

LETTERS

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me of being a socialist is wrong and offensive. “Marxism” and “socialism” are labels that are used in wildly inappropriate ways to smear and discredit people with whom the right disagrees. Name-calling is precisely the kind of conduct that doesn’t advance the civil discourse and fact-based dialogue that have been absent for too long.

The facts I cited in my op-ed (“Let’s start with the truth,” *The Nugget*, December 16, page 2) are supported by citations to reports by the Inspector General of the Department of Justice, the bi-partisan Senate Intelligence Committee, and the non-partisan Government Accountability Office, plus well-researched media accounts. They refuted the false statements in Jeff Mackey’s Letter to the Editor.

Mr. Mackey was probably acting very sincerely when he repeated these false statements, which have been widely propagated by right-wing media outlets. But they are not true, and they cause people to form viewpoints that are not consistent with reality. When false statements go un rebutted by the truth, we, as a society, are all harmed. I’m trying to do my small part to repair that harm. I hope I can partner with others in Sisters Country to do the same.

Mary Chaffin

♦ ♦ ♦

To the Editor:

I loved Lisa May’s article on the true joy of Christmas. Some will suffer greatly in this life while others suffer less, but we will *all* encounter suffering in this world. Empathetically, I would not consider myself to have an easy solution. Suffering can be extremely intense and I could not say to this point in my life I have experienced torment. I have deep compassion for Lisa and her bottomless sorrow as well as others who live in agony.

I can say along with Lisa that there is no hope for our sufferings, none whatsoever, unless there is a door to eternity such as through Jesus Christ’s death and resurrection.

When we consider that God did *not* leave us alone to suffer unbearably, as some might think, but rather He entered into our suffering by choice, through the cross. What a host of possibilities exist for our sufferings when we consider the resurrection to eternal life. We may determine to contemplate our perseverance and endurance in this realm to be exchanged for something greater in the next.

Janie Martin

♦ ♦ ♦

To the Editor:

With the “year of COVID” barely behind

us, we look forward to the New Year and the customary resolutions: reduce personal weight, reduce time on social media, and reduce consumption of animal foods.

Yes, that. Nearly 40 percent of Americans are already eating more plant-based foods. Hundreds of school, college, and corporate cafeterias have embraced Meatless Monday. Even fast-food chains like McDonald’s, Burger King, Carl’s Jr, Chipotle, Denny’s, Dunkin’, Starbucks, Subway, Taco Bell, and White Castle offer plant-based options.

Dozens of start-ups, led by Beyond Meat and Impossible Foods, are producing plant-based meats, milks, cheeses, and ice creams. Every ice cream manufacturer boasts nut-based flavors. Even meat industry giants Tyson Foods, Perdue, Hormel, and Canada’s Maple Leaf Foods have rolled out their own plant-based meat products.

The reasons for the skyrocketing popularity of plant-based meat and milk products are compelling: they are more convenient, healthier, more eco-friendly, and more compassionate than their animal-based counterparts.

The resolution to explore plant-based foods requires no sweat or deprivation — just some fun visits to our favorite supermarket and food websites.

Siegfried Neufhaus

♦ ♦ ♦

To The Editor:

In response to Ms. Baldessari’s Letter to the Editor, I am really against folks breaking the law. Specifically, crimes against others. Allowing vagrants/homeless to occupy the same spot on public land more than 14 days is a crime — against all of us.

But if your problem is really within one or two miles radius of Sisters, I believe the Deschutes County Sheriff’s Office (Sisters Outpost) would be your best avenue of solution.

The local Sisters Ranger District Forest Service Office/kiosk has not even found a way to reopen since March, thus disbanding services such as map distribution, various permits including tree cutting, and other services.

I do believe lawlessness spirals out into the community if it is not enforced.

Have you had your place of business robbed this year? I have.

Did you and 20 of your neighbors, get your locked mailboxes jacked open on Christmas Eve this year? I did.

Here’s the reason I write: It’s cause “you don’t S.C.U.B.A. dive alone.” “You shouldn’t ski powder on your own.”

And if you are scared or paranoid to encounter a male on a trail, better to hike with a pike, in your chainmail.

Derek Damerell

♦ ♦ ♦

Seed to Table seeking board members

By Audrey Tehan
Columnist

Seed to Table (S2T) is searching for three new board members going into the new year. Seed to Table envisions a healthy and resilient community where all people, regardless of race, gender, geography, or socioeconomic status, have access to fresh produce that is nourishing, locally grown, and in keeping with their culture and preferences.

From our two-acre farm plot we strive to model a sustainable food system while providing equitable access to fresh foods and opportunities for all to engage positively with nutritious foods. Currently, S2T is looking for three dedicated individuals who have time to serve. Our organization’s foundation is built on having a dedicated and enthusiastic Board of Directors to support the executive director.

Initiated by the Sisters Science Club in 2013, S2T has doubled its capacity to grow food and educate the community each year. During the 2019 growing season, our small staff and board was able to educate 1,500 students on the S2T’s two-acre farm plot. In 2020 we were able to creatively adapt our programming to continue providing the same

essential services in the face of ever-changing guidelines. Education programs strive to connect students with positive food relations so they may live more healthy and vibrant lives.

Nearly 60 Next Generation Science Standards are connected throughout the student field trips on the farm, which assists teachers in providing some of the best education in the state.

In addition, we took over management of the Sisters Farmers Market to provide even more opportunities for our community to access fresh local foods. S2T also grew and distributed 40,000 pounds of produce to the community, feeding nearly 150 families each week through the food bank, community produce shares, school districts, and wholesale distribution.

Serving on the board will allow you to have a voice towards serving our community in an impactful way. There’s much work to be done; food and nutrition insecurity in our area, especially for low-income individuals, is only growing. We would love for you to be part of our mission to do what we can to address these issues.

For information, contact Board Vice Chair Barb Schulz at bschulz@bendbroadband.com.

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