

LETTERS

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health, as depression and suicide rates have hit unimaginable levels.

We tolerated tyranny and we gave up liberties in the name of “safety.” Good luck to us getting it all back. But it absolutely starts with unmasking our vulnerable children immediately.

Jeremy Davis

Masks and fear

To the Editor:

On Wednesday, February 2 at the Sisters School Board meeting, two deputy sheriffs came demanding I leave the meeting. It begs the question: Why? School board meetings are public meetings. I’m a citizen that lives in and pays taxes to the school district. Why was I denied my right to address the school board with my concerns? Was my behavior outrageous? No. Was I being obnoxious and disruptive? No. Was I being loud? No.

When I spoke to the superintendent prior to the start of the meeting, he informed me that if I wanted to speak in the public comment portion, I would have to go home and do it on Zoom. I was set aback but I did not argue, I simply took a seat in the back of the room.

During the flag salute I did say “one nation under God,” without a pause because there is no comma in that phrase. Was that my offense?

So why was I asked to leave? For the chairman of the board, it was about my refusal to wear a mask. He said I had to either put on a mask or leave. I chose to peacefully not comply because I don’t

believe he has the authority to make that medical decision for me. The other 20-plus people that filled the room made the decision to wear a mask. And that’s their choice to make. What I’m not OK with is being forced to live at their level of fear; that’s not liberty. Remember that phrase in the flag salute, “with liberty and justice for all.” If other people need a mask to alleviate their fear, that’s fine. If, by being in a room wearing a mask while I’m unmasked is too high of a level of fear for them, it is they who should leave and watch on Zoom from the safety of their own home. My being unmasked has not infringed upon their liberty to make their own choices.

The officers that were called, upon entering the room, demanded that I leave. There was no curiosity of the circumstances nor investigation of facts. As near as I can recall their demand was “Mr. Cooper, you need to leave now or you’re not going to like what happens next.” Under the weight of such heavy intimidation, I chose to leave.

Later I conversed further with one of the officers. I asked him why I had to leave the public school board meeting, when Sheriff Nelson has stated that he will not enforce the mask mandate.

It wasn’t really about masks. The officer told me the phone call he received from the superintendent indicated the meeting was “by invite only.” This raises another question: Why are some people allowed to assemble physically at the public school board meeting while others can only join on Zoom? Are we back to pre-1964 where there were separate “drinking fountains” for the maskers and non-maskers; the privileged and the bullied?

Rodney Cooper

Sisters Middle School Honor Roll

Fifth Grade

4.0: Berger-Brown, Gustav; Bilderback, Clara; Brang, Cameron; Cogdill, Katharine; Dean, Caroline; Durham, Marshall; Erdekian, Ajax; Faldmo, Kinley; Jaschke, Josie; Johnson, Brennan; Keeton, Kyanne; Kiefer, Wyatt; Liddell, Paige; Moffat, Brennan; Myagkov, Elizaveta; Nordell, Ryah; Reid, Opal; Scott, James; Singleton, Will; Taylor, Ashylin; Vitelle, Alex; White, Jasmine.

3.5 and above: Backouris, Kaia; Barlow, Jade; Behnke, Max; Labhart, Maren; McShane, Keagan; Molesworth, Annabelle; Morris, Kole; Roberts, Tucker.

Sixth Grade

4.0: Anderson, Carter; Anderson, Quinn; Benton, Phineas; Chapen, Amelia; Davis, Kennedy; Durham, Madison; Freeland, Avery; Gibney, Tanner; Jensen, Jasper; Ladd, Meron; Magner, Lola; McGee, Kadence; Newton, Olivia; Nieto, Alexander; Riemer, Brecken; Van Handel, Mason; Walker, Ella; Willard, Christopher.

3.5 and above: Beaver, Elizabeth; Brent, Verbena; Fredland, Molly; Fuentes, Josta; Jordan, Addison; Kennedy, Teague; Luhning, Camas; Roberts, Mary; Smith, Wynonal; Stelle, Ryan; Talus, Henri; Alvarez, Lara; Berry, Maxwell; Clark, Sophia; Cohen, William; Harry, Isabella; Howdysshell, Bella; Hoyt, Willa; Johnson, Bjorn; Kirkpatrick, Makayla; Marsh, Dillon; Moss, Natalie; Pulver, Olivia; Roth, Ellie; Sybesma, Corbin; Vanhouten, Ariana; Warren, Addison; Dean, Skye;

Farmer, Simon; Huffman, Dominic; Jarvis, Leila; Johnson, Parker; Kirkpatrick, Madison; Maloney, McGinnis; Miller, Josie; Moen, Stella; Nickelson, Connor; Osegueda, Bryan.

Seventh Grade

4.0: Backus, Juliette; Buller, Emmitt; Corcoran, Audrey; Crabtree, Althea; Davis, Spencer; Ellis, Bauer; Few, Shanitah; Goe-Alayon, Kainoa; Grimes, Jesse; Hamerly, Thomas; Hubbell, Liam; Labhart, Kieren; Lindsay, Brooke; Morris, Kayden; Morris, Luxen; Ryan, Josie; Velikonja, Juliette.

3.5 and above: Chadsey, Daniella; Brang, Mason; Quistgard, Hunter; Retherford, Axton; Riemer, Daniel; Benson, Vivienne; Fogarty, Allison; Keyes, Penelope; Roberson, Grant; Stahn, Jessica; Carter, Caitlin; Howdysshell, Nevaeh; Wright, Lucas.

Eighth Grade

4.0: Bick, Rylie; Burks, Jonathan; Dean, Weston; Duey, Brooke; Fendall, Gracie; Gerke, Sophia; Gordon, Trent; Miller, Georgia; Nieto, Olivia; Nothiger, Addison; O’Neill, Ava; Parker, Calvin; Roberts, Colby; Singleton, Kate; Skeels-Sutton, Bailey; Welsh, Teagen; Yoakum, Brenden.

3.5 and above: Fedder, Landis; Heuberger, Haven; Landon, Ian; Moen, Charles; Schwartz, Teagan; Eby, Ethan; Gibney, Alexis; Riemer, Reagan; Smith, Serafina; Thorsett, Norah; Weston, Hailey; Beutler, Josh; Polachek, Jesse; Stotts, Ava; Bafford, Zoe; Derksen, Joseph; Funtanellas, Sailor; Hummel, Jayce; Jordan, Cash; Roth, Audrey.

FUN & GAMES

FEBRUARY WORDFIND

Y M T R C B N M S G E W P K
 Q Y S E R D U H O F N A G H
 S E I T G T A H W O I S D L
 Q R L N H D D X Y O T H O X
 T C E I O N D D T T N I D I
 T N H W U G M N V B E N G C
 Z R E O O V Y W F A L G F O
 X Q R D C L P N U L A T F R
 A G T A I O F T R L V O F T
 P O D C O S L N L O C N I L
 S W E E T H E A R T K L I C
 S F A V G K R R T W Q N E H
 I P G X Y X W S P E L B B J
 S N O W F L A K E C Z V J O

Find words forward, backward, horizontally, or diagonally.

PRESIDENT
 VALENTINE
 GROUNDHOG
 SWEETHEART
 CHOCOLATE
 FOOTBALL

SHADOW
 LINCOLN
 FLOWERS
 WINTER
 SNOWFLAKE
 WASHINGTON

SUDOKU
Easy Peasy!

Place a number in the empty boxes in such a way that each row across, each column down, and each small nine-box square contains all of the numbers from one to nine.

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|--|---|---|---|
| | 4 | | 7 | | | | | |
| | | | 2 | 3 | | | | |
| 5 | 8 | | | 4 | | 1 | | |
| 6 | | | | | | 7 | | |
| 8 | 9 | 2 | 5 | | | 3 | | |
| 3 | 7 | | 4 | | | 5 | 6 | 2 |
| | | | | 8 | | 3 | | |
| 9 | 1 | | | | | | | 8 |
| 7 | | | | | | | | |

MATH SQUARE

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| + | | ÷ | | - | | - | |
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| + | | - | | + | | + | |
| | - | 1 | + | | + | | 26 |
| ÷ | | + | | - | | + | |
| | × | | + | 13 | + | | 52 |
| 24 | | 17 | | -12 | | 21 | |

Use the numbers 1 through 16 to complete the equations. Each number is used once. Each row is a math equation. Each column is a math equation. Remember that multiplication and division are performed before addition and subtraction.