

Your Weekend



Photo contributed by Stu Gillard

- Hodaka Days revs up in Athena/Weston
- Orquestra Pacifico
- Friday on Main Street
- Movies in the park in Lone, Pendleton

For times and places see Coming Events, 6A

Weekend Weather

| Fri   | Sat   | Sun   |
|-------|-------|-------|
|       |       |       |
| 84/55 | 81/57 | 91/63 |

Can ODOT fire employee for advocating for shooting?

By PARIS ACHEN  
Capital Bureau

A state DMV employee who is accused of posting a comment on Facebook that migrants should be shot at the border has been put on paid leave while the Oregon Department of Transportation investigates the comment.

Thousands of callers and commenters have called on the agency to dismiss Lori McAllen for the post, and the incident has drawn international media attention.

“We take this matter very seriously and very personally,” the agency posted on its Twitter account Thursday, June 21. “The comment doesn’t reflect our agency values and is disturbing and hurtful. Thank you for your patience as we complete the investigation.”

McAllen, a Linn County resident who has worked for the DMV for about 10 months, earns \$2,883 per month as a full-time transportation service representative, said David House, an ODOT spokesman.

It’s unclear whether the agency can legally fire McAllen for the comment. The outcome could depend

See ODOT/8A

ECHO



James Shelton asks questions about changes to a noise control ordinance during the Echo City Council meeting on Thursday in the VFW hall in Echo. The 1910-era hall reopened to the public after renovations this spring.

City renovates historic VFW hall

By JADE MCDOWELL  
East Oregonian

The old VFW hall in Echo is back in community use. The hall was closed during much of the spring for extensive renovations, but was used for a city council meeting Thursday.

“It’s pretty well done except for a couple of minor things,” city administrator Diane Berry said.

The renovation has included laminate flooring to replace the worn-out carpet, an awning to keep rainwater from pooling outside the front door, a new sidewalk, interior and exterior paint and a remodel of the bathroom. A wall was also removed to expand the kitchen area.

No one knows the exact year it was built, but Berry said she knows it dates back to at least 1910.

“This is just another step in



The historic VFW hall in Echo is more than 100 years old.

our efforts to rejuvenate and give new life to historical buildings instead of tearing them down and rebuilding something lesser in their place,” she said.

According to a history compiled on the city of Echo’s website, the town was settled in 1860, platted in 1880 and

incorporated in 1904. The city provides a brochure outlining a walking tour of 23 historical sites that date back to the late 1800s or early 1900s. The building that houses city hall and the community center was

See VFW/8A

HERMISTON

Harmony Club smaller but still going after 80 years



This undated photo from the Harmony Club’s scrapbook show members in the club’s early days.

By JADE MCDOWELL  
East Oregonian

Eighty years after the women living on Loop Road decided to form an official social club, the club is still going.

The Harmony Club, which had a high of 107 members, has only seven today, including its first non-Loop Road member. But during fall, winter and spring the ladies meet twice a month for at least two hours.

“The object was to get better acquainted with neighbors and be of benefit to others,” vice president Carol Pomeroy said, showing off a piece of paper with official club rules and objectives. “There’s the constitution, so they did it legit.”

Pat Wagner, club secretary-treasurer, said she has all the minutes of

each meeting going back to 1938. According to an account written for the group’s scrapbook in 1955, the Harmony Club was the brainchild of Agnes Harrick. She lived on Loop Road, which loops from East Highland Avenue in Hermiston all the way down to Stanfield, and wanted to get to know her neighbors better.

Wagner is the club’s member who doesn’t live on Loop Road. She felt like getting out of the house more, and club president Polly Van De Brake asked the group to take a vote on letting her in. Van De Brake said the club may be smaller than it used to be, but it is still something that its members enjoy.

“We’re keeping it going,” she said. “So many of the ladies on

See HARMONY/8A

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