

PEARL HARBOR: VFW working to create year-round tribute

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Jaeger said he now mostly does volunteer jobs after retiring from the Air Force.

Pearl Harbor also had effects on the people who didn't serve. A visitor to the air museum, Mary Koch was 10 years old when Japan attacked Hawaii and remembers the feeling like an invasion was imminent.

A Pilot Rock resident who grew up in Pendleton, life went on after the war started but it remained an undercurrent of everyday life. Koch recalled the blackout drills the town would undertake in case of an air attack, the terrible sweetener her family was sent as a part of the food rations, and the dinners her family would host for soldiers and their wives at the air base who couldn't afford to eat out.

"It was a community effort," she said.

Sean Degan served a 30-year career in the Navy from 1979 to 2009, spanning conflicts with Libya in the 1980s to the War on Terror in the 2000s.

Degan pointed to a book filled with World War II-era newspapers that had recently been donated to the air museum, calling it a "gem." He compared



Staff photo by E.J. Harris

In honor of National Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day, the Pendleton Air Museum hosted several veterans among its collection of memorabilia from the World War II-era Pendleton Airbase.

Pearl Harbor to 9/11, times where the country got its "teeth kicked in" before uniting behind a common cause and fighting back.

While National Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day is a one-day event, Veterans of Foreign Wars Let'er Buck Post 922 and the Pendleton Arts Committee are working on a year-round tribute.

In an interview Thursday, VFW member Johnny Blagg

said plans are proceeding to turn an out-of-use fountain near the corner of Highway 11 and Southeast Court Avenue into a tribute to all branches of the U.S. military — the Army, Navy, Air Force, Marines and Coast Guard.

Blagg said the memorial won't just be a tribute to veterans, but to all military members. The memorial will include five basalt columns in a circular formation with each column featuring a bronze emblem of a military

branch. The basalt columns will be about knee-high so that everyone would be able to get a good look at the emblems up close.

Blagg said he has received permission from each branch to depict their emblem and the Pendleton Parks and Recreation Department has already removed brush and old landscaping from the fountain.

A recent appointee to the arts committee, Blagg said he isn't sure the exact cost because the project will be done in phases. A later phase could include a sculpture or some other piece of art in the center of the circular formation, either repurposed or original.

The arts committee has already committed \$10,000 toward the project. Blagg said the bronze plaques and lighting will cost about \$7,500 while the basalt columns are being donated from a VFW member in Washington.

Blagg said the VFW and the city are ready to install the memorial as soon as the weather warms up in March or April.

Contact Antonio Sierra at asierra@eastoregonian.com or 541-966-0836.

NORCOR: Changed several practices in the wake of the report

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and interviews with 23 youth. She found the facility often shut youth in cells for hours at a time, and jail staff disciplined youth as young as 12 for talking while in line or looking anywhere but straight ahead.

Juvenile inmates on "disciplinary status" were subjected to weeks of isolation, according to the report, cut off from phone calls and visits. They ate alone and could not participate in education with their peers.

Getting off disciplinary status depended on earning passing marks on scorecards that staff filled out each shift. Radcliffe found there was no set number for how many shifts youth must pass.

Wasco County further demanded an independent investigation to dig into the report's findings and recommendations, and commissioners told NORCOR the county will "immediately redirect any youth in NORCOR custody to a different facility" pending resolution of the report.

NORCOR director Byran Brandenburg has said juveniles at the jail do not suffer inhumane treatment, and he criticized the report for inaccuracies and exaggerations. However, Brandenburg said that NORCOR has changed several practices in the wake of the report that went public Tuesday morning, including allowing students to have pens and journals in their cells and allowing students on disciplinary status to have calls and visitors.

He also said the facility did away with "silly rules" that prohibited youth from looking around or asking what time it was.

The counties of Wasco, Hood River, Sherman, and Gilliam teamed up to create NORCOR in The Dalles. The jail holds 100 to 130 adults and 20-24 youth. NORCOR holds contracts with 17 counties and the Warm Springs Reservation for youth detention, along with counties in Washington and federal immigration detainees.

Umatilla and Morrow counties are part of that mix.

Morrow County Administrator Darrell Green did not return a call Thursday, but Umatilla County Commissioner Bill Elfering said "if Wasco County is taking that kind of action, we have to look into this."

Umatilla County does not have a juvenile jail, so it uses NORCOR and sometimes the Walla Walla County Jail to hold youth offenders and defendants. Elfering said it would require board action to not keep juveniles from NORCOR, but before making any decisions the county board needed to know more. He said a "knee-jerk reaction would be wrong" and called for fact-gathering to sort out the accuracy of the findings, "but it sounded like some of it fell on fertile ground."

Alice Lundell, director of communication for the nonprofit Oregon Justice Resource Center, Portland, said in a written statement that the "investigation into conditions at NORCOR for young people reveals a system of confinement that is at odds with established developmental science demonstrating that the 'compliance at all costs' approach of NORCOR as depicted in DRO's report is deeply counterproductive."

The center also supported Disability Rights' recommendations, which include licensing and regulation of Oregon's juvenile facilities, ending solitary confinement for youth and guarantee appropriate education for all students in the jail.

"The conditions described in the report should shame Oregonians and should prompt major change," said Lundell.

Wasco County commissioners in their letter stated they hoped their actions "serve as the catalyst to start a meaningful discussion concerning NORCOR," and the county "remains ready to assist in resolving the issues."

CHRISTMAS: Tree was originally located in Victory Square Park

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said. "It gives us something to do."

After Majaztzy finished performing HHS junior Derek McBride said it "felt great" to be up there performing in front of the community. He said his favorite song the choir performed was Michael Bubl 's "Sway."

"You can dance to it," he said. "You can do a little cha cha, and I love the music break the piano and guitar have."

After the choir, Mayor David Drotzmann warmed up the crowd for Santa.

"I think it's awesome we as a community can get together and celebrate the season," he told the crowd before thanking the event's sponsors.

Drotzmann said this year's giant Christmas tree was originally located in Victory Square Park and had been scheduled for removal because it was crowding out other trees and hanging over the street. If anyone has a large pine tree they're looking to remove from their property, he said, let the city know and they can put it on the schedule as next year's tree to decorate.

He encouraged everyone to take some time to check out the businesses participating in First Thursday before they headed home.

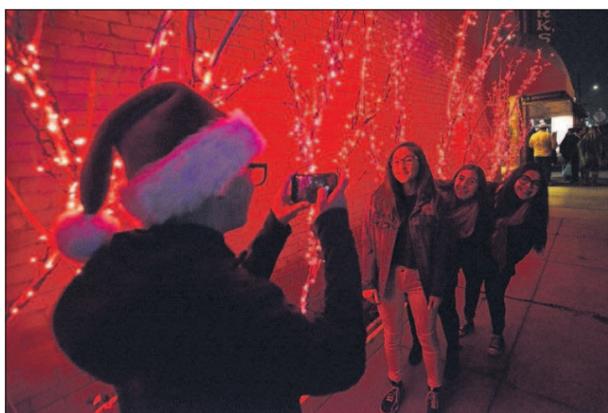
"There's no place better to spend your money than downtown," he said. "These are the guys that support your basketball teams, support your football teams, support your cheer team, and those dollars come from you spending your money here."

Drotzmann's speech was followed by sirens, as Santa Claus arrived on a fire truck and flipped the candycane-striped



Staff photo by E.J. Harris

Faith Stubbs, Derek McBride and Keali'imanaole Hamilton sing "So What" by Pink with the Hermiston High School a cappella jazz choir, Majaztzy, during the tree-lighting festival on Thursday in Hermiston.



Staff photo by E.J. Harris

William Kern, 14, takes a photo with a cell phone of Caela Nygren, 15, Anani Medina, 15, and Jahaira Arteaga, 16, during the tree-lighting festival on Thursday in Hermiston.

"I think it's awesome we as a community can get together and celebrate the season."

— David Drotzmann, Mayor of Hermiston

switch that lit up the towering Christmas tree for the holiday season.

"I wanted to get here in the St. Nick of time!" he said when Drotzmann teased that he had to stall for time.

Contact Jade McDowell at jmcdowell@eastoregonian.com or 541-564-4536.

COMING EVENTS

For a complete listing of regional events, visit eastoregonevents.com

FRIDAY, DEC. 8
U.S. CELLULAR CUSTOMER APPRECIATION CELEBRATION, 11 a.m.-6 p.m., U.S. Cellular, 1923 S.W. Court Ave., Pendleton. Special customer appreciation celebration includes smartphone prize wheel, accessory discounts and more. Free. (Katie 503-552-5011)

"WHAT ARE YOU? MIXED-RACE AND INTERRACIAL FAMILIES: OREGON'S PAST AND FUTURE", 1-2:30 p.m., Tamastylt Cultural Institute, 47106 Wildhorse Blvd., Pendleton. Oregon Humanities Conversation Project facilitator Dmae Roberts will discuss the realities faced by mixed-race people and interracial families in Oregon. Free. (541-429-7700)

STORY AND CRAFT TIME, 2 p.m., Echo Public Library, 20 S. Bonanza, Echo, (541-376-8411)

VFW BINGO, 6 p.m., Hermiston VFW, 45 W. Cherry St., Hermiston. Doors open at 6 p.m., games begin at 7 p.m. Everyone welcome. (541-567-6219)

CHRISTMAS SINGALONG, 6 p.m., Seventh-day Adventist Church, 1401 S.W. Goodwin Place, Pendleton. Choose and sing your favorite songs from the hymnal, and enjoy special musical performances between hymns. Light snacks will be provided. Free and open to the public. (Glenn 541-310-1230)

GAMER'S NIGHT, 7-10:30 p.m., Pendleton Recreation Center, 510 S.W. Dorion Ave., Pendleton. Tournament gaming and activities for teens. (541-276-8100)

SATURDAY, DEC. 9
ALL-YOU-CAN-EAT BREAKFAST, 7-10 a.m., Columbia Grange, 32339 Diagonal Blvd.,

Hermiston. Cost is \$6 per person. (Doris or Scot 541-567-8663 or 541-278-0615)

L'IL BUCKS OPEN GYM, 8:30 a.m., Pendleton Recreation Center, 510 S.W. Dorion Ave., Pendleton. For students in first-third grades.

PARKING LOT SALE, 8:30-11:30 a.m., Agape House, 500 W. Harper Road, Hermiston. Clothing items 5 for \$1, bicycles \$10 for adults, \$5 for youths, furniture as marked and knick-knacks you-name-the-price. Sale will be held indoors in inclement weather. (Dave 541-567-8774)

ST. MARY'S BAZAAR, 9 a.m.-2 p.m., St. Mary's Catholic Church parish hall, 800 S.E. Court Ave., Pendleton. Vendors will offer a variety of handcrafted items. Brunch, lunch and desserts will be available for purchase. \$1 admission fee includes one raffle ticket. Proceeds support the needy in the community. (541-276-2751)

BREAKFAST WITH SANTA, 9-11 a.m., Boardman Senior Center, 100 Tatone St., Boardman. Pancake breakfast and fun activities, including photos with Santa, goodie bags, mule wagon rides and more. Cost is \$3 per person.

ECHO PTO HOLIDAY BAZAAR, 9 a.m.-1 p.m., Echo School commons, 600 Gerone St., Echo. Local vendors will offer gift ideas for everyone. Free admission.

RUDOLPH RUN, 9-11 a.m., McNary Fire Station No. 2, 303 Willamette Ave., Umatilla. Don an ugly sweater or Christmas costume and join the fundraising run for the Umatilla Volunteer Firefighters Association's Christmas basket program. Suggested entry fee is 5 items of non-perishable food. Cash or credit card donations will also be accepted. (541-922-3718)

CHURCH CHRISTMAS BAZAAR, 9 a.m.-2 p.m., Echo Community Church, 21 N. Bonanza St., Echo. Lots of crafts to choose from. An enchilada meal will be available for purchase



EO file photo

The Holiday Stroll is Saturday from 3-7 p.m. in Downtown Pendleton. The event will feature tree lighting, beer garden, special deals and a visit from Santa.

from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Proceeds benefit the VFW/Church Scholarship fund. (541-376-8108)

FREE FOR ALL, 9:30-10:15 a.m., Pendleton Center for the Arts, 214 N. Main St., Pendleton. Free art classes for children up to age 12. Children under 8 should be accompanied by an adult. (Roberta Lavadour 541-278-9201)

YARN CLUB, 10 a.m.-12 p.m., Hermiston Public Library, 235 E. Gladys Ave., Hermiston. (541-567-2882)

LADIES' HOLIDAY BRUNCH, 10 a.m., Faith Center Church, 108 S. Main St., Pendleton. Special guest speaker Christy Hill will present "Awaken the Bride." Free. (Ray and Julie O'Grady 541-377-2036 or 541-276-9569)

SATURDAY CRAFTS FOR KIDS, 10:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m., Hermiston Public Library, 235 E. Gladys Ave., Hermiston. Drop-in craft time for kids. Free. (541-567-2882)

HIP & HANDMADE, 11 a.m.-12 p.m., Pendleton Center for the Arts, 214 N. Main St., Pendle-

ton. Free drop-in project class for adults. (Roberta Lavadour 541-278-9201)

AUTHOR TALK: DAVID DORFMEIER, 11 a.m., Pendleton Public Library, 502 S.W. Dorion Ave., Pendleton. Dorfmeier will talk about his true-life book "C-Lager: Stalag Luft IV and the 86-Day Hunger March" about Army Air Corps airmen housed in the notorious camp during WWII. Free. (541-966-0380)

U.S. CELLULAR CUSTOMER APPRECIATION CELEBRATION, 11 a.m.-6 p.m., U.S. Cellular, 1923 S.W. Court Ave., Pendleton. Special customer appreciation celebration includes smartphone prize wheel, accessory discounts and more. Free. (Katie 503-552-5011)

COUNTRY HOEDOWN, 1-4 p.m., Milton-Freewater Neighborhood Senior Center, 311 N. Main St., Milton-Freewater. Live music, dancing and singing. Admission \$2, refreshments available for purchase. (541-938-3311)

"SEASON OF MAGIC" STUDENT ARTIST RECEPTION, 2-4 p.m., Arts Portal Gallery, 508 N. Main St., Milton-Freewater. Student art from Central Middle School. (Laura Rose-Grabinski 541-938-5516)

HOLIDAY STROLL, 3-7 p.m., Downtown Pendleton, 380 S. Main St., Pendleton. Tree lighting, beer garden, special deals, hot chocolate stations, guitar raffle, Santa visit, and more. Free. (Molly Turner 541-304-3912)

ART EXHIBITION, 4-8 p.m., Jim Simpson home, 370 W. Moore Ave., Hermiston. A 22-piece exhibition featuring new oil landscapes of local areas will be available to view and purchase.

PENDLETON COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS TREE LIGHTING, 4:30 p.m., outside Hamley Steakhouse, 8 S.E. Court Ave., Pendleton. Local musician Murray Dunlap will play Christmas tunes from 4:30-5 p.m., and city councilor Neil Brown will give a short speech at 5 p.m. before the tree is lit. Everyone welcome. (Molly Turner 541-304-3912)

LIVING NATIVITY, 6-8 p.m., First United Methodist Church, 191 E. Gladys Ave., Hermiston. Reflect on the biblical account of the Christmas story with an outdoor nativity scene featuring costumed actors and animals. Refreshments will be served inside the church, and decorated trees representing charitable missions the church supports will be on display. Free. (541-567-3002)

HERMISTON COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS CONCERT, 7:30 p.m., Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, 850 S.W. 11th St., Hermiston. Local talent featuring Dallin Puzey will perform Christmas favorites. Family-friendly. Free admission. (Courtney Tiemann 801-635-8415)

SUNDAY, DEC. 10
KIDS CLUB, 9:30 a.m., First Christian Church, 518 S. Main St.,

Milton-Freewater. For children of all ages. Includes arts, crafts, music and more. Free. (Janet Collins 541-938-3854)

SPECIAL NEEDS OPEN GYM, 12-1:30 p.m., Pendleton Recreation Center, 510 S.W. Dorion Ave., Pendleton. Free for special needs children and families. (541-276-8100)

HOLIDAY MUSIC FESTIVAL, 3:15 p.m., Vert Auditorium, 480 S.W. Dorion Ave., Pendleton. The Oregon East Symphony and Chorale, Our Songs Are Alive, the Pendleton Men's Chorus and the Eastern Oregon Community Big Band will perform an ecumenical celebration of the holiday through song. Tickets are \$20 for adults, \$15 for seniors and students, or \$45 for a family of four, available at the OES office, online, at Pendleton Art + Frame or at the door. (JD Kindle 541-276-0320)

LIVING NATIVITY, 4-6 p.m., First United Methodist Church, 191 E. Gladys Ave., Hermiston. Reflect on the biblical account of the Christmas story with an outdoor nativity scene featuring costumed actors and animals. Refreshments will be served inside the church, and decorated trees representing charitable missions the church supports will be on display. Free. (541-567-3002)

CHRISTOPHER DUFFLEY IN CONCERT, 5 p.m., Heppner Jr./Sr. High School gymnasium, 710 N.W. Morgan St., Heppner. Duffley will perform Christian praise and worship music and tell about the obstacles he has overcome in his life to become a sought-after performer. Light dinner and snack options will be available for purchase beginning at 5 p.m.; concert begins at 6:30 p.m. Free. (Sheryll Bates 541-676-5536)

ADULT OPEN GYM, 6:30 p.m., Pendleton Recreation Center, 510 S.W. Dorion Ave., Pendleton. Half-court basketball. Adults only.