

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 Unpublished items are not acknowledged or returned.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:

Thursday May 5, was the National Day of Prayer. Not something new as the first call for prayer was in 1775. Some of the founding fathers of our nation with their faith - public prayer and national days of prayer became a long-standing and significant history in American tradition. The Supreme Court affirmed the right of state legislators to open their sessions with prayer in *Marcus v. Chamber* (1983).

The call to prayer has continued through our history, including President Lincoln's proclamation of a day of "humiliation, fasting, and prayer" in 1863. In 1952, a joint resolution of Congress, signed by President Truman, declared an annual day of prayer. In 1988, the law was amended and signed by President Reagan, permanently setting the day as the first Thursday of every May. Each year, the president signs a proclamation, encouraging all Americans to pray on this day. Last year all 50 governors plus the governors of several U.S. territories signed similar proclamations.

The National Day of Prayer belongs to all Americans and that includes the Sisters community, too. A day to bring citizens of all backgrounds that can transcend their differences. Another day of observance held all over America on the steps of city halls, in schools if permitted, businesses, churches and homes ... people stop their activities and gather in prayer.

The National Day of Prayer which took place in Sisters Country was its fourth annual event. *The Nugget* was made aware of the event and was also personally invited. The May 11th addition of *The Nugget* highlighted numerous events in the community ... so should it be considered and intentional that a recognized National Day of Prayer isn't for Sisters ... or is it that the *Sisters Nugget* decided so?

In addition, the prayer breakfast provides a secondary purpose to benefit the community's only private school, Sisters Christian

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Sisters Weather Forecast

Courtesy of the National Weather Service, Pendleton, Oregon

Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday	Monday
Mostly sunny 65/35	Mostly sunny 62/36	Chance showers 56/36	Partly sunny 59/38	Mostly sunny 66/41	Mostly sunny 65/na

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What about rights to safety and privacy?

By Carol Lovegren Miller
Guest Columnist

In 2000, a girl at Powers High School was banned from walking in her graduation and made nationwide news when she took a shower with the boys in the boys' locker room. This spring, schools all over the state of Oregon and nation are being told they must allow girls to shower in the boys' locker room and vice versa. Huh?

The recent craze to allow transgender people to choose whichever restroom they feel comfortable in overrules the rights of 99.7 percent of the population to safety and privacy. Individual transgendered people may not be a risk, but the new directives open the door wide to abuse by perverts and pedophiles.

In response to North Carolina's new law, which allows businesses to restrict restroom use to biological gender, Target announced that people of any gender are welcome to use whichever dressing room or restroom they like. Eleven days later a girl in Target was distressed to realize that a man in the women's changing room was filming her as she was dressing.

Perhaps our Oregon Department of Education was well-intentioned when they recently released 15 pages of "guidelines" on how transgender students should be treated. But there are numerous unintended consequences to the "guidelines," which already are being treated as having the force of law in Dallas, Oregon. Dallas School District's lawyers have arbitrarily decided that they would lose in a court so they will not "cave to community pressure" to resist the directive. Bizarrely, the principal is offering alternative dressing arrangements to the objecting students rather than the more rational approach of providing a separate dressing arrangement for the transgender student.

A major problem in America is sexual abuse of children. School superintendents are expressing grave concern about how this could impact their students' safety. Many children

will be afraid to go to the bathroom now that there are no limits on who can be in there. People who think hormone-driven teens who have been raised with easy access to pornography won't abuse this "right" are delusional.

The American College of Pediatricians has posted a temporary statement on the topic of children being encouraged to express themselves as the opposite sex. "Conditioning children into believing that a lifetime of chemical and surgical impersonation of the opposite sex is normal and healthful is child abuse." Puberty-blocking hormones and cross-sex hormones are associated with dangerous health risks. The authors further noted that 98% of boys and 88% of girls who are confused about their gender eventually come to terms with how they were born after puberty.

Transgender people have an appallingly high suicide rate. Why would anyone want to condemn young children to this fate, especially knowing that most of them would have eventually accepted the actuality of their biological sex? Their biological sex is stamped on every single cell in their bodies. "Facts — not ideology — determine reality."

It seems like we have fallen into Alice in Wonderland's nonsensical world. We have moved from civil rights based on immutable concrete criteria of race and natural-born sex, to civil rights based on a subjective feeling.

Gender-confused people deserve our compassion, but the vast majority of the population's rights to privacy and safety clearly should trump a tiny minority's desire to feel accepted. Forcing people to feel violated, uncomfortable, and unsafe will decrease acceptance of transgenders.

Our state and federal governments are bulldozing America's laws with their arbitrary mandates and threats to withdraw funding. At what point will we say enough is enough? We can stop this madness only if we unite and huge numbers of people rise up now to oppose this lunacy.

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