

O P I N I O N



HAPPY NEW YEAR

The Nugget will be closed on Friday, January 1

Early deadline for display advertising and the events calendar for the issue of January 6 is **Thursday, December 31 at 5 p.m.**

Deadline for classified advertising, announcements, letters to the editor and press releases for the issue of January 6 is **Monday, January 4 at noon.**

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 Unpublished items are not acknowledged or returned.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:

Piedad and Steve Kingsland would like to thank the Sisters community, friends, and family for the prayers and support we received during Piedad's illness. Piedad received a life-saving liver transplant at OHSU on September 8 and is doing remarkably well.

A special thank-you to Zoe and girls at Shibui, and Jeff and Theresa at The Hair Caché.

With great appreciation,
Piedad and Steve



To the Editor:

Re: Roundabout vs. signal:

Let us not forget this is a major east/west corridor. Traffic signals work. There is a reason Bend built a parkway. La Pine has a light,

not a roundabout.

Maybe we can make the bypass around Sisters user-friendly if we had a light at the other end of town, also.

Alan Morris



To the Editor:

Once again, it's time for New Year's resolutions, particularly those to improve our diet and exercise routine.

Although gun violence and traffic accidents remain the leading causes of death among young people, the most dangerous weapon for the rest of us is still our fork. Well over a million of us are killed each year by high blood pressure, diabetes, heart disease, stroke, cancer,

See **LETTERS** on page 29

Be wary of marijuana

By Susan Tunno
Guest Columnist

Deschutes County and its proudly protected communities of Bend, Sisters, Redmond, Terrebonne and La Pine have a reputation across the country as being among the most desirable places to live and work in the country.

Business and industry vie for the opportunity to move their entire operations to this area and they bring their entire employee staff with them.

It is an extraordinary phenomenon that comes as no accident. Our Oregon way of just saying no to short-term profits out of economic desperation and instead choosing long-term gains.

We have chosen most recently a University, a Facebook Data Center, a major airport expansion, an urban growth boundary expansion in Bend for residential housing growth.

Historically our biggest industry has been the destination resort industry. It is our biggest economic engine and the vehicle through which the outside world has been introduced to our beautiful Central Oregon. Deschutes County decided to turn around the standing joke "poverty with a view" and harvest that view for a new economy.

But the end of that era was just announced. It arrived through the defeat of the Thornburg Destination Resort Application. As a result of the federal listing of the bull trout and all that ensues from that listing combined with the results of a new scientific study of the middle and lower basin converged in a two-punch knockout for any future growth in the basin involving major water extraction.

And now comes what Governor Tom McCall said would always come knocking at Oregon's door, seeking to enrich themselves at the expense of Oregon's economic, environmental, and social health.

Today it is the recreational marijuana-growing industry that has come knocking at Oregon's door.

Thanks to our extraordinary land-use system, which has evolved from SB100 to the well-worn path of citizen involvement at the grassroots level forming the first plank of scrutiny to all new land-use proposals. The rural community came forward

and took their place in the process.

The hundreds of testimonials, written and oral, accompanied by rich data and scientific studies relevant to the analysis of the impact of allowing this new industry into Deschutes County were submitted. The quality of the public input was extraordinary and compelling.

Of particular value, the Colorado reports submitted which provide us with hard data on the economic costs, the property devaluations, the social and environmental impacts since the Cannabis-Industrial Complex established itself. Eerily similar to Oregon's enabling legislation, Colorado had just six months to create a legal and regulatory framework for the growing, sale and distribution of recreational cannabis.

The results for Colorado are there for all to see and know what to expect as the probable outcome for Oregon. The reports of problems with Colorado marijuana greenhouses read like the oral testimony from this community. And we have only just experienced a small taste of the industry from the early arrivers who have rushed in, bought property, set up operations and appropriated our federally and state regulated basin waters for their recreational marijuana growing.

The mantle of decision-making now passes to our Deschutes County Commissioners. They must choose the path which will forever mark the future of this region.

If they choose to allow and regulate the grow industry, can the county guarantee that a no-net-loss standard applied to the environment, the property tax base, the existing businesses and users can be guaranteed?

Does that choice fit in with our Oregon way?

Can our Deschutes County Commissioners guarantee that what has happened in Colorado won't happen here?

Today's choice reminds us of when it all began; Governor Tom McCall's inaugural speech upon taking the oath of office January 9, 1967: Health, economic strength, recreation — in fact, the entire outlook and image of the state — are tied inseparably to environment. Water, air, land and scenic pollution threaten these and other values in Oregon...

Sisters Weather Forecast

Courtesy of the National Weather Service, Pendleton, Oregon

Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday	Monday
Mostly sunny 28/1	Mostly sunny 26/0	Mostly sunny 26/2	Mostly sunny 27/5	Partly sunny 27/10	Mostly cloudy 30/na

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