



Letters to the Editor, Jan. 31, 2018

Solution looking for a problem

The crisis we've been going through regarding the Ashland Senior Center started as a solution looking for a problem. There was no problem. The Senior Center operated just fine the way it was, especially because of the outstanding work of Director Christine Dodson and her capable and dedicated staff. But the management style of Michael Black, the director of the Ashland Parks and Recreation Department, is akin to that of a bull rampaging through a china shop. In most cases the bovine approach is counterproductive. In this case it was inexcusable.

I cannot fathom why Black would want to make the changes he made. Certainly a review of the program would have been justified. A review at defined intervals is a valuable management tool and should be used for any program, public or private. But when our Senior Center program proved to be working well, with its clients served successfully, the review should have ended there. It didn't.

At this stage the obvious solution is to hire Dodson back if she is willing, and then she could re-hire her staff if they are willing. Many people — not just the seniors — are very supportive of Dodson. She is exactly what is needed to solve this ridiculous non-problem.

Much damage has been done to this once-successful program.

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