



Staff photo by Kathy Aney

Steven Hartsteen, of Bothum Construction, uses a saw to cut siding for a ticket booth at the Eastern Oregon Trade and Event Center. Contractors and volunteers are expected to work right up to the start of this year's Farm-City Pro Rodeo, which will be held for the first time at its new home at EOTEC.

New arena offers more seats, original bucking chutes

By **JADE McDOWELL**
East Oregonian

The Farm-City Pro Rodeo may have a new home this year, but many things about it will seem quite familiar to longtime fans.

The basic layout of the new arena at the Eastern Oregon Trade and Event Center is essentially unchanged, with that same “cozy” arrangement that allows cowboys to ride past fans so close they could go for a high five. And some elements — including the eight bucking chutes, lights, sound

system and panels — were packed up and moved over to the new arena.

Board member Dennis Barnett said recycling some of the old arena’s pieces that still had plenty of life left in them helped save a bundle of money on the arena, which was built from a \$3.9 million bid by Hendon Construction.

“We probably saved a million dollars,” he said.

Much of the arena is made up of brand-new materials, however, and there are a few changes from the old

See ARENA, Page 6