

O P I N I O N

EARLY HOLIDAY DEADLINES FOR THE NUGGET



The Nugget will be closed on Tuesday, December 25 and Tuesday, January 1.

Early deadline for display advertising and the events calendar for *the issue of December 26* is **Thursday, December 20 at 5 p.m.**

Deadline for classified advertising, announcements, letters to the editor and press releases for *the issue of December 26* is **Friday, December 21 at 12 p.m.**

Early deadline for display advertising and the events calendar for *the issue of January 2* is **Thursday, December 27 at 5 p.m.**

Deadline for classified advertising, announcements, letters to the editor and press releases for *the issue of January 2* is **Friday, December 28 at 12 p.m.**

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 Unpublished items are not acknowledged or returned.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:

As Chairman of the Sisters Kiwanis Food Share, I am writing to remind everyone involved, the day we are giving out the certificates for a Christmas Dinner, the Fire Department is handing out toys and Furry Friends are remembering pets is coming up soon: Saturday December 22 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Remember the date!

If you haven't filled out an application you can still get one at the Food Bank, Wednesday, December 12 from noon to 1 p.m., Thursday during Food Bank hours, FAN office at the school until Friday and at Sisters Fire Department. The deadline, if you have children, is Friday December 15 to give the Fire Department time to shop and wrap in time for December 22.

Last year we had almost 200 applications, but at the end of the day of distribution, we

had 28 envelopes left; the Fire Department had half-dozen bags of presents and Furry Friends hauled a lot of pet food back to their storage. We spent two days calling numerous times trying to get everything where it was supposed to be. It was stressful at a time that should be joyful. So, if you sign up, PLEASE show up!

Naomi and I have decided if you don't make arrangements to pick up at a different time, we will not hold the certificates. We will make reminder calls the day of distribution, but not after. If they are not picked up on Saturday, December 22, they will be used to purchase future food for the Food Bank.

This is a gift given by the community that is given with love. Hayden Homes deserves a huge thank-you for making this possible. We want everyone to have the best Christmas ever.

See **LETTERS** on page 29

Sisters Weather Forecast

Courtesy of the National Weather Service, Pendleton, Oregon

Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday	Monday
Partly Cloudy 50/30	Partly Cloudy 47/27	PM Rain/Snow 47/27	Partly Cloudy 44/34	Showers 45/34	Partly Cloudy 46/37

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Jonah Goldberg

One of the most comforting talking points in politics is to claim that your political opponents are irrationally obsessed. I'm sure this is as old as time, but I first noticed it in the late 1990s. Many of Bill Clinton's most ardent supporters responded to every new criticism by claiming the president's enemies were twisted by hate for the man. During the George W. Bush administration, thanks in part to a phrase coined by my late friend Charles Krauthammer, conservatives deflected criticism of the president by claiming his foes suffered from "Bush derangement syndrome."

The term caught on, and Obama supporters hurled charges of "Obama derangement syndrome" (along with charges of "racism"—a secular term for a kind of derangement) at Obama's opposition. Today, it's not hard to find people claiming that Donald Trump's adversaries are obsessed, deranged, or conspiracy-obsessed witch hunters. A search of Twitter finds an infinitely long stream of references to "Trump derangement syndrome."

Now, here's the thing: Sometimes it's true. Clinton, Bush, Obama and Trump all had—and have—their haters. And some people do lose their bearings and immediately leap to the most outlandish interpretation of the facts (or rumors disguised as facts). The paranoid style is a bipartisan phenomenon in American life.

But sometimes the people making the "derangement syndrome" or "hater" charge are the ones who refuse to see the facts, taking comfort in the fallacy that the motives, real or imagined, of a critic automatically disqualify the criticism.

As Emory University political scientists Alan Abramowitz and Steven Webster have documented, we live in a moment of extreme negative partisanship: Millions of Americans are driven more by the dislike of the other party than by attachment to their own.

In this kind of climate, being hated by the right people is the best way to get not just a big following but an intensely loyal one. I've written about this before, but I think it's worth revisiting in the context of Alexandria

Ocasio-Cortez, the "it girl" (sorry, "it person") of the left these days.

AOC, as many call her, is attractive, young, Hispanic and almost eloquent in her passion for some ill-defined notion of socialism or social democracy. She also says many untrue and silly things. Just this week she suggested in a tweet that the Pentagon misplaced some \$21 trillion in funding that could have paid for most of a \$32 trillion "Medicare for All" scheme. A Defense Department spokesman told the *Washington Post's* Fact Checker column: "DoD hasn't received \$21 trillion in (nominal) appropriated funding across the entirety of American history."

In recent months, she said unemployment was low because so many people are working two jobs (that's not how it works), that the "upper-middle class doesn't exist anymore" (it does), and that we'd save money on funeral expenses if we had "Medicare for All."

If you point out the absurdity of these things, the almost instantaneous defense is that her critics are obsessed with an incoming-freshman congresswoman. In some cases, they're right. The fixation some conservatives have with her clothes is over the top (though I did love one wag's phrase, "Neiman Marxist").

But what her defenders leave out is their own obsession with the woman.

In other words, AOC is quite brilliantly playing a lot of people for suckers. She already has more Twitter followers than the other 60 incoming freshman Democrats combined.

Ocasio-Cortez, wittingly or not, has appropriated a technique mastered by President Trump.

Trump prefers positive attention, but he'll take negative attention over no attention every time, in part because he knows his supporters will intensify their dedication to him in response to allegedly unfair attacks. AOC is doing the same thing. By forcing partisans to take sides, she generates controversy. Controversy attracts media attention. Media attention generates even more controversy. And so on.

I suspect this will be the new model for years to come.

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