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# EAST OREGONIAN

TUESDAY, MAY 26, 2015

139th Year, No. 158

WINNER OF THE 2013 ONPA GENERAL EXCELLENCE AWARD

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Roger Rasico, of VFW Post 922, salutes the flag Monday during a Memorial Day observance at Olney Cemetery in Pendleton. Staff photo by Kathy Aney

## Sheriff defends dispatch billing

By PHIL WRIGHT  
East Oregonian

Umatilla County Sheriff Terry Rowan is defending his agency against accusations it has not been forthcoming about charges for dispatch services. He also said he will make an effort to explain the center's practices to police and city leaders to clear the air and mend relationships.

The sheriff's office communications center provides 9-1-1 and dispatch services for 27 police, fire and ambulance agencies, including for Pendleton and Hermiston. This year the agency sought to correct an old problem — not charging smaller cities what it should for dispatch services. That raised some hackles in Umatilla, Stanfield and Pilot Rock. And Hermiston Police Chief Jason Edmiston pushed the sheriff's office to explain how it calculates the tab.

Rowan, undersheriff Jim Littlefield and Capt. Kathy Lieuallen, head of the sheriff's office communications division, recently sat down with the *East Oregonian* to do just that.

The total expenses for the communications center for 2015-16

See DISPATCH/8A

## A GRATEFUL NATION

### Remembering those who gave their lives for U.S. freedom

By KATHY ANEY  
East Oregonian

It's a matter of gratitude. "Gratitude" is the word Griswold High School history teacher Lorin Kubishta writes on the board every year on the first day of school. He asks his students to think back a generation or two or three to people on their family trees who sacrificed their lives.

Kubishta talked about the yearly tradition as he stood under some giant maple trees at Olney Cemetery on Monday

morning and addressed almost 100 people gathered on the lawn for a Memorial Day observance. A U.S. flag ruffled in the breeze at his right shoulder.

"So much of our history revolves around those who have sacrificed everything," Kubishta said. "Our nation has suffered more than one million war dead in its history. I tell my students, 'They should not be forgotten.'"

It disturbs Kubishta that a recently released survey shows that high school students have

See PENDLETON/8A



Dave Chorazy, of Pendleton, played "Taps" at the end of Monday's Memorial Day observance at Olney Cemetery in Pendleton. Chorazy once played in the Navy Band. Staff photo by Kathy Aney



Flowers and a flag in honor of Memorial Day adorn one of the many veterans' graves at Hermiston Cemetery. Staff photo by Jade McDowell

### HERMISTON

#### Tribute to the flag's red stripes

By JADE MCDOWELL  
East Oregonian

Six hundred American flags waved gently in the breeze Monday morning at Hermiston Cemetery as a crowd gathered to pay their respects to the men and women who died in the service of their country.

"The red of our country's flag is made redder by their heroism," Duane Storms of VFW Post 4750 told the audience.

He described the Memorial Day ceremony, sponsored by VFW Post

4750 and American Legion Post 37, as a "lasting tribute of respect."

After his remarks VFW Commander Teddy Richards read out the names of all the area veterans who died in the last year. The crowd then stood silently at attention while "Taps" was played and the National Guard honor guard ceremoniously unfolded and then refolded an American flag.

Lori Scott, who has come to the Memorial Day ceremony at Hermiston Cemetery every year

See HERMISTON/8A

## California looks Down Under for drought advice

Associated Press

SYDNEY — California has turned to the world's driest inhabited continent for solutions to its longest and sharpest drought on record.

Australia, the land poet Dorothea Mackellar dubbed "a sunburnt country," suffered a torturous drought from the late 1990s through 2012. Now Californians are facing their own "Big Dry," and looking Down Under to see how they coped.

Australia also faced tough water restrictions — along with dying cattle, barren fields and monstrous wildfires that killed 173 people. But when the rains finally returned, Australians had fundamentally changed how they handle this precious resource. They treat water as a commodity to be conserved and traded, and carefully measure what's available and how it's being used. Efficiency programs cut their average daily use to 55 gallons, compared with 105 gallons per day

See DROUGHT/8A

### HERMISTON

#### With city funding set aside, park users have suggestions

By JADE MCDOWELL  
East Oregonian

As Hermiston puts more focus on its parks, frequent users of the city's greenspace have plenty of ideas for things they would like to see.

The city put aside more than \$250,000 in a reserve fund for park projects in the coming year, including money for improvements to Victory Square Park and Sunset Park and \$85,000 to build a skate park.

Most of the city's parks were full of children, teenagers and picnicking families on Monday as

residents took advantage of a sunny holiday weekend.

Janelle and Tony Carrera said McKenzie Park, where their boys were swinging from the play equipment Monday, was their favorite.

Janelle said they use all of the parks around town but McKenzie Park has the most shade, which is an important factor in the summer when it's hot.

It's no surprise, then, what she would like to see Hermiston's park budget used for.

"Trees, trees and trees," she said. Tony added that he would also

See PARKS/8A



Sisters Emily, Taylor and Naomi Hancock (pictured left to right) play on a see-saw at Victory Square Park on Memorial Day. Staff photo by Jade McDowell

