

LETTERS

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compelled to go ahead and approve the project. That is, only five members made the decision that so adversely affects the entire community of Sisters. That is not right. I have spoken to many people who agree with me.

I feel that the citizens of Sisters should have the right to vote on this enormous project instead of it being forced on us by so few. That is how a democracy works. We are losing our rights.

People have come here for years to view the majesty of all the mountains and to enjoy the charm, quaintness, peacefulness and serenity of our unique town. They come here to shop.

Please do not destroy what we have left by allowing the multi-family project to go forward. Consider the increased amount of traffic that will occur in that already congested area.

Instead of more housing, what we need is another grocery store located away from the core of the city.

Donna Holland



To the Editor,

Today we are in a seriously dangerous time, but we are fortunate to live in a community like Sisters where we care for each other. There has been much discussion about what to do and what not to do during this pandemic. I'd like to add one other suggestion along those lines: be sure you are getting accurate information and don't share that information unless you are certain it is from a reliable news, government or medical source.

I personally witnessed how important that is over the past week. First, I had a phone conversation with a friend who asked how we were doing. I said we were working from home and practicing social distancing.

"You're overreacting," he said. "I'm going to send you a link to an article written by someone who had coronavirus and says it was no worse than the flu."

I told my friend I had read that same article and felt it should never have been printed and that he should not be passing it along, because it was written by someone in their 30s. I had just read about a study of people who died from coronavirus which revealed that of 117 deaths, 116 were elderly and one person was in their 30s. My friend and I are both in our 70s. The article my friend wanted me to read was creating a false sense of relative safety about the disease.

Then yesterday we got a phone call from our son in California who was extremely agitated and angry. He said that a friend of a friend worked for FEMA and that this person

— who is highly reliable, my son asserted — said the president is going to enact something called the Stafford Act and bring out the National Guard to take away our freedom.

For the second time I had to correct misinformation. This isn't something secret that only "a friend of a friend" knows about, I told him. If you watch reliable news reports, you would know that the president already used the Stafford Act to declare a national emergency. This act allows FEMA to send funds to cities and states in a time of crisis. And if the National Guard is called up, I said, it will be to quickly set up tent hospitals in soccer stadiums and Safeway parking lots, not to take away your freedom.

Franklin Delano Roosevelt told the nation on the brink of The Great Depression that "the only thing we have to fear is fear itself." He was half right. We also have to fear misinformation. My fellow citizens, please follow the news closely, it is important. But be sure of your source. You can generally trust *The Nugget*, *Bend Bulletin*, CNN, ABC, NBC and CBS. Be cautious about texts, tweets, emails and Fox News. Stay safe, my friends.

David Purviance



To the Editor:

Five days: 500 masks. The Center for Disease Control has issued guidance for health care providers facing the possible exhaustion of all supplies of approved face masks. As a last resort, the CDC is pointing health care providers to homemade masks.

Sisters Country can help providers be ready. Let us challenge ourselves to make 500 masks in the next five days.

I am assembling kits from which even a novice could complete five masks in less than three hours. I invite your help. Here's what you can do:

1. Highest priority: Donate used or new 100 percent cotton T-shirts. I've placed a curbside collection box outside my home. We need approximately 63 shirts. 100 percent cotton only, please.

2. Sign up with me by email if you are willing to help assemble kits (some sewing/cutting skills required), pete.sisters@gmail.com.

3. Sign up with me by email if you are willing to pick up a kit on Wednesday. Each kit will make five masks. You'd need to return to me all five completed masks the next day (Thursday). A sewing machine and minimal sewing skills are all that would be required. Printed and online video instruction will be provided.

All contacts will be completed with the appropriate social distancing. Thank you for considering this request.

Pete Shepherd

Bank offers lines of credit for businesses

Washington Federal Bank is offering small businesses lines of credit up to \$200,000 interest free for 90 days for those affected by COVID-19. The bank, which has a branch in Sisters, has committed \$100 million in lines of credit to help small businesses weather the crisis brought on by restrictions mandated to slow the spread of the coronavirus.

"Businesses are really struggling as our neighbors limit shopping and eating at restaurants to follow public

health orders to avoid large crowds," said President and CEO Brent Beardall. "We want to offer these affected business owners a lifeline to help them make it through this crisis."

The bank has expedited lines of credit up to \$30,000, available for creditworthy businesses that have been in operation at least two years and can show a 10 percent loss in revenue due to coronavirus impacts.

For more information visit www.wafdbank.com.

Gypsy Wind Clothing

Good News in Tough Times!
"We are expanding & moving! We are working hard at getting the new space ready for our unveiling and will reopen as soon as possible!"

NEW ADDRESS: 183 E. HOOD AVE., SISTERS

SISTERS RENTAL

FREE DELIVERY & FREE PICK UP

Family-first has always been a priority for Sisters Rental as long as we have had our doors open. This value extends to not only our employees and their families, but also to you as a member of our community. As we see it, our job has always been and will continue to be providing essential services to our community. As such, we want to lend a hand during this evolving situation and offer free delivery and pick up of the majority of our rental equipment to your door step. In addition, free pick up and return of any outdoor power equipment that you need serviced within "Sisters Country."

Our doors will remain open at Sisters Rental and protocols are in place to ensure the safety of our employees and customers. Part of these safety protocols include offering alternatives for our customers to decrease in-person activity. We understand the challenges and concerns during this time and want to alleviate your worries as much as possible.

You can also trust that all equipment will be cleaned and sanitized as it always has been and that our delivery team will be kind and considerate when delivering and picking up. This offer will be available through the end of March as we continue to monitor everything.

Give us a call 541-549-9631, we look forward to talking with you. We are all in this together.

— Pat Thompson & The Sisters Rental Team

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