

**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 Unpublished items are not acknowledged or returned.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:

Teflon Andrew & his complicit *Nugget*.

Interesting use of the straw man argument so prevalent with the Obama Administration — all my unnamed, silent supporters agree.

According to Miriam Webster's online dictionary "litigious" is defined as: "too ready or eager to sue someone or something in a court of law; tending or likely to engage in lawsuits." In that Mr. Gorayeb's conduct is presently the subject of at least one present litigation and further that he has also lawyered up over his egregious conduct with Outlaws Lacrosse one finds his use of that adjective ... ironic.

I've read the letter in question & I've also read several of Mr. Gorayeb's strident rants in this forum over the years. Andrew's calling anyone else a bully is beyond irony.

It's time for the city council to address this consistent nuisance.

Ted Carlson



To the Editor:

Our family was stunned and devastated when we received SPRD's notice of Andrew's

resignation from the Outlaws Lacrosse organization earlier this summer.

While my son has benefitted from scores of great coaches throughout his sports career (he will be a senior at Sisters High School this fall), it was Andrew who was the topic of his "Individual who has been an inspiration..." essay assigned in his sophomore year.

He had chosen Andrew as his ASPIRE mentor for guidance toward his future college-education plans. As a single mother, I sought out Andrew's advice more than a few times, when I needed a little extra guidance in navigating the sometimes tumultuous seas one encounters raising teenage boys, and always received the advice and encouragement needed to keep my sails aloft and my ship pointed in the right direction!

Thank you, Andrew — coach, friend — for your years of service to Oregon lacrosse, our youth, the Sisters community, and our family. You continue to have our support, admiration, respect and love. The field won't be the same without you.

Wendi Reed Jacques

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**Beware of apathy**

By Diane Goble  
Columnist

After attending all the Community Assets Committee meetings this past year because I was interested in observing the process, I can say I was pleasantly surprised at how well organized it was. Everybody participated cooperatively, there was no dissension, no politics, no ego trips, and they accomplished their goal of vetting the top three projects voted on by the people who attended a previous town-hall meeting.

Next they offered a follow-up town-hall meeting to explain the results and present a survey, to get more public input about how to proceed. Only about 10 percent of those eligible to vote turned in a survey despite intense outreach. Did the other 90 percent just not want anything to do with it? Did 12 people basically waste their time for a year doing what people asked them to do?

Maybe it's apathy, not toxicity, that's the problem with Sisters.

A lot of changes have taken place in Sisters since the community's "vision statement" was written in 2010. Sisters is not just a cozy little Western artsy tourist town anymore and is poised to come into her own as a full-fledged self-supporting ... what?

Vision statement: "We create our future through a strong planning process that protects town character, encourages environmental sustainability, and defines future development including housing options for all citizens."

That didn't happen. A recession intervened with loss of jobs, business closings, lower property values; loss of homes, farms, livestock, savings; and many families leaving the area and emptying the schools. A lot of old-timers left and new families moved in bringing with them different values and ideas. So the old-timers left are ticked off at the newcomers, and the newcomers don't really care what the old timers think and see Sisters as a blank slate they can write on.

City management seems intent on grooming Sisters as a mecca for tourists from overcrowded cities along the coast who have certain expectations about amenities and apparently like to drink. Bud growers aren't welcome in spite of the plant's medicinal and economic potential.

High-tech entrepreneurs hope to make Sisters a hub for small international online businesses. Developers want to make it a destination resort or a health-and-wellness center. The arts community, which besides the environment is the biggest draw to Sisters, struggles to find support amidst changing business models.

Those who wrote the vision statement didn't anticipate there might be working families who couldn't afford housing. Developers complain there's not enough profit in it for them to build affordable housing, much less apartments for working families, who would become future homeowners with school students.

There's the divide between the rich and the poor, the haves and the have-nots; the property owners and the renters; those inside the city limits, those outside. We have those who can afford to own homes outside Sisters and shop in Sisters and those who have to commute to do the jobs required to maintain a tourist economy and service the wealthy homeowners.

Vision statement: "We have a strong tourism economy because of this beauty. But we are also a diversified entrepreneurial economy that includes arts and culture, light industry, natural resource-based businesses, and small retail. This economy especially supports locally conceived and owned businesses that provide a wide variety of year-round family-wage jobs."

There are people at the City working on making changes and looking to the public for input — so this is your chance to get involved in the new economic development of Sisters.

Take your ideas to City Council. They say they want solutions, not problems. Bring it!

Vision statement: "Highly developed local leadership and an active and informed citizenry make Sisters a fine example of community self-sufficiency and grassroots democracy."

That hasn't happened either. I'd say both sides need improvement — more education about their jobs for city manager, council, committee members and staff; and more citizen education and involvement. It takes a community with a common vision working together to bring about change.

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

**Sisters Weather Forecast**

Courtesy of the National Weather Service, Pendleton, Oregon

Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday	Monday
Slt. chance t-storm 86/48	Slt. chance t-storm 83/49	Slt. chance t-storm 77/48	Chance showers 70/44	Partly sunny 77/46	Partly sunny 74/na

**The Nugget Newspaper, Inc.**

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Member

Postmaster: Send address changes to  
The Nugget Newspaper,  
P.O. Box 698, Sisters, OR 97759.  
Third Class Postage Paid at Sisters, Oregon.

**Publisher - Editor:** Kiki Dolson  
**News Editor:** Jim Cornelius  
**Production Manager:** Leith Williver  
**Classifieds & Circulation:** Teresa Mahnken  
**Advertising:** Lisa Buckley  
**Graphic Design:** Jess Draper  
**Proofreader:** Pete Rathbun  
**Accounting:** Erin Bordonaro

The Nugget is mailed to residents within the Sisters School District; subscriptions are available outside delivery area. Third-class postage: one year, \$40; six months (or less), \$25. First-class postage: one year, \$85; six months, \$55.

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