

SALUTE TO OLD GLORY

Liberty Festival kicks off in patriotic fashion

BY AMANDA CULLEN
STAFF WRITER

LEWISTON — The Liberty Fest held a Salute to the American Flag and Retirement Ceremony on Tuesday night at Veterans Memorial Park to commemorate and properly dispose of American flags that are no longer serviceable.

Miss Maine 2018 Olivia Mayo sang the national anthem to open the ceremony, and then the three large flags that were being disposed of were inspected a final time to ensure they were no longer usable.

Once an American flag is unserviceable, it is supposed to be destroyed in a fitting way, preferably by burning.

One flag was used to commemorate all of the flags being disposed of Tuesday night, with each of the 13 stripes being cut and burned separately. The rest of the flags were folded and added to the fire.

A crowd of onlookers watched as the flags were retired, added to the fire and meant to be burned to ash.

To further honor veterans and active duty soldiers, this year's ceremony included the Silhouette Project by Linda Lajoie — a set of 22 life-size cutouts representing the estimat-



Commander Willie Danforth of AMVETS Post 6 in New Gloucester, left, grabs a handful of flags John Johnson, of Lewiston, to be burned during Tuesday's Salute to the American Flag and Retirement Ceremony at Veterans Memorial Park in Lewiston.

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