



Hermiston Herald

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 29, 2015

YOUR LOCAL NEWSPAPER

HERMISTONHERALD.COM

District to sell first student-built home

BY JESSICA KELLER
HERMISTON HERALD

The Hermiston School District will sell the first student-built home currently under construction this summer after the School Board unanimously approved the action plan at its special meeting Monday.

Students in the Columbia Basin Student Homebuilder Program are finishing up building the first of 11 homes planned for construction on West Angus Avenue.

Deputy Superintendent Wade Smith said Tuesday, the 2,050-square-foot custom home will be about 90 percent complete in time for an open house June 1 to give community members opportunity to see it before it is put up for sale. On June 2, the school district will open up the process for interested buyers to submit sealed bids to buy the house through 4 p.m. June 19. On June 22, the district will announce the highest bidder, who will have the opportunity to purchase the home.

SEE HOME/A3

TODAY'S WEATHER



Partly cloudy
High: 69° Low: 40°

OUTLOOK

- THURSDAY
Sunny
High: 75° Low: 44°
- FRIDAY
Mostly sunny
High: 81° Low: 46°

A complete weather forecast is featured on page A2.



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FOR LOCAL BREAKING NEWS

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City selects new senior center site

Facility to be named the Harkenrider Center

BY SEAN HART
HERMISTON HERALD

Although the location of the new senior center was contested, Hermiston City Council members unanimously agreed Monday night the building should be named after long-time city leader Frank Harkenrider.

After more than an hour of public

testimony at the regular City Council meeting, the council voted 6-2 to locate the new senior center on a 3.3-acre vacant site behind Wal-Mart on Northeast Aspen Drive and Northeast Fourth Street.

Hermiston Parks and Recreation Director Larry Fetter said the city received a \$2 million Community Development Block Grant to acquire property and build the new

8,000-square-foot facility, and, while the city will own the building, the grant only permits uses for seniors during the first five years. After that, the facility could be used for other activities when the seniors were not using it, he said.

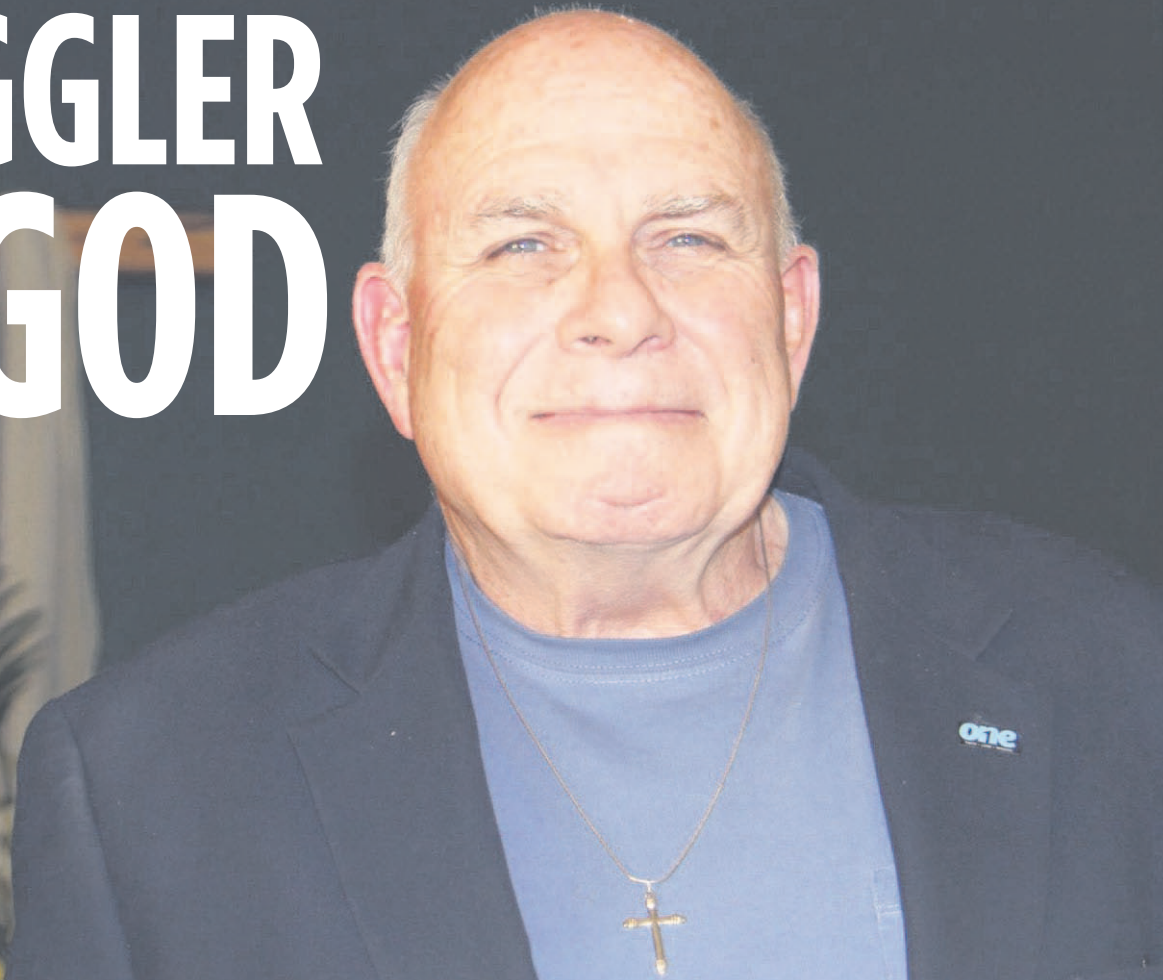
Fetter said an advisory group comprised of senior center and community members narrowed the list of possible locations to two primary sites: the Aspen site and another behind the Hermiston Municipal Library on East Ridgeway Avenue and

Northeast Second Street. The Aspen site is a private, vacant lot, whereas the Ridgeway location is comprised of about an acre of city-owned property and potentially about another acre of land the Hermiston School District offered to the senior center after the district acquired the property housing the current facility.

In March, eight of the 11 group members voted for the Aspen site, while two voted for the Ridgeway

SEE CENTER/A10

A SMUGGLER FOR GOD



SEAN HART PHOTO

Hermiston's Living Faith Church pastor Dr. F. Dean Hackett stands in front of the cross in the worship room of the church. Hackett and his wife once snuck into the Kremlin to pray.

Hackett describes sneaking medical supplies into war-torn country

BY SEAN HART
HERMISTON HERALD

Dr. F. Dean Hackett fought back tears as he recalled smuggling medical supplies into Croatia during its war for independence.

"Excuse me," the Hermiston pastor said, more than 20 years after the experience. "This is not easy to talk about."

In his office at Living Faith Church, Hackett explained how he got involved. Back in 1991-92, he was planning on conducting leadership training for a group of churches



SEAN HART PHOTO

Dr. F. Dean Hackett and his wife, Wanda, pose at Living Faith Church in Hermiston. Working in full-time Christian ministry for more than 45 years, the couple had many adventurous experiences, including smuggling Bibles into eastern Europe behind the Iron Curtain.

in the former Yugoslavia during the "middle of the war," when the mission changed.

"When Croatia had declared her independence from the former Yugoslavia, and Serbia laid siege, I got a phone call (asking

if I would be able to help them get some medical supplies," he said. "Under siege, they were taking care of their war victims with no sutures, no gloves, no anesthesia. It was just

SEE SMUGGLER/A3

Hackett steps down from city Faith-Based Advisory Committee

Pastor continues his ministry

BY SEAN HART
HERMISTON HERALD

Dr. F. Dean Hackett recently resigned from Hermiston's Faith-Based Advisory Committee for health reasons, but he plans to continue his Christian ministry in other ways.

Hackett served as chairman of the committee since its inception three years ago. The 66-year-old from

Spokane, Washington, traveled a long road before returning to the Northwest and settling in Hermiston as pastor of Living Faith Church almost nine years ago.

"I didn't have the privilege of growing up in a Christian home," he said. "It was a very broken home. By the time I was 13, I was very angry and bitter and violent. I had failed every grade up to that time. All my family and teachers that knew me figured I would be in prison, and I proba-

SEE HACKETT/A2

Loving what she does

School secretary enjoys being on front lines

BY JESSICA KELLER
HERMISTON HERALD

When she was offered a secretary position at Desert View Elementary School seven years ago, DiAna Allison said she was a little hesitant to take the job at first.

She enjoyed working with the children as an English language learner teaching assistant and thought she was going to miss helping her students learn and playing with the children.

"I thought I would miss the interaction of being in the class with the kids," Allison said.

Allison liked Desert View Ele-

mentary School, however, and knew by taking the position she would be less likely to get transferred to another school. She also had done secretarial work before becoming a stay-at-home mom while her son was young, so she was familiar with what some of her responsibilities would be and was excited to take on the other challenges.

"It's a different way of being with the kids," she said.

Allison said being a school secretary is a job like no other. One of the best parts of it, she said, is the variety.

"Every day is different," Allison said. "You never know what you're going to be experiencing, what you're going to see."

One of the most important aspects to the secretaries' jobs, Allison said,

SEE ALLISON/A10



JESSICA KELLER PHOTO

Desert View Elementary School secretary DiAna Allison shares a message with a teacher about a student's after-school routine last week. Allison said she has never regretted moving from the classroom as an ELL assistant to the front of the school, working in the office.

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