

to new home in 2016

out of the one in the center of town.

He said cowboys haven't exactly been competing in the same arena Bothum competed in during the first Farm-City Pro Rodeo in 1988 anyway. The arena, which hosted the first Junior Rodeo held in conjunction with the Umatilla County Fair in 1966, was in bad shape by 1988. Bothum said just about every piece of it has been replaced over time.

"There's nothing here that was here when we started," he said. "But the design is the same. Whoever had the vision for that did a good job."

Bothum said when other cities are building a new rodeo arena it's not uncommon for stock contractors to tell them to check out Hermiston's set-up.

Some elements of the current arena — including the blocks and the chutes — will be reused in the new arena currently being designed for EOTEC. Other elements, like the bleachers, can be re-purposed elsewhere. The rest will likely be torn down after Hermiston School District takes over the fairground property and begins using it for ballfields, an expansion of Hermiston High School and other projects.

Torrie Griggs, who has been in charge of the rodeo's Grand Entry since 1999 and rode in the entry herself for years before that, said there is a sense of



STAFF PHOTO BY GARY L. WEST

Directors and volunteers work to assemble a dance floor Thursday night in the Chute 8 portion of the rodeo grounds.

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FARM-CITY PRO RODEO



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