

## DYING: Oregon has dismal ranking in suicides

Continued from page 23

political rumor floating around the capital on June 8. The gist of it was that MSG Petry was only there as a Republican stooge for the resurrection of SB1054, which Representative Anthony Meeker's Chief of Staff confirmed to Greg Walker has been "sent to die in the rules committee."

What he didn't say, but what he could just as well have said, is that Oregon's deserving and honorable veterans have been sent there to die, too.

"I hope the veterans of Oregon realize the demeanor of their elected representatives," MSG Petry told me. "The only reason I went there was to give veterans a voice. If they (Governor Brown and Senator Manning) had just talked to me they would have known that. I volunteered to be there. I was there of my own accord."

In other words, in the manner befitting a Medal of Honor recipient, he was no one's political lackey. He was there in the continuing effort to take care of his people, who are dying for lack of leadership — and cynical stonewalling — by hyper-partisan politicians. If any single issue should rise above the miasma of Salem swamp gases, given the life-or-death nature of the problem, mental-health care for veterans is surely it.

But even if MSG Petry had been there solely to advocate for a bill that the Governor et al. happen to disagree with, what minimal historical appreciation and political grace does it require

to step outside and offer a living Medal of Honor recipient the professional courtesy and acknowledgement he so richly deserves?

In Manning's case — the same man who admitted in front of Greg Walker and Will Naugle's sister, Julie Terry, that he "hadn't read the bill closely enough" (it is scarcely over a page long) then supported it, then suddenly retracted his support — it appears that hiding in his office was the result of sheer political cowardice.

The topper? Manning is a retired Army Sergeant Major. Senator Manning's office also refused my request for comment.

SB1054 isn't the entire answer. But given the fact that we have been at war for 16 years it's a long-overdue step in the need to deliver critical, life-saving care to veterans who are dying each and every day. Those deaths aren't political hyperbole, they are real human beings dying because they can't get care, and because certain politicians in Salem are, in the words of a seasoned source in the statehouse, more concerned with "holding Oregonians hostage for tax-hikes."

On a personal note, on Saturday, June 10, I rode in the veterans' float during the Sisters Rodeo parade. It was a singularly humbling experience. Hundreds of our friends and neighbors turned out, and as our modest float rolled along through the cheering crowd, countless people offered heartfelt "Thank-yous" to those of us riding by. Deeply moved, I had to bite my lip.

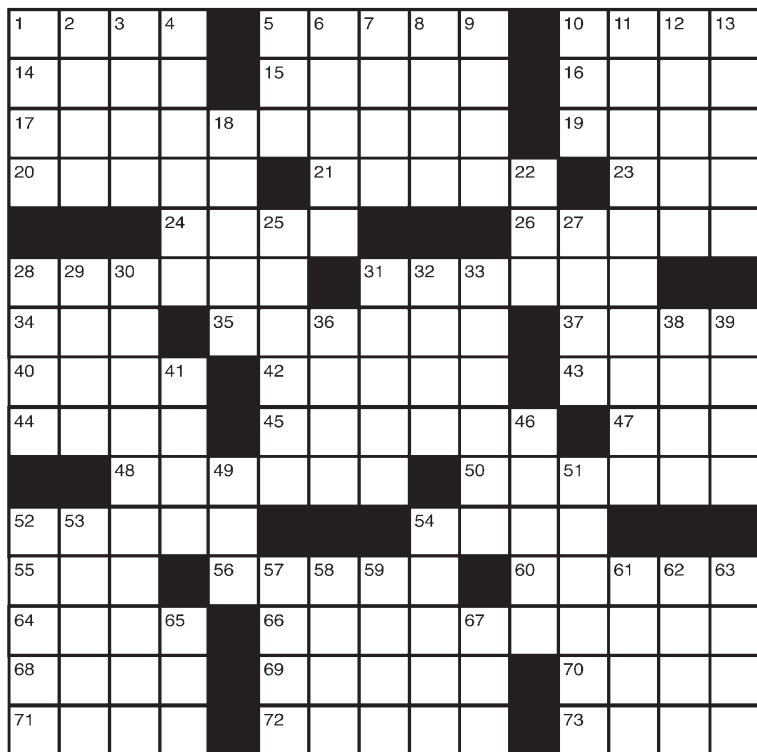
Oregonians care about and deeply respect their veterans. Some of our elected representatives in Salem seem to have forgotten that. Or maybe they never knew it to begin with.

# The Nugget Newspaper Crossword

By Jacqueline E. Mathews, Tribune News Service

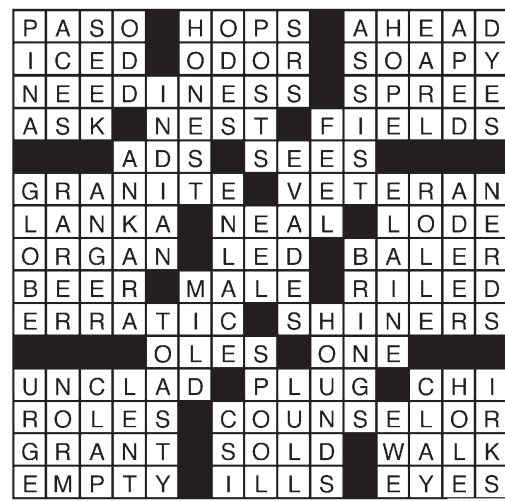
- ACROSS**
- 1 Surfboard's support
  - 5 Change slightly
  - 10 Mr. Flintstone
  - 14 Highest point
  - 15 Money hoarder
  - 16 Ricky Ricardo's portrayal
  - 17 Make invalid, as an account
  - 19 Go higher
  - 20 Do-nothing
  - 21 Beginning
  - 23 Tit for \_\_\_
  - 24 Nuisance
  - 26 Toes the line
  - 28 Small and feisty
  - 31 Scott Hamilton or Tara Lipinski
  - 34 Vaudevillian \_\_\_ Olsen
  - 35 Ireland's capital
  - 37 Scottish caps
  - 40 Not brand new
  - 42 "Nothing \_\_\_!"; firm refusal
  - 43 Cease
  - 44 Ripped
  - 45 Gizmo
  - 47 Cotton gin man \_\_\_ Whitney
  - 48 Take out text
  - 50 Diminish
  - 52 Dwelling
  - 54 Freeway exit
  - 55 Word in 4 U.S. state names
  - 56 Lively Brazilian dance
  - 60 Buckets
  - 64 Delight
  - 66 Stanford's state
  - 68 Small brook
  - 69 Uneven
  - 70 Flower stalk
  - 71 Shout
  - 72 Sutured
  - 73 Very long times

- 5 "What Kind of Fool \_\_\_?"
  - 6 Loose piece of turf
  - 7 As wise \_\_\_ owl
  - 8 House animals
  - 9 Pine or palm
  - 10 First Lady Eleanor's man, for short
  - 11 Says again
  - 12 Child's writing assignment
  - 13 Counts calories
  - 18 Tire ridge pattern
  - 22 Little kid
  - 25 Dirty smear
  - 27 Wagers
  - 28 Boxing match
  - 29 Too
  - 30 Bum
  - 31 Playground incline
  - 32 Picture card
  - 33 Ms. Lansbury
  - 36 Kayak or ferry
  - 38 Beauty mark
  - 39 Twirl
- DOWN**
- 1 Usually dry streambed
  - 2 Mimicked
  - 3 Calf meat
  - 4 \_\_\_ for; other than



Created by Jacqueline E. Mathews 6/21/17

### — Last Week's Puzzle Solved —



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- 41 Landowner's paper
- 46 Musical speed
- 49 French article
- 51 Skimpy
- 52 In a rage
- 53 Misrepresent
- 54 Boost
- 57 Highest cards
- 58 Foal's mother
- 59 Hard hit
- 61 Bump \_\_\_; meet
- 62 Claim against property
- 63 Houston and Elliott
- 65 Building add-on
- 67 Nourished

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**A successful climb...**

PHOTO BY JERRY BALDOCK  
 Cyclists enjoyed a perfect day to summit McKenzie Pass.