

## O P I N I O N

## Share your favorite Rodeo moments...



Jim Bickers leaving Billy Be Damned.

Sisters '48

PHOTO COURTESY THREE SISTERS HISTORICAL SOCIETY

The Nugget, in partnership with the City of Sisters and the Sisters Area Chamber of Commerce, is running a heritage edition in honor of Sisters Rodeo on June 3. Share your favorite memory of Sisters Rodeo at [editor@nuggetnews.com](mailto:editor@nuggetnews.com). Deadline Sunday, May 31.

## 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 Unpublished items are not acknowledged or returned.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:

I have never met Kay Grady that I am aware of, but I think I would like to meet her when social distancing is over, and shake her hand.

I viewed the ponderosa tree Kay referenced in her letter (Many 20), and actually, I think it was closer to 200 years old. We also have many trees being cut in Crossroads by "modern lumberjacks," trees that provide shade to prevent soil evaporation, habitat, and drink our septic water, which keeps it out of our crystal clear well water.

The tree you referenced was probably only about two feet tall witnessing the War of 1848, and maybe six to eight feet tall during the days of our Camp Polk and Civil War between the states. It probably was 30 feet or taller by the Spanish/American War, 1898. It survived World War I and the Spanish Flu, the Great Depression, World War II and the Nazi gas

chambers and Pearl Harbor, the Korean War and polio, the Kennedy and Martin Luther King assassinations, The Vietnam War, Wars of the Middle East, 9/11, and Afghanistan battles.

It even survived the closing of septic tanks in Sisters (with introduction of a new sewage system), which watered and fertilized many of the towns trees.

What it did not survive was a Paul Bunyan during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Unfortunately, Kay, we are few and far between. I don't think we are "tree huggers," just people concerned about a tree, which witnessed so much, and provided a habitat housing for so many during its' very long life, which unfortunately, was cut short!

Bill Anttila

See LETTERS on page 8

## Sisters Weather Forecast

Courtesy of the National Weather Service, Pendleton, Oregon

Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday	Monday
Mostly Sunny 81/53	Mostly Sunny 84/55	Partly Cloudy 87/60	Scattered T-storms 71/46	Partly Cloudy 67/47	Showers 65/44

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Website: [www.nuggetnews.com](http://www.nuggetnews.com)

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Member

Postmaster: Send address changes to  
The Nugget Newspaper,  
P.O. Box 698, Sisters, OR 97759.

Third Class Postage Paid at Sisters, Oregon.

Editor in Chief: Jim Cornelius

Production Manager: Leith Easterling

Creative Director: Jess Draper

Community Marketing  
Partner: Vicki Curlett

Classifieds & Circulation: Lisa May

Owner: J. Louis Mullen

The Nugget is mailed to residents within the Sisters School District; subscriptions are available outside delivery area. Third-class postage: one year, \$55; six months (or less), \$30. First-class postage: one year, \$95; six months, \$65.

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Honoring the  
'Greatest Generation'

By Pat Bowe

Commander VFW Post 8138

2020 is the first year since the formation of VFW Post 8138 in August of 1946 that a public honoring of Memorial Day in Sisters had to be canceled.

However, a small group of local veterans from Post 8138, American Legion Post 86, and Band of Brothers in cooperation with the City of Sisters held a short ceremony on Memorial Day at the Village Green. Our purpose was two fold: first to honor all those who have made the ultimate sacrifice to preserve our freedoms in all wars.

The second was to pay a special tribute to a passing legacy know as the "Greatest Generation." Greatest Generation is a term used to describe those who grew up during the Great Depression and fought in World War II, or whose labor helped win it. America and the world were saved from the evil of totalitarianism rule and fascism. In total over 405,000 Americans gave their lives in the WWII conflict.

Besides the thousands of World War II veterans that lie in cemeteries across America, cemeteries throughout Europe and the Pacific also hold the remains of Americans lost during World War II.

The Normandy American Cemetery and Memorial was the first World War II cemetery and memorial located in Colleville-sur-Mer, Normandy, France, that honors American troops. A total of 9,238 are

buried there. This cemetery contains the graves of 45 pairs of brothers (30 of which buried side by side), a father and his son, an uncle and his nephew, two pairs of cousins, three generals, four chaplains, four civilians, four women, 147 African Americans and 20 Native Americans. One of the Medal of Honor recipients buried there is Theodore Roosevelt, Jr., son of President Theodore Roosevelt.

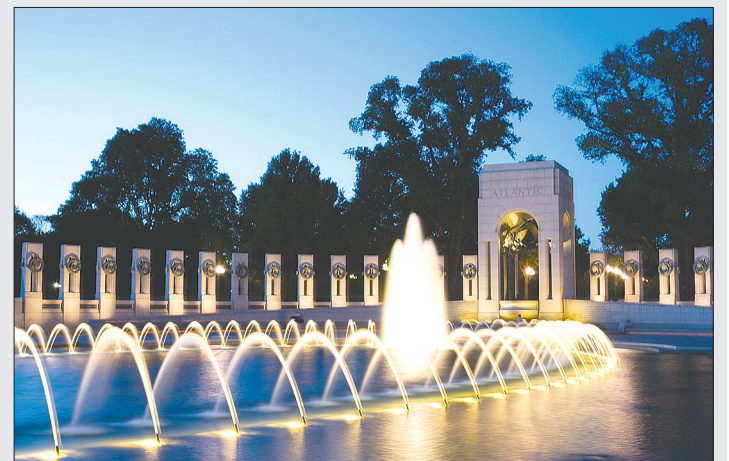
In St. Avold, France lie the remains of 10,489 Americans who gave their lives. It is the largest American World War II cemetery in Europe. 151 unknowns are buried here whose gravestone merely states "Here Rests in Honored Glory a Comrade in Arms Unknown but to God."

At the Manila American Cemetery in the Philippines lie 17,201 service members who perished in WWII.

One World War II survivor we had chosen to speak at our ceremony this year is Leon E. Devereaux, a U.S. Navy fighter pilot and resident of Bend. Please take the opportunity to read his biography in this issue of *The Nugget* (see page 1).

Later this year we will be holding a special ceremony at the Village Green Sisters Veterans Memorial to remember Sisters veterans whom have passed away this past year.

When you have the opportunity after social distancing restrictions are eased be sure to thank a veteran.



CAROL M. HIGHSMITH'S AMERICA, LIBRARY OF CONGRESS

The World War II Memorial in Washington, DC. Fountains in the Rainbow Pool with the Atlantic Pavilion in the background.

Opinions expressed in this column are solely those of the writer and are not necessarily shared by the Editor or The Nugget Newspaper.