



The Tavita family performs as Hokule'a Ohana at Music on the Green on Sept. 7 in Redmond.

Photo courtesy Redmond Chamber of Commerce

Dance like everyone is watching

Tavita family channels Polynesian roots through music, expression

BY NICK ROSENBERGER

Redmond Spokesman

The Tavitas have never known a life without dance.

With flashing colors, flowers and stomping feet, the family has long been an integral part of the Redmond community, with their Hokule'a dance performances now stretching across three generations.

"It's just in us. It's in our blood," said Novelen Tavita, the matriarch who brought her family from San Francisco to Terrebonne in the early 1990s with her husband, Joseph.

They found a two-bedroom house in the small town and squeezed in their seven kids: Tenise, Lynnette "Cici," Crystal, Young, Jake, Donnie and Keanu.

When they first arrived in the High Desert, the Tavitas started performing traditional hulas and Polynesian dances at the Redmond Fair, when it was located near Fred Meyer, and began performing at Music on the Green more than 18 years ago.

"The rest is history" said Jake Tavita, one of those seven children.

For the Tavitas, dance is a way to connect with their history, their culture and the Central Oregon community.

"It is nice to share our culture with everybody else that actually hasn't had that experience or hasn't been to Hawaii," said Crystal. "We try to bring that here."

See **Tavitas / A6**

LOCAL BUSINESS



Fresh Produce

Local store connects with customers, **A4**

WELCOME HOME

Flight gives county chance to celebrate its veterans



Nick Rosenberger/Spokesman photos

Veterans line up with flags on Sept. 24 to welcome home participants of the Honor Flight of Central Oregon at the Deschutes County Fair & Expo Center in Redmond.

BY NICK ROSENBERGER • Redmond Spokesman

With the Ridgeview High School Band blasting military hymns, the city of Redmond on Saturday welcomed home veterans who participated in this year's Honor Flight of Central Oregon.

Honor Flight of Central Oregon, the local chapter of a national nonprofit organization that flies veterans on an all-expenses paid trip to Washington, D.C., brought local veterans to the country's capital. Veterans included those who served in World War II, Vietnam and Korea.

Kenneth Anderson, a 95-year-old WWII veteran who served in the Navy, said he was able to lay a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier at Arlington National Cemetery. He said it was an honor to do so.

"It was a very impressive ceremony," Ander-

son said. "It felt pretty good."

Anderson said it was his first time stepping foot in Washington, D.C., having served aboard ships from 1944 to 1946 that brought him first to the Aleutian Islands in Alaska, then to deliver supplies to Bikini Atoll, where the United States tested nuclear bombs.

See **Honor flight / A6**

» An attendee embraces a veteran after returning home from the Honor Flight of Central Oregon at the Deschutes County Fair & Expo Center on Sept. 24 in Redmond.



Man carves out life among the sage and juniper trees

BY NICK ROSENBERGER

Redmond Spokesman

Glen Gray smiled as he drank his neon blue and red 7-Eleven Slurpee. The 59-year-old didn't seem to mind the 96-degree heat blasting Redmond on a late summer day as he slurped, leaving a splatter of red ice on his salt and pepper beard.

"I always get them for my daughter and everybody," Gray had said earlier, laughing and adding that he was more like a godfather to his partner's

daughter.

Despite a difficult life, Gray still smiles a lot while living in a remodeled travel trailer amidst the junipers and sage brush north of the Redmond Airport and

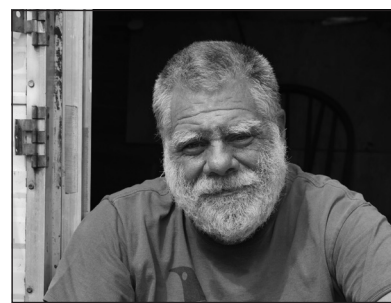
Highway 126. For Gray, it was a choice to move into the brush after his second wife died.

"I didn't want to be alone," he said.

His first wife died from a pulmonary embolism,

See **Gray / A6**

faces of homelessness



Dean Guernsey/The Bulletin

Glen Gray at the trailer that he lives in near Redmond.

WEATHER FORECAST

THIS WEEK'S FORECAST SPONSORED BY



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TUESDAY
Partly cloudy
88/46



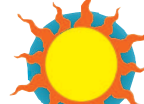
WEDNESDAY
Partly cloudy
79/43



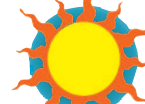
THURSDAY
Partly cloudy
73/41



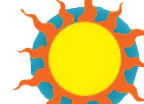
FRIDAY
Sunny
76/44



SATURDAY
Sunny
76/45



SUNDAY
Sunny
70/42



MONDAY
Sunny
68/42

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