Hermiston DUSINESS

Comfort Inn & Suites expanding

By JADE McDOWELL

Staff Writer

An expansion underway at Comfort Inn & Suites will increase Hermiston's hotel capacity by 35 rooms.

The hotel, located by the Space Age fuel station near Interstate 84 exit 182, is also planning to update its existing 65 rooms by adding new carpet, furniture and wall coverings.

"We basically want it to match up to the new section," co-owner Jim Pliska said.

The 35 new rooms will include six suites and three or four handicap-accessible rooms. Pliska said construction is expected to wrap up in November. A few of the hotel's current rooms will be closed while they are re-carpeted, but the hotel will remain open throughout the construction phase.

Pliska said the hotel will hire between five and 10 new employees when the project is complete.

Pliska owns the Hermiston Comfort Inn & Suites, franchised by lodging com-

& Suites near Interstate 84.

Hermiston

The Hermiston Chamber

A supply chain opportuni-

of Commerce will host two

ties conference will take place

from 9:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the

Hermiston Conference Cen-

ter, 415 S. Highway 395. The

event is designed to help man-

ufacturers generate new op-

portunities, partnerships and

awareness about suppliers and

customers in the Northwest.

The conference will feature

presentations from large man-

ufacturers and round-table

discussions. Kerry Bass, from

Pacific NW National Labo-

ratory, and Josh Burns, from

Wal-Mart Distribution Center,

oration between the chamber,

Business Oregon, the Pendle-

The conference is a collab-

will speak at the event.

events Aug. 25.

pany Choice Hotels, with his father Harold Pliska. He described the hotel as an affordable "mid-level" lodging option.

"It should be nicer once we get done," he said.

He said the hotel should not have trouble utilizing the new rooms, since it is often "running up against capacity" now.

The anecdotal evidence is backed up by hard numbers: In 2014 the 434 hotel rooms in Hermiston averaged 69.6 percent occupancy, with some hotels filling up completely during large sporting tournaments in town. According to information presented by the city in 2013, Hermiston's occupancy rate tends to be about 8 percent higher than the state average and 19 percent higher than the rest of Eastern Oregon.

Hermiston will get another boost in hotel capacity in July 2016, when recently announced four-story Holiday Inn Express is expected to open on the corner of Hermiston Avenue and Highway 395.

STAFF PHOTO BY JADE McDOWELL

ton Chamber of Commerce

and the Pacific Northwest

Defense Coalition. PNDC

and chamber members can

register for \$20 by Aug. 12

or \$35 after. Non-members

can register for \$40 by Aug.

12 or \$55 after. The cost in-

cludes breakfast and lunch at

the Business to Business lun-

cheon that follows. For more

information or to register, vis-

it www.pndc.us or call 888-

attend the entire conference

can attend only the Busi-

ness to Business luncheon,

which begins at 11:45 a.m.

The luncheon costs \$10 for

chamber members or \$\$13

for non-members. For more

information or to register, call

People who do not wish to

701-PNDC.

541-567-6151.

A 35-room expansion is underway at the Hermiston Comfort Inn

Chamber plans

events Aug. 25



Stanfield open for business

Two new businesses in operation, another planned this month

By SEAN HART

Residents hope new business activity in Stanfield will attract more customers and even more businesses.

Two new stores — Bazaar Happenings and Old Stanfield Junk Store — opened last week, and the Lucky Jam Barn, a new restaurant, plans to open later this month.

After Elephants Trunk Antiques closed and Echo Bike & Board moved to Pendleton earlier this year, vacant storefronts dominated the downtown area. Now, the former antique store owner, Dave Meyers, has opened a new business in the building next door that once housed the bike shop. It offers an eclectic mix of old and new items.

Although Meyers said he is still trying to sell or lease the old Elephants Trunk building on the corner of Highway 395 and West Coe Avenue, Bazaar Happenings opened on the same block a day after Meyers' new store. He said he hoped more stores customers.

"It should have been done long ago," he said. "People draw people. That's always been my experience. Stanfield, as far as I'm concerned, is a prime location."

Stanfield librarian Cecili Longhorn, who opened Bazaar Happenings, said the new stores will provide customers a better shopping experience.

"We have a bunch of great things in Stanfield," she said. "We're just lacking with a few businesses, so it's nice to see people get involved and try to get some more activity



April Bautista, manager of the new Old Stanfield Junk Store, poses inside the store at 135 W. Coe Ave.



Lisa Mavis poses by some of the items she is selling in the new Stanfield business Bazaar Happenings, 165 W. Coe Ave. Last week, Stanfield librarian Cecili Longhorn opened the business, which features a wide variety of items from different sellers.

going where people can go from shop to shop to shop." Longhorn said she hoped

her new consignment store offering a variety of gifts and handcrafted and repurposed items would encourage foot traffic. She said the business also plans to offer ice cream

Bazaar Happenings is connected by an interior door to Fun Fashions Boutique, which opened in October last year, so customers can easily move from one store to the next. Boutique owner Kathy Baker said she is excited to have more businesses down-

SPECTALE

STAFF PHOTO BY SEAN HART

"I think it's going to be a great new asset for Stanfield," she said. "We're slowly building up the town again. I think it's going to be a new opening for this town.'

Baker said, although it took time to establish a customer base, her business is doing well. She said Stanfield is great location for businesses because of the amount of traffic that passes through each day on Highway 395.

Bazaar Happenings

What: A variety of gifts, handcrafted and repurposed items and, coming soon, ice cream

Hours: 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Tuesdays through Saturdays

Where: 165 W. Coe Ave., Stanfield **Phone:** 541-571-3812

Old Stanfield Junk Store

What: An eclectic mix of old and

Hours: 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Mondays through Saturdays

Where: 135 W. Coe Ave., Stanfield **Phone:** 541-571-6715

The Lucky Jam Barn

What: Breakfast, lunch, pizza to go, baked goods, ice cream, smoothies and coffee

Opens: Initial plans were to open

Where: 270 S. Main St., Stanfield **Phone:** 541-561-6240

With a location directly on the highway, the Lucky Jam Barn eatery hopes to draw some of that traffic. The business tentatively scheduled to open Friday plans to offer breakfast, lunch, pizza to go, baked goods, ice cream, smoothies and coffee.

City Manager Blair Larsen said he hopes the new businesses will thrive in Stanfield

"I love to see people make the effort to create something," he said. "It certainly takes a lot more work than just living your life and shopping elsewhere, so it's nice to

Hermiston

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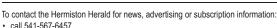


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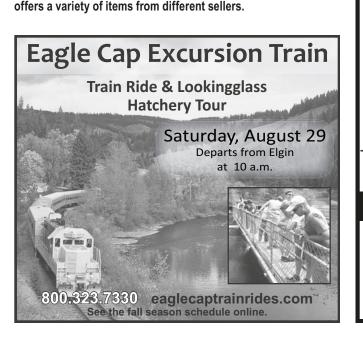
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Bazaar Happenings, a new business in downtown Stanfield,

AUGUST 12-15, 2015



Wed. Aug. 12th 9pm JOHN MICHAEL MONTGOMERY





7pm · Thurs. Aug. 12th · 9pm MAR-K DE TIERRA **ANTIFAZ** CALIENTE



Fri. Aug. 14th • 9pm HINDER

Sat. Aug. 15th • 9pm WARRANT

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