

Honors due responders at GP blaze

Police officers, sheriff's deputies, firefighters, medics and other support personnel will be honored for their efforts at a \$6 million blaze on March 6 by the Grants Pass Dept. of Public Safety (GPDPS).

The arson fire involved two assisted-living facilities. The awards/medal ceremony will be held at 7 p.m. on Wednesday, May 21 during a regular session of the Grants Pass City Council.

In the days following the incident, stories emerged involving heroic acts by several GPDPS police officers and firefighters, Josephine County Sheriff's Office deputies and Rural/Metro Fire Dept. firefighters.

In addition, many other members contributed in a variety of ways, which collectively resulted in the rescue of more than 60 elderly residents, as well as suppression of the fire. GPDPS detectives have arrested a juvenile suspect for starting the blaze.

In Service to the USA

Blanche M. Phlaum

U.S. Navy Petty Officer 3rd Class Blanche M. Phlaum, granddaughter of Ronald Phlaum of Kerby, and a 1999 Illinois Valley High School graduate, is deployed to the Western Pacific and Arabian Gulf while assigned to the aircraft carrier USS "Carl Vinson," homeported in Bremerton, Wash.

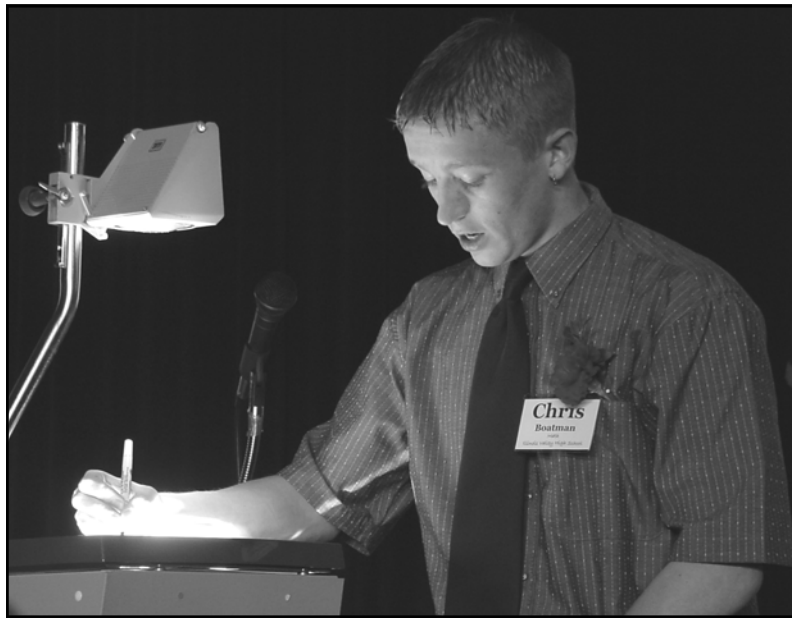
Phlaum is one of more than 6,000 Pacific Fleet Sailors and Marines aboard the ships of the USS "Carl Vinson" carrier battle group committed to maintaining peace and stability in the Western Pacific region.

During the deployment, volunteers from Phlaum's ship gave a combined 420 man-hours of their liberty time to the Sae Doel Children's Home during a port visit in Pusan, Republic of Korea. Phlaum's ship also made port visits in Guam and Pearl Harbor, Hawaii where Sailors had the opportunity to shop, sight-see and enjoy the culture and cuisine.

Aircraft carriers like the "Vinson" are deployed throughout the world to maintain U.S. presence and provide rapid response in times of crisis. They serve as a highly visible deterrent to would-be aggressors, and are equipped with the most versatile and powerful weapons and aircraft available, the Navy said.



ILLINOIS VALLEY HIGH SCHOOL, which hosted the annual Academic Masters competition on Wednesday, April 30, had five winners. In top photo (from left) Oley Crocker, 3rd in science, Jessica McMahan, 3rd, music; Chris Boatman, 4th, math; Daniel Clausnitzer, 4th, English; and Kyle Hoelzle, 4th, social studies. Grants Pass High won the team trophy against I.V., North Valley and Hidden Valley. Center photo shows all competitors, and Boatman in competition at right. (Photos by Ryan Schaffer)



BPA quits Enron; sees wholesale drop

The Bonneville Power Administration has terminated all its remaining contracts with the bankrupt Enron.

BPA estimates the action will reduce a proposed 15 percent wholesale rate increase by about 2 percent.

The agreement saves more than \$40 million for Northwest ratepayers, a discount of 30 percent off the market value of the contracts. Under the agreement approved by the bankruptcy court, BPA pays Enron's creditors \$99 million.

The agreement also resolves legal uncertainty about other Enron contracts BPA unilaterally terminated early in 2002. Those terminations saved ratepayers approxi-

mately \$150 million, which is already figured into BPA's rates.

"We were able to negotiate a very beneficial settlement for ratepayers," said BPA Administrator Steve Wright. "The agreement avoids high legal costs and unpredictable rulings by regulators and the courts. It's a significant step among our efforts to reduce costs and provide certainty at a moment when the Northwest economy needs it most."

Wright said he particularly wanted to thank Sens. Ron Wyden (D-Ore.), and Maria Cantwell (D-Wash.), for their unflinching pursuit of a resolution of Enron bankruptcy issues in a way favorable to Pacific Northwest consumers.

"Their strong support in this matter put us in a better position to negotiate the agreement," he said.

BPA's portfolio of business with Enron dates to 1998 when the company was a major market participant. In 2001, utility and industrial customers throughout the region placed an additional 3,000 average megawatts of demand on BPA under new five-year agreements.

Lacking sufficient generation from the federal system, BPA met some of the need by

entering into five-year contracts to buy power from marketers, including Enron.

BPA purchased about 300 average megawatts from Enron at an average price of about \$52 per megawatt hour (MWh) to be delivered between 2003 and 2006. At the time, market prices ranged as high as \$100 MWh. Prices now are a little above \$35 MWh. After Enron filed for bankruptcy in 2001, it continued to honor its BPA contracts by delivering power.

BPA will pay the settlement from a government fund that provides money for resolution of legal disputes. The agency will repay the fund over seven years.

Brown new state forester

Marvin Brown of Maryland has been selected as the new Oregon state forester by the Board of Forestry in a special meeting held in Salem.

The former Missouri state forester fills a vacancy left by Jim Brown, who resigned earlier this year to become Gov. Kulongoski's chief natural resource policy adviser.

Currently director of private forestland management with the American Forest and Paper Association in Washington, D.C., Brown served as state forester of Missouri from 1992 to 1999. He worked for Willamette Industries from 1999 to 2002 as director of forest policy, stationed in Portland, Ore., and Ft. Mill, S.C.

As head of the Oregon Dept. of Forestry, (ODF)

Brown will administer the agency under policies set by the board. The department provides wildfire protection to 16 million acres of private and public forestland, implements the Oregon Forest Practices Act and manages 800,000 acres of state-owned forests. In addition, ODF provides technical assistance to the state's many family forestland owners.

The resident of Rockville, Md., has forestry credentials that include international policy-making experience. He served on a panel that wrote the Montreal Process Criteria and Indicators, widely recognized measures of forest sustainability that the Oregon Board of Forestry has adapted and incorporated into its draft 2003 strategic plan.

JACOBSON PAINTING



Thinking of having your paint jobs done?

NO JOB IS TOO SMALL

Phone 592-6310

Today

for a FREE estimate!

CARL JACOBSON JR. PAINTING

License #137572

Cell phone 592-9219

PARAMED

Members Don't Worry About Emergency Ambulance Expenses!

A \$45 yearly membership to Paramed covers all family members in the home. Illness and injury can strike without warning; but, it's comforting to know that your cost is covered for emergencies and medically necessary transports.

"Serving The Northwest Since 1913"

AMERICAN MEDICAL RESPONSE



24 Hrs. • 7 Days A Week

Absolute peace of mind with expert critical care just a phone call away.

FOR EMERGENCY CALL 911

401 NW 'F' St., P.O. Box 1915, Grants Pass, OR 97528 • (541) 474-6303

A big

THANK YOU

to all the teachers, classified and office staff.

You are always there for our kids.

Your dedication is so greatly appreciated.

Evergreen PTA

Pay no attention to what the critics say; there has never been a statue erected to a critic.

- Jan Sibelius -