

One-sided Journalism

Just one side of the story, too often that's all you get with the *News&Guide*.

Housing and growth are big issues. We've met with the editor and owner. We've asked for 'balanced reporting' where both the pluses and minuses are presented.

But the paper has a hard time getting beyond the pro-growth agenda. Uncovering the problems of growth may be too much work.

Last week's editorial, "Support real news, not fake," was the last straw.

It said "confirmation bias... seeking out information that reinforces your thinking" should be avoided. Problem is, the *News&Guide* is a local source of confirmation bias.

...you've got to wonder if local officials really want to solve the housing problem.

Since the paper is the information source for so many, presenting just one side of the growth issue hugely skews local thinking. It's dangerous.

So what does the other side look like? Here's just a taste.

Building more worker housing in Jackson has unintended consequences. It makes the housing problem worse.

When a worker living in Victor moves to a new home in Jackson, they then spend their money in Jackson. Their kids go to school in Jackson, not Victor.

That new family requires new Jackson ser-

vices. So Jackson needs more teachers, hair dressers, grocery clerks, plumbers...

And where will the new folks live? They'll want to live in Jackson too.

It's a snowball effect. Building more worker housing in Jackson creates more housing demand in Jackson, a lot more.

The painful truth is, we can't house all the people that want to live here. Our roadways aren't wide enough.

The first step in a real solution is to stop making the problem worse. Stop allowing new business to push their workers on the community. Make the new business provide housing for their new workers.

For example: When a new hotel comes to town, they should provide the housing for their employees. That's called housing mitigation.

But the Jackson mitigation rate is the lowest around. Other mountain ski towns require up to 80% housing mitigation; Jackson requires just 25%.

Sometimes we cut special deals and don't even require the 25%.

Given our very low mitigation rate, you've got to wonder if local officials really want to solve the housing problem.

You've got to wonder why we don't have 80% mitigation like other ski towns.