

LETTERS

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state government is spending eight times more than it did in 1980.

I don't believe our population has increased eight times from the 1980 population to refer to the budget analysis of newly elected State Senator Dennis Linthicum from District 28 (Klamath Falls and southern Deschutes County).

The "Oregon Way" needs an overhaul.
Patti Adair



To the Editor:

Why do we protest and resist President Trump's administration? We are exercising our First Amendment rights of free speech. Similar to the Tea Party movement which arose in 2009 to oppose President Obama, millions of people across the country who do not support President Trump have come together in communities of all sizes to share concerns and develop initiatives to oppose actions and legislation that we feel is not right for the country.

Although President Trump won the Electoral College vote, the final vote tallies show that 73,648,823 voters chose someone other than Mr. Trump — that's 54 percent of voters. That's a lot of people who did not believe he was the best choice for president. .

Many of us are alarmed by these and many other issues and actions:

His reliance on Steve Bannon as chief strategy advisor who has a history of anti-Semitism and promotion of white supremacy. His Cabinet choices who appear to want to destroy the departments and agencies that will be under their care. His refusal to release his tax returns so we can see the extent of his conflicts of interest.

We want to see an investigation of Russian interference in the election by an independent counsel or committee to determine its nature and extent. We want to make sure that if the ACA is repealed, it is replaced with a better and cheaper plan.

We want to be sure that regulation reform maintains protections important for the welfare of our earth and the people. We are concerned that his tax policy will enrich the wealthy while ignoring the middle class and hurting the poor.

We are watching the actions of our

President, our senators, representatives and cabinet officials, and letting them know how we feel about their actions and plans through phone calls, emails, letters, office visits, town halls and demonstrations, if necessary. This is democracy in action.

Martha Adamson



To the Editor:

Let me summarize Yvonne Suckow's February 22 vitriolic and condescending assessment of those of us who oppose Trump: We are children having tantrums, so immersed in self-pity we don't understand Trump "will do great things," un-American and unpatriotic, motivated by some kind of blind hatred. If we don't want to join the "majority" who back him, she suggests we go live in "those countries you love so much."

Were it only that simple.

Whether Trump does great things or destroys our democracy will be answered in the history books of the future. Thus far, all we have are promises and signatures on a pile of edicts that are about to crash the fiscal wall.

But Suckow's biggest mistake is saying Trump's opponents "...can be Americans..." We ARE Americans, patriotic Americans at that. The protests, or "rioting in the streets" as she calls it, follow a tradition that goes back to the tea dumped into Boston Harbor. THIS is the country we love so much. Hatred can be gotten over, put aside, ignored; love is much more powerful and incontrovertible.

Blind hatred? No. Rational animus, perhaps. I've lived in a dictatorship. The warning signs are all there. The adolescent, psychopathic narcissist in the White House would be Supreme Leader.

Unity is not achievable by bullying and snarky, playground taunts to "get over it" and "grow up." Thus far, Trump has done nothing but pander to his base and wallow in their adulation. He drives the wedge deeper. His agenda requires an enemy. 65,853,516 of us didn't vote for him, almost 3,000,000 more than did, so he casts us, his fellow Americans, as that enemy.

This is OUR country, too; we aren't going anywhere. We've only just begun.

Allyn Hardman



Young musicians will celebrate song

Sisters Folk Festival is hosting its 10th annual Americana Song Academy for Youth (ASAY), March 3-5. ASAY is an inspiring weekend of music, songwriting and community-building through the arts. The week-end-long event is capped with a public concert on Sunday.

The academy is produced by Sisters Folk Festival, and sponsored by Cris Converse and The Roundhouse Foundation.

The Song Academy for Youth is held primarily at The Belfry in Sisters, as well as three additional locations throughout town. Instructors this year include: Sisters Folk Festival veterans Beth Wood, Keith Greeninger, Anna Tivel, Mandy Fer, Pete Kartsounes (from Good Time Travelers); regional artists Mosley Wotta, Brent Alan, Hobbs Magaret, Patrick Pearsall, Haley Hendrickx; and Sisters locals and Americana Project alumni Slater Smith, Laura Curtis, Benji Nagel, and many more. Artists and instructors Bob Hemenger, Rick Johnson, Tom O', and Elias Appenzeller will also be on hand to teach and mentor.

"The Song Academy for Youth is a great opportunity for both beginners and advanced artists and

musicians to develop their skills and build community. The highlight of the Song Academy for Youth is witnessing students of all levels having a chance to shine," said Kerani Mitchell, program manager of Sisters Folk Festival.

The Academy brings young people together in a non-competitive format to cultivate musicianship, songwriting and creativity. Classes include poetry and lyric-writing, performing, singing, guitar-playing and a private concert performance on Saturday evening. High school students from Colorado, California, Bend, Redmond, and Sisters all plan to attend.

On Sunday, March 5, many of the young artists will perform in a public "Celebration of Song" concert at The Belfry at 7 p.m. The instructors and mentors will support the performances by young artists as a culmination of the ASAY weekend. Tickets are \$5 at the door for the Sunday evening concert at The Belfry.

For more information on the 2017 Sisters Folk Festival Americana Song Academy for Youth and "Celebration of Song" visit www.sistersfolkfestival.org or call the festival office at 541-549-4979.

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