

HONOR

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won the Oregon Music Educators Association award for Oregon's Outstanding Music Educator of the Year.

Huskey hinted that Steighner could still be involved in directing music in the community in the future. "We're still going to call on you," said Huskey.

The music selected for Monday's ceremony ranged from stoic and proper to lively and uplifting. In a ringing tenor, Andy Streich sang the hymn "The Old Rugged Cross" and Leonard Cohen's "Halleluiah," giving attendees a dose of contemporary gospel music.

After the ceremony, guests got a chance to see 18 new flags dotted across the south side of the cemetery. Leonard explained that the star spangled display was an Eagle Scout project by Lucas Gilbert of Boy Scout Troop 282.

Gilbert, 16, said he came up with the idea last April. The project took 11 months of planning, and the efforts of 11 scouts and four adults. This spring, his team dug holes eight inches wide in diameter and 30 inches deep, then poured concrete to house the flags.

"The goal was to honor veterans on Memorial Day (with) a new spot for flags in the cemetery," said Gilbert.



SUNLIGHT GLEAMS off the slide of Alden Gendreau's trombone, as the Hood River Valley High School band marches in the Memorial Day ceremony.



CUB SCOUTS and Boy Scouts from local troops process at the grand entrance of the Memorial Day ceremony Monday at Idlewild Cemetery. At left, a wreath by Peggy Ross.



Photos by Patrick Mulvihill.

CRASH

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ving, and was lodged in Northern Oregon Regional Correctional Facility.

The cause of the fall is "undetermined" and is under investigation, said the Hood River County Sheriff's Office.

"As the vehicle was moving, Ram had fallen out of the car in some manner," said Hood River County Sheriff Matt English in a written release.

Sheriff's deputies responded calls from witnesses and found Ram lying face down in a ditch off Highway 281 near Airport Road. Ram had suffered major injuries to his head. He was transported by ambulance to Providence Hood River Hospital, and then to Legacy Emanuel Hospital in Portland, where he remained in critical condition as of Sunday night.

Aside from the vehicle-on-house crash in Cascade Locks Saturday and the serious fall from a vehicle south of Hood River Sunday, police reported an ordinary Memorial Day Weekend.

Hood River Police Sergeant Don Cheli characterized the weekend as "extremely busy traffic-wise" but not as busy as last year.

"It was a little quieter, (but) it was still a little busy," said Cheli.

City police reported 88 traffic stops this year as opposed to 136 last Memorial Day weekend and one DUII arrest as opposed to three

last year.

The Hood River County Sheriff's Office reported three DUII arrests, including the two respective incidents in Cascade Locks and Hood River.

The Sheriff's Office increased its patrols over the weekend.

Cheli said the city police department didn't raise patrols for the weekend, except to include some overtime hours for one patrol officer. However, he said the department received grant funding from Oregon Department of Transportation to focus on seatbelt and cell phone violations.

"We're taking a stronger enforcement stance," said Cheli, regarding cell phones. He said the minimum fine for failing to wear a seatbelt is \$110 and the fine for using a cell phone while driving is \$160.



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Health group launches 'Hospital Guide'

The Oregon Association of Hospitals and Health Systems (OAHHS) announced Tuesday that it launched Oregon Hospital Guide (www.OrHospitalGuide.org), according to a press release. The new website displays hospital data on a user-friendly platform. This is the first phase of a larger hospital transparency effort, OAHHS officials said.

OrHospitalGuide.org is the new home of data that tracks the quality of care in Oregon's hospitals — which patients can use to learn about their local community hospital. The site is designed to make complex information understandable and accessible to all Oregonians.

The current quality of

care information on OrHospitalGuide.org is gathered from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) and will be updated quarterly. Notably, in the category of Patient Experience, OrHospitalGuide.org will display a rating of "poor" to "superior" for hospitals across the state. Based on a new star ratings system by CMS for quality measures on its Hospital Compare website, this is the first of many ratings coming in future months that will further simplify information for Oregonians.

"We strongly believe that patients should be able to access hospital data and under-

stand what it means," said Diane Waldo, associate vice president of quality and clinical programs for OAHHS. "To that end, we have spent the last few months designing this site to focus on ease-of-use, understandability, and value to the visitor. We are pleased to unveil OrHospitalGuide.org because of the value it brings to Oregonians."

Site features include:

- Presenting existing quality of care information in an accessible, understandable way using simple navigation
- Enabling users to compare hospitals' on several quality of care measures

■ Explaining the meaning and importance of the different quality of care measures in plain language

■ Providing searchable geographic and contact information with links to all hospitals

The website will grow over time. Future plans for the site include posting patient utilization and hospital financial data, such as inpatient visits, emergency room visits, operating margins and gross patient revenue. This expanded data is expected to come online in the first quarter of 2016.

To learn more, visit www.OrHospitalGuide.org.

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