

O P I N I O N



Local photographer Kris Kristovich caught a fine image of Comet NEOWISE from Dee Wright Observatory last week.

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 Unpublished items are not acknowledged or returned.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:

Before you publish a slew of letters in support of anonymous federal troops in unmarked vehicles taking prisoner people on the streets of Portland, you might point out the hypocrisy — the whole Malheur occupation of federal lands in Burns by the Bundy-led group, including destruction of federal property, which was supported by the Proud Boy types who have not uttered a peep about sending federal troops into Portland to take people off the streets in order to protect federal property.

John Mapes



To the Editor:

I love *The Nugget* and appreciate your paper each time it comes out. I want to send a special “thank you” to Scout Arnone for her article about her student gently handling and releasing what he believed to be a black widow. (“*Scouting the Northwest: Fear not the false black widow,*”

The Nugget, June 8, page 29).

I teach my own sons to respect, and be kind to, the spiders in our house. My boys have learned to share their space with spiders and to recognize their inherent value.

Scout's story was beautiful to me and her student wise beyond his years. Her article made my day.

Cheers!
Owyhee Weikel-Magden



To the Editor:

One way to re-open schools with social distancing:

In 1946, my father came back from World War II, USS Salt Lake City (CA25). He was born and raised in Iowa. He was stationed in the Navy on the west coast along with hundreds of thousands of Midwesterners. At the end of the war he and 100,000 plus other

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Facing a challenging school year – together

By Jay Wilkins
Sisters School Board Chair

This is going to be a challenging school year in an unprecedented environment. Each school is creating a “Ready Schools, Safe Learners” plan that will deliver on the social, emotional and educational needs of our students while also honoring the needs of all the members of our educational community.

These plans can minimize and mitigate risk, but there is no risk-free option.

As with any undertaking in the district, our success relies on the support of the whole community. A robust plan is important, but the plan's ultimate success will be determined by how much the community embraces the plan and how well we work together.

I am proud to serve on our school board. However, I submit this letter only as a member of our community and as a parent. It is a request of the community to come together — as you have in the past — and help the district rise to the challenge ahead.

First, please engage in the planning process.

Second, assume positive intent. Every member of our community wants the best for our students. Someone's health needs, limits, concerns, fears, or reactions may be different from yours. Try to remember they're trying to do what they think is best even when you disagree with their actions.

Third, be curious. If you don't know what you'd

like to know, seek answers from the source. In a perfect world, the district would communicate everything to everyone in a timely fashion with 100 percent clarity and 0 percent ambiguity. This goal is seldom met. Asking questions of the source helps spread truth.

Fourth, tolerate with a smile. Safety processes and protocols will be inconvenient, unpleasant, and some may feel unnecessary. Let's debate the efficacy of such protocols in the after-action-review while setting a proud example of compliance in the meantime. Even small individual sacrifices can have large positive impacts on our community.

Finally, stay connected. My unofficial polling of parents across the state leads me to believe our teachers responded very admirably to the unplanned shift to distance learning. They strived to keep a deep personal connection with each student — the foundation for any real learning — through the computer screen. Even in the best-case plans for the coming year, there will be some safety requirements that interfere with the normal connections that build our fabric. We'll have to identify those gaps and work to close them.

I believe each building will create the best possible plan they can in light of the circumstances. Sisters is by no means alone in facing this challenge; however, Sisters will find success if we embrace these plans and work together.

Sisters Weather Forecast

Courtesy of the National Weather Service, Pendleton, Oregon

Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday	Monday
Sunny 89/53	Sunny 81/48	Sunny 84/48	Sunny 85/52	Sunny 90/56	Mostly Sunny 93/58

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Each of Sisters schools is crafting a 'Ready Schools, Safe Learners' plan to submit to Oregon Department of Education on August 15.

SHARE YOUR INPUT...

Via the district's surveys:

- bit.ly/2020surveySHS
- bit.ly/2020surveySMS
- bit.ly/2020surveySES

At the Wednesday, July 29 Superintendent's Coffee:
bit.ly/Superintendent07-29

By email: curtiss.scholl@ssd6.org

By phone: 541-549-8521

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