

# O P I N I O N



Mr. Coyote is raiding Mother Nature's refrigerator for a snack.

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 Unpublished items are not acknowledged or returned.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 am writing to thank Sisters residents for sharing the true meaning of Christmas with children in need this past holiday season.

Because of the generosity of donors in Sisters and across the United States, Operation Christmas Child, a project of Samaritan's Purse, collected more than 8.9 million shoebox gifts in 2019. Combined with those collected from partnering countries in 2019, the ministry is now sending 10,569,405 shoebox gifts to children worldwide.

Through shoeboxes — packed with fun toys, school supplies and hygiene items — Sisters volunteers brought joy to children in need around the world. Each gift-filled shoebox is a tangible expression of God's love, and it is often the first gift these children have ever received. Thanks to the generosity of donors, Operation Christmas Child has collected and delivered more than 178 million gift-filled shoeboxes to children in more than 160 countries and territories since 1993.

It's not too late for people to make a difference. Though drop-off locations serving

Sisters are closed until November 16 – 23, 2020, information about year-round volunteer opportunities can also be found at [samaritanspurse.org/occ](http://samaritanspurse.org/occ) or by calling 253-572-1155.

Thank you again to everyone who participated in this global project — many who do so year after year. These simple gifts, packed with love, send a message to children worldwide that they are loved and not forgotten.

Dana Williams  
Operation Christmas Child

♦ ♦ ♦

To the Editor:

I am not alone in being seriously disappointed about the direction Sisters is taking in its growth. I understand that the City cannot legally bar Dollar General, however surely the City can recommend to the developers that their store is entirely out of tune with what has made Sisters a desirable place to visit and to live. It's time for the City Council and the

See **LETTERS** on page 23

## Meet me at the Fair

By Bob Collins, Cal Allen, Kathy Campbell

Guest Columnists

Each spring for the past nine years, members of the Sisters Science Club have sung this Judy Garland lyric as they began preparations for the annual Sisters Science Fair. Now that the Sisters School District has decided to suspend the Fair (hopefully for just a year), let's consider the wondrous benefits of a community-wide science fair.

First, for the students, the fair provides an opportunity unique in the District for students in all grades, K-12, to come together and interact in a way that is educational, competitive, and simply a lot of fun. And they do this in the nucleus of the adult community, engaging parents, siblings, grandparents, aunts, uncles, cousins and mentors in their experience.

Second, for the teachers, the fair provides three unique opportunities. Teachers can instruct (and can grade) their students on how to present scientific data to the public, in tri-fold posters, experiments and demonstrations. They can see what other teachers and students are doing throughout the District. And they can learn themselves of the richness of science in the exhibits from club members and the community.

Third, for the community, the fair not only offers the opportunity to see students show off their stuff and the opportunity to learn science themselves by seeing and doing experiments, but perhaps most important, the fair engages community members in helping produce it. And the participation has been phenomenal; in many years we have had more volunteers than tasks.

And, for every year, community organizations have contributed exhibits: Kiwanis, the U.S. Forest Service, St. Charles Medical Center, Mohr Solutions, Sisters Astronomy Club, Rocket Club, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, Energyneering, OMSI, and the High Desert Museum.

And finally, over the years, many families have joined their students to create experiments, design catapults, or just explore exhibits together. Fourth, the fair honors and demonstrates the importance of science in society. At the time of the first fair in 2011, the acronym STEM had not yet been coined — there was no unified movement in education for Science, Technology, Engineering and Math. Today, Sisters schools are part of a national effort to adopt a rigorous new science curriculum that runs from kindergarten through high school called NGSS — Next Generation Science Standards. Finally, the Science Club's lecture series at The Belfry, with more than 50 presentations so far, has stimulated science education in the schools. Many speakers visit the schools for presentations and classroom activities. Many teachers give credit to students who attend the lectures. This interaction has resulted in exhibits at the fair that have been on the forefront of scientific thinking, such as Einstein's model of gravity. In addition, several lecturers have initiated and/or supported student field trips to the Hutchinson Cancer Research Center, the Flight Science program and the Seed-to-Table organization. The greatest discovery of science has been that science itself is a way of exploring the world that discloses its secrets and reveals facts that can be verified by others. The exercise and application of science is our best hope, perhaps our only hope, for addressing global warming, cancer, drug addiction and many other current and future problems. All of us, students and community members, must become citizens of science if we are to be fully engaged in our world. The Sisters Science Fair gives all of us the opportunity to participate. We hope you will meet us at the Fair in 2021.

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All of us, students and community members, must become citizens of science if we are to be fully engaged in our world. The Sisters Science Fair gives all of us the opportunity to participate. We hope you will meet us at the Fair in 2021.

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

### Sisters Weather Forecast

Courtesy of the National Weather Service, Pendleton, Oregon

Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday	Monday
Rain/Snow 46/39	Showers 50/38	Showers 48/35	Showers 47/37	Showers 48/35	Showers 47/35

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