

LETTERS

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that prevented fire from spreading into the development. As a disabled person, I have strongly supported a paved or good hard-surface path. And it needs to be wide enough to serve as an effective fire-break.

If this multi-purpose trail is ever built, it makes sense to locate it in the forest adjacent to the community, and west of the highway. This would help keep a quickly moving fire from reaching homes along the forest border and also the entire community.

Paul Edgerton



To the Editor:

The debate regarding the Black Butte Trail has evolved. With the strong supportive statements forthcoming from individuals, planners, organizations and businesses for the trail, the effort of opponents has shifted from trying to stop the construction of the trail to moving the trail to the north side of Highway 20.

North of the highway, of course, is unsafe because crossings of the highway would be required, and trail usage could drop 50 percent or more compared to an alignment south of the highway.

Families with children and disabled individuals may feel that they would have to use a car to safely cross the highway to access the trail. That defeats the purpose of freeing our residents from their automobiles and offering alternative modes of transportation. With such a potential decline in trail users, it is doubtful the northern alignment could qualify for funding.

Some residents have expressed concerns regarding privacy and safety once the trail is built. As a result the proposed south trail alignment is at least 371 feet away from residential property near Tollgate. Paved trail users engage in "quiet sports," and at that distance it would be very difficult for any residents to be aware of trail users as they pass by.

Some trail objectors appear to lump paved trail users in with those who illegally use ATVs and other motorized vehicles on rogue trails. Most "quiet sport" trail users will find such an association very unfair. Where the paved trail alignment comes closest to Tollgate homes there is a rogue trail illegally used by ATVs only 205 feet away. Once the new paved trail is built, users will not take kindly to such nearby illegal motorized trail use in the forest. The paved trail will be protected by bollards at road intersections to help keep out unwanted motor vehicles.

Homeowners and paved trail users need to work together to reduce illegal motor vehicle use in our forests.

Bjarne Holm



To the Editor:

I read Barbara Secrest's letter encouraging people in our town to express heartfelt beliefs, ideas and concerns "in a way that allows us be heard while not harming others' rights."

Ms. Secrest's observation — that in her 38 years as a resident of Sisters, she recently realized she "no longer feels comfortable expressing my views publicly" — is a sentiment I hear more and more. I am grateful for her courage in writing the letter.

I, too, have become concerned as I see citizens feeling uncomfortable volunteering for public service, or speaking their hearts and minds, due to the behavior and verbal and written actions of a few individuals. I know several people who have experienced these problems first-hand. It also has happened to my partner and myself.

In the last few months, I have met, formally and informally, with Sisters citizens who are

concerned about how this is affecting our community and how we can improve the situation. People who have been involved in these meetings have committed to doing several things, which are: To try to speak and act in ways that allow viewpoints to be heard without hurting/harming others, which helps set the tone for more constructive discussions and actions (which can start to create positive change). Second, to express gratitude or appreciation in a private or public way to people or situations.

Third, to serve as a source of support, experience and help.

Please know that if you are in need of any support, that there are individual community members who are willing to help and serve as a resource. Several people have availed themselves of these resources and found them helpful.

I can be reached through Eurosports.
Karen Kassy



To the Editor:

Thank you for your editorial, "Housing has to be a priority for Sisters," *The Nugget*, July 22.

Hits it right on the nail.

We need affordable housing in order to get families to live here and attend our great schools. And just maybe if we had affordable housing and more people moved in we would have more jobs that are full-time year-round.

Hmmm ... a win-win situation all the way around.

Shannon Chesney



To the Editor:

In the July 22 issue of *The Nugget*, Editor calls for affordable housing: the city can "deploy reductions in fees, zoning changes, and loosened code restrictions..." to make affordable housing a "viable proposition."

Fees are set by law to cover costs; zoning eliminates traffic or smooths flow; codes provide health and safety. Which of these values do we give up to promote affordable housing?

Editor says we should increase housing density to fill classrooms. The relationship between enrollment and classrooms is never perfect. Lowering housing costs to fill schools means we must soon build schools to accommodate enrollment. Solving a problem by creating a problem to solve the problem we had feels a little ... circular.

"Affordable" means housing takes a percentage of income, banks use 30 percent, by reducing cost or increasing income. Viewing "affordable housing" as only a "housing" issue shifts the real cost of employment from employers onto the rest of the community: Lowering community requirements to make housing affordable, we subsidize those paying less than a living wage.

Editor says Sisters should solve the affordable housing issue, "and do it quickly. The need is great." Now is a good time actually to step back and ask, "what happens if we do nothing?"


Classrooms may fill more slowly, but they will fill. Workers may drive further to work; perhaps local employers will pay mileage or raise wages; our community will lack diversity. Before we settle on solutions, we need to recognize that the difference between groups and individuals who make up those groups is as profound as that between a river and raindrops.

We can change the lives of individuals (Habitat for Humanity) in ways we cannot change the lives of a group without changing the environment. Dynamics of groups and dynamics affecting individuals are different dynamics.

Erik Dolson

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PROTECT YOUR PETS FROM EXTREME HEAT!



Please don't leave us in a hot car; we'd rather stay home!

HOT CARS!

Elapsed Time	Outside Air Temperature (F)					
	70	75	80	85	90	95
0 minutes	70	75	80	85	90	95
10 minutes	89	94	99	104	109	114
20 minutes	99	104	109	114	119	124
30 minutes	104	109	114	119	124	129
40 minutes	108	113	118	123	128	133
50 minutes	111	116	121	126	131	136
60 minutes	113	118	123	128	133	138
> 1 hour	115	120	125	130	135	140

Department of Geosciences, San Francisco State University

HOT ASPHALT BURNS!



Press the back of your hand firmly against the asphalt for 7 seconds to make sure our paws will be comfortable.

At 125° F, skin destruction can occur in 60 seconds.
An egg can fry in 5 minutes at 131° F.

Data Source: Berens J. Thermal contact burns from streets and highways. *Journal of American Medical Association*; 214 (11): 2025-2027



If you see an animal in a parked car and believe that it is a dangerous situation, call the sheriff's non-emergency number: 541-693-6911.

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