

**O P I N I O N**

**Editorial...**

# County missed an opportunity

The Deschutes County Commissioners should have gone ahead with their discussion of issues related to Sisters Eagle Airport, instead of canceling it after it had been announced (*see story, page 1*).

While it's true that the shape of a proposed state-recognized airport boundary remains undetermined — and thus any discussion would have been speculative — the commissioners would have nevertheless benefitted from a thorough briefing on issues that are of significant interest to their constituents in this part of Deschutes County.

The County may ultimately have little or no jurisdiction over airport activities in the Sisters area — but the residents who are

affected by those activities are still the constituents of the County commissioners. Those constituents need to know that their elected representatives are at least interested in the issues that affect them.

A sense of disenfranchisement is rife in America right now. Across the political spectrum, many people feel not only that their voice is not heeded, but that it's not even heard. The belief that government is by and for the connected and the special-interests instead of by and for the people is spreading. The Deschutes County Commissioners had an opportunity to show a different face of government to their constituents — and they missed it.

*Jim Cornelius, News Editor*

# 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 Unpublished items are not acknowledged or returned.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.*

**Correction**

A typographical error was introduced into Bruce Mason's letter to the editor regarding the Sisters Eagle Airport last week. A second zero was cut off along with the % symbol when the % symbol was replaced with the word "percent."

The sentence should have read: "It appears that Sisters Eagle Airport is seeking an increase in their airport zone footprint of approximately 400 percent."



**To the Editor:**

Kudos to Sisters City Council President Nancy Connelly and Council members Andrea Blum and Amy Burgstahler for voting to provide financial support for the proposed Housing Works affordable-housing rental project. Thanks also to interim city manager Rick Allen for helping identify funds for the project and to former mayor Chris Frye for bringing this opportunity to the Council for consideration.

Meeting the acute need for lower-income housing in Sisters is vital to providing the workforce necessary to sustain our essential service and tourist industries. Depending upon private-sector developers to provide higher density, multifamily homes just isn't working. A recent case in point is the decision by Hayden Homes to withdraw its previously approved plan for building lower-cost housing units so they can continue building higher-end, low-density housing on Sisters' dwindling available land inventory.

The long-term effects of the City contributing to affordable housing include providing housing for families bringing children to town to help reverse the declining enrollment in Sisters schools and providing the high-density development necessary to future efforts to expand the city's urban growth boundary.

Roger Detweiler



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## Sisters Weather Forecast

Courtesy of the National Weather Service, Pendleton, Oregon

| Wednesday                    | Thursday                     | Friday                       | Saturday              | Sunday         | Monday         |
|------------------------------|------------------------------|------------------------------|-----------------------|----------------|----------------|
| Slt. chance showers<br>61/33 | Slt. chance showers<br>60/33 | Slt. chance showers<br>64/38 | Mostly sunny<br>73/40 | Sunny<br>77/40 | Sunny<br>79/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:** Karen Kassy  
**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, \$45; six months (or less), \$25. First-class postage: one year, \$85; six months, \$55.

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## Rachel Marsden

**American Voices**

Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump recently gave a non-interventionist foreign policy speech suggesting that he wants to make new allies of old foes and find common ground with them on shared national security challenges. He noted that 88 U.S. generals and admirals have endorsed him, and that "the current strategy of toppling regimes, with no plan for what to do the day after, only produces power vacuums that are filled by terrorists."

Trump should tell that to the 51 State Department officials who called for ramping up U.S. military intervention in Syria in an internal memo that was reviewed by CNN in June prior to being classified.

Hoping to force Syrian President Bashar al-Assad back to the negotiating table, these State Department officials figured that in lieu of diplomacy, it would be a good idea to prolong a conflict that has already driven millions of migrants — including Islamic State terrorists — into Europe and is demographically overwhelming that part of the world.

The State Department, which works closely with the CIA in providing official diplomatic cover to CIA officers abroad, has long been at odds with the Pentagon over Syria. It's no wonder that Pentagon generals are backing Trump, while just a few weeks ago a handful of former CIA directors publicly did the same for Democratic candidate and former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton by signing a letter denouncing Trump.

Documents sent to and from Hillary Clinton's private email server while she was secretary of state suggest that she wanted to remove Assad despite the power vacuum it would create.

In March 2012, according to a document released by WikiLeaks, Clinton instructed special assistant Robert Russo to print an email sent to her titled, "An interesting proposal from (CIA veteran) Bruce Riedel re how Israel could help get Assad out of office."

Another email found on Clinton's private email server, this one purportedly from Clinton herself, reiterates: "The best way to help Israel deal with Iran's

growing nuclear capability is to help the people of Syria overthrow the regime of Bashar Assad."

This is precisely the kind of reckless interventionist mindset that has long infused the State Department.

Meanwhile, a classified Defense Intelligence Agency report from August 2012 obtained by Judicial Watch actually predicted the rise of the Islamic State as a result of the U.S. aligning itself with various "rebels."

"ISI (Islamic State in Iraq) could also declare an Islamic State through its union with other terrorist organizations in Iraq and Syria, which will create grave danger in regards to unifying Iraq and the protection of its territory," the report stated.

This issue underscores the clash of worldviews between the Clinton and Trump campaigns. Former Defense Intelligence Agency Director Michael Flynn, a retired lieutenant general and key Trump defense and intelligence adviser, had long warned about Syria turning into a terrorist hotbed.

Unlike Flynn, the Clinton-CIA-State Department axis either didn't see the emerging threat, or it didn't mind it enough to nip it in the bud.

Even if the Islamic State is ultimately defeated, there are still more State Department proxies waiting in the wings to fill the void and wreak more havoc. Consider the Uyghurs of East Asia, an Islamic group. The World Uyghur Congress, which appears on China's list of domestic terrorist organizations, has received more than \$200,000 in annual funding from Congress via the State Department's National Endowment for Democracy.

A Clinton administration, emboldened by interventionist enablers in the CIA and State Department seeking to play their next obvious proxy card in the Middle East, could end up landing America in a direct confrontation with China.

Just when you think American foreign policy couldn't possibly get any worse, we might get to see what Hillary Clinton could do with unfettered executive power.

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