

Irrigon fire hall expansion complete



(L-R) Irrigon volunteer firemen, Lynn Hobbs; Burrel Cooley; Orville Buchanan, chairman of the Irrigon Rural Fire District; Bill Colley; and Fire Chief Don Adams have just finished their usual Sunday morning volunteer work at the newly expanded Irrigon Fire District fire hall.

Expansion of the Irrigon fire hall has been recently completed.

The cost of adding two more bays to the Fire District's building, approximately \$15,400 per bay, is being shared by the Morrow County Medical Board and the Irrigon Rural Fire District.

The total sum has not been determined as yet, according to Orville Buchanan, chairman for the fire district.

As the Irrigon Rural Fire District's need for more emergency vehicles grew, so has the fire hall. The original building, constructed in 1956, has been expanded four times. The Irrigon Public Safety Department also shares the building.

Even though the two newest bays were contracted out, over half of the \$75,000 brick trimmed building was built by the Irrigon volunteer firemen.

Thousands of man hours have been put into the fire hall by the dedicated and caring volunteers.

"We built three of the bays ourselves, and redid the police department," said Don Adams. Adams has quietly led the pack as Fire Chief for 33 years.

Adams, who recently retired, spends much of his 'leisure' time doing such things as painting door frames, wiring, and installing light switches at the fire hall.

The maintenance of the two fire trucks, one pumper, two brush rigs and first responder vehicle, is done by the volunteer firemen.

"We don't send anything out to a shop," said Orville Buchanan, chairman of the Irrigon Rural Fire District.

Sunday mornings will find most of the firemen at the fire hall busily doing whatever needs to be done.

Their current project is installing

a 460 Lincoln engine into their 1952 GMC pumper. The GMC truck was purchased from Civil Defense in 1983 then converted into a 2,000 gallon custom built pumper.

The volunteers recently installed a 1978 Ford Pinto engine into their 1952 Army jeep, also purchased from Civil Defense in 1983. The jeep has been converted into an 80 gallon brush rig.

"That jeep fights a lot of fires," said Burrel Cooley, volunteer fireman and Emergency Medical Technician (EMT).

"It gets around where pumps can't go," added Bill Cooley, volunteer fireman and police commissioner.

Not all of the firefighting equipment owned by the Irrigon Rural Fire District is custom built.

Both of the fire trucks were purchased new, complete with ladders, sirens, hoses and lights. One in 1972, then the other in 1979.

The first responder vehicle and equipment, originally the Boardman Morrow County ambulance, is used by the Irrigon EMT's to stabilize patients at the scene of an accident until the ambulance gets there.

"In April we'll be getting a new first responder vehicle from Morrow County," said Adams.

The Morrow County Medical Board will present a brand new 1989, \$40,000 4X4 Ford first responder vehicle to the Irrigon Rural Fire District. The old Boardman ambulance will then be shuffled to another town in Morrow County, either Lone or Lexington, according to Buchanan.

The district's fire hall also houses the City of Irrigon's rescue boat.

"The rescue boat belongs to the city," said Adams, "but the fire district operates it."

The patrol boat was donated to the city by the Oregon State Police. The equipment was donated by Irrigon businesses and organizations.

The first fire hall, constructed in 1946 to house one of the two original fire trucks, was located on west Extension Irrigation District property on Highway 730.

There was no room to house the second fire engine under cover.

"We had to drain the water out in the winter when it was cold," said Adams, "then take it down to the river for water if we needed it for a fire."

The first fire chief for the district was Harry Smith. He served from 1946 to 1952.

Adams was appointed chief in 1953.

Through the years the Irrigon Fire District has maintained an average of 12 to 15 volunteers.

"We'd like to have more volunteers," said Adams.

"Some of us are getting a little aged for this kind of work," he added with a grin.

Some of the firemen double as EMT's to man the first responder vehicle.

The Irrigon firemen and EMT's are: Don Adams, Fire Chief; Richard Wright, Orville Buchanan, Arlo Erickson, Barney Gillette, Wayne Howe, Jr., Virgil Hausinger, Lynn Hobbs, Charlie McKim, Kurt Cummings and Dale Berger, firemen; Bob Byron, Burrel Cooley, firemen, reserve officer, EMT; Janet Cooley, secretary for the fire and police departments; Bill Cooley, fireman, reserve officer and police commissioner; Judy Creighton, Sandra Dooney, Dick Foidel EMT; Harry Gilpin, reserve officer, EMT; Steve Mackey, police chief, fireman, EMT; and Brad Winkler, police officer, fireman.

Pig raffle sponsored by firefighters

The Firefighters Association of Boardman is sponsoring a Pig Raffle. The winning ticket will be drawn by Boardman Mayor Art Kegler on February 23 and the winner will be notified by phone. You need not be present to win.

The pig has been donated to the

firefighters by Jane Dean of Boardman. The pig will be cut and wrapped for delivery.

The firefighters plan to buy Air-Pacs with the proceeds of the raffle.

The tickets are \$1 each or 6 for \$5. For more information on buying tickets call 481-7606.

Democrats name Nelson to state committee

The Oregon House Caucus announced today that Representative Mike Nelson (D-Baker) has been appointed to the Executive Committee of the State of Central Committee of the Democratic Party of Oregon.

The Executive Committee is made up of the top state and federal Democratic leaders and legislators, and key committee people from around the state. The group is responsible in part for drafting a budget for the State Party, approving fundraising activities, carrying out the policies and programs of the National and State Democratic Parties, and acting on an interim basis for the State Central Committee when necessary.

"I feel very fortunate and honored that the Party has selected me to sit on the Executive Committee," Nelson said. "As the only Democratic Representative from eastern Oregon, I believe I can bring a unique perspective to the Party and its leadership. My appointment gives the Committee the kind of regional diversity that best represents the Democrats in the state."

The Executive Committee will meet four or five times this year, although those meetings are as yet unscheduled. However, the Committee will ordinarily meet on the same day as the State Central Committee.

Story Hour

Karla Waterland will be reading Dr. Seuss Books at the Heppner Public Library's children storytime, beginning at 10:30 a.m. Thursday. All children are welcome to attend.

Boardman • Irrigon News

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'Friends of the Year' honored in Boardman

By Mindy Nix
The Friends of the Library in Boardman voted to award an annual "Friends of the Year" award to three special men who have given time and helped the Friends of the Library whenever possible. The nominations for 1988 were Scott Bauska, Stan Henkle and Dean Mason. Sue Russell presented a \$15 gift certificate from the Hermiston Book Company to the three men Wednesday, February 8. The Friends of the Library plan to give an annual "Friends of the Year" award in the future.



Sue Russell presents check for \$15 to 'Friends of the Year'

Boardman renews support of Port Bonds

By Ed Glenn
The Boardman City Council informally renewed its support of the Port of Morrow bond issue last week following a report by Lisa Mittleldorf, Executive Assistant at the

Port. The proposed \$750,000 bond issue, to be submitted to the voters on March 28, will retire about \$600,000 in revenue bonds, provide \$100,000 for river bank erosion control and fund \$50,000 for an in-

dustrial site acquisition in the southern part of Morrow County.

Proceeds of the revenue bonds, issued in 1983 and 1984 were used to finance part of the water and sewer facilities, the Ullman Street overpass and the container terminal. Those bonds are presently being repaid with water and sewer user fees charged the food processing plants in the Port's industrial park.

Lamb-Weston, the largest of those food processors, has told the Port that its water and sewer charges, including the assessment to repay the revenue bonds, are so high that the Boardman plant is not competitive with the other six plants that Lamb-Weston operates throughout the northwest.

Employment at the plant has been cut back about half, from 1,000 to about 500, in recent years and the plant now operates only about 150 days per year. Lamb-Weston officials say the cut back is due, in part, to the high water and sewer rates.

Mittleldorf estimated that Lamb-Weston's water and sewer bill could be reduced about \$4,000 per month, however, the Port Commission has made no decision about that since a rate study now underway has not been finished.

Without taking a formal vote, Boardman City Councilmen expressed support for the bond issue, in anticipation that a reduction in the water and sewer rate would enable Lamb-Weston to continue operations at the present level, at least, and to possibly increase employment to the former level.

On a separate matter, Mittleldorf reported that the Port plans to purchase the 2,500 acre Boardman airstrip property from the state at a cost of \$108,000. That purchase is expected to close sometime this spring and will be financed by a loan through the state's port district revolving loan fund.

In other business, the Council appointed Ben Diggs, retired Telephone Utilities manager, to the budget committee and Laurie Jenks, whose husband Steve is Operations Manager at Lamb-Weston to the Library Board.

Alumni cheerleaders perform

By Mindy Nix
Alumni cheerleaders dressed down to help raise the spirit during Riverside's Winter Homecoming/Alumni Night Saturday, February 11. The night was filled with excitement for the Pirates varsity boys' victory over the Uma Vikings. Alumni cheerleaders that "came home" to cheer included Jeannie Carrol, 82-83; Tiffany Mark 83-84; Lisa Cejka 86-87; Susie Creighton 85-86; Vickie Cooley Carroll 85-86; Tammy Streege 85-86 and Kristie Hyder 86-87. Other alumni cheerleader observing the nights events included Mari Evans Gordanier 79-80; Susan Partlow Stanhope 1960 and Sharon Barrick 1964 and advisor 78-86. The alumni and current cheerleaders did a wonderful job working together rooting on the Pirates.

The Winter Homecoming Court was announced during halftime of the boys' game. Senior Tony Fernandez, escorted by mother Joquina Fernandez; Princess Desi Combes escorted by brother Daniel Combes, sophomore Bill Byrd escorted by mother Barbara Byrd; Princess Kari Seel escorted by brother Kelly Seel, freshmen Kevin Gilbertson escorted by mother Phyllis Gilbertson and Princess Laurel Glenn escorted by father Ed Glenn. Junior Maids of Honor were Shanna Evans escorted by father Ken Evans, Marty Suter, escorted by father Pat Suter. Kinsman Jim Meyers escorted by mother Sharon Meyers and Matt Andreason escorted by mother Pat Andreason. Marina Colmenero, last year's Winter Homecoming Queen,

In the Service

Pvt. Swayne R. Evans, son of Kenneth and Janet Evans, Irrigon, has completed basic training at Fort Knox, Ky. During the training, students receive instruction in drill and ceremonies, weapons, map reading, tactics, military courtesy, military justice, first aid and Army history and traditions.

He is a 1988 graduate of Riverside High School, Boardman. Air Force Capt. Curtis K. Viall, son of Vernon and Dora Sue Viall of Boardman has arrived for duty at England Air Force Base, La. Viall is a pilot with the 76th Tactical Fighter Squadron.

His wife, Carol, is the daughter of Carroll J. and Shirley A. Donovan, Boardman.

The captain is a 1980 graduate of Riverside High School Boardman and a 1984 graduate of the University of Portland. James B. Clark, son of Ned and Kathy Clark of Heppner, has been promoted in the U.S. Air Force to the rank of airman first class. Clark is a law enforcement specialist with the 24th Security Police Squadron at Howard Air Force Base, Panama.

He is a 1988 graduate of Heppner High School.

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