

WEST ELBERT COUNTY SUN

Covering Elizabeth, Kiowa & Elbert



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EHS film students explore career opportunities at Independence

By Beth Shelly

Four Elizabeth High School students learned more about the construction industry while filming a career opportunity video at the Independence residential development currently under construction on Wednesday, Mar. 10.

Under the direction of EHS film teacher Mikayla Hirsch and Internship coordinator Leanne Cook, the students were able to interview Independence developers Tim Craft and Jim Yates, Richmond American Homes VP of Operations Tom Shumway, IHC Scott Contracting project managers Chris Sandelli and Chris Landry, and Independence residents Robert and

Jamie Liptak.

The day also included tours of model homes from the two homebuilders onsite, Lennar and Richmond, and a tour of the development's state-of-the-art water and sanitation facility while asking questions ranging from what makes Independence different from other residential developments to what has

The project is a foreshadow of the high school's participation in the Homegrown Talent Initiative where students will have the opportunity to tailor their high school learning experience along career pathways they would like to explore and perhaps

engage in following graduation. The grant-funded program curriculum is currently being developed and will begin to be put in place in the 2021-2022 school year.

The film that will be produced is a mirror of sorts as both the Independence and Homegrown Talent Initiative take root in Elbert County. Currently there are 20 families living at the Independence community and 12 more will be moved in by Apr. 1. There is growth in Hirsch's film program at EHS as well within her three years teaching in Elizabeth. Currently there are nine students in her film class but more than 70 in her audio visual program.



BETH SHELLY/West Elbert County Sun

Four Elizabeth High School students and their film class instructor joined Independence developer Tim Craft, fourth from left, in a project to discuss career opportunities within the construction business on Wednesday, Mar. 10.



BETH SHELLY/West Elbert County Sun

Students filmed an interview with Tom Shumway, vice president of operations for Richmond American Homes, one of two homebuilders building at the Independence residential development.

Resolution stating nonsupport for Covid restrictions fails to pass in Elizabeth

By Beth Shelly

Several local residents expressed their opposition to any attempts to defy state health and executive mask wearing orders at the Mar. 9 town of Elizabeth Board of Trustees meeting before the board voted against a draft resolution designed to express the town's support for local businesses.

The idea for the resolution was spurred by the town of Monument resolution that called the state mandates during the coronavirus pandemic unconstitutional. Nothing in the draft resolution was contrary to state law or supported noncompliance, contrary to that of Monument's resolution, Elizabeth town attorney Corey Hoffmann said.

Instead, it stated that the town board, "does not support COVID restrictions that would shut down businesses, places of worship and governmental meetings in a manner that is excessive based on the current improvements to the public health, safety, and welfare of individuals in the Town and Elbert County."

It asked that the governor take all necessary steps to prevent harm to local businesses based on unnecessary restrictions. And asked that the town's business be responsible in evaluating their own establishment and their capacity to safely accept patrons.

Elbert County Public Health Director

Dwayne Smith urged board members to not take action on the resolution noting that progress is being made in reducing the spread of the Covid coronavirus with the emergence of vaccines.

The resolution failed to pass on a three to four vote with Trustees Ternus, Einspahr, Payne and Vasquez voting against the resolution.

Board members noted that, contrary to some thought going around the community, the resolution did not state that the town would become a "Sanctuary city" or encourage noncompliance of face mask orders.

In other business at the Mar. 9 meeting, the board approved the second reading of an ordinance renewing the franchise agreement with IREA for electric serviced to the community for another 20 years.

A resolution granting an easement to the Gold Creek Valley Homeowners Association, across a Town owned tract for ongoing maintenance of the sidewalk improvement in that location was approved. The town maintains ownership of the tract, but maintenance is assigned to the homeowners' association.

Two other resolutions were approved amending the subdivision improvement agreements between the town and Lennar Colorado for landscaping changes for Filings #2 and #3.

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