

FROM PAGE A1

what would work best with the climate and soil type of the area.

"I wanted them to get an opportunity to be creative and come up with their own ideas," he said. "They are so used to doing it in the classroom and not being able to be as creative. So I tried to get them to think outside the box and utilize their abilities that will be easy maintenance, have curb appeal and be family oriented."

Bennett said he invited the students out to his home in Hermiston so they could see some of the plants and projects he was experimenting with there. He and the students then took a trip around town where students examined landscaping examples at various businesses and lots.

Sophomore Wyatt Paschal said the whole experience has been useful to him because he too hopes to become an agriculture teacher one day, and he appreciates the opportunity to be mentored by someone who already is in the field. Like Vandehy, he said he will use the skills he learns with his future classes.

"We might be able to plant a garden," he said. "It gives me a background on what to know. I think it will be pretty useful."

So far, the students have mostly only tackled planning for the project. With spring right around the corner, however, the students are excited to get their hands dirty.

"We are just starting to be able to do some stuff," junior Jansen Edmiston said this week. "We're digging the fire pit right now, and we're working on the back yard. We did



MAEGAN MURRAY PHOTO

From left, Hermiston High School junior Jansen Edmiston, junior Emily Vandehy and sophomore Wyatt Paschal work on plants that will be sold in the school plant sale in May. Each of the three students are participating in the school's advanced landscaping class, which is doing the design and landscaping work for the Columbia Basin Student Homebuilder program's first student-built home.

the planting of the flowers by the main sign."

The overall design of the yard has yet to be completed, Bennett said, but students are slowly making strides with the limited time they have available to get everything done. He said, in addition to a fire pit, the students would like to add a bench swing in the back yard and a variety of plants that will suit Hermiston's climate. He said they have yet to start on the

front yard.

Edmiston said she is most excited to see what the final project looks like when it is completed at the end of the year.

"I'm excited to see it all come together," she said.

Vandehy agreed. "Twenty years later, when we drive past the house, we can say, 'Hey, I put that there,'" she said.

Paschal said he is also excited about learning the business side of landscap-

ing. For the project, the students had to work with Davies to come up with a budget like they would in a real-life scenario.

"You get to go through your goals and priorities," he said. "I like learning all the business perspectives."

Bennett said he has enjoyed mentoring the students, even though they have struggled with staying focused at times.

"It is rewarding in a sense because, when we

get it finished, they are going to be able to see it and reflect on it," he said. "With this millennials generation, maybe some of them will want to become gardeners. This might help them find out what they are interested in."

Bennett said the goal is to teach students the basics of landscaping and give them a background that could be useful in a multitude of career paths.

"I think this is very ben-

eficial," he said. "They get the construction side of it and the landscaping. Students learn some skills that they will maybe be able to learn in the future. Maybe they don't want to be sitting in an office and want to be out doing more hands-on skills ... It's all about encouraging them to keep an eye open, get them to think about 'What else can I do?' What I'm trying to do is teach them life skills."

CENTER

continued from page A1

possession of the Umatilla County Fairgrounds, which houses the current center, and the fair moves to the new Eastern Oregon Trade and Event Center under construction near the Hermiston airport.

Fetter said the committee has toured other senior

centers in the area to generate ideas for the new facility, and he has brought back pictures from others he has toured. After developing criteria for the location — near services, town center and parks, driving access, walkways, visibility and low noise — and the site — at least 1.5 acres, expandability and ease of construction — the committee evaluated and debated the

merits of potential sites for several months before making its recommendation.

"We want to be able to tell the council we've exhausted this discussion, and this is what came out of it," Fetter said to the committee Tuesday before the vote.

The committee said the large size, expansion potential, flat land, easy access, proximity to shopping and "park-like, natu-

ral beauty" with the nearby canal as reasons for the choosing the site. The second preference was a site in downtown Hermiston on East Ridgeway Avenue and Northeast Second Street, and the third was the old Goodwill building on West Hermiston Avenue.

Senior center board member and committee member Virginia Beebe said she and many seniors

she asked preferred the Aspen Site.

"I think that's where it should be because of the park-like setting we could make there and a relaxing atmosphere," she said.

Committee member Perry Hawkins, who served as the senior center liaison to the city during the grant application process, said he is happy the process is moving forward.

"This has taken us a little bit of time to get to this point, but I want to make sure we don't hastily get to where we really don't want to be in the long term, but I myself really like the Aspen one," he said. "To me, if we're going to do it, let's do it on good ground, clean ground and just put everything in and get this built."



AGRICULTURE:

Sustaining Future Generations



Bisnett

INSURANCE



You have a passion for your Farm or Ranch.

We have a passion for protecting it.

Protect your passion.

Call Bisnett Insurance - serving the needs of Farmers & Ranchers in the Northwest for over 34 years.



Our insurance specialists have combined years of experience of over 96 years!

From left to right: Joe Young, Andrea Munkers, Cindy Dougherty, Shelby Moody, Shane Leasy and Erin McLaughlin. Not pictured: Jeanne King.

Online at bisnett.com • 800-303-0419

121 S. Main St. Pendleton 541.276.1418	84030 Hwy 110 Milton-Freewater 541-938-5576	1798 Campbell St. Baker City 541-523-4267	405 West Main St. John Day 541-575-0419
--	---	---	---

Locations also in Lake Oswego, Hood River, Ketchum, ID & Scottsdale, AZ

TATONE-SMITH

REAL ESTATE GROUP LLC

Linda Jo Tatone Smith

Principal Broker/Owner

(541) 384-4193
51748 Ramsey Cyn.
PO Box 576
Condon, OR 97823

Cellular: (541) 378-7497
Email: lindatonesmith@gmail.com



Homes, Farms & Commercial Business

PENDLETON GRAIN GROWERS, INC.

Your member owned, agricultural cooperative serving the communities of eastern Oregon.

PGG is a member owned cooperative, focused on providing quality services and products to our members and communities. Contact us for more information about how we can answer any questions about our marketing or supply services.

1 (800) 422-7611

www.pggcountry.com

SEED | ENERGY | GRAIN



PENDLETON GRAIN GROWERS, INC.