

# LIBRARY: Broke ground in 2012

Continued from 1A

and Rep. Greg Smith, R-Hep- pner.

For years, Irrigon's library ran out of a retrofitted school bus parked behind the city's only gas station. Dahlgreen said she remembered that bus, before quipping, "This is much nicer."

"I know there was a lot of hard work and anguish that went into this," Dahlgreen said. "I am so excited for the future of this library."

Certainly, the new Irrigon library has faced several difficult and occasionally contentious challenges along the way to getting built.

When the Oregon Trail Library District formed in 1992, Irrigon voters initially declined to join. The city at the time did not have a high school, and Huwe felt a public library would be something fun and educational for kids in the community.

Huwe formed the Friends of the Irrigon Library, and after several years it became apparent the city simply didn't have the funds to take on the project. In 2000, the Friends went door to door and gathered 981 signatures on a petition to join the OTLD, along with Boardman and Heppner.

"We had a great Friends of the Irrigon Library group," Huwe said. "Every time someone says thank you to me, I reiterate it wasn't just me. It was our entire district, our community and surrounding communities."

Before they could build a permanent home, the Irrigon library operated out of a bus donated by Mid-Columbia Bus Company. Huwe said that was always meant to be a temporary arrangement, but admitted they had no idea it would take so long.



Naomi Crofts, 4, plays a video game on a computer as her brother, Ian, 3, both of Irrigon, looks on Friday during the grand opening of the Irrigon Public Library.

Finally in 2012, the city broke ground on a \$1.2 million library attached to city hall. The building opened its doors for the first time on May 19, 2014.

But more troubles were on the horizon. The library had its occupancy permit yanked three weeks later over a fire wall that wasn't built to code. In order to modify the building code, the library district and city had to come to a new intergovernmental agreement outlining how they would work together to maintain common space — including a shared lobby and restrooms.

The process took months and emotions ran high, but a new agreement was inked in March that allowed the library to reopen its doors — this time for good. Huwe acknowledged there were difficulties, but said everyone is ready to put the past behind them.

"We are now a community that has jelled," Huwe said.

City Manager Aaron Palmquist spoke at Friday's ceremony, and thanked everyone who worked through the ups and downs to get Irrigon's library open.

"We have some great things that are going to happen right here in this room," Palmquist said.

Kathy Street, who was hired in August as the new full-time director of the Oregon Trail Library District, said they are looking to launch new teen and adult programs in Irrigon to draw more people to the library. Ideas include a book club, movie club and computer coding club for teens.

"We have our (book) collection, and it will continue to grow, but programming is what will bring people into the building and use it," Street said.

Lisa Hauner, who works as a library assistant for the district, said the response to the library in the community has been overwhelming. The whole process has been a growing experience for her, she said.

"I'm just so happy to be in on the ground floor," Hauner said. "The biggest thing we got from all this is you can, too, fight for what you want."

Contact George Plaven at [gplaven@eastoregonian.com](mailto:gplaven@eastoregonian.com) or 541-966-0825.

# CHURCH: 4,000 churches close each year

Continued from 1A

organization supplies ministers and, if necessary, financial support. Village Missions investigated the Helix church's precarious existence and sent the Woolbrights for an open-ended stay.

"Before Mark and Karen came, we were not sure we were going to be able to keep the doors open," said Newton. "We were down to 10 families."

Fourteen months later, the church is going through a growth spurt.

The Helix church isn't the first to struggle — not by a long shot. Each year, according to U.S. Census data, an estimated 4,000 churches close their doors compared to 1,000 starts.

The landscape is changing.

A Pew Research Survey released earlier this year shows that Christianity is on the decline among most demographic groups. The number of people who say they are absolutely certain they believe in God dropped from 71 percent in 2007 to 63 percent in 2014. In Oregon, the numbers are lower — 63 percent to 57 percent. About 2.7 million Americans stop going to church each year.

A change has come to Helix, where the pews are now filling and a stalled youth program has sprung back to life. On a recent Wednesday, an excited babble of young voices flowed from the church. Karen led singing and Mark related a Bible story. The kids tramped outside to the churchyard to play foursquare in the air (using a rubber ball and a suspended grid of PVC pipe). Mark and Karen later donned plastic garbage bags, sat in chairs and let the kids cover them with whipped cream (as a reward for about four weeks' worth of daily readings) in an event called "Plaster the Pastor."

The couple has a long history together, which



Pastor Mark Woolbright plays foursquare in the air recently with youth at the Helix Community Church. Woolbright and his wife, Karen, are part of a ministry that revives country churches that are struggling.

might explain their well-oiled teamwork. As children, they lived four houses apart. They dated in their late teens, got married and raised five children. Mark farmed. Karen did in-home daycare and later worked as office manager for Oregon Fish & Wildlife on Sauvie Island.

Then came the awakening. They attended the Village Missions' Bible school, while continuing to work full-time at their jobs.

Village Mission pastors agree to go wherever sent and churches accept whoever comes. The Woolbrights embraced their new life in Helix, a place where a walkabout to the post office can take two hours and include a 20-minute conversation in the middle of the street. The couple jumped into small-town life. They cheer at athletic events and are reading buddies at the school. Mark is a volunteer firefighter.

"We came here and immediately felt like we were home," Karen said.

Mark, a deer and elk hunter, was already familiar with Northeast Oregon. He loves how his congregation "gets" his hunting analogies.

Karen and Mark point to each other as inspiration for the journey.

"Mark can bring laughter and lightness into

any conversation," Karen said. "He does not have a condemning personality."

"She is nurturing and understanding," Mark said of his wife. "She loves the people, young and old. I can't imagine doing this without her. God picked the perfect person for me."

They sat at their kitchen table in the parsonage holding hands. She squeezed his.

Only Mark is salaried, while Karen says, "I'm the bonus." She prepares bulletins, helps lead youth activities and facilitates a women's Bible study.

The church pays Mark's salary and insurance. Ten percent of what is tithed goes to Village Missions to support financially struggling churches. The organization, headquartered in Dallas, Oregon, sponsors 200 churches in the U.S. and 40 in Canada.

The Woolbrights are aware of the Pew report on declining Christianity, but said they came to Helix with no crushing worries.

"Our job is to preach the Word and love the people," Karen said.

"The Lord wants us to be faithful to what he calls us to do," Mark said. "He does the work."

Contact Kathy Aney at [kaney@eastoregonian.com](mailto:kaney@eastoregonian.com) or call 541-966-0810.

# OIL: 340 percent increase in carloads of crude oil, natural gas and natural gasoline from 2012 to 2014

Continued from 1A

or decreases 25 percent from the previous report.

An ODOT spokeswoman said earlier this year convention wisdom was that oil-by-rail shipments through Oregon slackened this year, although Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railway and Union Pacific trains carried 24,199 carloads of crude oil, natural gas and natural gasoline on Oregon rail lines in 2014. That was a 340 percent increase from 5,491 carloads in 2012, according to data from ODOT.

John Johnson, manager of the transportation agency's Rail Safety Section, wrote in an email that Union Pacific's actual weekly estimate filed this week was that between zero and one oil-by-rail shipments of at least 1 million gallons will pass through the Columbia River Gorge. The state Fire Marshal's Office posts the federal notices on its website, but had not posted the latest Union Pacific notice by Friday afternoon.

Gard said during the Oregon Transportation Commission meeting that the increase in Union Pacific oil-by-rail shipments will provide an opportunity to put into practice the new rules the state adopted over the summer. For example, the state now

requires railways to file quarterly reports on hazardous materials shipments and immediately notify first responders about "incidents involving hazardous materials," according to ODOT. The state also hired more rail inspectors earlier this year in response to concerns about the oil shipments.

Francisco Castillo, a spokesman for Union Pacific's western region, said the railway will move up to three "unit trains," or single commodity trains, of Bakken oil through Oregon, Washington and Idaho starting as early as next week. Castillo

said crude oil accounted for approximately 1 percent of Union Pacific's freight car loads in 2014, and roughly 2 percent of the company's freight shipments through Oregon were oil.

Castillo said he could not provide any information on the destination of the Bakken oil shipments or the reason for the increase.

"We just transport the commodity at the request of the customer," Castillo said.

Castillo said the railway follows "strict safety practices" and "regardless of what we're hauling, safety is our highest concern."

Dr. Steven Neal and staff cordially invite you to our

## Annual Girls' Night Out

Wed. Nov. 18, 2015  
2:00 pm - 4:00 pm or  
6:00 pm - 8:00 pm

702 SW Dorion Avenue  
Pendleton, Oregon 97801  
Phone: 541-276-4160

Back by Popular Demand! One Day Only!  
Specials and Package Deals!

- Come listen to Dr. Neal present information on the latest facial rejuvenation surgery and techniques.
- Free Consultations
- Bring your friends
- Refreshments and raffle prizes
- Cosmetic Surgery: Facelifts, eyelid tucks, rhinoplasty, scar revision, etc.
- 'Salt-a-peel': A non-invasive approach to reduce the appearance of fine lines and wrinkles, sun damage, age spots, and uneven skin tones
- 'Zo Skin Health' products, by Zein Obagi, MD
- 'Sesha' Skin Therapy: Clinical line, and acne therapy
- 'SkinCeuticals': Prevention, protection, and correction
- 'Alma' Intense-Pulse-Light treatments: Hair removal, pigmentation treatment, skin rejuvenation, tightening
- 'Fillers': Restylane, Juvéderm, Radiesse, Voluma
- 'Botox'

**BRIAN PILMER**  
Served his country in Bosnia 1999  
Thank You!

509 SW Frazer  
Pendleton, Oregon 97801  
Office 541-278-4963  
[farmers.com](http://farmers.com)

**FARMERS**  
FARMERS INSURANCE GROUP  
Symbol of Superior Service



## If you call a contractor yourself, that still counts as DIY.

Look to a U.S. Bank Home Equity Line of Credit for your next major project. You'll be greeted with competitive rates, flexible payment options and people who genuinely care.

### HOME EQUITY LINE OF CREDIT

<p>Introductory Rate for 5 months Rates as low as</p> <h1>1.50%</h1> <p>APR*</p> <p>Rate available 9/12/15 - 11/20/15. Rates are subject to change.</p>	<p>Variable rate after Introductory period</p> <h1>3.99%</h1> <p>APR*</p> <p>Actual rates may vary. Visit your local branch or <a href="http://usbank.com">usbank.com</a>.</p>
---	--

**usbank**

[usbank.com/dreambig](http://usbank.com/dreambig) | 800.209.BANK (2265)

\*1.50% Introductory Annual Percentage Rate (APR) is available on Home Equity Lines of Credit with an 80% loan-to-value (LTV) or less. The Introductory Interest Rate will be fixed at 1.50% during the five-month Introductory Period. A higher introductory rate will apply for an LTV above 80%. Offer is available for new applications submitted from September 12, 2015–November 20, 2015. After the five-month introductory period: the APR is variable and is based upon an index plus a margin. The APR will vary with Prime Rate (the index) as published in the Wall Street Journal. As of September 11, 2015, the variable rate for Home Equity Lines of Credit ranged from 2.99% APR to 8.25% APR. Higher rates may apply due to an increase in the Prime Rate, for a credit limit below \$125,000, an LTV at or above 80%, a low credit score and/or not having a U.S. Bank personal Package Checking account. A U.S. Bank personal package checking account is required to receive the lowest rate, but is not required for loan approval. The rate will not vary above 18% APR, or applicable state law, or below 1.50% APR. Choosing an interest-only repayment may cause your monthly payment to increase, possibly substantially, once your credit line transitions into the repayment period. Repayment options may vary based on credit qualifications. Interest only repayment may be unavailable. Loan approval is subject to credit approval and program guidelines. Not all loan programs are available in all states for all loan amounts. Interest rates and program terms are subject to change without notice. Property insurance is required. U.S. Bank and its representatives do not provide tax or legal advice. Your tax and financial situation is unique. You should consult your tax and/or legal advisor for advice and information concerning your particular situation. Other restrictions may apply. Mortgage and Home Equity products offered by U.S. Bank National Association. Deposit Products are offered through U.S. Bank National Association. Customer pays no closing costs, except escrow-related funding costs. An annual fee of up to \$90 may apply after the first year and is waived with a U.S. Bank personal Platinum Checking Package. See the Consumer Pricing Information brochure for terms and conditions that apply to U.S. Bank Package Checking accounts. Member FDIC ©2015 U.S. Bank. All rights reserved. 150859 9/15