

## FLAGS:

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makes the things asked of them, like working hard in practice and doing their schoolwork, seem like less of a burden.

"Waking up early doesn't seem like much of a sacrifice looking at these," Faeteete said, gesturing at the hundreds of full-sized flags lining walkways and rows of graves.

He said he appreciated the veterans who help put together the Avenue of Flags project for taking the time to talk to the team each year about the values of teamwork and trust.

On Friday two trailers pulled by tractors circled the cemetery slowly, piled high with flags. Football



STAFF PHOTO BY JADE MCDOWELL

**Members of the Hermiston High School football team grab more flags to put out for the Avenue of Flags at Hermiston Cemetery.**

players and coaches ran back and forth, grabbing a new flag pole and then working in teams of two or three to snap the poles together, place them upright in the holes in the ground

and unfurl the flag wrapped around it. Monday afternoon they repeated the entire process in reverse.

Emilio Ortiz, a junior, said the small holes around the main walkways were marked in orange, but the ones running through the grassy parts of the cemetery were harder to find. He didn't mind searching in the hot sun, however.

"We're just giving back to the community for all the stuff they've done for us, and for our program," he said.

Jonathan Hinkle, also a junior, echoed Ortiz's sentiments as the two worked together to put a flag pole in place. He said he liked the opportunity to give back to the community and pay respect to veterans. He also appreciated the sym-

bolism of all the flags.

"It represents America to me," he said.

Phil Jarmer of Hermiston's Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 4750 said a lot of the veterans who attend the annual Memorial Day ceremony are no longer physically able to come out and help drag flag poles off trailers and put them up, so the football team's work is something the VFW is very grateful for.

"They help us every year and we really appreciate it," he said.

Jarmer said they also appreciate the Boy Scouts who came out ahead of time to clear grass and mud out of hundreds of small holes in the ground so that the football team could find them and fit the poles in.

## GRADUATION

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She will now graduate with honors, and looks forward to the next chapter in her life.

"I'd like to get good grades in college, and meet a lot of new people," she said.

She said while she loves Hermiston, she's not sure where she wants to end up, and is excited about living in the city. She hopes to eventually pursue a career in accounting.

### Justin Maret

Umatilla High School



Maret

Justin Maret said his parents were the main driving force in his desire to succeed in school. When his father died in October, he was devastated. But he didn't let the obstacle stand in his way of graduation.

"They always wanted me to do well, and be good in school," he said.

Maret will graduate from Umatilla High School this year as a four-year athlete in basketball, football and track, a robotics student and a member of the National Honor Society. He will attend Eastern Oregon University in the fall, and wants to pursue a career in nursing.

"I want to be a nurse practitioner," he said. "Those are the people I'd always go see when I was younger, and I was fascinated by that."

Maret said while he's not sure where his career will take him after he graduates, he's fond of his hometown. "I'd like to come back," he said.

### Ryan Bailey

Stanfield Secondary School



Bailey

Ryan Bailey graduated high school this week — and simultaneously completed enough credits to start college as a junior in the fall.

He will enter Eastern Oregon University in the fall, a campus where he has already been a familiar face.

"My freshman and sophomore years, I went to Eastern Oregon University and did a summer program, and got 10 credits each time," he said. "Then last summer, I took classes online through BMCC, and took online classes during the school year as well. I took everything our school has to offer."

Bailey said the main motivation to get ahead before college started was to save money.

"Especially looking into college this year and seeing how expensive it is," he said.

With 97 credits under his belt, Bailey will attend EOU and study politics

and economics, with a goal of eventually attending law school.

Bailey is also a four-year basketball and baseball player, and had hoped to continue sports in college, but it didn't work out.

"I'm just going to focus on getting my education," he said.

Bailey hopes to stay in Eastern Oregon near his parents, older brother and sister, whom he credits with encouraging him to succeed in high school.

"I really wanted to make them proud," he said.

### Miriam Mendoza

Echo School



Mendoza

Miriam Mendoza spoke no English when she started high school, but four years later, she's easily chatting with peers and staff.

"I came to Echo from Mexico," she said. "It took me two years to pick up the language."

She said that while it was really difficult and sometimes frustrating, she took classes and worked on her language skills to become fluent.

Now, Mendoza will graduate from Echo School and plans to move to Hermiston or Boardman for work. Once she turns 21, she has another goal in mind.

"I want to go to the academy to train to be a police officer," she said.

## BTW:

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ty, community college, the military, the workforce or trade school got to participate in a "signing day," reserved at many schools for students signing to play with a college sports team.

The students were also treated to speeches by Athletic Director **Larry Usher** and Principal **Tom Spoo**, encouraging them to pursue one of the many paths available to them.

On Saturday, recent Hermiston-area transplant musician **Lincoln Barr** played to a full patio at the Echo Ridge Cellars winery enjoying the beautiful evening. The car show crowd from earlier in the day brought their lawn chairs and lined the enclosed area.

If you didn't make it out, don't worry — **Forest VanTuyt**, a Wallowa County musician who performs under the stage name An American Forest, is playing at The Gathering Place at Bellinger's on Thursday at 5:30 p.m.

The forecast is calling for more sunshine.

Quick work by the Umatilla County Fire District 1 knocked down a brush fire near Cemetery Road in Hermiston Tuesday afternoon.

Fire Marshal **Tom Bohm** said the flames were likely started by someone cooking, or leaving an unattended camp

fire. Several shopping carts with some items in them were clustered in the brush, with flames still lapping under them. No one was injured.

With fire season nearly upon us, it's good to know the fire department is on its toes.

Children are now required by law in Oregon to stay in a rear-facing car seat until they turn two.

Oregon's previous law only required children to be rear-facing until age one or until they weighed 20 pounds. Governor **Kate Brown** signed House Bill 3404 into law on May 25, requiring them to stay facing the back of the car for an extra year.

The bill passed 48 to 9 in the House of Representatives and 27 to 3 in the Senate. The offense is a Class D violation in the same category as failure to wear a seatbelt.

Hermiston resident **Jaclyn Crowder** got an enthusiastic response on Facebook last week when she floated the idea of selling her gourmet salads in a food cart or restaurant.

Crowder said she is still in the "planning and logistics" stage, but after 612 likes and 325 comments on her post to gauge interest, she has decided she wants to move forward with opening a salad shop or food cart in Hermiston.

She said she is excited to be able to provide more healthy eating options to people locally.

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