

EAST OREGONIAN

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143rd Year, No. 105 WINNER OF THE 2018 ONPA GENERAL EXCELLENCE AWARD \$1.50

LOOKING AFTER SENIORS



Richard Carnes, left, and Brad Cole put up a wall while building rooms for the new Eudora Wilson House elderly care facility in Pilot Rock.

New elder care facility in works for Pilot Rock

By PHIL WRIGHT
East Oregonian

Pilot Rock's new elderly care facility could open this summer. Kari Wilson lives in the small town south of Pendleton and in October 2018 bought the old Baptist church on Southwest Street and the adjacent building at 585 S.W. Birch St. for about \$200,000. She has been working since then to renovate and reopen the two structures as the Eudora Wilson House.



"We want to put in a senior care facility that will be licensed by the state," she said. Wilson said she began her career in care in 1995 when she worked for Umatilla County's detoxification program. From there she worked at the the long-closed state psychiatric center in Pendleton and the former Blue Mountain Recovery Center, the Pendleton facility that treated addicts and the mentally ill. Since June 2015, she has cared for her mother-in-law, Eudora Wilson. When the new, epon-



The renovated old Baptist church and adjacent building will serve as a 14-bed care facility with the possibility of running other services for the Pilot Rock senior community.

ymous facility opens, Kari Wilson said her mother-in-law wants to move in. "I think she wants to be around people her age," she said. Much of the renovation is taking place in the building next to the church, where contractors are erecting bedroom walls and already installed walk-in showers and are working on

a kitchen complete with a commercial gas stove. The center will house up to 14 people, she said, including couples. "Some places don't, and that splits them up," she said. "I hate to see that happen." The church next door has a shiny new laminate floor, and the old stage

See Facility, Page A8

Clock ritual could end at hands of voters

Testimony from
Oregonians asks for repeal
of daylight saving time

By MARK MILLER
Oregon Capital Bureau

Whether they're for standard time or daylight saving time, Oregonians are tired of changing their clocks twice every year. That's the message state senators considering a time change in Oregon received this week. More than 50 people submitted written testimony or addressed the Senate Business and General Government Committee on Tuesday regarding Senate Bill 320. Only one witness argued that Oregon should keep switching between standard and daylight time every March and November. The others said they want to get rid of the biannual switch. The legislation would let voters settle the matter in November 2020. If voters approved the change, Oregon would switch to daylight saving time in March 2021 and stay there.

"I just think it's a smart thing to do, and I think people are just grumpy and tired of changing the clock," said state Rep. Bill Post, R-Keizer, who is sponsoring the bill along with state Sen. Kim Thatcher, R-Keizer, Rep. John Lively, D-Springfield, and Rep. Mike Nearman, R-Independence.

Public testimony backs up Post. Aloha resident Jonas Acres said that as a software engineer, changing between times makes his job much harder and can lead to errors. For example, he noted, the change to standard time in November means that one hour in the early morning is repeated every year. Most Oregonians are asleep by then, but for businesses and services that never sleep — Acres used hospital emergency rooms as an example — having two 1 a.m. hours can be a nightmare when tracking vital data.

Those timekeeping issues can be very serious, even life-threatening, in some fields, Acres said. "We need to patch DST out of the current society," Acres said. "SB 320 will let clocks do their jobs, ticking happily from one hour to the next in the monotonous progression ordained by heaven and the laws of thermodynamics." Some submitting written testimony urged lawmakers to abandon daylight saving time and make standard time year-round instead.

See Change, Page A8

HERMISTON

Chamber, school and water tower get city council's support

By JADE MCDOWELL
East Oregonian

The Hermiston City Council on Monday cleared hurdles for a new chamber of commerce building, new school and new water tower. The Greater Hermiston Area Chamber of Commerce plans to use the \$1 million it got from the state legislature in 2018 to build a new set of offices and workforce development center on the southeast corner of East Evelyn Avenue and South Highway 395, across the highway from New Hope Community Church.

On Monday the city council voted to approve the chamber's request that the 2.4-acre property be rezoned from multi-family residential to outlying commercial to allow the project to go forward. George Anderson, attorney for the chamber, described the property as "truly a superb location" for the new building. "The chamber of course needs a new home and has \$1 million to find a home and build a home," he said. "It's just wonderful." Paul Keeler, the chamber board's president, said

they hoped to get started on the building "maybe in the next three to four months" if the zoning was approved. The plan is for it to feature offices and a conference room for the chamber and a space where up to 120 people could participate in workforce training activities. Board member and listing agent for the property Tim Mabry said he had tried to reach out to developers over the last year and a half but had been told universally that the 2.4-acre prop-

See Council, Page A8



The Greater Hermiston Area Chamber of Commerce has a deal to buy the land southeast of South Highway 395 and East Evelyn Avenue to build a workforce development center.