

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 Unpublished items are not acknowledged or returned.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:

I would like to address some inaccuracies about the book "George" that are circulating in our community. The book was NOT a required reading assignment for any student or grade level at Sisters Middle School.

It was one of 32 new titles added to our library. It was added to our collection because it was on the 2018-2019 Battle of the Books list. These titles are chosen annually by members of the Oregon Association of School Libraries. The reading program that has been referenced in many of the letters to the editor is one we have offered to students for over a decade.

During our spring reading program, students are encouraged to select novels of their preference allowing them to move through the titles at their own rate and level. Multiple copies of the 32 Battle of the Books titles were

purchased last year so all students had many titles they could choose from.

Six of the 250 books we purchased last year were titled "George." Students had the new selections plus hundreds of other books in our classrooms and library to read. Never has a single book been identified as required reading in this program. We try to support all students as they self-select novels through discussion, reflection and accompanying work. Students bring these titles home and can share what they are learning with families as well.

Tiffany Tisdell
5th-grade teacher at Sisters Middle School

♦ ♦ ♦

To the Editor:
If you have the ability to do something

See **LETTERS** on page 15

Sisters Weather Forecast

Courtesy of the National Weather Service, Pendleton, Oregon

Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday	Monday
Rain 47/31	Rain/Snow 50/33	Mostly Sunny 52/31	Mostly Sunny 57/35	Cloudy 58/39	Showers 54/38

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Disappointed in planning commission

By Doug Wills
Correspondent

The planning commission meeting last week was very disappointing. Watching the planning commission working on the new Hayden development, McKenzie Meadows Village, was painful.

I want to thank Jack Nagel for all his efforts to make the other commissioners understand the need for the gates. Jack understood the need for the safety and the fact that our streets are too small for a main thoroughfare. Unfortunately, his comments fell on deaf ears. The other commissioners all voted against the citizens of the Village at Cold Springs. They cared more about an outdated code than the safety of the children and seniors that live, play and walk on Williamson and Hill.

They all believed Mr. Beeson when he was more worried about McKinney Butte and the roundabout than the safety of the 300-plus citizens of Sisters that live in the Village at Cold Springs. I also find it interesting and disturbing that several of them never visited the Village at Cold Springs, did any measurements of the streets to see the actual size, rather than relying on Mr. Beeson and the City staff.

I also find it interesting that they were willing to change the various codes for Hayden's benefit at this meeting, but not for the benefit of the citizens of Village at Cold Springs. In fact, the City has a history of changing the codes for Hayden.

There were overwhelming comments and evidence presented at the meeting on March 7 talking about safety and the fact that these are private streets owned and maintained by the homeowners in the Village at Cold Springs.

Two of the members of

the planning commission were not in attendance at the March 7 meeting, yet they voted against the citizens of Sisters. I am hard-pressed to believe they read every e-mail submission, every letter and listened to the recording of the March 7th meeting. You cannot understand the emotion of the citizens by reading something. They should have recused themselves.

The City hired a "traffic engineer" from Bend who I don't think ever visited the Village at Cold Springs. He just read off the plans and the codes given to him by City staff. He said the streets are 28 feet wide, when in fact the paved area is 24 feet wide. You can't count the curbs because you can't drive on them or park on them. Mr. Beeson made that comment. These streets are privately owned, maintained and the HOA pays taxes on these streets. He said the "code says these streets need to be connected so as to relieve traffic on McKinney Butte and the roundabout."

The important aspect of this vote for the citizens of the Village at Cold Springs was the installation of the gates to minimize the traffic flowing through our neighborhood on our very narrow and private streets. Listening to the discussion, none of them understood what kind of a gate we were talking about. I know the oral comments were cut off, but don't you think they could have asked us since we have all the information on how these gates would work and were all in the room to answer the questions and explain how they would work?

I know the Planning Commission is a volunteer commission and I appreciate how difficult this can be. But they need to be more in tune with the needs of the citizens of Sisters. The citizens are who should be protected!

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