

COMMUNITY BRIEFING

**Memorial Day ceremony planned in Hermiston**

HERMISTON — The Avenue of Flags is returning to the Hermiston Cemetery for Memorial Day weekend.

The magnificent flag display, featuring hundreds of flags, will be erected Friday, May 28, and remain through Memorial Day, May 31. The cemetery is open from daylight to dusk.

In addition, a Memorial Day ceremony is planned May 31 at 10 a.m. at the Hermiston Cemetery. The program includes American Legion Post 37, the Oregon National Guard and music by the Hermiston High School band and choral groups.

Those planning to attend are encouraged to bring a lawn chair as seating is not provided. In addition, COVID-19 guidelines are suggested.

**Olney Cemetery hosts virtual ceremony for Memorial Day**

PENDLETON — The Avenue of Flags at Olney Cemetery is being erected on Thursday, May 27, by Veterans of Foreign Wars Let 'er Buck Post #922. With more than 140 flags, they honor those that served in the United States Armed Forces and will continue to fly through Memorial Day — Monday, May 31. Olney Cemetery is located at 865 Tutuilla Road, Pendleton.

A brief and intimate Memorial Day ceremony is planned on Monday at 11 a.m. by a few VFW and Auxiliary members at the Veterans Memorial Stone at the cemetery, including the playing of "Taps." The ceremony can be viewed virtually as a live feed on Facebook.

Those that plan to attend in person are asked to follow all health guidelines, including maintaining a 6-foot distance between non-household members. It is highly recommended that people attend online and then visit the memorial and cemetery at a less busy time.

For more information, call 541-276-8100 or search [www.facebook.com/OlneyCemetery](http://www.facebook.com/OlneyCemetery).

**Hermiston library announces kids' coloring activity**

HERMISTON — Children 12 and under are encouraged to participate in the Kid's Monthly Coloring Page Activity at the Hermiston Public Library.

Starting the first Thursday of



Ben Lonergan/East Oregonian, File

Members of the Veterans of Foreign Wars Let 'er Buck Post 922 listen as Post Commander Judith Burger, third from left, speaks during the May 25, 2020, Memorial Day ceremony at Olney Cemetery in Pendleton. People are encouraged to view this year's event virtually.

the month, children are invited to stop and pick up a coloring page on a special table in the library. Using your artistic abilities, color the page and return it to the library. Be sure to put your first name and age along the bottom of the page and you will receive a free movie voucher — limit one entry per child, while supplies last. The last day to turn in the coloring sheet is Wednesday, June 30.

The Hermiston Public Library is at 235 E. Gladys Ave. It's open Monday through Thursday from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. and Friday/Saturday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. For questions, call 541-567-2882 or visit [www.hermiston.or.us/library](http://www.hermiston.or.us/library).

**EOPAC celebrates small gathering with food**

PENDLETON — Members of the Eastern Oregon Philippine American Community finally were able to enjoy a get-together to celebrate a simple birthday party.

The recent get-together was not the usual gathering with a big crowd, said Noemi Wiseman, EOPAC president. The pandemic, she said, really impacted the group's monthly meetings and participation in community events. Wiseman said they make a conscious effort to utilize sanitation protocols to keep everyone safe and are looking forward to sharing in more celebrations in the future.

For more information about the group, contact Wiseman at [noemiventurina@yahoo.com](mailto:noemiventurina@yahoo.com) or visit [www.facebook.com/groups/520352961332014](http://www.facebook.com/groups/520352961332014).

**Free walking program improves health**

HERMISTON — Good Shepherd Medical Center announces the Walk With Ease program.

Regardless if you need relief from arthritis pain or just want to be active, the Arthritis Foundation's six-week Walk With Ease program can teach people how to safely make physical activity part of their everyday life. The free local program kicks off Monday, June 7, from 9-10 a.m. at Good Shepherd Health Care System, 610 N.W. 11th St., Hermiston.

The program runs three days a week (Monday, Wednesday and Friday) for six weeks and features low-intensity walking. Walk With Ease reduces the pain and discomfort of arthritis, increases balance and strength, builds confidence in your ability to be physically active and improves overall health.

For more information or to pre-register, visit [www.eventbrite.com](http://www.eventbrite.com). For questions, call 541-667-3509.

**Milton-Freewater delays opening of city pool**

MILTON-FREEWATER — Milton-Freewater's Joe Humbert Family Aquatic Center is not opening until Thursday, June 3, at 4 p.m. The city of Milton-Freewater in a May 25 press release announced it had to push back the opening.

"Based on the extensive resurfacing work at the facility and to

allow sufficient time to get the staff, updated procedures, concession and beautifully repainted Frog slide in place for a great summer, we have delayed the opening a few days," according to the press release.

The city touted the "tremendous amount of work taking place this week to have the pool ready for our community," adding the plaster work could wrap up May 27 — depending on the weather — and then filling the pool would commence the next day.

The city then would run mechanical tests on the pumps and filter for a few days. That could begin May 29 and continue for up to four days to ensure that water quality meets established aquatic center standards.

"This makes it possible for us to open the pool for your enjoyment on Thursday, June 3," the press release stated.

**Safety academy announces local graduate**

SALEM — The Oregon Department of Public Safety Standards and Training recently announced that Daniel Foreman of the Umatilla County Sheriff's Office will graduate from the Basic Corrections class.

A ceremony will be held on Friday, June 4, at the Oregon Public Safety Academy in Salem. Because of COVID-19 safety protocols, the event is closed to the public.

The academy oversees the training and certification of more than 40,000 city, tribal, county and state law enforcement officers, corrections officers, parole and probation officers, fire service personnel, telecommunicators, emergency medical dispatchers and private security providers. Jerry Granderson serves as the director, and Darren Bucich, fire chief of McKenzie Fire & Rescue, is the board chairman.

For more information, visit [www.oregon.gov/dpsst](http://www.oregon.gov/dpsst).

**Local seniors earn scholarships**

It's scholarship season, and area seniors are receiving financial assistance from institutions close to home and across the U.S.

**Pendleton**

Marcus Allen has received three scholarships from various entities. The Better Business Bureau Students of Integrity Scholarship (\$2,000) is an essay scholarship honoring students who personify and communicate ethics in the real world, and is awarded to six students in the western U.S. states. Allen's second schol-

arship was one of 15 awarded nationwide by the Susanna Foundation of Pennsylvania (\$1,000) for students of superior academic and extra-curricular achievements despite the challenges of a chronic disease or other serious health impediment (he is a Type 1 diabetic). His third scholarship, the Paul Gorham Memorial Scholarship from the Pendleton Masonic Lodge, is for \$750.

Sam Coleman was awarded a \$1,000 scholarship from the Pendleton Linebackers Club, renewable for four years.

Jacob Airoidi has received an Oregon Promise Scholarship in the amount of \$3,900 per year (renewable) and the Reggie Brown Memorial Scholarship worth \$1,500.

**Boardman**

The Boardman Chamber of Commerce recently awarded 10 scholarships to Riverside Jr./Sr. High School seniors. Awards for \$1,000 were given to Jose Puerta, Cooper Szasz, Maria Silva Gillardo and Hailee Pratt. Pratt was also awarded an additional \$1,000 scholarship for being selected as our Youth Citizen of the Year at the 2021 Distinguished Citizens Awards Banquet.

Scholarships for \$500 were awarded to Heriberto Caza-res, Angela Barragan, Melinda Cemore, Ricardo Davila, Savannah Morris and Jocelyn Lezama-Magallanes.

The Boardman Chamber of Commerce scholarships are made possible through our annual Frostbite Scholarship Golf Tournament fundraising event.

— EO Media Group



Airoidi



Allen



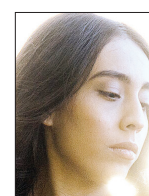
Coleman



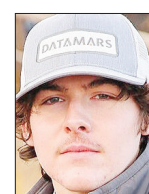
Pratt



Puerta



Silva Gillardo



Szasz

**This, too, shall pass**



CHRIS HANKEL

LIVING ON PURPOSE

I genuinely believe there is no better place to live than Eastern Oregon. And there are few better times than spring. One of the spring events I enjoy most is when the brown, dead fields filled with decaying debris from the previous year suddenly begin to turn green as new life erupts out of the ground. The change is drastic and happens over a matter of a few weeks.

Circles that had been nearly lifeless for months are now brought back to their glory of growing seasons past. For centuries people have used springtime as a metaphor for new life, but at this moment, it feels like a perfect comparison for us and our little corner of the globe.

This past season has been hard on so many people. As a pastor, I get a unique perspective and perhaps see more brokenness than some. But in over 30 years of ministry, I have never seen so much heartache, difficulty, sadness and tragedy in such a short amount of time. Maybe you are reading this, shaking your head and saying, "Sounds like my past year."

If this has been your experience, let me offer some thoughts that encouraged my heart in dark times.

First, it is a season. It is not your whole life. Seasons

change. King Solomon, the son of King David, knew this idea well. He penned these words in Ecclesiastes 3:1: "For everything, there is a season and a time for every matter under heaven." He then describes the seasons of our lives, including a season to mourn and a season to dance. Sometimes, it is difficult to see how our circumstances could ever change when we are in the moment, but eventually, winter passes, and spring arrives.

The second thought that always encourages me, even when life seems to be at its worst, is that God's love for me is constant and unchanging. The Apostle Paul experienced famine, shipwreck, beatings and torture. Still, he writes this in Romans 8: "For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord."

Perhaps the season you are in today seems dark, cold and lonely. Remember this season will change, and eventually, new life, new opportunities and new hope will spring out of what once seemed dead and hopeless. Know you do not walk through this time alone. Even in the loneliness of dark, winter seasons, there is a God who will never leave you or forsake you. He is a God who loves you.

Chris Hankel is the lead pastor at New Hope Community Church in Hermiston.

Follow us on Facebook!

**2021 BUTTE CHALLENGE**  
**5K RUN, 5K WALK AND 10K RUN**  
**Saturday, June 5th 8:30am**  
 All races begin and end at Butte Park  
**DOOR PRIZES!**  
**FUN FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY!**

Online registration and race information can be found at [www.ButteChallenge.com](http://www.ButteChallenge.com) Register online by **May 22nd** to order a custom technical race T-Shirt.  
*Free kids race for youth 10 and under @ 8 AM (no registration)*

All proceeds benefit the Hermiston Cross Country Program

Thank you for your support!

**EAST OREGONIAN** **Hermiston Herald**