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Coach takes leave to focus on health PAGE B1



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MARK YLEN PHOTOS, MID-VALLEY MEDIA

Austin Duckworth of Apex Property Clearing & Recycling instructs excavator operator Keith Anderson as he pulls down the final walls of a house at 610 Sherman Street in Albany on Monday afternoon.

Nowhere to go but down

City demolishes 'nuisance' house after years of complaints

ALEX PAUL
Albany Democrat-Herald

When does a house become such an "imminent nuisance" to a community that city officials declare it dangerous enough to be demolished?

In Albany, such a drastic measure occurs after the police department answers 133 calls to the address in three years and, ultimately, when a 5-year-old child is present in a room where methamphetamine contamination is found to be extensive.

Such was the case with a house at 610 Sherman Street owned by David Furry. It was leveled earlier this week after being deemed a chronic nuisance and health hazard.

"I agonized about this over the weekend," City Manager Peter Troedsson said. "Destroying someone's property isn't something to be taken lightly. I work



John Origer, owner of Apex Property Clearing & Recycling, takes a photo as his crew demolishes a house at 610 Sherman Street in Albany.

for David Furry, but I also work for 53,000 other residents of this city. The greater good has to mean something."

This story starts in 1995, when Furry and his wife purchased the nearly 900-square-foot structure for \$20,000. It needed considerable repair, and city officials say they worked with Furry for years as he supposedly was bringing conditions up to city code.

But progress has not been steady, city officials say, even though permit deadlines have been extended numerous times.

Albany ordinances allow the demolition of dangerous properties at the discretion of the city manager.

"Because this is such a serious thing, it's important that the city manager make sure all boxes are checked, all avenues explored

and all alternatives considered," Troedsson said.

In an email to city council members, Troedsson noted methamphetamine levels in the house were from "six to 60 times the allowable state standard."

City spokeswoman Marilyn Smith said building officials have found numerous code violations at the home, including electrical wiring issues and complaints about "junk, trash and other activities since 2008 or 2009."

Smith said the city has "worked with Mr. Furry from every direction, from junk and trash problems to building code violations and livability standards and trying to get him to clean up stuff in the yard."

According to Smith, the city often extended permit deadlines and Furry failed to complete upgrades.

The Albany Police Department has responded to calls about the residence for years.

"On one search warrant at the residence, we made 15 arrests,"

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Global emergency declared

KEN MORITSUGU
Associated Press

BEIJING — The U.S. advised against all travel to China on Friday after the World Health Organization declared the outbreak of a new virus that has spread to more than a dozen countries a global emergency. The number of cases spiked more than tenfold in a week, including the highest death toll in a 24-hour period reported Friday.

The State Department's travel advisory told Americans currently in China to consider departing using commercial means, and requested that all non-essential U.S. government personnel defer travel "in light of the novel coronavirus."

"Travelers should be prepared for travel restrictions to be put into effect with little or no advance notice. Commercial carriers have reduced or suspended routes to and from China," it said.

China counted 9,692 confirmed cases with a death toll of 213, including 43 new fatalities. The vast majority of the cases have been in Hubei province and its provincial capital, Wuhan, the epicenter of the outbreak. No deaths have been reported outside China.

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GAPS to roll out Native curriculum in the fall

CAITLYN M. MAY
Albany Democrat-Herald

In 2017, the Oregon Legislature passed Senate Bill 13, requiring school districts to include Native curriculum in K-12 classes and provide professional development surrounding teaching and implementation of the lesson plans.

Lessons are available on the Oregon Department of Edu-