

# TOUR:

continued from page A1

ect, even some of the elements they are not able to do themselves, such as the roofing and connections of gas pipes, which are done by licensed contractors and work crews.

"They practice on their own, or they are right there watching as it all happens," he said.

Stanfield junior Nathan Hurty, one of the two Stanfield students working on the project, guided

Cai'an through the house and showed him the different rooms and what the students and Berger liked to call the "wow factors" of the house.

Cai'an said he was impressed the house includes all the special amenities it does, from a spot in the living room for an 80-inch television, an RV hook-up on the side of the house, a place for a hot tub on the back deck and exposed wooden beams that line the 17-foot ceilings in the living room.

Cai'an said one thing he liked, in particular, was getting to see not only see how students are building, but also how homes are built in the United States in general.

In China, he said, families live in apartments, which are built primarily with concrete and brick. He said he has never seen wood used in a home's construction before.

"We don't have houses built out of wood where I live," he said.

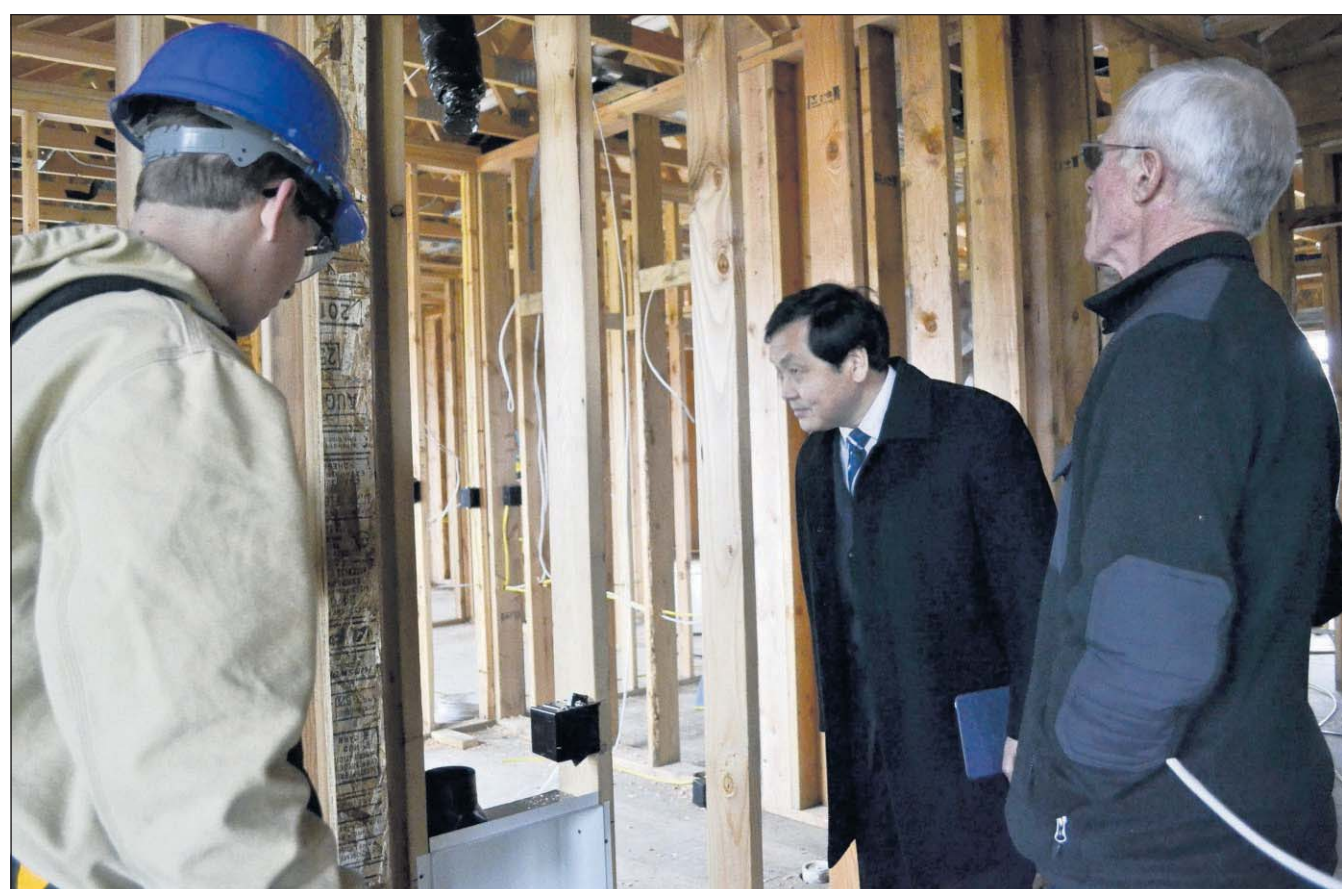
Cai'an said he will share his experiences with his staff in China so they can learn about hav-

ing programs like this in a school setting. He said he was impressed by what is happening in Hermiston.

"There are so many career opportunities here," he said.



From left, Chinese Principal Dong Cai'an, Stanfield junior Nathan Hurty, Hermiston High School Principal Jocelyn Jones and Hermiston School District Executive Director of Special of Programs Jon Mishra look at one of the Columbia Basin Student Homebuilding program students' list of building requirements Thursday in Hermiston.



Chinese Principal Dong Cai'an and John Day School Board member Mike Cosgrove get a tour of the Columbia Basin Student Homebuilder Program's first student-built home this week by Stanfield Secondary School junior Nathan Hurty.

# RULES:

continued from page A1

ending a final draft back to the Planning Commission, which could amend the document before making a recommendation to the City Council for approval.

City Planner Clint Spencer researched similar ordinances in other cities to create the initial language for the propos-

al, which the Community Enhancement Committee reviewed and revised to its current form, Morgan said.

He said, although the current draft focuses mostly on commercial zones, multi-family residential developments, such as apartment complexes, will be included in the ordinance, whereas single-family homes would not be impacted.

He said developments would be required to landscape 3 percent of the property in the downtown commercial zone and 6 percent in the outlying commercial zone. Businesses in the downtown zone that cannot install traditional landscaping can satisfy requirements by using other features, such as hanging baskets, fountains, decorative lighting, planter boxes or

outdoor seating, according to the draft ordinance.

"There will be some credits for all of these," Morgan said. "Based on the site, it may be impossible to put in additional landscaping. Obviously, there isn't that much space in the downtown for putting in a lawn."

Morgan said the proposed ordinance would also require landscaping on 3 percent or 10,000

square feet of industrial development property, whichever is smaller.

He said the visual impact of the ordinance on the city will be determined when new development takes place in the city.

"This was all a direction from the (City) Council to the Community Enhancement Committee to address aesthetics and curb appeal of the community," he said. "The

direction that we got was not to make this any kind of retroactive requirement or anything like that, but putting this in place pretty much creates the standpoint of 'Yeah, we may not be able to go back in and get some properties cleaned up with this ordinance, but you've got to start somewhere.' If this is approved, it would likely have a big impact in the long run."

# ANIMALS:

continued from page A1

icited. One of the biggest stresses is large breeds that they weren't willing to take in the past, and they're willing to take them now, so it's kind of a game-changer. Sometimes you just run out of room in your shelter, and if they're willing to take them and put them up for adoption in another facility, that's super awesome."

Putnam said OHS uses a van to pick up the animals for free, and he is grateful for the opportunity.

City Manager Byron Smith said he met with four people after the meeting to obtain further details.

"They provided us with a lot of notes and some people that we could contact to get further information about different things," Smith said. "We're just going to continue to do some research and looking into some of the specific complaints. They have some specific situations where they think abuse has taken place. They have some specific situations where they feel like an animal was euthanized before it should have been. They had a number of contacts of people (and) suggestions of other ways that could be used to advertise the pets for adoption, those kinds of things. They feel like there's not being enough done on that part."

they are killing animals, killing our pets, in spite of life-saving alternatives," she said. "When they're full, they just kill the animals. They don't ask around to see if anyone can take them."

She said the animals available for adoption should be better advertised, all of the animals should be spayed or neutered, basic comforts should be provided, the shelter should accept more volunteers and animals should be transferred to other shelters instead of being euthanized.

Putnam said Pet Rescue tries to list animals on PetFinder.com and spays and neuters animals as funds allow. He said the shelter created a PayPal account to accept online donations, and 100 percent of the proceeds will be used to spay and neuter animals. Donations can also be made at the shelter, 1844 N.W. Geer Road, Hermiston, between noon and 5 p.m. Mondays through Saturdays. He said the animals are warm and fed, and people can fill out applications for the volunteer program at the shelter.

chip problem, Putnam said Pet Rescue recently purchased a new universal microchip scanner that should detect all types

of microchips, unlike a scanner previously used. He recommended people register their animals with microchips, which

often requires additional annual fees, because some dogs with microchips that have been scanned were not registered.

# COMPLAINTS AGAINST PET RESCUE

Pet Rescue's announced participation in the Second Chance Program comes as Hermiston city officials continue to research complaints against the shelter from several people at a recent City Council meeting.

"The bottom line is

Assistant City Manager Mark Morgan said city officials met with Pet Rescue officials but are still gathering information and are not ready to report to the City Council yet. He anticipated the report will be presented at the Feb. 9 meeting.

Suzanne Phillips, who voiced her concerns to the council earlier this month and later met with city officials, said she has "probably talked to 100 people" who have had bad experiences with Pet Rescue, and she has a long list of recommendations.

To prevent the micro-

chip problem, Putnam said Pet Rescue recently purchased a new universal microchip scanner that should detect all types of microchips, unlike a scanner previously used. He recommended people register their animals with microchips, which often requires additional annual fees, because some dogs with microchips that have been scanned were not registered.

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