

Memorial Day services honor sacrifices

Hermiston and Irrigon cemeteries host events

By TAMMY MALGESINI
COMMUNITY EDITOR

The public is invited to join a pair of local veterans' organizations on Memorial Day to celebrate and honor those who have given of themselves by serving our country in the armed forces.

Originally called Decoration Day, Memorial Day was initially observed May 30, 1868 — three years after the end of the Civil War. According to the Oregon Department of Veterans' Affairs, the day was set aside to place flowers on the graves of Union and Confederate soldiers at Arlington National Cemetery. Officially declared as a federal holiday in 1971, Memorial Day is observed the last Monday of May.

Veterans of Foreign Wars Post No. 4750 and American Legion Post 37 are hosting Memorial Day — Monday, May 27 — services at the Hermiston Cemetery and Desert Lawn Memorial Cemetery in Irrigon.

Leading up to the event in Hermiston, people are requested to assist in erecting the Avenue of Flags. Ron Jardine, VFW Post 4750 commander, said vol-



HH file photo

Family, friends and community members gather during the 2018 Memorial Day service to honor local veterans who died in the past year and to recognize the sacrifice of those who died while in service to our country. Local Memorial Day services will be held Monday at the Hermiston Cemetery and Desert Lawn Memorial Cemetery in Irrigon.

unteers are needed Friday at 5 p.m. at the Hermiston Cemetery, located off Highway 395, just south of New Hope Community Church.

The magnificent flag display, featuring around 800 flags, will remain through Monday at 5 p.m., at which time volunteers may assist with their removal. The cemetery is open from day-

light to dusk.

The Memorial Day service in Hermiston begins Monday at 10 a.m.

The service in Irrigon follows at 11 a.m. The Desert Lawn cemetery is located off Highway 730, Irrigon. People are invited to bring lawn chairs and pay tribute to those who served our country. As part of a local

tradition, each ceremony will include the reading of names of local veterans who have died in the past year.

Jardine, who served in the U. S. Army from 1966-68, said Memorial Day events offer people an opportunity to express their appreciation and respect for military personnel — especially those died while in service to their



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A member of the U.S. Army Honor Guard plays "Taps" at the conclusion of the 2018 Memorial Day ceremony in Hermiston. This year's event is Monday at 10 a.m. at the Hermiston Cemetery.

country.

An online directory of Memorial Day events

across Oregon can be viewed at www.oregonvva.com/2019memorialday.

Echo revs up with 14th annual car show

All day event includes evening concert

By TAMMY MALGESINI
COMMUNITY EDITOR

Echo is gearing up for a full day of activities during the A.C.E. Automobile Club of Echo High School's annual event.

There's still time to wash and wax your car for the ACE Car Show. Registration (\$20 per vehicle or \$5 for students with identification) begins at 9 a.m. in downtown Echo. The car show runs from noon to 4 p.m. There are nearly two dozen divisions to enter.

"There are classification for bicycle, peddle car all the way to 2010 and newer and project car," said Raymon Smith. "So, it is really open to whatever you have."

The show has evolved over the years, Smith said. It began several years after the car club was established when a handful of students parked their vehicles along the school's sidewalk. As interest increased, it moved to the football field. As other activities were added throughout the day, the car show moved to downtown Echo.

Smith said the Echo Parent-Teacher Organization is



HH file photo

Kerry and Ina Peterson's 1955 Oldsmobile Rocket 88 sits in line with other cars during the 2016 ACE Car Show. This year's event is Saturday in downtown Echo.

now the driving force behind the event. About 45 students are involved in helping with activities — including creating the trophies and assisting with sports team and club fundraisers. Money raised, Smith said, provides scholarships for seniors, enhances educational opportunities and supports various clubs in their activities.

The event revs up Saturday beginning with a Fireman's Breakfast from 7:30-10 a.m. at Echo Rural Fire Department's Station No. 1, 301 Main St. The cost for a single plate is \$8 or a family of four is \$25. Also, raffle tickets for a variety of prizes are \$1 each, six for \$5,

15 for \$10 or an arm's length for \$20. Money raised by the fire department goes toward updating equipment.

Other activities include vendor booths, a 4-on-4 volleyball tournament from (8 a.m. to 5 p.m.) and the Echo Fun Run (8:30 a.m. registration), which includes distances of 1-mile, 5K and 10K.

The day crescendos at 5:30 p.m. on the Echo High School football field with dinner and a performance by The Wasteland Kings of La Grande. Prepared by the Echo FFA Chapter and alumni, the menu features smoked pork loin, green salad, baby red mashed pota-

toes and a dinner roll.

Tickets for the meal and music are \$35 (includes two drink tickets) and must be purchased in advance at H & P Cafe, Buttercreek Coffeehouse and Mercantile, the Echo School District or Columbia State Bank. Tickets for just the concert, which starts at 6:30 p.m., are \$25 at the gate. Also, beverages from Echo Ridge Cellars and Hodgen Distributing, will be available for purchase. People are encouraged to bring lawn chairs or blankets.

For more information, contact rsmith@echosd5.org, 541-376-8436 or search Facebook for "ACE Automobile of Echo High School."

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