

Generations



Press Photos by Linda Sailer

Pioneer Haven Manager Jennifer Lippert stands inside the laundry room at the community center Tuesday. The room was enlarged to hold seven washers and dryers.

Renovating Pioneer Haven

By Linda Sailer

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The residents of Pioneer Haven have smiles on their faces as new appliances, cabinets, flooring, windows and bathroom fixtures were installed in their apartments.

"We revamped all the apartments from the ground up," said Scott Heaton, director of the management division. "We're fully committed to the Dickinson market."

Pioneer Haven is a 6-acre complex, having 17 residential structures with 106 apartments and a community center. It provides low-income subsidized housing for individuals age 62 years and older and for disabled, handicapped adults age 55 years and older.

It is owned by Peaceful Pioneer Partners LP, headquartered in Westlake Village, Calif.

The \$2.95 million renovation project was launched in February and is expected to be completed by October, he said.

Two wings were added to the community center. One wing provides for increased laundry facilities — from four washers and dryers to seven. The hours will be increased to meet needs of the residents, said Manager Jennifer Lippert.

The second wing includes an area for handicapped accessible bathrooms and office space for the manager, maintenance supervisor and a service coordinator.

A service coordinator will be hired, pending approving of a federal grant, Heaton said.

"We made the offices more user-friendly, not only for the residents, but the management as well," he said.

The community center renovations included flooring, security cameras, countertops, window and door repairs and a coat of paint.

"It's very nice — it's nice to work here," resident and RSVP+ volunteer Karen Ell said.

"It's really nice in here — it's beautiful and clean," resident and RSVP+ volunteer Florence Berger said.

Pioneer Haven was built in three phases— 1973, 1976 and 1981. It was purchased by Peaceful Pioneer Partners in 2006.



Pioneer Haven resident Eleanor Gaab, seated, celebrates her 90th birthday with a birthday greeting and cup of coffee from fellow residents Karen Ell and Florence Berger on Tuesday in the community center. Gaab's family, Rich and Annette Rime from Walla Walla, Wash., joined her for lunch.