

SENIORS:

continued from Page A1

mercial architecture.

“Our goal is to have it done and be moved in by December 2016, and today we’re on target to do that,” Fetter said.

Last week the council approved a series of resolutions concerning accessibility and equal housing opportunities that are required for Community Development Block Grant funds from the federal housing authority. Fetter said that step cleared the way for the city to get documents that will enable it to start using the \$2 million awarded to the project.

The City Council and building development committee both chose a piece of property off Fourth Street behind Wal-Mart, known as the Aspen site, as their top choice for the new center. Fetter said the land is privately owned but the grant administrator has begun negotiations to purchase the property.

“When utilizing federal money there is a very prescriptive process for land acquisition,” he said.

The current senior center, located on the Umatilla County Fairgrounds, will no longer be available for use at the end of 2016 after Hermiston School District takes over the property and the fair moves to the Eastern Oregon Trade and Event Center south of town.

Pat Williams, who was eating lunch with other seniors at the current building on Tuesday, said she hopes the activities she has enjoyed at the center, such as the Christmas bazaar, will carry over to the new location.

“They have good meals here,” she said. “I hope it’s similar in the new building.”

Mary Mallery said she wanted to see an increase in activities, like craft afternoons or service opportunities.

“It would be nice if we could get some entertainment in for the seniors,” she said. “There are a lot of people our age that are very talented.”

She said she wasn’t very happy that the city, which is the entity that was awarded the \$2 million federal grant for the new building, will have control over the senior center. She said she hopes the city will gather plenty of input from all seniors, not just the building development committee, for improving the preliminary designs created for the new building.

“I would encourage the seniors to be more involved with the building ... and the city to come and listen,” she said.

Mallery said the city would be wrong to ignore all of the wisdom, experience and expertise to be found among the senior center’s volunteers when building the center.

“We’re not dead yet, and we’re not stupid,” she said.

Former teachers to be given keys to first student-built home today

HERALD STAFF REPORT

Former Hermiston teachers Tim and Linda Turner will be given the keys to Hermiston’s first student-built home today.

Hermiston School District staff will hold a ceremony at 11 a.m. at the new home in the Fieldstone Crossing subdivision, 895 W. Angus Court, Hermiston. The first Columbia Basin Student Homebuilder Program home will be open after for a tour as well.

The Turners’ bid of \$330,033 was officially accepted by the district June 22 as part of a closed-bid process, and the district plans to sign the closing documents Friday.

Deputy Superintendent Wade Smith said he was pleased to tell the Turners they had placed the winning bid.

“They had expressed



FILE PHOTO PHOTO

The new owners of the student-built home that the Hermiston School District sold will get the keys to their new home today, and the public will get one last opportunity to tour the home today.

their interest in the home for many months and have been regular visitors to the construction site,” he said.

Students will soon break

ground on the second of 11 homes planned in the subdivision. Program coordinator Curt Berger said the second home will fea-

ture many high-quality amenities similar to the first home in an expanded 2,200-square foot ranch-style home.

POLICY:

continued from Page A1

body cameras and record all traffic stops and field interviews about three and a half months ago. Edmiston said he does not plan to change the policy he drafted then because it complies with the new regulations. He said a work group was trying to develop a standardized policy, at which point he may modify Hermiston’s policy.

Edmiston said he would have preferred that the Department of Public Safety Standards and Training de-

veloped the policy. He said the legislative mandates in the bill are “setting the table for future legislation,” which would prevent officers from using their discretion.

“(House Bill) 2571 bothers me because it starts to infringe on officer discretion, and I think once we go there, you’re going to have nothing but a bunch of robots out here that cannot operate in the gray, which — like it or not, call it what it is — a lot of what police do is in the gray because we’re looking for what’s reasonable,” he said. “If you want police officers that (operate in) black

and white, you’re not going to like them. It’s not going to be fun for anybody.”

Edmiston said he was pleased that the law did not require officers to record their entire shift. The department purchased 15 cameras and 750 gigabytes of data storage per year in a five-year contract for a total of about \$70,000. Edmiston said, in a little more than a quarter of a year, 272 gigabytes of data were generated when the four patrol officers on duty at any given time were only recording their interactions with people.

Edmiston said, in principle, he is opposed to the exemption of the recordings from public disclosure. He said, however, editing the video to blur the faces is extremely time consuming, and many of the recordings would pertain to pending criminal matters, which would not be released until after a trial anyway.

“The concept of keeping stuff from the public is difficult for me to swallow because, frankly, those days are over,” he said. “If it’s a matter that’s pending, the person deserves a right to a fair trial.”

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