

O P I N I O N

Editorial...

Hats off to Sisters Rodeo

The Sisters Rodeo Board of Directors had to make a wrenching decision last week to cancel this year's event, which would have been the 80th Sisters Rodeo.

They made the hard, right call. Everyone involved with Sisters' many events is fully cognizant of how important they are to the culture and economy of our community. When the Sisters Folk Festival made the decision to cancel the 2017 event due to the smoke impacts of the Milli Fire, the board knew full well the pain the decision would cause. It hurts in a whole lot of ways, and pulling that trigger is a horrible feeling.

Staging an event on the scale of the Sisters Rodeo is an immense undertaking — and the Rodeo does it all with volunteers. Those volunteers can't get the work done that needs to get done right now, and there's no way of knowing whether mandated shutdowns will be lifted in time for the event to go forward

in any case.

And the board had to weigh the responsibility of bringing people from all over the country to Sisters in the middle of a pandemic. Conversely, they had to weigh the financial risk to the organization of laying out expenses and putting up a big purse — and then having minimal turnout due to fears of virus transmission.

The Sisters Rodeo Board of Directors cowboy'd up and did what they had to do. Hats off to 'em. And let's all make the commitment to make the 2021 Sisters Rodeo the best Biggest Little Show in the World yet.



Jim Cornelius
Editor in Chief

Letters to the Editor...

The Nugget welcomes contributions from its readers, which must include the writer's name, address and phone number. Letters to the Editor is an open forum for the community and contains unsolicited opinions not necessarily shared by the Editor. The Nugget reserves the right to edit, omit, respond or ask for a response to letters submitted to the Editor. Letters should be no longer than 300 words. Unpublished items are not acknowledged or returned. The deadline for all letters is 10 a.m. Monday.

To the Editor:

My dad once told me, "You can't wring your hands and roll up your sleeves at the same time."

If the stress of these times has you on edge, helping others is good for everyone.

Here's a thought:

In the near future, stimulus checks should be finding their way to you. What I propose is this... If it is at all possible in your budget, use a part of your stimulus check to purchase a gift card from one of our fine Sisters merchants.

Even if a business isn't currently open, the majority of them are checking phones, email, etc., and gift cards are almost always

available.

The Nugget puts out 7,700 copies. If 5,000 recipients of this paper purchase a \$50 gift card from a local merchant, that's \$250,000 pumped into our small businesses who so desperately need it!

Whether it's a restaurant, art gallery, feed store, sporting goods, grocery, boutique, hardware, bookstore, etc. I'm certain you will agree that our small businesses are in large part what make our town so special. We're all facing hardship at this time, but if at all possible, please consider joining me in supporting our hardworking small businesses in this way!

Jennifer McCrystal

Not a high water mark for the Navy

By Jim Horsley
Guest Columnist

On April 2, Acting Navy Secretary Thomas Modly relieved Capt. Brett Crozier of command of the nuclear carrier USS Roosevelt for sending his request for assistance over non-secure email to a "broad array of people" rather than up the chain of command. He stated that Crozier "allowed the complexity of the challenge of the COVID breakout on the ship (which started nine days earlier) to overwhelm his ability to act professionally."

The crew cheered Capt. Crozier when he departed the ship in Guam. Modley then flew to Guam after the firing, and directly addressed the ship's crew, categorizing Capt. Crozier as "too naïve or too stupid — or perhaps even deliberately insubordinate" — over his handling of the ship's coronavirus outbreak.

I think Capt. Crozier, in transmitting a personal message, did what he needed to do to shake things loose related to what was occurring on his ship, and I think the Navy did what it had to do in its "Chain of Command" reprimand. I do feel the Navy was tone deaf in how they handled it. I felt Modley should also be relieved. (PostScript — Modley was pressured to resign).

Prior to my Blue Angel tour, and following Vietnam combat and instructor tours as a naval aviator in the early 1970s, I was an Admiral's Aide to Commander Carrier Group 3. We were based out of Alameda Naval Air Station, but spent most of our time embarked on the USS Midway, Enterprise, Coral Sea, and Constellation during my two-year tour.

It is likely that Capt. Crozier would have been in face to face contact with his ComCarGroup 9 Admiral (Baker) who likely would have been deployed on the carrier with his staff. Operational status reports would have been sent to the Pacific Fleet Commander in San Diego multiple times per day depending on the level of activity, so certainly there would have been no surprises that

COVID-19 was an immediate threat to the crew.

Where was the clear guidance from those in overall command when all we were seeing on the news since late January were virus-infected cruise ships? Every response to potential Navy conflict at sea is studied and planned; why didn't Crozier's chain of command provide contingency orders in February in case of an outbreak? Concurrently, Crozier must have felt enormous pressure in trying to maintain his operational mission requirements while watching his crew get decimated by the virus.

Another article stated, "Hours after a leaked letter from the Commanding Officer of the embattled carrier Theodore Roosevelt pleading for more support from the Navy leaked to the public, the head of U.S. Pacific Fleet (North Island) told reporters he is working as fast as he can to get a plan in place to rotate sailors off the ship." Sure seems like he and his staff, as well as his superiors should have been doing this weeks earlier.

Crozier's letter, unauthorized as it was, certainly rang the alarm for anyone that would listen. After a highly successful and decorated Navy career, he certainly wasn't panicked or clueless as Modley accused. The fact that it was transmitted was counter to what RADM Baker of ComCarGru 9 would have done according to an article in the public domain, which is an absolute no-no in terms of Chain of Command. But at that point, Capt. Crozier must have kissed off his career and sent it anyway.

Not a high water mark for the Navy, which I still hold in the highest regard. I could not have had better experiences with leaders during my time in the service. Maybe that was before the politicizing of the Navy took hold. The crew cheered for Capt. Crozier when he departed and they cheered when Modley got the boot. On reflection maybe Captain Crozier ought to become the Acting Secretary of the Navy during this pandemic!

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NEWS: Jim Cornelius, editor@nuggetnews.com, 541-390-6973
ADVERTISING: Vicki Curlett, vicki@nuggetnews.com, 541-699-7530

Sisters Weather Forecast
Courtesy of the National Weather Service, Pendleton, Oregon

Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday	Monday
Partly Cloudy 58/35	Sunny 57/32	Mostly Sunny 69/39	Partly Cloudy 66/38	Partly Cloudy 65/41	Mostly Cloudy 60/40

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 442 E. Main Ave., P.O. Box 698, Sisters, Oregon 97759
 Tel: 541-549-9941 | Email: editor@nuggetnews.com



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