

"All Hell" Broke Loose

By Sherrie Kvamme, of the Hells Canyon Journal

Saturday, September 12, 2015 started out like most weekends in Eagle Valley. All things were pretty much as they should be and it was a nice day ... that is, until mid-afternoon, when to quote an on-site firefighter, "All hell broke loose."

The emergency tones sounded, volunteer firefighters parked their tractors, turned off lawnmowers, left their jobs and whatever they had planned that day. Firefighters raced to the station, grabbed their gear and headed up Eagle Creek Road. Life abruptly changed in so many ways for so many people that day. For the next hours, days and weeks, normal did not exist in the Panhandle.

Since February of 1906, when the original constitution and by-laws of the Richland Volunteer Fire Department (now known as the Eagle Valley Rural Fire Protection District) was signed, volunteer firefighters have been doing the same thing. When the call comes in, they drop everything and race to the fire, to protect the lives and property of their friends and neighbors.

Literally hundreds of required hours are invested by each volunteer in both classroom and hands-on training. Rural volunteer firefighters train diligently to fight structure fires and wildland fires. They are required to learn firefighting protocols to the very best of their ability, to know their firefighting equipment, keep it in ready-to-go condition as well as maintain the fire trucks and tenders.

There is also a volunteer fire district board that oversees the operation of the district and ensures that the financial, physical and procedural integrity of the district is maintained.

Working independently yet cooperatively with other firefighting agencies, including the Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management, Oregon Department of Forestry, other county fire resources and private contractors is a vital component for all rural agencies. Taking into account all of the requirements and needs of a viable volunteer fire department the Eagle Valley Rural Fire Protection District Board began a

process 10 years ago of finding a permanent fire station that could encompass the needs of a rural fire department, such as housing fire trucks, tenders, equipment, firefighters' gear, providing training areas and office space and allowing for a meeting room, all under one roof. In that endeavor, the EVFRPD Board has successfully secured ownership of the former Richland Elementary School gymnasium.

The process of seeking funding for the conversion of the vacated gymnasium into a modern fire station is nearing completion of the necessary requirements to submit a formal application for a federal grant. With the grant award, there will be no tax dollars or tax increases associated with financing the new fire station project.

With a critical timeline to meet, the board is asking for the community's help in providing required demographic information about the fire department's service area to the State of Oregon. For the purpose of ensuring accuracy and complete confidentiality the board has contracted with Portland State University's Survey Research Lab to collect this data. Individual responses to this survey will never be disclosed and complete confidentiality is guaranteed throughout the process. It is estimated that the questions will take no longer than two minutes to answer. Responding and immediately returning the questionnaire in the provided pre-addressed envelope is crucial to these time-sensitive requirements of the federal grant process.

Fighting fire is about teamwork, whether wildland, structural or both. It's about everyone working together cohesively to make sure that lives are saved, home and property are saved and to make sure that at the end of the day and with the successful suppression of the fire, that everybody goes home safely. One person, one group or one entity can't do it alone. The EVFRPD board is asking that citizens within the district's boundaries do their part, too, to help make the vision for a new fire station a reality.

Pine Eagle Happenings

The Muesum will have quilts on display over Memorial Weekend at the Halfway Elementary School. Come check out the beautiful quilts made by our local quilters. Friday afternoon through Monday, May 27 - 20.

Eagle Valley Days will be Saturday, June 18. The event will kick off with a parade at 10 a.m. in downtown Richland. Then on to opening ceremonies at the grange park and kids games. There will be art in the park and there are still vendor spaces available at \$5 per space. Crafty people, antiques, collectables, chabby chic and other sellable items can be part of this event by calling 893-6292 to reserve a space. There will be a pie auction at 1:30 with great prizes. Bring pies to the grange kitchen by noon. The kitchen will open in the park at 11 a.m. with burgers, hot dogs, nachos and shortcake. Music and entertainment will begin at 2 p.m. Call 893-6292 or 893-6026 for more information.

Three Series Rodeo Playdays Will Be Rescheduled

The previously announced schedule for the Three Series Rodeo Playdays has been canceled until further notice.

Playday organizer Deania Corrigan decided the dates originally announced earlier this month would need to be reworked when she learned that the first scheduled date of June 6 would not work for participants from Baker City and Haines, as their school year will not have ended by that time.

The Hells Canyon Junior Rodeo Playday will go ahead as originally scheduled, but dates for the Three Series Playdays will only be announced once they have been rescheduled.

Renowned folksinger Hank Cramer will perform in Halfway on Sunday, May 29 at 6:00 p.m. The free concert, which is sponsored by Cornucopia Arts Council, is scheduled to take place on the MainStreet Stage in Pat's Park, but in the event of bad weather the show will be moved to the Pine Valley Grange Hall on Fairgrounds Road.

Cramer's repertoire includes a blend of traditional and contemporary folk songs that tell classic tales of cowboys, soldiers, sailors, miners, adventurers and drifters. His own real-life experiences as an underground miner, a professional soldier, a wrangler for a high country outfitter and shanty-man on a square-rigged sailing ship give his booming bass delivery an unmatched authenticity.

A Humanities Washington Award winner, Cramer has performed numerous times at the National Historic Oregon Trail Interpretive Center and at the Idaho Power-sponsored summer concerts in Copperfield Park. This will be his first performance on the Main Street Stage.

Those planning to attend are encouraged to bring lawn chairs and warm clothing, as the evenings can be chilly in Halfway this time of year. While there is no charge for admission, donations in support of Cornucopia Arts Council will be gratefully accepted.

Fred Riggs Celebrates 90th Birthday

By Sherrie Kvamme, of the Hells Canyon Journal

Fred Riggs celebrated his 90th birthday last Saturday May 21, 2016 at the Eagle Valley Grange Community Park with most of Eagle Valley in attendance, as well as friends and family from around the states of Oregon and Idaho. The weather turned cold, rainy and windy but did not dampen the spirits of the attendees, who enjoyed a wonderful dinner and great conversations. Fred and his wife, Jenny, had three children, Frank and his wife, Roseann, who live in Richland; Marilyn, who lived in Enterprise and died in 2014, and Merrilyn, who lives in Halfway with her husband, Richard Seal. Fred also has, to his delight, 11 grandchildren, ranging in age from 38 to 50, as well as 23 great-grandchildren, ranging in age from six to 32, and seven great-great grandchildren, ranging in age from one to seven. Fred recalled that he and Jenny joined the Eagle Valley

Grange in about 1985 after he retired.

"We thought we should join and work on doing things that helped the community. Our kids were all raised, and we thought we should get more involved in contributing."

If you know Fred, you know that he is devoted to the Eagle Valley Grange and the park, which he was seen mowing last week! Happy 90th birthday, Fred Riggs!



Sudoku Puzzle

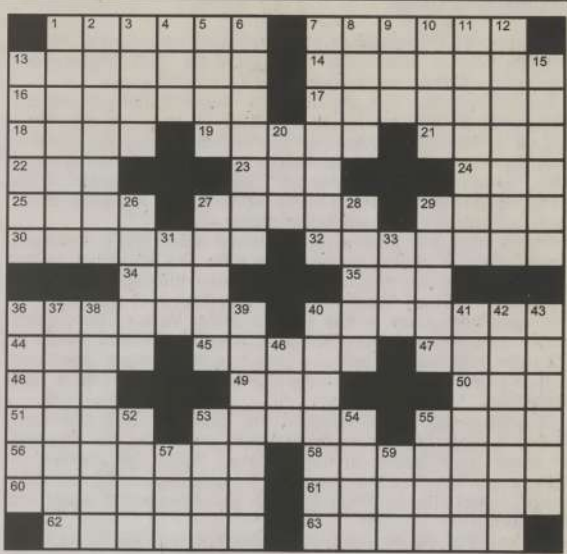
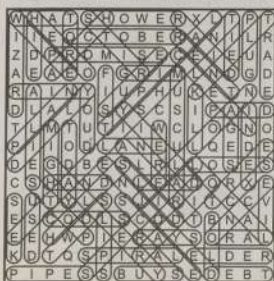
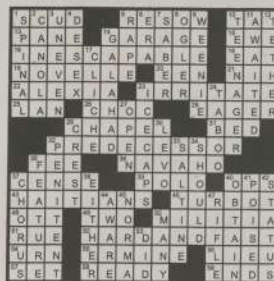
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Sudoku puzzle sponsored by
Embroidery
By
Blue Mountain Design Works
Baker City

Jackets
Hats
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Shirts
Sweatshirts
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BHS Bulldog items
1920 Court Street, Baker City
McElroy Printing
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V T G L O N N E E D S P T G D
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Aimed	Flood	Lists	Ridges
Anger	Foods	Mirror	Roars
Arabs	Fresh	Motor	Route
Below	Fried	Needs	Sails
Bright	Girls	Notation	Sands
Cannon	Greatness	Opens	Sharply
Cocoa	Images	Parks	Shoots
Cords	Intend	Passes	Table
Craft	Larger	Pence	Thirds
Cream	Layer	Plait	Tires
Creep	Leaps	Proof	Tomato
Daddy	Legend	Punch	Track
Enable	Lemonade	Repeat	Voices



Across

- Butterfly, e.g.
- Lively intelligence
- Sisterly
- Sea cows
- Lead
- Arms on a shirt
- Golden Triangle country
- "Snowy" bird
- Revenuers
- Afflict
- Carbonium, e.g.
- "The Catcher in the ..."
- Become unhinged
- ...key children
- ...friendly
- Inquisition target
- Heartfelt
- "The Joy Luck Club" author
- Good, in the "hood"
- Disperse
- Smoothness
- Pay (up)
- Cache
- Abbr. after many a general's name

Down

- Glacier debris
- Small area between things
- Therapists for health (short)
- "... we having fun yet?"
- Earned
- Melancholy
- Core
- Bank deposit
- Grand ... ("Evangeline" setting)
- Atoll protector
- 1, 2, to 1/2
- Decorates 60's-style
- Ostentation

- Declare
- Decay
- Minor
- Like composition paper
- Addiction
- Anesthetized
- Sylvester, to Tweety
- Amscrayed
- Small electric discharge
- Silver eagle wearer
- Buttercup family member
- One who edits
- Deep siren used by ships
- Southwestern Asia group
- Teacher and ...
- Garden tools
- Hard throw, in baseball
- "Check this out!"
- Automatic
- Certain surgeon's "patient"
- Clean by rubbing
- Convened
- Fiddle stick