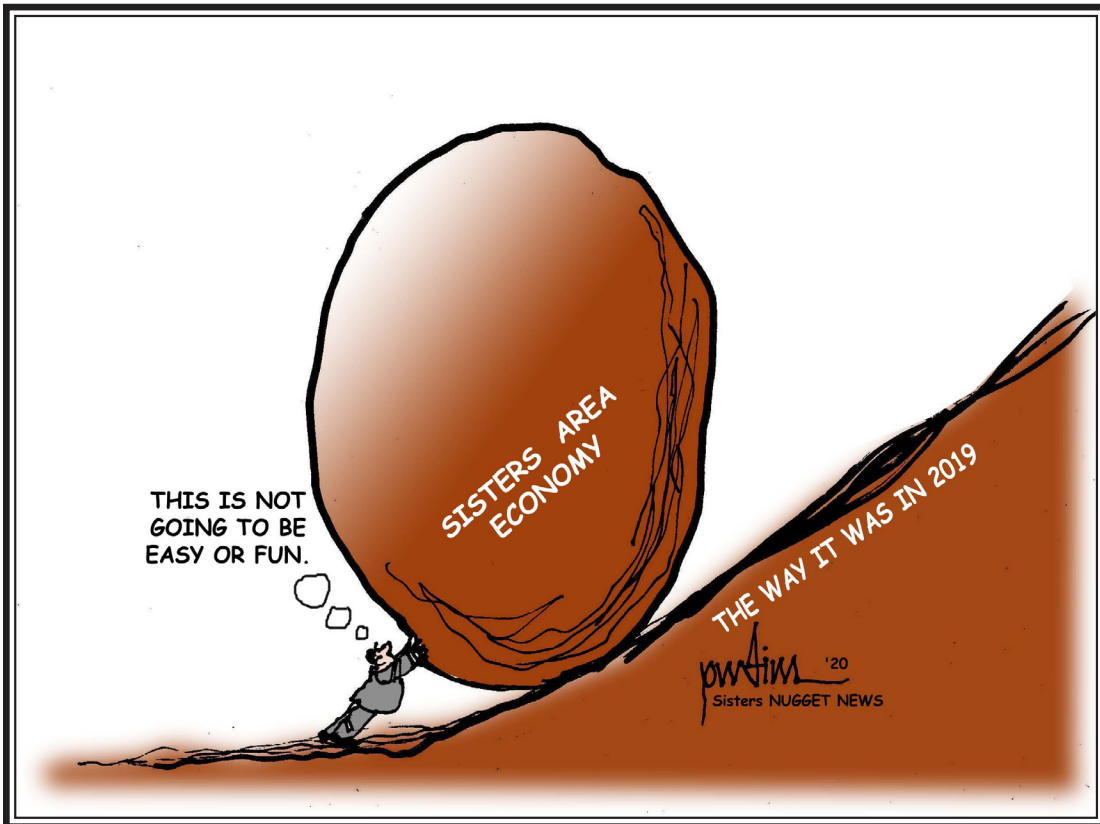


O P I N I O N



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 Unpublished items are not acknowledged or returned.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 10 a.m. Monday.

To the Editor:

I want to thank everyone who helped with the Class of 2020 Street Banner and Keepsake Project.

When Citizens4Community brought up the idea with parents and the school, we knew it was important for Sisters to come together to honor our graduating seniors during a tough time because of COVID-19. We were limited as a community in how much we could support our Sisters High School (SHS) seniors at graduation, but we could show our love through these banners.

We had no way of knowing C4C would get so much support for the project. This just shows how, as a community, we really are all in this together.

I'm a Class of 2021 student, and I had lost a lot of hope for these last couple years of my high school experience. Not knowing if or when I would go back to school has been a scary thought.

But after seeing how our community has

supported the Class of 2020, I know that, no matter what, it will be a great year. I have gained even more of a love for my community while watching this banner project happen. We are all facing such tough times right now, and seeing this kind of support from my community truly warms my heart.

Olivia Bertagna
C4C Youth Board Member

♦ ♦ ♦

To the Editor:

As two Sisters High School graduates and community members of color who have returned home before our final year in college, we are saddened by the racism undergirding our nation's historical and contemporary actions towards people of color.

The murder of George Floyd by police officers marks only the most recent wrongful

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Gratitude for Sisters community spirit

Joe Hosang

Sisters High School Principal

When our high school team was told in April that we would not be returning to school for the rest of the year, our hearts sank for the seniors. There were literally tears from a number of us. This lasted for about two days, and then we began to rally. We had ideas of how to celebrate our graduates coming from everywhere, and we put together a core team of Lynne Fendall, Jillian Frankl, and Mel Petterson to collect ideas for a few weeks.

These three were the heart, soul, and energy of graduation.

While we were collecting ideas for graduation, a two-person team, Lynne Fendall and Mel Peterson purchased "Class of 2020" signs from the Grad Night Party fundraising account and delivered them like a covert Navy SEAL team to each senior home.

That same week VAST Church and June's Asian Kitchen provided lunch for our entire district. The following week was teacher appreciation week. Since we had great feedback with the senior signs, we thought that the teachers would appreciate something similar. One problem, no funds. Lynne Fendall, having a "cando" attitude, reached out to the community. Within 24 hours, our community rallied and donated enough money for us to purchase signs and help us pay for lunch for the teachers.

I still remember her giving us updates on an hourly basis of how many people were donating. Our community is amazing! A team including Jillian Frankl, Tim Roth and Lynne Fendall went to work again delivering signs to the teachers' homes.

Things really started moving for graduation when Roger Dwight and the Rodeo Board offered to help with graduation. They said they would provide parking attendants, build steps and provide us with a stage, while Matt Cyrus donated his white trailer for us to use as a backdrop to the stage. Jerry Kaping and WellHouse Church connected us with Terry Cowen of New Life Radio, 104.9 who then said they would pay for our air time. We now had a place, a stage, and sound.

The next big piece was

getting a video screen. This almost paused the production because of the cost. Lynne found Mark Stenied of Northwest Video Wall out of Seattle. This gentleman really helped us out with his knowledge, efficiency, and cost. When we secured the screen, it was game on!

I remember feeling so overwhelmed by all the technical questions. Enter Brad Tisdell. Within a few days of having an understanding of what we needed him to do, he connected with all the key production players, acquired Ethan Singer from Nexus Productions for sound, and calmed our anxiety. There is no way we could have pulled off graduation without Brad Tisdell.

We connected with Sam Pyke from Hill Shadow Pictures to organize the videos as well as produce the Senior Song along with Rick Johnson. Samra Spear rallied the valedictorians. Tyler Cranor, Dan Schmidt, and Cole Seymour produced the introductory video of the staff. Susie Seaney collected all the senior pictures and baby pictures to create the senior slideshow. Susie also took an unexpected roll of acting liaison with Citizens4Community (C4C).

About two weeks from graduation Amy Burgstahler and Olivia Bertagna from C4C reached out and said they wanted to honor the graduates by purchasing an individual banner for each of the graduates. I remember thinking, "how cool, but how can we take on another initiative?" The answer was: "Ya live in Sisters, just ask for help." So Susie Seaney connected with Olivia and Amy and another gift for the graduates was in the works.

I'm still amazed at the support to make graduation special and memorable. C & C Nursery was bringing in truckloads of plants and trees to spruce up the stage. Three Sisters Floral donated flowers for each graduate. The Rodeo Queens, Mikaela Kollermaier and Riann Cornett, carried our Outlaw banner and our national flag.

I remember standing next to Brad Tisdell on graduation night, feeling this event may have been a little bigger than graduation. I felt like this was something our community wanted to make happen to feel some hope, some love, some joy. And we truly did it together. I love Sisters and I am so very grateful for your caring generosity.

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
Mostly Cloudy 80/51	Partly Cloudy 86/56	Sunny 91/57	Mostly Cloudy 79/47	Partly Cloudy 61/44	Showers 65/46

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