

LETTERS

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To the Editor:

Democrats and their perpetual negativity toward anything Republican is totally misguided and non-productive. While utilizing hate-filled rhetoric, misinformed rumor and conjecture to make their point, they have produced the opposite reaction.

It's kinda like Newton's Third Law, "For every action forward there is an opposite but equal reaction backward."

Simply put; when all you have to say is filled with hate and lies, your desired effect becomes negative movement. In their attempt to further persuade their followers and justify their latest revelation they have merely created the opposite reaction.

A perfect example to this is their continued effort to convince the public that Chick-fil-A is

a homophobic conglomerate of Christian fundamentalists that are trying to fill your stomachs and your minds with poisoned chicken. Never having tried Chick-Fil-A and hearing that I should boycott them, has turned me into an avid customer. There is absolutely no way that everything that Trump says or does can be taken negatively: Boycott Hate; Eat Mo Chicken and vote Republican November 2020.

Terry Coultas

♦ ♦ ♦

To the Editor:

If the recent words and tweets by the president regarding the Coronavirus outbreak, his actions and level of intellectual acuity do not give the American people an insight as to how to cast their ballot in November, our country is in significant jeopardy.

David Hiller

Sisters salutes...

Taylor Fendall gathered with family, friends and fellow athletes last week for the official signing of his commitment to play football at Linfield College next year. Athletic Director Gary Thorson and

his coach Neil Fendall, also his proud father, praised Taylor for his commitment to his craft, his work ethic — and most of all his leadership and commitment to putting team above self.



PHOTO PROVIDED

Honor Flight postponed due to virus

By **Cody Rheault**
Correspondent

Honor Flight of Central Oregon (HFCO) postponed their annual flight to Washington, D.C. amid concerns of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Veterans from Central Oregon were slated to depart May 6 for the four-day trip. World War II and Korean War veterans, 22 in total, would tour the U.S. Capitol, memorials, and monuments on an all-expenses-paid trip.

HFCO observed the growing pandemic two weeks prior to making the decision and carefully considered their options. Dane Prevatt, the trip organizer, stated his concerns over exposing the high-risk age group to the virus.

"Safety of our veterans is

our number-one priority," he said. "We couldn't risk exposing our most susceptible generation to this virus."

The HFCO board was summoned to find a solution on March 8, and made the decision to postpone the trip until October 14 of this year. Three days later, on March 11, the national organization announced the postponement of all national Honor Flights to Washington, D.C. That same day the CDC officially labeled the coronavirus a "pandemic," and Washington, D.C. confirmed cases of the virus within the city.

With HFCO having a connecting flight in Seattle — ground zero for COVID-19 cases in the U.S. — the risk was too high according to Prevatt and the trip doctor, Dr. Jana Van Amburg.

The response to the change in plans was met with understanding. Local veterans, upon receiving the news, were relieved with the decision. Prevatt says many were nervous about the outbreak. Vendors, airlines, and hotels also worked together to adjust reservations and expressed their continuing support for the trip now in October.

Hal Busch, a Sisters resident and Coast Guard veteran, was "ready to go" but "glad they canceled," he said.

"You've grown up your whole life reading about that place, and to see it would have finished that chapter in my life," he said. "That was on my bucket list."

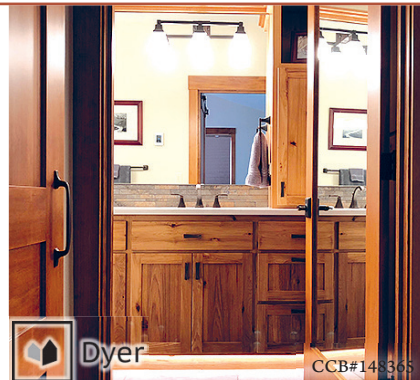
Now, Busch doesn't know if he'll make the October trip but hopes he'll find himself writing that chapter this fall.

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PHOTO BY GARY MILLER

The public health crisis surrounding the COVID-19 virus has the potential to have far-reaching and long-lasting effects on the Sisters community. But there are things we can do — even while protecting ourselves:

- Quarantining yourself? Stock up on books, games, and crafts. Call Sisters shops to inquire if curbside pickup or delivery services are available.
- Don't want to go out to a restaurant? Order a meal or two a week to-go from a local restaurant. (Call ahead; some are even offering curbside pickup.)
- Call a local shop (or visit their website) and buy a gift card — you can pick it up later after the crisis has passed.
- This crisis is also likely to increase the need at Sisters Kiwanis Food Bank; donations, especially of cash, are welcome there.

Stay current with the latest verified news on COVID-19