**By Jan Rahn**
*Managing Editor*

The 55th annual observance of Veterans Day in Grant is set for Friday Nov. 11, hosted by American Legion Post No. 40 of Grant.

Wallace School will host a program for veterans, guests and the student body.

**Grant**

The morning begins at 10:30 a.m. at Perkins County High School with advancement and posting of colors by the Color Guard.

Invocation will be delivered by by veteran Rev. Ron Krause of Zion Lutheran Church.

Under the direction of Sheila Johnson, the high school band will play the National Anthem and other patriotic musical selections.

Welcoming remarks will be delivered by Mike Wyatt, Perkins County American Legion Commander and Grant's Mayor. Wyatt will also introduce the county's post commanders.

Auxiliary president Loretta Armbruster will introduce the 2011 Boys and Girls Staters.

Guest speaker for this year's Veteran's Day observance is Russell Hixson, Perkins County Veterans Service Officer.

The roll call of deceased veterans will be followed by Taps, a benediction and retirement of colors.

Immediately following the program, a free ham and bean feed will be held at the American Legion Hall in Grant at 3rd and Washington sponsored by the Madrid, Grant, Venango and Elsie legion posts and the Perkins County Veterans of Foreign Wars. The beans for the feed are donated by Trinidad Bean Company.

**Biography of Speaker**

Russell Hixson is the morning's guest speaker.

In September, Hixson began performing office duties in place of Roxanne Hiatt who retired after 15 years with the Veterans Service Office.

Hixson will then fill the position of Whitey Shirley who will retire in December.

Upon graduating from Mingus Mountain High School in 1974, he attended the University of Maryland (European Division) for three-and-a-half years specializing in business management.

He entered the U.S. Army in August 1974 and spent 12 and one-half years in Germany and nine years in Ft. Carson, Colo.

Hixson specialized in combat engineering, explosives and bridge building.

He moved to Imperial in 1998 working as a cable contractor and had various other jobs in the area. In 2008 he moved to Perkins County nine miles south of Grant.

"All Americans and veterans deserve someone to take care of their needs and continue to deserve freedom," said Hixson. "I would like to thank every veteran I meet and see for serving our country."

**Wallace**

At 8:30 a.m., veterans, the public and the student body of Wallace School will gather to honor those who have fought for their country, hosted by American Legion Post and Auxiliary Unit 213.

Music will be provided by K-12 students. Voice of Democracy winner Laiken Brooks will be the guest speaker for the morning.

Auxiliary Chaplain Bonnie Erickson will give a presentation on “Ragged Old Flag” and will also give flag etiquette booklets to the sixth graders.

Following the ceremony, veterans and their wives are invited to enjoy coffee and rolls at the school.