

Umatilla Depot reaches another weapons disposal milestone

Tuesday afternoon the depot reached another milestone in its chemical weapons disposal project—emptying the first igloo (storage structure) that had stored GB (sarin) filled M55 rockets since the 1960s. The depot currently uses more than 100 igloos to store nerve and mustard agent-filled ammunition and containers.

Specially trained depot chemical operations crews started moving pallets, with 15 rockets each, from the igloo to the Umatilla Chemical Agent Disposal Facility on Sept. 7. Workers use tractor/trailers and specially designed steel containers to move the pallets to the disposal facility. Today, crews started moving pallets from a second igloo.

"Emptying an igloo is another step toward ridding this community of weapons of mass destruction and meeting our international treaty

requirements," said Umatilla Depot Commander Lt. Col. David "Doc" Holliday. "I have been extremely pleased with the movement operations. The workers are well-trained, confident and professional. Moving ammunition is what they're trained to do and they are doing it very well," Holliday said.

Processing continues at the disposal facility. As of Nov. 11, 1269 rockets and 5098 pounds of liquid agent have been destroyed.

The depot will continue to provide the public with regular updates on disposal operations. A toll-free number, (888) 866-5928, is updated Mondays through Fridays. The Umatilla Chemical Disposal Outreach Office, 190 E. Main Street, Hermiston, (541) 564-9339, is another source for ongoing information. Operating hours are Mondays through Fridays, 8:30 a.m.-5 p.m.

St. Pat's Day committee begins preparations

The St. Patrick's Day Weekend Celebration committee has begun work on next spring's event. One change in the weekend schedule will fall on the Friday evening of the celebration. Replacing the auction will be a "Luck O' the Irish Casino Night."

More information will become available about the activity soon. Just now in the early planning stage, the committee says that script will be issued for use at the various games and can then be used for the purchase

of prizes.

Right now, committee members are looking for help with the planning of the event and are in need of some specialized equipment. Chairperson Diana Ball reports the need for gaming tables: Twenty-one, Roulette, Texas-Hold'em, Wheel of Fortune, for example. The committee hopes for donations of such items or help with the building of them. Interested parties should call 676-5306 to volunteer or to ask questions.

St. Patrick's Senior Center news

Heppner Christian Church volunteers are serving the Center's Thanksgiving Day dinner on Wednesday, Nov. 24. The menu is roast turkey, mashed potatoes, candied yams, green beans, cranberry sauce, hot rolls and pumpkin pie dessert. Birthdays of the month are often recognized on the last meal of the month, also.

Archie Padberg reports from the Heppner Housing Authority that the annual methodical inspection of each apartment is underway. Last year's inspection and changes were completed. Doug Gunderson, assistant manager and Karen Dubuque, Housing Authority member and Archie Padberg, center board representative, are in charge of the current process. Each resident is present and consulted about the needs to keep the apartments updated, comfortable and attractive.

Two December events of note: 1) Quarterly Area Agency on Aging advisory committee meeting; and 2) Bus trip to Ukiah. The new center is now in operation. Specific information will be announced soon.

Heppner High announces honor roll students

Heppner Jr/Sr High has announced its honor roll students for quarter one of the 2004-05 school year.

Grade 7: Emily Thompson (4.0), Ashley Wolff, Lane Wright, Jessica Hughes, Jodessa Chapa, Jordan Hatfield, Jared Huddleston, Kellee Jones, Zachary McCarl, Colton Raver and Lacie Wagoner.

Grade 8: Maggie Armato (4.0), Spencer Palmer (4.0), Sherilyn Peck (4.0), Joseph Pranger (4.0), Matthew Holland, Jordan Shepherd, Luke Young and Grant Smith.

Grade 9: Whitney Mathews (4.0), Sean Murray (4.0), Aftan Betsinger, Baillie Keithley, Megan Orr, Kelsey Wolff, Katie Kilkenny, Ignacio Elguezabal, Kelsie Fox and Kendra Rayburn.

Grade 10: Regina Seitz (4.0), Quinn Peck, Sarah Price, Mahaley Huddleston, Aaron Allstott, Ashley Dima and Kylie Tasker.

Grade 11: Jessica Brandt-Drury (4.0), Laurie Murray (4.0), Heather Yocom, Noah Fleischer, James VanLiew, Daniel Basile, Chelsey Betsinger and Krystal Nairns.

Grade 12: Madison Bailey (4.0), Kylee Disque (4.0), Shanna Rietmann (4.0), Gustabo Torres (4.0), Jessica Wainwright (4.0), Joshua Lankford, Chelsea Britt, Lindsey Hodges, Linsey Mitchell, Blair Keithley, Emily Bergstrom, Susan Southworth, Kassandra Gaines, Kyle Huddleston and Elizabeth Orwick.

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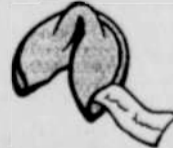
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