

EAST OREGONIAN

THURSDAY, MARCH 24, 2022

146th Year, No. 65

WINNER OF 16 ONPA AWARDS IN 2021

INSIDE

FILM FESTIVAL OFFERS ENCORE SCREENINGS IN GO!



Thursday, March 24, 2022

REGION

East Oregonian A3

Giving senior center new purpose

By **KATHY ANEY**
East Oregonian

PENDLETON — A demolition team worked quickly this week on the interior of Pendleton's former senior center in preparation for its metamorphosis into a children's center, as child care director Brittney Jackson and architect Mark Seder looked on.

Down came the ceiling tiles, the framework that held them in place and the old insulation. Gone was a wall between two small rooms to create a larger preschool room.

If all goes to plan, the Pendleton Children's Center at 510 S.W. 10th St. will open in September for preschool-age children. Fundraising will continue to pay for



Kathy Aney/East Oregonian

Nicolas Altamirano, of Pursuit Construction of Salem, removes a framework that once held ceiling panels in place on Tuesday, March 22, 2022, at the former Pendleton senior center, 510 S.W. 10th St., site of the future Pendleton Children's Center.

further renovations, including a new playground.

Kathryn Brown, secretary-treasurer of the nonprofit's board, said the group

received \$98,000 in local donations since the board formed in 2019. In addition, grants from the Oregon Community Foundation, the

Niemeyer Foundation and the Walmart Foundation total \$260,785. The senior center building, worth \$300,000 also came as a donation.

Biggest donors include \$20,000 from Hill Meat Co., \$20,000 from Rodney Parker of Pioneer Title, \$10,000 from an anonymous medical practice and \$10,000 from CHI St. Anthony Hospital.

"Our second phase will be to acquire the adjacent building and to renovate the top floor," Brown said, "so that we can expand our child care center to have capacity for 150 infants, toddlers and preschoolers."

Editor's Note: Kathryn Brown is the vice president of the EO Media Group, the parent company of the East Oregonian.