

LETTERS

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To the Editor:

As many have heard through multiple media sources, public school teachers throughout the state of Oregon have organized a statewide walk-out to send the message to state government that our schools need to be fully funded, something that has not happened in over a decade.

The Sisters Education Association wants to support our fellow teachers throughout the state who are not as fortunate to teach in a district that supports their schools as the Sisters community does.

In working with the district superintendent and our members, we are committed to not disrupting our students learning, but do want to show support to other teachers throughout the state. To accomplish this, teachers will be walking out of school when our students are dismissed for the day on Wednesday, May 8, and will hold a rally in front of our district office on Cascade Avenue to share the message with our community that full funding for education has to happen and it has to happen now.

Please come out and support your teachers and your schools at 3:15 p.m., Wednesday May 8, and help us spread the word that education matters. If you aren't able to attend but support full funding for education, please contact your state legislators and share with them that you support their fully funding of education in our state at Rep.JackZika@oregonlegislature.gov and Sen.TimKnopp@oregonlegislature.gov.

Michele Hammer
President, Sisters Education Association

To the Editor:

A background in biology/education flavors my opposition to HB-3063, but my concerns touch on the economic, educational, public safety, and human impact aspects.

As a female business co-owner with \$7 million revenue employing 300+ Oregonians, who adopted 7 kids out of our foster care crisis, I'm convinced this mandate will hit our state — and hard.

Brave, underfunded educators already campaign for the diverse ability levels of their students. With the 31,000 kids that will lose their current vaccine exemption(s), schools alone stand to take a \$248 mil funding hit.

Segregating students susceptible to further toxin injury into isolated, screen-based "learning" will only add to our mental-health crisis. This embarrassing offering of an "education" will tank our notoriously low graduation rates.

Oregon students are diverse in need and access that, for many, breakfasts/lunches at school are the only reliable meals they experience.

There are ZERO exemptions for students with any of the following: heart/organ failure, seizures, family death, autism, or MTHFR mutation. That puts public safety at risk. We've seen 0 measles deaths in the U.S. since 2015, yet 459 measles vaccine deaths in just the last 5 months. And these local outbreaks? Over 1/4th of them involve fully-vaccinated individuals.

In our #MeToo climate, when women are finally exercising a voice to coercion, WHY are we modeling for girls that they have no choice/consent over what goes into or touches their bodies, holding their educations hostage for it?

Caroline Cizek
Bend, OR

To the Editor:

Over the last several years, we have all watched wildfires blaze much too close our homes for comfort. But despite the obvious fire dangers, the USFS still allows target shooters to congregate in ever-growing numbers, using ever-increasing powerful weapons, firing enormous numbers of rounds per minute much too close to Sisters and close-by residential communities. You can hear them shooting in automatic mode even when it is 90 degrees and the wind is blowing 25 mph.

What I worry about most is a shooter doing something that's just really stupid. The smallest spark could start a fire that would turn Sisters or nearby residential communities into the next Paradise, California. There is no way emergency crews could possibly respond in time.

The USFS should act before something really tragic happens and they find themselves responsible for millions of dollars of losses. Target shooting should be banned from the national forests or at least shooters should be forced to move much, much further away from our town and communities. After all, just how difficult is it to drive a few extra miles for the sake of safety.

To understand just how dangerous shooting can be, I suggest readers consult the USFS's own sponsored research paper "A Study of Ignition by Rifle Bullets" (Research Paper RMRS-RP-104) which found without a doubt that bullets can ignite fires. Or just Google "can target shooting cause wildfires" where you will find that target shooting can and does indeed cause many wildfires.

Why should we all have to take such risks so a few shooters can just have some fun?

Rick Canter



GRAPHIC PROVIDED

The Forest Service has sold part of its Sisters HQ property. Two parcels are still on the market.

LAND SALE: Parcel will be divided into industrial lots

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Sisters District Ranger Ian Reid told an open house audience in April that a new Forest Service headquarters facility is planned to be located along Highway 20 west of Rail Way, just

beyond the new GrandStay Hotel.

According to a press release, the buyer is affiliated with Kevin Spencer of Empire Construction and Development and they plan to offer 2.5 acre industrial lots; they look forward to working with the City of Sisters and Economic Development for Central Oregon (EDCO) on this parcel of land.

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