

O P I N I O N

Editorial...

Beat the supply-chain blues

Anybody who’s been to a store for sundries, or tried to get a piece of exercise equipment, or tried to order materials for a home project, knows that the supply-chain woes we hear about daily on the news are real.

We’re repeatedly being warned that if we see something we need or want, we’d better get it now, because no one knows when it can get replaced if it sells. It’s not even Halloween yet, and we’re told we’re already behind on our Christmas shopping.

Well, OK.

There’s no way to avoid the supply-chain woes entirely — but we here in Sisters may be able to beat ’em this holiday season.

“Shop Local” is a familiar slogan at this time of year, but judging from the flood of Amazon packages that inundates the Sisters Post Office daily, we don’t necessarily take it to heart. Online ordering can be a blessing, especially in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic, but it does nothing to support our local community. Yet we keep mashing that purchase-with-one-click button and waiting

for the box to arrive.

It would seem that urging folks to “shop local” because it’s “the right thing to do” doesn’t quite get the job done. Perhaps we’re better off appealing to self-interest. Right now, that’s an easy argument. If we’re hunting for Christmas gifts (already?!), the work of local makers, crafters, and artists isn’t floating on cargo ships out on the Pacific Ocean.

That local work deserves to be a first choice anyway. Speaking for myself, most of the things I get the most use and pleasure from are the work of local makers: the guitar I play; the hat I wear every day; the mug I’m drinking my coffee from as I write this — all made right here in Central Oregon.

Real economic benefit in our community; ready availability; lasting value — all that sounds like a pretty good deal. Maybe we can use this crisis as an opportunity to rediscover the homemade treasures that abide right here in Sisters.

Jim Cornelius
Editor in Chief

Sisters Weather Forecast

Courtesy of the National Weather Service, Pendleton, Oregon

Wednesday

Oct. 27 • Partly sunny

41/55



Thursday

Oct. 28 • Partly sunny

40/64



Friday

Oct. 29 • Partly sunny

40/62



Saturday

Oct. 30 • Partly sunny

34/52



Sunday

Oct. 31 • Partly sunny

35/51



Monday

Nov. 1 • Partly sunny

37/52



Tuesday

Nov. 2 • Partly sunny

46/56



The Nugget Newspaper, LLC

Website: www.nuggetnews.com

442 E. Main Ave., P.O. Box 698, Sisters, OR 97759

Tel: 541-549-9941 | Email: editor@nuggetnews.com



Member

Postmaster: Send address changes to
The Nugget Newspaper,
P.O. Box 698, Sisters, OR 97759.

Third Class Postage Paid at Sisters, Oregon.

Editor in Chief: Jim Cornelius

Production Manager: Leith Easterling

Creative Director: Jess Draper

Community Marketing
Partner: Vicki Curlett

Classifieds & Circulation: Beth Jacobsen

Proofreader: Kit Tosello

Owner: J. Louis Mullen

The Nugget is mailed to residents within the Sisters School District; subscriptions are available outside delivery area.
Third-class postage: one year, \$60; six months (or less), \$35. First-class postage: one year, \$105; six months, \$75.

Published Weekly. ©2021 The Nugget Newspaper, LLC. All rights reserved. Reproduction in whole or in part without written permission is prohibited. All advertising which appears in The Nugget is the property of The Nugget and may not be used without explicit permission. The Nugget Newspaper, LLC. assumes no liability or responsibility for information contained in advertisements, articles, stories, lists, calendar etc. within this publication. All submissions to The Nugget Newspaper will be treated as unconditionally assigned for publication and copyrighting purposes and subject to The Nugget Newspaper’s unrestricted right to edit and comment editorially, that all rights are currently available, and that the material in no way infringes upon the rights of any person. The publisher assumes no responsibility for return or safety of artwork, photos, or manuscripts.

Got a great photo of life in Sisters Country?

Send your high-resolution photo to editor@nuggetnews.com.

Contact information for the elected officials that represent
Sisters residents can be found on page 8:

“Contact your representatives...”

The descent into tribalism

By Jonathan Martin
Guest Columnist

I just listened to a politician whose ideas I agree with. But the way these ideas were communicated was, quite honestly, reprehensible. He condemned the individual testifying before the committee with a host of judgmental adjectives: “arrogant, prideful, vindictive, jealous, disingenuous, ignorant, hypocritical.” It was an all-out frontal attack on this man’s character and intelligence.

This “attack” was featured on YouTube and has been watched nearly a million times with some 6,000 comments about how marvelously he tore the other guy to shreds.

Why is it that people in our society can no longer love and respect someone they disagree with? Why does division, hatred, and anger almost always come into play when there is political and moral disagreement?

I think I know why. We have descended into tribalism. It has become “us” versus “them.” Facebook’s and YouTube’s algorithms send us only the stuff we agree with — our tribe’s opinions. We get no contrary opinions unless they are being demolished by those in our tribe. Every time someone in our tribe destroys and publically humiliates someone from the other tribe, we click “like.”

I had the privilege of working in South Sudan before it became a country, while they were still at war with the North. The 64 tribes were all united as one. Somehow, against all odds, they pushed their oppressor out, and proudly declared themselves the Republic of South Sudan. But the one value that had united them — mutual hatred for their Northern oppressor — was not a value big enough to build a new country upon, and tragically I watched as tribalism immediately took them over, with the tribal identity being placed paramount over their new national identity. It did not take long for the country to unravel into chaos.

I recently read of an academic assignment. The instructor asked all students to create an “identity map” listing their race, class, gender, religion, family structure, and other characteristics...and then rank themselves according to their “power and privilege.” Tribalism 101 at the university? Nope. Third grade math. It starts young.

Choose your tribe. It seems to be the latest “thing to do.” Identity politics. People have largely stopped

thinking for themselves and they simply let the tribe think for them.

Oppressor or oppressed. Victim or Victimizer. Neutrality is not an option. Silence is violence. This simplistic thinking must sound really good, because so many are buying into it. Not in the last 150 years has there been a greater divide in politics. People are actually moving to states where their “tribe” or political party is in power. It is amazing to me that things like vax/anti-vax, mask/anti-mask are tending to follow these tribal demarcations. Whatever the other side is for — I am against. It is “us” vs. “them.” This tribal mentality guarantees hate, bitterness, and resentment will rule — until our tribe wins office, and brings its hate, bitterness, and resentment with it, and forces its will upon the enemy. With tribalism, hatred knows no bounds and has no end. Winning an election simply means the other tribe is now the loser. Overthrowing the oppressor simply means you have now become the oppressor. Congratulations. Tribalism kills.

So, what is the answer? Well, it starts with leadership. Leaders everywhere need to model love and respect for those who disagree. Ideas are ideas. There are some ideas that are vastly superior to others. Let the ideas speak for themselves. But people are people. We do not need to demean and devalue the person simply because we disagree with their ideas. In fact, the more I treat a person like dirt for disagreeing with me, the less likely I will ever influence their ideas.

People who resort to name-calling and those who try to “cancel” people are running with the most inferior of all ideas — that hate is the way to win. Tragically, this is modeled by our leaders. It is about destroying the “enemy.”

My son and I voted differently in the last election. I am closer to him today than ever before. We disagreed on vaccinations. I love him more than ever. And it is not because we ignore the issues — we talk about them, all the time, sometimes passionately. How can this be? Instead of living by the tribal values we are daily being fed, we hold tenaciously to values of a higher order — values like humility, love, forgiveness, patience, joy, peace, reconciliation, service, sacrifice, empathy, encouragement, listening, empowerment, kindness. These are the values that make a way forward and give us a future as a people.

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