

O P I N I O N

On the hunt...



PHOTO BY JERRY BALDOCK

A red-tailed hawk takes flight from a fence post in search of its next meal.

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 Unpublished items are not acknowledged or returned.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 certainly agree with all the readers that wrote regarding the CEO of Laird Superfoods' proposed invasive (development) of the prime Forest Service properties in the middle of Sisters to house employees of their once-small operation, which is now being expanded to 500 people.

This is presumptuous and arrogant on their part with absolutely no consideration for the effect it will have on our community. We need to petition City Hall to stop this debacle. This is exactly what Governor McCall warned against many years ago if we were not diligent to protect our precious resources.

Jeanne Brooks



To the Editor:

A few weeks ago HB 4203, which bans chokeholds by Oregon's peace officers, was signed into law. It passed 52-5 in the Oregon

House and 25-1 in the Oregon Senate.

Regrettably, our state Representative Daniel Bonham was among the very few who voted against this bill. Even most of his fellow Republicans voted for it. Thus far, he has offered no public defense of his vote, but that's not surprising. There really is no defense for his vote.

This is the critical text of the bill: "A peace officer is not justified in any circumstance in knowingly using physical force that impedes the normal breathing or circulation of the blood of another person by applying pressure on the throat or neck of the other person, unless the circumstance is one in which the peace officer may use deadly physical force as provided in ORS 161.239."

In other words, police officers may not use a chokehold unless the situation requires deadly physical force as described in Oregon Law. You can read about those circumstances

See **LETTERS** on page 9

Libraries are community

By Linda L. Davis
DeschutesPublicLibraryZone2BoardMember

Scottish-born businessman and philanthropist Andrew Carnegie made his fortune in steel, but used his wealth to build libraries. Beginning in 1880, he gave away \$60 million to build 1,689 libraries across the United States. Many still exist as libraries, and others as community centers, museums, art galleries or other uses. In 1889, he said, "In bestowing charity, the main consideration should be to help those who help themselves."

As a poor, uneducated young man who wanted to improve his lot in life, Carnegie sought admittance to his local library in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, which at the time was not free. He persuaded the administrator that the library should be free and open to all. The idea of a free library, open to all, regardless of social or economic status, was launched.

Deschutes County is fortunate that 22 years ago the voters approved the formation of the Deschutes Public Library District (DPL) as a property-tax-funded special district. No longer competing with other county services, DPL has grown and transformed itself to meet the needs and challenges of the new millennium and with a plan for the future.

The DPL with its six branches, including Sisters, offers materials and services never envisioned by Carnegie. The internet is not a competitor but is an integral part of DPL's digital products and services. The list includes genealogy; Chilton auto repair manuals; DIY manuals; over 1,000 magazines; Lynda.com and Gale instruction courses — the list goes on.

Oh, yes! There are books! Thousands of them! Books are and will always remain the backbone of the library system. Here again, some think that physical books are a thing of the past because of the availability of digital books. Surprisingly, while the District has an enormous collection of digital books, many people still like or prefer physical books. Children, especially, learn the joy of reading through picture books, and the children's section is one of the most popular in each branch.

Many things go on in the libraries besides checking

out books. All libraries have computers available for public use. Children's story time attracts thousands of children each year. More than 400 programs were provided during 2019 and they have continued online during the pandemic. Libraries provide space for art exhibits and special demonstrations like the wildly popular Train Man's model train set-up at Christmas. They provide resources and services to our community members such as technology, early learning resources, job search and resume assistance, computer classes and cultural programs.

Are you wondering if you need legal assistance with a particular problem? DPL partners with the Deschutes County Access to Justice Committee to offer free 30-minute consultations with an attorney offering general legal information or referrals to other agencies. Are you thinking of starting a new business or wanting help with an existing one? DPL has a full menu of resources to help. Or maybe you have a unique research problem or issue you need help with. You can "Ask a Librarian" for assistance.

As much as anything else, libraries are community. Andrew Carnegie knew this and said, "A library outranks any other one thing a community can do to benefit its people. It is a never-failing spring in the desert." Being free and open to anyone, our libraries are centers of equality, community belonging and places of safety. Sisters is stronger and more centered because of its library.

All past incurred debt to build or improve the DPL's six branches has been paid off. The DPL has not gone to the voters to ask for more money for either capital projects or operations for 22 years. Measure 9-139 on the November ballot gives us the opportunity to update and expand the Sisters Library to better serve our community. The expanded space will provide more open and flexible spaces for a variety of community uses from after-school tutoring to creative DIY activities to book club gatherings and small business meeting space — something for everyone! While 2020 has been difficult, it is important to look beyond the current times and plan for a strong future.

Voting "yes" will ensure we can do just that!

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
Sunny 81/46	Partly Cloudy 75/44	Partly Cloudy 69/45	Showers 54/43	Partly Cloudy 53/42	Partly Cloudy 58/39

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