



EAST OREGONIAN

TUESDAY, MAY 29, 2018

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Canada, U.S. renegotiate Columbia River Treaty

U.S. wants to change how much hydro power it sends to Canada for water storage

By NICHOLAS K. GERANIOS
Associated Press

SPOKANE, Wash. — Talks are scheduled to begin this week in Washington, D.C., to modernize the document that coordinates flood control and hydropower generation in the United States and Canada along the 1,200-mile Columbia River.

Northwest politicians have been pushing for years to renegotiate the Columbia River Treaty between the two countries. The lawmakers are particularly keen to eliminate a so-called “Canadian Entitlement” they contend is too favorable to Canada.

The State Department announced last week that talks to revise the 1964 treaty would be held this Tuesday and Wednesday.

“The Columbia River Treaty is integral to so much of the Pacific Northwest way of life — from our economy, to our environment, to our culture and heritage — so it’s hard to overstate the importance of updating this treaty to meet modern-day issues,” Democratic Sen. Patty Murray of Washington said last week.

In addition to hydropower and flood control, the existing treaty provides benefits such as irrigation, municipal and industrial water, navigation and recreation.

But environmental groups and Native American tribes contend it doesn’t do enough to help endangered salmon runs.

Washington state’s congressional delegation in 2014 began urging the federal government to renegotiate the treaty, which expires in 2024.

“These vital negotiations have been long overdue,” said Republican U.S. Rep. Dan Newhouse, who represents central Washington.

The Columbia River begins in Canada but flows mostly in the United States. It forms much of the border between Washington and Oregon before it plunges into the Pacific Ocean.

There are some 150 hydroelectric projects on the Columbia and its tributaries. That includes 18 so-called main stem dams on the Columbia and its main tributary, the Snake River, according to the Army Corps of Engineers.

Those dams are blamed for decimating what were once some of the world’s greatest salmon runs.

The U.S. government has said the new talks should include environmental goals, such as increasing stream flows to benefit salmon.

The U.S. also wants reconsideration of the “Canadian Entitlement,” which provides Canada with \$250 million to \$350 million a year worth of electrical power in exchange for storing water in huge reservoirs that can

See TREATY/2A

MEMORIAL DAY



Staff photo by Kathy Aney

A member of Boy Scout Troop 700 salutes the flag Monday after posting colors at the Memorial Day ceremony at Olney Cemetery in Pendleton.

NOT FORGOTTEN

Services at cemeteries tell of sacrifices for our country

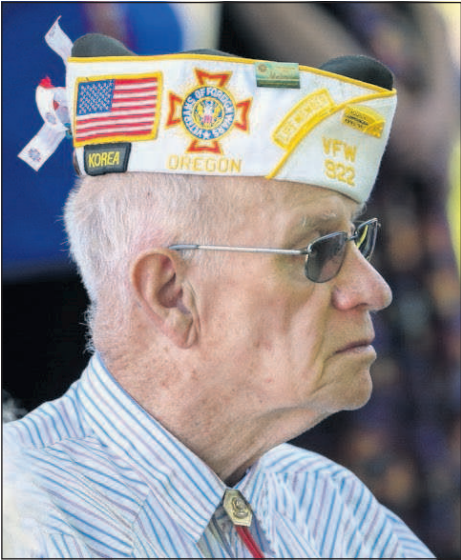
By JAYATI RAMAKRISHNAN
and ANTONIO SIERRA
East Oregonian

Memorial Day ceremonies in Hermiston and Pendleton took a moment Monday to remember casualties of war and the more recent passing of veterans who served their country.

Hermiston’s ceremony, hosted by VFW Post 4750, stuck to tradition, with Commander Ron Jardine reading out the names of 38 Umatilla County veterans who had died in the past year.

About 100 gathered at the gravesite for the brief ceremony, which honored veterans from all branches of the military.

Chaplain Tom Reamer also gave a short speech about what veterans mean to the



Staff photo by Kathy Aney

Veteran Kenneth Garrett listens during Monday’s Memorial Day ceremony at Olney Cemetery in Pendleton.

United States.

“Veterans write a blank check to the United States of America, of an amount up to, and including, their life,” he said.

Reamer also highlighted a tradition for many veterans — placing coins on gravestones.

A penny means that someone visited the deceased. A veteran who trained with the deceased at boot camp can place a nickel on the grave. A dime means the veteran and the deceased served together.

“And a quarter,” he said. “Means the veteran was with the deceased when they were killed.”

Jardine noted that June Spearman, a gold star mother, was at the grave that day. Spearman’s son, Staff Sgt. Gordon Keith Spearman Jr., was in the Army and died on March 10, 1971 in Vietnam. He was 24 and on his second combat tour in Vietnam

See MEMORIAL/10A



Staff photo by Jayati Ramakrishnan

The front lawn of Kyle Homer and Danielle Dickason’s house displayed 50 white crosses, each bearing the name of a soldier who died in the Iraq War.

Fifty crosses for fallen comrades

By JAYATI RAMAKRISHNAN
East Oregonian

Seven years after he left Iraq, Kyle Homer found a way to help others remember those who didn’t make it home.

Homer and Jonathan Wheeler put up a memorial in Homer’s front yard that honors 50 of the men they served with who died in Iraq. The small white crosses are displayed in a grid on the front lawn at the home on the 800 block of East Pine Avenue in Hermiston, and each cross bears the

name of a Marine who died in action.

Homer said all the people named in the memorial served in 1st Battalion 3rd Marines. Twenty-six of them died in a helicopter in February 2005, and the rest died in combat in Fallujah.

“These are our brothers,” said Wheeler, who lives in Walla Walla. “I think about these guys every day. Today is just a good day to share their stories with other people.”

See FALLEN/10A

PENDLETON

Buckaroo softball superfan makes himself heard



Staff photo by Kathy Aney

Superfan Jim Rohde is a loud and encouraging presence at every Pendleton High School softball game.

Players appreciate their man in the stands, who always keeps it positive

By KATHY ANEY
East Oregonian

The soundtrack of a softball game includes the crack of the bat, cheers and moans of the crowd and the thud of ball hitting mitt.

At Pendleton High School softball games, there’s an additional layer of sound provided by superfan Jim Rohde. The Adams man comes to every game to cheer the girls to victory. Rohde’s stream of banter both encourages and amuses spectators, players and even occasionally

More inside

The Pendleton Buckaroos will host a semifinal Tuesday. For more, see Page 1B.

the behind-the-plate umpire.

“Give ’em some religion,” he quipped to pitcher Lauren Richards at last Friday’s state playoff game against Ridgeview. “Put the fear of God in them.”

And when the ace pitcher bats, the 72-year-old fan sometimes directs Richards to “Hit it to Claremont” where the talented hurler will play her college ball.

Before each game, Rohde bypasses the stands at Steve Cary Field and instead sets up a lawn chair

See SUPERFAN/2A

