

Former senior center torn down

Contractors use heavy machinery to remove the rubble of the former Hermiston Senior Center Thursday morning, Sept. 14. The building was demolished last week as part of the Hermiston School District's larger efforts to prepare the old fairgrounds for new projects as money becomes available. A portion of the property behind Hermiston High School is currently being converted to additional parking for the school.



STAFF PHOTO BY JADE MCDOWELL

BY THE WAY

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such as Mr. Doherty.”

The award is given to teachers who demonstrate exceptional effort in teaching earth sciences in elementary or secondary schools. Doherty will be able to attend an annual meeting of the association to meet other science teachers and geoscientists and exchange ideas as part

of his award, which includes a plaque and membership in the National Association of Geoscience Teachers and Geological Society of America.

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A number of 4-H members from Umatilla County competed at the Oregon State Fair. The top results for local youths include blue and red ribbons and special awards:

ART: **Jenna Wallace** (Hermiston) blue; **Nevada Wright** (Hermiston) blue.

CLOTHING & SEWING: **Kendall Cooper** (Stanfield) blue, champion; **Alisa Golter** (Hermiston) 2 blues, champion; **Reece Gorham** (Boardman) blue; **Gina Hampton** (Hermiston) 2 blues; **Riley Hampton** (Hermiston) blue, champion, medallion; **Kayla Humphrey** (Umatilla) blue, reserve champion; **Rian Middleton** (Hermiston) blue. EDUCATIONAL DISPLAYS: **Mason Murdock** (Echo) blue. FOOD

& NUTRITION: **Jayden Bertsch** (Stanfield) 3 blues, 2 champions; **Reece Gorham** (Boardman) 2 blues, red; **Kayla Humphrey** (Umatilla) blue, red, reserve champion. FOOD PRESERVATION: **Jayden Bertsch** (Stanfield) blue, champion; **Kayla Humphrey** (Umatilla) blue.

PHOTOGRAPHY: **Juliann Bruce** (Hermiston) blue; **Jace Wallace** (Hermiston) blue, reserve champion; **Lillian Wallis** (Hermiston) 2 blues; **Ne-**

vada Wright (Hermiston) blue.

HORSE: **Haylie Tomlinson** (Hermiston) 2 blues, 2 reds.

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GRADUATION

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businesses for that week.

“A lot of people come into town to support the kids,” said Nakul Butta, owner of Hermiston’s Rodeway Inn. “If it’s in Tri-Cities, then that year, we’re not going to have the local economy booming.”

Butta said his business sees an uptick around graduation.

Shelley Bowden, the assistant manager at Shari’s, said she thought the move would have a major impact on local businesses.

“We definitely see a spike in business, usually about a week before,” she said.”

Monica Todd, the manager at Nookie’s Restaurant, said the move would lower sales for that weekend.

“It’s a big push for us,” she said. “It would probably take about 30 percent of our revenue each day.”

Todd said typically, graduates get a free dessert that weekend, and they see an increase in pre-order and to-go sales. She said some of that will likely still go on if people come back from the Tri-Cities to celebrate in Hermiston.

Todd said while graduation isn’t the busiest weekend of the year for Nookie’s, she has to hire extra staff for that weekend.

“It’s one of our more prominent weekends,” she said.

She said they understand finances have to be considered and the district has to do what’s best for them.

“We’ve just been waiting for the decision so we can adjust,” she said.

Kennison Field and EO-TEC were eliminated from the running after the last board meeting.

The survey expires Friday, Sept. 22. The board is scheduled to make a final decision on the venue at their October meeting.

HEALTH

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“We know that age group isn’t always getting their wellness exams,” Treadwell said. “It can help address issues before they become serious.”

Many physical and mental health conditions, substance use disorders and health risk behaviors begin to emerge during

adolescence. Early identification and appropriate treatment and interventions can make a lifetime difference.

The Teddy Bear Clinic is an experiential activity that replicates a visit to the emergency room. Participants are given a teddy bear and then participate in the admission process, describing symptoms and giving a health history of the stuffed animal. Appropriate medical tests are

performed, a diagnosis is provided and discharge instructions are given.

“It’s kind of a fun process,” Brenaman said. “It’s interactive for the kids and they get to leave with a teddy bear.”

The exercise, Brenaman said, helps in familiarizing kids with the process of ER visits, which helps in reducing fears they may have with going to the hospital.

Treadwell also is excited

about the Food Hero booth. Hermiston High School FCCLA students will assist in that area, which features the preparation (and sampling) of healthy snacks. In addition, thanks to a donation from Dave’s Killer Bread, people will get to take a loaf of bread home with them.

Other activities, Treadwell said, include being fitted for bicycle helmets, car seat checks and exercise programs such as yoga and

tai chi. From prenatal to senior citizens, there will be something for everyone, she said.

“What I love about this is it’s not just one person or organization,” Treadwell said. “This is the community coming together to do something to benefit the entire community.”

For more information, contact the Good Shepherd’s education department at 541-667-3509 or healthinfo@gshealth.org.

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