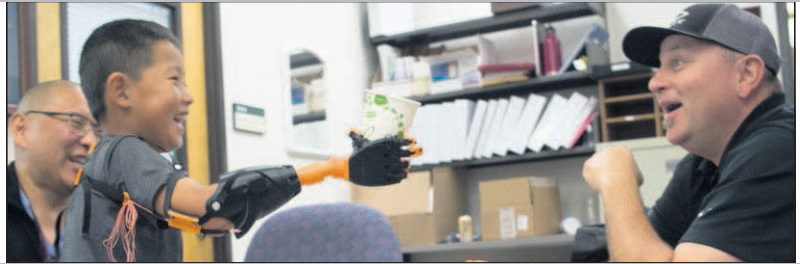


**KILTS,  
CABERS  
AND MORE**  
CALEDONIAN GAMES/6A



**Prosthetic  
arm on a  
3-D printer**  
OREGON/7A

# EAST OREGONIAN

WEDNESDAY, JULY 5, 2017

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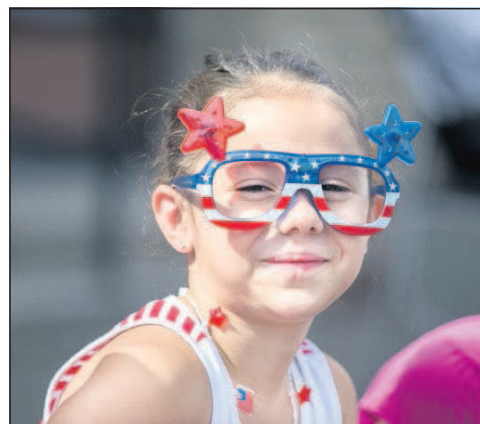
WINNER OF THE 2016 ONPA GENERAL EXCELLENCE AWARD

One dollar

## FOURTH OF JULY IN PENDLETON



Easton Carlson waits for the start of the Fourth of July parade in Pendleton on Tuesday. AT RIGHT, FROM TOP: Thelma Lindner watches the parade. A classic car motors along the route. A young girl shows her patriotic spirit as she watches the parade. Kaylee Stroder shows her patriotic spirit as she watches the parade.



## Rural nursing homes on edge

Administrators worry about lack of access as state eliminates beds

By LES ZAITZ  
*The (Malheur) Enterprise*

ONTARIO — The elderly woman had heard rumors of closure in the hallways of Presbyterian Community Care Center.

She learned the rumors were true when Cathleen Sullivan, the nursing home administrator, came to her room to tell her she would have to find a new home.

“When do I have to leave?” the resident asked.

Similar scenes played out in room after room as Sullivan delivered the news. And word of the impending closure rocketed through Eastern Oregon’s nursing home industry. The challenges of rural health care had claimed another victim.

Reliance on nursing homes has  
See NURSING/10A

## Suicide gun bill heads to House

By PARIS ACHEN  
*Capital Bureau*

SALEM — The House will consider a bill modeled after a law enacted by Washington voters in 2016 to allow loved ones and law enforcement to obtain an emergency order to block a suicidal person from access to deadly weapons.

The House Committee on Rules voted 5-to-2 to recommend passage of the bill. The Senate approved the bill 17-to-11 May 1.

Sen. Brian Boquist, R-Dallas, proposed the bill to create extreme risk protection orders as way to prevent the kind of suicides he has experienced as a father and a U.S. Army Special Forces veteran. Boquist’s 31-year-old, a U.S. Navy veteran, committed suicide Feb. 16, 2016, in the midst of the Legislature’s session. Boquist wrote a statement read by Senate President Peter Courtney the day after the suicide that said his son, Seth Sprague, had “never fully recovered from the tragedy of war.”

See SUICIDE/10A

## Flagapalooza

By EMILY OLSON  
*East Oregonian*

As a judge for Pendleton’s Fourth of July parade, Sharon Cook knows American spirit when she sees it.

“If we look at the entry and we immediately want to get up and salute, that says you’re patriotic,” she said.

Cook, the outgoing VFW Auxiliary president and one of three judges at Tuesday’s 6th annual parade, said she loves to see folks having fun.

Hosted by the VFW “Let ‘er Buck” Post 922, the parade featured 42 entries decked out in red, white and blue. Everything from buses and antique cars to riders on horseback and a marching Little League team traveled from city hall to the convention center, with a scenic detour down Main Street.

“All the parades in the early days went

down Main Street,” said Fred Bradbury, the event’s principal organizer. “As a little kid, I used to fight for space to get up front. All the stores were open, the crowds were six deep and it brought a lot of business into town. When [the parade] started, I wanted it to go down Main Street. We’re the only parade that does that now.”

### More inside

**Stanfield’s Fourth of July celebration draws large crowd downtown.**

The parade entries were met by waving spectators, candy-seeking children and plenty of American flags — the VFW distributed roughly

500 this year.

“A parade’s not a parade if you don’t have flags,” Bradbury said. He added that the symbol means everything to veterans, and the VFW aims to help residents “realize how important freedom is.”

There seemed to be more people in atten-

See PARADE/5A

“You can’t intellectualize this stuff. You can’t treat it with drugs. You just have to feel.”

— Tom Skerritt, actor and co-founder of the Red Badge Project

## Veterans write to tame trauma

Red Badge writers share their stories at Walla Walla reading

By KATHY ANEY  
*East Oregonian*

Skip Nichols walked to the podium, breathed deeply and shared one of his most agonizing life experiences.

Nichols, a Vietnam veteran and retired managing editor of the *East Oregonian*, had cobbled together the words during a Red Badge Project writing workshop and later agreed to share them with an audience at the Gesa Power House Theatre in Walla Walla. On Friday night, he joined five other workshop participants,

two Red Badge instructors and actor Tom Skerritt, who served in the Air Force. The Emmy-winning actor co-founded the Red Badge Project as a way to help veterans struggling with post-traumatic stress disorder find their voice and reboot their sense of purpose.

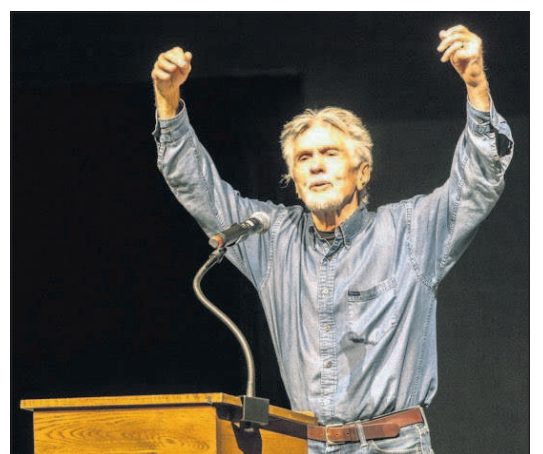
At the podium, Nichols morphed back into the 19-year-old Marine he once had been, standing guard with two other soldiers near the perimeter of Camp Carroll, just south of the demilitarized zone. They noticed a boy on a water buffalo heading

toward the concertina wire encircling the camp. The sight put the soldiers on edge. The boy, who appeared to be about 12, carried a bamboo cane to prod the water buffalo and had arms and legs that were “little more than sticks.” A brown cloth bag hung from his neck.

“Did it contain rice balls or hand grenades?” Nichols remembered wondering. “Were we looking into the eyes of the enemy or an innocent boy?”

Nichols, a radio operator and

See RED BADGE/10A



Staff photo by Kathy Aney  
Actor Tom Skerritt speaks about the Red Badge Project on Friday at the Gesa Power House Theatre in Walla Walla. Skerritt co-founded the project, which helps veterans with PTSD find their voice and rebuild their sense of purpose.

