

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 Unpublished items are not acknowledged or returned.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:

In several articles in *The Nugget* they have stated the current owner as the founder of Village Interiors. She is actually the third owner.

My husband, Bill, and I opened Maggie's Interiors in August of 1981. I changed the name to Village Interiors in 1983. Because of ill health, we sold in 1990 to Teddy Heck. Approximately a year later she sold to Pat.

This may not seem important to anyone else, but it is very important to me. I was very proud of that little store and still am. Pat has made it into much more than just a service store.

Maggie Bull

♦ ♦ ♦

To the Editor:

National Day of Prayer is a great thing that I love to do. You get to sing songs and pray to God. When I think of National Day of Prayer, I think of a day with God. Just with Him.

I love National Day of Prayer. It's the day that makes me feel so happy during the day.

I feel like the spirit of God is in me today more than ever!

One day I will remember this day and pray that all the people that went and prayed to God will remember it, too.

Pia Grummer

Third Grade, Sisters Christian Academy

♦ ♦ ♦

To the Editor:

On behalf of the Board of Directors of the Sisters Trails Alliance (STA), I would like to register our strong support of the proposed Local Option Levy for SPRD. For years, our organization has partnered with SPRD to improve and use recreational trail facilities in Sisters Country — from guiding hikes and mountain bike rides, to helping with the Crest the Cascades ride on the McKenzie Scenic Bikeway, and contributing to Bike Park 242.

This levy will help strengthen SPRD, with

improved and expanded adult and youth recreational programs, more stable staffing to ensure program continuity, and better capacity for long-term planning. A stronger SPRD will mean a stronger partner for community organizations like STA, and these deeper partnerships will multiply the effectiveness of everyone involved.

For STA, a closer partnership with a stronger SPRD will mean increased volunteer support for trails work and, most importantly, better recreational programs for all ages that utilize our trail network. Working in partnership with a stronger SPRD will help STA be an even more effective volunteer organization to improve the trails network in Sisters Country.

Because a stronger SPRD makes sense for our community, this levy makes sense. It is a small contribution that will have large payoffs for us all — young, old, volunteers, and community organizations. Please vote to support it.

Catherine Hayden, Chair

Board of Directors, Sisters Trails Alliance

♦ ♦ ♦

To the Editor:

Sisters Park & Recreation District is a unique agency unlike any other. I know this because I was privileged to serve as its executive director from 2013 until earlier this year. In that time I was able to learn about the agency's rich history of service to the Sisters community, and its constant financial challenges.

SPRD's tax funding covers just over one quarter of the funds the agency needs to operate for the year. That means that the staff go into each fiscal year knowing they need to raise 75 percent of the funds they need to serve the community that year. Also, each year the staff knows there are many other things the community would like to see them do, that they simply cannot because there is no funding available. The passage of the proposed local option would give SPRD staff the ability to

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Kicking a bad habit

By T. Lee Brown
Guest Columnist

I recently had occasion to chat with a local colleague about the tone of political discussion these days. Progressives are often too hostile, he suggested, and make too many assumptions based on (ironically enough) the race and gender of other folks — especially if those other folks happen to be white and male. I'd say there's been plenty of hostility on all sides, but he's got a good point. If progressives want to make real progress in the world? Rather than licking our wounds in the corner, we need to check more than our privilege. We need to check our outrage, self-righteousness, and dismissiveness of others. And we need to vote for candidates who will do the same.

It ain't easy. I've been whackin' away at this problem for two years, trying to open my mind. Pushing past my horrified shock when a Bernie Sanders-lovin' friend switched his vote over to Trump, I really listened to his reasoning. Looking out over the ponderosas, I talked without rancor with a relative who believes another family member is wrong and sinful for "choosing homosexuality." I've genuinely tried to open up and understand. And I searched within myself, separating my core values from party-line policies.

Why bother being open-minded? Why go through the deep pain of questioning long-held beliefs of oneself and one's tribe? Well, it's the decent thing to do, especially in a polarized and extreme political climate. If we won't listen to others—even people who dress, speak, eat, or worship differently—we deserve the chaotic White House we've got. Progressives claim to fight for equality for all, yet we often won't listen to 43.8% of our local residents (that's how many Sisters-area voters leaned Trump). Just to avoid being complete hypocrites, we need to chill out and open up. Bonus: interrogating one's assumptions brings intellectual, emotional, and spiritual

rewards.

Strategically, isolating ourselves in a self-congratulatory bubble where we don't have to shake hands or exchange Facebook likes with neighbors who—gasp—vote Republican, has clearly resulted in failure. Our frothing-at-the-mouth self-righteousness was so predictable, we were even manipulated by the Russians! Letting go of our snooty attitudes could help reverse the damage done in 2016. If we stop condemning our neighbors and start listening to them, maybe some will join us fighting for shared causes, regardless of party.

Long-term, we need to show that progressives can engage in real conversation without name-calling and shutting-down. We need to elect candidates who can listen to their entire constituency and reach across the aisle... even if the Tea Partiers have set the opposite example. "But they did it first!" is not a good enough excuse for kids on the playground and it's not good enough for alleged grownups in civic life.

So what's a thoughtful Democrat to do? Start off by truly listening; it's way harder than it sounds. Then vote for a candidate who already knows how to listen and respond with respect and consideration. Vote for someone who has a track record of public service, who's got experience in local government. Someone who is "a big advocate of local wisdom," while also using hard data to inform policy. A rural Democrat who knows what it's like to be discriminated against but who's now legally married to a wife with deep Eastern Oregon ranching roots. Vote for a leader who will positively impact the image and reach of progressives in rural Oregon—whether or not she defeats Walden next November. Vote for Jamie McLeod-Skinner.

Closed-minded lefty-liberal behavior is a habit, deeply entrenched. But heck—I quit smoking, drinking, and plenty of other vices over the years. Surely I can kick this, too. And I'll vote for Jamie in the District 2 primary.

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
Mostly Sunny 62/38	Slt. Chance Showers 57/37	Mostly Sunny 61/35	Sunny 70/39	Sunny 79/44	Sunny 79/46

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