



Staff photo by E.J. Harris

Semitruck drivers fuel their vehicles in the driving snow Monday at the Arrowhead Travel Plaza in Mission.

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LODGE GETS NEW LIFE

Repurposed Elks lodge sets spring opening date

By ANTONIO SIERRA
East Oregonian

In rechristening the Pendleton Elks Lodge as just “The Lodge,” the new owners of the 14 S.E. Court Ave. building are removing many of the references to the former tenants.

The changing of the guard might be epitomized at the facility’s second-floor auditorium, where the removal of a mounted elk head has left a small hole in the wall.

The Lodge owners are focused on making the auditorium one of the first parts of the facility to reopen in the spring.

The Lodge recently took to social media to announce that Portland band The Get Ahead would be performing at the “Grand Opening Party” on April 5.

A concert isn’t the only move The Lodge has made toward opening: the facility recently obtained business and liquor licenses.

It’s a relatively quick turnaround for a building that was acquired in late 2018 after nearly two years of disuse.

Portland electrician Lance Leonnig announced that he had purchased the building in January and has since brought in Brian

See Lodge, Page A8



Staff photo by E.J. Harris

Lance Leonnig, of Gresham, works on reinstalling a cut-in box in the electrical system on stage in the auditorium at The Lodge on Saturday in Pendleton. Leonnig and his other business partners are working to open the venue, formerly the Elks lodge, for a show in April. Below, Brian Baird, of Pendleton, stains a trim board.

“WE NEED MORE DANCING (IN PENDLETON). PEOPLE NEED TO DANCE MORE.”

Adam Mack,
one of the new owners of The Lodge



Snow days and closed freeways

Storm shuts down I-82 for 8 hours, cancels schools

By PHIL WRIGHT
and JADE MCDOWELL
East Oregonian

Hermiston residents trying to get home from the Tri-Cities had a harrowing experience on Saturday after white-out conditions and a multi-vehicle pile-up stranded hundreds of drivers on Interstate 82.

Mackenzie Colgan left work at about 2:45 p.m. and didn’t get home until 11:30 p.m.

“Longest trip home from the Tri-Cities ever,” she said. “It was terrifying.”

Washington State Department of Transportation closed Interstate 82 at about 2:30 p.m., but Colgan said there were no signs up to warn her when she got on the freeway in Kennewick and started following a semitrailer crawling its way through the snowstorm. About 15 minutes later, the semi hit its brakes and she swerved into the shoulder to avoid it.

“Once we stopped we didn’t move again until

See Snow, Page A8

New home construction in Oregon not keeping up with demand

By PARIS ACHEN
Oregon Capital Bureau

Salem resident Paula Pena often slips cash into her father’s wallet when he’s not looking. The money is to help pay rent on a duplex in Northeast Salem.

After five years without an increase, her parents’ rent went from \$500 to

\$975 over 18 months when a new owner bought the property. Pena said her parents, retired and living on a fixed income, couldn’t afford the new rent.

Her parents are one example of hundreds of thousands of Oregon households that are affected by Oregon’s high cost of housing. The same trend has

unfolded nationwide largely due to a shortage of new housing, said state economist Josh Lehner.

In Oregon and nationwide, construction of new homes has failed to keep up with demand.

Oregon needs about 150,000 more homes to meet residents’ needs, according to a recent report by Up for

Growth, a national coalition that promotes higher housing density close to workplaces, stores and transit.

The discrepancy between supply and demand means rents and house prices are higher, people pay a higher percentage of their income toward housing, more people are homeless and more people are at risk of becoming

homeless.

“The average apartment is significantly more expensive as a percentage of people’s income,” said Mike Kingsella, who leads Up for Growth. “You have to make a lot more money to afford it. It means purchasing a first-time home is much more out

See Housing, Page A2



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