

Our Community

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Local cemeteries host Memorial Day ceremonies

By **TAMMY MALGESINI**
Community Editor

A pair of local veterans' organizations are organizing ceremonies in Hermiston and Irrigon to remember the service and sacrifice of those who died while in military service to our country.

Leading up to Memorial Day, the Avenue of Flags will be erected at the Hermiston Cemetery, located off Highway 395 at the south end of town. Upwards of 800 flags will be installed Friday at 5 p.m. and will remain through Monday at 5 p.m. The cemetery, said Ken Huber of Burns Mortuary, is open from daylight to dusk.

Post commander Ron Jardine of Veterans of Foreign Wars Post No. 4750 said a group of Boy Scouts recently helped with clearing the holes where the flagpoles will be placed. And, members of the Hermiston High School football team will assist with putting the flags in place this weekend.

"It's sure nice to have the guys help," Jardine said. "They are in good shape and it's a big job."

Anyone who would like to assist with placing and/or removing the flags is welcome, said Jardine.

Members of VFW Post 4750 and American Legion Post 37 are heading up a special service on Memorial Day.



FILE PHOTO

A bugler plays "Taps" during the 2016 Memorial Day ceremony at the Hermiston Cemetery.

Monday at 11 a.m. at the Desert Lawn Memorial Cemetery, located off Highway 730 in Irrigon. Joe Cox, a local Navy veteran, will head up that ceremony.

Originally called Decoration Day, Memorial Day was first observed May 30, 1868. The day was initially set aside to place flowers on the graves of Union and Confederate soldiers at Arlington National Cemetery, according to the Oregon Department of Veterans' Affairs. Now, as a federal holiday, Memorial Day is observed the last Monday of May each year.

Monday at 10 a.m. at the Hermiston Cemetery. People may bring lawn chairs to sit in, if desired. The public, Jardine said, is encouraged to attend.

"I think it shows respect for the military," he said.

Jardine, who served in the U. S. Army from 1966-68, will present a short message. Also, special recognition will honor all local veterans who have died in the past year. In addition, a flag folding and presentation ceremony will be conducted for a local veteran who recently died and has yet to receive military honors. The gathering will conclude with the playing of "Taps."

Also, the two posts will lead memorial services

IN BRIEF

Class addresses challenging behaviors

A free class will provide information for people caring for an aging Oregonian who exhibits challenging behaviors.

Presented by Oregon Care Partners, Navigating Challenging Behaviors: Strengthening Communications Skills is Tuesday, May 30 from 8:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Wildhorse Casino & Resort, located off Interstate 84 at Exit 216, Mission.

The session will highlight communication strategies and techniques to support a positive approach to behavioral challenges common in older adults. A professional instructor will share real-world experience in an interactive classroom environment.

The class can assist individuals that provide care for an aging family member or loved one, as well as those who work in professional caregiver settings, public safety or social work.

To register visit www.OregonCarePartners.com. For questions, contact Katie Winger at kwinger@gard-communications.com or 503-221-0100.

Showstoppers includes HHS junior

The Showstoppers concert of the Grande Ronde Symphony Orchestra includes tunes from movies and the world of rock.

The performance also features the winners of the concerto-aria competition, including Sidney Tovey, a junior from Hermiston High school. A violin player, she will present "Concerto No. 3 for Violin and Orchestra."

The concert is Wednesday, May 31 at 7:30 p.m. at McKenzie Theater on the Eastern Oregon University campus in La Grande. Tickets are \$12 for adults or \$8 for seniors, \$2 for college students, \$1 for grades 8-12 and free for seventh graders and younger.

For more information, contact grsymphony2@gmail.com or visit www.granderondesympphony.org.

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Special grief camp accepts applications

A camp that specializes in providing a weekend experience is available for grieving children ages 7-14.

Camp Amanda programs help kids begin to talk about their feelings related to a death of someone special and teaches them coping skills. Camp leaders include professional bereavement counselors and specially trained volunteers. Participants also engage in traditional camp activities.

In its 33rd year, up to 30 children may participate in Camp Amanda. There is no charge to the children or their families. The camp dates are July 28-30.

The deadline for registering is June 15, or when the available spaces are filled. For more information, call Walla Walla Community Hospice at 509-525-5561 or visit www.wwhospice.org/campamanda.

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Introducing Dan Doherty, PA-C

Dan Doherty earned his Master of Science in Physician Assistant Studies from Jefferson College of Health Sciences in Roanoke, Virginia. He is a former EMT on an all-volunteer rescue squad and has worked as an acute care surgery patient tech and as a free clinic volunteer. In his free time he enjoys playing and watching tennis, reading books, and playing with his border collie, Jake.

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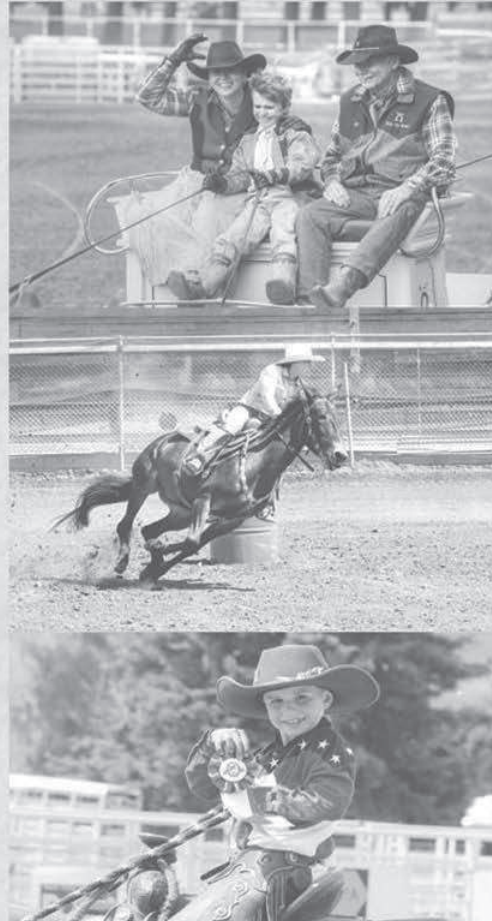
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