

O P I N I O N



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 Unpublished items are not acknowledged or returned.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:

The Kiwanis Club of Sisters thanks everyone who donated and everyone who shopped at our 6th annual Antiques & Bling Sale this year.

This year, Kiwanis had a banner sale, making this event one of our biggest fundraisers of the year. We could not do this without community support. Every dollar raised remains in this community, given back in the form of college scholarships, career opportunities, and other civic projects.

Thank you, Sisters folks, for your generosity!

Karen Keady



To the Editor:

Thank you, Linda Peck, for your letter to the editor (regarding skydiving). Very truthful in what you stated. Shame on you city

of Sisters residents that chased this business away — when we clearly need it, more business more people move in and everybody receives the benefit, schools, taxes, (although they are very high) and so on.

It is sad that we have people that narrow-minded.

I don't think the skydiving business made that much noise — not any more than we have other functions in town that make a tremendous amount of noise. Just saying.

Shannon Chesney



To the Editor:

Praise for the creative, humorous analogy comparing the media to “media” rats digging around in the dirt. For what? For the truth? Then they scurry around to inform everyone.

See **LETTERS** on page 17

Red-teaming climate is not a good choice

By Phil Ganter and Mary Ann Asson-Batres
Guest Columnists

We are writing in response to *The Nugget* column posted by Craig Rullman in the Wednesday, April 26, issue of *The Nugget*.

There are no simple answers to scientific questions. No easy black or white indicators of “truth.” Lots of argument and controversy swirl around scientific questions until reproducible evidence comes in, and, even then, a complete resolution may lag. Sometimes, new evidence (data) can make us less sure.

Such an unsure world can be overwhelming. Many who feel overwhelmed by science often refer to that universal tool, common sense. Craig Rullman confesses to being overwhelmed by climate science and, in his search for a common sense approach, turns to Steven Koonin's recommendation that the best way forward is to “Red Team” it.

Koonin wants climate science to be the subject of public debates involving a Red Team to attack the consensus on climate science against a Blue Team to rebut the Red Team. Common sense says that this will improve the situation.

The idea that debate is the key to scientific progress completely misses the point. To be sure, debate plays a role in sharpening arguments and establishing ideas about factors that “cause” outcomes, but such arguments are the speculative well-spring of untested hypotheses — arguments and debate have nothing to say about actual scientific progress.

Evidence or “data” are the lone and final arbiter.

Science stands or falls on data, and data may constantly change. If this makes you sort of queasy, that's OK. If it makes you

question the importance of using data for public policy decisions, get over your queasiness and ask yourself: what's better? What do you rely on if you reject the best answer science can give you?

Koonin's idea is based on false (and easily falsified) assumptions. The first is that there is no debate. Citing previously published data, Koonin asserted in 2014 that ocean rise had slowed over the past two decades. In 2015, a research team led by Christopher Watson re-examined this question and showed there were errors in the data cited by Koonin. These errors led to the wrong conclusion — rather than slowing, sea level rise *had actually accelerated* over the past two decades. Independent work by other researchers has generated results that support Watson's conclusions.

We say the Red Team as a public event is not a good choice. Let those who feel that climate change is not occurring or is not the result of human activity fight the fight in the only meaningful arena: in scientific journals. To do this, they will have to have data.

For the rest of us, we need to use the climate science consensus as the basis of our public policy, warts and all. We have nothing better. With regard to climate science, we can say that the best current evidence indicates that, 1. The current episode of climate change is real; 2. That it is primarily caused by changes in the heat budget of the Earth due to human activity; and 3. That it will result in more harm than good.

Mary Ann Asson-Batres is a resident of Sisters. Before moving to Sisters, she was a professor in the biology department at Tennessee State University (TSU). Phil Ganter is a colleague and professor of biology at TSU.

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

Sisters Weather Forecast

Courtesy of the National Weather Service, Pendleton, Oregon

Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday	Monday
Slt. chance t-storm 85/51	Showers 64/41	Showers 57/35	Showers 55/34	Mostly cloudy 58/34	Mostly sunny 65/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



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 Easterling
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. ©2017 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.