

Memorial Day ceremony honors sacrifice



ERICK BENGEL — EO Media Group

During Cannon Beach's Memorial Day ceremony, Don Boehm, left, commander of American Legion Post 168, leads the color guard bearing the United States, Post 168, Post 168 Auxiliary and POW/MIA flags north down Fir Street toward the Fir Street Bridge.

Before almost 100 people, Dan O'Reilly, the commander-elect, delivered the following oration:

"This country was founded in revolution by overthrowing a ty-

rannical government. The cause was liberty. This was not done without cost. Patriots gave us all that they had and suffered incredible sacrifices to achieve what we now enjoy.

"Since then, the call to the colors has been sounded far too often, but our brave warriors continue to rise and respond. They have served, perished and bled in every part of the globe. They neither sought this

responsibility, nor did they shy away from it. Our men and women have served with dignity and honor, regardless of race or creed, for the common goal of the liberties we enjoy.

"This is what to remember and honor for those who have sacrificed their all. They truly are our families and must always be cherished. We owe them more than we could ever give. Their gift to us is best

symbolized by the U.S. Military Academy's motto: 'Duty. Honor. Country.'

"It is our responsibility to accept this challenge and to never forget what these brave men and women gave to us. The plaintive tones of 'Taps' will tell these fallen warriors that they may rest, for we accept this duty, and we have the watch."

While veterans saluted and civilians place hand over heart, Pat

Hegrenes, a Sons of the American Legion member, sounded "Taps" on the bugle.

In the solemn silence that followed, dozens of people tossed flowers of different varieties over the bridge's westward railing into Ecola Creek, "in the same way you lay flowers at a grave — to say 'Thank you,'" said Cannon Beach resident Mary Kerwin, who threw lilies.

Acquisition adds to conservation project

NASELLE, Wash. — The Nature Conservancy has purchased 79 acres of timberlands that are completely surrounded by the Conservancy's existing Ellsworth Creek Preserve, filling in an important piece of the puzzle in restoring this watershed that feeds into Willapa Bay.

The property has big timber and is visible from U.S. Highway 101. Stands of old-growth rainforest are nearby, and endangered marbled murrelets have been identified in the area. All these factors make it an important piece of land for conservation.

"This acquisition is a milestone in our work to restore rainforests on the Washington coast," said Mike Stevens, Washington director for The Nature Conservancy. "At Ellsworth Creek we're advancing the science of forest restoration in an entire watershed. I look forward to seeing the forest filled with towering moss-laden hemlocks, spruce and cedars, and streams alive with salmon."

The Conservancy began buying land in the Ellsworth Creek watershed in 1998. With this latest acquisition, the Conservancy now owns and manages more than 8,000 acres adjacent to the Willapa National Wildlife Refuge. The Conservancy also partners with the Refuge for restoration on refuge lands.

The preserve includes pockets of real old-growth forest as well as forests that have been harvested for timber. The Conservancy is modeling different methods of restoration to discover what will most quickly

put the forest on the path toward old-growth conditions.

The property was sold to the Conservancy by Vic and Debbie Boekelman. "We bought this land 26 years ago as an investment for our retirement," said Vic Boekelman. "Over the years the Conservancy has bought the land around us, and we've been really impressed with the work they've been doing to manage and restore the forest. This is a win-win for us, to know that the forest will be here and we can bring our grandchildren out to see it."

The Boekelmans have always permitted hunting on their property, and it will continue to be open for hunting in compliance with state fish and wildlife regulations, as is the rest of Ellsworth Creek Preserve.

The acquisition, which closed May 20, was funded by a National Coastal Wetlands Conservation grant, and funding for ongoing stewardship of the property was provided by a private donor.

Paddle away in Willapa Harbor Kayak Day event

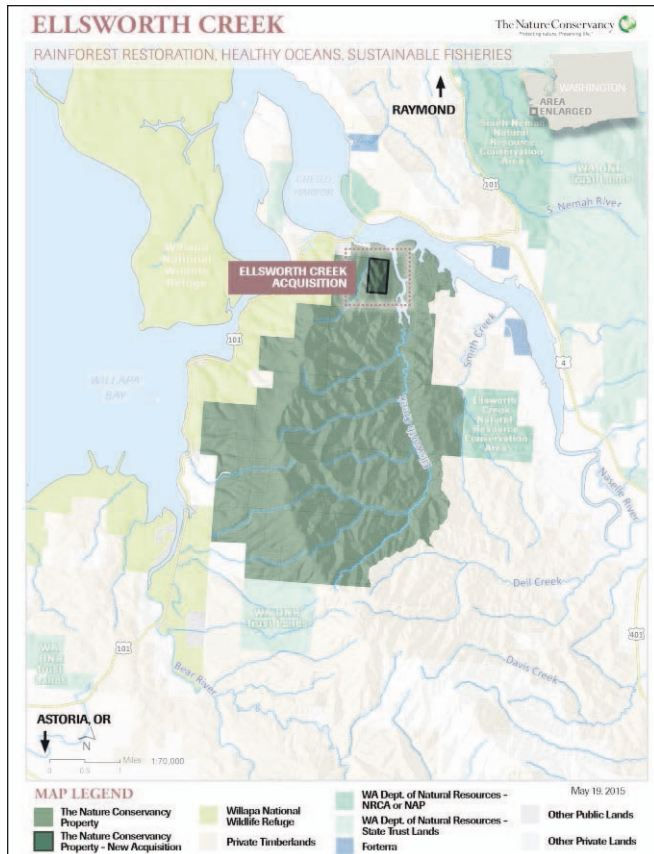
RAYMOND, Wash. — Willapa Harbor Kayak Day is 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday. Kayakers and water enthusiasts alike are welcome to join others at the Raymond Riverfront Park behind the Northwest Carriage museum for an afternoon of fun.

Washington State Fish and Wildlife will be on hand to educate the public on water safety and Dennis Company will display kayaks and boating supplies that they offer.

Purchase a ticket to win a kayak for \$5 or participate in

the prize paddle for a chance to win. Kayakers will also be able to try out the new paddle-up-on kayak dock. The event is free.

The Willapa Harbor area is a great place to paddle offering kayakers and boaters unsurpassed beauty and plentiful wildlife. The Willapa area offers numerous launches and kayak docks to get your kayak, canoe, or boat in the water and there will be maps on hand at the event to help you choose a launch for your future paddle adventures.



Contributed photo

A map shows a watershed above the Naselle estuary owned by The Nature Conservancy of Washington, which just purchased additional acreage.

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