

Sunday
Partly sunny
53/36

Monday
Chance rain
50/na

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Robert B. Reich

American Voices

Jeb Bush and Mitt Romney are zeroing in on inequality as America's fundamental economic problem.

Bush's new political action committee, called "The Right to Rise," declares "the income gap is real" but that "only conservative principles can solve it."

Romney likewise promised last week that if he runs for president, he'll change the strategy that led to his 2012 loss to Barack Obama (remember the "makers" versus the "takers?") and focus instead on income inequality, poverty and "opportunity for all people."

The Republican establishment's leading presidential hopefuls know the current upbeat economy isn't trickling down to most. But they've got a whopping credibility problem, starting with trickle-down economics.

Since Ronald Reagan moved into the White House, Republican policies have widened inequality.

Neither party deserves a medal for reversing the trend, but evidence shows that middle-class and poor Americans have fared better under Democratic presidents. Personal disposable income has grown nearly six times more with Democrats in the White House than with Republicans.

Under Clinton, in whose administration I am proud to have served, even the wages of the poorest fifth rose.

According to research by economists Alan Blinder and Mark Watson, more jobs have been created under Democratic presidents.

These broad-based job and wage gains haven't hampered economic growth. To the contrary, they've fueled it by putting more money into the pockets of people who spend it — thereby boosting business profits and hiring.

I'm not saying Democrats have always had it right. The lion's share of economic gains over the past 35 years has gone to the top regardless of whether Democrats or Republicans inhabit the White House.

The most recent recovery has been particularly lopsided, President Obama's intentions notwithstanding.

Nor can presidents alone determine how the economy performs. At best they

orchestrate a set of policies that nudge the economy in one direction or another.

Since Reagan, Republican policies have nudged it toward big gains at the top and stagnation for everyone else. The last Republican president to deliver broadbased prosperity was Dwight D. Eisenhower, in the 1950s.

Then, the gains from growth were so widely shared that the incomes of the poorest fifth actually grew faster than the incomes of the top fifth. As a result, America became more equal than ever before or since.

Under Ike, marginal tax rate on the richest Americans reached 91 percent.

Eisenhower also presided over the creation of the interstate highway system—the largest infrastructure project in American history—as well as the nation's biggest expansion of public schools.

It's no coincidence that when Eisenhower was president, more than a third of all private sector workers were unionized. Ike can't be credited for this, but at least he didn't try to stop it or legitimize the firing of striking workers, as did Reagan.

Under Reagan, Republican policy lurched in the opposite direction: lower taxes on top incomes, less public investment, and efforts to destroy labor unions.

Not surprisingly, that's when America took its big U-turn toward inequality.

These Reaganomic principles are by now so deeply embedded in the modern Republican Party, they've come to define it.

Republican presidential aspirants who say they want to reverse widening inequality are faced with an awkward dilemma. How can they be credible on the issue while embracing these principles? Yet if they want to be nominated, how can they not embrace them?

That the leading Republican hopefuls recognize the economy has to work for everyone and not just a few is progress. But unless they disavow the legacy of Ronald Reagan and adopt the legacy of Dwight Eisenhower, their words are nothing more than soothing rhetoric — akin to George W. Bush's meaningless "compassionate conservatism."

Opinions expressed in this column are solely those of the writer and are not necessarily shared by the Editor or The Nugget Newspaper.