

BUCKAROOS FALL IN STATE CHAMPIONSHIP

FULL GAME COVERAGE, PLUS ON-FIELD GRADUATION SPORTS, B1

Pendleton's **Cooper Roberts** throws a pitch against Central early in the OSAA 5A State Baseball Championship at Volcanoes Stadium in Keizer on Saturday.
East Oregonian Photo/Ben Lonergan

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143RD YEAR, No. 164

WINNER OF THE 2018 ONPA GENERAL EXCELLENCE AWARD

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PENDLETON HIGH HONORS GRADUATES



East Oregonian

PENDLETON — Diplomas were presented to the 2019 Pendleton High School graduates during a ceremony on June 1 in the Round-Up Grounds.

The PHS Class of 2019 featured 186 graduates who walked on Saturday, plus 10 graduates from the Homestead Youth and Family Services.

In a separate ceremony, 14 students from Hawthorne Alternative High School obtained diplomas and another five students received their GEDs. Collectively, the class of 2019 earned more than \$1.8 million in scholarships.

MORE GRADUATION PHOTOS

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ABOVE: Pendleton High School graduates queue up outside of the Pendleton Round-Up Arena before their graduation ceremony on Saturday in Pendleton.

LEFT: A graduate throws his mortarboard into the grandstands while leaving the infield.

Staff photos by E.J. Harris

Second chances

Troubled teens learn how to succeed

By **KATHY ANEY**
East Oregonian

PENDLETON — Boys arriving at the Homestead come with a lot of baggage — much more than the suitcases or duffel bags they lug into the dormitory.

The typical Homestead Youth and Family Services resident has a difficult past, has gotten in trouble with the law and has a history of dismal academic performance. At first glance, these troubled teenage boys seem unlikely to suddenly start excelling at school and life.

Yet, the boys often catch up to their grade level and even go higher at Homestead, which is part of the Pendleton School District. Ten Homestead residents received diplomas at Saturday's Pendleton High School commencement ceremony.

The success may seem magical, but Homestead Executive Director Elisa Doebler-Irvine credits a cadre of four devoted teachers, several therapists, personalized support, life skills training and summer school. Homestead, funded by the Oregon Youth Authority, has been around since the 1960s. The school within the facility, however, is funded by the Oregon Department of Education through the Pendleton School District. That partnership started in the mid-1990s.

The director is fiercely protective of the boys and likes that the school isn't strongly on the community radar. The anonymity gives the residents a chance to reinvent themselves without labels.

When Doebler-Irvine arrived at the facility in 1997, she said, the school and the community had an uneasy relationship. The boys were sometimes judged harshly because of their past behaviors.

"Back in those days, the school didn't have a great reputation," she said. "That was a different era in this industry."

While the boys keep a low profile, she said, they do spend time in the community. At first, they stay at the facility

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Bill would open door for electric co-ops to receive aid

By **GEORGE PLAVERN**
Capital Press

WASHINGTON — An Oregon congressman is urging lawmakers to pass a bill that would allow rural electric co-ops to receive government grants for disaster relief and broadband internet service, without losing tax-exempt status.

In a letter sent May 30 to mem-

bers of the House Ways and Means and Senate Finance committees, U.S. Rep. Grag Walden, R-Oregon, expressed his support for the Revitalizing Underdeveloped Rural Areas and Lands — or RURAL — Act of 2019.

The bill aims to fix what the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association described as an unintended consequence of the sweeping

GOP tax reforms in 2017.

To be considered tax-exempt, rural electric co-ops — many of which serve farm and ranch communities — cannot receive more than 15% of income from non-member sources. However, the current tax law contains a provision that counts federal, state and local grants as income rather than capital.

That means if a utility applies for

money from the Federal Emergency Management Agency to restore power following a natural disaster, it might exceed the threshold for tax exemption and result in higher rates for consumers.

The RURAL Act calls for changing the code, allowing co-ops to receive emergency aid and funding

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