

# Mail Tribune

## Letters to the Editor, Feb. 4

### **Ashland is changing**

For months Ashlanders have been signing petitions to vote on recalling three Parks and Recreation commissioners. Most express concerns about the direction of both the City Council and Ashland Parks and Recreation Commission. This is what they say.

Ashlanders do not like the way Ashland is changing. People feel tourists' interests are put far above residents' interests by both elected officials and staff, and that neither the council nor the APRC is responsive to residents' concerns. Many struggle to live with increasing taxes, fees and housing costs. They especially object to the changes at the Senior Center. Some believe the council should be recalled as well.

People say elected officials erroneously believe they know best. Overwhelmingly, the public wants much more input before decisions and changes are made. They believe that the council and the APRC are overspending as if they have a magic checkbook of unlimited funds. Of particular concern is that citizens on the citizens' budget committee are not allowed to have much impact. They are alarmed for the financial health and future of Ashland.

We want to be a town that cares about each other and embodies democracy, transparency and accountability.

Gwen Davies Ashland