



PHOTO BY SUE STAFFORD
Mayor Chuck Ryan accepts a Tree City USA award from forester Katie Lompa.

ARBOR DAY: Students have been planting in Sisters for 10 years

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our active management of them will become even more critical to ensure healthy and livable communities.”

The students, with the help of the adults, placed maple and chokecherry trees into pre-dug holes, which they filled with healthy soil and then watered. Four trees are located along the north side of the park on East Washington Avenue and one

on the south side along East Jefferson Avenue.

Elementary students have been taking part in the Arbor Day tree planting for 10 years, according to Public Works Director Paul Bertagna, who urged all the children to hold up their muddy hands as they were being photographed.

The Arbor Day Foundation is a million-member nonprofit conservation and education organization with the mission to inspire people to plant, nurture, and celebrate trees. More information can be found at www.arborday.org.

BUNKHOUSE: Flight gives glimpse of World War II

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Sitting there, taking it all in as fast it came, I was rewarded with just the slightest notion of what it might have been like to come in off the Channel over Belgium or France, bound for the dark bowels of the Third Reich.

Like most good things it was over all too soon, and I could not, as I wandered back to my seat beside the .50s in the waist, avoid thinking long and hard about the silver ball embedded in the floor beside me, an enclosed orb sitting motionless and quiet, perhaps the loneliest of all worlds.

As we came in over Bend, winging past the river and the Old Mill, and lined up our approach, I began to think about Randall Jarrell’s poem, “The Death of the Ball Turret Gunner.” Jarrell served in the Army Air Corps, during the war. He tells us something about youth, and fear, and the blind commitment it must have taken for a man to seal himself into the ball turret alone, fully aware of the odds, and to stare suddenly into the frenzied Nazi maw. He wrote:

From my mother’s sleep I

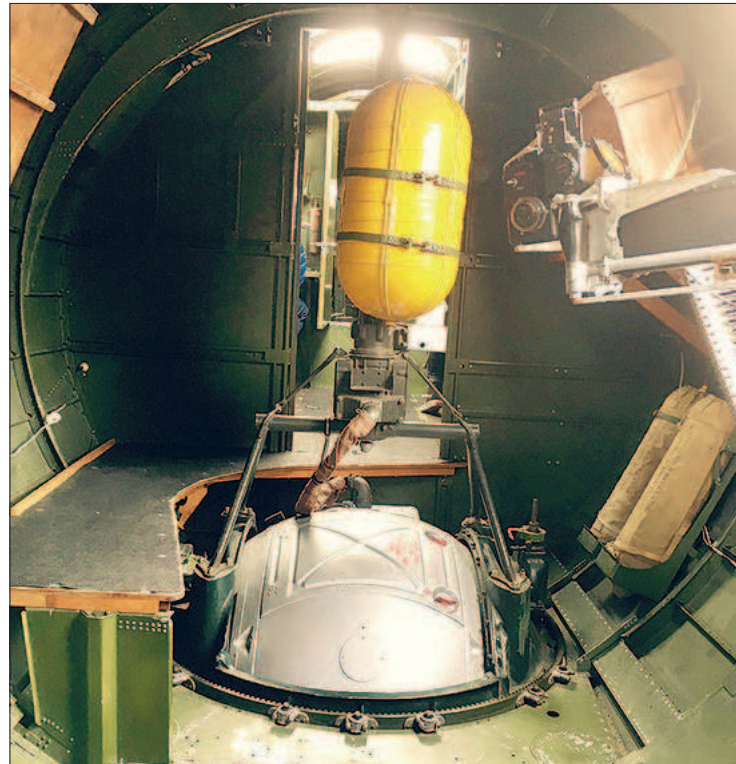


PHOTO BY CRAIG RULLMAN

Thousands of airmen ran harrowing bombing missions inside a cold, noisy B-17 Flying Fortress.

fell into the State,

And I hunched in its belly till my wet fur froze.

Six miles from earth, loosed from its dream of life, I woke to black flak and the nightmare fighters.

When I died they washed me out of the turret with a hose.

But it would be wrong to leave this column there, because that is not the whole story. The whole story, I think, says something more about who it is we think we are, collectively, and the

lengths to which we will go in order to preserve the good in all of us, and bear that forward.

There are still men among us who did, once, in B-17s over a darkened Europe, in the most destructive conflict the world has ever seen. Russell Williams for instance, now 94. He’s your neighbor. To many, he’s a friend. And on Saturday mornings you can find him still quietly and humbly serving, down at the Habitat for Humanity ReStore.

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