



EAST OREGONIAN

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139th Year, No. 69

WINNER OF THE 2013 ONPA GENERAL EXCELLENCE AWARD

One dollar

State of the Union

President Barack Obama shakes hands with House Speaker John Boehner as he arrives to deliver his State of the Union address to a joint session of Congress on Capitol Hill on Tuesday in Washington.
For excerpts from President Obama's speech see page 4A.

AP Photo/Mandel Ngan, Pool



What would pot ban mean?

By PHIL WRIGHT
East Oregonian

Opting out of Oregon's new recreational marijuana law is generating some smoke, but no fire.

Scott Winkles of the League of Oregon Cities said Measure 91 created four categories for commercial sales of marijuana: retail businesses where someone 21 or older can buy the drug; creating value-added marijuana items, such as the substance in edible form; the wholesaling of marijuana to retail shops; and marijuana growers.

Listening session

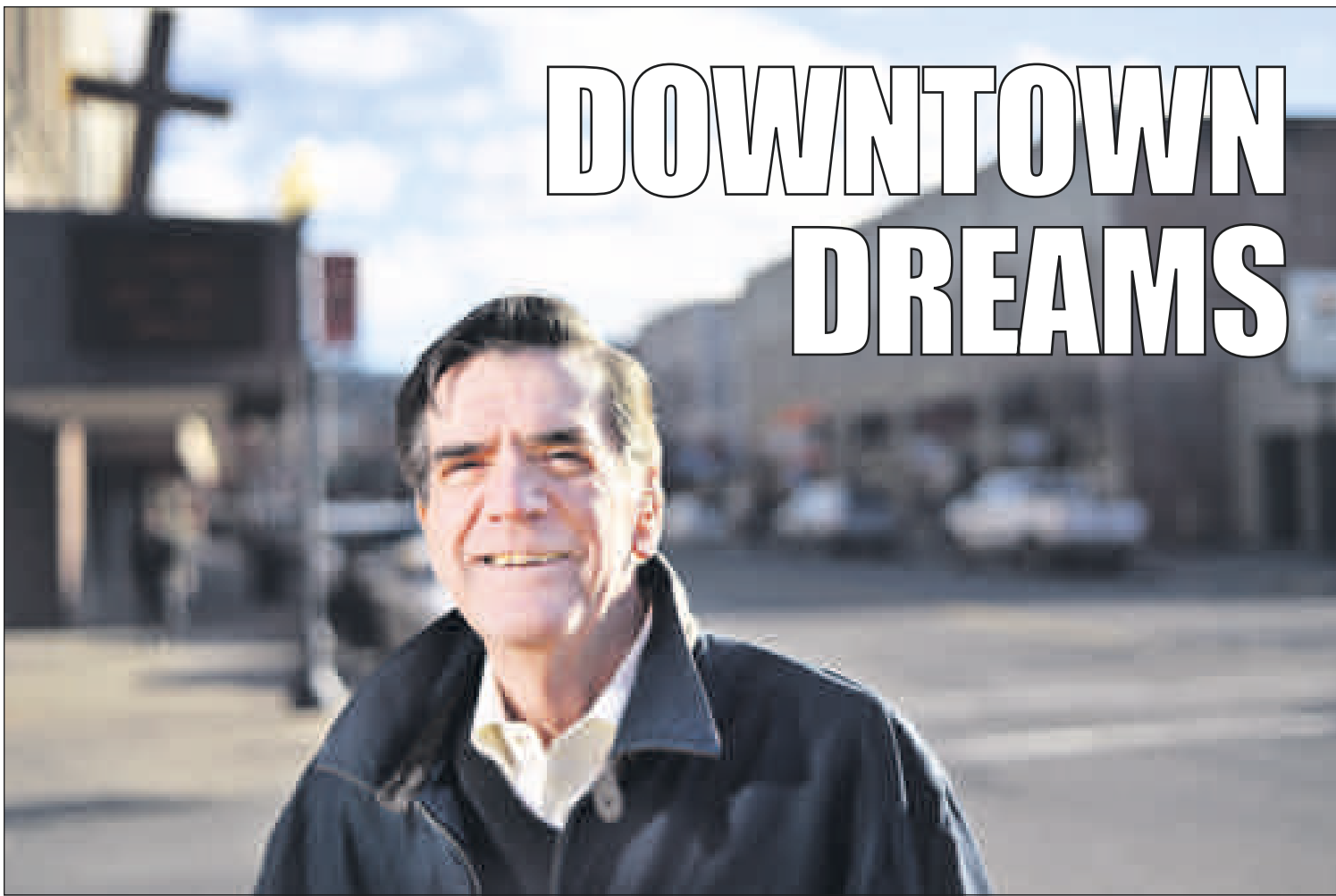
Thursday, 7 p.m.
at the Pendleton Convention Center

The law also allows communities to gather enough signatures to place an initiative on the ballot of the next general election for voters to consider banning

See MARIJUANA/6A

PENDLETON

DOWNTOWN DREAMS



Staff photo by E.J. Harris

Charles Denight has been named the associate director for the Pendleton Development Commission.

Former Wildhorse marketing director to revitalize city's core

By ANTONIO SIERRA
East Oregonian

The man who has helped put Wildhorse Resort and Casino on the map for the past 13 years will turn his attention to a new task: promoting Pendleton's urban renewal district.

The Pendleton Development Commission hired Charles

Denight as the first employee in the district's 12-year history.

Working for the public sector is also a first for Charles Denight, who accepted the associate director position after spending the previous 43 years in marketing.

The part-time job, which pays a salary of \$35,000 a year, is the only position paid for by the urban renewal district.

City Councilman Chuck Wood, who chairs the commission, said the city needed someone dedicated to promoting the district.

With City Manager Robb Corbett and Economic Development Director Steve Chrisman having "a lot of irons in the fire," an advisory committee recommended targeting a retiree will-

ing to work part time on promoting downtown Pendleton.

That made Denight an ideal fit.

At the time of his hiring, Denight had recently retired after working for the Wildhorse Resort and Casino in various marketing capacities.

See DOWNTOWN/6A

Sen. Hansell gets attacked from right

By KATHY ANEY
East Oregonian

Sen. Bill Hansell still hasn't seen the full-page ad that attempts to skewer his voting record in the Oregon Legislature.

The freshman Republican senator from Athena is 14 time zones away in Myanmar. Hansell traveled there earlier this month as part of a three-man team training government leaders who are moving from military dictatorship to democracy.

The attack ads, which appeared in Saturday's *East Oregonian* and *La Grande Observer* and aired on several area radio stations, accuse Hansell of forsaking his constituents and slam him for supporting a ballot initiative to allow undocumented immi-



Hansell



Kropf

See HANSELL/6A

Responders confident in oil spill response

Survey shows 81 percent of agencies ill-equipped

By GEORGE PLAVERN
East Oregonian

Though a recent survey shows 81 percent of Oregon fire departments are not equipped to handle an oil train accident, emergency responders in Pendleton and Hermiston say they are in a relatively fortunate position.

The region's Hazardous Materials Response Team is based right out of Hermiston and able to reach Pendleton within 45 minutes — covering both cities through which Union Pacific Railroad ships thousands of carloads of volatile crude oil per year.

Glen Phillips, hazmat team co-

ordinator and operations chief for Hermiston Fire & Emergency Services, said they have 16 technicians trained to use specialized equipment in case of a derailment or other disaster. That includes fire-fighting foam, absorbent booms for waterways and air quality monitors.

Hazmat team members could respond quickly to contain an oil spill and protect the community until additional resources arrive from state agencies or the railroad itself, Phillips said.

"We could function, and we could get things going," Phillips said. "Obviously, we would need

See SPILL/6A



AP file photo
A BNSF Railway train hauls crude oil near Wolf Point, Mont., in 2013. Railroads went from hauling 9,500 carloads of crude oil in 2008 to 435,560 in 2014.



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