

O P I N I O N

A hint of spring...

Balmy, clear air brought the Three Sisters into sharp relief last week, but long-time Sisters residents know that it's just a tease.



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 Unpublished items are not acknowledged or returned.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:

On behalf of the Sisters Kiwanis Club, I want to thank all those people in the Sisters community who once again supported this year's See's Candy Sale event.

A special thank-you goes to Ray's for all the years of allowing Kiwanis to set up our trailer in their parking lot. This is one of our most popular fundraising events. This is a classic win-win situation – the community can buy some delicious See's candy and Sisters youth programs will benefit from the proceeds.

ALL the proceeds, after the candy's cost, are distributed to youth programs. All the candy must be prepaid and unsold candy cannot be returned. So, without community support, this event could end up losing money.

So once again, your support resulted in Kiwanis raising several thousand dollars to

distribute to Sisters scholarships, youth clubs and other various youth events.

Doug Wills,
President, Sisters Kiwanis



To the Editor:

Charlie Kanzig made me laugh out loud. His "Running Commentary" column about dog poop bags was epic.

As a frequent user of trails, the proliferation of dog poop bags the last few years has been an interesting phenomenon. Maybe they think the trail Dog Poop Fairy is going to swoop in every evening and pick them up. There are garbage cans on either end of PRT where they can be disposed.

See **LETTERS** on page 20

Closure of Book Corner is a disservice

By **Wendie Vermillion**
Guest Columnist

Many folks in Sisters are lamenting the loss of our Book Corner, the long-time source of used books and DVDs, etc. Of course we all cheer the prospect of library expansion in any of the Deschutes Library branches, but I think a few aspects of the reorganization need to be highlighted.

The Nugget article (January 20) didn't mention that Director Todd Dunkelberg ordered dissolution of all "Friends of the Sisters Library" (FOSL) groups because he felt the funds raised were "not significant enough" to merit continuing the non-profit endeavor at any of the branches. However, the Sisters group pulls in several thousand dollars each year, largely because most of us thought it was directly used to benefit our library and all its endeavors. He basically negated all of the countless hours, books and dollars donated by so many over all these years.

The article also didn't tell us that all accumulated funds in our Sisters Friends account would be transferred to the new Deschutes Library Foundation, to be administered from Bend, nor the amount accumulated in our local fund.

However, instead of explaining exactly why our FOSL non-profit groups were being dissolved, some of the local library staff have apparently been trying to rationalize the closure by telling volunteers and other members of the public that the library needs the space for remodeling, and further, that we volunteers were getting too old and there were not enough of us to keep things going. In effect, they seemed to be trying to put the blame for closures in all branches on the volunteers! One individual attempting to justify the ending of the non-profit FOSL organization even explained to me that although our local group was doing OK, "One branch had only three volunteers and two of them were in wheelchairs; it's just sad." My reaction was, how wonderful!

Mentioning age as a

factor in the closures is a hurtful disservice to our volunteers and all others in Sisters, as if we don't all know our own limits — and strengths! In this community, it is the retired age group who staff most of the volunteer ranks of any community events, and we love being useful. Yes, a few folks cannot lift heavy boxes of books, but most of us have managed for many years to paw through bags and boxes of peoples' donations and get them shelved for browsing.

One volunteer said, "What age must one be to lift a book?" In my nine years I only recall having to close once for lack of a volunteer! But what Mr. Dunkelberg doesn't understand is that the Book Corner, besides being an important funding source, became a cozy haven for folks to drop in, chat maybe, share in the greater purpose by purchasing or donating books, thus feeling a part of a community goodwill endeavor. We have not only raised many thousands of dollars, but also have contributed to our community's literacy needs with book donations to groups, free coupons and certainly affordable reading, particularly for children.

I doubt any of us will feel the same devotion toward a vague "foundation" without the personal connection.

I believe all volunteers accept the need for change as Central Oregon grows, and we cheer the retention of our wonderful art endeavors under Zeta Seiple's experienced hand. However, the library and FOSL leadership might have shown respect for all Book Corner current and past volunteers with the actual reason, coming straight from the top, rather than propagating the myth of age and inadequate numbers. Those two simple words, "thank you," tacked on to the recent article would have been a nice touch.

So I will add a special thanks to all past and present managers (Lisa Shaddox), and volunteer workers, donors and "Friends." Jim Anderson, folks still request your beautiful nature bookmarks!

Sisters Weather Forecast

Courtesy of the National Weather Service, Pendleton, Oregon

Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday	Monday
Showers 46/39	Showers 48/39	Partly Cloudy 50/33	Showers 44/30	Partly Cloudy 44/27	Mostly Sunny 48/30

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