

Fire district holds swearing in ceremony

By Emily Mentzer
The Itemizer-Observer

INDEPENDENCE — Polk County Fire District No. 1 Chief Ben Stange said it was an “Eye of the Tiger” kind of moment.

“They’ve been training hard; now they made it,” he said at the Feb. 1 swearing in ceremony for four career firefighter/paramedics, five volunteer firefighters, four lieutenants and one captain.

The ceremony was held in the Central High School auditorium and was filled with people to celebrate the accomplishment of these firefighters as they received their badge and took their oath.

“They are here because what we do matters,” Stange said.

He told stories of a woman whose life was saved by the actions of Independence police officers and Polk firefighters. Because of those actions, the woman was able to spend Christmas with her husband.

Without them, the outcome would have been vastly different, Stange said.

He told another story about a house fire that was out of control. It would be a total loss.

The property owner told the commanding officer, “It’s just stuff. Don’t let anyone get hurt.”

“It was Polk No. 1 moving company,” Stange said, describing how firefighters went to the side of the house that wasn’t on fire yet and pulled out anything they could save. One firefighter found three boxes inside the night stand that contained military medals.

When the medals were given to the property owner, he started crying, Stange said.

“It’s just stuff, but it isn’t,” he said. “If prevention fails at some point, they know what you do matters.”



EMILY MENTZER/Itemizer-Observer

Polk County Fire District No. 1 held a swearing in ceremony at Central High School on Feb. 1.

Career firefighter/paramedics:

TJ Greenhill, Scott Edinger, Alex Ovchinnikov and Jack Westerman IV.

Volunteer firefighters:

Jordan Guevarra, Station 90; Nick Heller, Station 70; Ethan McKinney, Station 70; Charles Prouty, Station 40; Andrew Prouty, Station 40. Charles and Andrew Prouty enabled Station 40 to re-open.

Lieutenants:

Brendan Shellito, Station 90; Rick Fletcher, Station 90; Stephen Hoem, Station 90; Jim Burke, Station 90.

Captain Chad Paoli was also sworn in.

For more information about Polk County Fire District No. 1: www.polk-no1.org/.



EMILY MENTZER/Itemizer-Observer

The ceremony featured four career firefighter/paramedics, five volunteer firefighters, four lieutenants and one captain.



IT'S A GREAT TIME TO BUY A KUBOTA!



KOMMANDER Z121-SKH48

- 21 Gross HP, 2-Cylinder Gasoline Engine
- Superior Cut with Pro-Quality 48" Deck
- 4-Year/300 Hour Factory Warranty
- High Back Seat, Wider Operator Area
- Professional Grade Engineering, Homeowner Affordability



BX25TLB

- 23 Gross HP, 3-Cylinder Kubota Diesel Engine
- Integrated Backhoe and Loader Standard



L2501

- 24.8 Gross HP, 4-Cycle, Kubota Diesel Engine
- 4WD
- Performance-Matched Implements Available



MX5200

- 52.1 Net HP, 4-Cylinder Kubota Diesel Engine
- 4WD
- Performance-Matched Quick Attach Loader

\$0 DOWN, 0% A.P.R. FINANCING FOR UP TO 60 MONTHS ON SELECT NEW KUBOTAS!*



130 MAIN ST. • RICKREALL, OR 97371
503-623-2365 • www.rickfarm.com
Serving the Willamette Valley since 1947



*\$0 Down, 0% A.P.R. for 60 months on new Kubota ZP, BX, B, L, M, MH(M7), RB, DMC, DM, RA, TE, SL (SSV) & TLB Equipment : \$0 Down, 0% A.P.R. financing for up to 60 months on purchases of new Kubota ZP, BX, B, L, M, MH(M7), RB, DMC, DM, RA, TE, SL (SSV) & TLB Equipment series equipment is available to qualified purchasers from participating dealers' in-stock inventory through 3/31/2017. Example: A 60-month monthly installment repayment term at 0% A.P.R. requires 60 payments of \$16.67 per \$1,000 financed. 0% A.P.R. interest is available to customers if no dealer documentation preparation fee is charged. Dealer charge for document preparation fee shall be in accordance with state laws. Inclusion of ineligible equipment may result in a higher blended A.P.R. 0% A.P.R. and low rate financing may not be available with customer instant rebate offers. Financing is available through Kubota Credit Corporation, U.S.A., 3401 Del Amo Blvd., Torrance, CA 90503; subject to credit approval. Some exceptions apply. Offer expires 3/31/2017. See us for details on these and other low-rate options or go to www.kubota.com for more information.