

O P I N I O N

Editorial...

Vote 'no' on Measure 97

Measure 97 is an ill-conceived tax that will hurt economic growth and negatively impact all Oregonians — not just the corporations it is designed to target.

The measure would impose a 2.5 percent tax on corporations doing more than \$25 million a year in sales in Oregon. The measure is expected to raise \$3 billion a year.

"Make the corporations pay their fair share" may be an attractive slogan to anybody who isn't a corporation, but unpacking the impacts of the measure demonstrates that it's not just "the corporations" that will be hit. By taxing sales, the likely impact would be passing additional costs down through the production chain until it hits everybody in the pocket.

The Oregon Legislative Revenue Office analysis of the impact of Measure 97 pegs its per capita impact at roughly \$600 to \$4,501 based on the most recent census figures. It's a de facto consumption tax and by nature regressive. And, based on 2012-13 census data, it would push Oregon to the ninth-highest taxes-as-a-percent-of-income ranking versus an actual ranking of 26th.

Economic Development for Central Oregon (EDCO) has come out strongly against the

measure.

Sisters, in partnership with EDCO, is doing its best to attract businesses that pay family-wage jobs. Measure 97 throws up a roadblock. Sure, "more state funding for education" sounds great — but what Sisters really needs is families that can afford to live and work in the area to move here and send their kids to school. An increase in per-student state funding will not help Sisters schools nearly as much as robust enrollment — which will only come with a robust economy.

While it's highly unlikely that a company with gross receipts in excess of \$25 million (the type that would be directly affected by M97) would move here, it is also likely that out-of-state companies that consider Oregon an unfavorable business environment will have second thoughts. Any measure that makes Oregon as a whole less competitive will hurt Sisters.

The LRO predicts that M97 will slow private-sector job growth, accelerate public-sector job growth and raise consumer prices. That does not sound like a good deal for Oregon.

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.

To the Editor:

Sending out a warning to all you folks who take your dogs to the Sisters Elementary School Ball Field — especially off leash. I'm talking about the far edges of the ball field, particularly behind home plate and back in the un-manicured area by the chain link fencing.

We are witnessing weekly events of dog/deer/human interaction that are resulting in injury and eventual death to the deer and potentially to dogs, not to mention what could happen to the people involved.

Hearing screams from humans and that of

the deer first alerted us to two dogs that had instantly become a hunting pack when they came upon resting deer back there. The dog owners chased the dogs with giant sticks, while the dogs tore up the deer's legs, mouth and tongue all left hanging off its face. One of the men was hit in the chest by the deer's antlers — not quite gored, but close.

Then we heard a woman screaming for her life and found her lying there, heaving and crying. She could just barely keep hold of her

See LETTERS on page 24

Sisters Weather Forecast

Courtesy of the National Weather Service, Pendleton, Oregon

Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday	Monday
Sunny 78/41	Mostly sunny 72/37	Partly sunny 61/34	Chance showers 57/37	Chance showers 53/36	Chance showers 58/na

The Nugget Newspaper, Inc.

Website: www.nuggetnews.com

442 E. Main Ave., P.O. Box 698, Sisters, Oregon 97759

Tel: 541-549-9941 | Fax: 541-549-9940 | editor@nuggetnews.com



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.

Published Weekly. ©2016 The Nugget Newspaper, Inc. All rights reserved. Reproduction in whole or in part without written permission is prohibited. All advertising which appears in The Nugget is the property of The Nugget and may not be used without explicit permission. The Nugget Newspaper, Inc. assumes no liability or responsibility for information contained in advertisements, articles, stories, lists, calendar etc. within this publication. All submissions to The Nugget Newspaper will be treated as unconditionally assigned for publication and copyrighting purposes and subject to The Nugget Newspaper's unrestricted right to edit and comment editorially, that all rights are currently available, and that the material in no way infringes upon the rights of any person. The publisher assumes no responsibility for return or safety of artwork, photos, or manuscripts.

Outdoor school — an economic investment

By Edie Jones
Columnist

Measure 99 would allocate 4 percent of funds from the Oregon Lottery toward Outdoor School, a program that brings fifth- and sixth-grade students to one of the state's designated camp areas for a week.

As the former owner and director of Camp Tamarack, I can personally speak of the positive reasons every child in Oregon needs to attend Outdoor School and why economic development funds are an appropriate funding source.

Years ago, our youngest son attended Outdoor School for a week as part of his sixth-grade curriculum, discovering the joys associated with learning about the environment. This fueled his love of the out-of-doors and eventually lead to a degree in environmental education. Today he demonstrates this philosophy through the development of his award-winning business, B-Line Urban Sustainable Delivery, whose mission is to have a positive effect on the environment.

Most everyone who lives in Sisters is aware of the work of the Ten Friends projects in Nepal. Rand Runco, one of the founders of Ten Friends, firmly believes that through Outdoor School Sisters' kids develop an appreciation for the out-of-doors, build social skills, and often have their first away-from-home experience. From this students gain a sense of place, their role in the world, a desire to travel and the need to help others. These are the kids that become counselors of Outdoor School, participate in outdoor leadership classes and end up accompanying their teachers to Nepal. What better way is there to develop citizens prepared to add to the economic development of our area than to teach them how to lead, teach, help others and be aware of the importance of their surroundings?

Outdoor School will create 600 full-time jobs as the number of camps rise from 42 to around 100. It takes many hands to run a camp when you put together the maintenance people, cooks, counselors, teachers, directors, nurses and program personnel that are needed to produce such an operation.

An editorial in *The Bulletin* noted that many children are already attending Outdoor School, due to help from businesses and local school districts. That is true; however, many may still not be able to go. In the Bend-La Pine district, schools such as Jack Ensworth Elementary School have a very difficult time finding money for extra activities. Randy King, a second-grade teacher from Ensworth and a Sisters resident, said it is extremely difficult for parents to provide money for field trips and other excursions. If that is true for a one-day outing how much harder it must be for a week-long camping experience? These are the children who need Outdoor School the most since they are the ones who often can't go to a summer camp or participate in programs provided through Bend Parks and Rec. Unfortunately, for single parents and low-income families, it is very difficult for their kids to get the kind of experiences the rest of us take for granted. Yes, Sisters' kids usually get to go to Outdoor School. However, this is not true in many other districts throughout the state.

The Outdoor School For All initiative proposes setting aside four percent of annual lottery dollars to fund a full week of outdoor school programming for every Oregon 5th- or 6th-grader. At no time will this exceed \$22 million in any year. The cost for a week of Outdoor School is less than \$400 per child, and the money allotted would allow 50,000 kids to go to Outdoor School every year. In addition, each year 3,000 teen mentors would acquire leadership and counseling skills by participating with the younger students.

The economic impact each year is estimated at \$27 million by supporting 600 FTE jobs, mostly in rural Oregon. In addition, that \$27 million goes directly to local Oregon businesses and organizations who are service providers. What a win-win investment of \$22 million.

Let's not be short-sighted in how we allocate those economic development dollars. Not only is Outdoor School for All an economic investment, it is also an investment in the future of our children. I encourage everyone to vote for Measure 99.

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