

LETTERS

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kids every day. I'm hoping people will take the time this week to reach out to a teacher and let them know how much we value them.

Thank you teachers of District No. 6. We love you!

Debra Lajko and family



To the Editor:

I just wanted to write to express my concern about the new prevalence of orange parking notices that I have been seeing all around town.

This greatly frustrates me that the city and sheriff have decided that now is a great time to crack down on parking — during a worldwide pandemic. It was already frustrating enough to hear a while back about the city's new, very unreasonable policy for the Sisters Folk Festival parking and now this? What is happening to the small little town that used to be so quaint and reasonable about things? What is happening to common sense?

Should people really be getting threats of having their own vehicles towed for parking in a city parking spot in a town with a little over 2,000 people and PLENTY of parking spaces? And during a pandemic when people are struggling just to make it and get by? To me it just seems ridiculous, especially right now considering the circumstances.

The tons of parking spaces in Sisters are not even close to getting filled up and that's what annoys me so much about seeing all these orange notices. It hasn't even happened to my vehicle, I just think it's so unfair considering the size of this town and amount of available spaces.

One of the greatest things about Sisters was free parking and it looks as if that doesn't even exist anymore. Why in the world would anyone want this place to end up like all of the other cities? I moved away from the city to get away from that crap and I don't like that I see it happening here! Let's keep the corporate, big city mentality OUT of Sisters. Please.

Andrew Roe



To the Editor:

I am buffaloed by the non-reopening action of our Governor related to deaths by COVID-19.

It is my understanding that all state parks have been closed until the spring of 2021. Our schools and colleges seem to be closed indefinitely. We cannot conduct community business in any normal kind of manner. We are told to stay at home and to not congregate in large groups.

The states do have the power to protect citizens from harm or danger. But in doing so the leaders have an obligation to communicate clearly the reasons for each decision. The state

does not have the right to issue unexplained orders and ignore the appeals of its citizens, regarding decisions made. People in a democracy need to understand the "why" of what is going on.

Our Governor has tied herself and our state politically to Washington and California in deciding when it will be appropriate to open up Oregon. That is crazy logic. The following information should help explain why her logic in doing so is faulty.

Oregon's death rate per 100,000 citizens is two! Washington's is 11, and California's is five. Regarding a comparison of death rates between the 50 United States and our four territories: Washington is 15th highest in deaths; California is 26th highest and Oregon is near the bottom at 44th highest. There are only six states that have a death rate of 1 per 100,000 citizens, which is the lowest.

It makes no sense to say that Oregon is even closely related to Washington or California regarding reopening the economy because of COVID-19 recovery circumstances.

It is time to make realistic plans for opening the state economy. It is time to make plans for starting school sooner rather than later. It is time to "give a little." It is time for my lovely wife to get her hair cut.

This data came from state and federal health sources through internet sites, such as U.S. COVID-19 death rates by states. Get on Siri and ask.

Gene Carlson



To the Editor:

Michael Wells recently criticized Mr. Tom Donohue's letter to the editor summarizing what he thought Mr. Donohue's points were in handling COVID-19, and then dismissing them as "right-wing talking points."

When we label our neighbors we devalue and disrespect them. Disagree with points, logic or presuppositions leading to conclusions, or the conclusions drawn but let's please not label others views as "liberal left-wing, right wing etc."

Let's show respect for our neighbors thought processes, values and individuality.

Gretchen Honan



To the Editor:

There are seven Republican candidates vying for the 2nd District U.S. Representative nomination: a crowded field to say the least. I believe Cliff Bentz is by far the best candidate to represent the 2nd District. He has a proven record of conservative leadership as a state representative and state senator over the past 12 years.

Cliff is pro-life, pro-second amendment and has proudly supported President Trump. Unlike some candidates who have recently

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Sisters writer receives grant from PEN America

Freelance journalist and poet Tiffany Lee Brown received a grant of \$1,000 from the PEN America Writers' Emergency Fund this week.

"As a community of literary professionals, PEN America is sympathetic to the struggle many face in making a living as a writer, and the added hardship resulting from the extraordinary ramifications of the COVID-19 epidemic," the organization wrote in its granting letter.

"With the help of generous supporters, we are glad to be able to offer assistance to a colleague during a difficult time."

Brown is a freelance writer and contributor to *The Nugget Newspaper*.

In the wake of World War I, PEN was formed to foster

international literary fellowship among writers that would transcend national and ethnic divides. Founding members included Willa Cather, Eugene O'Neill, Robert Frost and Booth Tarkington.

PEN America's current mission is to "defend free expression in the United States and internationally and to celebrate the power of words to change our world."

Brown said she was deeply grateful for the grant.

"Like so many parents, I find myself juggling a lot," she said. "Raising our son, doing school from home now, freelancing for *The Nugget*, doing work in the community."

That work includes Tea & Poetry, the Sisters

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