

COMMUNITY

Students get excited about their futures

Armand Larive career day offers youths new perspective

BY MAEGAN MURRAY
HERMISTON HERALD

As Morrow County Deputy District Attorney Richard Tovey spoke about the cases he prosecutes to a group of students Friday at Armand Larive Middle School, about a dozen hands shot up from students hoping to ask a question.

"Have you ever been at court and realized they were innocent?" one student asked, which was followed by, "How long did you have to go to school for?"

Tovey said afterward that he was happy to answer any and every question Friday because he knew students were getting the chance to explore what he does for a living so they could see if they wanted to go into law as a profession, themselves.

"It's fun," he said of the event Friday. "It's our second year doing it and it is always interesting ... They have a lot of questions."

Tovey was one of a number of speakers at the school Friday at its

annual career day. Throughout the first half of the day, students got to attend a selection of presentations from people who know their careers best. Speakers ranged from nurses and doctors to firemen, John Deere representatives and news anchors. The speakers gave a brief summary of what they did and then answered students' questions.

During a presentation from Good Shepherd Medical Center, registered nurse Marie Hughes answered questions about how she became a nurse. She told students that it requires at least an associate degree, though now many hospitals require nurses to have a bachelor's degree.

Other students asked about how surgeries were performed on babies and the steps it takes to prepare for surgery. Hughes invited student volunteers up to take them through the process of sanitizing and getting into all their gear as another student experienced what it was like to get ready for surgery as a patient.

"This allows them to experience this for themselves," she said. "We are all a part of the surgical team at Good Shepherd. We talked about the surgical career path, an-



MAEGAN MURRAY PHOTO
Marie Hughes, a registered nurse at Good Shepherd Medical Center, talks with students at Armand Larive Middle School during their career day Friday morning.

esthesia, the members of the team, from the doctors to the nurses."

The students seemed to enjoy the opportunity to learn about so many careers in one place.

"This is like a once-in-a-lifetime kind of opportunity," eighth-grader Melani Pursel said. "It's one of those things where it could completely change your mind about what you do."

Eighth-grader Megan Baskins said she appreciated getting to

ask questions about a variety of different career paths she might be interested in pursuing.

"You get a deeper look into it," she said.

Baskins said she was most interested in learning how KEPR action news operated. She said she wants to be an actor and musician, and it gave her a glimpse of what it is like to be on television.

Eighth-grader Jordyn Lawson said he was also interested

in hearing from the news station representatives because he and a few friends are planning on starting a YouTube channel.

He said hearing from television professionals gave him an idea of what it takes to produce a successful show.

"You get to interact with people that you wouldn't normally be able to," he said. "Most people can't just walk into an office and ask questions about what they do for a living. With this, you get the chance to see what they do on a deeper level."

Overall, the career day welcomed about 30 professionals. ALMS teacher Cori Applegate said the school started hosting a career day more than 10 years ago. She said the goal with the events is to introduce students to careers available to them so they can begin thinking about classes they may need to take in high school or college.

"We try to get a wide variety of presenters (and) careers," she said. "In reality, all students will not be attending college, even though that is a goal we talk about. Knowing the variety of careers out there may start them thinking earlier than later."

Advisory group eyeing three possible senior center sites

BY SEAN HART
HERMISTON HERALD

The group selecting a new site for the Hermiston Senior Center has narrowed the search to three possible locations.

Hermiston Parks and Recreation Director Larry Fetter presented information about the committee's search process and answered questions after the senior center lunch Tuesday.

On behalf of the senior center, the city acquired a \$2 million Community Development Block Grant to build a new facility, and Fetter said an advisory group comprised of senior center members and others with connections to the center are weighing the pros and cons of three potential sites.

One location is a vacant lot currently for sale behind Wal-Mart on Northeast Aspen Drive on the east side of Fourth Street. Fetter said the site is adjacent to other vacant lots that could potentially be used for future park developments.

Another location is at the corner of East Ridgeway Avenue and Northeast Second Street near the historic school arch. Fetter said Second Street would have to be made into a dead end with a turnaround at the corner, and the site has little extra space for



SEAN HART PHOTO
People enjoy a meal Tuesday at the Hermiston Senior Center before a presentation by Hermiston Parks and Recreation Director Larry Fetter about the future of the center at a new site.

future expansion, but the city already owns the property.

The final location is the building that formerly housed Goodwill on West Hermiston Avenue. Fetter said the structure meets the size being considered for the new senior center, but the building would have to be completely redesigned.

"Every one of these properties is a different financial discussion," he said. "...These are very different projects. These are very different properties."

After the presentation, Fetter said the advisory group

plans to have the sites ranked in order of preference within the next several weeks, and then required due diligence, including property appraisal and environmental assessments, will be performed on the first choice.

Julie Rosner, who is a member of the senior center Board of Directors and the advisory group, said any of the locations would be ac-

ceptable. "Anywhere you put \$2 million in Hermiston, it's going to be a good thing," she said. "It's going to be good anywhere."

Advisory group member Perry Hawkins, who served as the center's liaison to the city during the grant application process, said the group is making progress.

"It's a step-by-step pro-



SEAN HART PHOTO
Hermiston Parks and Recreation Director Larry Fetter gives a presentation at the Hermiston Senior Center about the new facility to be developed with a \$2 million Community Development Block Grant the city received.

let the seniors have their first meal."

Hawkins said many of the senior center members have been nervous about its fate because the current facility in the Umatilla County Fairgrounds must be vacated by the end of 2016 when the fair moves to the Eastern Oregon Trade and Event Center currently under construction.

During the presentation, some of the seniors in attendance expressed concerns with the city owning the building.

Fetter said the senior center alone would not have qualified for the grant, so the city applied to build the facility specifically to accommodate the center's needs. He said, for the first five years, the grant stipulates that no activities can be held in the facility that target an audience younger than 60 years old. After those five years, he said the city plans to utilize the space when the seniors are not using it, but the center will always maintain the priority for use for any times between 8 a.m. and 3 p.m. Mondays through Fridays. Fetter said the senior center would never be kicked out of the facility.

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