

O P I N I O N

Happy Independence Day!



The Nugget will be open on Monday, July 4.
Classified advertising deadline for the July 6 issue is noon on July 4.

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 Unpublished items are not acknowledged or returned.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:

I live a short distance north of the north end of Runway 2 at Sisters Eagle Airport and am very aware of flight traffic generated by airport operations. I, like many, enjoy the solitude offered by our Sisters Country environment. Particularly sitting on my deck watching the occasional doe and fawn grazing in Indian Ford Meadow. I have read the many negative letters and opinion pieces about airport operations recently published in *The Nugget*. And, I have previously expressed my own concern for safe flight operations to Benny Benson.

A few years ago when airport improvements were being contemplated I watched with considerable interest. I was impressed

with the ambitious plans the Bensons had. The much-needed rebuilding of the runway was a good beginning.

Sisters has long suffered from the lack of a robust economic base beyond tourism. We have witnessed the departure of a number of businesses. The Bensons have brought a world-class global engineering business to Sisters by the name of ENERGYneering. Today ENERGYneering employs about 50 engineers and technicians in well-paying jobs at the airport.

In addition to ENERGYneering, there are four other businesses located at the airport. Further development, inspired by the

See LETTERS on page 10

Sisters Weather Forecast

Courtesy of the National Weather Service, Pendleton, Oregon

Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday	Monday
Sunny 85/49	Sunny 82/48	Sunny 80/48	Mostly sunny 78/47	Mostly sunny 76/46	Sunny 78/na

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John Kass

American Voices

In the aftermath of the Orlando massacre, the Democrats applied a law that serves them well:

“Never let a good crisis go to waste.”

So they used the bodies of the dead as leverage for their politics and framed the national debate in terms of gun control rather than terrorism inspired by the radical jihadists of Islamic State.

It was all about protecting their presumptive Democratic Party presidential nominee, Hillary Clinton. They had to protect her. So they shouted about the guns.

All that emotion about gun control, much of it sincere and thoughtfully offered, was nevertheless used by party operatives to herd voters. It was about shaping the argument on their terms, about capturing the rage and fear out of Orlando and offering people a simple solution they could reach for.

It doesn't matter if that solution won't work. What matters to political tacticians is defending vulnerable flanks by keeping the issue on safe ground.

The crisis for all Americans involved the horror of terrorism and the evil of Omar Mateen, the New York son of Afghan immigrants who was inspired by Islamic State to slaughter 49 innocents at the gay nightclub in Orlando, Florida.

But the crisis for Democratic politicians was of a different sort. They didn't want to discuss Islamic State or jihad. They offered gun control.

And they had to immediately brand the tragedy to their advantage. So led by the president and aided by the American media that by and large prays on the altar of big government activism and reviles the Second Amendment, it was done.

Is it cynical to think so? No. It is cynical to insist otherwise. I don't want to drag you away from your safe space, but that's how politics works: Frame the debate so your political assumptions and buzzwords are incorporated into the news narrative and the rest is all gravy.

And so it was the guns.

Gun control was the

shield to protect Mrs. Clinton, to keep the dialogue away from terrorism, from any mention of Islam, which would invariably lead to a discussion of her many policy failures in the Middle East.

It was not what Mateen said clearly by his own hand on his social media accounts, where he said he slaughtered Americans for the glory of Islamic State.

Republicans use similar Pavlovian dark magic. There is little difference between the party tacticians. They are experts in prompting their meat puppets.

Instead of gun control, the Republicans often opt for patriotism and fear of all Islam.

And while Democrats used 49 bodies from Orlando, Republicans used thousands of Americans killed in the 9/11 terrorist attacks. They used them to wage war, first on Afghanistan, then in Iraq. Many Democrats were for that Iraq war, too, before they were against it.

Out of a ruined Iraq, the Islamic State was born and so was the Syrian civil war.

As the authors of this, Republicans have paid for it in the collapse of their party.

It was the guns, not terrorism, not the Islamic State, until Obama's own CIA director, John Brennan testified before Congress.

Obama and the Democrats have been stressing that Islamic State has been weakened and that Trump and some Republicans exhibit racism by demanding a stop in immigration from Muslim countries.

But Brennan said the CIA believes efforts to degrade the Islamic State haven't worked as well as we'd hoped, and that the Islamic State is planning to send fighters to infiltrate refugee groups and immigrate to attack the West in guerrilla-style strikes.

He said the Islamic State “has a large cadre of Western fighters who could potentially serve as operatives for attacks in the West.”

Reality isn't a slogan to fit on Republican or Democratic bumper stickers.

But it's out there.

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