

O P I N I O N



Welcome, musicians and music-lovers to the 2019 Sisters Folk Festival!

ISTOCKPHOTO.COM/TAMILISA MINER

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 Unpublished items are not acknowledged or returned.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:

A dollar store in Sisters? Seriously? And to add insult to injury, right next door and competing with Bi-Mart, which is in every way a more useful place to shop.

The fact that Sisters would welcome such development is enough to turn me cynical regarding the entire visioning process that our community engaged in. What next — Walmart? Factory Outlet Mall? What a sure-fire way to undermine our identity as a hub of art, music, recreation and natural beauty.

I ask the Planning Commission to please, for the love of Sisters, put a stop to this degrading development.

Susanna DeFazio



To the Editor:

My husband is working for the U.S. Census and currently verifying addresses in the Sisters and Central Oregon area in preparation for the 2020 census mailing. He carries a briefcase clearly marked U.S. Census and has a lanyard

badge with his name and photo on it. If your address is on his list, he is required to come to your door and, if you are home, ask you two brief questions to verify your address.

He's not an axe-murderer and he's not going to steal your stuff. At one house in a local neighborhood he was actually told by the woman living there that "he could get shot" for walking up to someone's door. What kind of a world do we live in where people think like that? How about offering him a cookie instead — and thanking him for his efforts.

Ann Richardson



To the Editor:

Following the mass shootings in El Paso on August 3 in which 22 innocent people were murdered and 24 were wounded and the mass shooting in Dayton, Ohio in which 10 innocent people were killed and 17 injured like many others I put my flag at half-staff in memory of

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Sisters Weather Forecast

Courtesy of the National Weather Service, Pendleton, Oregon

Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday	Monday
Sunny 88/59	PM Thunderstorms 85/57	Mostly Sunny 83/56	PM Thunderstorms 76/50	Partly Cloudy 69/45	Partly Cloudy 70/44

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Member

Postmaster: Send address changes to

The Nugget Newspaper,

P.O. Box 698, Sisters, OR 97759.

Third Class Postage Paid at Sisters, Oregon.

Editor in Chief: Jim Cornelius

Production Manager: Leith Easterling

Graphic Design: Jess Draper

Community Marketing Partners:

Vicki Curlett & Patti Jo Beal

Classifieds & Circulation: Lisa May

Proofreader: Pete Rathbun

Owner: J. Louis Mullen

The Nugget is mailed to residents within the Sisters School District; subscriptions are available outside delivery area. Third-class postage: one year, \$45; six months (or less), \$25. First-class postage: one year, \$85; six months, \$55.

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Truth or narratives?

By Rian Schermerhorn
Guest Columnist

I read a letter to the editor last week from Laura West regarding racism in America, and more specifically white supremacy, that contained some good points. Racism absolutely still exists. As does white supremacy, which is just one of the many types of racism that we see in the United States today.

I don't dispute this, but I do take issue with the false narratives she used to prove her point. Irresponsible actions like this add to the growing divisiveness that we're seeing continue to spread throughout the country. It also shows a blind faith in a media that has been proven to push these false narratives over and over in an attempt to sway a largely uneducated public opinion for purely political purposes.

One example used by Ms. West about Trump's controversial comments regarding Mexican immigrants is a perfect illustration. Stating that the President referred to all Mexican immigrants as rapists and drug dealers is completely false. He said that many who have come here illegally are rapists and drug dealers. This is true. The Texas Department of Public Safety shares crime statistics related to illegal aliens, and in fact, there have been over 10,000 arrests related to sex-related crimes, over 1,000 homicides, around 50,000 drug-related crimes, and about the same amount of assaults over the last eight years.

This is just one state where illegal border crossings are at all-time highs. But what is often left out by people like Ms. West is that Trump also said that most are honest, hardworking people just looking for a better life. This, of course, doesn't fit the desired narrative, so it is left out.

Ms. West also mentioned the Twitter feud between President Trump and the "Squad" — Congresswomen

Ocasio-Cortez, Tlaib, Omar and Pressley. All four of these elected officials have been highly critical of the President (as well as members of their own caucus) with a constant barrage of claims of racism, sexism, homophobia, xenophobia, etc. Yet, the media turns a blind eye when anti-Semitic statements are made, as well as corroborated claims of multiple types of fraud and campaign finance crimes by these same four women. Their histories are ignored. When the President defends himself and calls attention to these issues, he's a racist simply because they are women of color? This is the *literal definition* of racism and sexism.

I am tired of the rhetoric that strays far from reality, as there are many examples of this available to anyone willing to do the research with an objective mind. It is entirely possible that Ms. West is an unfortunate victim of a media that purposely pushes the false narrative of racism every chance they get — often creating it where none exists.

It is ultimately up to each of us to seek truth (even when we might not like it) or be content to be fed a narrative like blind sheep. And make no mistake — the mainstream media absolutely has an agenda. We have many alternative news sources today, and while most seem biased one way or another, the truth can often be found somewhere in the middle. Our government is not perfect, and we're finding more and more about the deep-rooted corruption that has existed within it for a long time, but it helps no one to simply spew rhetoric and false narratives for partisan purposes.

My hope is that we in Sisters can rise above such nonsense, as it only leads to division and what we're seeing in Portland with the lawless Antifa mobs. We owe it to ourselves to focus on truth whether it aligns with our ideologies or not. Anything less is just adding to the problem.

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