

EAST OREGONIAN

FRIDAY, JUNE 28, 2019

PENDLETON FIGHTER EARNS BLACK BELT FOR BRAZILIAN JIU-JITSU
SPORTS, A8

+ LOCALS RALLY FOR AWOL SENATORS
REGION, A3



143rd Year, No. 182

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Your Weekend



- **Jackalope Jamboree**
Happy Canyon Arena
- **Walden** (Athena) and
Wyden (Pendleton) town halls
- **Tylor & The Train** Robbers
concert, SAGE Center

FOR TIMES AND LOCATIONS
CHECK COMING EVENTS, A5

Weekend Weather

FRI	SAT	SUN
75/50	81/52	86/56

Purchase of Observer, Herald becomes final

EO Media Group to add La Grande, Baker City papers July 1

By **ANDREW CUTLER**
East Oregonian

PENDLETON — For the staffs of the *Baker City Herald* and *The Observer* in La Grande, Thursday's news that Bankruptcy Judge Trish M. Brown authorized the sale of the two papers to the EO Media Group was a chance to breathe a sigh of relief.

For the EO Media Group, the news continues the company's push to strengthen its position as a leading regional media presence.

"We're very pleased to have La Grande and Baker City as part of the EO Media Group. We're excited about the many possibilities this affords us in Eastern Oregon," said Heidi Wright, the EO Media Group chief operations officer. "The purchase of these papers gives our company a greater ability to serve the region in a more effective way. This will grow EO Media Group's presence in Eastern Oregon from four newspapers to six."

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A RELUCTANT HERO



Staff photo by Kathy Aney

Richard Allstott stands in his front yard where he displays the American flag every day of the year.

Korean War veteran will lead Pendleton's Fourth of July parade

By **KATHY ANEY**
East Oregonian

PENDLETON — Richard Allstott has two souvenirs from the Korean War — a Bronze Star and profound hearing loss resulting from an enemy grenade that tossed him 40 feet.

Allstott, this year's grand marshal for

Pendleton's Independence Day Parade, doesn't often talk about those months in Korea, although some harrowing experiences lurk in his memory. Tom Tangney, who nominated Allstott for grand marshal, said even some members of the local Veterans of Foreign Wars post weren't aware of Allstott's heroism.

"People don't know what Richard went through because he doesn't talk about it," said Tangney, who is also a Korean War veteran. "He is not one to blow his own horn."

A detailed description of Allstott's hero-

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Pendleton considers program for blighted homes

By **ANTONIO SIERRA**
East Oregonian

PENDLETON — The Pendleton Development Commission could soon get into the home improvement business.

On behalf of the commission, Kaitlyn Cook, an associate from the University of Oregon's Resource Assistance for Rural Environments program, studied downtown blight and presented the results at a commission meeting on Tuesday.

Cook said she did the study so that the commission, which is comprised of members of the Pendleton City Council, would better understand the issue of blight while members consider how to move the urban renewal district forward during the last four years of its lifespan.

"I'm not a structural engineer," she said. "I looked at the buildings and looked at determinators of blight."

Cook studied every structure from Southeast Sixth Street to Southwest Sixth Street, Umatilla River to railroad, and graded them on a 900 point scale.

She assessed the buildings based on nine qualities of blight, including peeling paint, yard maintenance issues, and structural problems.

Based on her scores, she determined that there were 52 blighted buildings in the downtown area, 25 of them residential.

Although city officials have long been critical of absentee landlords and banks who let their properties fall into disrepair, only a little more than half of the blighted structures were renter occupied.

The development commission's advisory committee has been exploring how the urban renewal district could take a greater role in housing, said Charles Denight, the commission's associate director.

They've been busy crafting a proposal to improve the urban renewal district's existing stock while still filling an unmet need.

Denight said the Greater Eastern Oregon Development Corp. and Community Action Program of East Central Oregon already offer housing renovation programs, but they're

See Homes, Page A7

Demonstrators urge GOP senators to stay away for rural Oregon

By **DIRK VANDERHART**
Oregon Public Broadcasting

SALEM — The days before the Oregon Legislature adjourns are typically chaotic affairs, with lawmakers rushing to pass bills in time to meet the constitutional deadline.

But on Thursday — just three days before this year's deadline — Oregon lawmakers did not plan to take up a single bill. The House

and Senate remained largely silent. Action at the Capitol was instead centered out front, where cheers from hundreds of demonstrators mixed with the constant blare of truck horns.

The so-called "Stay Strong Stay Gone" rally marked the latest backlash over bills seeking to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in Oregon. Loggers, truckers, farmers and their supporters had all come, they

said, to urge 11 Senate Republicans who've been absent from the statehouse since last week to remain in hiding.

Democrats have said that House Bill 2020, a sweeping proposal for capping emissions and charging companies that pollute, is dead this session. But those who attended the rally were dubious.

"I don't want the Republicans coming back because I'm afraid

that crooked Kate Brown is trying to pull a fast one on us," said 37-year-old Joe Poetter, a logger from Banks.

"I actually have family members who work inside with the senators, and I have been told that that's just a ruse," said Wendy Cunningham, of Brownsville, who stood in the rain with her four children. "They're

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