

# Hermiston Herald

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BY THE WAY

**Dinners move to high school during senior center construction**

The **Community Fellowship Dinner in Hermiston** — which is held on Thanksgiving and Christmas Day — will serve up free holiday meals in a new location. Since the old senior center has been torn down and the new facility is under construction, the organization's board of directors announced the meals will be held this year in the main commons at **Hermiston High School**. Board chairman **Gary Humphreys** said volunteers are excited about the new venue, which offers improved access, additional seating space and enhanced kitchen facilities. Read more about the upcoming Thanksgiving meal, including how you can help, in the Nov. 15 edition of the **Hermiston Herald**. For immediate questions, contact the board at [cfthermiston@gmail.com](mailto:cfthermiston@gmail.com), 541-371-9772 or search Facebook.

They're cute, they're cuddly, and they're going to the sharks.

Slumberkins, a hybrid stuffed animal/blanket that comes in a variety of themes (including sloth, fox, yeti and, appropriately, hammerhead), will be featured on the ABC tele-

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## ★★ VETERAN CONNECTION ★★



STAFF PHOTO BY E.J. HARRIS

**Ron Jardine, an unlikely VFW post leader, gives veterans a place to meet**

By **JAYATI RAMAKRISHNAN**  
STAFF WRITER

Though he only found out about the Veterans of Foreign Wars seven years ago, that hasn't stopped Ron Jardine from taking a leadership role for local veterans.

"I never looked for veterans services," said Jardine. "I never knew about them."

In fact, Jardine, a Vietnam War veteran, seems an unlikely candidate to lead VFW Post 4750, given his background.

After starting work for Union Pacific Railroad out of high school, 19-year-old Jardine was drafted in July of 1966. After nine and a half months in Fort Bliss, Texas, he spent a year in Vietnam.

When he returned to Utah in May of 1968, Jardine kept in touch with a few of his buddies from basic training, but didn't stay connected to many people he served with. Since moving to Hermiston in 1998, he hadn't been in contact with anyone.

"I don't come from a military family," Jardine said. "So that was a whole new thing for me."

But he discovered, almost by accident, a whole community of veterans and, along with it, programs that could help him and others who had served.

Jardine became involved with the local VFW post in 2010 when he was at the Umatilla County Fair and saw its booth.

"I walked by, and the man asked me if I was in the service," Jardine said. "I said I was in Vietnam, and he asked me if I was getting benefits. I said I didn't really know about them."

Jardine learned that he could get tested for Agent Orange, PTSD, diabetes and other service-related health issues.

He now serves as the commander of the local VFW, helping other veterans find the services he didn't know about before.

The post also serves as a social gathering for veterans.

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HERMISTON HERALD FILE PHOTO

(Top) Ron Jardine is a Vietnam veteran and active member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 4750 in Hermiston. (Bottom) A flag is folded on Memorial Day 2016 while members of VFW Post 4750 and American Legion Post 37 stand at attention during a ceremony at the Hermiston Cemetery

## Organizations are planning events to honor vets

**HERMISTON**

The annual Veterans Day Breakfast is Friday at 8 a.m. at the Hermiston Conference Center, 415 S. Highway 395.

Sponsored by the Hermiston Chamber of Commerce, the free event includes guest speakers, a slide show, singing and a local dance group. Family members and friends of veterans are invited to attend. For more information, contact Kelly Schwirze at 541-567-6151 or [kelly@hermiston-chamber.com](mailto:kelly@hermiston-chamber.com).

A free Veterans Day S.O.S. Lunch for all active and retired veterans and immediate Gold Star family members is available Saturday from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Chuckwagon Cafe, 81027 N. Highway 395, Hermiston.

Assistants who transport disabled veterans to the meal can also eat for free. People are invited to bring medals, photos, memorabilia and stories to share. For more information, call 541-567-6329.

Note, due to unanticipated maintenance expenses, Hermiston Elks Lodge No. 1845 will not be hosting its annual dinner this year. For questions, call 541-567-6923.

**BOARDMAN**

Local veterans will be honored Thursday at 10 a.m. at Sam Boardman Elementary School. The event includes music, words of gratitude and guest speaker Sgt. Andy Kimmell of the U.S.

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FILE PHOTO

Echo School District students represent the U.S. Army during a 2016 Veterans Day parade.



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