

O P I N I O N



Welcome, Sisters Rhythm & Brews Festival musicians and patrons!

Mr. Sipp thrilled Sisters Rhythm & Brews Festival fans last year and he's back July 26 and 27.

PHOTO BY JERRY BALDOCK

## 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 Unpublished items are not acknowledged or returned.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 just read the update from Sisters Folk Festival concerning the City of Sisters instructing the Deschutes County Sheriff to be more active in ticketing RVs/campers/vans parked on the side of the road (public areas) during the Sisters Folk Festival. I believe the citations will cost between \$25-\$35.

I am sure over the years a few folks have complained, a few campers have blocked driveways and that for some areas of town there are more campers parked around than other parts, so there is understanding of the situation. However, I always thought it was so great that the City of Sisters let folks just park and be a part of the music festival, walk everywhere and truly become part of town. Volunteers (around 400) are often people that can't afford a ticket and in turn really can't afford a hotel either but come here to help and listen to the music. Obviously, all the campgrounds are full during that time, so personally I thought it was a great thing that

the City looked the other way and shared the streets.

I think this year since there will be some enforcement, if you have a driveway and you don't mind someone parking in it, you ought to put a sign out on Wednesday or Thursday before the festival and welcome folks to contact you for a place to land. Get to know some new people that love music and continue to welcome RVs/campers/vans to town to be a part of the Folk Festival.

This music festival is special and stimulates the economy one last time before the summer comes to an end. Let's keep making music-lovers feel welcome and offer up a place to land in town, I know I will. Change can be hard, and it has been a tradition for some people for many, many years — so maybe your offer would help one person navigate the changing times in a positive way.

Christine Funk

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### Sisters Weather Forecast

Courtesy of the National Weather Service, Pendleton, Oregon

Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday	Monday
Sunny 83/52	Sunny 90/56	Sunny 88/52	Sunny 83/50	Sunny 88/51	Sunny 86/50

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## Get involved with a vision for the future

By Mayor Chuck Ryan and City Manager Cory Misley

Cory and I want to update our entire community on the progress and key next steps of our extensive Sisters Country Vision project.

Why a vision now? As most of you know, visioning is a medium- to long-range plan (five to 10 years) for our community. The City's population growth exploded 112 percent from 2000 to 2010 and is up 32 percent from 2010 to 2018. That rapid growth can affect many aspects of our quality of life, especially if we are not planning and working together accordingly. Without being proactive, we will most assuredly undermanage that growth and that could lead to issues that affect all of us, given our small and unique community. We take this very seriously and started the visioning effort in early 2018.

We jumped at the chance to make this a broad, community-wide vision and concluded our input phase with over 2,000 participants, garnering thousands of individual comments and bold ideas. This input led to the finalization of 20 top strategies across four key themes (not in order) for Sisters: Prosperous, Livable, Resilient, and Connected. Each of these 20 strategies has sub-strategies, action items, and suggested lead/supporting partners. The full plan document can be found at [www.sistersvision.org](http://www.sistersvision.org), and I encourage you to read it because this is your plan! Keep in mind that this is a "living" document that will require updates as we move forward.

There are too many people and organizations to thank for helping us get to this point, and we have created a summary Sisters Country Vision brochure that is available at City Hall, the Chamber of Commerce, and other areas around our community, as well as available to view on the Vision website. The booklet gives credit to many of the key participants in this project in addition to the entire public.

Where are we heading

from here? We have formed a vision implementation team consisting of key public entities across the community. The team of 12-14 local leaders will navigate and oversee the execution phase going forward. This group cannot possibly execute these 20 strategies on its own — the goal is to branch off and recruit sub-teams that have a passion and expertise in a particular strategy and can help get things done. This effort going forward cannot be under-estimated; we will need many resources — both people and financial — to be successful. Realistically, some of the strategies may be deferred from a timing and priority standpoint as to not derail overall success by tackling too much at one time.

We have already achieved significant progress in certain strategies. You will be kept informed through the Vision website, public gatherings, potential town halls, and (like this column) periodic print updates.

Cory and I would like to leave you with the most important message: Please get involved in this effort! We need your help and support, and you can truly make a difference to our community's future. All of us have unique skills and abilities that can assist with successful execution of the various strategies. I am amazed at the level of talent and diversity we have in this small community. Many of you live here because of the unique nature of Sisters Country, and with your help we truly want to preserve that together.

How do you get involved? The easiest way is to go to [www.sistersvision.org](http://www.sistersvision.org) and click on the contact link. You can also send an email to myself or Cory and express your interest. Our email addresses are on the City website: [www.ci.sisters.or.us](http://www.ci.sisters.or.us).

Thanks again to the Sisters City Council for kicking off the visioning process and everyone involved to this point, and we look forward to executing the Sisters Country Vision with your help.

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