

LETTERS

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To the Editor:

Please do not remove the western meadowlark as Oregon's official state bird.

State Senator Frank Girod, predictably from a west-side district (Stayton), introduced Senate Concurrent Resolution 18 to replace the meadowlark with the osprey. The meadowlark, while found throughout Oregon, is primarily identified with well over half the state in the grasslands and pastures east of the Cascades. Once again, a west-side legislator has devised yet another ham-fisted grab giving short shrift to a bird that, for many, defines a way of life on the east side.

Anyone who has ever woken up on a sunshiny morning in the Baker Valley or along the base of the majestic Steens can never forget the time nor the place of hearing, according to the Cornell Lab of Ornithology, its "buoyant, flutelike melody ringing out across a field."

After 90 years of Oregon history, for Senator Girod, it's all about the momentary whim of a "beauty pageant" maneuver to replace a bird special to Oregonians and increasingly rare with a common species.

Senator Girod claims the choice of our state bird is "unoriginal." This is false for, had he bothered to review history, the reality is exactly the opposite. Oregon and Wyoming were actually the first to designate the meadowlark as their respective state bird in 1927. Then, four other states, Nebraska, Montana, Kansas, and North Dakota, followed our pioneering designation by establishing the meadowlark as their state bird between 1929 and 1947 following the adage that "imitation is the sincerest form of flattery."

Keith K. Daellenbach



To the Editor:

There are many 70-to-90-year-old and older people in the Sisters area who must feel unsure of how they will be served when they need assisted-living care. The promises that have for years been made for a continuous residential-assisted living setting have not materialized. At best it may be years before it does. Many retired people might have moved here, as my husband and I did, to ensure a secure future as we age.

In our case we foresee a time when neither of us will be driving. Without an assisted-living setting in Sisters, if one of us needs care, the only option

presently is for that one to receive it in Bend or Redmond. The other would be here with no good way to even visit regularly.

However, it is possible to meet needs in the homes of both old and young, singles and couples as they face the complications of injury, health or aging. It requires setting up a services coordinating agency. Perhaps, requiring only one office, it could be part of the project to be near the high school at McKinney Butte Road.

If there was such an agency that would arrange the meeting of the requirements of insurance, long-term, Medicare and Medicaid, needs could be met with professional help with in-home healthcare. The service of such an agency would be to coordinate with Sisters BMC and St. Charles clinics, dentists, nurses, foster care, Hospice. The list goes on: Elder law, senior counseling services, optical and auditory services, exercise centers, physical therapy professionals, nursing, housekeeping and food services, local transportation services, a grocery store that sells affordable food and delivery services, even yard care. Much of these are already here like Sisters Athletic Club and the Park and Recreation District functioning well for everyone. All of these services are good opportunities for employment for younger people. All of them continue the kind of caring Sisters community that people find so wonderful.

Care can be given without the expense of the residential, and continuous-care units. Sisters soon will have more affordable small apartments and homes available. The wonderful group of creative, giving older people in the community would be glad for complete, competent services so that they can continue to live well with care in their own homes and continue to be happily functioning people in our community.

Joann Power



To the Editor:

Next Saturday at Sisters Library, 2 p.m., there will be a viewing of "Traces of the Trade," a documentary of a modern family retracing the many steps of slaves bound for the U.S.

The family was among the biggest slave-trading businesses in America. Tom DeWolf, descendant of this family, will share the positive results from this experience through an organization he founded for healing dialogue between African-Americans and white Americans.

Please join us for this fascinating tale.
Bonnie Malone

MARATHON: Event raised funds for Outlaws swim team

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"He is in such good shape and so efficient. His time is remarkable."

Hosang runs for the middle school track team, where the longest event, the 1,500 meters, is not even one mile. He runs about 40 miles a week and loves cross-fit, according to his dad, Joe Hosang.

"When he crossed the line, he just had a huge smile on his face," said race director Bryn Singleton. "He looked great."

Peter Curran, 39, finished second overall in 1:23:11.

Another eighth-grader also beat most of the adults in the race. Vicente Rebolledo, a classmate of Hosang's at Sisters Middle School, ran 1:38:24, which put him seventh overall. Sisters High School senior Jesse West finished in 1:55:12.

Jen Warolin won the women's title with a time of 1:37:39, while local runner Jo Zucker won her division in 2 hours and 5 seconds.

A total of 73 runners completed the half-marathon.

Kathy Fectau took the women's title in 50:42, which put her in seventh place overall among a total of 50 finishers.

Singleton felt pleased that her goals for the race were

realized.

"It was a great day for the race, and my goal is that everyone is out there just having fun and enjoying a community event," she said. "The secondary goal is to raise money for the Sisters High School swim team, which we accomplished."

The three choices of races make the event unique and attractive, according to Singleton.

“When he crossed the line, he just had a huge smile on his face. He looked great.”
— Bryn Singleton

"There's something for everyone whether they want to run or walk," she said. "The majority of the people that come out seem to be groups of friends who just want to enjoy Sisters for the weekend, and many come back year after year."

Three Creeks Brewing Co. is the title sponsor of the event, which is in its sixth year. Singleton also wanted to thank Dr. Ben Crockett for his continuing support throughout the race's history.

"Also, I can't thank the volunteers enough for their help in manning aid stations and directing runners," she said.

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