



OREGON GETS READY TO FALL BACK

REGION, A3



CROSS-COUNTRY: DAWGS FINISH FIRST IN HOME MEET

SPORTS, B1

EAST OREGONIAN

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\$1.50

Your Weekend



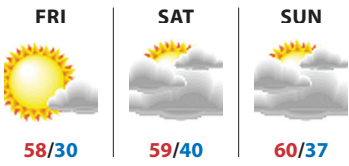
• **Oktoberfest Pendleton**, Pendleton Round-Up Grounds

• **Echo Corn Maze**, Echo

• **Boardman Quilt Show**, Boardman Senior Center

FOR TIMES AND LOCATIONS CHECK COMING EVENTS, A5

Weekend Weather



Initiative process for folks with power

A system hailed for giving people power doesn't work for political outsiders

By SAM STITES
Oregon Capital Bureau

SALEM — David Smith wanted to create meaningful change.

The retired Eugene real estate appraiser of 45 years watched year after year as seniors in his community were forced from their homes, unable to keep up with climbing property tax rates.

He decided to seek a change in Oregon law to reduce seniors' property tax burden by 75 percent. He set out to get his idea put on the ballot in Oregon to let voters decide.

Smith filed his prospective petition with the state Elections Division in July, but he quickly encountered a system better suited to those with political power or a vast lobby behind them.

"The process was so onerous that it's almost impossible unless you have an entire fleet of people

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Hidden disabilities

Living with disabilities not easily seen presents unique challenges



Staff photo by Ben Lonergan

Echo resident Vera Burres faces difficulties finding appropriate resources for dealing with her hidden disabilities due to her lack of proximity to those resources.

By JADE MCDOWELL
East Oregonian

ECHO — When people meet Vera Burres, they don't always know she has a disability.

Burres fell down the stairs at a friend's home in 2004 and spent four months in a coma after striking her head. Now she said, her entire left side occasionally goes numb, putting her at risk of falling if it happens while she's walking. She can't drive because she's at a high risk for seizures. She said she also experiences other side effects off and on, such as short-term memory loss, favoring one side while walking and or jumbling her words if she speaks too quickly.

"People don't believe me," she said. "They say, 'You're just drunk.'"

The skepticism can hurt, but sometimes it goes beyond that. Burres said she has had requests for accommodations denied in the past, such as when the post office in Echo turned down her application to have mail delivered to her home instead of a post office box downtown.

Darrin Umbarger, CEO of Clearview Disability Resource Center in Pendleton, said when he travels to workplaces and schools to advocate for accessibility, he

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"A LOT OF DISABILITIES ARE INTERMITTENT, YOU HAVE A GOOD DAY, A BAD DAY. IT'S REALLY HARD WHEN YOU DON'T LOOK LIKE SOMETHING IS WRONG WITH YOU, BUT INSIDE YOU'RE DYING."

— Darrin Umbarger, CEO of Clearview Disability Resource Center

RESOURCES FOR LIVING WITH DISABILITIES

The **Aging and Disability Resource Connection of Oregon** website (www.adrco-oregon.org) connects people with local resources, searchable by ZIP code and by the type of service needed. The information is also available by calling 1-855-673-2372.

Accredited Centers for Independent Living can provide peer counseling and other resources for individuals living with disabilities. The **Eastern Oregon Center for Independent Living's** Pendleton office is at 322 S.W. Third St. or by phone at 541-276-1037.

Clearview Disability Resource Center is located at 307 S.W. Sixth St. in Pendleton or by phone at 541-276-1130.

Suspected abuse, neglect or financial exploitation of elderly people or adults with disabilities can be reported to the **Oregon**

Department of Human Services at 1-855-503-7233.

Disability Rights Oregon provides advocacy and investigations into violations of rights for people with disabilities. They can be reached at 1-800-452-1694.

The **Senior Medical Patrol** works to empower seniors and adults with disabilities to prevent health care fraud and abuse. They can be reached at 1-855-673-2372.

Crimes motivated by prejudice against a person's disability or perceived disability are hate crimes. Hate crimes should be reported to the local police and can be followed up by tips to the **Oregon Department of Justice** (justice.oregon.gov/crimereporting/hatecrime) and the **Federal Bureau of Investigation** (1-800-225-5324).

Downtown projects seek to obtain, or hold onto, public money

By ANTONIO SIERRA
East Oregonian

PENDLETON — The business formerly known as The Lodge is going electric, in more ways than one.

Crews from Gordon's Electric were in and out of the old Elks Lodge at 14 S.E. Third St. this week, preparing the building for its relaunch as Electric Sundown.

Owner Lance Leonnig started a new limited liability company to manage the building called Cowboy Lodge, but the facility will do business under the more unusual title.

"I wanted something that definitely popped," he said.

Leonnig said he's already started booking private events for Electric Sundown and is in discussions with a teacher to let a gymnastics class use a

portion of it for a studio.

It's a shift in focus from when the business was known as The Lodge, which centered around a monthly series of concerts hosted at the second-floor auditorium.

The Lodge operated for five months before Leonnig dissolved the company and dropped two local business partners, referencing "heavy losses" taken during Round-Up week.

Although he'll miss the big shows on the second floor, Leonnig said he's turning his attention to the Stag Bar on the ground floor.

He also wants to spend time improving the exterior. While the original vision for The Lodge included a vintage electric sign that would hang out front, Leonnig said he's now

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Staff photo by E.J. Harris, File

The scaffolding was removed from the renovation on the second story of the Sister's Cafe building last year, exposing the five grand windows on the facade of the old Robinson building on Main Street in Pendleton. The owners of the building received a \$126,000 facade grant from the Pendleton Development Commission.



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